

March  
2018

# State of Dorset Crime



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

Although total recorded crime has risen by 10% this year compared to last year, this reflects a national trend and is partly due to improved crime recording practices and changes to Home Office recording standards.

Crime levels are usually higher across the summer months in the County. Particular crime types, though, have fallen in Dorset recently with both dwelling burglary and drug offences reducing.

Big Numbers Box

**463** serious sexual offences in Dorset last year

**83%** of sexual assaults are committed against women

anti-social behaviour incidents  
**10,454**

**1 in 7**

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

**2,092** domestic abuse incidents

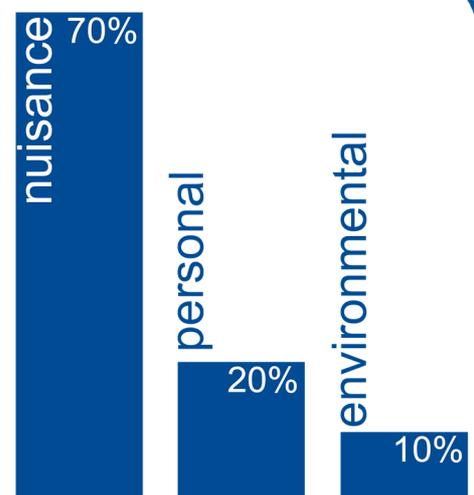
Hate crime up by

**10%**

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

- Serious sexual offences
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour

- In 2016-17 there were 10,454 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in Dorset.
- 70% of these were classified as nuisance, 20% personal and 10% environmental.
- Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the whole of Dorset.
- Melcombe Regis ward accounts for 14% of all **anti-social behaviour** incidents in the whole of Dorset.
- There were 463 serious **sexual offences** in Dorset last year.
- There were 2,092 **domestic abuse** incidents in Dorset last year.



Anti-social behaviour

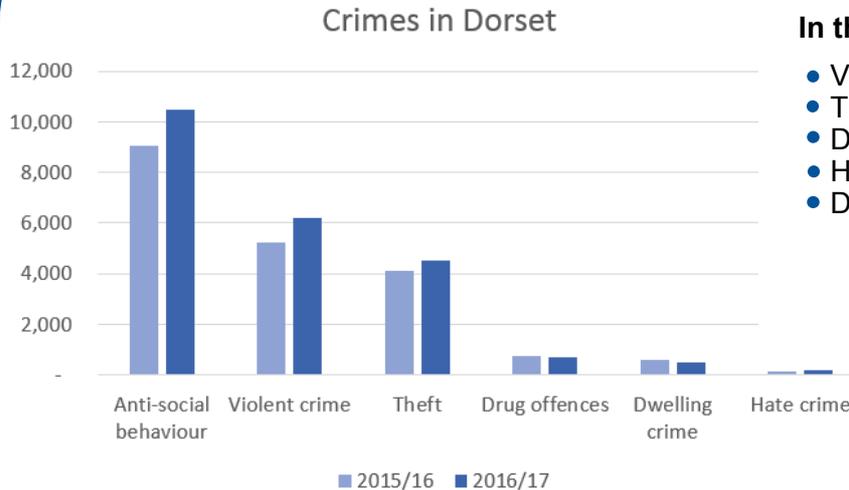
### Sources

1 Dorset Police statistics for DCC area

2 Comparing 2016/17 to 2015/16

## Box 2: Other Crime<sup>1</sup>

- Total crimes were higher this year than in previous years.



### In the last year<sup>2</sup>:

- Violent crime rose by 19%
- Theft rose by 10%
- Drug offences fell by 5%
- Hate crime rose by 10%
- Dwelling crime fell by 11%

- Compared to other areas, crime in Dorset is consistently low. Last year, Dorset had a lower crime rate than most county council areas.

- Purbeck is the district with the lowest crime rate in Dorset...and Weymouth and Portland has the highest.
- The summer usually sees the most crime each year<sup>1</sup>. This could be because of the better weather over summer, the holidays and the longer daylight hours.
- Last year 70% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe walking alone after dark.



## What are we doing about it?

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together local authorities, the police and other key partners to tackle crime and community safety issues in the County. The CSP aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime; address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

Crime and the fear of crime have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. The CSP undertakes annual assessments of local community safety issues and puts in place plans to address them. Current priority areas include domestic abuse, sexual violence and anti-social behaviour.

### Sources

2 Comparing 2016/17 to 2015/16