



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2015/16

LOW LEVEL VIOLENCE



FINAL VERSION
OCTOBER 2015

RESTRICTED

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this strategic assessment is to provide the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) with an understanding of the crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse issues affecting the district. This will enable the partnership to take action that is driven by clear evidence.

DOCUMENT SCHEDULE

The partnership has a continuous assessment process that allows for strategic planning throughout the year. Whilst each document will provide an overview of the partnership's performance during the year, the aim of each document will be to gain a better understanding of key issues in the district. The continuous assessment consists of 4 parts:

Document	Key theme	Analysis & Writing	Presentation
1	ASB (High & Medium Risk)	June and July	July 2015
2	Low level violence	July to September	October 2015
3	Mental Health Impacts	October to December	January 2016
4	Cohesion	January to March	April 2016

Lead officers for integrated offender management (IOM), drugs and alcohol (DAAT) and domestic abuse (DA) will continue to provide updates to the partnership.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

This strategic assessment document is set out in two main chapters:

- **Key Findings and Recommendations** – this section provides an executive summary of the key analytical findings and recommendations. This section also highlights any major developments that may affect activity and possible ways of working.
- **Priority Analysis** – this section provides an assessment of the district's main problems, illustrating it in terms of where and when most problems occur, the people and communities that are most vulnerable and where possible, who is responsible.

This document and previous strategic assessments can be accessed on the Cambridgeshire Insight pages here <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/community-safety/CSP/hunts>

ADDITIONAL DATA

The interactive community safety atlas provides some of the main crime and disorder issues at ward level. The atlas allows the user to review the data directly on the map or in a chart. It can be accessed here <http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Crime/atlas.html>

The Pyramid of Crime: victim offender interactive profile, is presented at district level and can be accessed here <http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Crime/Pyramid/html%205/atlas.html?select=12UB> . It will be updated shortly.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDINGS

The long term trend of both local and national data indicates that there is less violent crime now than previously.

Recent local trends do show some increase in violence without injury and attendances at A&E for assault. The cause of the recent increase is not clear from the available data.

In-depth reviewing of police recorded violence without injury, shows a wide range of crimes being committed; therefore one single tactic to reduce violence would be unlikely to obtain the sought reduction.

Overall over the past three years violence occurring within the pub clusters has been decreasing, however this year saw an increase within the Huntingdon pub cluster. Currently violence associated with the night-time economy is considered to be down, therefore other factors are likely to be behind this including;

- The pub cluster being located within the town centre
- A high proportion of violence occurring on the street

Violence that takes place 'on street violence' continues to be of concern. Multiple data sources support this. Street violence can become more serious quickly and violence associated with weapons if increasing would have a dramatic effect on a location and residents.

Domestic abuse and alcohol continue to feature within the data, but the proportion of each is difficult to ascertain. Further the complex nature of the circumstances for some victims means that a multi-agency approach continues to be the most appropriate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that;

- Continued close working with existing partnerships such as the ASB problem solving group, LSCB, Family Intervention Programme and Together for Families is the most appropriate way forward for complex cases and vulnerable victims & offenders.
- Those areas of concern, such as on street violence and town centre issues, are monitored to prevent issues escalating.
- Data sharing be improved, in particular, regular data sharing with housing providers and HBAC to better understand changes in trends and patterns

LOW LEVEL VIOLENCE/ LESS SERIOUS VIOLENCE

BACKGROUND

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) has worked to reduce violence in the district over the past decade. The Partnership has specifically worked to reduce alcohol related violence in the town centres and repeat domestic abuse.

Overall national and local data indicate that crime and in particular violent crime is falling. Previous analysis indicated that violence taking place within the pub clusters has reduced. Discussion with key officers raised the issue of understanding the nature and scale of 'low level' or 'less serious' violence. Therefore this document will focus on 'violence without injury' as recorded by the Constabulary, with additional analysis of health data and national data/ information.

There is a general acknowledgement that data sources have limitations and flaws. In part this can be due to human error in recording, limitations of systems or because data collected for one purpose is being adapted and used for another. The Research Group has endeavoured to analyse the most recent data from all sources. It should be noted that data therefore may cover slightly different time periods.

Police recorded crime and the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) now categorises crimes recorded as violence as either 'with' or 'without' injury. Nationally, there was statistically little significant change to "violence with injury" which was up 8% and "violence without injury" which was down 8%. There was a significant increase in both of these categories though when considering violence against the person. The number of violence against the person offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2015 increase from 634,623 to 779,027- an increase of 23%. There was a much larger increase in the category of "violence without injury" (up 30%) than "violence with injury" (up 16%).¹

The Crime-recording: making the victim count report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) highlighted that nationally, 'police were less likely to record violent and sexual offences than they were other types of crime.'² The report by HMIC points out that whilst 89% of burglaries and 86% of criminal damage crimes were recorded, just 67% of violent crimes were.

Improved recording provides another opportunity to better understand the nature of problems in the district. The aim of this report is to open up the discussion about what within violence the Partnership tackle can and what action could be taken to reduce it in the future.

¹ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_411032.pdf

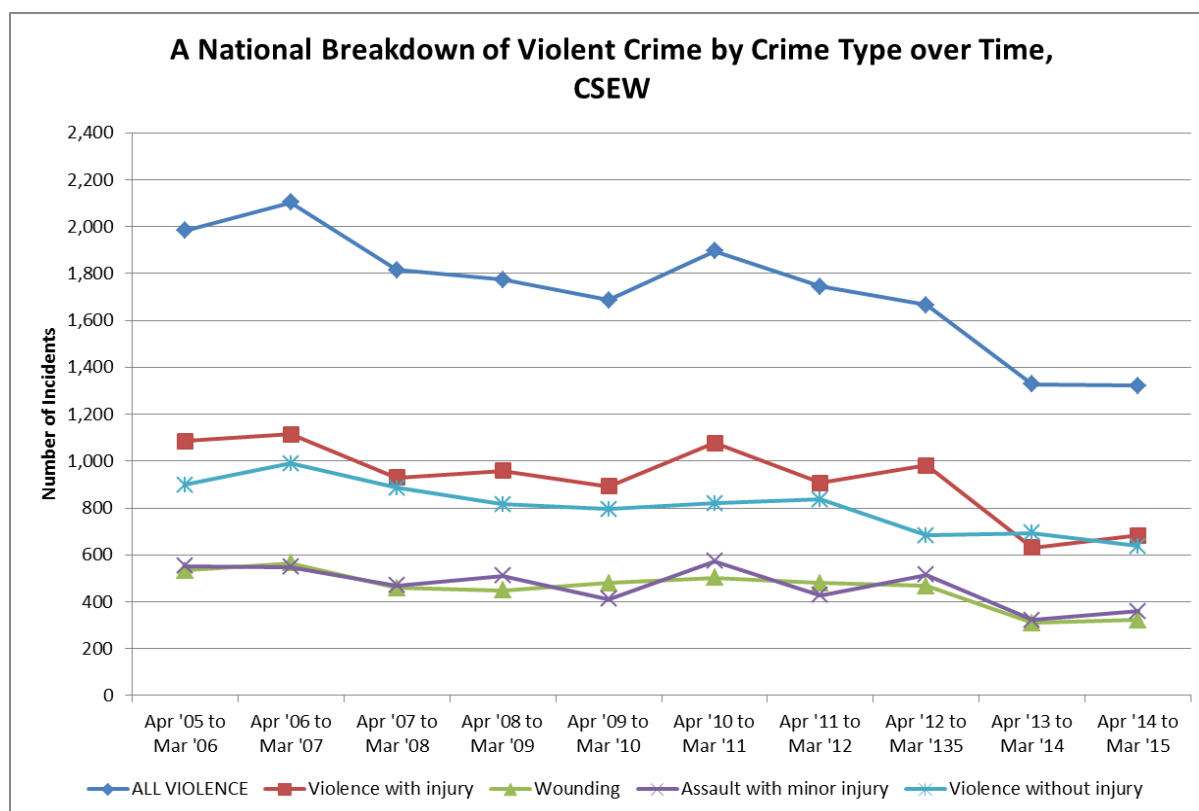
² <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf>

TREND

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) identified 1.3million violent incidents in England and Wales for 2014/15. This represents no statistical change from the previous year following a period of an underlying downward trend.³

Violence without injury⁴ is one proxy for low level violent crimes. 2014/15 data identified 638,000 incidents recorded as 'violence without injury', a reduction from 694,000 in 2013/14.⁵ As highlighted in Figure 1, there has been a reduction across all types of Violent Crime over the last 10 years. According to the Crime Survey of England and Wales, the overall number of violent crime incidents reduced by around a third between 2005 and 2015.

Figure 1: Time Series of Violent Crime Incidents by Crime Type, April 2005-March 2015, Crime Survey of England and Wales



Locally violence in Huntingdonshire has recorded over the longer term reductions in violence. As previously discussed, Cambridgeshire Constabulary improved its compliance with national recording standards and saw some increase in police recorded violent crime. Since last year (see figure 2) there has been an increase in violence without injury from 539 to 737, an increase of 27%.

³ CSEW 2014/15, ONS http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_411032.pdf

⁴ Home Office Subgroup of Violence against the person.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457163/count-violence-august-2015.pdf

⁵ CSEW 2014/15, ONS http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_411032.pdf

Figure 2: Police recorded violence against the person - Huntingdonshire

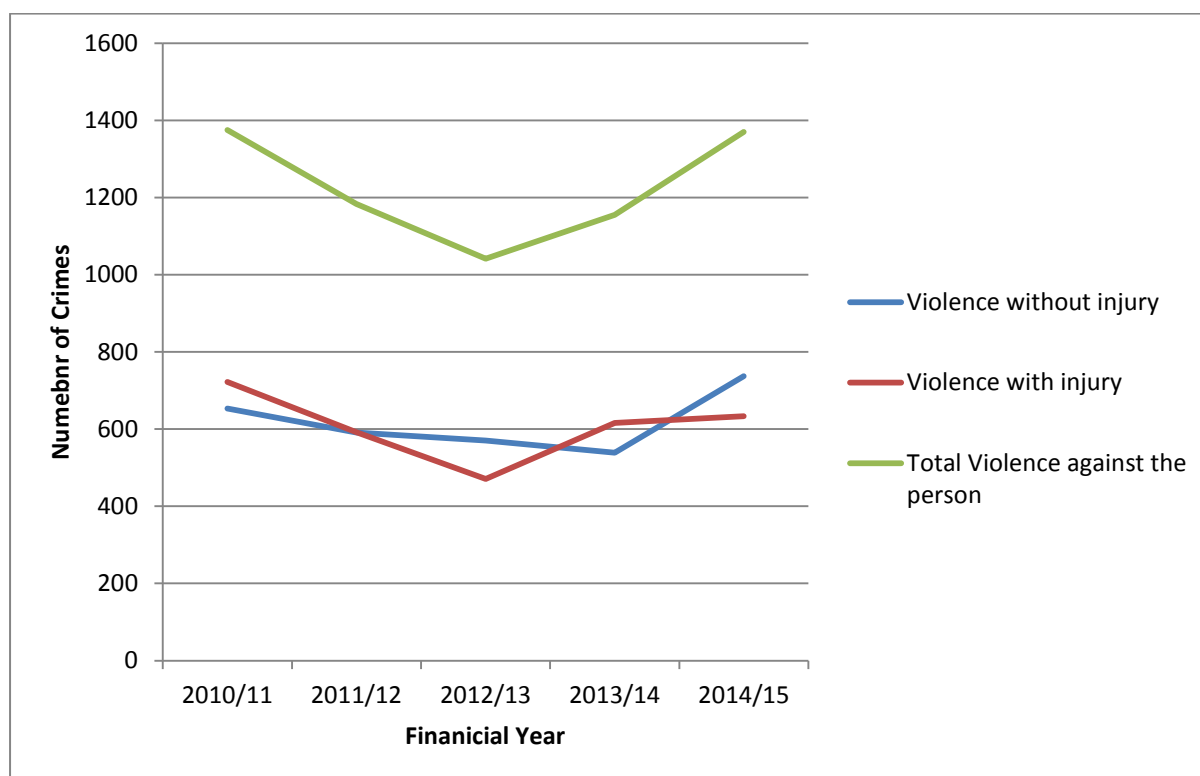
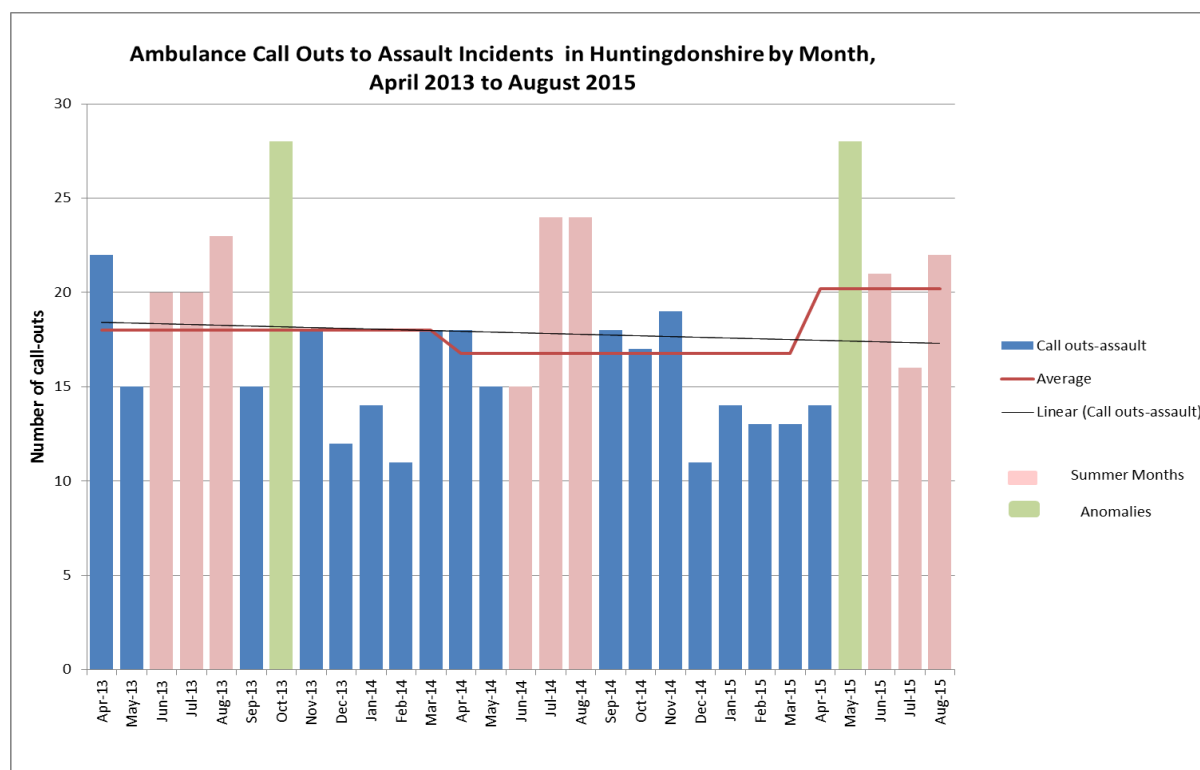


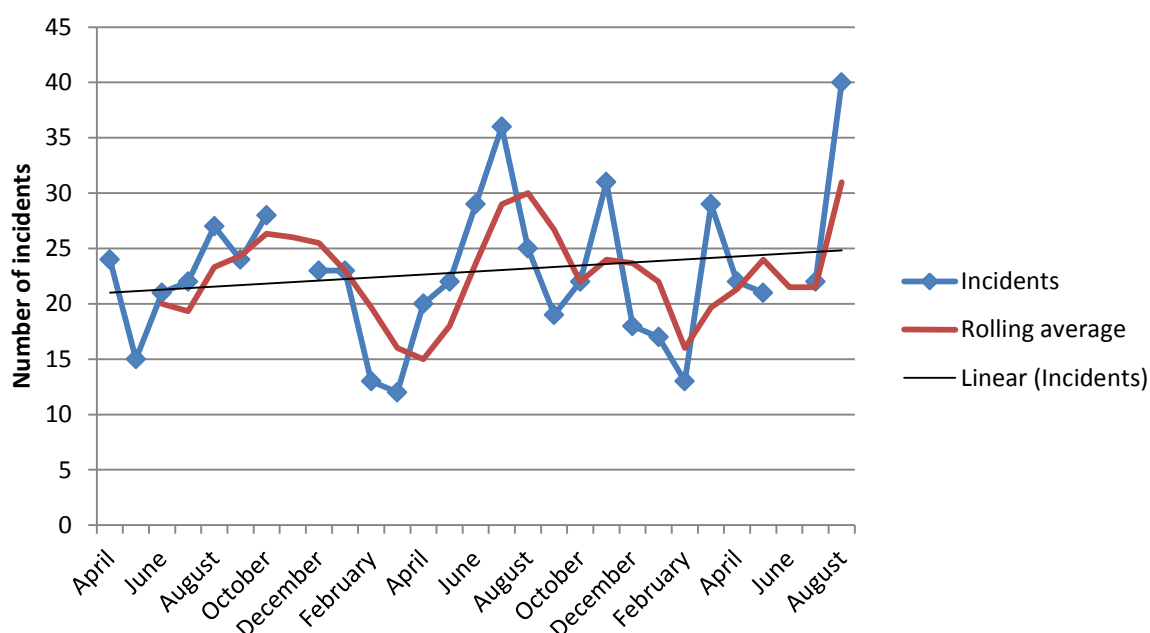
Figure 3: Monthly ambulance call outs for assault – Huntingdonshire Apr 13-Aug 15



As Figure 3 shows, there has been a slight overall decline in the total number of ambulance call outs for assault incidents since April 2013. Typically, the summer months show an increase in call out although high levels in October 2013 and May 2014 should be treated as anomalies.

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Figure 4: Hinchingsbrooke A&E Assault Related Arrivals, April 2011- August 2015. NHS*



*no data as provided for November 2013 and June 2015.

The multiple data sources used to understand the trends and patterns of violence in Huntingdonshire, do not always produce a clear picture. The data sources examined above show an overall decrease in total violence, but indicate a small increase in less serious violence. Although attendances for assault at Hinchingsbrooke A&E department seem to have risen the most recent month is a summer month and that might be skewing the trend. Further, reviewing the detailed free text field revealed that most assaults were physical e.g. punch/kick – 176 assaults out of 254 assaults. In only 9 was a knife used as a weapon and a further 9 a bottle.

VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY

Police crime data records violent crimes as 'Violence against the person' (VAP) which includes homicide, violence with injury, and violence without injury.

Police data found that the overwhelming sub-group of the VAP records were recorded as common assault (645, 45%). These were all marked as 'without injury', and represent almost 80% of all 'violence without injury' records. The second highest sub-group was 'harassment' which accounted for 12% of 'without injury' records. The data was analysed in a variety of ways to try to gain a better understanding of the nature of the violence taking place in Huntingdonshire. Keyword searches on the MO_text field for alcohol related keywords did not provide further insight. Domestic abuse/violence accounted for some of the common assault records, though not for a significant proportion.

A DIP sample conducted on 10% of the common assault records revealed that domestic arguments and disputes were prominent within the records, which is supported by the mapping exercise which also identified residential areas as key locations for VAP offences (See Appendix 2), and this may be an area interest for exploration for the partnership.

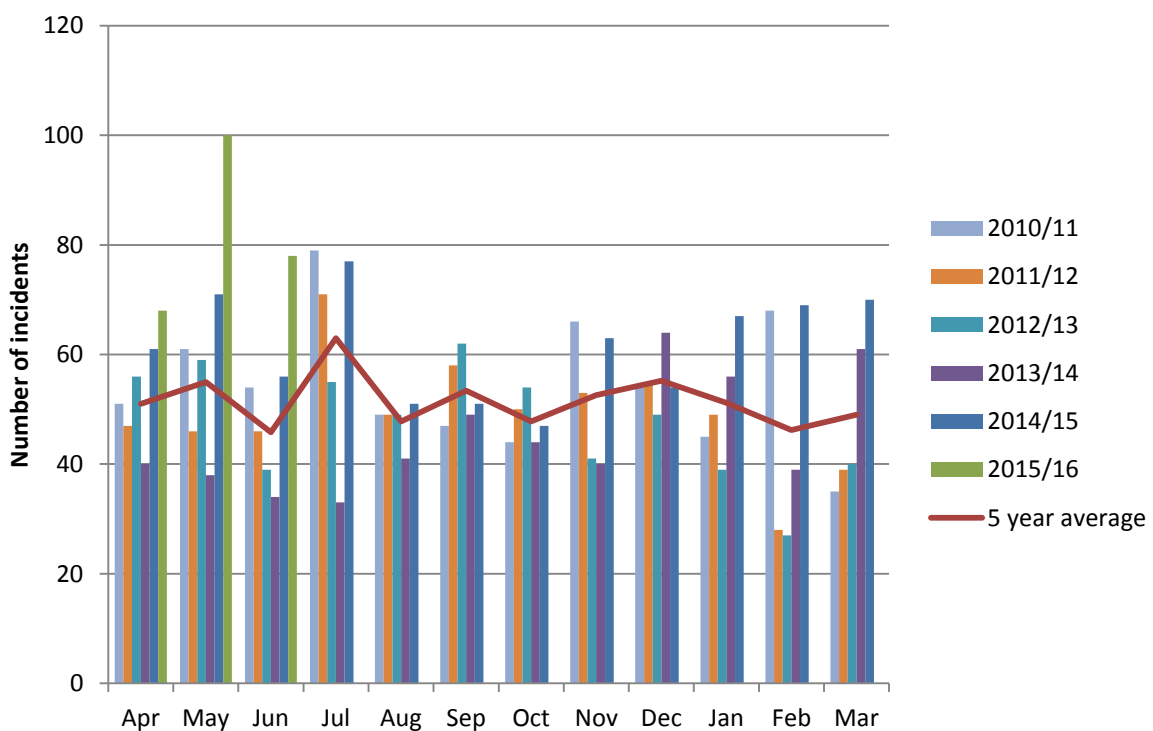
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Without further detail about whether this individual crime is part of a pattern of ongoing abuse or not, it is difficult to identify how many of the records may be unidentified domestic violence/abuse cases.

The review of the DIP sample also highlighted the wide range of offences that are recorded within common assault. Below are a few examples of the sort of crime that is reported. It was not always possible to ascertain from the text if the offender was known to the victim or not.

1. *"The defendant ...verbally abused them before throwing crisps at them."*
2. *"Offender has victim victim with bamboo stick"*
3. *"offender pulled daughters hair during an argument"*
4. *"Mother has slapped [victim] on the left thigh causing slight reddening."*
5. *"Child has told teachers that her parents hit her, sometimes with a shoe or a belt"*
6. *"Schoolgirl alleges that her mother slapped her, punched and hit her with a shoe causing no injuries."*

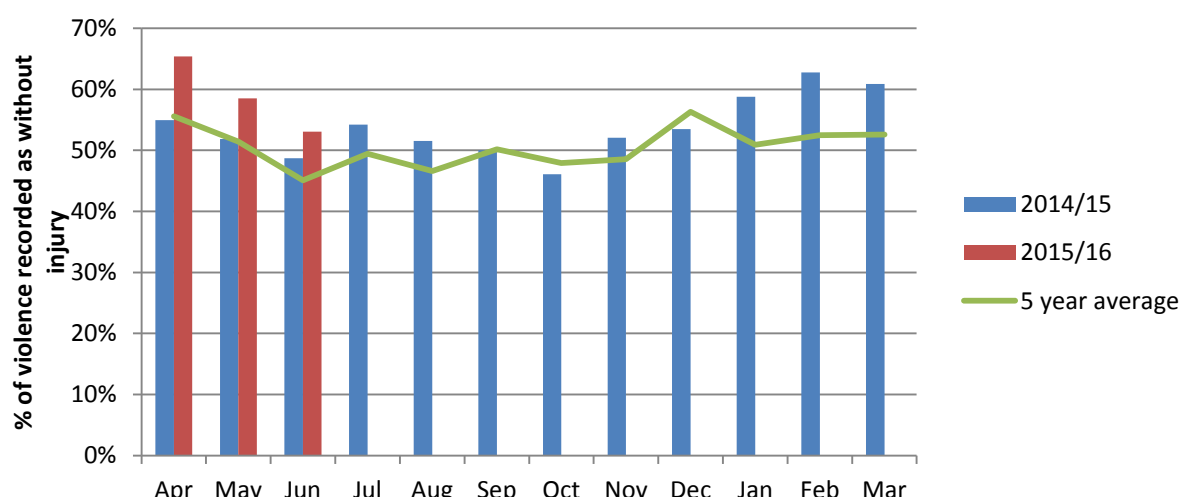
Figure 5: Violence without injury, police recorded crime



Source: CADET

Figure 4 shows data by month indicates a fluctuating pattern in recent months, with an increasing trend overall. May and June 2015 are particularly high, with 100 and 78 VAP 'without injury' incidents recorded respectively.

Figure 6: Proportion of violence recorded as without injury, CADET



Source: CADET

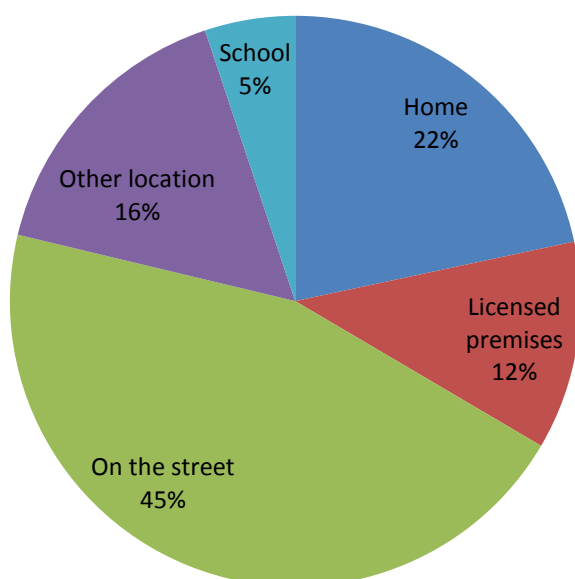
As shown in Figure 5, analysis of the last five years data shows that the average proportion of VAP incidents recorded as 'without injury' tend to be around 50% of all VAP incidents. There is some variation across the year, and December and April present the highest proportions at 56%. June has the lowest proportion, at 45%. 2014/15 figures are higher than average, reaching a high of 65% of VAP incidents recorded as 'without injury' in February. Q1 of 2015/16 is also displaying higher than average proportion of 'without injury' cases.

LOCATION OF OFFENCES

Where offences took place might provide opportunities for the Partnership to intervene to reduce violence in the future. Self-reported location of the offence to Hinchingsbrooke A&E reveals that nearly half of assaults where medical attention has been sought happened on the street. Mapping of the police data indicated a wide geographic spread across the district of violence against the person without injury (See Appendix 2). Concentrations of crimes were noted in larger settlements and towns. Residential areas featured heavily. Mapping against school locations did not reveal any particular hotspots. The analysis supports the A&E data that this type of violent crime occurs at residential locations and within more densely populated areas.

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Figure 7: Hinchingbrooke A&E Assault Related Arrivals, Sept 2014-August 2015. NHS



Further analysis of ambulance assault data identified Huntingdon West as the ward with the largest number of call outs recorded within the Huntingdonshire district for 2014/15 (28 out of 201). Recently available 2015/16 data also identified Huntingdon East and St Ives South wards as having the largest number of assault related call outs for this time period (Apr-June 2015).

Analysis of the most recent twelve months of police data (August 2014 – July 2015) has highlighted that 1,427 offences categorised were recorded as VAP. Huntingdonshire wards which saw most activity were Huntingdon West ward (182 incidents) and Huntingdon North ward (175) (see table 1).

Table 1: Ward breakdown – Police recorded Violence Against The Person (VAP), August 2014 –July 2015 and Ambulance call outs 2014/15, NHS.

Ward	Ambulance call outs 2014/15	Police recorded VAP	VAP incident*	
			With injury	Without injury
Huntingdon West	28	182	80	102
Huntingdon North	25	175	76	99
Huntingdon East	21	124	46	78
St. Neots Priory Park	18	121	48	73
St Ives South	25	91	46	45

Table 1 and Table 2 provides some detail of the proportion of VAP incidents recorded as ‘with’ or ‘without’ injury. Data analysis of violence ‘without injury’ is one proxy for low level violent crimes.

CURRENT INTERVENTIONS

The police and district council have a number of powers available to them to tackle anti-social behaviour and street disorder. One of these is the new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which replace the previous power of a Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO). As of April this year the first PSPO (known as the Huntingdon Town Centre PSPO6) came into effect covering the area within the Huntingdon ring road. It is aimed at tackling and reducing street drinking. There are two DPPOs in Huntingdonshire, these being Wheatfields Park, St Ives and Town Centre & Warners Park, St Ives. These will be reviewed prior to the DPPO expiring.

The Huntingdonshire Business against Crime is another intervention currently running within the district. This organisation is run by businesses for businesses in three town centres (Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots). A coordinated approach by members with CCTV and the Constabulary allows for 2-way real time communication of problems, highlighting of hotspot areas for crime and disorder, exclusion of repeat offenders and communications and media coverage. Data was available in time from this Partner for this document, but it would be worth investigating how to do this in future. Further, in relation to concerns about trends in street violence this may be a better source of information for understanding the nature of the offences, than we are currently monitoring.

ALCOHOL RELATED

The Partnership adopted the Cardiff Model to tackle alcohol related violence associated with the night-time economy three years ago. The model works by using both police and health data (in particular A&E attendances&/or Ambulance call outs for assault) to enforce compliance by licence premises. This work resulted in the withdrawing of licence for specific problem businesses. Further it is reported that no pubs have been graded 'red' i.e. associated with high volume of offences indicates that working with these businesses has improved. The Pub Watch Schemes leads on this area of work and indicates some excellent partnership-working has reduced alcohol related violence associated with the night economy.

However, the data for the most recent 12 months indicates an increase in the volume of violent crime within the pub cluster in Huntingdon. This violence may not relate to the night-time economy, the pub cluster overlaps with the town centre and an area of heavily footfall.

As shown in Table 2, only 140 (16%) of the VAP incidents were recorded as taking place within a recognised pub cluster⁷. These appear to include approximate equal numbers of both those with and without injury.

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<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/Community%20and%20People/Crime%20and%20disorder/crimeandpolicingact/Pages/PublicSpacesProtectionOrders.aspx>

⁷ Pub clusters are licensed premises which are within 150m of each other 2011.

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Table 2: Police recorded – Violence Against The Person (VAP) offences

Pub cluster	VAP incident Aug14-Jul15			VAP		
	<i>With injury</i>	<i>Without injury</i>	Total	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Huntingdon	36	34	70	45	46	77
Ramsey	9	6	15	16	28	33
St Neots East	40	45	85	91	83	91
St Neots West	2	1	3	4	7	2
St.Ives Centre	31	25	56	53	44	56
No pub cluster	496	708	1204	1029	965	1072

VICTIM PROFILE

Data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary was analysed based on the home address of the victim. A total of 962 victims were recorded between July 2014 and June 2015 as residing in Huntingdonshire and having been the victim of either ‘violence with injury’ or ‘violence without injury’. Due to the nature of the method of data extraction the crime associated with each victim may not be the only crime they have experienced. Overall Males accounted for 53% of victims, however for ‘violence without injury’ they accounted for 47% of victims. This appears to match the national picture which also found that males were more likely to be the victims of violence⁸. Female victims were more likely to have reported ‘violence without injury’ within this cohort. It should be noted though that the differences are small. For just over half (55%) of victims the offence was ‘violence without injury’. This subgroup of violence is often associated with ‘less serious violence’.

Table 3: Breakdown of Violence without injury by gender and HO offence description

Home Offence Offences Description	Females		Males		Unknown	All People
	No	%	No	%		
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	280	63%	246	48%	1	527
ASSAULT ON CONSTABLE	4	1%	16	3%		20
CHILD ABDUCTION	3	1%	0	0%		3
COMMON ASSAULT	210	47%	196	38%	1	407
CRUELTY TO CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSONS	4	1%	7	1%		11
HARASSMENT	49	11%	16	3%		65
KIDNAPPING	1	0%	1	0%		2
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED COMMON ASSAULT	0	0%	2	0%		2
STALKING	2	0%	0	0%		2
THREATS TO KILL	7	2%	8	2%		15
Grand Total	448		513		1	962

⁸ ONS Statistical bulletin: Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2011/12

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The proportion of male victims within the data from the attendances at Hinchbrook A&E points to this being a better source of information for violence with injury than without injury. For approximately a quarter (24%) of attendances the police were not informed.

National evidence has pointed to certain personal characteristics that are associated with being a victim of violence. Age, sex and marital status had a strong relationship with the chance of being a victim. However, area characteristics, such as levels of employment, deprivation or being urban or rural were not strongly associated with the chance of being a victim.

The table below shows that over a quarter of victims in Huntingdonshire were under 20 years old. National data consistently finds that age 16-24 year olds are more likely to be victims of violence. For Huntingdonshire the 20-29 years old females were highly victimised. The table below is shaded to demonstrate those age groups with the highest proportions of victims by gender.

Table 4: Breakdown of victims of violence without injury by 10year age groups and gender

Age group	Females		Males		Unknown	All People	
	No	%	No	%	No	No	%
0-9years	13	5%	17	7%		30	6%
10-19years	57	20%	62	25%		119	23%
20-29years	70	25%	37	15%		107	20%
30-39years	61	22%	43	17%		104	20%
40-49years	38	14%	42	17%		80	15%
50-59years	23	8%	12	5%		35	7%
60-69years	4	1%	10	4%		14	3%
70-79years	2	1%	7	3%		9	2%
80-89years	2	1%		0%		2	0%
90+	2	1%	2	1%		4	1%
Unknown	8	3%	14	6%	1	23	4%
Grand Total	280	100%	246	100%	1	527	100%

Analysis of the Huntingdonshire data of victim's ethnicity revealed that 74% were White British; 5% any other White background, 2.6% mixed background, 2.5% any Asian, 2% any Black. There were 12% of victims where the ethnicity was unknown. Other ethnic backgrounds not specified were all less than 1%.

According to the CSEW the percentage of repeat victims of violence without injury in England and Wales was 1.5% for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12. This data was not readily available for Huntingdonshire.

Table 5: Violence without injury – Victim home address: top ten wards

Ward Name	Number	Percentage
Huntingdon West Ward	67	13%
Huntingdon North Ward	64	12%
Yaxley and Farcet Ward	41	8%
St. Neots Eynesbury Ward	39	7%
Huntingdon East Ward	35	7%
St. Neots Priory Park Ward	33	6%
Ramsey Ward	29	6%
St. Ives East Ward	28	5%
Godmanchester Ward	27	5%
St. Neots Eaton Socon Ward	24	5%

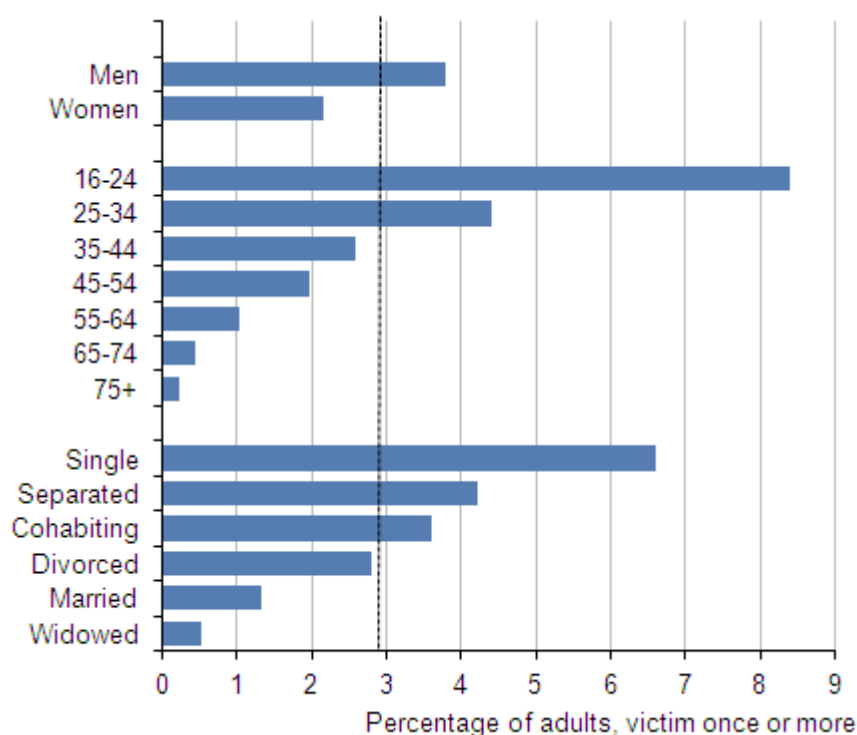
IMPACT OF VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY

The CSEW reports that 20% of victims of violence without injury report being very emotionally affected and a further 18% affected quite a lot; compared to 20% and 13% respectively of victims of assault with minor injury⁹. This data is useful when considering the impact of violence without injury on the victim. The Partnership should be mindful that the impact on the victim can still be very high even for what is considered 'less serious violence'. Violence without injury includes offences such as stalking, harassment and threats to kill. These behaviours are often not isolated incidents and can be part of a pattern of ongoing victimisation. This can leave victims feeling particularly vulnerable and in some cases unsupported by statutory services.

⁹ Table 1.10 Emotional response to violent crime victimisation, 2013/14

APPENDIX A. ADDITIONAL TABLES/ FIGURES

Figure 4: Characteristics associated with being a victim of violence, 2011-12 CSEW



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics (See Section 7.3 of the User Guide for definitions of personal characteristics)

Figure 1.10: Emotional response to violent crime victimisation, 2013/14

England and Wales	Adults aged 16 and over/households			
	All violence	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Violence without injury
	% of victims:			
Very emotionally affected	22	30	20	20
Affected quite a lot	17	21	13	18
Affected a little	38	39	43	35
Not emotionally affected	23	10	24	28

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

APPENDIX B: MAP OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON – VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY
AUG14-JUL15

