

Safer Oxfordshire Partnership

Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2019

SUMMARY REPORT

May 2019

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Updates

26th March 2021: Notes added to clarify the data on police recorded victims. All data on victims provided by TVP includes duplicate people, so if someone has been a victim of an offence multiple times, they will be counted in the data multiple times.

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) provides information about crime and community safety in Oxfordshire on behalf of the [Safer Oxfordshire Partnership](#).

This 2019 report uses data from:

- Office for National Statistics: police recorded crime for year ending September 2018 (published January 2019)
- HMIC: 2018 police and crime comparator data
- Ministry of Justice: re-offending
- Thames Valley Police: incidents, crimes and victims for January to December 2018
- Oxfordshire County Council: doorstep crime, road traffic accidents

There are important overlaps between the SIA and Oxfordshire's [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (JSNA), which contains information relevant to the health and wellbeing of the county's population.

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment for Oxfordshire is published at <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/community-safety-0>

1. Trends

National crime trends

- At a national level, between year ending September 2017 and year ending September 2018, there was:
 - No change in crimes according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales
 - An increase of +8.5% in crimes recorded by the police (for England and Wales).

Oxfordshire crime trends and comparisons

- In Oxfordshire, police recorded crime increased by 3.6% (5 percentage points below the national change). By district the change between 2017 and 2018 was Cherwell +5.5%; Oxford -2.1%; South Oxfordshire +5.5%; Vale of White Horse +9.9% and West Oxfordshire +12.4%.
- Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, there was an increase in both recorded crime rates and in the severity of crime score in each of Oxfordshire's districts, similar to the national trend (see [charts](#)).
- *Bicycle theft* and *shoplifting* in Oxfordshire have each remained above the national average. *Theft from the person* in Oxfordshire is now below average. Other crime categories remain below average.
- Between 2017 and 2018, there were increases in police recorded crimes of violence, stalking and harassment, sexual offences, robbery, drugs, weapons and public order offences in Oxfordshire. Some of these increases will be due to changes in recording of crimes.
- Comparing Oxfordshire's districts within their most similar group of 15 areas (with 1 = highest crime rate area) shows:
 - Cherwell ranked 6
 - Oxford ranked 7
 - South Oxfordshire ranked 9
 - Vale of White Horse ranked 14
 - West Oxfordshire ranked 14
- Crime types that were above average (compared with similar areas) AND increasing (trend July-Sept 2017 to July-Sept 2018) were: Drugs offences in Cherwell and "Other theft" in Oxford City. See [summary table](#).

Victims¹ of abuse and exploitation

- Between 2017 and 2018 (Jan-Dec) there were increases in the number of police recorded victims¹ of abuse and exploitation in Oxfordshire for...
 - Domestic abuse victims - increased by 1% to 11,586
 - Rape victims - increased by 14% to 699
 - Child sexual exploitation victims - increased by 30% to 138
 - Elder abuse victims - increased by 57% to 376
 - Modern slavery victims - increased by 36% to 144
 - Hate crime victims - increased by 2% to 882
- Between 2017 and 2018, there were increases in racist crimes, disablist crimes and occurrences, homophobic and transphobic crimes and occurrences in Oxfordshire. Oxford City had the greatest number of hate crimes in each category and accounted for most of the increase in racist crimes.

Offending and re-offending

- The rate (per population aged 10-17) of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System has declined in Oxfordshire and is similar to the average for English County Local Authorities.
- The number of juvenile offenders and re-offenders have each gone down in Oxfordshire and the re-offending rate has stayed similar. In Vale of White Horse district, the juvenile re-offending rate was above the Oxfordshire and England & Wales averages.
- Note that, although the number of juvenile offenders and re-offenders has declined, the increase in criminal exploitation of young people has meant that those who are in the Youth Justice System (YJS) are more complex than before.
- The adult re-offending rate in Oxfordshire was below the previous year. Rates in Cherwell and Oxford City were each above the Oxfordshire and England & Wales averages.

Fraud and cyber-related crime

- There has been a fall in the number of recorded victims of doorstep crime in Oxfordshire.
- The number of fraud offences has increased significantly in Oxfordshire, above the increase across Thames Valley.

¹ NOTE: All victims data from TVP includes duplicate people, so if someone has been a victim of an offence multiple times, they will be counted in the data multiple times.

- There has been a big increase in cyber-related offences, this was mainly due offences linked to the activities of one person in South Oxfordshire.

Mental health, alcohol and drugs

- Between 2017 and 2018, there was an increase in mental health (section 136) detentions in Oxfordshire, from 256 to 294 (+38, +15%). This followed a decline in the previous year.
- According to the 2017 Health survey for England, alcohol consumption by children (nationally) has continued to decline.
- Drug arrests of under 18s has increased. In 2018 there was a total of 128 under 18s arrested by Thames Valley Police in Oxfordshire for drug offences, up from 90 in 2017 (+38, +42%). Most of this increase was in Oxford (+20) followed by Banbury (+8). Of the total 128 arrests in 2018, 20 young people had a home address outside of Oxfordshire including 14 from outside the Thames Valley area.
- The rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions in females aged under 18 in Oxfordshire has remained above the England average in the latest data (2015/16-2017/18). The rate for under 18 males in Oxfordshire has remained similar to average.
- Compared with England, in 2017/18 hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions (all people, all ages) were better than average in Oxfordshire and each of Oxfordshire's districts.
- The rate of drugs-related deaths (2015 to 2017) in Oxfordshire was significantly lower than England and the South East.
- The number of police-recorded crimes related to alcohol in Oxfordshire almost doubled between 2017 and 2018. The rate per population in 2018 was highest in Oxford City, Cherwell and Vale of White Horse.

Knife crime

- In 2018 there were 312 violent or sexual crimes recorded in Oxfordshire where a sharp or bladed implement was linked to the offence as a weapon. This was 17% above the number in 2017 (267). The increase across Thames Valley was +19%.

Road casualties

- The number of road traffic casualties declined between 2016 and 2017 and pedal cycle casualties in 2017 were well below the peak in 2014.

Rural crime

- Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East.
- Between 2017 and 2018 there was a decline in the number of rural crimes (offences meeting the rural definition) in Oxfordshire from 201 in 2017 to 169 in 2018 (-16%).

2. In numbers

All recorded crime (ONS year ending Sept18)	42,369
Theft	20,492
Violence	10,829
Criminal damage & arson	5,021
Sexual offences	1,584
Other	1,408
Robbery	326

Recorded victims* (TVP Jan-Dec 2018)

domestic abuse	11,586
hate crime	882
rape	699
elder abuse	376
modern slavery	144
child sexual exploitation	138
honour based violence	34
female genital mutilation	5
Victims of doorstep crime (OCC Apr17-Mar18)	284

Selected offences and arrests (TVP Jan-Dec 2018)

Alcohol-related crimes	2,248
Knife crimes	1,477
Cyber-related offences	816
Action fraud offences	545
Section 136 mental health detentions	294
Rural crimes	169
Under 18s arrests for drug offences	128

Road casualties (OCC, Jan-Dec 2017)	1,705
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*NOTE: All victims data from TVP includes duplicate people, so if someone has been a victim of an offence multiple times, they will be counted in the data multiple times.

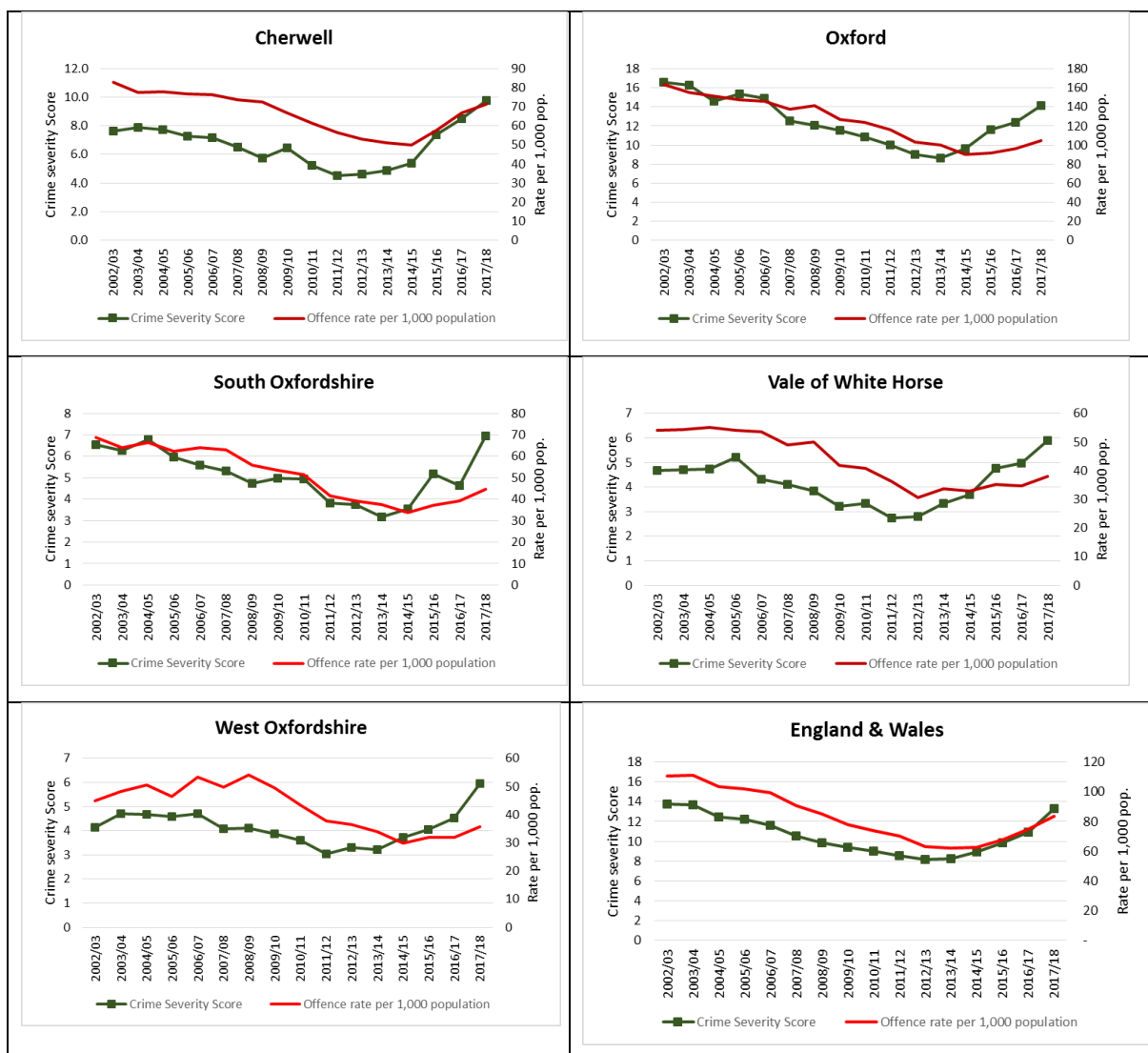
3. Severity of crime charts

The [crime severity score](#) uses (latest 5 years of) sentencing data – custodial sentences, community orders and fines - from the Ministry of Justice as the primary source for calculating offence weights.

Applying the crime severity score upweights violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery and downweights theft, criminal damage & arson, fraud and other crimes against society.

Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, there was an increase in both crime rates and in the severity of crime score in each of Oxfordshire’s districts, similar to the national trend.

Figure 1 Trend in crime rates per 1,000 population and crime severity score - Oxfordshire’s districts (to year ending March)



Source: ONS (2019); The [Crime Severity Score](#) published by ONS gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones. [Please note different axes]

4. Crime rate comparison and trend for Oxfordshire's districts

Crime types that were above average (compared with similar areas) AND increasing (trend July-Sept 2017 to July-Sept 2018) were:

- Drugs offences in Cherwell
- "Other theft" in Oxford City

Table 1 Oxfordshire districts - recorded crime rate comparison (12 months to September 2018) and trend July-Sept 2017 to July-Sept 2018

	Cherwell		Oxford		South Oxfordshire		Vale of White Horse		West Oxfordshire	
All crime	Average	↑	Average	↓	Average	↓	Below	↑	Below	↑
Bicycle theft	Above	↓	Above	↓	Average	↓	Average	↓	Average	↑
Burglary	Average	↓	Average	↓	Below	↓	Below	↓	Below	↓
Criminal damage & arson	Average	↓	Average	↓	Average	↓	Average	↑	Below	↓
Drugs	Above	↑	Average	↑	Below	↑	Average	↑	Below	↑
Other crime	Average	↑	Below	↓	Above	↓	Below	↑	Below	↑
Other theft	Above	↓	Above	↑	Average	↓	Below	↑	Below	↓
Possession of weapons	Average	↓	Average	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑
Public order	Below	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑
Robbery	Average	↑	Average	↑	Below	↓	Below	↓	Average	↑
Shoplifting	Above	↓	Above	↓	Average	↓	Average	↓	Below	↓
Theft from the person	Above	↓	Above	↓	Average	↓	Average	↓	Average	↓
Vehicle crime	Average	↑	Below	↓	Average	↓	Below	↑	Below	↑
Violence & sexual	Average	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑	Below	↑

Source: HMICFRS (January 2019 data release), rate calculated using ONS 2017 mid-year population estimate.

NOTE: crime rate comparison is for 12 months to September 2018, trend is for July-Sept 2017 to July-Sept 2018