

Gloucestershire CSP

Strategic Assessment Scanning

Methodology

Recorded Crime and Victims

For the initial scanning exercise we're going to be comparing recorded crimes in the last 12 months (August 2008 to July 2009) with the previous year period (August 2007 to July 2008). We will also use recorded crime information to develop basic victim profiles.

Local Performance

We will look through iQuanta at the comparative performance of Gloucestershire, against other areas in its "Most Similar" group (MSG), over three months (May to July 2009) and also over twelve months (August 2008 to July 2009). Gloucestershire's most similar groups consist of Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Devon & Cornwall, North Yorkshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and Wiltshire.

Community Views

We will consider results from the "Perceptions of Crime Survey" carried out in February 2008.

Substance Misuse

We will consider information relating to referrals to Gloucestershire's Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) now known as the Independence Trust.

Young Offending

We will look through numbers of offences committed by young people, numbers of young offenders and numbers of interventions during the two twelve month periods stated above.

Gloucestershire Area

Gloucestershire is an English county situated at the northern edge of the south west region of the United Kingdom. It covers an area of 1,025 square miles including the largest Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the country. Essentially a rural county, it has been known since Roman

times for farming, forestry and horticulture with an industrial history featuring the wool trade. Gloucester and Cheltenham lie at the heart of the county, linked by the A40 and either side of the M5. There are good connections to the south west via the M5, to the north via the M5/M6 and M42, Wales using the A40 and the M4 and to London and the south -east using the A40 and the M4. The Fosse Way runs through the county north to south taking travellers from Cirencester to Stow on the Wold and Moreton in Marsh whilst the Ermin Way crosses east to west from Cirencester to Ross.

Demographic Characteristics

Gloucestershire had a population of 582600 at mid 2008 (Office for National Statistics; ONS). Overall, the Population of Gloucestershire is expected to grow steadily to 662,000¹ by 2026, if current trends continue. The Number of households would also grow to a total of 298,000 over the same period.

Under ONS definitions the entire population of Gloucestershire is 'Urban'.

When compared to the South-West region Gloucestershire has a relatively 'young' population, with slightly higher proportion of children and young people (aged 0-19) and a similar percentage of older people (aged 65+). ONS population projections suggest that the population of Gloucestershire is growing and that the population is 'ageing', with the number of older people rising at a faster rate than children and 'parents'.

On current trends there would be a gradual decline in the number of 0-19 year-olds in short and medium term (2006-2014). In the long term, however, the number will increase steadily, to 143,200 in 2026, i.e. 4,000 above the level in 2006. By 2026 this group would make up 21.6% of Gloucestershire's overall population compared to 24.1% in 2006 as its pace of growth is not as fast as that of the older age groups.

Between 2006 and 2026 the number of 45-64 year olds would increase by 11.4% to a total of 170,600 and account for 25.8% of the population in Gloucestershire compared to 26.5% in 2006. The 65+ population is predicted to grow sharply, by 57.3% to reach a total of 162,000 by 2026, accounting for 24.4% of the total population compared to 17.8% in 2006.

The number of teenage pregnancies fell between 2004-2006 and 2005-2007 in Gloucestershire and is now well below national levels (29.1 per 1,000 15-17 female population in Gloucestershire v. 41.2 nationally).

In 2001, about 35,500 pensioners were living on their own, representing 51% of all one-person households in Gloucestershire. Lone-pensioner

¹ Source: ONS 2006-based Sub-national Projection

households are predicted to rise in numbers in the next two decades as life expectancy improves particularly among females.

2.8% of Gloucestershire residents (more than 16,000 people at 2001 Census) were of Black or Minority Ethnic origin, compared to 2.3% across the South West region. The two largest minority ethnic groups at Census were Asian Indians and Black Caribbeans.

At the 2001 Census three-quarters of Gloucestershire residents described themselves as 'Christian'. 3,500 Gloucestershire residents described themselves as 'Muslim', with around 1,600 Hindus living in the County also. Whilst all major faith groups are represented in the Gloucestershire community the two largest groups at Census, after Christians, were those with 'no religion' (84,500) and those who preferred not to state their religion (42,600).

Experience & Perceptions of Crime in Gloucestershire

From the 2008 Perceptions of Crime survey 12.6% of respondents were victims of crime during the previous year; 16.4% of respondents from Cheltenham were victims of crime, 15.3% of respondents from Gloucester were victims of crime and the remaining 4 CDRPs had figures below the county norm. Over half of these victims (61.2%) were victims of just one crime and a sixth of victims being victims of 3 or more crimes. Just over a quarter of these crimes were not reported.

Just over half of respondents felt "very" (14.2%) or "fairly" (36.8%) safe out and about in their neighbourhood after dark; 15.1% of respondents "don't go out" after dark. Almost half of respondents feel "very safe" alone in their homes after dark, with one-in-ten feeling "a bit" (9.3%) with a small minority feeling "very" (1.4%) unsafe.

Just under a quarter of respondents believed that crime had gone up (22.6%) over the previous two years; one-in-twenty believed it to have fallen (4.6%). 44.3% of respondents believed crime levels to have stayed the same with more than a quarter saying they "don't know".

Crimes in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire crimes by Home Office Band	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Theft	16282	15341	-941	-5.8
Criminal damage	9736	8898	-838	-8.6
Violence	9033	8251	-782	-8.7
Burglary	5443	5829	386	7.1
Drugs	1761	1758	-3	-0.2
Fraud	1238	1264	26	2.1
Other notifiable	745	767	22	3.0
Sexual offences	574	536	-38	-6.6
Robbery	285	236	-49	-17.2
All Crimes	45097	42880	-2217	-4.9

Gloucestershire crimes by Home Office Band	Victims Aug 07 to Jul 08 per thousand population	Victims Aug 08 to Jul 09 per thousand population
Theft	17.5	16.6
Criminal damage	12.8	11.0
Violence	11.8	12.0
Burglary	7.1	7.7
Drugs	0.0	0.0
Fraud	0.5	0.6
Other notifiable	0.4	0.4
Sexual offences	0.5	0.9
Robbery	1.1	0.4
All Crimes	51.6	49.5

Violent Crimes (VAP)

Violent Crimes in Gloucestershire area	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Actual Bodily Harm and other Injury (excluding GBH)	3343	3192	-151	-4.5
Assault without Injury	2704	2498	-206	-7.6
Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	1590	1164	-426	-26.8
Harassment	294	278	-16	-5.4
Assault without Injury on a constable	221	232	11	5.0
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	190	201	11	5.8
Possession of Other Weapons	138	142	4	2.9
Wounding or Carrying out an act Endangering Life	90	110	20	22.2
Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent (excluding less serious)	92	98	6	6.5
Possession of Article with Blade or Point	106	95	-11	-10.4
Threats to Kill	129	90	-39	-30.2
Cruelty / neglect of children	29	41	12	41.4
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Assault without Injury	26	34	8	30.8
Racially/Religiously Aggravated ABH and Other Injury	20	20	0	0.0
Possession of Weapons with Intent	24	12	-12	-50.0
Child abduction	8	10	2	25.0
Causing Death by Dangerous Driving	5	9	4	80.0
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Harassment	5	7	2	40.0
Attempted murder	4	6	2	50.0
Manslaughter	0	3	3	100.0
Use of a Substance or Object to Endanger Life	6	3	-3	-50.0
Poisoning or Female Genital Mutilation	2	2	0	0.0

Causing Death by Careless Driving	0	1	1	100.0
Corporate Manslaughter	0	1	1	100.0
Murder	3	1	-2	-66.7
Possession of Items to Endanger Life	1	1	0	0.0
Endangering railway passenger	1	0	-1	-100.0
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Inflicting GBH without Intent	2	0	-2	-100.0
Total Violence	9033	8251	-782	-8.7
<i>domestic violence victims</i>	2877	2963	86	3.0
<i>repeat domestic violence victims</i>	694	701	7	1.0
<i>serious violent crime (NI 15/PSA 23)</i>	196	228	32	16.3
<i>assaults with less serious injury (NI 20/PSA 25)</i>	3363	3212	-151	-4.5

age of victims	violence against the person victims Aug 07 to July 08	violence against the person victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
Under 16	894	751	6.9
16-19	1139	1087	34.6
20-24	1210	1173	36.9
25-39	2415	2255	21.5
40-54	1399	1332	10.5
55-64	261	258	3.4
65-74	90	91	1.7
75+	29	21	0.4
ALL	7437	6968	12.0

In Gloucestershire only theft and criminal damage were more commonly recorded over the past 12 months than crimes of Violence Against the Person (VAP). Numbers of crimes of VAP in Gloucestershire have decreased by 8.7% from the previous year compared to the last 12 months and when looking at the coloured table in Appendix 1, VAP has

reduced in 5 out of six districts, most notably in Tewkesbury by 19.2%. The only district to experience an increase is the Forest of Dean (2.8% up). The most substantial rise has been in the recording of "Serious Violent Crime" (NI 15) which has increased by 16.3% in Gloucestershire. Increases in this type of violent crime have been in Cheltenham (up 17.7%), Cotswold (up 28%), Forest of Dean (up 10%) and most noticeably in Stroud (57.1%) where a sub crime used to count towards making the total of serious violent crime – "Wounding or Carrying Out an Act Endangering life" – has tripled in the last 12 months as opposed to the previous 12 months before that (originally 8 and now 24 crimes – See Appendix 1).

Numbers of victims of domestic violence have increased by 3% in Gloucestershire and repeat domestic violence victims have also increased across the county by 13.3%. Domestic violence victims have increased in Cheltenham (7.5%), Cotswold (14.2%) and Tewkesbury (6.9%) with numbers of repeat domestic violence victims increasing in Tewkesbury (34.4%) and Gloucester (7.7%).

Gloucestershire is the worst performing county in its most similar group for all violent crime (excluding fixed penalty notices for harassment) over the last 12 months and the previous 12 months before that. When looking at the last three months however, Gloucestershire is the third worst performing out of 8 similar peers (May 09 to July 09). When looking at Most Serious Violence (NI 15), Gloucestershire's rate is well below the "most similar peer" average line for the last 3 and 12 months maintaining a consistent performance against peers experienced in 2007/08. Assaults with less serious injury (NI 20) over the last 12 months and 3 months are just below the "family" average.

Four out of ten residents who responded to the 2008 survey were either fairly (28.7%) or very (9.8%) worried about "being physically attacked by strangers"; similar proportions worry about "Being assaulted or pestered by anybody, while in the street or any other public place". Just over a third of respondents (34.7%) identified violent crime as "a bit of a problem" in their neighbourhood, with a small minority (5.5%) identifying it as "a big problem". A third of respondents described Domestic Violence as "a bit of a problem" in their neighbourhood.

age of victims	violence against the person victims Aug 07 to July 08	violence against the person victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
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16-19	1139	1087	34.6
20-24	1210	1173	36.9
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65-74	90	91	1.7
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ALL	7437	6968	12.0

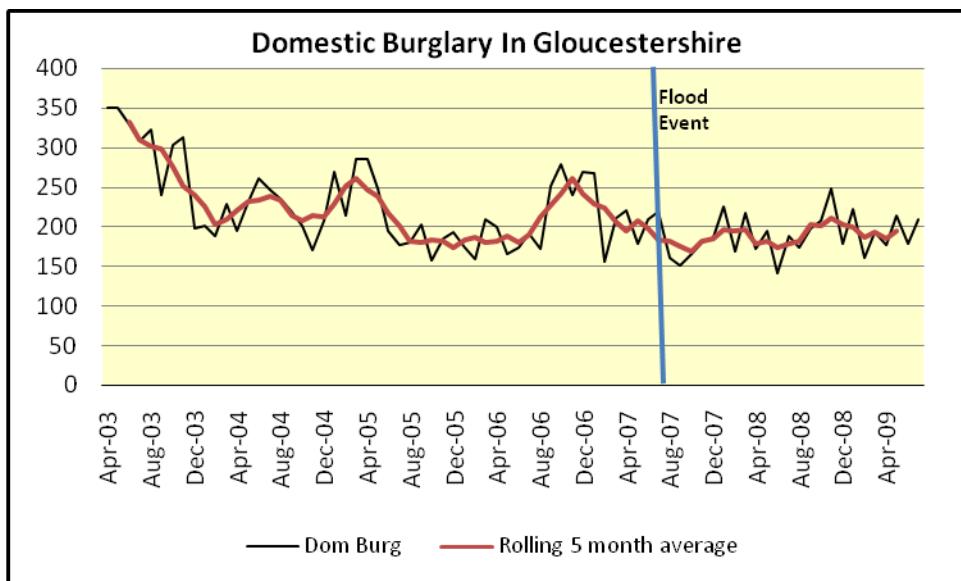
Overall, there have been almost 500 fewer victims of violent crimes in the past 12 months when compared against the previous year. Similar patterns from the previous year show that young people (16-24 year age groups) are still disproportionately represented amongst victims of VAP crimes. There are fewer violent crime victims under the age of 16 recorded in the last 12 months as opposed to the previous year.

Burglary Crimes

Burglary Crimes in Gloucestershire area	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Domestic Burglary	2165	2365	200	9.2
Non-Domestic Burglary	3278	3464	186	5.7
Total All burglaries	5443	5829	386	7.1
<i>Repeat Domestic Burglaries</i>	197	195	-2	-1.0
<i>Percentage that are Repeat</i>	9.1	8.2	-	-

The above table shows an overall increase in burglaries between the dates above (up 7.1%) but it is important to note that in the months after the July 2007 floods, Gloucestershire experienced an exceptionally low level of burglaries. By looking at the long term trend of burglary highlighted on the graph below it would appear we are not looking at any

sustained increase in domestic burglary in particular and what might appear to be a large increase is actually a return to relatively “normal” numbers of burglaries. The graph shows two lines; one showing numbers of domestic burglary and the other, smoother line, showing a rolling 5 month average of domestic burglary.



Proportionally, there are now fewer repeat domestic burglaries in Gloucestershire than in the previous year. Four out of six districts have experienced increases in all burglary crimes in the past 12 months with Cheltenham showing the highest proportional increase of 25.1%. All burglary has decreased over the past 12 months in Stroud and Tewkesbury.

Compared to other most similar areas Gloucestershire has had, over the last 3 months (May 09 to July 09) a higher rate of domestic burglary than 5 out of 8 of the group, with the rate slightly higher than the family average rate. When looking at the 12 month time period (August 08 to July 09) the trend looks the same with Gloucestershire's rate being slightly above the family average and 5 out of 8 in the group. Only two similar areas have higher rates for non-domestic burglary, with Gloucestershire's rate being well above the family average for the last 3 months and the last 12 months.

One in eight of respondents to the 2008 Perceptions of Crime survey were “very worried” about “Having your home broken into and something stolen”, with 41% indicating that they were “fairly worried”. Almost two-thirds of respondents (65%) thought that burglary was “a bit of a problem” in their neighbourhood, with 12.9% believing burglary to be “a big problem” where they live.

age of victims	burglary crime victims Aug 07 to July 08	burglary crime victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
Under 16	44	30	0.3
16-19	153	165	5.3
20-24	385	346	10.9
25-39	1081	1185	11.3
40-54	1251	1471	11.6
55-64	556	655	8.7
65-74	303	317	6.1
75+	387	324	6.3
ALL	4160	4493	7.7

Over the past 12 months people aged between 20 and 64 appear more frequently amongst burglary victims than they do in the population as a whole. People aged between 25 and 54 are 1.5 times more likely to report as a victim of burglary than their numbers in the population would suggest.

Theft Crimes

Theft Crimes in Gloucestershire area	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Other theft/unauth taking	4735	4256	-479	-10.1
Theft from vehicle	3745	3348	-397	-10.6
Shoplifting	3192	3288	96	3.0
Theft of pedal cycle	1321	1434	113	8.6
Theft/unauth taking m/veh	1253	1145	-108	-8.6
Theft from the person of another	673	648	-25	-3.7
Theft in a dwelling	464	447	-17	-3.7
Interfering with a Motor Vehicle	368	338	-30	-8.2
Theft by employee	158	135	-23	-14.6
Theft from automatic m/c ,meter	98	74	-24	-24.5
Handling stolen goods	83	81	-2	-2.4
Aggravated vehicle taking	79	64	-15	-19.0
Theft of mail	55	41	-14	-25.5
Profiting from/Concealing Knowledge of the Proceeds of Crime	43	28	-15	-34.9
Dishonest Use of Electricity	15	14	-1	-6.7
Total	16282	15341	-941	-5.8
serious acquisitive crime (NI 16/PSA 23)	7527	7158	-369	-4.9

Even though there has been a year on year reduction of all crimes of theft (down 5.8%), more theft crimes were recorded in Gloucestershire in the past 12 months than crimes in any other band. 12 months previous to this in last years report theft crimes had reduced by 6.2%, a consistent reduction over the last 2 years in all theft crime. Theft crime recording increased in two of the six districts of Gloucestershire; Cheltenham (up 3.2%); and Cotswold (up 1.7%). Thefts from vehicles have reduced by over 10% for the county, most noticeably in Gloucester (down 27.8%) and Stroud (down 25.3%) but gone up in Cheltenham (up 12.5%) and less significant rises in the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean. Shoplifting has increased by 3% in the county and in three out of the six districts; Cotswold (up 25.3%), Stroud (up 18%) and Cheltenham (up 10.5%). Theft of a Pedal Cycle has also increased in the past 12 months for Gloucestershire (up 8.6%) but only in 3 of the six districts: Forest of Dean (up 50%); Cheltenham (up 31.4%); and Cotswold (up 13.5%). Thefts of Motor Vehicles have decreased in the county by 8.6% with reductions in all but one district – Tewkesbury Borough's thefts of motor vehicles have risen by 19.2% and vehicle interference crimes in this district has risen by 55% (See Appendix 1 for all district figures).

NI 16, which, broadly speaking is a total of burglary, vehicle crime and robbery has reduced by nearly 5% compared against the previous year and has gone down in four of the six districts with the exception of Cheltenham (up 12.1%) and Tewkesbury (up 1%).

Only two most similar areas in Gloucestershire's "family" group have higher rates for NI 16 Serious Acquisitive Crime than Gloucestershire over the last 3 and 12 month periods with Gloucestershire's rate being higher than that of the group average. Gloucestershire has the second highest record amongst its peers for theft (excluding vehicles) over the past 3 and 12 periods and rates exceed the family average.

Less than half of respondents to the 2008 resident survey were either fairly worried (32.8%) or very worried (12.1%) about "having your car stolen", with slightly higher proportions being fairly (36.3%) or very (12.7%) worried about "having things stolen from your car".

age of victims	theft crime victims Aug 07 to July 08	theft crime victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
Under 16	321	262	2.4
16-19	1005	917	29.2
20-24	1179	1084	34.1
25-39	2949	2740	26.1
40-54	2759	2667	21.1
55-64	1046	1006	13.3
65-74	522	561	10.7
75+	404	411	7.9
ALL	10185	9648	16.6

Over the last 12 months theft crimes in Gloucestershire have had a disproportionate impact on younger people, with twice as many victims aged between 20 and 24 as their numbers in the community would suggest.

Robbery Crimes

Robbery Crimes in Gloucestershire area	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Robbery of personal property	257	206	-51	-19.8
Robbery of business property	28	30	2	7.1
total	285	236	-49	-17.2

Numbers of robbery crimes recorded in Gloucestershire have fallen by 17.2% between the last 12 months and the previous year. Only the Stroud did not experience a reduction in all robbery with it increasing by 20.8%. Gloucester reduced robbery by 17 crimes (12.2%) and Cheltenham reduced by 23 crimes (27.7%).

Gloucestershire's rate for robbery is well below the "family" average rate over the last 3 and 12 months. Business robbery may have increased in Gloucestershire year on year but comparing the rates against their family shows that Gloucestershire is well below the average for both the last 3 months and last 12 months.

Four out of ten respondents to the 2008 survey were either fairly (31.9%) or very (10.5%) worried about "being mugged or robbed".

age of victims	robbery crime victims Aug 07 to July 08	robbery crime victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
Under 16	33	40	0.4
16-19	51	58	1.8
20-24	53	43	1.4
25-39	62	47	0.4
40-54	47	24	0.2
55-64	15	13	0.2
65-74	8	4	0.1
75+	7	4	0.1
ALL	276	233	0.4

Over half of robbery victims in Gloucestershire over the past 12 months were aged under 24 with 16 to 19 years olds being more than four times

more likely and 20 to 24 year olds being more than three times more likely to become a victim of robbery than their numbers in the community would suggest.

Sexual Offences

Numbers of sexual offences in Gloucestershire have decreased over the last 12 months compared against the previous 12 months before that (40 fewer offences – a 7% reduction). Three of Gloucestershire's districts have experienced decreases in sexual offences Cheltenham (down 27.5%), Forest of Dean (down 26.9%) and Gloucester (down 6.5%). In Tewkesbury there was no change in numbers of this crime type but Stroud and Cotswold both experienced increased reporting (up 28% in Stroud, 15.3% in Cotswold). Over the past 12 months more than half of victims of recorded sexual offences have been aged under 20 with most of these being aged under 16.

age of victims	sexual offence victims Aug 07 to July 08	sexual offence victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
Under 16	233	201	1.9
16-19	106	96	3.1
20-24	67	56	1.8
25-39	124	117	1.1
40-54	77	59	0.5
55-64	12	10	0.1
65-74	1	2	0.0
75+	2	3	0.1
ALL	622	544	0.9

Over the last 12 months Gloucestershire is the second worst performing member of its group and the rate is well above the group average. For the last 3 months Gloucestershire is the worst performing in its most similar family.

Almost half of women respondents to the resident survey were either fairly (31.6%) or very (15.6%) worried about "being raped". Two-thirds of female respondents from Gloucester were either fairly (44%) or very (20%) worried about "being raped".

Criminal Damage

Criminal Damage Crimes in Gloucestershire area	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Criminal damage -vehicles	4323	4017	-306	-7.1
Criminal damage -dwelling	2100	1923	-177	-8.4
Criminal damage -other	1692	1482	-210	-12.4
Criminal damage -non dwelling	1256	1133	-123	-9.8
Arson Endangering Life	17	12	-5	-29.4
Arson Not Endangering Life	274	267	-7	-2.6
Racial aggr crim damage - vehicle	2	8	6	300.0
Racial aggr crim damage - dwelling	3	0	-3	-100.0
Racial aggr crim damage - other	5	1	-4	-80.0
Racial aggr crim damage - non dwelling	5	3	-2	-40.0
Total All Criminal Damage	9677	8846	-831	-8.6
NI 33a - Primary Fires	395	378	-17	-4.3
NI 33b - Secondary Fires	500	428	-72	-14.4
NI 33 TOTAL	895	806	-89	-9.9

Only theft crimes were more commonly recorded in Gloucestershire over the past 24 months than criminal damage crimes. Criminal Damage has fallen by 8.6% in the last 12 months when comparing against the previous 12 months before that. Numbers of criminal damage to vehicles account for almost half of the total of all criminal damage crimes for both years (see table above) and this figure has reduced by over 300 crimes (a fall of 7.1%). All six districts experienced a fall in total criminal damage crimes over the last 12 months with increases in the second most common criminal damage type – criminal damage to a dwelling – in Cotswold and Forest of Dean (see appendix 1).

The national indicator for deliberate fires is also included above. Please note this is not to be confused with police recorded arson incidents which go towards total criminal damage crimes. The NI 33a and b figures are recorded by Gloucestershire Fires and Rescue Service and when comparing the last 12 months with the previous year, NI 33 has reduced by 9.9% - a total of 89 fewer incidents.

Over the last 12 months Gloucestershire's rate for criminal damage is slightly above the average for its "family" group and over the last 3 months Gloucestershire's rate is well below the "family" group average rate.

Just under a third of respondents to the resident survey identified "Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles" as either a "fairly big problem" (21.3%) or a "very big problem" (10.1%) in their neighbourhood. Over a third of respondents from Cheltenham and also a third from Gloucester believed this to be a "fairly" or a "very" big problem.

age of victims	criminal damage crime victims Aug 07 to July 08	criminal damage crime victims Aug 08 to July 09	victims per thousand 08/09 based on ONS population mid 2007
Under 16	15	6	0.1
16-19	319	225	7.2
20-24	591	595	18.7
25-39	1999	1835	17.5
40-54	2145	2049	16.2
55-64	957	884	11.7
65-74	532	466	8.9
75+	317	341	6.6
ALL	6875	6401	11.0

Victims of criminal damage are concentrated in the vehicle/property owning age-bands; people aged under 20 and over 65 have been less likely, over the past 12 months, to report as victims of criminal damage than their numbers in the community would suggest.

Drug Crimes and Substance Misuse

Numbers of drug crimes in Gloucestershire have stayed the same with only 3 fewer crimes recorded in the last 12 months compared against the previous year before that (1761 crimes between August 2007 to July 2008 compared with 1758 crimes in the past 12 months). Possession of cannabis is the most commonly recorded drug crime in both periods, accounting for approximately 6 out of 10 crimes of in the drug crime band. Over 4% of drug crimes in the last 12 months relate to the production of cannabis (76 crimes in total). A quarter of drug crimes recorded relate to Class A drugs in terms of possession or supply or both over the last 12 months (436 crimes), this compares with almost 25% of drug crimes

recorded in the baseline year being Class A related (437 crimes). Recorded drug crimes have gone up across 3 of the six districts of Gloucestershire; Cheltenham (up 19.4% - 82 more crimes), Cotswold (up 19.5% - 29 more crimes), Gloucester (up 6.3% - 28 more crimes). These crime numbers are likely to reflect targeted police operations, rather than the scale and nature of drug/substance misuse in Gloucestershire.

Over a 3 and 12 month period Gloucestershire has the second highest rate for the recording of drug crimes in its group and is well above the “family” average for both time periods.

Just under a third of respondents to the resident survey stated that both drug dealing and drug use were either a “fairly” or “very” big problem in their neighbourhood. Two in five respondents in the Forest of Dean believe that drug dealing and drug use were either a “fairly” or “very” big problem where they live.

“Alcohol misuse” is identified in the residents survey as an issue of concern with almost half (45%) of respondents believing it to be a “bit of a problem” and one in five responses stating it to be a “big problem” in their neighbourhood.

Over the last 12 months 1933 people have entered substance misuse treatment programmes (see appendix 2 for tables). 1674 of these people who have given their postcode live in Gloucestershire. Just over half (53%) of users in treatment have alcohol as their main problem substance and 30% of users in treatment have heroin as their main problem substance. The average age of people in heroin treatment is 33 years, those in alcohol treatment had an average age of 38. The average age when users in treatment admitted to first using any kind of drug varies depending on what substance the user in treatment is in for. If in treatment for heroin (575 people in total) then the average age when they first used any drug is 20 years old. If in treatment for alcohol (1025 people in total) then the average age when they first used any drug is 15 years. If in treatment for cannabis (144 people in total) then the average age when they first used any drug is 13 years. 36% of users in treatment have used at least one more drug as well as their main problem substance. 8 out of 10 people in treatment for cocaine or crack cocaine admit to using at least one more substance. Just over half (56%) of users in treatment for heroin admit to using at least one more drug. 62% of users in treatment for cannabis admit to using at least one more drug (see appendix 2 for breakdown of data into districts).

Fraud Crimes

Fraud crimes recorded in Gloucestershire in the past 12 months have increased by 2% compared with the previous year. “Make off without payment” crimes have fallen by 9.7% (56 crimes) and make up almost half of all fraud crimes in the past 2 years, increases in this crime type have been experienced in Cheltenham (up 19% against previous year) and Gloucester (up 26% against previous year). Changes in the recording of fraud crimes, most notably credit card fraud are now reported directly to the banks as opposed to the police.

Anti-Social Behaviour

ASB Incidents in Gloucestershire area	August 2007 to July 2008	August 2008 to July 2009	Difference	Percentage Difference
Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour	19644	20317	673	3.4
Nuisance veh & inappropriate use	2561	2956	395	15.4
Neighbours - rowdy/nuisance	2379	2567	188	7.9
Malicious/Nuisance communications	2212	2477	265	12.0
Hoax calls to emerg serv-not crime	1680	2345	665	39.6
Noise	1089	1216	127	11.7
Abandoned veh-not stolen or obstr	1000	957	-43	-4.3
Animal related problems	870	802	-68	-7.8
Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia	322	209	-113	-35.1
Fireworks - inappropriate use	264	199	-65	-24.6
Street drinking inc breach of dppo	245	189	-56	-22.9
Trespass	186	180	-6	-3.2
Begging	157	163	6	3.8
Prostitution related activity	21	20	-1	-4.8
Total ASB	32630	34597	1967	6.0

During the last 12 months the police have recorded, on average, 95 incidents of anti-social behaviour per day across Gloucestershire, almost 4 per hour or one incident every 15 minutes. When compared against the previous year there has been a rise of 6% in the reporting of ASB in Gloucestershire. Almost 60% of these incidents relate to “rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour” with 673 more incidents of this type reported to the police in the last 12 months. Almost 3000 incidents relate to “nuisance vehicles” which has had a year on year increase in the last two years of 15.4%. Proportionally speaking, hoax calls have had the greatest

increase amongst all the ASB incident types increasing by almost 40% when compared against the previous year (665 more incidents than previous year). 5 out of the 6 districts have all experienced increases in the reporting of ASB with the exception being Tewkesbury who have reduced ASB incidents by 5.4% against the previous year's figure (see appendix 1).

Over half of Gloucestershire's residents who took part in the 2008 Perceptions of Crime Survey identified "Parents not being made to take responsibility for the behaviour of their children", "People not treating other people with respect and consideration" and "Teenagers hanging around the streets" as problems in their neighbourhoods.

Youth Offending

Offences committed by young people have decreased by 928 (20.4% reduction) during the last 12 months compared to the year before that (see appendix 3).

Numbers of young offenders over the last 12 months have reduced by 3.2% in Gloucestershire compared against the previous year before.

There has been a reduction in numbers of all young offenders in 4 out of the 6 districts with the exception of Forest of Dean and Gloucester.

In terms of demographics, young offenders against the local population have a higher rate than the county norm in Gloucester and Stroud who, when you add the total number of young offenders together account for more than half the total for Gloucestershire. Almost 700 offenders have missing or incomplete address details and as a result have not been incorporated into the county totals but are accounted for on "All Offenders on Gloucestershire YOS" (see appendix 3 for ethnicity and gender breakdowns by district).