

Crime in Lancashire 2018/19

Key findings for Lancashire-14

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Summary

The latest survey estimates show that 8 in 10 adults did not experience any of the crimes asked about in the survey in the previous 12 months. This figure has remained stable since the introduction of fraud and computer misuse offences into the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). It is much more likely for an adult in England and Wales to experience fraud, than a violent offence.

The CSEW for 12 months ending March 2019 shows a stable picture for all crime. However, this hides variation in individual crime types, with continued rises in some types of theft and fraud and falls in computer misuse. There were also increases in some of the less frequently occurring but higher-harm types of violence, including offences involving knives and sharp instruments.

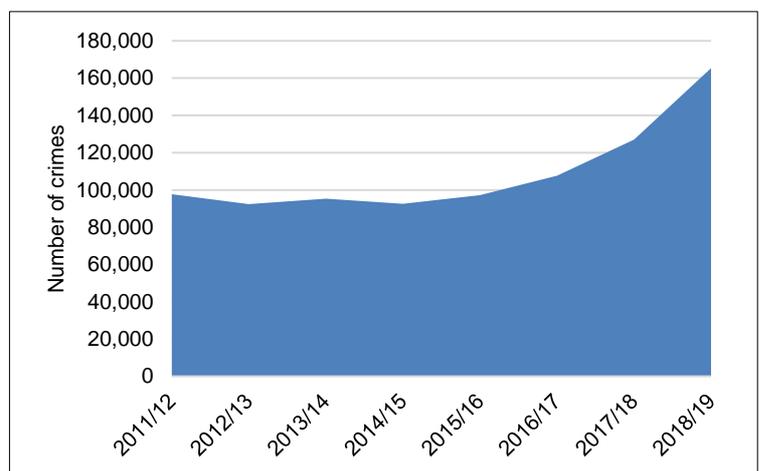
The Lancashire picture

All crime

Police recorded crime (excluding fraud) for the same period shows a different picture to the crime survey, with an increase in England and Wales of 8%. Lancashire-14 has seen a significantly higher increase of 30% (+38,340 crimes) compared with the previous year. This is the second highest increase (after Lincolnshire) of all the Police forces. Recorded crime has been rising since 2015/16 in the county.

Table 1: Recorded crime (excluding fraud) in the Lancashire-14 area

Year ¹	Recorded crime (excluding fraud)	Percentage change on previous year
2011/12	97,679	
2012/13	92,357	-5.4%
2013/14	95,372	3.3%
2014/15	92,559	-2.9%
2015/16	97,112	4.9%
2016/17	107,610	10.8%
2017/18	127,028	18.0%
2018/19	165,368	30.0%



Note 1: Financial years 1 April to 31 March inclusive

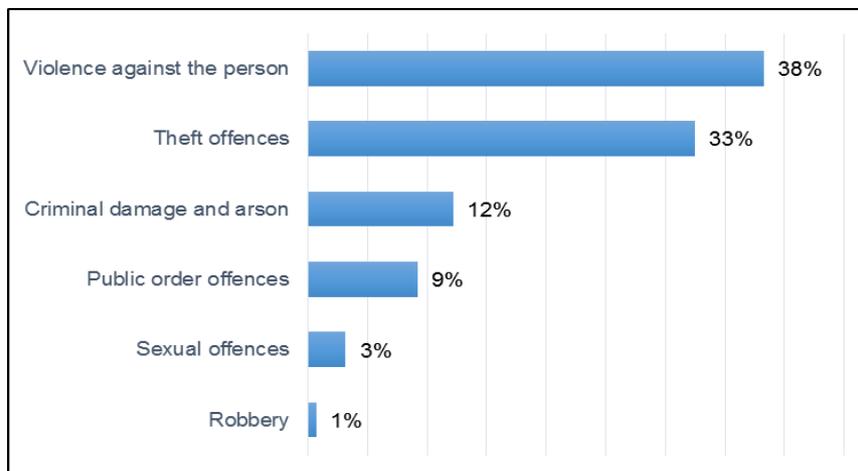
Source: Office for National Statistics – [Crime in England & Wales, 2018/19](#)

These increases need to be seen in the context of the focus on the quality of crime recording by the police in recent years which has led to more crimes being recorded. This follows inspections of forces by [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services](#) (HMICFRS), the [Public Administration Select Committee inquiry](#) into crime statistics, and the [UK Statistics Authority's decision](#) to remove the National Statistics designation from police recorded crime statistics in 2014. Lancashire Constabulary introduced a new crime recording system in November 2018.

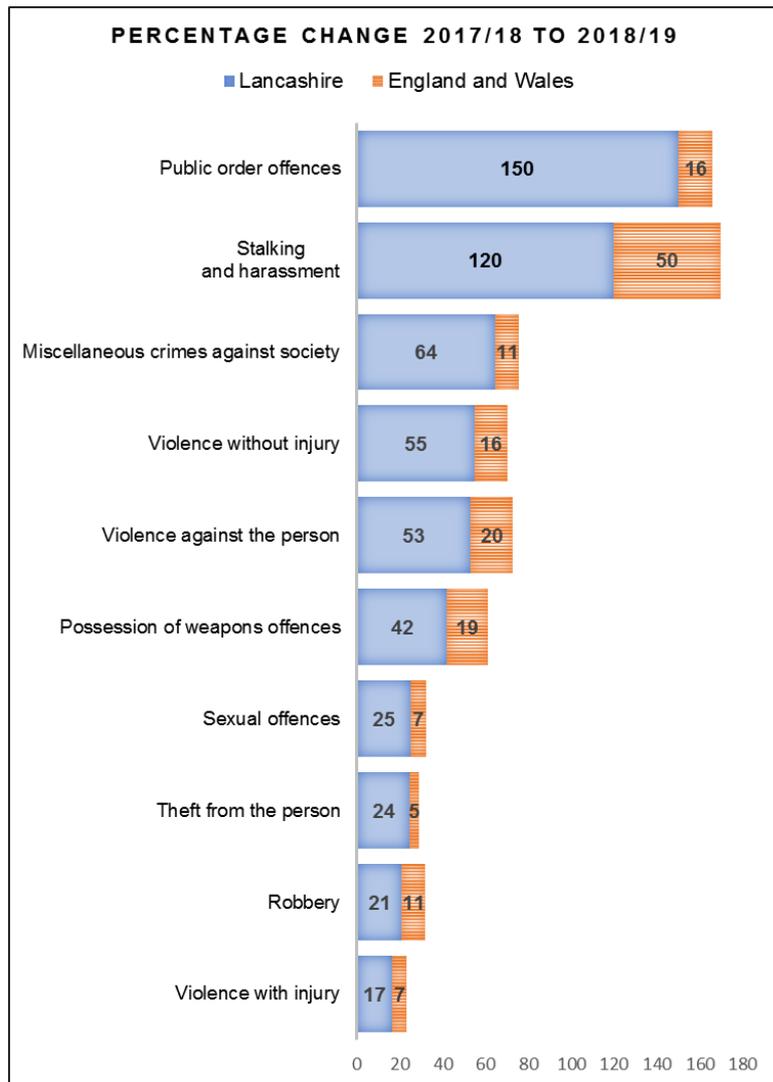
Crime in Lancashire makes up 21.6% of crime in the North West and 3.1% of all recorded crimes in England and Wales. The Lancashire rate is 110.9 offences per 1,000 population (up from 94 per thousand in 2006/07). This is the 2nd highest rate in the North West, below Greater Manchester (119.2) and is higher than Merseyside (95.3) in 3rd place. Cumbria (74.4) and Cheshire (89.1) have the lowest rates. Lancashire crime is well above the England and Wales rate of 89.5 per 1,000 population.

Types of offence

In 12 months ending March 2019, victim-based crime represented 87% of all recorded crime in Lancashire-14, with miscellaneous crimes against society making up the other 13%. Violence against the person were the highest volume, followed by theft offences.



Change within offence type



Public order offences increased by 150%, a much higher increase than that seen nationally and therefore likely to be due to improvements in Lancashire Constabulary recording practice. The CSEW says that the majority of the rise in this category is due to changes in recording but there may be an underlying rising trend.

The CSEW indicates that there has been no overall change in the more common but less violent levels of crime. Violence against the person increased by 53% to 63,324 crimes in Lancashire, driven by a 120% increase in stalking and harassment, again significantly higher than the England and Wales average. The increase in this category is likely to be due to improvements in recording these crimes.

Violence with injury increased by 17% in Lancashire-14, substantially higher than that seen in England and Wales (7%). Cumbria (27%) had the highest increase in the North West with Greater Manchester the lowest (3%). ONS say that there is a real rise in some of the higher-harm violent offences involving the use of weapons, in particular knives or sharp instruments. This is supported by a rise in admissions to NHS hospitals for assault with a sharp object nationally.

The total number of selected offences¹ involving a knife or sharp instrument for the year ending March 2019 was 1,151. This is an increase of 287 from 864 for the year ending March 2018, which is an increase of 33.2%. However when taken as a percentage of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument against the total number of selected offences this remains the same as previous years, at 4%.

Actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm had the highest percentage of all selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument at 64% for 2018/19 which is a slight reduction from 65% for the previous year. The category with the highest percentage increase was threats to kill, from 5% (2017/18) to 10.2% (2018/19) of all selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. Numerically this was a rise from 44 (2017/18) to 116 (2018/19).

There were 322 assault attendances at Lancashire NHS hospitals where the weapon was recorded as a sharp object, according to data supplied by [TIIG¹](#), which is an increase of 17% as there were 275 for the year ending March 2018.

Homicides in Lancashire are rare, there were 27 such crimes recorded in 2019/20 (an increase from 14 recorded in 2017/18).

Sexual offences showed an increase of 25% in Lancashire-14, substantially higher than that seen nationally (7%). This is likely to reflect improvements made by the police in how they record crime, and in people being more willing to report a sexual offence. There has been increased public awareness and discussion about these types of crimes due to high profile cases and social media campaigns. However according to the CSEW, there was no change in the proportion of adults who experienced sexual assaults in the year ending March 2019 (2.9%). Given the different factors affecting the reporting and recording of these offences, the police figures do not provide a reliable measure of current trends and it is considered the CSEW is the better source of victimisation data on sexual offences.

According to CSEW, there was a 2% increase in vehicle offences, which includes an 8% increase in the subcategory of "theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle". This is supported by a 2% increase in police recorded vehicle offences in England and Wales; a category that is thought to be well-reported by the public and relatively well-recorded by the police. Police recorded vehicle offences in Lancashire-14 rose by 4%.

In Lancashire-14, theft offences increased by 6% overall with theft from the person increasing by 24%, however shoplifting theft reduced by -3%. Theft offences hit an all-time low in 2015 and it is unclear at the moment whether this increase for the third year running is significant or just some natural variation in data or the prolific offender population.

CSEW report a 21% decrease (to 966,000 offences) in computer misuse offences estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales. However there has been a 17% increase in fraud offences.

¹Attempted murder, threats to kill, actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm, robbery, rape, sexual assault

² There are known under-recording issues with NHS weapon recording and as there is some variation between different hospital trusts on their completion rates for this indicator.

Table 2: Recorded police crime by offence group, Lancashire-14 2018/19

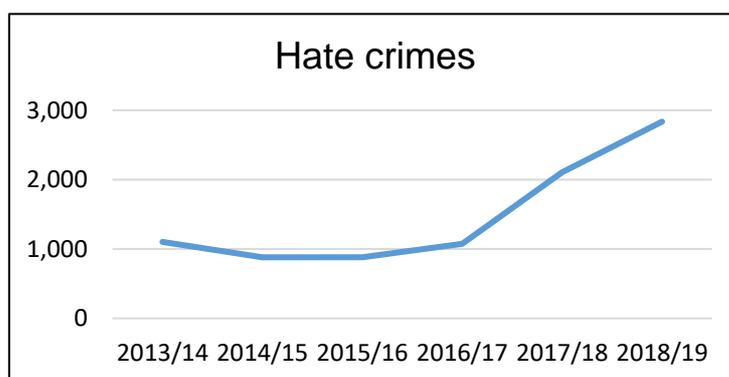
	Offence category	Lancashire-14			North West		England & Wales	
		2018/19	Rate ¹	% change 2017/18-2018/19	Rate ¹	% change 2017/18-2018/19	Rate ¹	% change 2017/18-2018/19
Victim-based	Violence against the person	63,324	42.5	52.9	35.1	23.3	28.4	19.6
	Sexual offences	5,231	3.5	25.3	3.1	7.4	2.8	7.6
	Robbery	1,129	0.8	20.7	1.5	10.8	1.5	11.0
	Theft offences	53,791	36.1	6.2	35.0	-0.7	34.3	0.1
	Criminal damage and arson	20,249	13.6	6.3	12.0	-6.8	9.8	-2.9
Other crimes	Drug offences	2,211	1.5	7.5	2.7	14.2	2.6	11.0
	Possession of weapons offences	765	0.5	41.7	0.9	31.8	0.8	19.2
	Public order offences	15,194	10.2	149.8	12.8	9.5	7.6	15.9
	Miscellaneous crimes against society	3,474	2.3	64.5	2.3	15.4	1.8	10.9
	Total recorded crime (excluding fraud)	165,368	110.9	30.2	105.4	8.0	89.5	7.7

Note 1: Rate per 1,000 population, based on 2017 mid-year estimates.

Source: [Office for National Statistics – Crime in England & Wales, 2018-19](#)

Official data from 2018/19² shows that there has been a rise in hate crime in Lancashire.

Year	Hate crimes	Annual perc. change
2013/14	1,103	
2014/15	881	-20%
2015/16	883	0%
2016/17	1,076	22%
2017/18	2,105	96%
2018/19	2,836	35%



Source: [Home Office - Hate crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019](#) (data on hate crime is published mid-Oct)

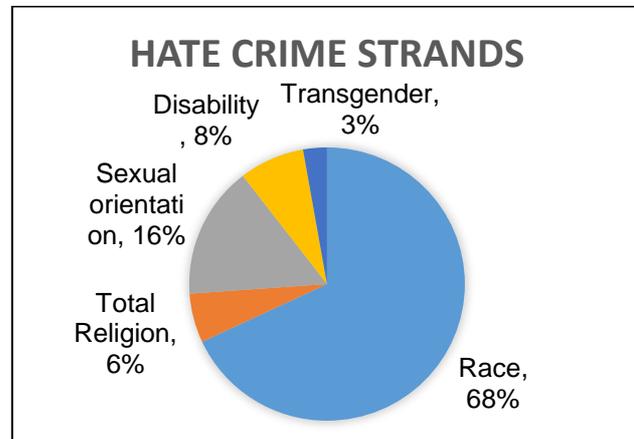
While increases in hate crime over the last five years have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police, there has been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017².

²Westminster attack, March 2017; Manchester Arena bombing, May 2017; London Bridge attack, June 2017; Finsbury Park attack, June 2017, Parsons Green bombing, September 2017

Race related hate crimes make up 68% of the total. Small numbers mean that annual variances can be quite large.

Table 3: Monitored hate crimes, Lancashire-14 2017/18

Strand	Number
Race	2,022
Religion	173
Sexual orientation	465
Disability	228
Transgender	83
Total number of motivating factors¹	2,971



Source: Lancashire Constabulary

¹It is possible for a hate crime offence to have more than one motivating factor which is why the above numbers sum to more than 2,836.

Geographic patterns

Recorded crime data is also published for “Community Safety Partnerships”. The data for Lancashire Constabulary is not available at the current time, therefore comparisons by district have not been included in this report.

About the data

Lancashire-14 crime statistics are derived from an annual publication '[Crime in England and Wales](#)' that combines the reporting of police recorded crime and the Crime Survey for England and Wales. Neither of these sources can provide a complete picture and each have different strengths and limitations.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a selected range of offences in the 12 months prior to the interview. For the population and offence types it covers, the CSEW generally provides the better measure of trends on a consistent basis over time, because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices. The methodology employed in the headline estimate of crime has remained comparable since the survey began in 1981.

The CSEW is able to capture a broad range of victim-based crimes experienced by those interviewed, not just those that have been reported to, and recorded by, the

police. However, there are some serious but relatively low-volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, which are not included in its main estimates. The survey also does not cover sufficient respondents to provide any information at a local level.

Police recorded crime figures are restricted to a subset of notifiable offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police. Therefore, while the police recorded crime series covers a wider population and a broader set of offences than the CSEW (for example, residents of institutions, tourists and crimes against commercial bodies), it does not include crimes that do not come to the attention of the police or are not recorded by them. The police recorded crime series is prone to changes in recording practices and police activity as well as changing behaviour in public reporting of crime. As a result, trends will not always reflect changing levels of criminal activity.

Further information

A separate research monitor, [prison populations](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-population-figures-2019), covers criminal justice <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-population-figures-2019>.

Fraud - <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud-statistics>

News article – "Which? exposes fraud hotspots across England and Wales".
<https://press.which.co.uk/whichpressreleases/which-exposes-fraud-hotspots-across-england-and-wales/>

Hate crime - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hate-crime-statistics>

ONS visual - People greatly overestimate their likelihood of being robbed -
<https://visual.ons.gov.uk/people-greatly-overestimate-their-likelihood-of-being-robbed/>