



# **Community Safety Strategic Assessment:**

## **East Cambridgeshire**

### **2024**

### **Version 1.0**

V1.0

The Policy and Insight Team (PIT) is a multi-disciplinary team that fulfils the research function for Cambridgeshire County Council. The team continues to take on a range of work commissioned by other public sector bodies within both Cambridgeshire and beyond.

We publish publicly available data and reports on our dedicated website:

[Cambridgeshire Insight \(http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/\)](http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/)

For more information about the team phone 01223 715300.

## Document Details

**Title:** Community Safety Strategic Assessment for East Cambridgeshire 2024

**Date Published:** February 2025

**Description:** Annual Community Safety Strategic Assessment

**Language:** English. Please contact the research group for translations in other languages ([policyandinsight@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:policyandinsight@cambridgeshire.gov.uk))

**Produced by:** The Policy and Insight Team, Cambridgeshire County Council (the PIT)

### **Additional Contributions:**

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Service
- Change Grow Live
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Youth Justice Service

**On behalf of:** The document has been produced by CCC PIT, on behalf of East Cambridgeshire CSP and is available to download from [Cambridgeshire Insight](#).

**Geographic Coverage:** East Cambridgeshire

**Time Period:** January 2021 to December 2024

**Format:** PDF

**Status:** Final V1.0

**Usage Statement:** This product is the property of the Policy and Insight Team, Cambridgeshire County Council. If you wish to reproduce this document either in whole, or in part, please acknowledge the source and the author(s).

V1.0

**Disclaimer:** Cambridgeshire County Council, while believing the information in this publication to be correct, does not guarantee its accuracy nor does the County Council accept any liability for any direct or indirect loss or damage or other consequences, however arising from the use of such information supplied.

# Table of Contents

<b>Document Details .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.1. Recommendations .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.2. Summary of Key Findings .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2. Introduction .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.1. National .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2.2. Economic Context .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>3. Crime Overview .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4. Personal loss .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4.1. Summary .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4.2. Technical note .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4.3. National Context .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4.4. Personal loss in East Cambridgeshire .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5. Scams, Fraud and Cybercrime .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>5.1. Summary .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>5.2. National Context .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5.3. Local Fraud and Cybercrime .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6. Violence Against the Person .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>6.1. Summary .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>6.2. Technical note .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>6.3. Overview .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6.4. Ward Analysis .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6.5. Weapons .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>6.6. Serious Violence .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>7. Sexual offences .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>7.1. Summary .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>7.2. National Trend .....</b>	<b>32</b>

7.3.	Local Trend.....	34
7.4.	Ward Analysis .....	35
8.	Domestic Abuse.....	36
8.1.	Summary.....	36
8.2.	National Context .....	36
8.3.	Local Context .....	38
9.	Exploitation and Vulnerability.....	42
9.1.	Summary.....	42
9.2.	Modern Slavery – The National Picture.....	42
9.3.	Modern Slavery – The Local Picture .....	44
9.1.	County lines .....	45
9.2.	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) .....	46
10.	Substance Misuse.....	48
10.1.	Summary.....	48
10.2.	National Trends.....	48
10.1.	Local Treatment Services.....	50
10.2.	Local Police Recorded Drug Offences .....	51
11.	Offending .....	52
11.1.	Summary.....	52
11.2.	Probation Cohort Profile .....	53
11.3.	Youth Justice Service (YJS) Cohort Profile.....	54
12.	Crimes that impact the community .....	60
12.1.	Summary.....	60
12.2.	Commercial Loss .....	61
12.3.	Hate Crime .....	65
12.4.	Deliberate Fires .....	66
12.5.	Criminal Damage.....	69
12.6.	ASB .....	70
12.7.	Public Order .....	76
13.	Geographic Analysis .....	77

13.1. By total crime .....	77
13.2. By individual crime .....	78
14. Glossary.....	78
Appendix A: Technical Notes.....	83
A.1. Crime data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.....	83
A.2. Population estimates .....	83
A.3. Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletins .....	83
A.4. Fraud and cybercrime data .....	85
A.5. Burglary Offences .....	86
A.6. NRM data.....	86
Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.....	88
Appendix C: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Community Safety Countywide Agreement 2022-2025 .....	89
Appendix D: CSP OPCC Activity Review .....	90
References.....	93

# 1. Executive Summary

The document has taken a broad look at a number of community safety issues and includes analysis from a range of data sources. It examines key statutory themes for the CSP such as violence, reoffending, anti-social behaviour (ASB) as well as crimes that impact the environment and substance misuse. As in previous years, the analysis is impacted by data availability and quality. Data and insights presented here are drawn from both national analysis and evidence as well as locally produced analysis.

It should be noted that in order to reduce duplication, more detailed analysis can be found on Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight website, [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – Welcome to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight \(cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk\)](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk), on the following topics:

- Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence can be found in the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment produced November 2023.
- Population changes including the analysis of the 2021 Census
- Deprivation
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments from Public Health

Furthermore, the Policy and Insight Team have recently submitted the Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in January 2025, and this will be available on the website shortly.

## 1.1. Recommendations

The current East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities are:

- CSP Priority 1 – Understanding risk and susceptibility of individuals (people) and locations (places) and helping communities respond to this.
- CSP Priority 2 – Work to tackle violence in East Cambridgeshire, with a particular focus on serious violence.

These recommendations have allowed the CSP to develop its evidence about need and to include communities to respond directly. It is recommended that the CSP develop these priorities further into 2025/26. It is therefore proposed that the CSP consider adopting the following priorities:

- CSP Priority 1 – Adopting a place-based approach to tackling and preventing crime that includes communities in developing solutions.
- CSP Priority 2 – Work to tackle violence in East Cambridgeshire, with a particular focus on serious violence.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the CSP look at overlapping issues rather than prioritise specific crime types through reviewing and considering particular locations and communities. The CSP should consider how it can work with a 'place-based' approach.

The CSP is already working alongside partners on thematic topics at a force level. These include domestic abuse and sexual violence, serious violence, and re-offending amongst others. It would be worth the CSP reviewing these arrangements in light of the current evidence.

### 1.1.1. Geographic

Based on the evidence in this document and deep dives that the CSP has commissioned, the following wards frequently come to attention. This highlights the need for a joined-up approach. Areas flagged for anti-social behaviour (ASB) often also report higher levels of crime. Areas of deprivation often overlap with concerns for drug and alcohol misuse, housing concerns, and higher levels of need.

- **Littleport** - Littleport ranked in the top 3 for highest counts in all analysed crime types.
- **Ely East** - Ely East had the highest rate for crimes including VAP, hate crime, sexual offences, and ASB.
- **Ely West** - Ely West has notable counts in ASB, drug offences, and offences relating to personal loss.

### 1.1.2. Community Safety Issues

The strategic assessment is broken down by topic area with a high degree of focus on analysis of police offence data. Those that have shown increasing trends or high volumes are summarised below. These issues should be considered alongside what organisations know about the level of need in the district. And where possible, resident voice and lived experience should be included too.

**Shoplifting** – The increase in commercial loss offences was exclusively driven by shoplifting offences. The number of shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire reached 412 in 2024, up 24% from 2023 (+79 offences). This is 81% higher than the number recorded in 2021 (+185 offences). Shoplifting accounted for 80% of commercial loss offences in 2024, up from 73% in 2023, and 64% in 2021.

Whilst shoplifting is a commercial crime, there is a level of overlap with violence seen recently in attacks on shop workers and is an indication of the impact of the cost of living crisis.

The top 3 wards for shoplifting in 2024 are **Littleport**, **Ely East**, and **Ely West**. Littleport and Ely East had the highest number of shoplifting offences in 2024, with 172 and 119 respectively. This is considerably higher than the ward with the next higher number of offences, Ely West, which had 48. Hotspot mapping shows supermarkets are most affected.

**Violence against the person** – VAP accounted for 40% of all police recorded offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 and remained the most common crime type. VAP offences have stayed relatively stable over the last few years, but the overall high volume is concerning. It is recommended that the CSP should use the findings of the recent Serious Violence Needs Assessment and existing delivery mechanisms to continue to tackle violence.

In addition, VAP has also consistently been the most common offence type for children who offend for the last 3 years, and it currently makes up 32% of the 107 offences for 2024.

VAP has also consistently accounted for most of domestic abuse (DA) crimes since 2021 with a range of 75% to 80% and 75% for 2024. It is recommended that the CSP utilise the findings of the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment alongside the analysis presented in this assessment, to work with the County Partnership to develop appropriate actions for the district.

Of all hate crime offences, VAP accounts for the second highest crime type after public order with a range of 32% to 50% between 2021 and 2024 and makes up 40% of all hate crime for 2024.

Lastly, within VAP, there has been an increase in possession of weapon offences since 2021 despite a small dip in 2023. In the last year, possession of weapon offences has increased by 61% (+17 offences).

The top 3 wards for VAP in 2024 are **Littleport** (248 offences), **Ely East** (192 offences), and **Ely West** (178 offences). Other notable wards include Stretham, which saw the largest volume increase compared to all wards in East Cambridgeshire between 2021 and 2024 (+69%, +64 offences), and Soham South, which has the second highest rate of 27.2.

**Anti-social behaviour (ASB)** - ASB in East Cambridgeshire increased by roughly a third between 2023 and 2024 (+34%, +268 incidents). This is the largest percentage increase of any district in Cambridgeshire (other districts ranging from a 13% increase to a 28% increase). This equates to a 12% increase in East Cambridgeshire compared to 2021.

The top 3 wards for ASB in 2024 are **Ely East** (160 offences), **Ely West** (159 offences), and **Littleport** (154 offences). **Littleport** had both the highest number of youth related ASB incidents, and the highest proportion of ASB incidents that were youth related (36%). Both non-youth related ASB incidents (+90%), and youth related ASB incidents (129%) increased in the last year.

Other wards which had notably high proportion of youth ASB incidents in 2024 were Soham South (34%), Burwell (33%), Soham North (32%), and Stretham (31%); however, these had lower numbers of incidents compared to Littleport.

### 1.1.3. Prevention

Risk factor data will soon be released in the Serious Violence Needs Assessment dashboard. Risk factors include alcohol and substance misuse, drug offences, educational attainment, unauthorised absences, adverse childhood experiences, homelessness, child poverty, exposure to violence, and employment data. Data will be mostly provided at a district level with some ward level data. When the dashboard is released, it is recommended that the CSP consider these risk factors with an aim of developing corresponding preventive measures and programmes to address these needs.

## 1.2. Summary of Key Findings

Below is a summary of the key findings in the order of the report. This section can be used as starting point to investigate specific sections of interest in the report.

**Personal loss** - Overall, acquisitive crimes related to personal loss decreased from the peak of 900 in 2023 down to 769 in 2024 (-15%). This represents a 12% decrease since 2021 (from 869 in 2021 down to 769 in 2024).

**Theft offences** - Theft offences related to personal loss (which includes other theft, bicycle theft, and theft from the person) accounted for more than half of offences related to personal loss (53%).

**Vehicle offences** - 'Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' offences saw little change since 2021 (+5 offences) but had decreased by a quarter compared to last year (-25%; -20 offences). This contrasts the national increase in vehicle theft indicated by CSEW estimates.

**Burglary** - Residential burglary decreased in the last year but remained slightly above 2021 levels in 2024. Residential burglary accounted for 19% of personal loss offences in 2024. 67% of these were home burglaries, with the remaining 33% being unconnected builds.

**Scams, Fraud and Cyber Crime** - The number of police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire more than doubled between 2019 and 2021, from 79 to 159. Minor decreases were recorded over the following 3 years, down to 142 by 2024. This remains notably higher than the 2019 count of 79 offences (+87%, +66 offences). By utilising CSEW estimates, an estimated 4800 people in East Cambridgeshire were victims of fraud in the YE September 2024.

**Violence against the person (VAP)** – VAP accounted for 40% of all police recorded offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 and remained the most common crime type. VAP offences have stayed relatively stable over the last few years, but the overall high volume is concerning.

There has been an increase in possession of weapon offences since 2021 despite a small dip in 2023. In the last year, possession of weapon offences has increased by 61% (+17 offences).

**Sexual offences** - The volume of offences is low in East Cambridgeshire. After increasing between 2021 and 2022, the number of sexual offences has stayed stable in East Cambridgeshire over the last 3 years. The number of offences in 2024 remained 19% above the number in 2021 (+29 offences).

There has been an increase in the number of offences flagged as Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), from 62 in 2021 (accounting for 40% of sexual offences), up to 86 in 2024 (accounting for 47% of sexual offences).

**Domestic abuse** - The percentage of police recorded crimes that were flagged as domestic abuse (DA) related saw little change between 2021 and 2022 (21% and 20% respectively) but dropped to 17% in 2023. In 2024, this increased again to 19%.

The number of police recorded domestic abuse (DA) incidents has stayed relatively stable over the last 4 years, seeing only minor increases (+7%, +28 incidents compared to 2023; and +13%, +49 incidents compared to 2021).

**Exploitation and vulnerability** - The total number of police recorded modern slavery offences for East Cambridgeshire has remained low between 2020 and 2024, accounting for just 3% of this offence type in 2024. However, these numbers should not be taken as a true representation of the levels of modern slavery offending in East Cambridgeshire, or across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type.

**Substance misuse** - The total number of police recorded drug offences has seen little change in the last year overall (+1 offence), remaining 20% (+21 offences) above the total number recorded in 2021.

The rate of police recorded drug offences in East Cambridgeshire is 0.9 offences per 1000 population. This is lower than the countywide rate of 1.6 per 1000 population

and is approximately a third of the national rate for the YE September 2024 of 3.0 offences per 1000 population.

Opiates remained the most common treatment type, accounting for 42% in 2024, followed by alcohol (30%). 19% were in treatment for both alcohol and non-opiates.

The overall number of people in treatment for substance misuse saw decreases between the peak of 217 in 2021 and 148 in treatment in 2023. However, the number increased by 23% (+34 people) between 2023 and 2024, returning back to a similar level as in 2019 and 2020.

**Probation cohort** - There were 155 individuals residing in East Cambridgeshire who were open to the service on 11/08/2024. In terms of age, the highest proportion were between 30 to 39 years old (32%). In terms of ethnicity, the majority of the probation cohort in East Cambridgeshire were White British at 83%.

**Children who offend** - There was a total of 51 children who offend who received 59 outcomes in 2024. This is the lowest number of children who offend compared to other Cambridgeshire districts with Huntingdonshire having the highest at 102 children who offend. East Cambridgeshire also has the lowest number of First Time Entrants (FTEs), Out of Court Disposals (OOCs), and Court Sentences compared to other Cambridgeshire districts in 2024.

**Crimes that impact the community** - Crimes can have wider impacts than a single victim, and therefore, for this report, some crime and anti-social behaviour types have been grouped together for analysis. This analysis includes 6 types: commercial loss, hate crime, deliberate fires, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and public order.

**Commercial loss** – This includes business and community burglary, robbery of business property, and shoplifting offences. The increase in commercial loss offences was exclusively driven by shoplifting offences.

The number of shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire reached 412 in 2024, up 24% from 2023 (+79 offences). This is 81% higher than the number recorded in 2021 (+185 offences). Shoplifting accounted for 80% of commercial loss offences in 2024, up from 73% in 2023, and 64% in 2021.

**Hate crime** - After annual decreases in hate crime marked offences in East Cambridgeshire between 2021 and 2023, 2024 saw an increase of 34% compared to 2023. However, the count for 2024 remained 21% lower than 2021. Given the high level of under-reporting of hate crime, caution should be taken when interpreting these figures.

**Deliberate fires** - In contrast to the decrease in deliberate fires seen nationally, there was a minor increase in the number of deliberate fires in East

Cambridgeshire, from 29 in 2023 to 35 in 2024. However, 2024 remained below the 41 recorded in 2022

**Criminal damage** - Criminal damage has been gradually increasing between 2022 and 2024. An 11% increase in the last year (+43 offences), meant that 2024 exceeded 2021 by 6% (+24 offences).

**Anti-social behaviour (ASB)** - In contrast to trends in national data, ASB in East Cambridgeshire increased by roughly a third between 2023 and 2024 (+34%, +268 incidents). This is the largest percentage increase of any district in Cambridgeshire (other districts ranging from a 13% increase to a 28% increase). This equates to a 12% increase in East Cambridgeshire compared to 2021.

**Public order** - There has been year on year decreases in public order offences in East Cambridgeshire since 2022. Offences decreased by 16% in the last year, from 360 down to 302 offences. Compared to the peak of 524 offences in 2022, offences have decreased by almost half (-43%).

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. National

In order to provide context for local crime trends, this report includes data released nationally. The ONS publish quarterly crime bulletins detailing national crime statistics. This includes police-recorded crime in England and Wales, and estimates of crime experienced by residents aged 16 and over based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) (ONS, 2025a). Due to the methodology used for CSEW estimates, the latest data for September 2024, covers crimes that occurred between October 2022 and August 2024. See further technical notes on CSEW data in Appendix Section A.3. Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletins.

#### 2.1.1. Crime Survey for England and Wales

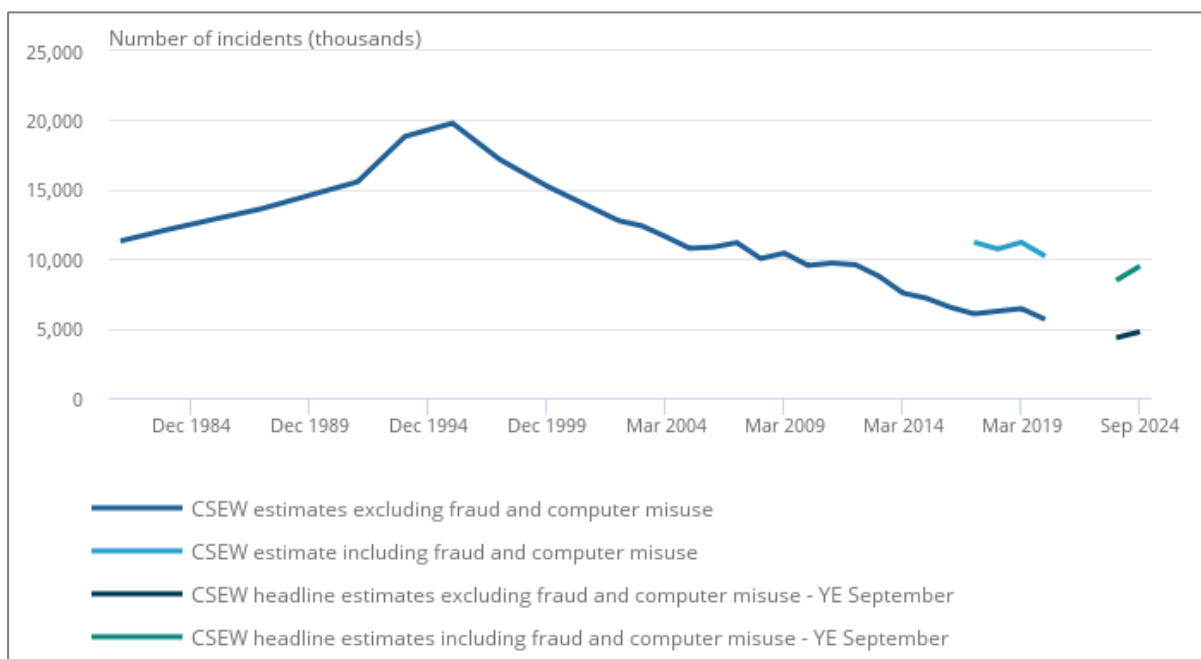
The main part of the CSEW covers theft offences, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse and violence with or without injury (referred to as “headline crimes”).

CSEW estimates suggest there was a 12% increase in the volume of crime in England and Wales between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024. According to the ONS, this was mainly driven by a 19% increase in fraud (ONS, 2025a). However, the estimated number of headline crimes from the YE September 2024 survey remained 15% below the estimated number of crimes from the YE

March 2017 survey, when fraud and computer misuse was first included (ONS, 2025a; ONS, 2025b, p. A1).

Furthermore, the longer-term trend indicates decreases in the estimated volume of headline crimes since a peak in the year ending (YE) December 1995 survey (see Figure 1). When looking at figures excluding fraud and computer misuse, the estimated 4.8 million incidents from the YE September 2024 survey remains well below the peak of 19.8 million estimated for the YE December 1995 survey period (ONS, 2025a).

**Figure 1: Long term trend in CSEW estimates of offences in England and Wales, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024**



Source: Figure 1 in Crime Survey for England and Wales (ONS, 2025a)

Notes: See technical notes in Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

### 2.1.2. Crime type breakdown

According to the CSEW, there have been decreases in the proportion of people reporting experience of violence (with or without injury), theft, criminal damage and domestic abuse over the past decade, and stalking and harassment has remained relatively stable. In contrast, sexual assault has increased since a dip in YE March 2014 (up to 2.2% in YE September 2024).

Table 1 shows the breakdown in headline crimes by type in the last 2 years.

- Fraud had the highest estimated number of incidents and the second highest prevalence (6.6%), with a 19% increase in volume in the last year (statistically significant at 5% level).

- Whilst fraud had the highest number of incidents, theft offences were experienced by a higher proportion of respondents (7.6%).
- Whilst the prevalence of violence was relatively low (1.5%), it saw a notable volume increase of 27% in the last year.
- Whilst the prevalence of robbery was low (0.2%), it saw a notable increase in volume of 46%.

**Table 1: Percentage changes in types of crimes, CSEW estimates for England and Wales, year ending September 2023 to year ending September 2024**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>	<b>Prevalence (%)</b>
<b>Fraud</b>	3,240,000	3,858,000	+19%	6.6
<b>Theft Offences</b>	2,681,000	2,875,000	+7%	7.6
<b>Violence</b>	894,000	1,140,000	+28%	1.5
<b>Computer Misuse</b>	898,000	867,000	-3%	1.5
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	674,000	629,000	-7%	2.0
<b>Robbery</b>	83,000	121,000	+46%	0.2

Notes: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from Appendix tables for Crime in England and Wales year ending September 2024 quarterly bulletin (ONS, 2025b, p. A1). Violent crime includes violence with, and violence without injury. Prevalence indicates the percentage of respondents (aged 16+) who reported experiencing a crime once or more.

### 2.1.3. Police Recorded Crime

As explained by ONS, police recorded crime can give more insight into offences that the CSEW does not sufficiently capture (such as crimes against businesses), as well as those that are low volume, high harm offences.

National police recorded data has indicated the increases in shoplifting since the COVID-19 pandemic have continued, increasing by another 23% in the last year. As noted by ONS, this is the highest level recorded since current police recording practices began in YE March 2003 (ONS, 2025a).

While offences involving firearms saw a notable decrease of 17%, offences involving knives or sharp instruments saw a small increase (+4%).

Other changes in police recorded offences noted by ONS are detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Police recorded offences in England and Wales, YE September 2023 to YE September 2024**

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>YE September 2023 count</b>	<b>YE September 2024 count</b>	<b>Percentage change (%)</b>
Shoplifting	402,220	492,914	+23%
Robbery	78,865	82,347	+4%
Offences involving knives or sharp instruments	52,969	55,008	+4%
Homicides	572	550	-4%
Offences involving firearms	6,499	5,372	-17%

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from Section 1 in Crime Survey for England and Wales Bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 1).

## 2.2. Economic Context

East Cambridgeshire sits within an overall UK economy that has been slowing over 2024. GDP growth slowed from +0.7% in Q1 2024 to +0.4% in Q2 2024 to 0.0% in Q3 2024 (ONS, 2024a). Recent estimates for Q4 2024 point to little growth at +0.1% (ONS, 2025c). This means that output in terms of goods and services produced in the UK economy has been slowing. Within this weak national economic growth, the economic context for East Cambridgeshire can be furthered examined in 3 parts:

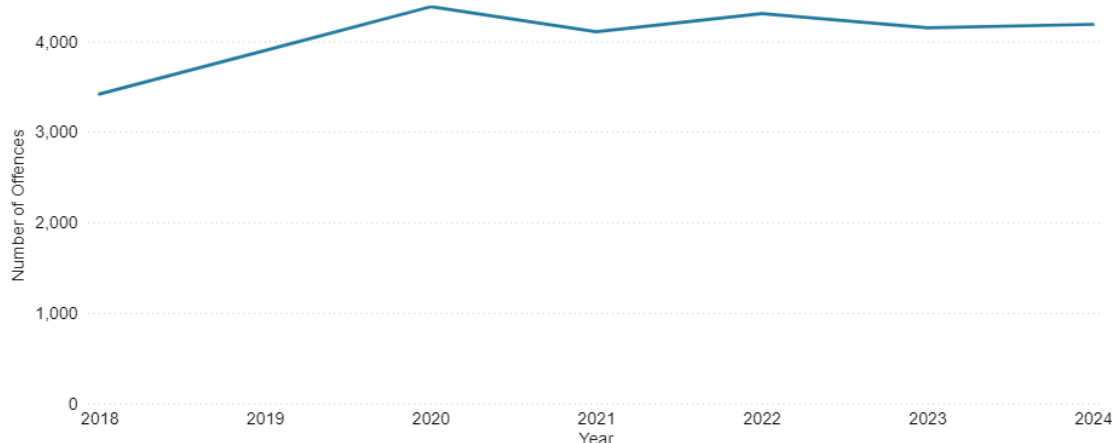
- Median monthly pay and pay growth
- Claimant rate
- Universal credit

## 3. Crime Overview

Police recorded crime in East Cambridgeshire saw little change in the last year from 4150 in 2023 to 4188 in 2024 (+1%, +38 offences). Therefore, the overall pattern is a stabilisation since the increases seen between 2018 and 2020 (see Figure 2 below).

Overall, East Cambridgeshire remains a relatively low crime area. The rate of offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 was 46.8 offences per 1000 population – this is below the countywide rate of 64.7 offences per 1000 population and almost half the national rate for YE September 2024 of 88.1 offences per 1000 population (excluding fraud and computer misuse) (ONS, 2025b, p. A7).

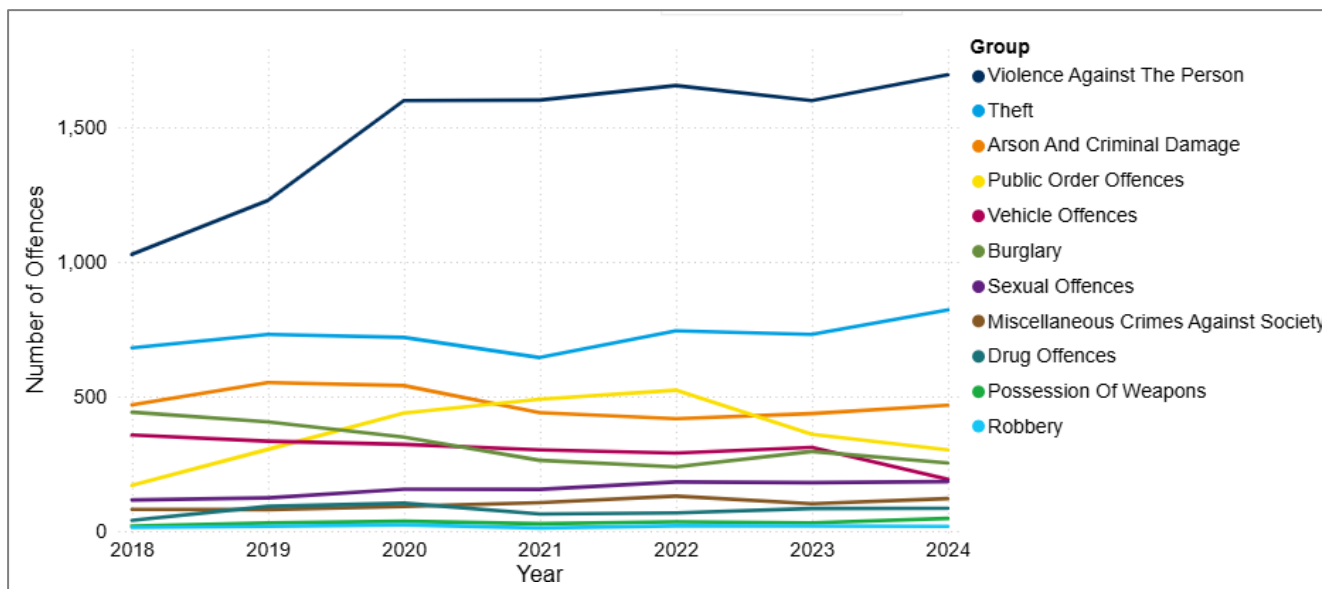
**Figure 2: Long term trend in all police recorded offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2018 to 2024**



As shown in Figure 3 below, Violence Against the Person (VAP) remained the most common crime type, accounting for 40% of offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2024. Theft remained the second most common crime type, accounting for 20% of offences in 2024. After relatively stable numbers of VAP offences since 2020, there was a small uptick from 1599 in 2023 to 1695 in 2024 (+6%, +96 offences). Theft also increased from 731 in 2023 to 822 in 2024 (+12%, +91 offences).

VAP and theft also have the highest rates, at 18.9 and 9.2 per 1000 population, respectively (see Table 3).

**Figure 3: Long term annual trend of police recorded offences in East Cambridgeshire, by crime group, 2018 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**Table 3: Volume, change, and rate of police recorded offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2023 to 2024**

<b>Crime Group</b>	<b>2023 Count</b>	<b>2024 Count</b>	<b>2023-24 Percent change (volume change)</b>	<b>2024 rate per 1000 population</b>
Arson and Criminal Damage	437	468	+7% (+31)	5.2
Burglary	296	253	-15% (-43)	2.8
Drug Offences	84	85	+1% (+1)	0.9
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	102	121	+19% (+19)	1.4
Possession of Weapons	31	47	+52% (+16)	0.5
Public Order Offences	360	302	-16% (-58)	3.4
Robbery	19	18	-5% (-1)	0.2
Sexual Offences	180	184	+2% (+4)	2.1
Theft	731	822	+12% (+91)	9.2
Vehicle Offences	311	193	-38% (-118)	2.2
Violence Against the Person	1599	1695	+6% (+96)	18.9
<b>All offences</b>	<b>4150</b>	<b>4188</b>	<b>+1% (+38)</b>	<b>46.8</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Rates are based on CCC mid-2022 population estimates (CCC PIT, 2024). See Section A.2. Population estimates for technical notes.

## 4. Personal loss

### 4.1. Summary

The volume of crimes related to personal loss remain low in East Cambridgeshire and have decreased. This is despite notable increases in theft from the person offences nationally in the last year. Whilst some residents will be impacted by these crimes, the harm associated is variable and dependant on a number of factors including the scale of the offence and the circumstances of the victim. It should be noted that victimisation can happen online as well as in person with many of the offences within personal loss.

Overall, acquisitive crimes related to personal loss decreased from the peak of 900 in 2023 down to 769 in 2024 (-15%). Decreases were seen in theft offences (e.g. theft from the person), vehicle offences, and residential burglary in the last year. Whilst residential burglary decreased in the last year, it remained slightly above 2021 levels in 2024.

## 4.2. Technical note

In order to focus on acquisitive crimes related to personal loss, the following section excludes crimes explicitly related to businesses, i.e. shoplifting, robbery of business property, as well as business and community burglary. Acquisitive crimes explicitly related to businesses will be analysed in Section 12 Crimes that impact the community (See 12.2 Commercial Loss). It should be noted that some crimes against businesses may still be present in the following section: it will include vehicle crimes for vehicles owned by businesses as well as those owned by individuals.

In April 2023, residential burglary was split into 'residential burglary – home' and 'residential burglary – unconnected building', see A.5. Burglary Offences for technical notes.

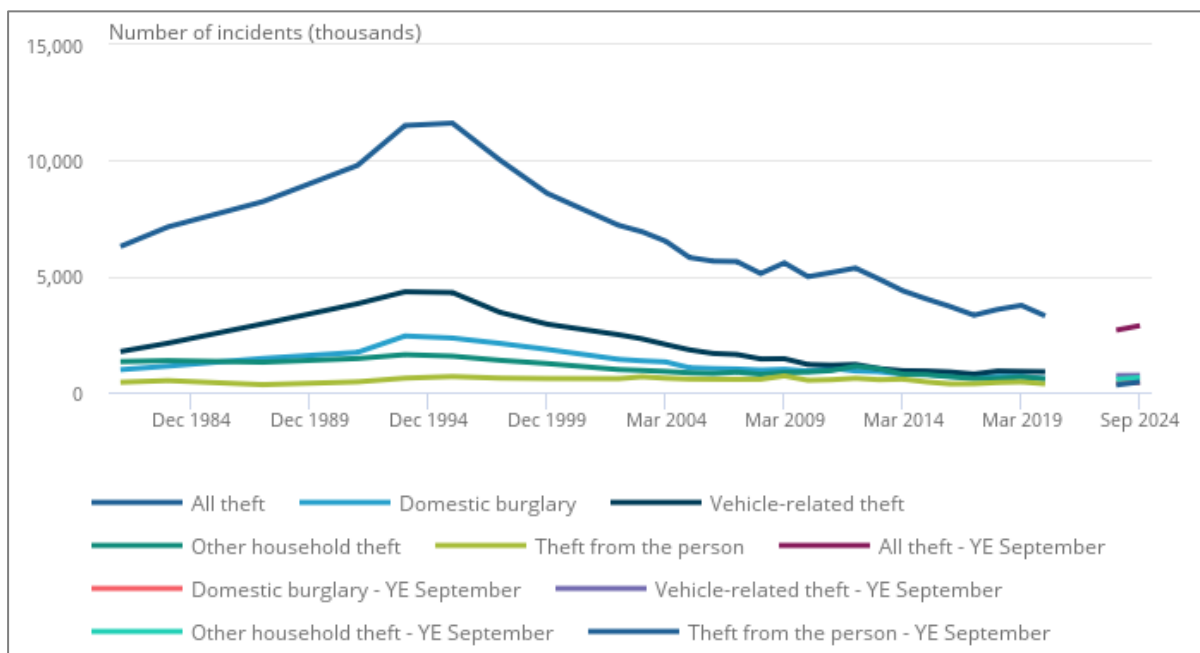
## 4.3. National Context

### 4.3.1. Crime Survey for England & Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) can provide an indication of trends in victim-based offences, that are not necessarily reported to the police. Incidents of acquisitive crime, referred to as "theft" by the CSEW, includes domestic burglary, vehicle related theft, other household theft, theft from the person, bicycle theft, and other theft of personal property. CSEW estimates indicated a minor increase in the volume of theft, from 2.7 million in YE September 2023, to 2.9 million in YE September 2024 (+7%). This follows the long terms trend of decreases since a peak of 11.6 million offences in YE December 1995 (see Figure 4), and remains 13% lower than the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 (ONS, 2025a; ONS, 2025b, p. A1).

Whilst there has been little change in theft offences overall, there was a 42% increase in theft from the person, and a 14% increase in other household theft between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024. Vehicle related theft saw little change in the last year (+1%), and overall, has decreased since pre-pandemic YE March 2020; however, theft of vehicles has increased by 36% compared to YE March 2020.

**Figure 4: Trend in CSEW estimates of theft, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024**



Notes: See figure technical notes in Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

Source: Figure 6 in Crime in England and Wales Bulletin for the year ending September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 12).

#### 4.3.2. Police recorded crime

National police recorded acquisitive crime (“theft”, which includes burglary, theft from the person, vehicle offences, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and all other theft offences) increased by 2% since the YE September 2023, reaching 1.8 million offences in YE September 2024. According to ONS, this increase was influenced by substantial increases in shoplifting, and theft from the person, of 23% and 22% respectively (ONS, 2025a).

In contrast, decreases were seen in bicycle theft (-10%), all other theft offences (-8%), vehicle offences (-6%), and burglary (-4%) (ONS, 2025b, p. A5a).

#### 4.4. Personal loss in East Cambridgeshire

Figures relating to broad acquisitive crime categories are shown in Section 3 Crime Overview where theft accounted for the largest proportion. The following section includes a breakdown of acquisitive crimes which are related to personal loss (see Technical note above).

##### Overall

- Overall, acquisitive crimes related to personal loss decreased from the peak of 900 in 2023 down to 769 in 2024 (-15%).
- This represents a 12% decrease since 2021 (from 869 in 2021 down to 769 in 2024).

### **Theft offences**

- As shown in Table 4, theft offences related to personal loss (which includes other theft, bicycle theft, and theft from the person) accounted for more than half of offences related to personal loss (53%).
- The majority of these were “other theft”. This offence type increased by 8% in the last year (+28 offences) and accounted for 49% of all personal loss offences in 2024 (see Table 5).
- Theft from the personal offences remained low in East Cambridgeshire in 2024. The national increase in these offences in the last year (YE September) was not reflected in local figures (YE December, see Table 5).

### **Vehicle offences**

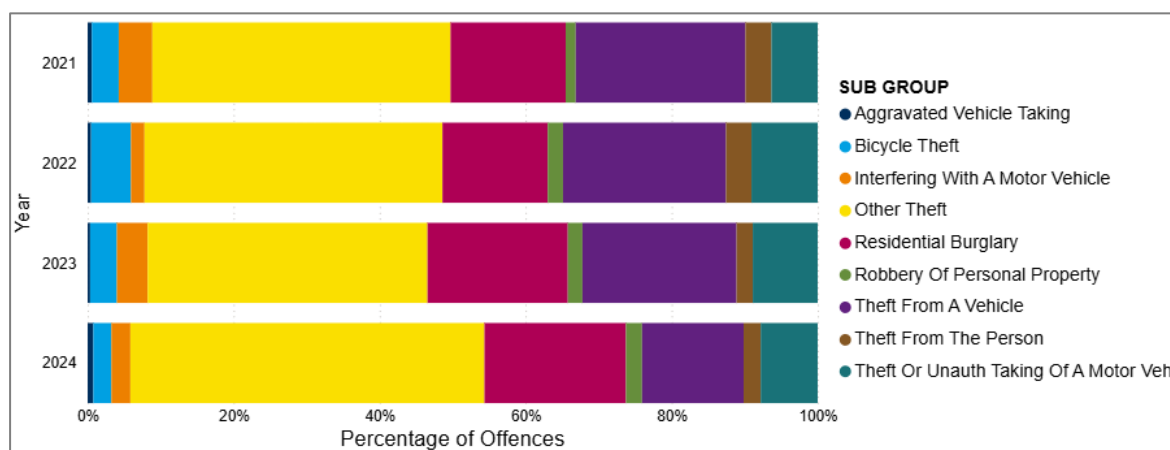
- ‘Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle’ offences saw little change since 2021 (+5 offences) but had decreased by a quarter compared to last year (-25%, -20 offences, see Table 5).
- This contrasts the national increase in vehicle theft indicated by CSEW estimates.

### **Burglary**

- Residential burglary decreased in the last year but remained slightly above 2021 levels in 2024.
- Residential burglary accounted for 19% of personal loss offences in 2024. 67% of these were home burglaries, with the remaining 33% being unconnected builds.

A full breakdown of offences related to personal loss can be seen in Figure 5, Table 4, and Table 5.

**Figure 5: Share of acquisitive offences in East Cambridgeshire related to personal loss, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**Table 4: Crimes related to personal loss in East Cambridgeshire, from 2021 to 2024, by group**

Crime type	2021	2022	2023	2024	% share 2024	2023-24 % (volume) change	2021-24 % (volume) change
Theft	418	428	398	410	53%	+3% (+12)	-2% (-8)
Vehicle crime	302	290	311	193	25%	-38% (-118)	-36% (-109)
Residential burglary	137	124	173	149	19%	-14% (-24)	+9% (+12)
Robbery of Personal Property	12	18	18	17	2%	-6% (-1)	+42% (+5)
Total	869	860	900	769	100%	-15% (-131)	-12% (-100)

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**Table 5: Crimes related to personal loss in East Cambridgeshire, from 2021 to 2024, by subgroup**

Crime type	2021	2022	2023	2024	% share 2024	2023-24 % (volume) change	2021-24 % (volume) change
Other theft	355	351	345	373	49%	+8% (+28)	+5% (+18)
Residential burglary	137	124	173	149	19%	-14% (-24)	+9% (+12)
Theft From a Vehicle	202	192	190	107	14%	-44% (-83)	-47% (-95)
Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle	55	78	80	60	8%	-25% (-20)	+9% (+5)

Crime type	2021	2022	2023	2024	% share 2024	2023-24 % (volume) change	2021-24 % (volume) change
Interfering with a motor vehicle	40	16	38	20	3%	-47% (-18)	-50% (-20)
Bicycle theft	32	47	33	19	2%	-42% (-14)	-41% (-13)
Theft From the Person	31	30	20	18	2%	-10% (-2)	-42% (-13)
Robbery of Personal Property	12	18	18	17	2%	-6% (-1)	+42% (+5)
Aggravated vehicle taking	5	4	3	6	1%	+100% (+3)	+20% (+1)
Total	869	860	900	769	100%	-15% (-131)	-12% (-100)

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

#### 4.4.1. Ward Analysis

- **Ely West** saw the highest count of offences related to personal loss (126 offences). This represents a rate per 1,000 of 12.9, the highest amongst all wards and notably higher than rate for East Cambridgeshire (8.6). This count of offences is relatively stable with the previous year (-1%, -1 offence) but has decreased by 39% since 2021 (-81 offences).
- **Soham South** saw the largest percentage increase between 2023 and 2024 (+29%, +16 offences). Soham South had a rate per 1,000 of 11.3 in 2024, also higher than the rate for East Cambridgeshire (8.6).
- **Littleport** ranked second for count of offences (115) in 2024 and had the third highest rate 11.4 per 1,000 population.
- The number of personal loss offences in **Bottisham** reached 57 in 2024, up 21% from 2023 (+10 offences). This is 104% higher than the number recorded in 2021 (+29 offences).

## 5. Scams, Fraud and Cybercrime

### 5.1. Summary

Although cybercrime offences appear to be decreasing locally, the number remains notably higher compared to 2019. Moreover, national data suggests that both fraud and cybercrime are still threatening offences, which have potentially increased from the vulnerability of the cost-of-living crisis. Based on CSEW prevalence estimates, it

is predicted that approximately 4800 people could have been victims of fraud in East Cambridgeshire in the YE September 2024.

## 5.2. National Context

The National Crime Agency (NCA) national strategic assessment of serious and organised crime (National Strategic Assessment 2024 for Serious and Organised Crime, 2024) identifies cybercrime and fraud as key threats. It was noted that threat from fraud within the UK has grown over the last ten years. Whilst certain fraud types are now seeing some decline, fraud types such as consumer and romance fraud are increasing (NCA, 2024). The NCA also suggest that the cost-of-living crisis has increased the vulnerability of potential victims, increasing risky online behaviours to make or save money.

The Online Safety Act was introduced in October 2023 (HM Government, 2023). This act included fraud as one of the priority offences and ensuring social media platforms ensure higher levels of protection against fraudulent advertising for its users. The NCA also noted that 89% of fraud, which was reported to Action Fraud, are cyber-enabled. This proportion has increased significantly when compared with figures in 2012 to 2013 (37%) (NCA, 2024).

When fraud is reported to the police, it is recorded and collected by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) from Action Fraud alongside Cifas and UK Finance. Police recorded fraud offences increased by 9% in the last year to 1.2 million offences (YE September 2024). As explained by ONS, these increases can be partly attributed to efforts made by UK Finance “to improve the volume of actionable intelligence shared with the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau” (ONS, 2025a, p. 14).

However, these offences are known to have levels of underreporting. It is estimated that less than 1 in 7 fraud offences are reported to either the police or Action Fraud (ONS, 2024b). Estimates based on the CSEW place the potential number of fraud incidents at 3.9 million for the YE September 2024. This estimate is 19% higher than the previous year (YE September 2023) but is close to the pre-pandemic YE March 2020 (+5%) (ONS, 2025a; ONS, 2025b, p. A1).

## 5.3. Local Fraud and Cybercrime

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) works together to deliver initiatives in this area. CAPASP is a collaboration of public, private and voluntary sector organisations committed to working together to stop scams and doorstep crime across the county. Initiatives include supporting the annual National Scams Awareness week organised by Citizens Advice Bureau.

Information is being hosted at [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership - Citizens Advice Peterborough | Citizens Advice Peterborough](#).

### 5.3.1. Estimated prevalence of fraud

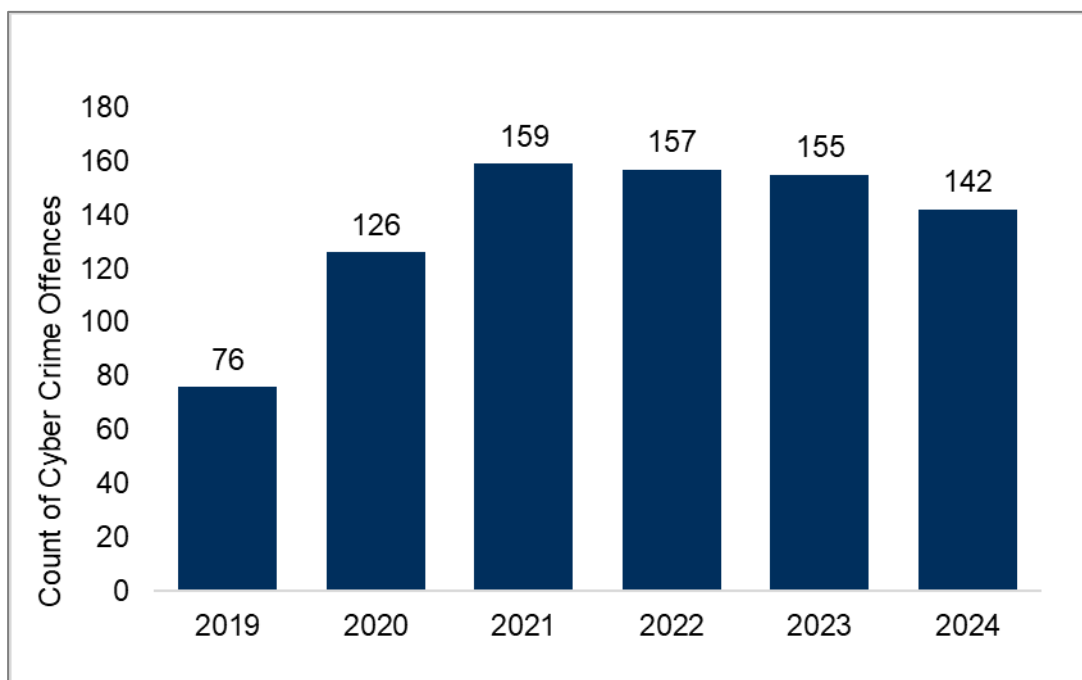
CSEW data showed 6.6% of respondents aged 16 and over reported being a victim of fraud in the YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025b, p. A3). Based on this estimate, this could mean an estimated 4800 people in East Cambridgeshire were victims of fraud in the YE September 2024 (see A.2. Population estimates for technical note and details about estimation calculation).

### 5.3.2. Police recorded cybercrime

Police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire are shown in Figure 6. The number of offences more than doubled between 2019 and 2021, from 79 to 159. Minor decreases were recorded over the following 3 years, down to 142 by 2024. This remains notably higher than the 2019 count of 79 offences (+87%, +66 offences).

Whilst the volume of offences is fairly low in East Cambridgeshire, there has been an increase in offence levels in recent years which has been sustained when comparing pre and post pandemic time periods. The risk of harm associated with fraud and cybercrime offences is likely to vary notably between victims depending on the incident type but has the potential to be very high.

**Figure 6: Annual trend in police recorded cybercrime offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2024**

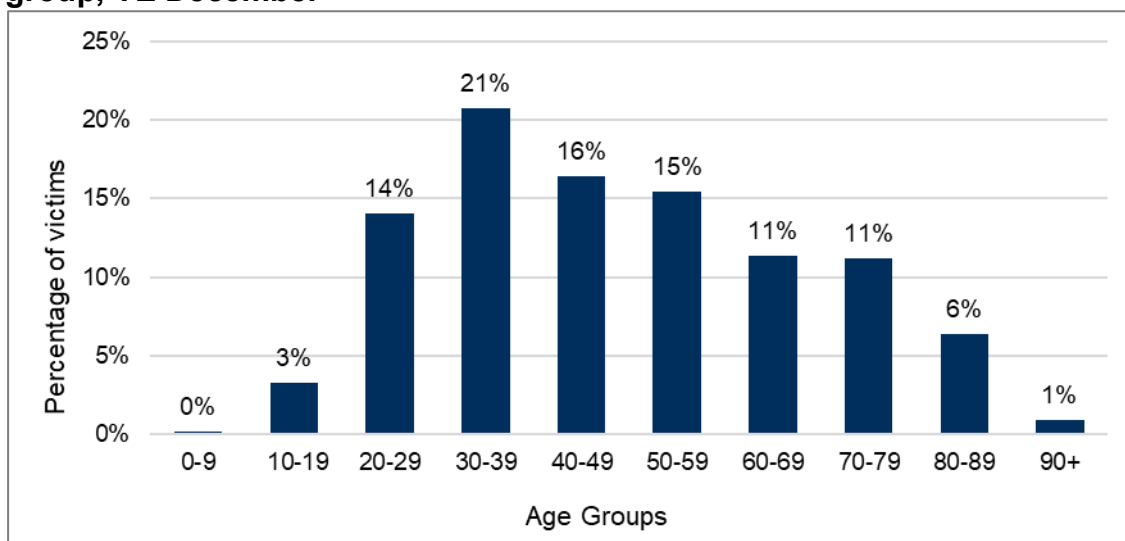


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using CADET data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 5.3.3. Action Fraud

Data on fraud and cybercrime offences is available from Action Fraud down to the police force area level. Figure 7 below shows breakdown by age group. The age group that accounted for the highest proportion were those aged 30-39 (21%). In terms of gender breakdown, where known, there was a slightly higher number of female victims (52%) than male victims (48%).

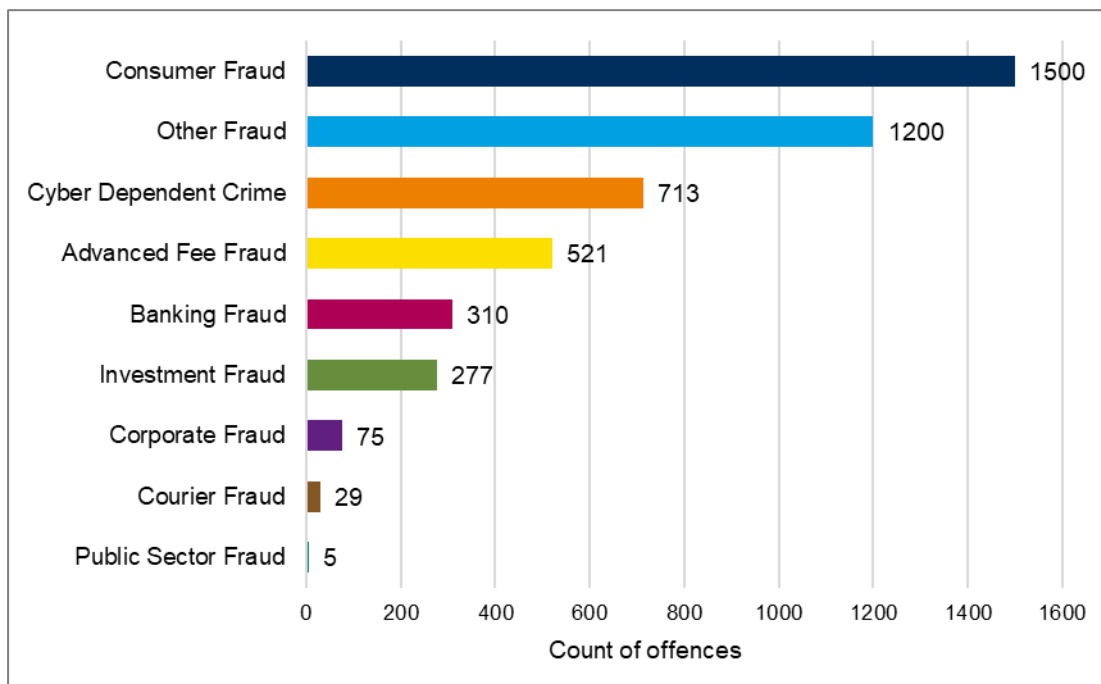
**Figure 7: Individual victims of fraud and cybercrime offences recorded by Action Fraud in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary police force area, by age group, YE December**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from NFIB Fraud and Cybercrime Dashboard (Action Fraud, 2025)

Figure 8 below shows the crime groups according to the type of fraud committed. Consumer fraud is the most common type at 1.5 thousand offences.

**Figure 8: Number of fraud and cybercrime offences recorded by Action Fraud for the Cambridgeshire Constabulary police force area, by crime category, YE December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from the NFIB fraud and cybercrime dashboard (Action Fraud, 2025).

## 6. Violence Against the Person

### 6.1. Summary

East Cambridgeshire remains an area of low volume for violent offences compared to other parts of Cambridgeshire; VAP accounted for 40% of all police recorded offences in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 and remained the most common crime type. Overall police recorded violence against the person is relatively stable. National crime survey data has indicated some national rises. It is worth keeping in mind the overlap between domestic abuse and violence when considering the data and trends for the district. The Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as well as the Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment also provides additional insight and is available to the CSP.

### 6.2. Technical note

New Home Office counting rules came into force in 2023 that will affect the recording of conduct crimes.

- Previously up to 2 crimes could be recorded when a victim made a report to the police. As of May 2023, only the most serious crime was recorded, due to the implementation of the “Principal Crime” rule.
- A further change has also allowed police to stop counting malicious communication, crimes of threatening or abusive messages, and public order offences.
- There has been an increase in the number of officers who are able to remove a crime from the record, if evidence suggests no crime took place.
- They are also linked to a 26% reduction in malicious communication offences (Domestic Abuse Commissioner, 2024; ONS, 2024b).

Due to these changes, it is important to note that police recorded violence with or without injury may not provide reliable trends in counts of crime, but it is useful to better understand police activity.

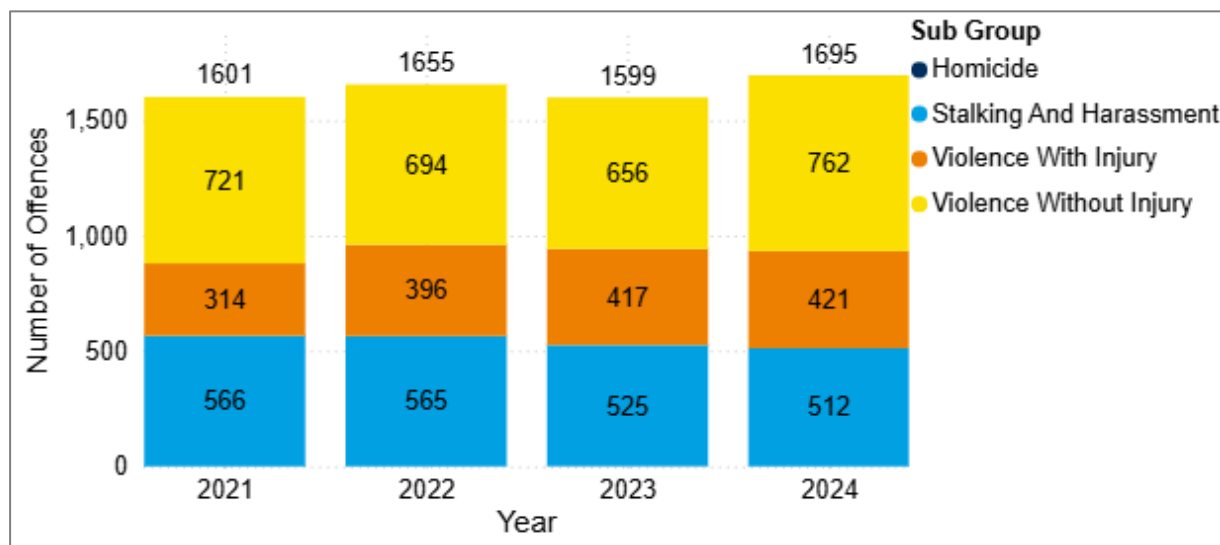
### 6.3. Overview

As indicated earlier in this report, recent CSEW estimates indicate a notable increase in violence with and without injury in England and Wales (+23%) in the last year (YE September 2023 to YE September 2024). This contrasts national police figures showing a small decrease in violence with injury (-5%), and little change in violence without injury (+<1%). Similarly, stalking and harassment also decreased by 9% (ONS, 2025b, p. A5a).

Locally, violence against the person offences have stayed relatively stable over the last few years, with 2024 seeing a minor increase compared to 2023 (+6%, +96 offences from 2023 to 2024). This increase was driven by a 16% increase in violence without injury, which accounts for the largest share of VAP offences (45% in 2024).

The rate of VAP offences in East Cambridgeshire was 18.9 per 1000 population in 2024, lower than the countywide 2024 rate of 22.6 per 1000 population, and notably lower than the national rate of 32.4 per 1000 population over a similar period (YE September 2024) (ONS, 2025b, p. A6).

**Figure 9: Annual trend in police recorded Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 6.4. Ward Analysis

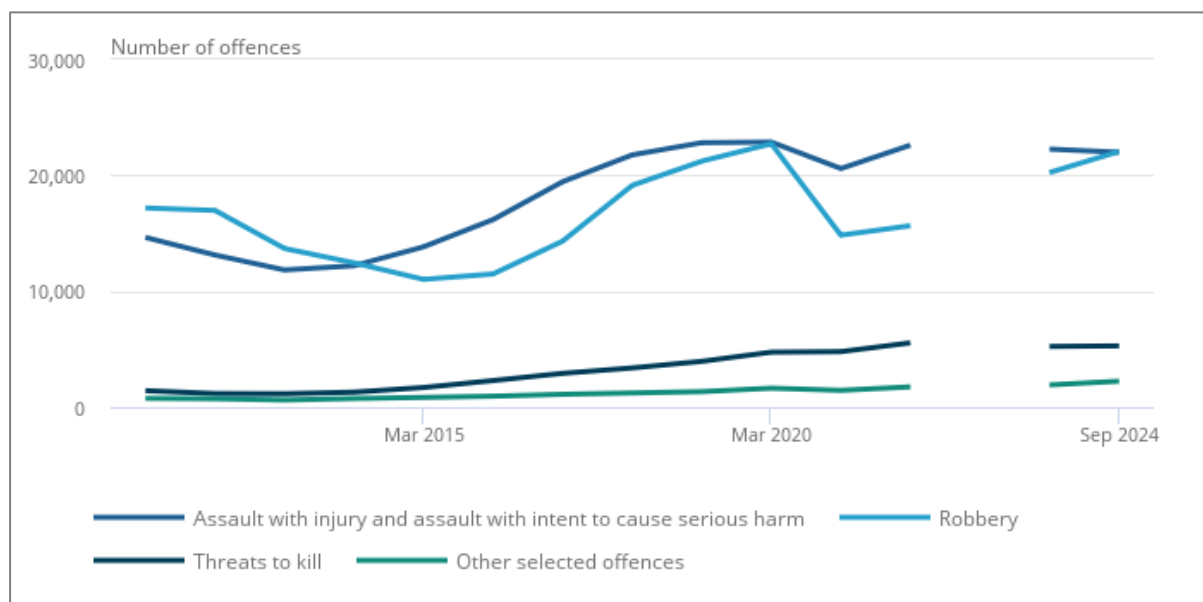
- **Littleport** had the highest offence count in 2024, with 248 VAP offences; a rate of 24.5. This number of offences is similar to figures seen in the previous year (+1%, +3 offences), but represents a decrease since 2021 (-19%, -59 offences).
- **Ely East** had the highest rate of offences in 2024 at 32.6, notably higher than all other East Cambridgeshire wards (ranging between 10.7 and 27.2) and total East Cambridgeshire rate of 18.9. Since 2021, VAP offences in **Ely East** have increased by 16% (+27 offences).
- **Stretham** saw the largest volume increase compared to all wards in East Cambridgeshire between 2021 and 2024 (+69%, +64 offences). **Stretham** has seen incremental increases in VAP offences since 2021, with a notable increase between 2023 and 2024 (+34%, +40 offences).
- **Soham South** has also seen incremental increases since 2021, with offences increasing from 130 to 173 (+33%). Despite having the fourth highest count of offences, **Soham South** has the second highest rate of 27.2, this is compared to all other East Cambridgeshire wards.

## 6.5. Weapons

### 6.5.1. National picture

Nationally (England and Wales), knife-enabled crime has increased by 4% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024, to a similar level recorded in the pre-pandemic year March 2020 (see Figure 10). The majority of these offences were either assault with injury/intent to cause serious harm (43%), or robbery offences (43%) (ONS, 2025a, p. 5). Knife enabled robbery increased by 9% in the last year. It is also worth noting that whilst the number of knife enabled sexual assault and rape offences were relatively low, both saw notable increases in the last year (+27%, +19%) (ONS, 2025b, p. B5).

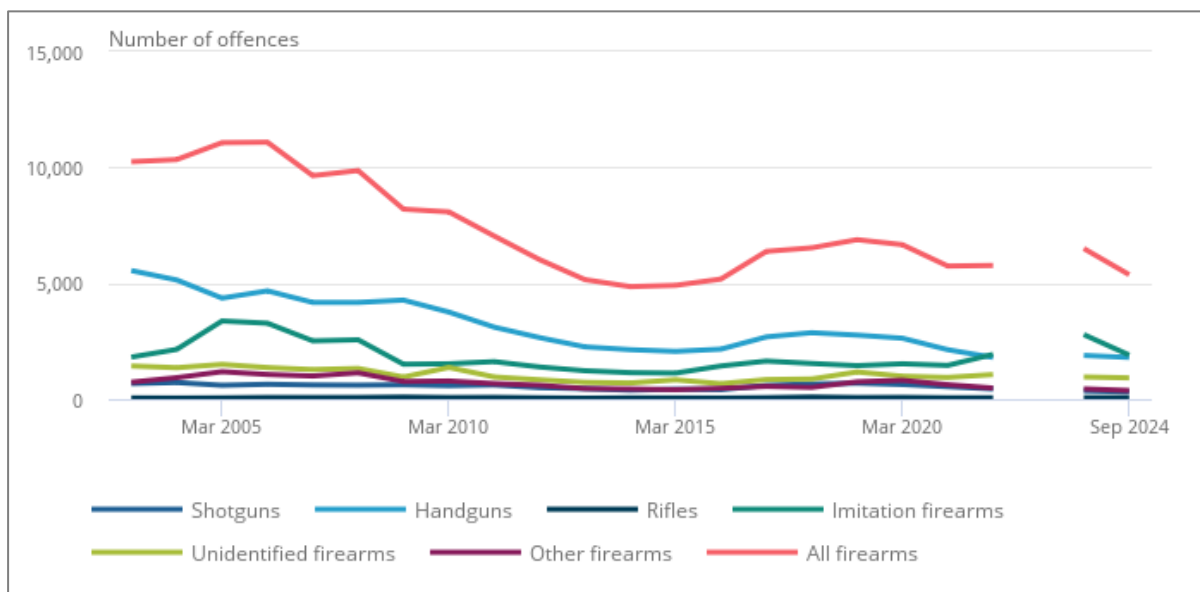
**Figure 10: Police recorded knife enabled crime in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending March 2011 to YE September 2024**



Source: Figure 3 in Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 5).

The number of offences involving firearms which were recorded by the police decreased by 17% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024. This was partially due a decrease in offences involving imitation firearms (-32%); which are now at the lowest level recorded since YE March 2016. The two most common types of weapons involved in YE September 2024 were imitation weapons (35%), and handguns (33%) (ONS, 2025a, p. 6).

**Figure 11: Police recorded firearms offences in England and Wales, YE March 2003 to YE September 2024**

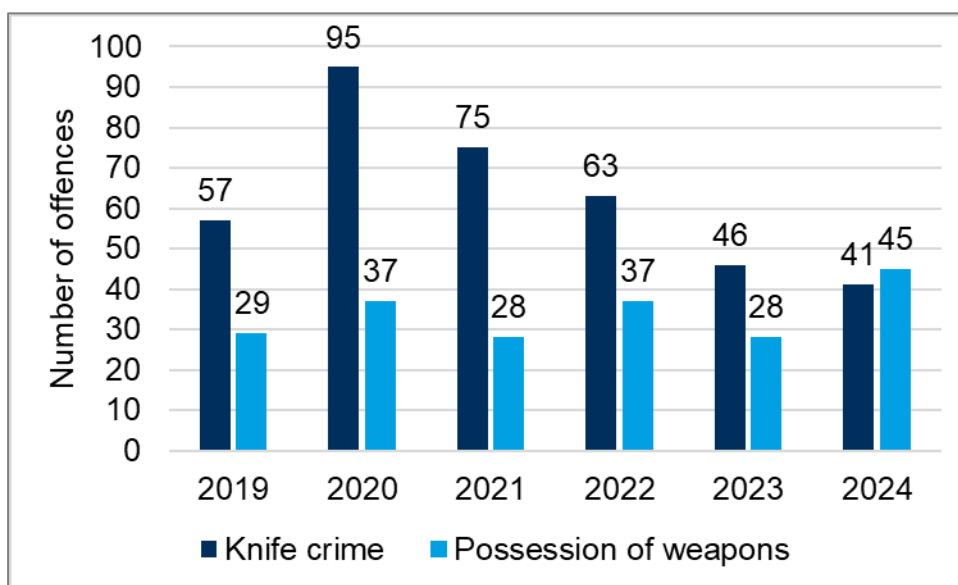


Source: Figure 4 in Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025a, p. 6).

### 6.5.2. Local picture for weapons offences

Possession of weapons offences were variable between 2019 and 2023 but were consistently lower in volume than knife crime flagged offences over this period. In contrast, knife crimes have been decreasing since a peak of 95 offences in 2020, down to 41 offences in 2024 (-57%, -54 offences). An increase in possession of weapons offences from 28 in 2023 to 45 in 2024, meant that this offence type overtook knife crimes in terms of volume for the first time. Additionally due to these reductions, by 2024 knife crimes were 28% lower than the pre-pandemic year 2019 (-16 offences).

**Figure 12: Annual trend in knife crime and possession of weapons offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2019 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 6.6. Serious Violence

The CCC Policy and Insight Team is finalising the Serious Violence Needs Assessment (SVNA) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the YE March 2024. The SVNA investigated recorded violent crimes locally, including violence against the person (VAP), robbery, and sexual offences, as well as local risk factors for violence.

Of all the 6 local authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire had the lowest volume of suspects of violent offences in the YE March 2024, and the second lowest rate (see Table 6).

**Table 6: Number and rate per 1000 population of suspects of all violence (violence against the person, robbery, and sexual offences), for YE March 2024, by suspects district of residence**

Geography	Number of suspects	Rate of suspects per 1000 population
Peterborough	3823	17.5
Fenland	1586	15.3
Huntingdonshire	1832	10.0
Cambridge	1276	8.7
East Cambridgeshire	746	8.3
South Cambridgeshire	1188	7.2
Outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and resident locations which were not able to be geocoded	888	N/A

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Number of suspects</b>	<b>Rate of suspects per 1000 population</b>
<b>Cambridgeshire Total</b>	<b>6628</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Total</b>	<b>10451</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Total	11339	N/A

Source: Table 14 in the Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for YE March 2024 (CCC PIT, 2025). Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team. Victims data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Rates are based on CCC mid-2022 population estimates (CCC PIT, 2024). See Section A.2. Population estimates for technical notes.

The majority of suspects of violent offences (including VAP, robbery, and sexual offence) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were male, accounting for more than two thirds (69%) of suspects in YE March 2024. There was no clear age category that accounted for the majority of suspects.

In contrast, the gender split was more equal amongst victims of these types of offences, with 54% female victims, and 46% male.

Further information on violence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be available in the Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CCC PIT, 2025), soon to be available from Cambridgeshire Insight.

## 7. Sexual offences

### 7.1. Summary

Police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire has seen little change over the last few years, despite seeing a slightly higher proportion of historical offences. Almost half of sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire were flagged as Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) (47%) in 2024, up from 40% in 2021. 30% of sexual offences in 2024 were rape offences in East Cambridgeshire, slightly lower than the 35% seen nationally over a similar period (YE September 2024). Whilst the volume remains relatively low, it should be remembered that police recorded crime does not reflect the true level of offences.

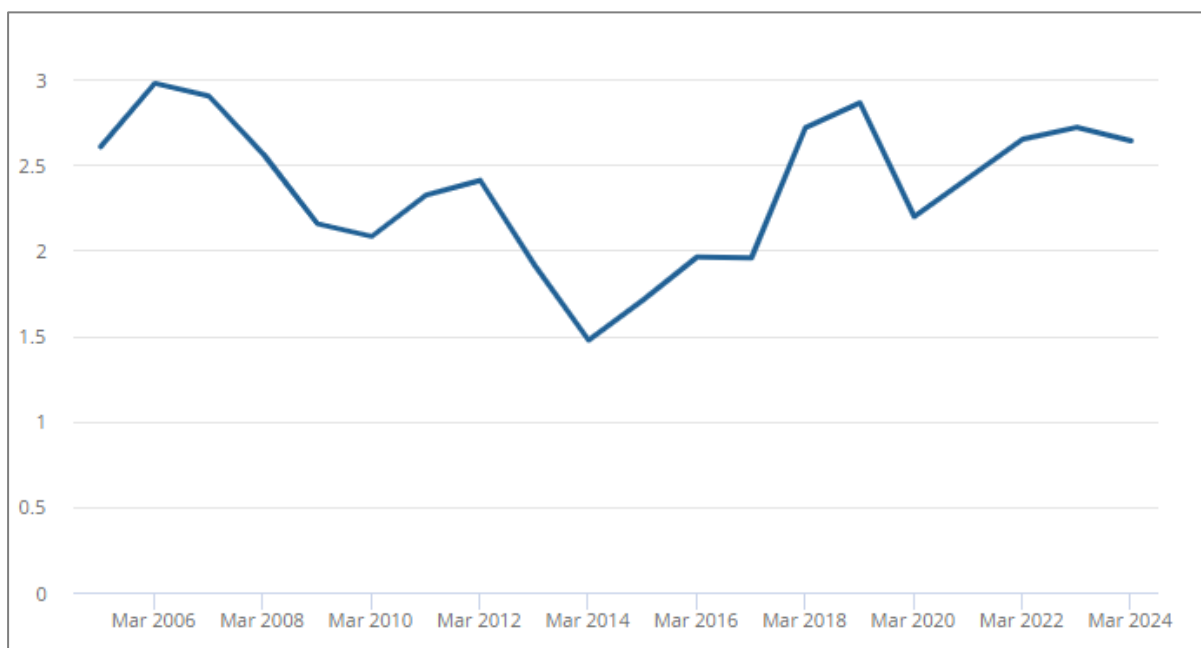
### 7.2. National Trend

Increases in police recorded sexual offences over the last decade have been said by ONS to be linked to improvements in police recording practices (ONS, 2025a). This continued in the YE September 2024, with a 5% compared to the previous year.

More than a third of the sexual offences recorded in YE September 2024 were rape offences (35%), a 3% increase compared to the previous year. 21% of sexual offences in YE September 2024 were historical, having taken place more than a year prior to being recorded (ONS, 2025a, p. 9).

The CSEW's stand-alone self-completion module allows individuals to complete questions separate to the interviewer and the data provides important context to police data offences of this nature due to the number of offences that remain unreported to the police (ONS, 2024b). There was no change in the percentage of respondents (aged 16 and over) who reported experiencing actual or attempted sexual assault, between YE March 2023 and YE March 2024 (2.1%) (ONS, 2024d). There have been fluctuations in the percentage of reports for sexual offences (see Figure 22 ), so much so that the prevalence of these offences has returned to the same level as YE March 2005 (2.5%) and with the lowest percentage in YE March 2014 at 1.5% (ONS, 2024d). The overall trend has increased since YE March 2014.

**Figure 13: Prevalence estimates of sexual assault for those aged 16 to 59, Crime Survey for England and Wales YE March 2024**



Source: Figure 7 in the Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin, YE March 2024 (ONS, 2024b). See technical notes in Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes.

In a previous ONS bulletin about sexual offences for YE March 2022, it was noted that despite the volume of police recorded sexual offences increasing due to improvements in reporting, figures were still lower than CSEW estimates, therefore there is a large proportion of offences being underreported (ONS, 2024b).

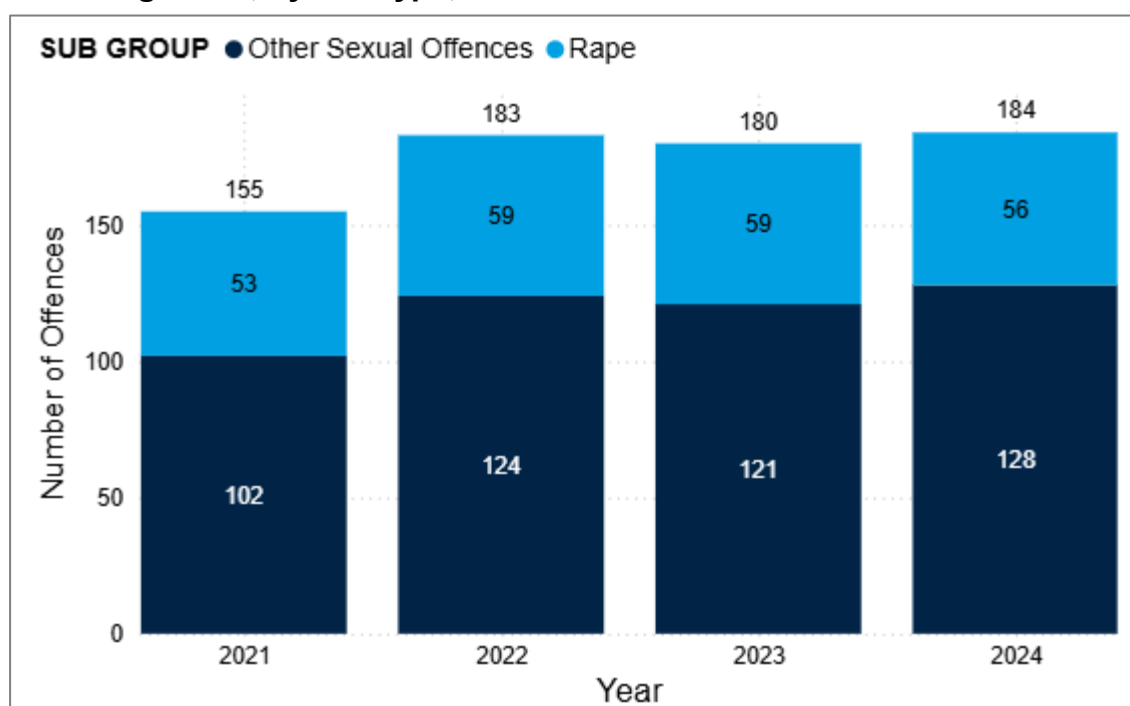
### 7.3. Local Trend

The volume of offences is low in East Cambridgeshire. After an increasing between 2021 and 2022, the number of sexual offences has stayed stable in East Cambridgeshire over the last 3 years (see Figure 14). The number of offences in 2024 remained 19% above the number in 2021 (+29 offences). The proportion of offences accounted for by rape has also seen little change (30% in 2024).

There has been an increase in the number of offences flagged as Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), from 62 in 2021 (accounting for 40% of sexual offences), up to 86 in 2024 (accounting for 47% of sexual offences).

The rate 2.1 sexual offences per 1000 population in East Cambridgeshire is close to the countywide rate of 2.5 per 1000 population and remains lower than the national rate of 3.3 per 1000 population (ONS, 2025b, p. A6).

**Figure 14: Annual trend in police recorded sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, by sub-type, 2021 to 2024**

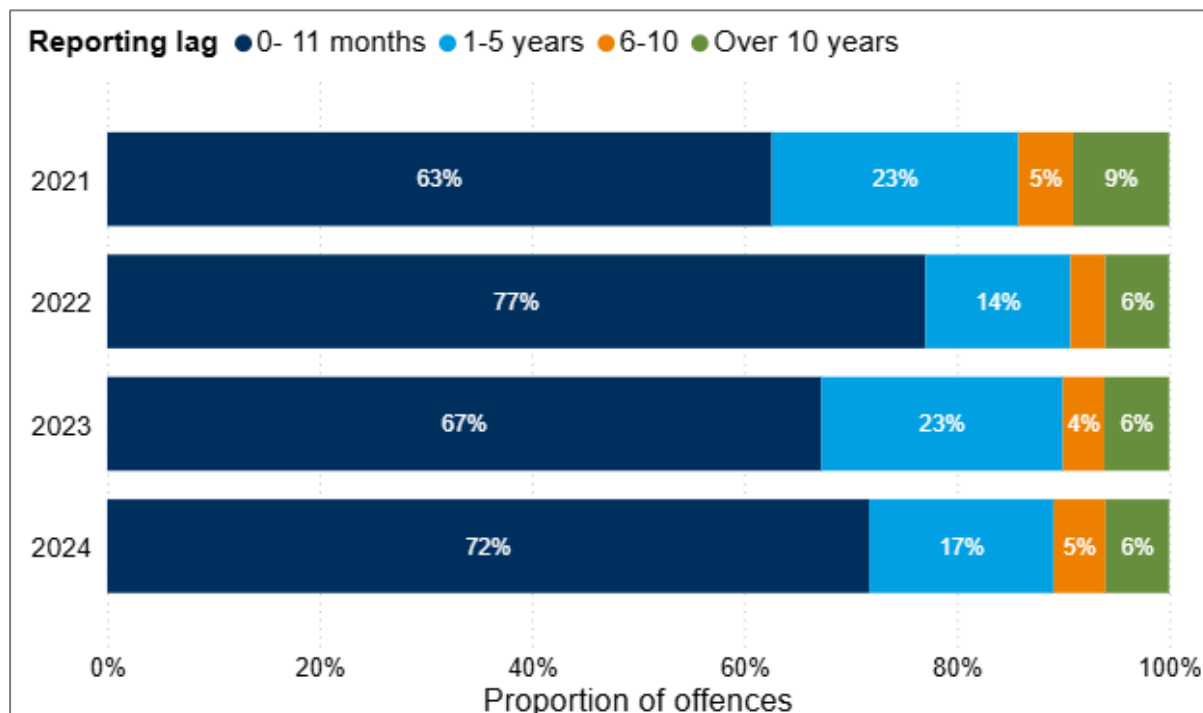


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

When sexual offences are reported to the police, this does not always happen immediately after the offence has occurred. In order to explore any possible impact of changes in reporting lag on recent trends observed locally, analysis has been completed on the difference between the date an offence was recorded by the police and the date when the offence occurred. It should be noted that offences can span a wide time period, and analysis here focuses on the offence start date rather than the offence end date due to data completeness.

Whilst the number of offences has stayed relatively stable since 2022 (23% historical offences), historical offences (with a start date of 12 months or more prior to being recorded) accounted for a larger proportion of offences in 2023 (33%) and 2024 (28%) (see Figure 15). This is higher than the 21% seen nationally for YE September 2024. ONS has highlighted that people's willingness to report is likely to be impacted by high-profile incidents, media coverage and campaigning; therefore, fluctuations are likely to occur in annual data (ONS, 2023a).

**Figure 15: Number of years between offence start date and offence recorded date for sexual offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 7.4. Ward Analysis

- **Ely East** had highest count of sexual offences in 2024 (27 offences). This is a rate of 4.6, notably than other wards, ranging between 1.1 and 2.4. Offences have increased by 69% since 2021 (+11 offences) and 80% since the previous year (+12 offences).
- Both **Littleport** and **Stretham** had a rate of 2.4 per 1,000 population. **Littleport** recorded 24 sexual offences in 2024 and **Stretham** recorded 17 offences.
- **Littleport** has seen a decrease in sexual offences between 2021 and 2024 (-17%, -5 offences). Sexual offences in **Littleport** were increasing year on year between 2020 and 2023, however, between 2023 and 2024, there was a notable decrease (-45%, -20 offences).

## 8. Domestic Abuse

### 8.1. Summary

Locally, crimes flagged as domestic abuse related increased in 2024, returning to similar levels seen in 2021 and 2022. This contrasts the small decrease in DA flagged crimes seen nationally in the last year (YE September 2023 to YE September 2024). And despite the changes in Home Office recording practices will have impacted the number of domestic abuse crimes recorded to appear lower than they would have under previous recording rules.

National data also highlights the low number of convictions for domestic abuse related offences, which should be taken into consideration. Cambridgeshire Constabulary have noted that improvements recording, including the ability to report crimes online, has increased the number of non-crimed incidents recorded in other areas; but this increase has not been reflected in DA incidents recorded in East Cambridgeshire. More intelligence is needed to determine whether the increase in DA flagged crimes is related to these improvements or if another underlying reason exists.

Violence against the person offences (VAP) continue to account for the highest proportion of DA flagged offences compared to other crime types, both nationally and locally.

Additional analysis on domestic abuse in the wider area can be found in the Violence and Women and Girls Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CCC PIT, 2023).

### 8.2. National Context

Police recorded domestic abuse (DA) related offences have decreased by 6% between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024.

According to the ONS, the 6% decrease of overall domestic abuse related offences was primarily driven by the decrease in VAP offences, which was said to be likely related to changes in recording practices (ONS, 2025a).

As indicated in the Violence Against the Person section of this report (see Section 6.2. Technical note) there have been changes to the Home Office Counting rules for conduct crimes, linking to a 26% reduction in malicious communication offences. This includes threatening or abusive messages, which are commonly reported by DA victims. (Domestic Abuse Commissioner, 2024; ONS, 2024c; ONS, 2024b) According to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, these changes have been linked to an 8% reduction in DA crimes recorded nationally,

between quarter 1 and quarter 3 in financial year 2023/24 (2024). Whilst there has been a decrease in DA related VAP offences, DA related sexual offences have increased by 7% between YE March 2023 and YE March 2024 (from 33,826 offences to 36,135 offences) (ONS, 2024g, p. F12).

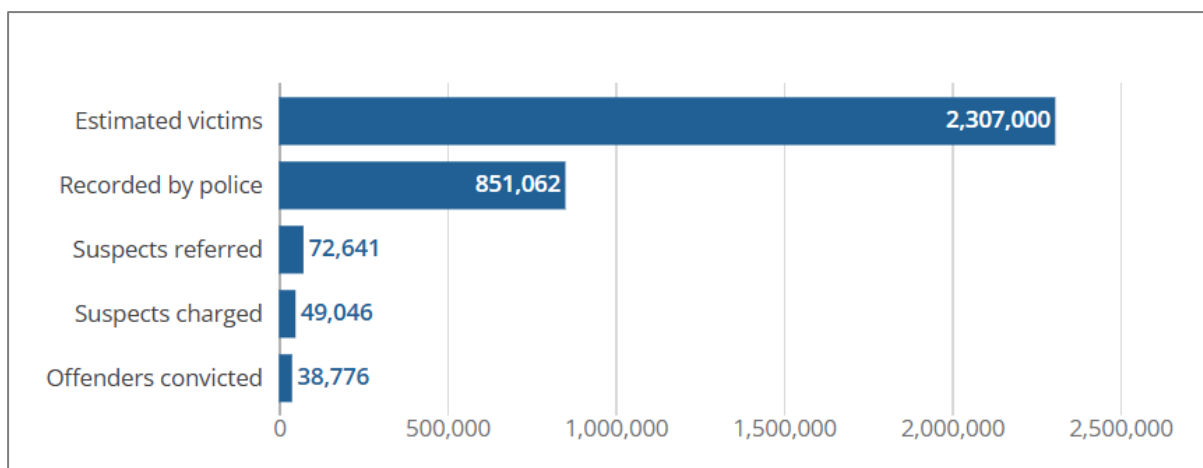
Data from the CSEW's stand-alone self-completion module (as previously mentioned in Section 6.2. Technical note) provides important context to police data offences of this nature due to the number of offences that remain unreported to the police (ONS, 2025a). According to the most recent data (for the YE September 2024 survey period), 4.5% of respondents aged 16 and over had experienced domestic abuse in the last year (ONS, 2025a).

More detailed data is available for the YE March survey periods. This data showed there was little change in the estimated prevalence of domestic abuse between YE March 2023 and YE March 2024 survey periods, from 4.4% to 4.8% (ONS, 2024d, p. S42). This is consistent with the possibility that the decreases seen in national police recorded offences may be driven by the changes in recording practices.

When broken down by the sex of respondents, the estimated prevalence of domestic abuse increases to 6.6% for women (YE March 2024), more than double the estimated prevalence for men (3.0%) (ONS, 2024d, p. S42).

The below figure published by the ONS shows the higher number of estimated victims, as well as the high number of victims recorded by the police, relative to the number of suspects referred, charged and convicted in England and Wales in the YE March 2024. **These numbers are not directly comparable** as it does not follow specific cases through the criminal justice system. However, as explained by the ONS, looking at data from each stage of the criminal justice system can help to build a picture of what has been happening (ONS, 2024e, p. 3).

**Figure 16: Domestic abuse data from incident to conviction, England and Wales, year ending March 2024**



Source: Figure 1 in the Domestic Abuse in England and Wales overview for November 2024 (ONS, 2024e).

Note: **This data is not directly comparable** as it does not follow specific cases throughout the criminal justice system.

### 8.3. Local Context

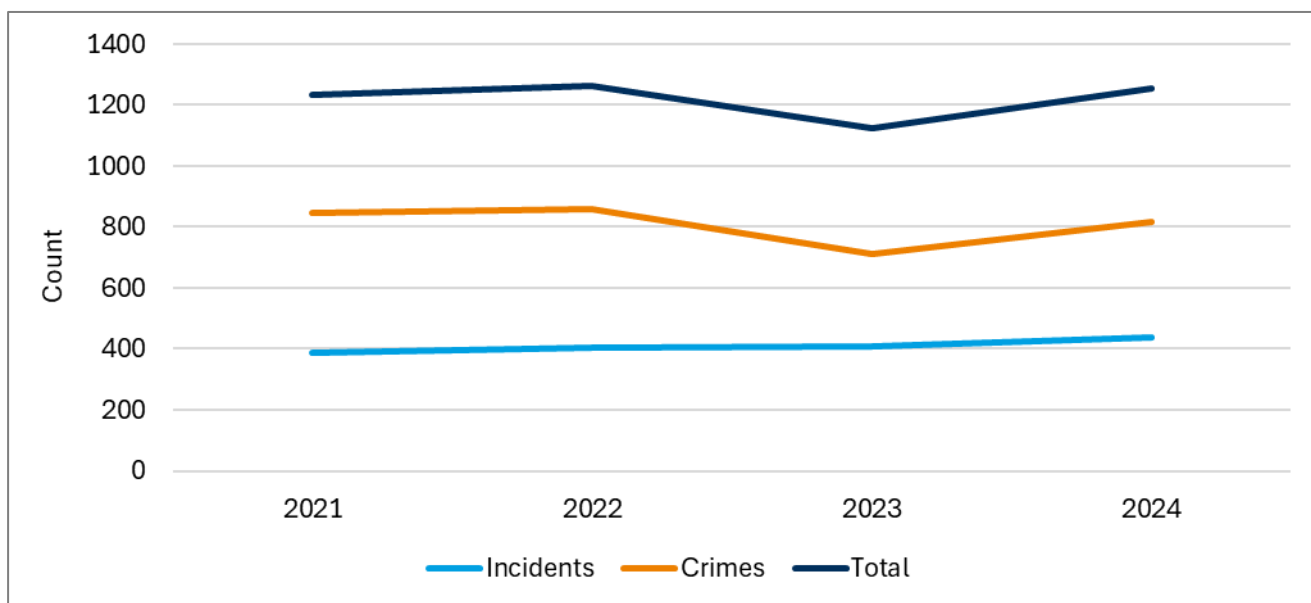
#### 8.3.1. Domestic Abuse Trends

The percentage of police recorded crimes that were flagged as domestic abuse (DA) related saw little change between 2021 and 2022 (21% and 20% respectively) but dropped to 17% in 2023. In 2024, this increased again to 19%.

The number of police recorded domestic abuse (DA) incidents has stayed relatively stable over the last 4 years, seeing only minor increases (+7%, +28 incidents compared to 2023; and +13%, +49 incidents compared to 2021).

In contrast, DA crimes saw a temporary decrease in 2023 compared to 2022 (-17%). This decrease is likely to have been impacted by the change in new Home Office counting rules introduced in April 2023 (see Section 6.2. Technical note). One of the Home Office rules is the ‘finished incident’ rule for conduct crimes. This is where unless there has been a gap of 3 months between incidents involving the same victim and perpetrator, a new crime will not be recorded, and details will be added to the previous crime (Home Office, 2024a). However, despite these changes in 2023, police recorded DA crimes increased again in 2024 (+14% compared to 2023), back to similar levels as recorded in previous years (-4% compared to 2021).

**Figure 17: Police recorded Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes and incidents (non-crimed only) in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The proportion of incidents that were ‘crimed’ reduced slightly in 2023 (from 58% to 54%), and saw little change in 2024 (55%). This was reflected in the proportion of total police recorded DA that were crimes. This could be a reflection of the changes in counting rules described above. However, it is unclear at the time of writing why this is not reflected in the trend in non-crimed incidents in East Cambridgeshire.

**Table 7: DA incidents and crimes recorded in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**

<b>Incident category</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total police recorded DA (incidents & crimes)	1234	1262	1122	1253
Total DA marked crimes	846	857	713	816
Total DA incidents	946	958	896	976
Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	558	553	487	539
Incidents that remain as incident only	388	405	409	437
Proportion of incidents that were ‘crimed’	59%	58%	54%	55%
Proportion of total recorded DA that were crimes	69%	68%	64%	65%

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

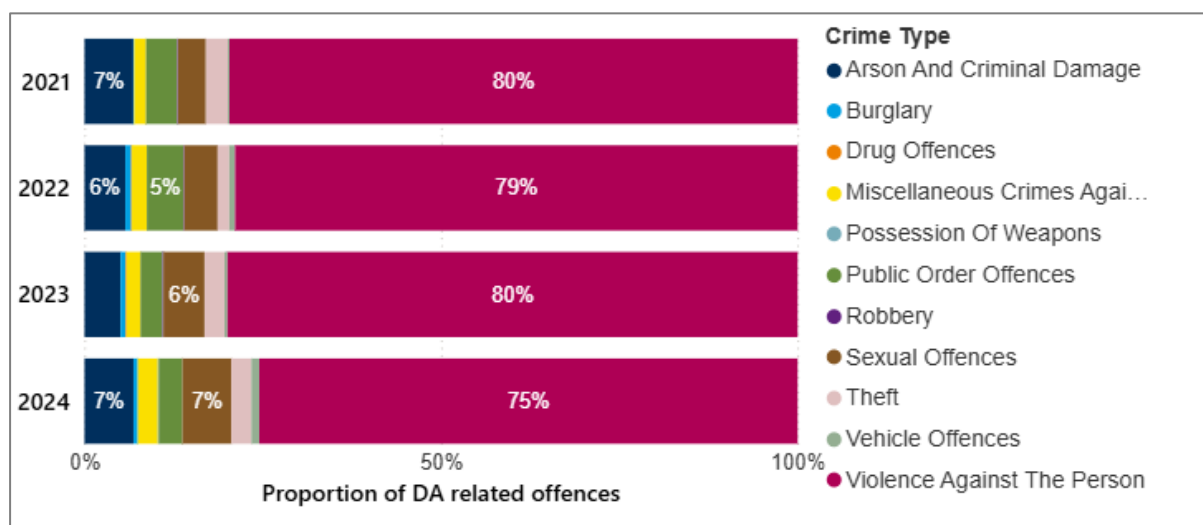
### 8.3.2. Domestic Abuse Crime Types

Violence against the person (VAP) has consistently accounted for the majority of offences flagged as domestic abuse (DA) related in East Cambridgeshire. This is similar to national data for YE September showing VAP to account for 78% of DA flagged offences in England and Wales (ONS, 2025b, p. B9). In East Cambridgeshire, the proportion accounted for by VAP stayed relatively stable between 2021 and 2023 (79%-80%), but saw a slight reduction in 2024, down to 75%. Despite this decrease in proportion, the actual volume of DA flagged VAP offences increased from 570 in 2023 up to 616 in 2024. However, this remains below the count of 676 recorded in 2022.

Of the VAP offences flagged as DA related in 2024, the majority were violence without injury (44%); approximately a third were “stalking and harassment” (32%), and approximately a quarter were ‘violence with injury’ (24%).

After VAP, the next most common crime types were ‘arson and criminal damage’, and sexual offences, both accounting for 7% of DA flagged offences each. This contrasts the 4% accounted for by sexual offences in 2021 (see Figure 18).

**Figure 18: Crime type breakdown of Domestic Abuse (DA) related offences recorded in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 8.3.3. Geographic Analysis

A geographic analysis has been carried out on all police recorded DA (including crimes and non-crimes incidents). Areas with higher numbers may reflect repeat offenders, or multiple reports relating to a small number of incidents. Additionally, **domestic abuse often goes unreported, and so the results from this analysis should be treated with caution.**

All wards apart from Bottisham, Burwell, Ely East and Fordham and Isleham saw increases in DA crimes and incidents between 2023 and 2024. **Soham North** saw the highest percentage increase during this period (+51%, +39 crimes and incidents).

**Littleport** had the highest count of crimes and incidents in 2024 (196), accounting for 16% of DA in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 (14% of incidents, 18% of crimes). This represented the second highest rate per 1,000 population of 19.4. This followed **Soham South**, with a rate per 1,000 population of 22.0. Both of which are notably higher than the rate for East Cambridgeshire (14.0). **Soham South** had the second highest count of crimes and incidents with 140, this is the highest count in the last 5 years (between 2020 and 2024).

In **Stretham**, DA crimes and incidents increased by 74% (+35 crimes and incidents), the largest percentage increase compared to other wards. **Stretham** has seen increases year on year since 2021. Followed by **Downham Villages**, which saw a 71% increase over the same period (+17 crimes and incidents). There is more fluctuation in the crimes and incidents since 2021, with a peak in 2022 (51), down to 33 in 2022 and back up to 41 in 2024.

Hotspots for DA were in the centre of Ely, Soham, and Littleport, concentrated in areas that were more highly populated. These hotspots were similar for both crimes and non-crimes incidents, with some minor differences. For example, the hotspot for crimes in Stretham, was not reflected in hotspots for incidents.

As shown in Table 8, wards with higher volumes of DA generally had lower proportions of crimes. Notable wards included Soham North, which had a relatively high volume where 70% were crimes, and Stretham, which had a medium volume, and 77% were crimes. Ely North (43%), Burwell (41%), and Littleport (40%) had the highest percentages of DA accounted for by non-crimes incidents.

**Table 8: Proportion of police recorded DA in East Cambridgeshire wards, accounted for by crimes and incidents, 2024**

Ward	Crimes	Incidents	All DA count
Littleport	60%	40%	196
Soham South	67%	33%	140
Ely West	63%	37%	126
Soham North	70%	30%	115
Ely East	62%	38%	87
Stretham	77%	23%	82
Woodditton	63%	38%	80
Fordham & Isleham	64%	36%	78
Ely North	57%	43%	76
Bottisham	68%	32%	72
Burwell	59%	41%	59
Sutton	71%	29%	56
Haddenham	71%	29%	45
Downham Villages	71%	29%	41
<b>East Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>35%</b>	1253

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 8.3.1. Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews

At the time of writing this report, there was 1 Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DADR, formerly known as a “Domestic Homicide Review” or DHR) in progress. This case is related to 2 homicides which took place in 2023: one within East Cambridgeshire and the other outside of the district.

No reviews were completed in 2024.

## 9. Exploitation and Vulnerability

### 9.1. Summary

Modern slavery, County lines and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) can all be interlinked and continue to pose high risk to vulnerable individuals. The national and local insights highlight the risk to children. Local data still offers a limited picture, due to limited available data and potential underreporting, therefore the true prevalence continues to be hard to gauge. Police recorded modern slavery offences have remained low in East Cambridgeshire throughout the last few years. However, organised crime groups are known to move people within the UK, meaning local district boundaries are irrelevant to the trafficking and exploitation of people. Whilst the majority of recorded county lines activity is elsewhere in the county, county lines have remained operating in East Cambridgeshire. Therefore, it is recommended that the CSP works closely with agencies across the county and beyond.

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, there are a number of partnership workstreams tackling these issues. The CSP should ensure it is fully engaged with those existing mechanisms and look to identify any gaps in local knowledge or activity.

### 9.2. Modern Slavery – The National Picture

Due to the hidden nature of Modern Slavery, it is difficult to assess the prevalence of modern Slavery in the UK. A key measure of Modern Slavery comes from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). First responder organisations can refer potential victims of Modern Slavery that they encounter in order to seek support. This includes local authorities, specified non-governmental organisations (NGOs), police forces and some government agencies.

#### **National statistics**

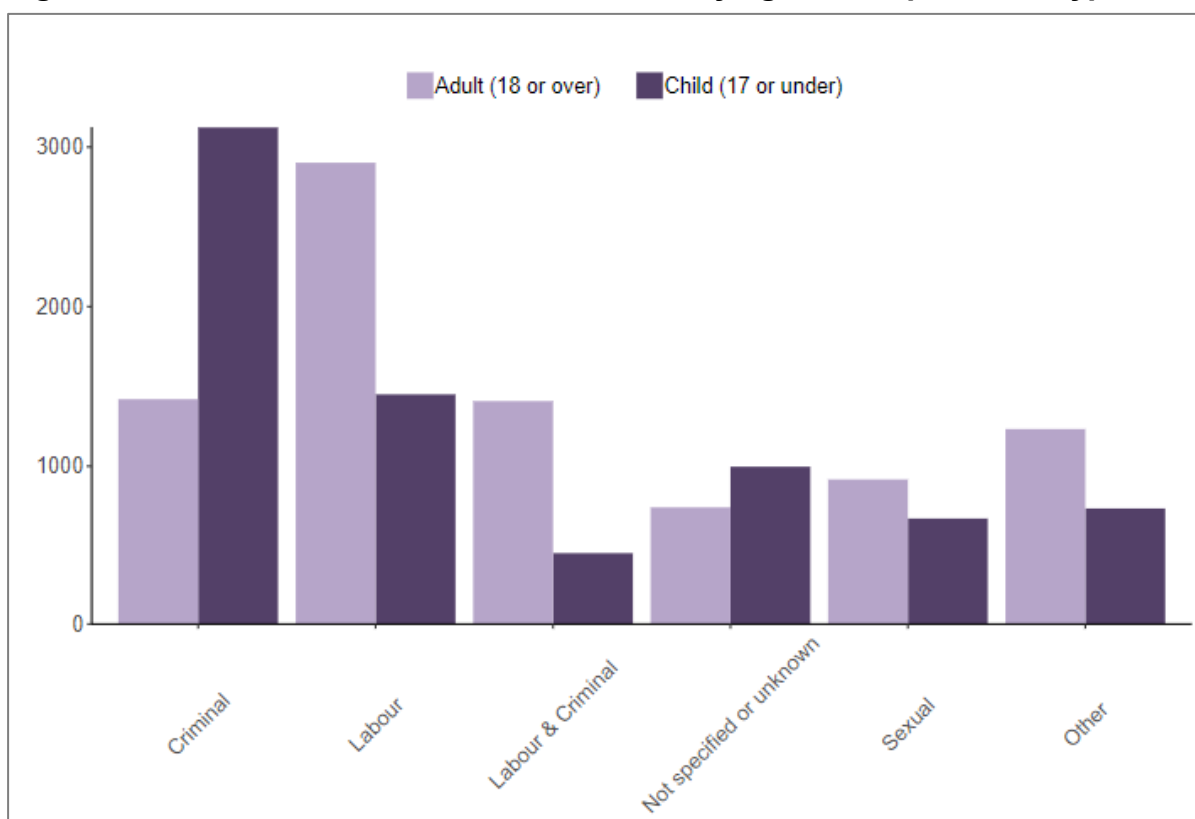
- Overall NRM referrals have seen a long-term trend of increases in volume, but there was little change between 2022 and 2023.
- The majority of referrals have consistently been male. In 2023, 76% were male.
- Approximately half of referrals in 2023 claimed to have been exploited as adults (51%), similar to the previous year, and 44% as children.
- For children, the proportion of male referrals was slightly higher (80%), than for adults (73%).
- The most common nationality referred was UK (25%, closely followed by Albanian (24%)).

- Most UK nationals were exploited as children (78%), whereas most Albanian were adults (78%).
- When broken down by both age and exploitation type, most referrals were children experiencing criminal exploitation, followed by adults experiencing labour exploitation (see Figure 19).

Source: Home Office (Home Office, 2024b; Home Office, 2023a).

Note: See technical notes for NRM data in Section Appendix A.6. NRM data.

**Figure 19: Number of national NRM referrals, by age and exploitation type**



Source: Figure 5 in Modern Slavery end of year summary 2023 report (Home Office, 2024b).

Note: See technical notes for NRM data in Appendix A.6. NRM data.

The latest National Crime Agency (NCA) Strategic Assessment for 2024 highlighted issues that are influencing risk of exploitation, which local CSPs should be alert to:

- An increase in labour exploitation in the UK may be linked to ongoing workforce shortages in some sectors. Labour exploitation is most likely to occur in sectors with lower pay, and informal or insecure working arrangements (NCA, 2024).
- A higher number of referrals in the first quarter of 2023 was likely linked to the high number of small boats arrivals in 2022, with irregular migrants being vulnerable to exploitation in the UK.

- Changes to the NRM reporting criteria likely impacted the number of referrals being made and could be linked to a comparatively low number recorded in quarter 2 of 2023.

The CSP should also be aware that changes in 2024 mean that there are now fewer options for Ukrainian refugees wanting to flee to the UK. Refugees who are able to enter the UK on fraudulent VISA applications (i.e. without a legitimate sponsor) may be at risk of exploitation.

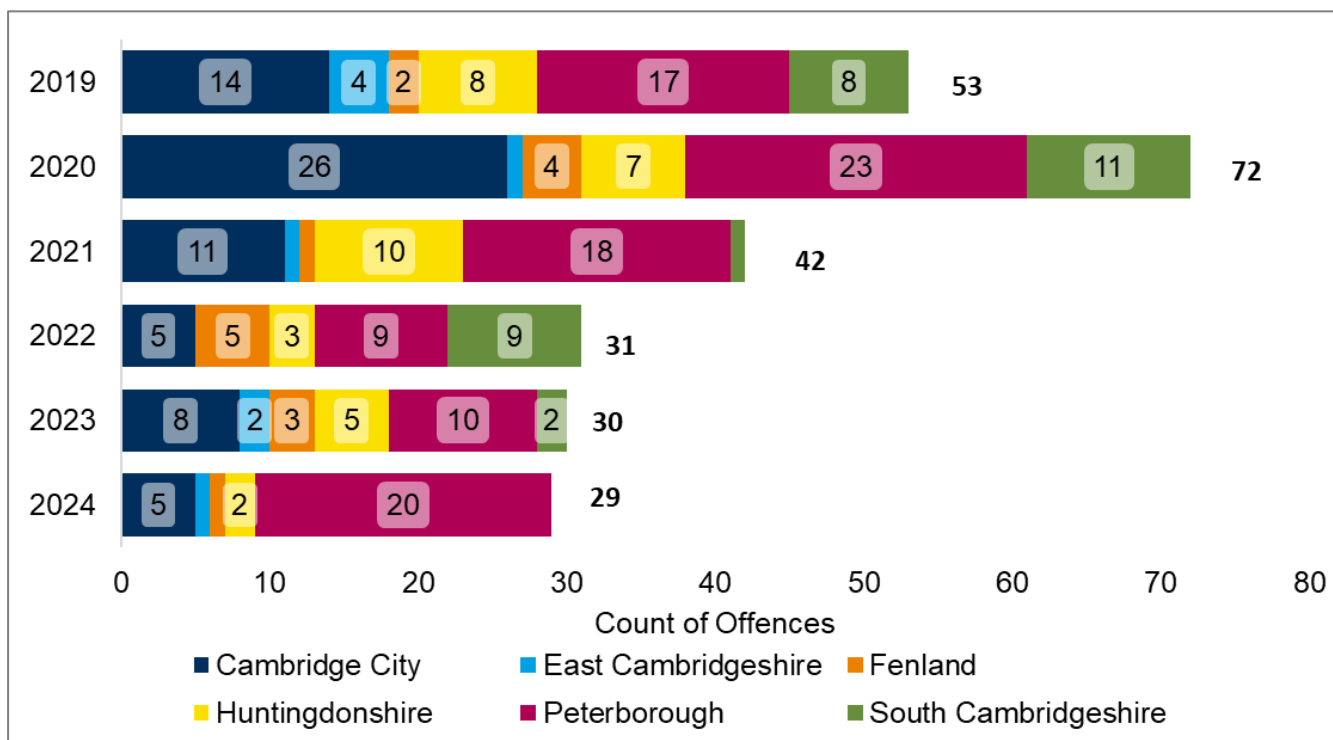
### 9.3. Modern Slavery – The Local Picture

Whilst district level data is not available, data is available on the NRM referrals made where Cambridgeshire Constabulary was the first responder. The Cambridgeshire Constabulary police force area covers both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The latest end of year summary available is for 2023. Please note that this does not necessarily reflect that Cambridgeshire Constabulary was the responsible police force. Please see technical notes on the NRM process in Appendix A.6. NRM data.

- Of the 79 NRM referrals made by Cambridgeshire Constabulary in 2023, more than three quarters were males, accounting for 77% of referrals.
- When looking at age groups, almost two thirds were adults (62%). Adult males accounted for 41%.
- Almost half of referrals were from the UK. The next most common nationalities were Albanian (8%), and Portuguese (8%).
- The most common exploitation type was “criminal exploitation” (59%), of which adult males accounting for 43%, and male children accounting for 30%.
- The next most common exploitation type was “labour and criminal exploitation” (13%).

Another source of data on modern slavery is police recorded modern slavery offences. The overall number of modern slavery offences in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has seen little change between 2022 and 2024. The total for 2024 represents a 67% decrease compared to the peak seen in 2020. The total for East Cambridgeshire has remained low throughout this period, accounting for just 3% of this offence type in 2024. However, these numbers should not be taken as a true representation of the levels of modern slavery offending in East Cambridgeshire, or across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, due to high levels of underreporting for this crime type. It should also be noted that local district boundaries are irrelevant to the trafficking and exploitation of people as organised crime gangs are known to move people within the UK.

**Figure 20: Police recorded modern slavery offences by district, 2020 to 2024 (YE December)**



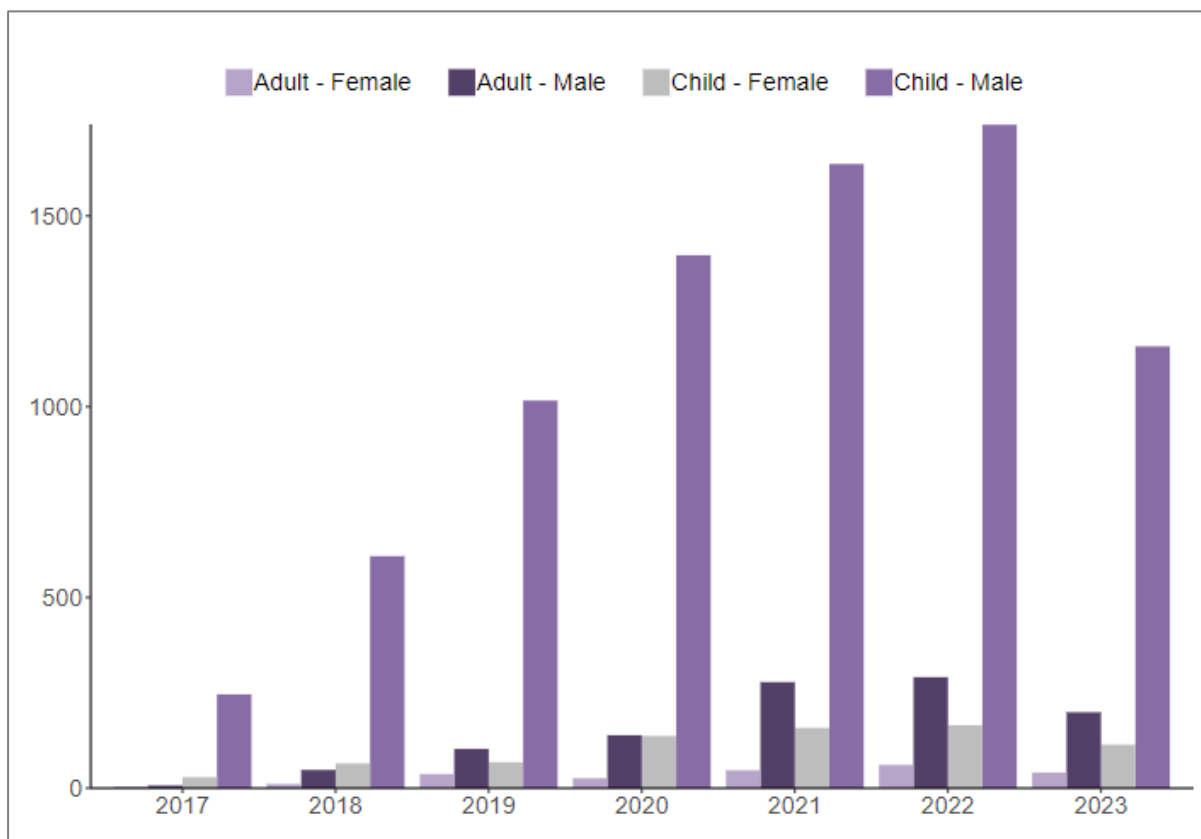
Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using CADET data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 9.1. County lines

County Lines refers to a model of offending whereby gangs and organised crime groups move drugs into supply areas within the UK via the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. These individuals are recruited and coerced into the drug supply chain (NCA, 2019). The latest strategic assessment published by the National Crime Agency highlights that a large proportion of British victims of modern slavery are exploited within county lines activity. Across the UK, the NCA suggested that heroine and crack cocaine are the drugs most commonly supplied by county lines (NCA, 2024).

The NRM referral system flags referrals that relate to county lines. As shown in Figure 21, males under 18 have been shown as the most frequently occurring group among county lines related NRM referrals nationally (Home Office, 2024b).

**Figure 21: Number of NRM referrals flagged nationally as county lines, by age group at exploitation and gender**



Source: Figure 6 in Modern Slavery end of year summary 2023 report (Home Office, 2024b).

Note: See technical notes for NRM data in Section A.6. NRM data.

Local police intelligence has indicated that whilst the majority of activity is in other areas of the county, county lines have remained operating within East Cambridgeshire.

Training on County Lines provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to local organisations in the last year has highlighted the importance of gathering information from third party sources as cases involving modern slavery and county lines are often complex. Partners are encouraged to communicate any information they have on modern slavery or county lines activity to the police.

## 9.2. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse whereby a child is coerced, manipulated, or deceived into sexual activity – see Glossary for more details.

A national report on child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) was released in January 2024 by the Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme. Some of the

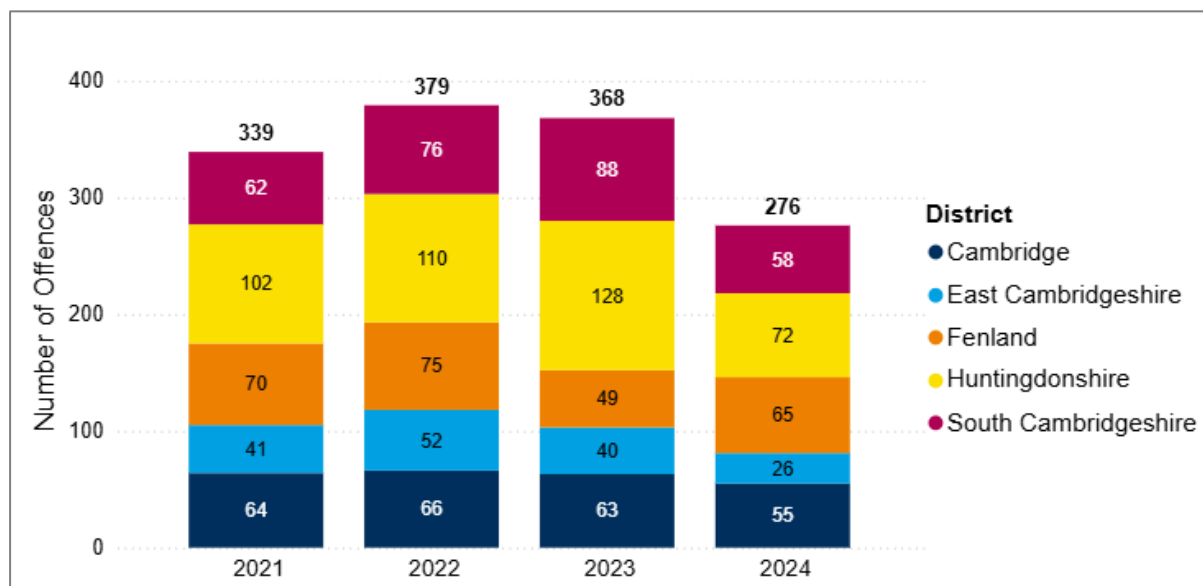
key findings from this report (relating to offences recorded nationwide in 2022) are listed below. It should be noted that the report flags that figures do not account for underreporting on this crime type, particularly for boys, minority communities, migrant groups, and those with disabilities.

- Offences in 2022 were up 7.6% on the previous year.
- Many offences remain unreported.
- Around 3 quarters of offences were committed against children whilst a quarter related to indecent images of children.
- Child-on-child offences account for an increasing high proportion of offences (just over half in 2022).
- Males account for 82% of perpetrators with females accounting for 79% of victims.
- It is estimated that a third of CSAE offences occur within the family environment.
- Group-based child exploitation accounted for 5% of CSAE.
- The volume of online CSAE continues to grow, accounting for a third of CSAE (Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme, 2024).

CSE is a marker that can be applied to any offence that fits the criteria for CSE by police. It is worth noting that like other markers that can be applied there is a potential level of inconsistency in the application of the marker. It would be worth investigating how reliable the marker is as an accurate reflection of CSE crimes within the local police data.

CSE offences in East Cambridgeshire have decreased by half since the peak of 52 offences in 2022, down to 26 offences in 2024 (-50%). This exceeds the countywide percentage decrease of 27%. Any police recorded offence can be marked as CSE related. When broken down by crime type, this decrease was driven by a reduction in Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society, which accounted for more than half of CSE offences in 2022 (52%), down to 15% in 2024. In 2024 East Cambridgeshire accounted for 9% of CSE offences in Cambridgeshire. "Other sexual offences" was the most common crime type in 2024 (accounting for 69%, up from 37% in 2022), despite seeing little change in volume over the last 4 years. However, due to the nature of these crimes, and the levels of underreporting as suggested in the Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme report, this decrease in recorded CSE should be treated with caution.

**Figure 22: Annual trend of police recorded child sexual exploitation (CSE) offences in Cambridgeshire, by district, 2021 to 2024 (YE December)**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 10. Substance Misuse

### 10.1. Summary

National data highlights that that whilst drug use appears to be decreasing amongst young people, there are increasing risks amongst opioid users due to the increasing criminal use of nitazenes to strengthen drugs. Whilst opiates remain the most common substance that service users receive treatment for in East Cambridgeshire, there have been increases over the last few years in the proportion of people who are in treatment for both alcohol and non-opiate drug misuse.

Police recorded drug offences have been increasing over the last few years in East Cambridgeshire, but the number of trafficking offences has decreased in the last year. This contrasts the national trend which has shown an increase in drug trafficking offences. Despite these concerns, the rate of drug offences remains particularly low in East Cambridgeshire compared to the countywide and national rate over a similar period. Therefore, substance misuse does present a high concern locally; but should continue to be monitored for signs of increasing risks.

### 10.2. National Trends

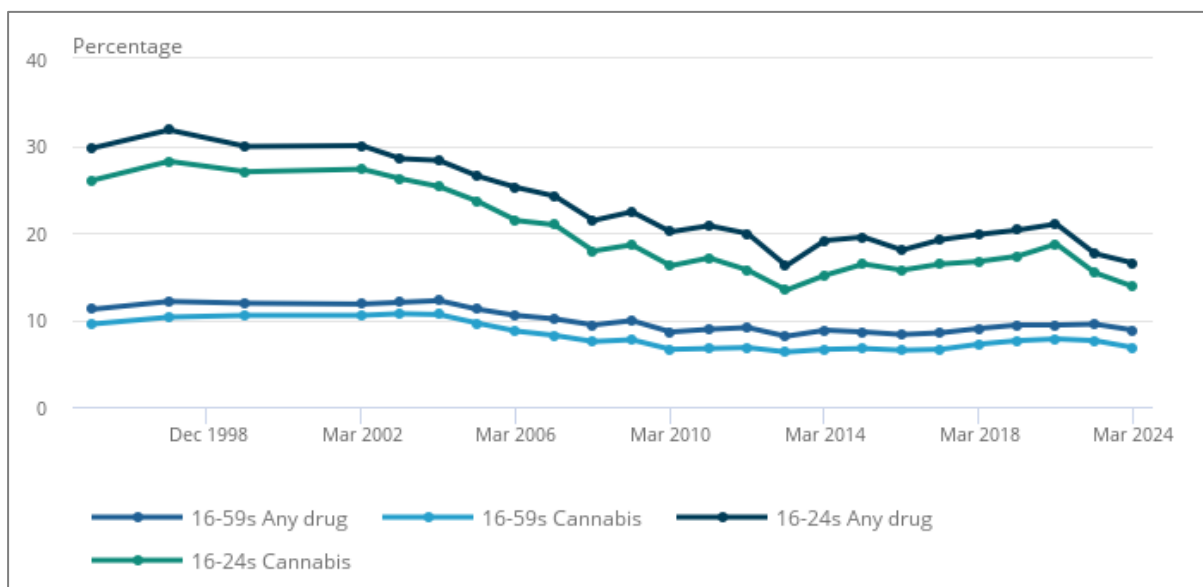
Nationally, police recorded drug offences have seen little change between YE September 2023 and YE September 2024 (+1%). When broken down by sub-group,

drug trafficking offences increased by 9%, whilst drug possession offences decreased by 2%. Possession of drugs offences accounted for 70% of drug offences in YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025b, p. A5a).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a useful indicator of national patterns in drug use as many instances of drug use will not be acknowledged within police recorded offences. The latest published Drug Misuse bulletin by ONS is for YE March 2024 (ONS, 2024f).

As shown in Figure 23, estimates from the CSEW has indicated that there has been an overall decrease in drug use amongst 16 to 24 year olds since December 1995; except for a temporary increase between March 2013 and March 2020 (ONS, 2024f).

**Figure 23: Annual trend in estimates of drug use prevalence in England and Wales from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending December 1995 to year ending March 2024**



Source: Figure 1 in Drug Misuse in England and Wales report for the year ending March 2024 (ONS, 2024f, p. 2).

Note: “Data for 1995, 1997 and 1999 are for YE December. All other years are for YE March.” (ONS, 2024f, p. 2).

Marginal, but statistically significant decreases were seen in the estimated prevalence of some drug types in the last year amongst 16 to 59 year olds, including nitrous oxide (1.3% to 0.9%), crack cocaine (0.1% to <0.1%), and cannabis (7.6% to 6.8%) (ONS, 2024f, p. 1.02).

Amongst 16- to 24-year-olds, marginal but statistically significant decreases were seen in the prevalence of Ecstasy (2.4% to 2.2%), amphetamines (0.8% to 0.3%), and nitrous oxide (4.2% to 3.3%). There was a small but statistically significant increase in the use of mephedrone (<0.1% to 0.2%). A small but statistically significant increase was seen in the use of magic mushrooms for both 16 to 24 year

olds (1.9% to 2.3%), and 16 to 59 year olds (0.8% to 1.1%) (ONS, 2024f, pp. 1.02, 1.08).

In the latest NCA strategic assessment, it has been suggested that “there has never been a more dangerous time to take drugs”, due to the increasing criminal use of ‘nitazenes’ to strengthen drugs, particularly heroine. Nitazenes are a synthetic opioid, often taken unintentionally; in the UK, they were linked to 230 fatalities between 01 June 2023 and 01 June 2024 (NCA, 2024).

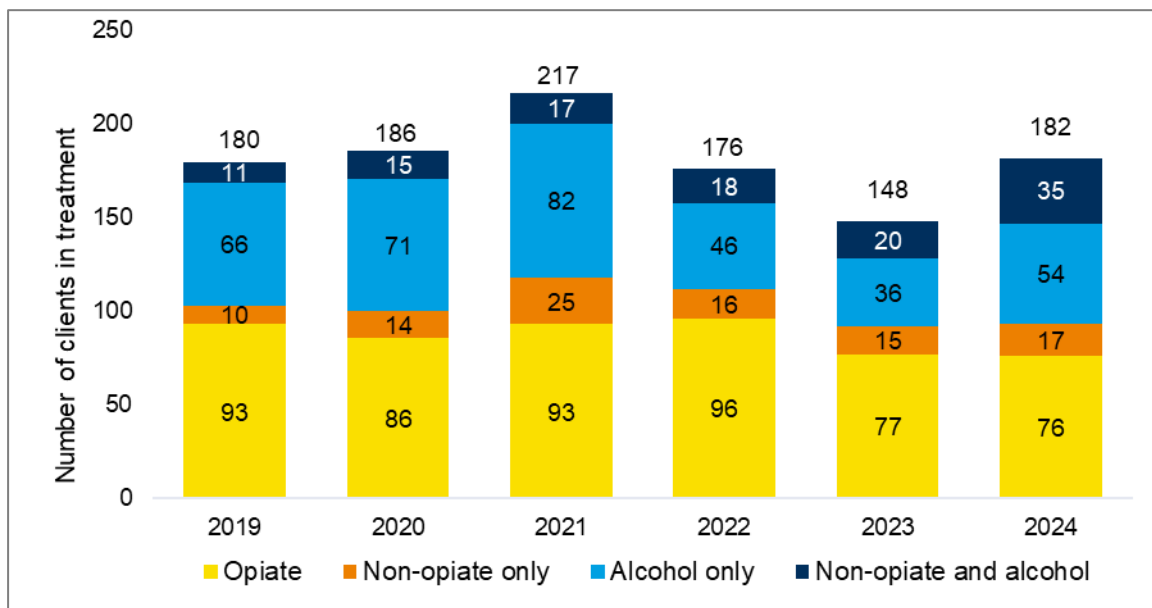
## 10.1. Local Treatment Services

The current provider of substance misuse services (for adults) in Cambridgeshire, Change Grow Live (CGL), provide a summary of residents in treatment, by district, for inclusion in the strategic assessment. As part of central government’s 10-year drug strategy, it was announced that £26 million will be allocated to drug and alcohol treatment in 2024/25. However, CGL expressed concern for proposals when they were released indicating a potential loss of funds for some services based on performance indicators. They explained that this could lead to underspend in some areas, and increased pressure to move people through the treatment system regardless of outcomes. They have also advised that organisations may be deterred from undertaking new developments and service innovation due to the lack of reliable income (CGL, 2023).

Figure 24 shows the number of East Cambridgeshire residents in treatment for substance misuse between 2019 and 2024, by the substance type they are receiving treatment for. The overall number of people in treatment for substance misuse saw decreases between the peak of 217 in 2021, and 148 in treatment in 2023. However, the number increased by 23% (+34 people) between 2023 and 2024, returning back to a similar level as in 2019 and 2020. Those in treatment for alcohol only, and for both alcohol and non-opiates both increased in the last year. Those in treatment for both alcohol and non-opiates has been gradually increasing over the analysed period, reaching 35 people by 2024, more than double the number in 2021 (when 17 people were in this treatment type). However, opiates remained the most common treatment type, accounting for 42% in 2024, followed by alcohol (30%). 19% were in treatment for both alcohol and non-opiates.

It should be noted that cannot be concluded whether these statistics reflect true trends in the number of people mis-using these substances in East Cambridgeshire, or whether they only reflect trends in the number of people accessing treatment.

**Figure 24: Annual trend in the number of East Cambridgeshire residents in treatment for substance misuse by treatment type, and successful completions, 2019 to 2024**



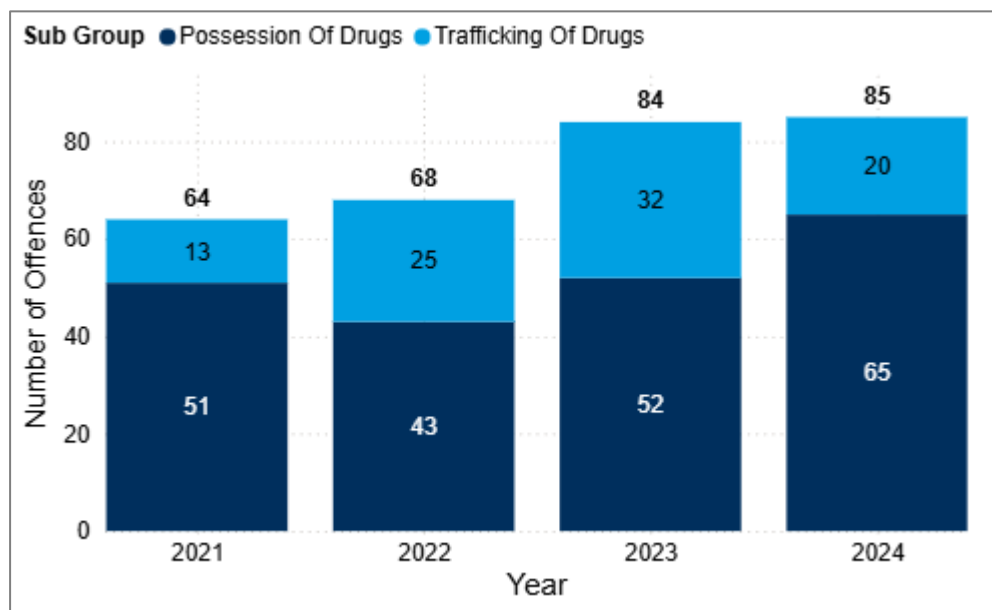
Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Change Grow Live (CGL).

## 10.2. Local Police Recorded Drug Offences

The total number of police recorded drug offences has seen little change in the last year overall (+1 offence), remaining 20% (+21 offences) above the total number recorded in 2021 (see Figure 25). However, drug offences remain low in East Cambridgeshire, which can inflate percentage changes seen from year to year. The rate of police recorded drug offences in East Cambridgeshire is 0.9 offences per 1000 population. This is lower than the countywide rate of 1.6 per 1000 population and is approximately a third of the national rate for the YE September 2024 of 3.0 offences per 1000 population (ONS, 2025b, p. A6).

When broken down by type, 2024 saw a lower number of drug trafficking offences compared to the previous year. Drug trafficking offences accounted for 76% of drug offences in 2024, compared to 62% in 2023.

**Figure 25: Annual trend in police recorded drug offences in East Cambridgeshire, by sub-type, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 10.2.1. Ward analysis

When broken down by ward drug offence numbers are small, and therefore percentage changes may appear larger.

- **Littleport** had the highest count of offences in 2024, with 22 offences. This also represented the highest rate at 2.2, notably higher than East Cambridgeshire rate of 0.9. **Littleport** has seen incremental increases in numbers since 2021, with an increase of 175% in this period (+14 offences). This is an increase of 83% between 2023 and 2024 (+10 offences).
- **Ely West** had the second highest count of offences, with 16 offences in 2024. This represented a rate of 1.6 per 1,000 population.

## 11. Offending

### 11.1. Summary

For the probation cohort, there were 155 individuals residing in East Cambridgeshire who were open to the service on 11/08/2024. In terms of age, the highest proportion were between 30 to 39 years old (32%). In terms of ethnicity, the majority of the probation cohort in East Cambridgeshire were White British at 83%.

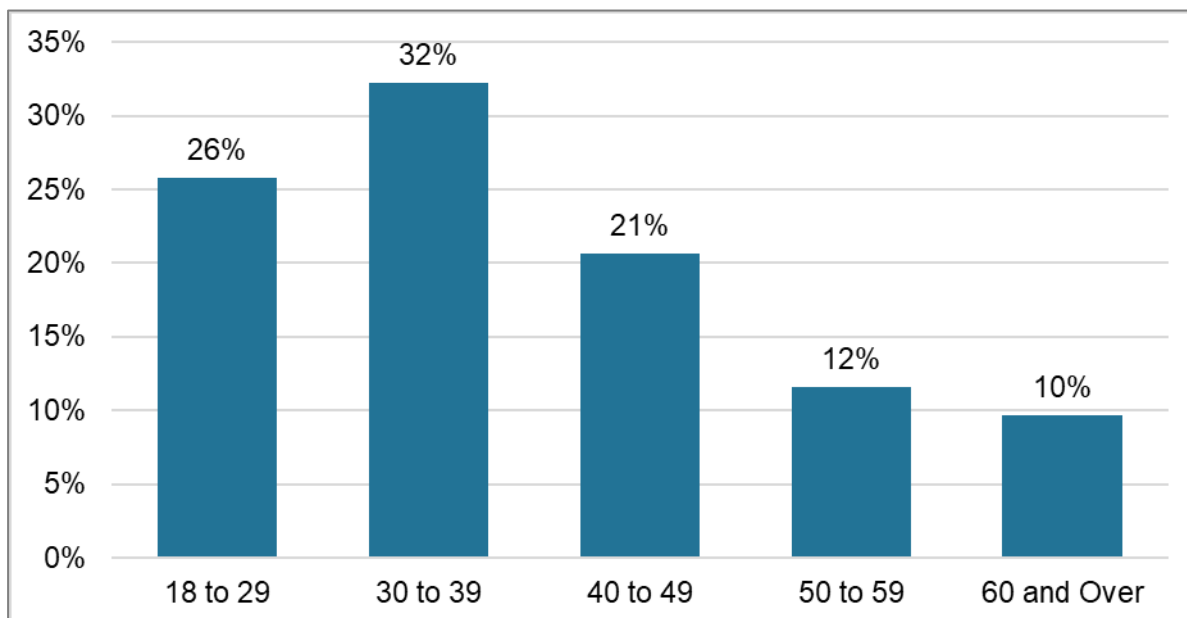
For the Youth Justice Service (YJS) cohort, there was a total of 51 children who offend who received 59 outcomes in 2024. This is the lowest number of children who offend compared to other Cambridgeshire districts with Huntingdonshire having the highest at 102 children who offend. East Cambridgeshire also has the lowest number of First Time Entrants (FTEs), Out of Court Disposals (OOCs), and Court Sentences compared to other Cambridgeshire districts in 2024.

## 11.2. Probation Cohort Profile

The Probation Service have provided a caseload profile for individuals residing in East Cambridgeshire who were open to the service on 11/08/2024; in this instance, there were 155 people.

Due to the small numbers within the current cohort, it is best to approach figures with caution and with the understanding that subgroups within the cohort are small. Both male and female offenders are included in the analysis below; separate analysis has not been done due to a small number of female offenders. In Figure 26, the age groups of probation cohort as at 11/08/2024 are presented. The majority of the cohort are between 30-49 years old (53%). The highest proportion of the caseload were between 30 to 39 years old (32%).

**Figure 26: Proportion of age groups within the current East Cambridgeshire Probation Service cohort, snapshot as of 11/08/2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Service (CPPS).

Of those whose ethnicity was recorded (149), the majority of the probation cohort in East Cambridgeshire were White British at 83%. Therefore, White British in the

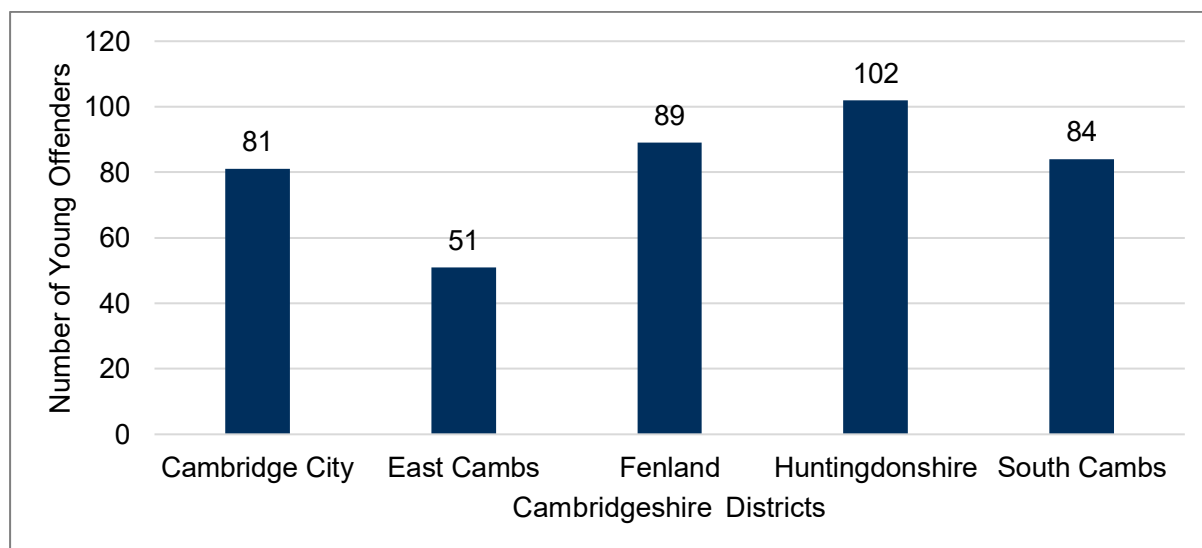
probation cohort were under-represented in comparison to the East Cambridgeshire Census 18+ population (94%) but were overrepresented when comparing to the overall Cambridgeshire Census 18+ population (78%) (ONS, 2023b). Proportions of other ethnic groups are very small and therefore have not been included in this report.

### 11.3. Youth Justice Service (YJS) Cohort Profile

There was a total of 51 children who offend in the January 2024 to December 2024 period. The number of children who offend in a year represent open cases and not new cases each year. The total of 51 children who offend received a total of 59 outcomes. This can be broken down into 46 children receiving 49 Out of Court Disposals (OOCs), 3 First Time Entrants (FTEs), and 5 children receiving 7 Court Sentences.

Figure 27 below shows that East Cambridgeshire has the lowest number of children who offend in YE December 2024 compared to the other districts in Cambridgeshire. Huntingdonshire has the lowest number of children who offend at 102.

**Figure 27: Count of children who offend by district, from January 2024 to December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Table 9 below shows the outcomes by Cambridgeshire districts. East Cambridgeshire has the lowest number of outcomes in all areas (59 outcomes). Huntingdonshire has the highest outcomes in the period with 134.

**Table 9: Cambridgeshire districts by outcomes, from January 2024 to December 2024**

<b>Outcome Type</b>	<b>Cambridge City</b>	<b>East Cambridgeshire</b>	<b>Fenland</b>	<b>Huntingdonshire</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire</b>
First Time Entrants	16	3	12	13	8
Out of Court Disposals	76	49	89	103	77
Court Sentences	21	7	10	18	17
<b>Total Outcomes</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>102</b>

Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Table 10 below shows the Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) administered in East Cambridgeshire for the YE December 2024 cohort. Community Resolutions represents the largest proportion of the cohort at 55%.

There has been an 22% decrease (63 to 49) of OOCs from YE December 2022 to YE December 2024. In the period YE December 2023, there had been a 6% increase (63 to 67) from the previous period YE December 2022, but a 27% decrease (67 to 49) for the latest period YE December 2024.

**Table 10: Out of Court Disposals by outcome, from January 2024 to December 2024**

<b>OOCs by Outcome</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024 - Percentage of total OOCs</b>
Community Resolution	27	55%
Outcome 21	<5	<9%
Outcome 22	12	24%
Youth Caution	<5	<9%
Youth Conditional Caution	0	0%
Youth Restorative Disposal	7	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>

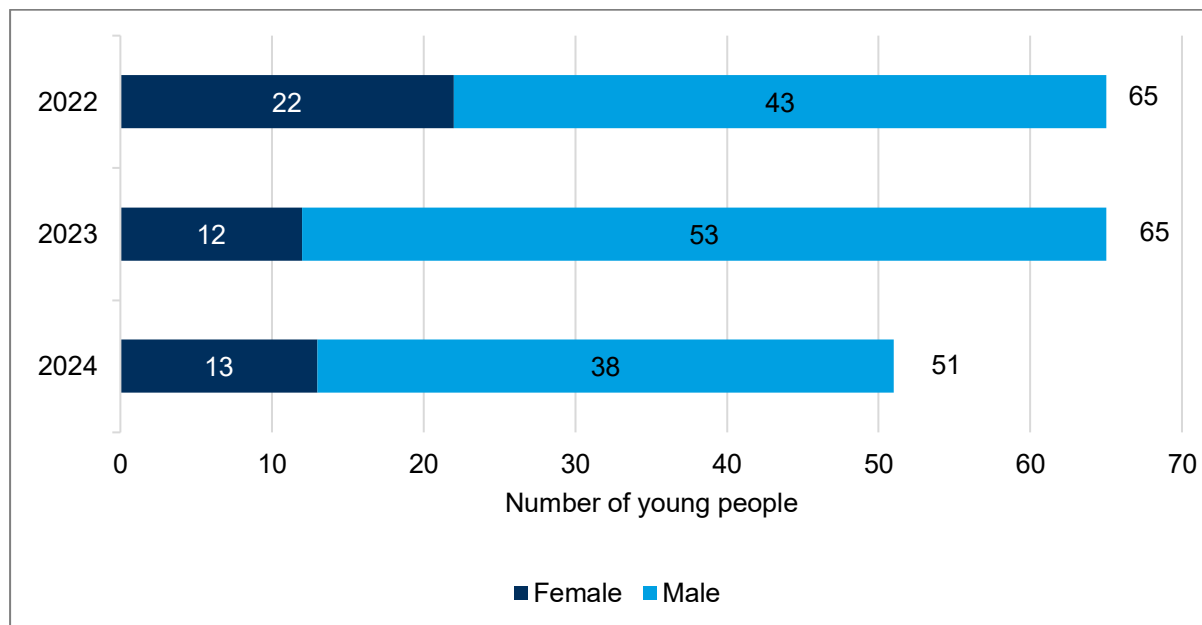
Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

As far as court sentences, Referral Orders represent the highest proportion of court sentence outcomes at 71% (5 out of 7). There has been a 53% decrease (15 to 7) in court sentences in East Cambridgeshire from YE December 2022 to YE December 2024. However, there has been a 22% decrease (9 to 7) since YE December 2023.

Figure 28 below shows that there were 51 children in YE December 2024; this represents a 22% decrease from the 65 children in YE December 2023.

Figure 28 also shows that children who offend are predominately male. There has been a 12% decrease in males (43 to 38) since YE December 2022, but a bigger decrease 28% (53 to 43) since YE December 2023. In terms of females, there has been a decrease of 41% (22 to 13) since YE December 2022, but an increase of 8% (12 to 13) since YE December 2023.

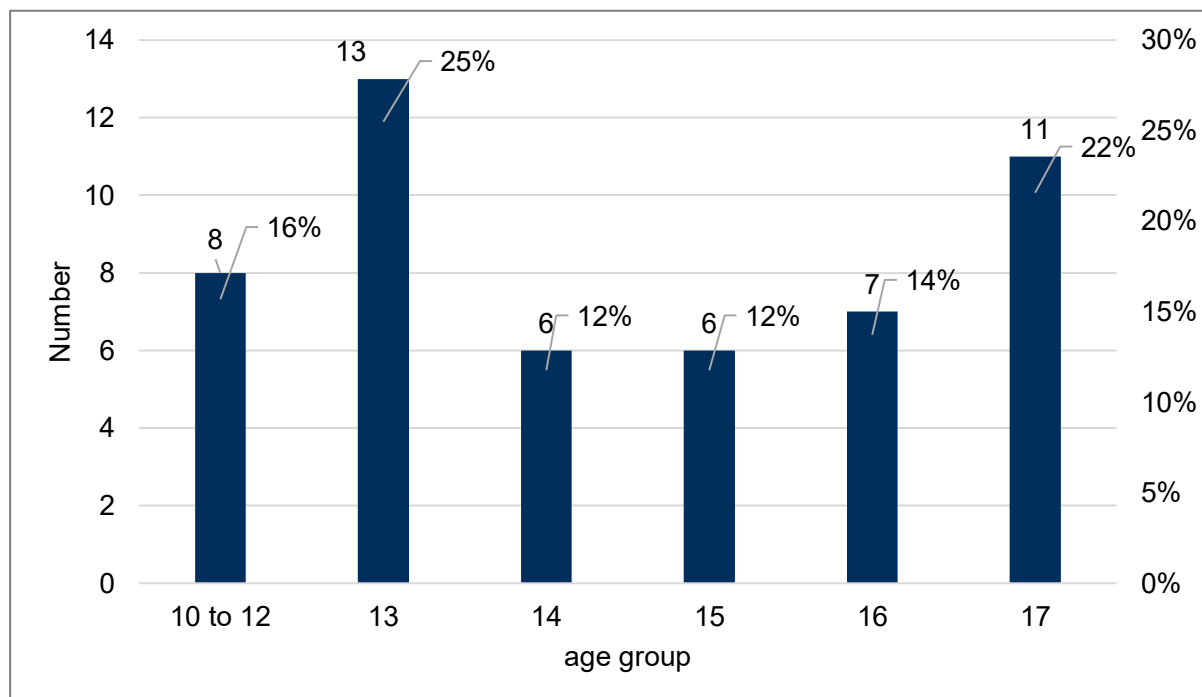
**Figure 28: East Cambridgeshire children who offend by gender, from January 2024 to December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System

Figure 29 below shows that age 13 and 17 represents the most common ages at 47% of the cohort. Children aged 10-14 represent 53% the cohort, and children aged 15+ represent 47%.

**Figure 29: East Cambridgeshire by age group, from January 2024 to December 2024**

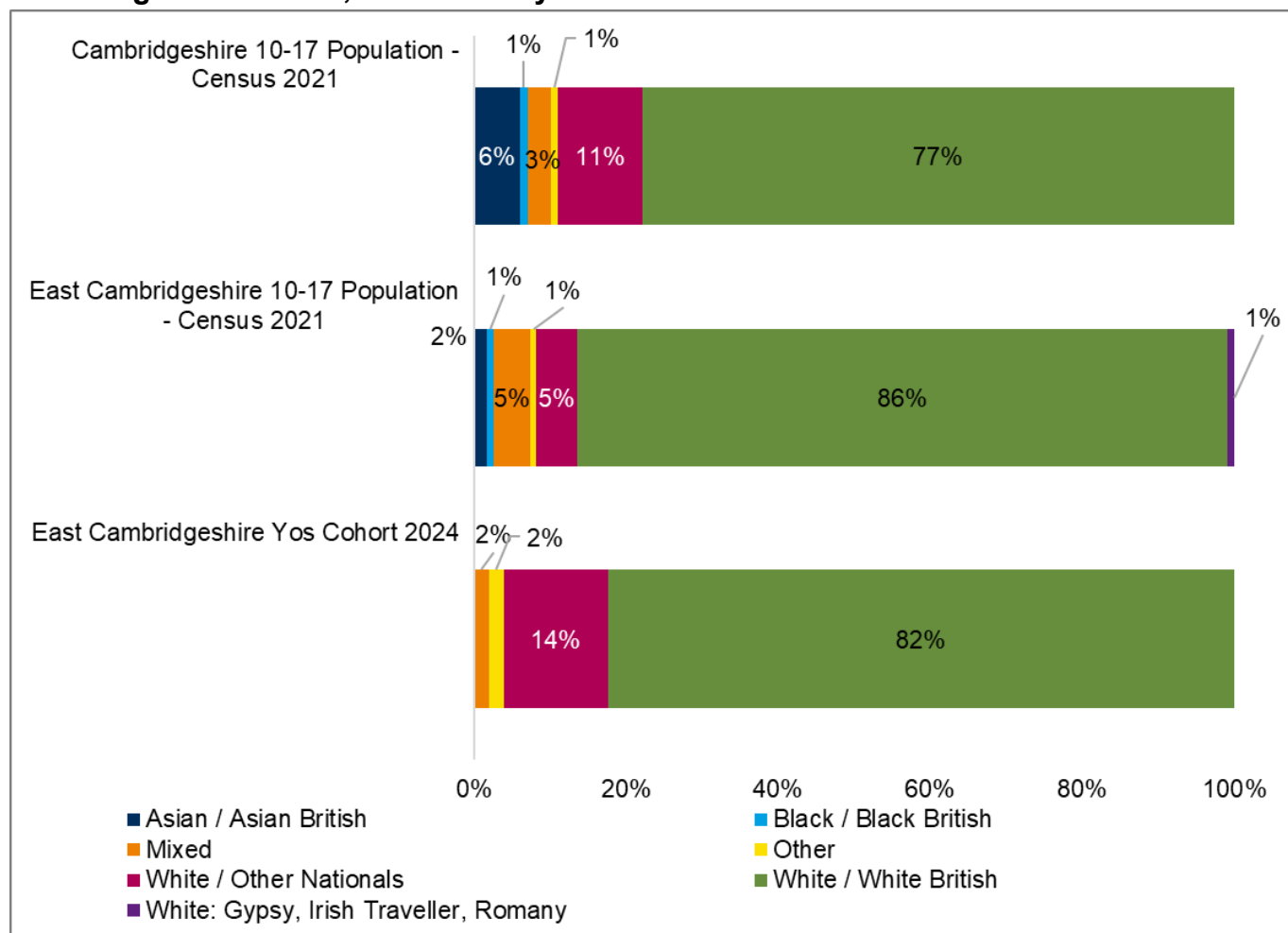


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Figure 30 below shows that the 4 ethnic groups are White British at 82%, White/Other Nationals 14%, Mixed at 2%, and Other at 2%.

White British at 82% is under-represented compared to 86% White British population in East Cambridgeshire 10-17 population and over-represented compared to 77% of the Cambridgeshire 10-17 population. In contrast, White/Other Nationals YJS cohort at 14% and Other YJS cohort at 2% are over-represented compared to 5% White/Other Nationals and 1% Other in East Cambridgeshire 10-17 population, respectively.

**Figure 30: Percentage share comparison of ethnic group of East Cambridgeshire cohort, from January 2024 to December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System, and census population data sourced from ONS website (ONS, 2023b).

Table 11 shows the percentage of children in care who offend in each district in Cambridgeshire. East Cambridgeshire had less than 5 children in care who offended. The largest district is Fenland at 11%.

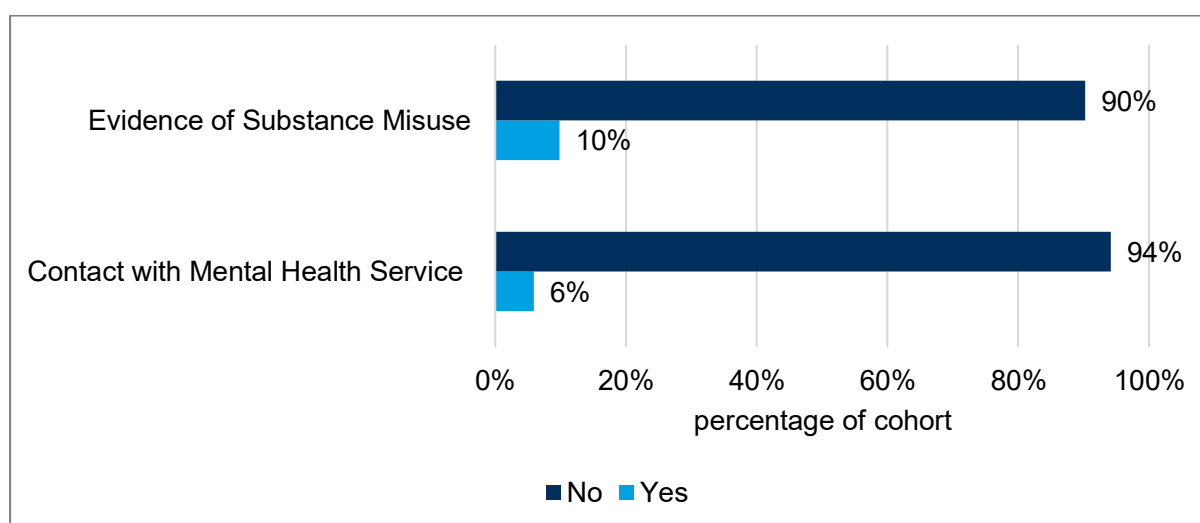
**Table 11: Children in care who offend by district, from January 2024 to December 2024**

District	Children in care	Total cohort (including children in care)	% total cohort who were children in care
Cambridge City	<5	81	<6%
East Cambridgeshire	<5	51	<10%
Fenland	10	89	11%
Huntingdonshire	7	102	7%
South Cambridgeshire	6	84	7%

Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

Figure 27 shows that 10% of children of the East Cambridgeshire cohort had evidence of substance misuse and 6% had contact with mental health services. (Information taken from main recording Assessment for Youth justice team Assetplus).

**Figure 27: East Cambridgeshire children who offend by evidence of substance misuse & contact with Mental Health Services, from January 2024 to December 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System. Census

Table 12 below shows that violence against the person has the highest proportion of total offences for the current period at 32% (34 of 107). Violence against the person has also had the highest proportion of total offences for the previous 2 years at 33% for YE December 2022 and 49% for YE December 2023.

The number of offences committed has seen a 28% decrease since YE December 2022 but has seen a 9% increase since YE December 2023.

**Table 12: Offence type for children who offend in East Cambridgeshire YJS cohort, from January 2024 to December 2024**

Offence Type	2022	2023	2024	2024 - Percentage share of total offences
Violence Against the Person	49	48	34	32%
Criminal Damage	16	16	14	13%
Sexual Offences	8	6	12	11%
Public Order	25	12	12	11%
Motoring Offences	8	0	11	10%
Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking	<5	<5	5	5%

Offence Type	2022	2023	2024	2024 - Percentage share of total offences
Drugs	9	<5	<5	<5%
Arson	<5	<5	<5	<5%
Robbery	<5	<5	<5	<5%
Racially Aggravated	<5	<5	<5	<5%
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	10	<5	<5	<5%
Other	9	<5	<5	<5%
Non-Domestic Burglary	<5	<5	<5	<5%
Domestic Burglary	<5	<5	<5	<5%
Fraud And Forgery	<5	<5	<5	<5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from CCC Child Youth Justice Management System.

## 12. Crimes that impact the community

### 12.1. Summary

Crimes that impact the community include ASB, deliberate fires, public order, and hate crime in this analysis, and whilst some offending has high visibility in the community, it does not all come with the same risk of harm.

- Shoplifting offences have continued to increase, reflecting the national trend. Ely and Littleport have seen notable increases in offences. Hotspots include establishments such as supermarkets and garages.
- After annual decreases in hate crime between 2021 and 2023, offences increased in 2024 back to the level recorded in 2022.
- Deliberate fires have increased slightly in the last year, contrasting the decrease seen nationally over a similar period.
- Criminal damage has seen small increases over the last few years, but the rate remains lower than the countywide and national rate.
- ASB has been increasing over the last few years. The majority in 2024 were “nuisance” type incidents. Ely East had the highest count of incidents in 2024, a considerably higher rate compared to other wards in the district, and a high percentage change in the last year.
- Public order offences are not a concern due to the low rate and considerable decreases since 2022.

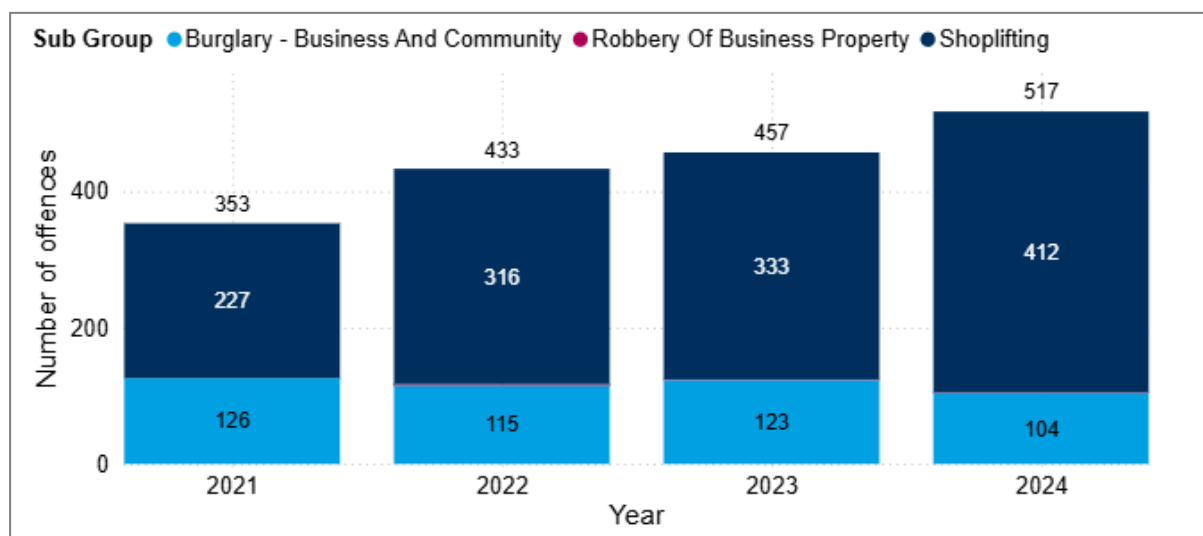
## 12.2. Commercial Loss

The following section includes an overview of offences for which the sub-group relates to commercial loss, including business and community burglary, robbery of business property, and shoplifting offences. These figures do not include all offences against businesses; for example, vehicle crimes involving vehicles owned by organisations are not included in these figures.

Crimes relating to commercial loss have seen annual increases between 2021 and 2024. A 13% increase in the last year meant the number of offences in 2024 was 46% higher than 2021. Despite this, robbery of business property offences remained very low (between 0 and 2 offences per year), and 'business and community burglary' offences decreased by 15% between 2023 and 2024 (-19 offences).

The increase in commercial loss offences was exclusively driven by shoplifting offences. The number of shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire reached 412 in 2024, up 24% from 2023 (+79 offences). This is 81% higher than the number recorded in 2021 (+185 offences). Shoplifting accounted for 80% of commercial loss offences in 2024, up from 73% in 2023, and 64% in 2021.

**Figure 31: Annual trend in offences related to commercial loss in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Nationally there continues to be high levels of media coverage referencing the increases in not only shoplifting but an increase in the violence directed towards retail workers. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) published its 2024 Crime Survey report, reporting on from September 2022 to August 2023. In this report, it indicated that out of 2 common triggers for violent attacks on retail workers, one is stopping someone who is believed to be stealing (British Retail Consortium, 2024, p. 14). Respondents to the survey also noted several issues regarding violence and abuse:

- Shoplifters have become more violent.
- Many shoplifters are unphased if they injure staff in the process.
- Some shoplifters taunt staff, suggesting they can't stop them.
- Cost of living has impacted the quantity of goods stolen at one time.
- Increases in threats to attack staff outside of work.

The report also indicated that many incidents of violence and abuse towards shopworkers are under-reported due to lack of confidence in the police and belief nothing will come from reporting. According to the BRC, this perception may also be carried by repeat offenders and therefore they are willing to take the risk in offending (British Retail Consortium, 2024, p. 20).

### 12.2.1. Geographic analysis

Of the 14 wards in East Cambridgeshire, 8 saw increases in the last year, and 7 have increased since 2021. The most notable increase was Littleport, from 130 in 2023 to 172 in 2024 (+32%, +42 offences), more than 4 times the 40 offences recorded in 2021 (+132 offences).

Littleport and Ely East had the highest number of shoplifting offences in 2024, with 172 and 119 respectively. This is considerably higher than the ward with the next higher number of offences, Ely West, which had 48.

Whilst Ely East saw a smaller increase in the last year (+8%, +9 offences), the 119 offences recorded in 2024 was more than double the 55 recorded in 2021 (+116%, +64).

With the growing number of offences, it is important to identify any newer offending hotspots. Whilst Ely East and Littleport did have the highest counts of shoplifting offences in 2021, the difference has become starker in recent years (see Table 13).

**Table 13: Number of shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire wards, 2021 to 2024 (Top 6 wards in 2024)**

Ward	2021	2022	2023	2024
Littleport	40	164	130	172
Ely East	55	92	110	119
Ely West	31	19	39	48
Burwell	20	11	18	23
Fordham & Isleham	34	14	11	15
Soham South	5	<5	13	15

Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Darker shades of pink-red indicate higher numbers of offences.

Hotspot mapping helps to highlight more specific offence locations - the darker hotspots refer to locations with higher counts of offences. The majority of shoplifting hotspots in East Cambridgeshire were supermarkets. The main hotspots for shoplifting offences in East Cambridgeshire are in Littleport (near the border of Downham Villages) and in the centre of Ely. The majority of these were on the side of the Ely East boundary. Closeups of the hotspots in Littleport and Ely East are shown in Figure 32 and Figure 33.

Figure 32 shows a closeup of the hotspots for shoplifting offences in Littleport in 2024. In 2021, the majority of shoplifting offences in Littleport were from the Co-Op supermarket. Whilst the increased number in 2024 was partially driven by an increase at this supermarket, 2024 saw an additional hotspot for shoplifting at the BP Garage in Littleport, where a Marks and Spencer store is located.

**Figure 32: Closeup of hotspots for shoplifting offences in Littleport in 2024**



Note: Map produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. A false hotspot of 21 offences was identified close to the midpoint of Wisbech Road. When reading the incident summaries and MOs, 19 offences specified the BP garage as the correct location.

The remaining 2 offences did not specify a location. The 19 offences which specified the BP garage were re-geocoded to the BP garage for the purposes of the above map.

Figure 33 shows a closeup of the hotspots for shoplifting offences in Ely East. In Ely East, the main hotspot in 2021 was Sainsbury's supermarket on Lisle Lane. The increase in Ely East between 2021 and 2024 was primarily driven by a new hotspot at Brays Lane Waitrose, however there were small numbers of offences reported at a greater number of shops in this ward in 2024.

**Figure 33: Closeup of hotspots for shoplifting offences in Ely East in 2024**



Note: Map produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. A false hotspot of 9 offences was identified near the intersection of Newnham Street and Brays Lane. When reading the incident summaries and MOs, 8 of these offences specified the correct location as Waitrose. The remaining offence did not specify a location. These 8 offences were re-geocoded to Waitrose to create the above map.

## 12.3. Hate Crime

### 12.3.1. National context

A hate crime is defined as ‘any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic’ (Home Office, 2024d). The police can apply a hate crime related marker to any offence where it appears to be motivated by 1 or more of the 5 monitored hate crime characteristics: race or ethnicity, religion or beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, and transgender identity. Improvements in police crime recording and improvements in the identification of what constitutes a hate crime should be considered in the interpretation of hate crime trend data (Home Office, 2022).

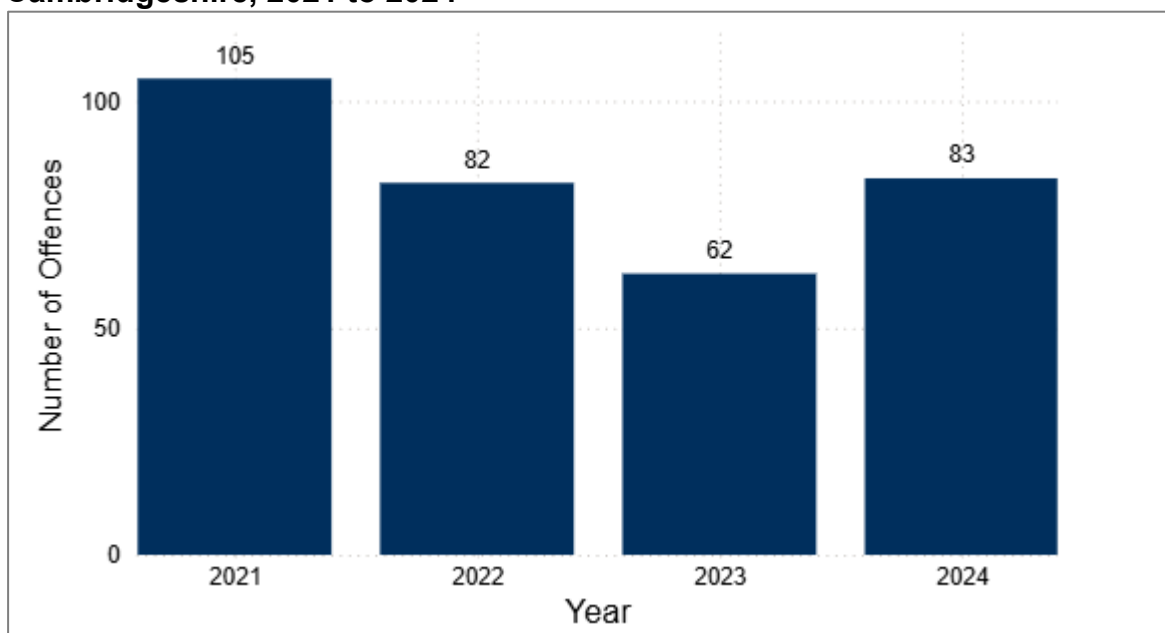
The latest release (at the time of writing) of national data shows that levels of hate crime fell slightly (-5%) in 2023/24 (YE March), the second consecutive reduction noted since comparable records were first collected in 2013 (Home Office, 2024d). Similar to previous years, racially motivated offences accounted for the majority of hate crimes (70%). There was a 5% reduction compared to the previous year (from 103,625 offences to 98,799 offences) (Home Office, 2024d). Religious hate crimes have seen an 25% increase compared to the previous year, reaching the highest annual count in these offences since the hate crime collection began in YE March 2012. This increase contrasts with the trends seen in other strands of hate crime: transgender hate crime (-2%), disability hate crime (-18%) and sexual orientation hate crime (-8%).

It is important to note that hate crimes may have multiple motivating factors; in the YE March 2024, the Home Office estimated 6% of hate crimes to have involved more than one motivating factor. An estimation that was based on the data supplied by 31 forces (Home Office, 2024d).

### 12.3.2. Hate crime in East Cambridgeshire

As shown in Figure 34 below, after annual decreases in hate crime marked offences in East Cambridgeshire between 2021 and 2023, 2024 saw an increase of 34% compared to 2023. However, the count for 2024 remained 21% lower than 2021. Given the high level of under-reporting of hate crime caution should be taken when interpreting these figures. This is an area where lived experience of residents would add value to the CSP’s understanding of the impact locally.

**Figure 34: Annual trend in police recorded hate crime marked offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 12.3.2.1. Ward Analysis

Numbers for hate crime offences by ward are small, however **Ely West** (18) and **Ely East** (16) are notably higher than other wards. **Ely East** had the highest rate at 2.7, which was higher than the rate for East Cambridgeshire at 0.9. **Ely West** had a rate of 1.8.

Both **Ely West** (+125%, +10 offences) and **Ely East** (+33%, +4 offences) saw an increase in the last year but a decrease between 2021 and 2024. **Ely East** saw a larger percentage decrease (-43%, -12 offences) than **Ely West** (-28%, -8 offences).

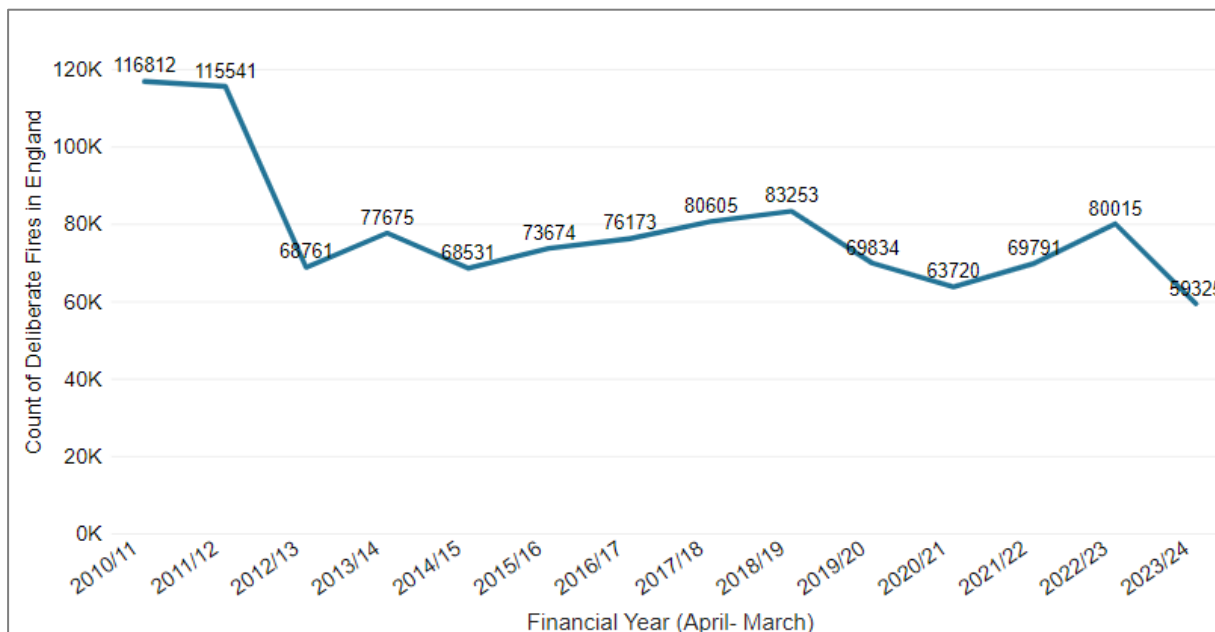
## 12.4. Deliberate Fires

### 12.4.1. National context

Long term national data from the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) is available for YE March, up to YE March 2024. This data shows that over the last ten years the total number of deliberate fires, whilst fluctuating, have remained relatively stable, but has seen a notable decrease in the last year (-26%), from 80,015 in YE March 2023, down to 59,293 in YE March 2024. More recent data available for the years ending September 2023 and 2024 showed that this decrease has continued but is showing

signs of slowing; with an 11% reduction from 62,732 in YE September 2023 to 55,825 in YE September 2024 (Home Office, 2024e).

**Figure 35: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England annually between 2010 and 2024 (YE March)**



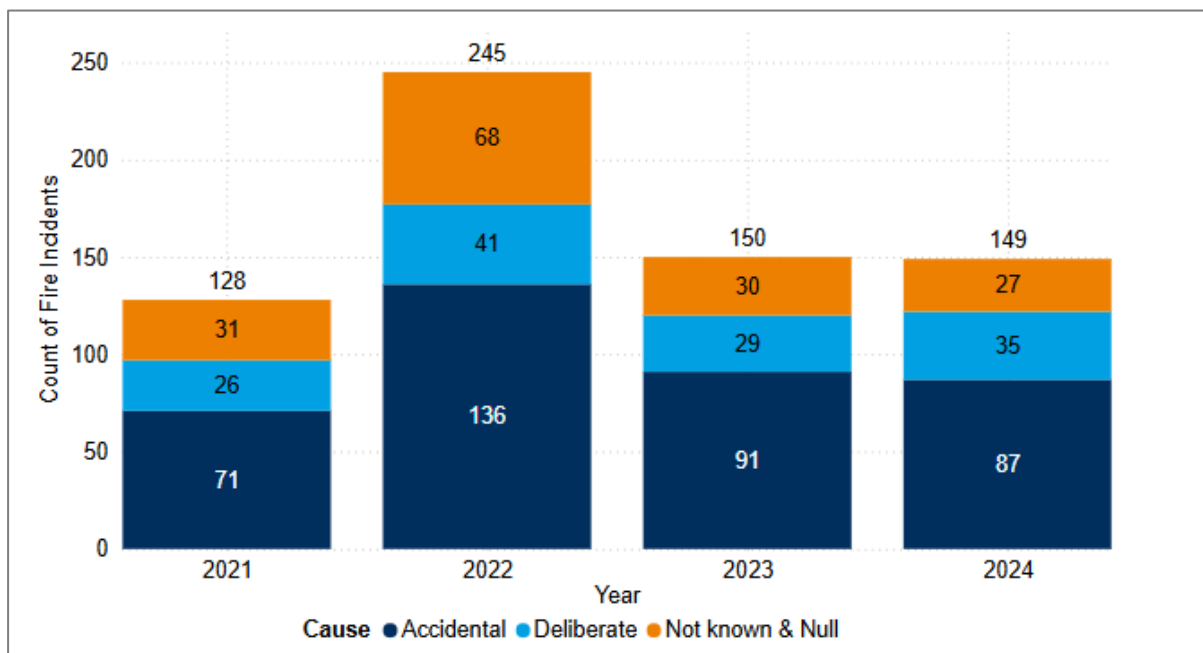
Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data sourced from “Fire statistics table 0401; Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority” in Fire and rescue incident statistics for England, year ending September 2024 data tables (Home Office, 2024e).

### 12.4.2. Local context

Deliberate fires accounted for 23% of all fires in East Cambridgeshire in 2024.

Figure 36 displays the number of fires in East Cambridgeshire, broken down by cause for the past 4 years. In contrast to the decrease in deliberate fires seen nationally, there was a minor increase in the number of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire, from 29 in 2023 to 35 in 2024. However, 2024 remained below the 41 recorded in 2022 (-6 fires, -15%).

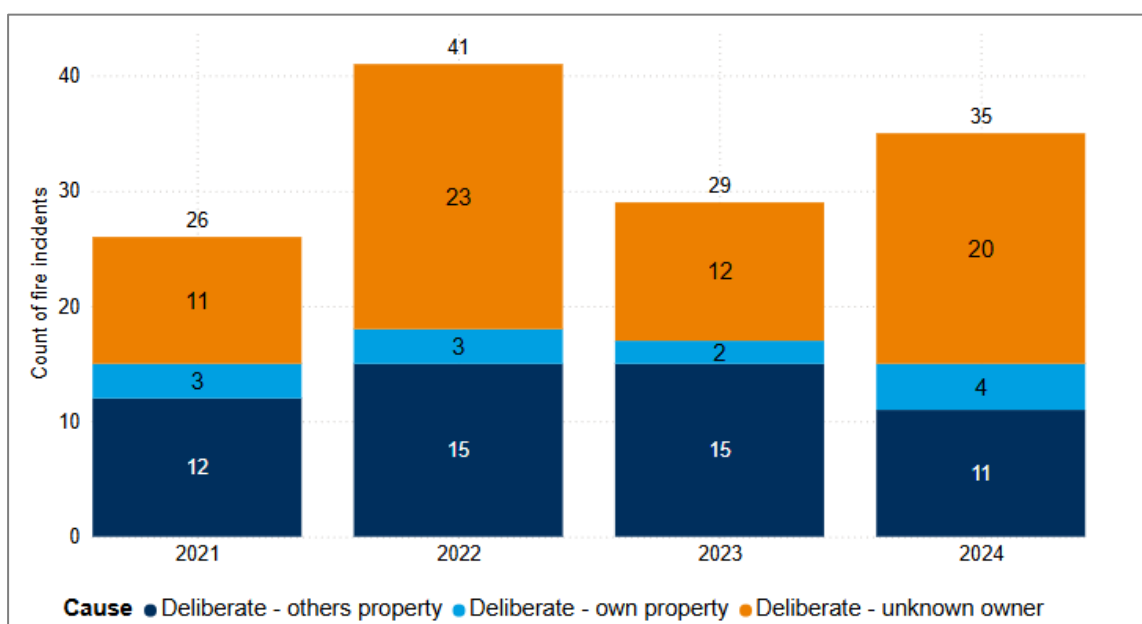
**Figure 36: Number of fires in East Cambridgeshire by cause, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

As previously mentioned, deliberate fires highlight riskier behaviour and therefore further detail has been included below. The small increase in deliberate fires from 2023 to 2024 was driven primarily by an increase in fires of property with unknown owners (from 12 to 20, +8 fires). Fires of perpetrators’ own property increased from 2 to 4 (+2 fires), whilst fires of property belonging to others decreased from 15 to 11 (-4).

**Figure 37: Number of deliberate fires in East Cambridgeshire by cause, 2021 to 2024**

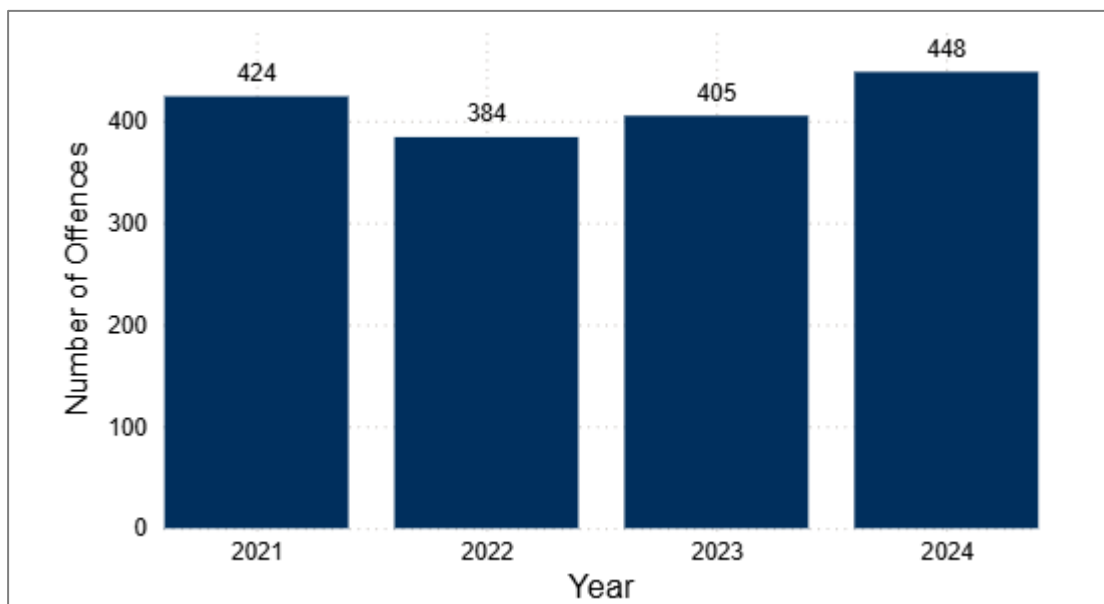


Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

## 12.5. Criminal Damage

Criminal damage has been gradually increasing between 2022 and 2024. An 11% increase in the last year (+43 offences), meant that 2024 exceeded 2021 by 6% (+24 offences). However, the rate in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 of 5.0 offences per 1000 population, remains below the countywide rate of 6.1 per 1000 population, and nationwide rate of 7.5 offences per 1000 population (ONS, 2025b, p. A7).

**Figure 38: Annual trend in criminal damage offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 12.6. ASB

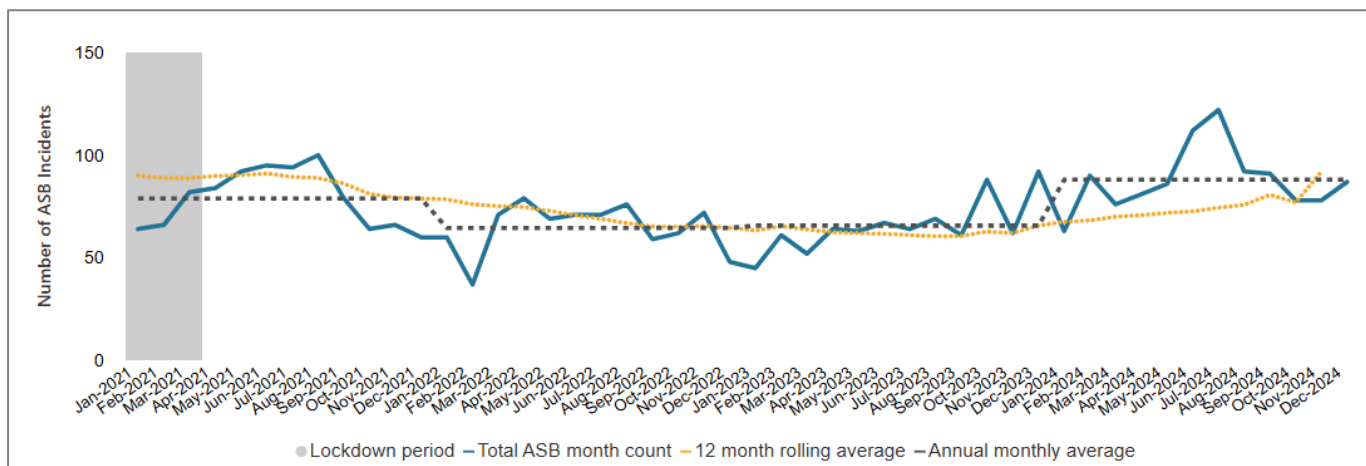
### 12.6.1. Trends in ASB

There was approximately 1 million ASB incidents recorded by the police in England and Wales in the YE September 2024, little change compared to previous year (<- 1% between YE September 2023 to YE September 2024, including British Transport Police figures). ASB figures remained 21% lower than the 1.3 million recorded in YE March 2022 (ONS, 2025b, p. D4). Similarly, in the most recent CSEW (for the YE September 2024 survey period), 36% of respondents had personally experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area, close to the 34% recorded the previous year.

In contrast to national data, ASB in East Cambridgeshire increased by roughly a third between 2023 and 2024 (+34%, +268 incidents), the largest percentage increase of any district in Cambridgeshire (other districts ranging from a 13% increase to a 28% increase). This equates to a 12% increase in East Cambridgeshire compared to 2021. Figure 39 shows the increase in the annual monthly average of ASB incidents from 66 in 2023 to 88 in 2024. A peak of 122 incidents in July 2024 was the highest monthly count throughout the analysed period (2021 to 2024).

Despite this increase, the rate of ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire of 11.8 per 1000 population for 2024, remains below the countywide rate of 12.6 per 1000 population (see Section A.2. Population estimates for technical notes).

**Figure 39: Monthly trend in ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

### 12.6.2. Ward Analysis

- Nine of the 14 wards in East Cambridgeshire saw increases in the last year, and 3 saw increases since 2021.
- Ely East presents the highest concern, with the highest count of incidents in 2024, a considerably higher rate of compared to other wards in the district (27.2 per 1000 population), and a high percentage change in the last year (+82%, +72 incidents).
- Littleport, which had the third highest count of incidents in 2024, more than doubled from 76 to 154 incidents between 2023 and 2024.
- Ely West had the second highest count of offences in 2024, increasing by almost half (+46%, +50 incidents) in the last year.

**Table 14: Number of ASB incidents and percentage change from 2023 to 2024 in East Cambridgeshire wards**

Ward	2024 Count	2023-2024 change % (count)	2021-2024 change % (count)	2024 rate per 1000 population
Bottisham	72	+29% (+16)	+64% (+28)	12.3
Burwell	33	-41% (-23)	-45% (-27)	5.1
Downham Villages	20	-9% (-2)	+33% (+5)	6.4
Ely East	160	+82% (+72)	+9% (+13)	27.2
Ely North	42	-9% (-4)	-2% (-1)	8.0
Ely West	159	+46% (+50)	+2% (+3)	16.3
Fordham & Isleham	69	+47% (+22)	+64% (+27)	9.9
Haddenham	18	-25% (-6)	-63% (-31)	5.2
Littleport	154	+103% (+78)	+25% (+31)	15.2
Soham North	62	-25% (-21)	+15% (+8)	8.9
Soham South	95	+48% (+31)	+76% (+41)	15.0
Stretham	58	+16% (+8)	+26% (+12)	8.2
Sutton	77	+57% (+28)	-8% (-7)	13.4
Woodditton	37	+106% (+19)	+28% (+8)	5.6
<b>East Cambridgeshire Total</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>+26% (+317)</b>	<b>+10% (+143)</b>	<b>11.8</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using ASB incident data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Rates are based on CCC mid-2022 population estimates (CCC PIT, 2024). See Section A.2. Population estimates for technical notes.

### 12.6.3. ASB Type

Nuisance ASB, which refers to incidents which impact on the local community in general, accounted for the majority (81%) of ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire in 2024 (see Table 15 and Figure 40). Similarly, nuisance ASB was the most common type seen nationally (75%) over a similar period (YE September 2024).

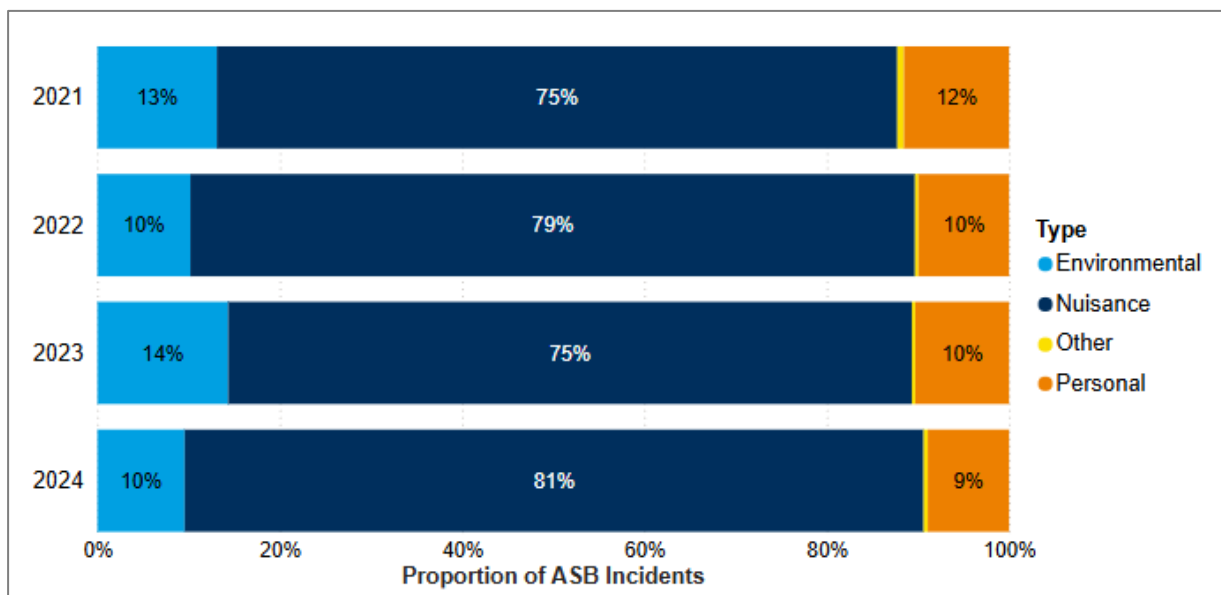
However, East Cambridgeshire had a lower percentage of personal type ASB incidents at 9%, compared to the 17% seen nationally (ONS, 2025b, p. D5).

**Table 15: Share of police recorded ASB, in East Cambridgeshire (YE December 2024) and nationally (YE September 2024), by type**

ASB Type	East Cambridgeshire YE December 2024 (%)	England and Wales YE September 2024 (%)
Nuisance	81%	75%
Personal	9%	17%
Environmental	10%	8%
Other	<1%	N/A

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using East Cambridgeshire data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, and data for England and Wales from the appendix tables for the Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletin for YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025b, p. D5).

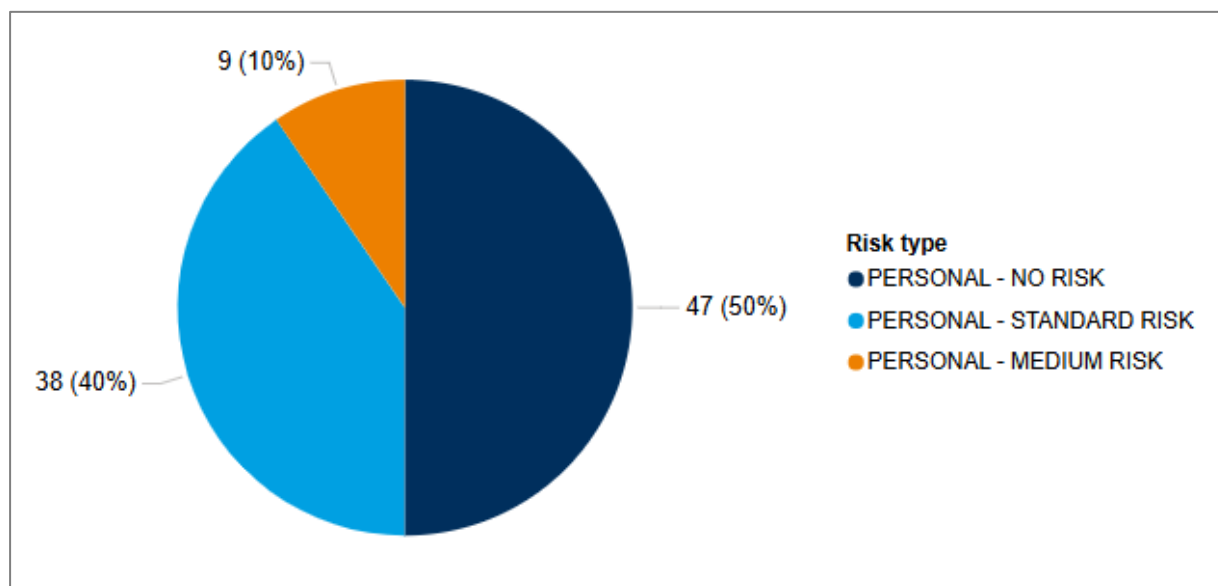
**Figure 40: Police recorded ASB by incident type in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Personal ASB can be divided into different ASB risk types: no risk, standard risk, medium risk and high risk. Cambridgeshire Constabulary define “no risk” as where the risk assessment matrix has been completed, and there is no identified risk. There were no personal ASB incidents assigned as ‘high risk’ in East Cambridgeshire in 2024. Most ASB incidents were assigned as ‘no risk’ (50%) and 40% were ‘standard’.

**Figure 41: Police recorded personal ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire, by risk type, 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

Whilst more detailed information on the nature of ASB incidents isn't available locally, respondents in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) are asked about their perceptions of ASB in their local area, which can provide some insight into the nature of ASB incidents nationwide. In the most recent CSEW (for the YE September 2024 survey period), the most common types of ASB reported by respondents were "Groups hanging around on the streets" (12%), vehicle related behaviour (11%), drink related behaviour (10%), inconsiderate behaviour (10%), and people using or dealing drugs (10%). This was the same most common types as the previous year (ONS, 2025b, p. D1). A breakdown of responses is shown in Table 16.

**Table 16: Experiences of antisocial behaviour in Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) respondents, YE September 2023 and YE September 2024**

Types of anti-social behaviour experienced/witnessed	Oct 2022 to Sep 2023 (%)	Oct 2023 to Sep 2024 (%)
Groups hanging around on the streets	13	12
Vehicle related behaviour	10	11
People using or dealing drugs	10	10
Drink related behaviour	10	10
Inconsiderate behaviour	9	10
Litter, rubbish or dog-fouling	9	9
Loud music or other noise	7	7
People being intimidated, verbally abused or harassed	6	6
Vandalism, criminal damage or graffiti	6	6

Types of anti-social behaviour experienced/witnessed	Oct 2022 to Sep 2023 (%)	Oct 2023 to Sep 2024 (%)
Nuisance neighbours	4	4
Begging, vagrancy or homeless people	3	3
Other anti-social behaviour	1	1
Out of control or dangerous dogs	1	1
People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public	0	0
<b>Personally experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in local area</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>

Source: Table D1a in appendix tables for Crime in England and Wales YE September 2024 quarterly bulletin (ONS, 2025b, p. D1).

24% of respondents said that ASB was a very/fairly big problem in their area, the same as the previous year (ONS, 2025a, p. 16; ONS, 2025b, p. D3). Of these respondents, 29% reported issues with rubbish or litter lying around, and 23% notes issues with people using or dealing drugs. 8% believed there was a high level of anti-social behaviour in their area (see Table 17).

**Table 17: Anti-social behaviour indicators reported by those who said ASB was a very/fairly big problem in their area, CSEW YE September 2024**

ASB type	Oct 2022 to Sep 2023 (%)	Oct 2023 to Sep 2024 (%)
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour	8	8
Rubbish or litter lying around	27	29
People using or dealing drugs	22	23
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	12	12
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	14	14
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	11	13
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	8	8
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	3	2

Source: Table D2 in appendix tables for Crime in England and Wales YE September quarterly bulletin (ONS, 2025b, p. D2).

#### 12.6.4. ASB involving young people

Youth-related ASB has been analysed by applying a keyword search to the incident description field to identify incidents that are likely to be youth-related. Key words included “youth/s”, “young”, “teenage/teenager/s”, and “kids”. It should be noted that this is not a perfect measure; it may include some incidents where young people were present or victims but the incident itself was not directly attributable to young people. Despite this limitation, it represents the best available indicator of police recorded youth related ASB.

Whilst the above increases were seen in both youth related and non-youth related ASB, youth related ASB saw a larger percentage increase of 55% between 2023 and 2024, compared to an increase of 28% for other ASB incidents. Due to this increase, 25% of ASB incidents recorded were youth-related in 2024, up from the 21% recorded in 2023, and the 18% recorded in 2021 (see Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary).

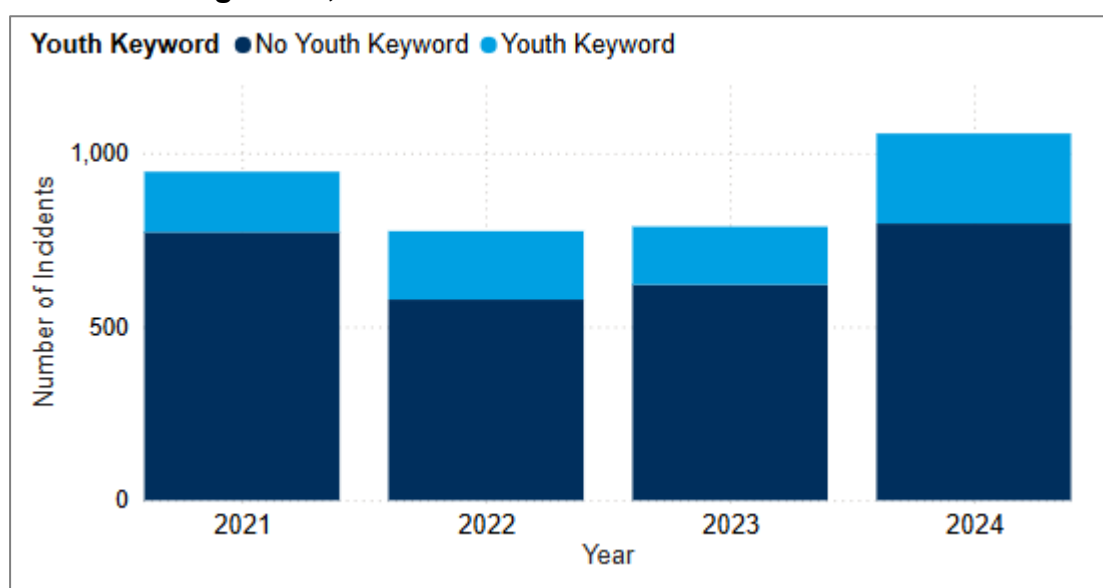
Figure 42). A breakdown of youth related and non-youth related ASB is shown in Table 18.

**Table 18: Annual trend in youth related ASB incidents in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**

ASB type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023-24 change % (count)	2021-24 change % (count)
No youth key word	772	578	621	797	+28% (+176)	+3% (+25)
Youth key word	174	197	167	259	+55% (+92)	+49% (+85)
<b>All ASB</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>+34% (+268)</b>	<b>+12% (+110)</b>
Proportion of ASB that was youth ASB	18%	25%	21%	25%	N/A	N/A

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**Figure 42: Annual trend in youth related ASB, and non-youth related ASB in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

As noted in the geographical breakdown, Ely East had the highest number of ASB incidents overall in East Cambridgeshire and saw a notable increase of 82% compared to 2023. This was driven by increases in both non-youth related (72%) and youth related (+125%) ASB. Whilst youth related ASB saw a larger percentage increase, the proportion of incidents that were youth related in 2024 (23%) was in line with the district-wide proportion of 25%.

Littleport had both the highest number of youth related ASB incidents, and the highest proportion of ASB incidents that were youth related (36%). Both non-youth related ASB incidents (+90%), and youth related ASB incidents (129%) increased in the last year.

Other wards which had notably high proportion of youth ASB incidents in 2024 were Soham South (34%), Burwell (33%), Soham North (32%), and Stretham (31%), though these had lower numbers of incidents compared to Littleport.

**Table 19: Proportion of ASB that is youth related in East Cambridgeshire wards, for top four wards in 2024**

Ward	No Youth Keyword	Youth Keyword	All ASB	Proportion of ASB that is youth related	2023-24 % change in youth ASB (count)
Ely East	124	36	160	23%	+125% (+20)
Ely West	127	32	159	20%	+23% (+6)
Littleport	99	55	154	36%	+129% (+31)
Soham South	63	32	95	34%	+39% (+9)
<b>East Cambridgeshire Total</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>+55% (+92)</b>

Note: Table produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

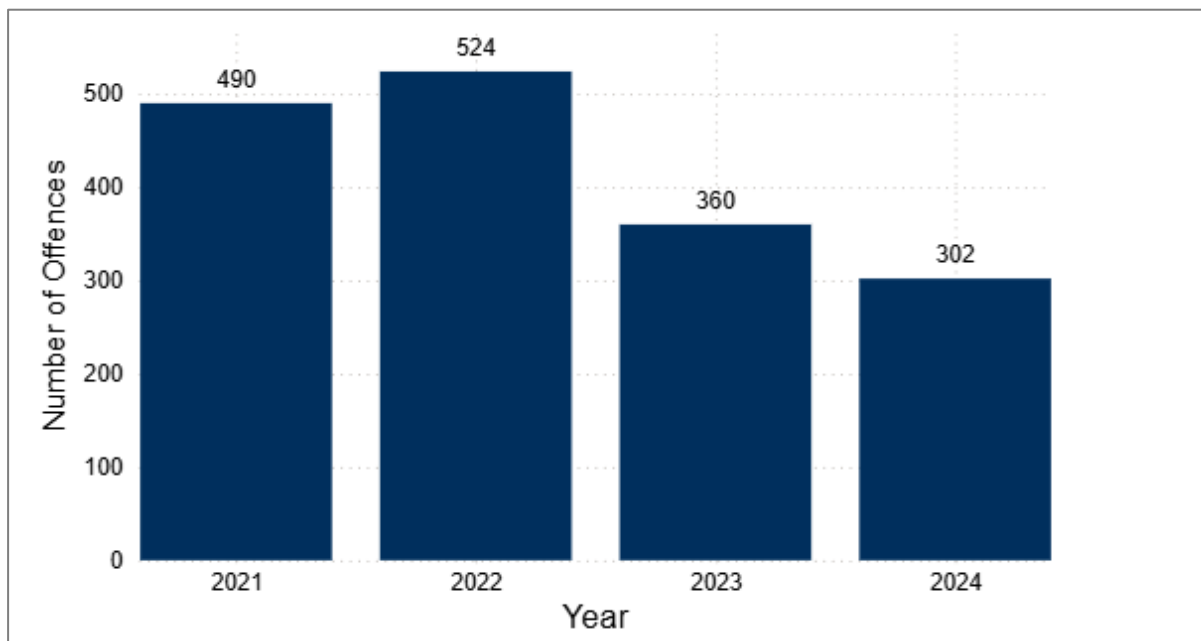
## 12.7. Public Order

Public order offences refer to incidents of violence and/or intimidation committed by individuals or groups in public. One of the offence sub-types is 'Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress', and as such there is a notable cross over with hate crimes.

There has been year on year decreases in public order offences in East Cambridgeshire since 2022. Offences decreased by 16% in the last year, from 360 down to 302 offences. Compared to the peak of 524 offences in 2022, offences have decreased by almost half (-43%). The rate of 3.4 offences per 1000 population in

East Cambridgeshire in 2024 (YE December) is less than half the national rate of 7.6 per 1000 population for a similar period YE September 2024 (ONS, 2025b, p. A7).

**Figure 43: Annual trend in police recorded public order offences in East Cambridgeshire, 2021 to 2024**



Note: Chart produced by Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team, using data provided by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

## 13. Geographic Analysis

### 13.1. By total crime

- **Littleport** had the highest count for total crime in 2024 (712 offences). Total crime includes all police recorded offence types. Of the 4188 offences recorded in 2024 in East Cambridgeshire, **Littleport** accounted for 17%.
- **Ely East** had the highest rate for total crime at 98.3. This rate is notably higher than other East Cambridgeshire wards, ranging between 25.3 (Woodditton) to 70.3 (Littleport).
- **Stretham** saw the largest percentage change between 2021 and 2024 for total crime (+28%, +70 offences). After a period of decreases between 2020 and 2022, the total crime count for **Stretham** is the highest recorded in the last 5 years (between 2020 and 2024).
- **Soham South** whilst not the highest in terms of volume (currently 4<sup>th</sup>) it recorded the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate per 1000 population and it has recorded incremental increases between 2021 and 2024, representing an 11% increase (+35 offences).

## 13.2. By individual crime

The following crime types were individually analysed at ward level: acquisitive crime (shoplifting, personal loss, crimes against the business), VAP, public order, drug offences, sexual offences, hate crime, ASB incidents and DA (incidents and crimes). This section looks to consolidate the wards which appeared notable across the individual analysis and also for total crime, which is referenced in the Section 3 Crime Overview of the report.

- Littleport ranked in the top 3 for highest counts in all analysed crime types. Details can be found in the relevant sections above.
- Ely East had the highest rate for crimes including VAP, hate crime, sexual offences and ASB.
- Ely West was mentioned for notable counts in ASB, drug offences and offences relating to personal loss. Despite this, total crime in Ely West has appeared to have stabilised over the past 2 years (between 2022 and 2024) remaining relatively unchanged in this time (counts ranging between 501 and 510). A decrease of 17% (-105 offences) was seen between 2021 and 2024.

## 14. Glossary

**Table 20: A glossary of terms and acronyms used in this report**

Term/acronym	Definition
ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)	“Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).” (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d.)
ASB categories: personal, environmental and nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.</li> <li>• Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.</li> </ul>

Term/acronym	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="906 241 1385 454">Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community (Cambridgeshire Constabulary, n.d.).</li> </ul>
Accidental Fires	Where the motive for the fire is thought to be accidental or is unknown.
Arson	The criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.
CCC PIT	Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight Team
Claimant rate	$\frac{\text{number of claimants}}{\text{population of claimant area (16 – 64)}}$
County Lines	<p>“A term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into 1 or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line’. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move [and store] the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.” (Home Office, 2023b)</p>
CPIH	Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers’ housing costs

<b>Term/acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)	<p>“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.” (HM Government, 2016)</p>
CSEW	Crime Survey for England and Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
Domestic Abuse Crime	Domestic Abuse Crime is not limited to specific offences. Any police recorded crime can be flagged as Domestic Abuse related and as such would be counted as a ‘Domestic Abuse Crime’.
Domestic Abuse Incident	<p>“A (police recorded) report of a domestic incident, which occurs in either a public or private place.”</p> <p>Recording such incidents enables data to capture those incidents where the circumstances do not amount to a notifiable crime i.e., not all domestic abuse incidents result in a crime being recorded.” (Home Office, 2011, p. 19)</p>
Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR)	<p>Formerly known as a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR).</p> <p>“A Domestic Homicide Review is a multi-agency review which seeks to identify and implement lessons learnt from deaths which have, or appear to have, resulted from domestic abuse. Their aim is to better protect victims in future and prevent further tragedies – by highlighting to the police and other agencies what can be done in future to</p>

Term/acronym	Definition
	<p>strengthen the response.” (Home Office, Farris, L., 2024)</p> <p>The name was changed in order to “better recognise deaths from domestic abuse related homicides”. (Home Office, Farris, L., 2024)</p>
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Hate Crime	<p>“A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone’s: race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, disability. These aspects are known as ‘protected characteristics’. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property. A hate incident is behaviour which isn’t a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the 5 protected characteristics.” (HM Government)</p>
HMICFRS	Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services
Modern Slavery	<p>“Modern slavery is a complex crime that covers all forms of slavery, trafficking and exploitation. Trafficking includes transporting, recruiting or harbouring an individual with a view to them being exploited. Modern slavery crimes may involve, or take place alongside, a wide range of abuses and other criminal offences such as grievous bodily harm, assault, rape or child sexual abuse. Victims of modern slavery can be men, women and children of any age across the world. There is an assumption that victims of modern slavery are often trafficked to the UK from other countries, but residents of the UK are also among the victims that are exploited in the UK and other countries.” (ONS, 2020)</p>
National Referral Mechanism (for Modern slavery) (NRM)	<p>“The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern</p>

Term/acronym	Definition
	slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support”. Only staff at designated first responder organisations can make online NRM or Duty to Notify (DtN) referral. An NRM referral is made for those under 18, and for adults who have consented to be referred. A DtN referral is for those who have not consented to a NRM referral (Home Office; UK Visas and Immigration, 2022)
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIT	Policy and Insight Team (formerly the Cambridgeshire Research Group)
VAP (Violence against the person)	<p>Violence against the person is an offence group. “Includes a range of offences from minor offences such as harassment and common assault, to serious offences such as murder, actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm.</p> <p>Minor types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assault with injury</li> <li>• Common assault</li> <li>• Harassment</li> <li>• Offensive weapon</li> <li>• Other violence</li> </ul> <p>Major types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murder (homicide)</li> <li>• Wounding/GBH” (Police.uk, n.d. )</li> </ul> <p>It includes the offence sub groups of Homicide, Stalking and Harassment, Violence Without Injury, and Violence With Injury.</p>
Ward	Wards (or electoral wards), are geographical areas used to elect local authority councillors (ONS, 2023c).
YE	Year Ending
YJS	Youth Justice Service

## Appendix A: Technical Notes

### A.1. Crime data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Crime data used in this report from Cambridgeshire Constabulary is correct as at the time it was provided to CCC PIT. Changes to data made by the police after it was sent to CCC PIT (such as offences being uncrimed, changes to categorisation, or crime markers) are not reflected in the datasets used in this report.

Data on offences recorded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary was geocoded by the CCC PIT Community Safety team using location data provided by the Constabulary. The majority of offences are point location data as provided by the Constabulary. For a portion of the offences analysed in this report, point locations have been estimated by CCC PIT based on postcode locations associated with the offences, as provided by the Constabulary.

### A.2. Population estimates

Unless otherwise stated, local rates have been calculated based on CCC mid-year 2022 population estimates, the most recent population estimates available (CCC PIT, 2024).

The estimate number of victims of fraud offences in East Cambridgeshire cited in Section 5.3.1 has been calculated using the percentage of respondents who had been a victim of fraud offences in the CSEW, and the CCC mid-year 2022 population estimates. This estimate has been rounded to the nearest 100.

CCC mid-year 2022 population estimates have been rounded to the nearest 5.

### A.3. Crime in England and Wales quarterly bulletins

Further technical notes, including information on the strengths and limitations of CSEW data is available on the ONS website: [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#).

#### CSEW data

Technical notes for the CSEW data used in this report are shown below:

Further notes for data obtained from YE September appendix tables are on the Notes A1-A4 tab, also available for download from the ONS website: [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics](#).

- “Change in CSEW fraud was statistically significant at the 5% level.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “The CSEW is primarily an interviewer-administered face-to-face victimisation survey in which people (aged 16 years and over) resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of selected crimes in the 12 months before the interview. It tracks long-term crime trends from year ending (YE) December 1981 to YE September 2024.
- The latest figures are based on interviews between October 2023 and September 2024, covering crimes that occurred between October 2022 and August 2024.
- The interview-administered questions give headline estimates of CSEW crime and include theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury. They are reported as both incidents (the estimated number of crimes) and prevalence (the estimated proportion of the population that were victims).
- Questions on domestic violence and sexual assault are included but may underestimate these crimes, as victims might not disclose them to an interviewer. Therefore, domestic abuse and sexual assault are better measured through a self-completion section of the survey and reported separately. While sexual assault estimates from the interviewer-administered questions are excluded from CSEW headline crime, domestic violence is included as it is a form of violence with and without injury.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 19)
- “The survey excludes crimes against commercial or public sector bodies, tourists, or those living in communal establishments (such as care homes, student halls of residence and prisons). The survey does not cover "victimless" crimes, such as drug possession and other crimes against the state.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 2)

## Police data

Technical notes for the national police recorded data used in this report are shown below:

- “The Home Office collects crime data from the 43 police forces in England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are sent monthly for each crime on their notifiable offence list. These figures are updated continuously and represent a snapshot taken on 13 December 2024, covering data up to September 2024.

The National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS) tool now helps automatically flag offences involving knives, domestic abuse, and child sexual

abuse. By March 2024, 42 police forces had switched to NDQIS for knife or sharp instrument offences, 37 forces for domestic abuse-related offences and 31 for child sexual abuse-related offences. Since April 2024, 28 police forces have started to use NDQIS for identifying offences that have an online element. Further forces will adopt this tool in the future, including for hate crime data.

For more information on NDQIS methodology, please see our [Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments: methodology changes](#).” (ONS, 2025a, p. 19)

- “Police recorded crime are not designated as accredited official statistics.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “PRC data include crimes against individuals (including children), households, businesses, and society.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “PRC figures are actual counts, not estimates, so they are not tested for significance.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3)
- “Police recorded crime figures cover a wider range of offences and populations (for example, residents of institutions, tourists, and crimes against commercial bodies) but do not capture all crimes. Figures are restricted to a subset of [notifiable offences](#) that have been reported to and recorded by the police. Changes in recording practices have affected the reliability of these figures, particularly for violent crime, making them better indicators of police activity than crime trends. For further information, see [Section 19: Data sources and quality](#).” (ONS, 2025a)

Further notes for data obtained from YE September appendix tables are on the Notes A5-A7 tab, also available for download from the ONS website: [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables - Office for National Statistics](#).

## A.4. Fraud and cybercrime data

Some of the data on fraud and cybercrime offences used in this report were obtained from a public facing dashboard created to Action Fraud (see Figure 7 and Figure 8). This dashboard holds 13 months of data only. Data covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 used in this report was retrieved from the dashboard on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (Action Fraud, 2025).

The following date note is provided by action fraud:

"These figures are based on a rolling 12 months of data from Action Fraud. Only fraud and cybercrime offences amounting to a crime under the Home Office Crime Recording rules are included. Victim is indicated as an individual based on selection

during the reporting process and this has not been verified.” (Action Fraud, 2025)

The following data notes refer to the group crime categories:

- "The NFIB have grouped crime codes according to the types of fraud committed. This is based on professional judgement and does not align to the groupings recorded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). For more information relating to different types of fraud and cybercrime please see the Action Fraud and NFIB A-Z of fraud section on the Action Fraud website." (Action Fraud, 2025)
- Figures of 1000 and above have been rounded to the nearest 100, due to rounding present on the NFIB dashboard.

## A.5. Burglary Offences

In April 2023 residential burglary was split into “Residential burglary-home” and “Residential burglary – unconnected build”. Examples of offences which would be classified under the new residential burglary – unconnected build would be sheds/outbuildings/garden offices which are within the residential property boundary but are not connected to the main home. Both of these sub-types have been included in the total for residential burglary figures for YE December 2024 to ensure consistency with previous years and comparability. As this change was only introduced in April 2023, there is not currently enough data to do separate analyses for the 2 new sub-types of residential burglary, however, this will be possible in the future.

## A.6. NRM data

### **Nationality**

“Please note, a change to data recording from October 2019 means that NRM data reflects the dual nationality of potential victims in separate categories. To see total counts of a particular nationality, please refer to the data tables. A potential victim’s nationality is based on information provided by the first responder upon referral; however, case workers may update this as further information is gathered.” (Home Office, 2024b)

### **Age**

“Potential victims may have no recorded age at exploitation, so are grouped as ‘not specified or unknown’ in the data tables.” (Home Office, 2024b)

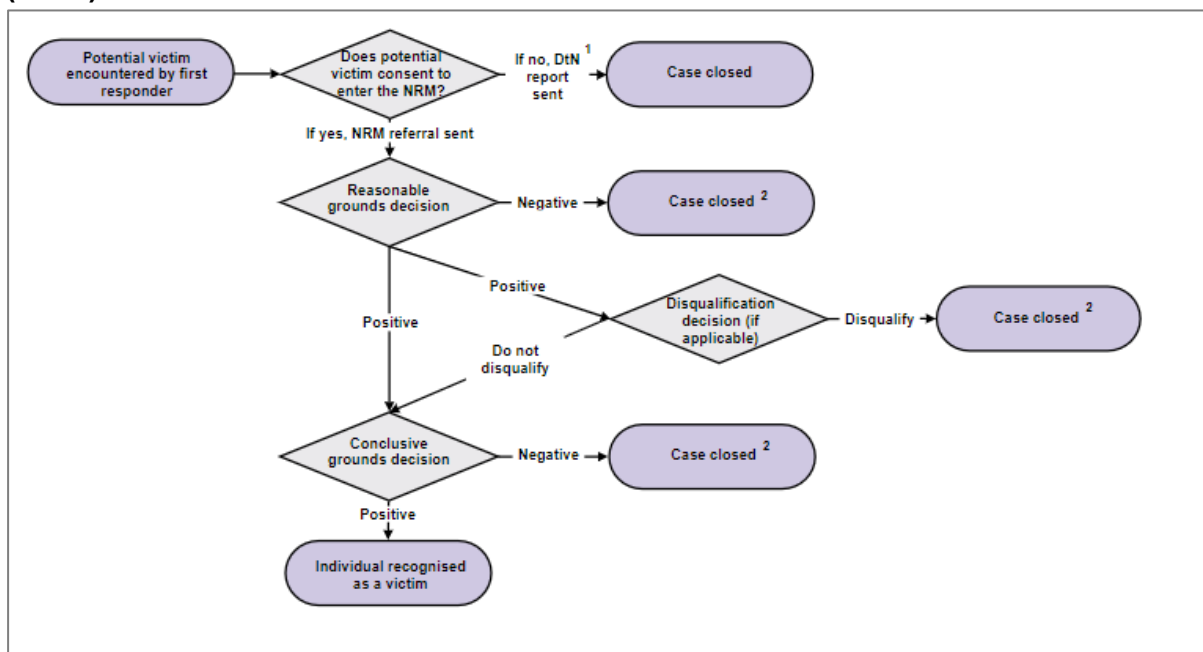
### **County lines**

“County lines referrals were classified as a sub-type of labour exploitation prior to October 2019. Since January 2020, a ‘flag’ within the NRM digital casework system identifies county lines referrals.” (Home Office, 2024b)

### Victim identification process

The victim identification process for the NRM is shown in the figure below.

**Figure 44: Victim identification flowchart for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)**



Source: Figure 2 in Official Statistics - Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, quarter 1 2024 Report – January to March (Home Office, 2024c)

The following figure notes were provided by the Home Office for the above figure:

“Notes:

The DtN is only open to adults in England and Wales (as opposed to the NRM which covers the UK). Consent is not needed for children to enter the NRM.

Decisions may be reconsidered, which may mean some cases are reopened after being closed.

Some cases may not follow this flowchart. For instance, some may be suspended, and others may be devolved pilot cases which can receive combined reasonable and conclusive grounds decisions.” (Home Office, 2024c)

## Appendix B: Figure Technical Notes

Figure 1: Long term trend in CSEW estimates of offences in England and Wales, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024

1. “Data on the chart cover different time periods: 1981 to 1999 data are for calendar years; from year ending (YE) March 2002 onwards data are for the 12 months before the interview.
2. Fraud and computer misuse estimates are available from YE March 2017.
3. Annual estimates for YE March 2021 and YE March 2022 are not available, as there was a break in the CSEW because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 3).

Figure 4: Trend in CSEW estimates of theft, YE December 1981 to YE September 2024

1. “Data on the chart cover different time periods: 1981 to 1999 data are for calendar years; from year ending (YE) March 2002 onwards data are for the 12 months before the interview.
2. Annual estimates for YE March 2021 and YE March 2022 are not available, as there was a break in the CSEW because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 12).

Figure 10: Police recorded knife enabled crime in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), year ending March 2011 to YE September 2024

1. “Greater Manchester Police found they were under-counting knife-enabled crime in December 2017. Therefore, data from Greater Manchester Police are excluded to allow for comparison over time.
2. Data before YE March 2020 have been adjusted for police forces using the National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS) tool. For details, see our methodology note [Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments: methodology changes](#).
3. Other selected offences include rape, attempted murder, homicide, and sexual assault.” (ONS, 2025a, p. 5)

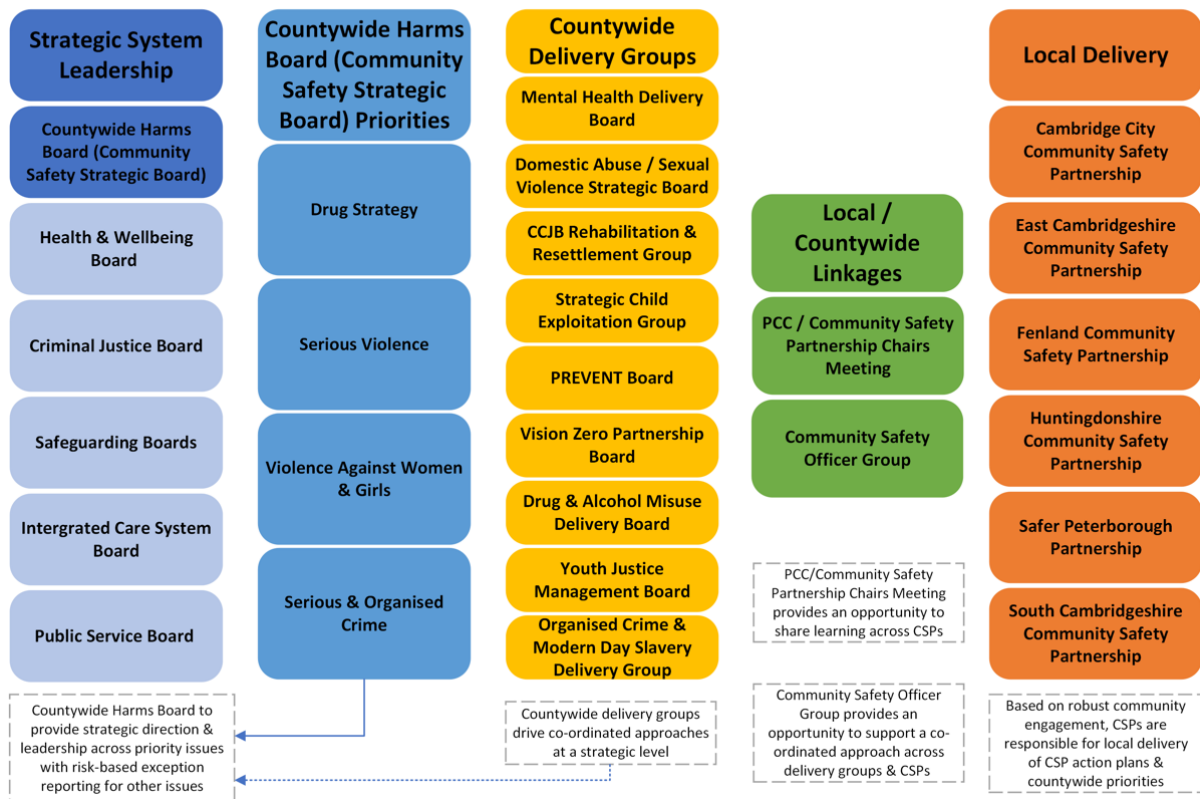
Figure 11: Police recorded firearms offences in England and Wales, YE March 2003 to YE September 2024

1. “Excludes conventional air weapons, such as air rifles, and offences recorded by the British Transport Police. Includes crimes where a firearm was fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.
2. Imitation firearms include replica weapons and low-powered guns that fire small plastic pellets, such as BB guns and soft air weapons.
3. Other firearms include CS gas and pepper spray, stun guns and other weapons.”

More detailed data on offences involving firearms are available for YE March 2024 in our [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#). (ONS, 2025a, p. 6)

## Appendix C: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Community Safety Countywide Agreement 2022-2025

### Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Countrywide Agreement 2022 - 25



## Appendix D: CSP OPCC Activity Review

**Figure 45: East Cambridgeshire CSP OPCC Activity Review**

OPCC priority (2021/24)	OPCC	CSP update – links to priorities / action plan
Putting Communities first	We will ensure the police and other partners are listening to the public and working with them to act on their concerns and supporting them to assist themselves. From initial contact, to rural and business crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime and speeding.	East Cambs PSG – identifying problematic locations, individuals and peer groups across the district, to offer multi-agency support/resource and take robust action when required.
		Improving the communication and reporting of business crime with Shop Watch. Engaging with local businesses and Ely Traders Association to provide reporting information/methods. Increasing the membership to Shop Watch.
		The number of hate crime reporting centres is being increased across the district. Materials printed after funding granted through the PCC safer communities fund after we secured the support of all the district counterparts. Training delivered with Cambs police Action Against Hate Co-ordinator
		Vision zero attended a multi-agency market stall November 24.

		<p>Assisted parish councils with the set up and running of 4 Community safety forums. The panel made up by local councillors, the police, county council youth co-ordinator, local school head, highways and the community safety team. Members of the public invited to voice any concerns they have about issues in their community and ask questions of the panel. An action plan was created for each forum with a follow up meeting to feed back to the public three months later.</p>
		<p>Assisted with Youth Fusion events in East Cambs, first three were partly funded by the PCC. All held in areas of high youth ASB complaints. Multi-agency attendance at each event.</p>
		<p>Talks done to community groups around fraud and cyber crime</p>
Crime Prevention	<p>We will work in partnership to understand and tackle the root causes of crime and serious violence through early intervention and rehabilitating people who have offended, while reducing opportunities for people to commit crime.</p>	<p>Worked with community payback to clear an area in Burwell and assist with the graffiti wall in Ely.</p>
		<p>Organise and regularly meet with counterparts in other districts to share ideas and work together.</p>
Supporting victims and witnesses	<p>We will protect vulnerable people and ensure victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system, commissioning services</p>	<p>Victims of ASB are risk assessed and prioritised at point of contact and their assessment score is monitored throughout the</p>

	<p>to support them. We will recognise every victim's experience is different and will provide a quality service which maintains their trust and confidence in the criminal justice system</p>	<p>case management. This continues to be done in partnership.</p>
<p>Robust enforcement</p>	<p>We will ensure the police and other partners such as courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities are using criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe.</p>	<p>Victim support provided to identified residents via multi agency problem solving groups (Adult and Youth) focussing on wider issues rather than just the impactive behaviours.</p> <p>Robust enforcement through problem solving groups to those who are causing impact to our community and have not engaged with offered support. Community protection notice issued.</p> <p>Safer communities fund used to fund CCTV in areas of high ASB and criminal damage. Identified by reports through the partnership.</p>

## References

- Action Fraud. (2025). *NFIB Fraud and Cyber Crime Dashboard*. Retrieved January 24, 2025, from <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0334150e430449cf8ac917e347897d46>
- British Retail Consortium. (2024). *Crime Survey 2024*. Retrieved from <https://brc.org.uk/media/3q0miv5a/crime-survey-report-2024.pdf>
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough DASV Partnership. (n.d.). *Domestic Homicide Reviews*. Retrieved from [https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/domestic\\_homicide\\_reviews/405477](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/domestic_homicide_reviews/405477)
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary. (n.d.). *What is antisocial behaviour?* Retrieved from <https://www.cambs.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/what-is-antisocial-behaviour/>
- CCC PIT. (2023, November). *Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*. Retrieved from <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/communitysafety/topics/vawg/>
- CCC PIT. (2024, April 22). *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mid-2022 Estimates*. Retrieved 2024, from <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/population/population-forecasts/>
- CCC PIT. (2025). *Serious Violence Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*.
- Domestic Abuse Commissioner. (2024). *Briefing from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales Home Office Counting Rules*. Retrieved from <https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/nearly-eighteen-thousand-domestic-abuse-crimes-missing-from-statistics/>
- HM Government. (2016, February 16). *Definition of child sexual exploitation. Government consultation response*. Retrieved from [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f5c68ed915d74e33f5f4d/HO\\_DfE\\_consultation\\_response\\_on\\_CSE\\_definition\\_FINAL\\_13\\_Feb\\_2017\\_\\_2\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f5c68ed915d74e33f5f4d/HO_DfE_consultation_response_on_CSE_definition_FINAL_13_Feb_2017__2_.pdf)
- HM Government. (2023). *Online Safety Act 2023 Explanatory Notes*. Retrieved from <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50/notes/division/3/index.htm>
- HM Government. (n.d.). *Hate Crime*. Retrieved from <https://hatecrime.campaign.gov.uk/>

- Home Office. (2011). *The National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) counting rules*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-national-standard-for-incident-recording-nsir-counting-rules>
- Home Office. (2022, October). *Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>
- Home Office. (2023a). *Official Statistics. Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2022/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2022>
- Home Office. (2023b). *County Lines Programme Overview*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/county-lines-programme/county-lines-programme-overview#:~:text=%27County%20lines%27%20is%20a%20term,form%20of%20%E2%80%9Cdeal%20line%E2%80%9D>.
- Home Office. (2024a). *Crime Recording Rules for Front line officers and Staff 2024/25*. Retrieved from <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66cf3d7a0b53069322597c25/crime-recording-rules-for-frontline-officers-and-staff-august2024.pdf>
- Home Office. (2024b). *Official Statistics. Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2023*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-nrm-and-dtn-statistics-end-of-year-summary-2023/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2023>
- Home Office. (2024c). *Official Statistics. Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, quarter 1 2024 – January to March*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-nrm-and-dtn-statistics-january-to-march-2024/9327b831-7643-4a08-a7a8-85fa449b39bd>
- Home Office. (2024d). *Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2024/hate-crime-england-and-wales-year-ending-march-2024>
- Home Office. (2024e). *FIRE0401: Deliberate fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, by incident type and fire and rescue authority. Fire Statistics Data Tables*. Retrieved from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables#incidents-attended>

Home Office, Farris, L. (2024, February 5). *Fatal domestic abuse reviews renamed to better recognise suicide cases*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fatal-domestic-abuse-reviews-renamed-to-better-recognise-suicide-cases>

Home Office; UK Visas and Immigration. (2022, May 19). *National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales)*. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>

NCA. (2019). *County Lines Drug Supply, Vulnerability and Harm 2018*. Retrieved from <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/257-county-lines-drug-supply-vulnerability-and-harm-2018/file>

NCA. (2024). *National Strategic Assessment 2024 for Serious and Organised Crime*. Retrieved from [https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/images/campaign/NSA/2024/NSA\\_2024\\_Website\\_-\\_PDF\\_Version\\_1.pdf](https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/images/campaign/NSA/2024/NSA_2024_Website_-_PDF_Version_1.pdf)

ONS. (2020). *Modern slavery in the UK: March 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/modernslaveryintheuk/march2020#defining-modern-slavery>

ONS. (2023a). *Sexual offences in England and Wales overview: year ending March 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/sexualoffencesinenglandandwalesoverview/march2022#crime-survey-for-england-and-wales>

ONS. (2023b). *Age and Ethnic Group - Census 2021*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create/filter-outputs/62d66a10-2a1e-43c1-8f99-9334d0e278de>

ONS. (2023c). *Area type definitions Census 2021*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/census2021dictionary/areatypedefinitions>

ONS. (2024a, December 23). *Gross Domestic Product: Quarter on Quarter growth: CVM SA %*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/timeseries/ihyq/qna>

ONS. (2024b). *Crime in England and Wales: Year ending March 2024*. Retrieved from

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2024>

ONS. (2024c, January 25). *Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2023*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdecember2023>

ONS. (2024d). *Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables. Year ending March 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesannualsupplementarytables>

ONS. (2024e, November 27). *Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2024>

ONS. (2024f, December 12). *Drug misuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/drugmisuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2024>

ONS. (2024g). *Crime in England and Wales: Other related tables. Year ending March 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesotherrelatedtables>

ONS. (2025a, January 30). *Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2024>

ONS. (2025b, January 30). *Data set. Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables. Year ending September 2024 edition of this dataset*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesappendixtables>

ONS. (2025c, February 13). *GDP first quarterly estimate, UK: October to December 2024*. Retrieved from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/gdpfirstquarterlyestimateuk/octobertodecember2024>

Police.uk. (n.d. ). *Violence against the person. What to report*. Retrieved from Police.uk: <https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-us/what-and-how-to-report/what-report/>

Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme. (2024). *National Analysis of Police-Recorded Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation (CSAE) Crimes Report. January 2022 to December 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.vkpp.org.uk/vkpp-work/analytical-capability/national-analysis-of-police-recorded-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-crimes-report-2022/>