

Source: Lancashire JSNA, Sept 19

Blackpool Lower Super Output Area deprivation map. The darker the colour the more deprived the area.

## BLACKPOOL 2021

### STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT LOCAL PROFILE

Blackpool is a unitary authority consisting of 21 wards.

It is a well-known coastal resort and is the smallest Lancashire authority.

The number of people per square kilometre in Blackpool is more than ten times the average in England and Wales.

Health varies compared with the England average.

Blackpool is the **most deprived** district in the Index of Multiple Deprivation against all local authorities in England.

Approximately 26.2% (6,855) of children live in low income families.

**Life expectancy** for both men and women is lower than the England average, and there are also inequalities within the district for the most deprived areas and least deprived – 12.3 years lower for males and 10.1 years lower for women.

**Alcohol** related hospital stays are worse than the England and region average but are decreasing.

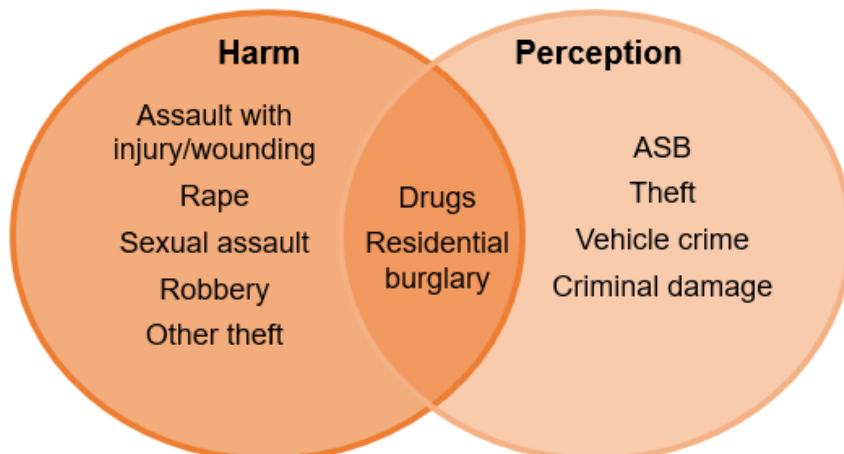
Hospital admissions for **intentional self-harm** are decreasing but are still above the national average, as are suicide rates.

Hospital admissions for **violence** (including sexual violence) are decreasing but 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 Blackpool.

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



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 Blackpool:



- County lines drug dealing in the area.
- Cuckooing linked to county lines groups.
- Exploitation of children and vulnerable drug users to deal drugs.
- Organised crime group (OCG) violence including the use of offensive weapons.
- Firearms enabled OCGs operating in the area.
- Cannabis grows with links to modern day slavery.
- Knife crime linked to OCGs.
- Organised acquisitive criminals involved in the theft of motor vehicles.
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) risk with looked after children placed and managed from out of the area.
- Local children from chaotic homes in areas of deprivation leading to missing from home episodes and risk of CSE. (predominantly females 13-16 years with male offenders 18-25 years).

## ROAD SAFETY

- Blackpool has recorded a 43% reduction in road traffic collision (RTC) casualties compared to the Lancashire rate of 36% (2010 – 2019).
- Blackpool has the highest count and concentration of drink and drug-driving related collisions in Lancashire.
- Blackpool town centre is disproportionately affected by drink and drug-driving related collisions.
- 35% of all killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in Blackpool are pedestrians (2015-2019).
- 69% of child KSIs are pedestrians (2015 – 2019).



## 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**.

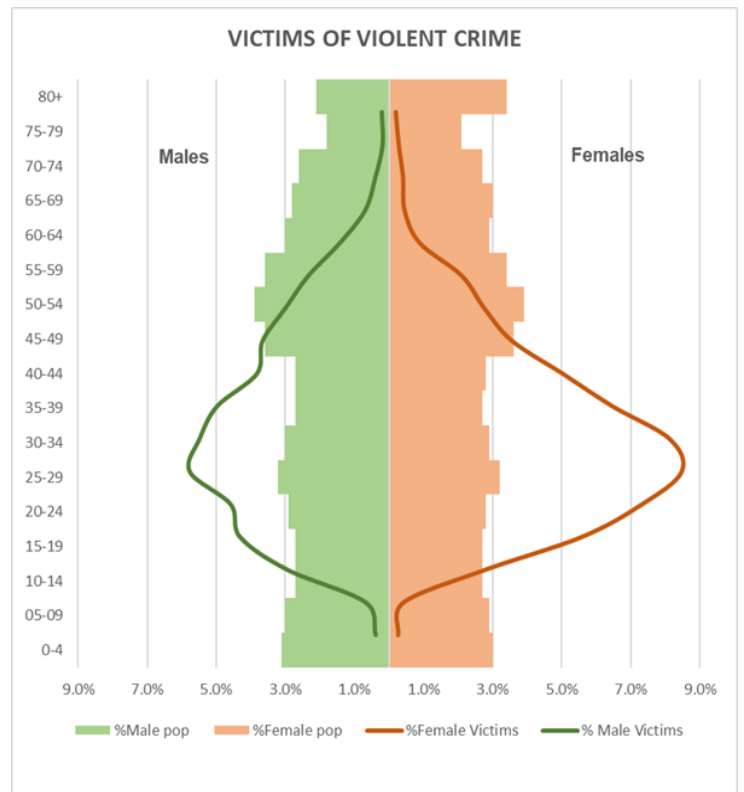
**Domestic Abuse** was a factor in 16% of cases.

**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 15-44 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 Blackpool **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.
- Just over a quarter of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related.
- Assault without injury was the most commonly reported DA crime type in Blackpool, followed by assault with injury.
- The most problematic wards were Claremont, Bloomfield and Talbot.

In Blackpool, over half (59%) 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 Blackpool district population, where 35% make up this category. Therefore, showing an overrepresentation of DA victims within the Urban Adversity category compared to the district population.

## REOFFENDING

The reoffending rate for Blackpool is 30.4%, which is slightly higher than the Lancashire average of 27.8%. (MoJ release May 21).

Previous research has shown that the **gender** split is 84% male, 16% female – consistent with the Lancashire picture.

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 Blackpool in the Lancashire Talking Survey.

The wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were **Bloomfield, Claremont, Talbot** and **Waterloo**.

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

18% of all ASB in Blackpool is **youth related**, which involves groups **congregating**, being **rowdy and abusive**, and causing **other issues** including **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



Blackpool has the highest rate of **drug related deaths** in England for both males and females (22.1 per 100,000 compared to England rate 5.0 per 100,000).

There are an estimated 2,052 **opiate and crack users** in Blackpool.

Over 850 **heroin users** are in **opiate substitute treatment (OST)**.

31% of those experiencing **non-fatal overdose** are under the age of 25 year.

29% of **injecting drug users with bacterial infection** are under the age of 25 years.

The increase in **availability and purity** of heroin, crack cocaine and poly drug use is directly related to **increased harm**, including Organised Crime Group activity, child and adult exploitation, and violence.

Opiate and crack consumers often experience **multiple complex needs** including: mental health, homelessness, and other drug/alcohol misuse. (Source: Emily Davis, Public Health, Blackpool)

Blackpool is part of **Project ADDER** (Addiction, Disruption, Diversion, Enforcement and Recovery), which is a three-year pilot funded by the Home Office and consists of a **task force** to address *supply disruption, enforcement* and *diversion*, along with **recovery and treatment teams** focusing on young people and adults. A local and National evaluation will produce findings from the pilot.

## SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INEQUALITIES

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

Blackpool is the **most deprived** district in England.

**Life expectancy** in Blackpool is 3.4 years lower than the UK average – in the most deprived areas of Blackpool this is 12.3 years lower for men and 10.1 years lower for women.

Blackpool's rate of out of work **benefits claimants** is 11.7% compared to the North West rate of 7% (2020).

20% of Blackpool 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.

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.



Blackpool has a worse than average **exclusion rate compared** to Lancashire, with exclusions predominantly relating to '*persistent disruptive behaviour and verbal abuse/threatening behaviour towards adults*'.

Blackpool has the lowest **attainment 8 score** in Lancashire. (average grade across 8 core subjects)

**Homelessness** continues to be an issue within Blackpool, increasing the risk of vulnerability. **Begging** is an issue also, with individuals at risk for exploitation and criminality.

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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