

Source: Lancashire JSNA, Sept 19

Blackburn with Darwen Lower Super Output Area deprivation map. The darker the colour the more deprived the area.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN 2021

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT LOCAL PROFILE

Blackburn with Darwen is a unitary authority in East Lancashire that contains 17 wards.

The area has around three times the average number of people per square kilometre than the England and Wales average.

Health varies compared with the England average.

Blackburn with Darwen is ranked 14/317 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation against all local authorities in England.

Approximately 20.7% (7,265) of children live in low income families.

Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. There are also inequalities within the district between the most deprived areas and the least deprived – 10.9 years lower for males and 8.4 years lower for women.

Alcohol related hospital stays are increasing slightly. They are similar to the England average but better than the regional average.

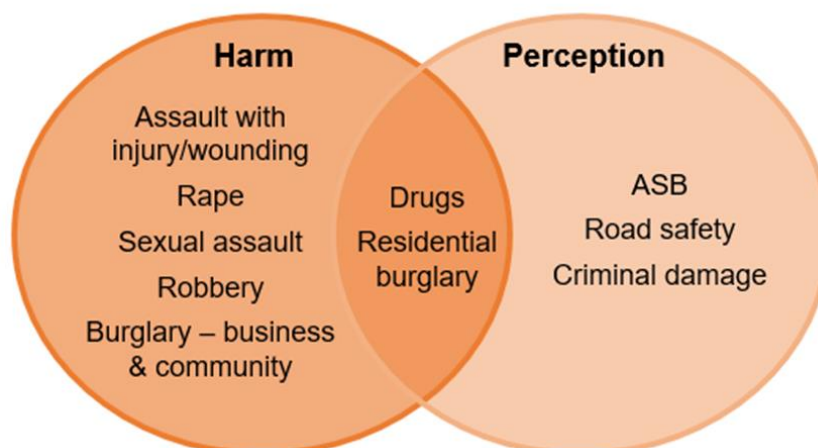
Hospital admissions for **intentional self-harm** are increasing and are above the national average. However, **suicide rates** are reducing and are similar to the national average.

Hospital admissions for **violence** (including sexual violence) are increasing and are above the regional and England averages.

HARM AND PERCEPTION

Office for National Statistics crime severity tool was used to calculate the level of **harm** of crime in Blackburn with Darwen.

Lancashire Talking provided an indicator of the public's **perception** of the crime and community safety issues important to Blackburn with Darwen.



Drugs and residential burglary are of concern to the public and result in a high level of harm.

RISK AND THREATS

A threat assessment undertaken by Lancashire Constabulary using Management of Risk in Law Enforcement methodology found these crime types were the **highest risk** across Lancashire.

- Gun & knife crime
- Domestic abuse
- Violence linked to drug supply
- County lines
- Modern day slavery/trafficking
- Child criminal & sexual exploitation
- Anti-social behaviour
- Road safety
- Cyber crime
- Fraud
- Homicide
- Robbery & burglary

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME



As part of Operation Genga (partnership approach to tackling organised crime) the following were highlighted in the **Serious Organised Crime** profile as **key issues** for Blackburn with Darwen:

- Violent incidents between rival groups in the northern area of Blackburn.
- Emerging organised drug related criminality with links to legitimate business enterprises in Darwen.
- Youth ASB in Darwen town centre.
- OCG activity/Child sexual exploitation (CSE)/child criminal exploitation (CCE) linked to specific taxi firms in Blackburn.

ROAD SAFETY

- Blackburn with Darwen has recorded the highest number of pedestrian casualties of the 14 districts during the last 10 years (2010-2019).
- 63% of child KSI (killed or seriously injured) casualties are pedestrians (2015-2019).
- The M65 motorway accounts for 4% of all casualties in Blackburn with Darwen and 3% of the total KSI casualties.
- The road layouts of substantial parts of the district create a vulnerability for pedestrians that requires broad, community-based initiatives.



VICTIM PROFILE

Where **gender** details were recorded 52% of all victims are female and 48% are male.

The most prevalent group of victims were **White British**, aged **25-29 years**.

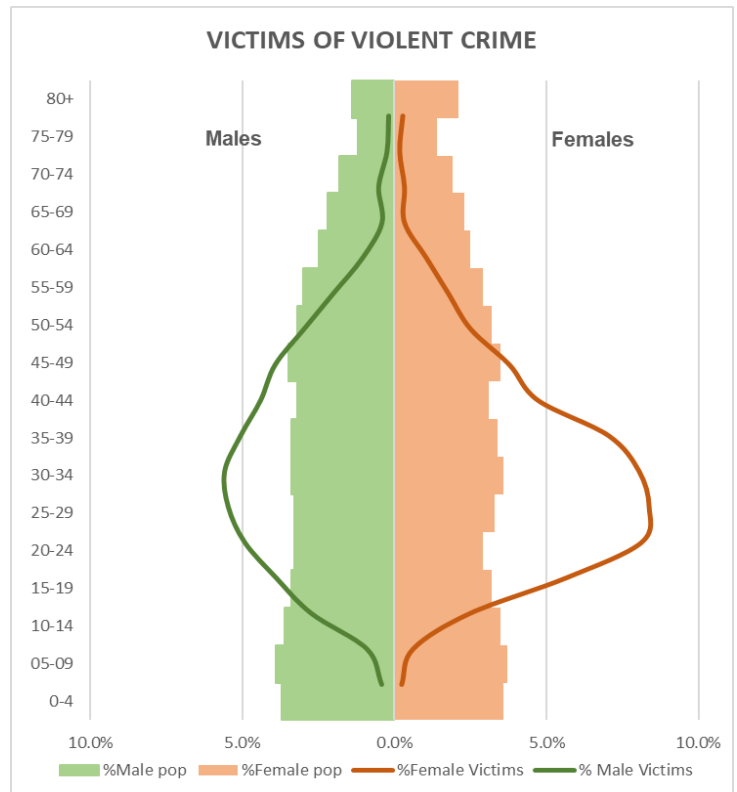
Domestic Abuse was a factor in 16% of cases.

Assault without injury was the most common recorded offence type for both males and females.

There is an overrepresentation of **male** victims of **violent crime** aged 20-44 compared to the overall male population breakdown for those age groups.

A greater disproportionality can be seen amongst **female** victims of **violent crime** aged 15-44 compared to the overall female population breakdown for those age groups.

The **elderly** are less likely to be victims of crime.



The chart depicts the Blackburn with Darwen **population** breakdown by age and gender within the bar charts, whilst the line depicts the breakdown of **victims of violent crime** by age and gender.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Females accounted for around 75% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 25%.
- The peak age group was 25-34 years.
- Victims were predominantly White British (64%), followed by Asian (17%).
- 21% of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related.
- Assault without injury and assault with injury were the most commonly reported DA crime types in Blackburn with Darwen.
- The highest number of offences were in Blackburn Central, Ewood, Darwen East and Blackburn South East wards.

In Blackburn with Darwen, over half (52%) of all domestic abuse victims fell within the “Urban Adversity” category (ACORN, MADE Apr19-Mar21), which key characteristics include:

- Age 25-34
- House – flat or terraced
- Children at home – 3+
- House tenure – social renting



This is disproportionate when compared to the Blackburn with Darwen district population, where 27% make up this category. Therefore, showing an over representation of DA victims within the Urban Adversity category compared to the district population.

REOFFENDING

The reoffending rate for Blackburn with Darwen is 29.7%, which is slightly higher than the Lancashire average of 27.8%. (MoJ release May 21).

Previous research has shown that the **gender** split is 88% male, 12% female, which differs slightly from the Lancashire picture (85% male, 15% female).

Peak crime types are **theft from shop**, **assault with injury** and **assault without injury**.

Peak age groups are **25-31** and **32-40 years** – almost half of all reoffenders are within this age range.

More than half of all **female reoffenders** are aged 32 years and over.

Female reoffenders commit a higher proportion of theft from shop offences than males.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features as one of the primary concerns for the people of Blackburn with Darwen in the Lancashire Talking Survey.

The wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were **Blackburn Central**, **Darwen East**, **Mill Hill** and **Moorgate** and **Blackburn South East**.

Mental health is a common factor in anti-social behaviour and **neighbour** disputes.

19% of all ASB in Blackburn with Darwen is **youth related**, and can involve groups engaging in **risk taking activities**, congregating, being **rowdy** and **abusive** and contributing to **criminal damage**.

Seasonal trends within ASB include **moto-nuisance** in and around parks, open fields and residential areas.

There is a direct correlation between the increase in ASB and the **Coronavirus pandemic**.



SUBSTANCE MISUSE



Blackburn with Darwen has the 10th highest figure for **alcohol related deaths** nationally, and the 5th highest in the North West region.

Blackburn with Darwen has a higher rate of **deaths in treatment** for alcohol users and alcohol use with non-opiate drugs than nationally.

The rates of **opiate** and **non-opiate deaths in treatment** are lower than the national average.

For young people in Blackburn with Darwen, **Cannabis** is the **primary substance for referral**, with the number of referrals being significantly higher than the national average.

Cocaine use is the second highest reason for **referrals in young people**, with the number of referrals also being higher than the national average.

Referrals for **alcohol use in young people** in Blackburn with Darwen are well below the national average.

The largest age group of **adults in treatment** is **45-49**, followed by 40-44.

The largest group of adults in treatment are treated for **Opiates**, followed by alcohol.

Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) use now represents a very small number of those in treatment.

(Source: Barry Ashbolt, Public Health, Blackburn with Darwen)

SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INEQUALITIES

Health and deprivation are determining and interlinking factors in community safety.

Blackburn with Darwen is the 14th **most deprived** district in England.

Life expectancy in Blackburn with Darwen is 2.5 years lower than the UK average.

Blackburn with Darwen's rate of out of work **benefits claimants** is 8.2% compared to the North West rate of 7%, and 2% higher than the Lancashire average (2020).

16.5% of Blackburn with Darwen households are **'workless'** compared to 16% across the North West.

Hate crime impacts individuals and communities. A high proportion of hate crimes are **racially motivated**, however there is currently a rise in **sexual orientation** and **transgender** motivated offences. The monitoring of **community tension and cohesion** increases confidence.



Blackburn with Darwen has a higher than average rate of **SEN** (special educational needs) pupils – 18.1% compared to 14.5% across the North West.

Blackburn with Darwen has a lower rate of **NEET** (not in education, employment or training) 16-17 year olds compared to Lancashire.

Blackburn with Darwen has a higher **attainment 8** score compared to all Lancashire (average grade across 8 core subjects).

Blackburn with Darwen has fewer secondary **school exclusions** than the North West, and a similar rate of primary exclusions.

The **elderly** are more susceptible to cybercrime (including **fraud** and **online scams**) anti-social behaviour and health related injuries.

The growing elderly population coupled with **technological advancements**/changes and the impact of **COVID** (more people reliant on technology than ever before) has led to an increased risk of the elderly becoming a victim of these sorts of crimes.

The impacts of COVID have affected not just the elderly, but the wider community. With young people and the vulnerable likely feeling the effects of **isolation**, increasing the risk of them being coerced into **exploitation**.

The **economic downturn** and **deprivation** as a result of COVID has **reduced living standards** for many, and again links to the possibility of more people becoming victims and being exploited.

PROCESS

This profile forms part of the output of the 2022-25 Pan-Lancashire Strategic Assessment – it is accompanied by 13 other profiles covering the Lancashire district authorities and unitary authorities, along with a strategic overview at a pan-Lancashire level. Here you will find more detailed references.

Analysis in this profile is underpinned by the strategic threat matrix, developed on a Lancashire wide footprint and highlighting key threats at a local level. Existing Partnership Intelligence Assessments and local analytical products have been used to provide supporting evidence; additional research and analysis was conducted where necessary.

Consultation with local stakeholders has taken place through local area Consultation Workshops (June 2021).

The data parameters for analysis within this profile (unless otherwise stated) is within the last 3-year period.

For any queries relating to the information and analysis contained within, or underpinning, this profile, please contact the **CSP analyst team using the email address:**

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