

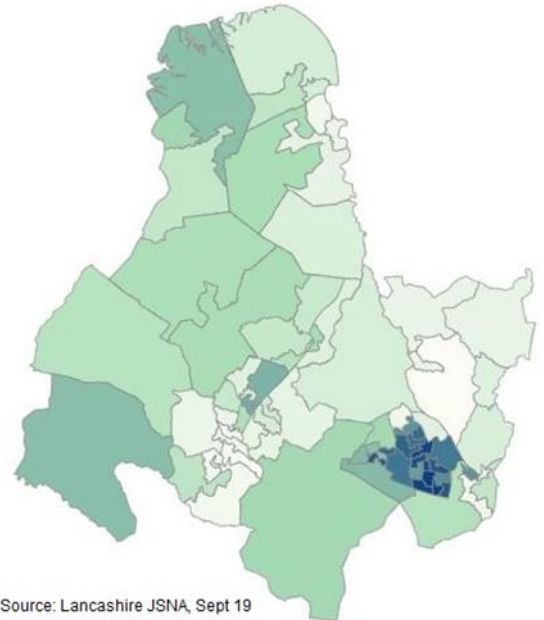
WEST LANCASHIRE 2025

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT LOCAL PROFILE

West Lancashire is an authority in Lancashire that contains 15 wards.

West Lancashire has fewer number of people per square kilometre than the North West and England average.

It is estimated that the population has increased by approximately 5% since 2018.



Source: Lancashire JSNA, Sept 19

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

Health varies compared with the England average.

West Lancashire is ranked 178/317 in the **Index of Multiple Deprivation** against all local authorities in England.

Approximately 20.5% (4,003) of children live in relative low-income families.

Life expectancy for men is similar to the England average, whilst for women it is lower. There are inequalities within the district between the most deprived areas and the least deprived – 9.8 years lower for males and 8.0 years lower for women.

Alcohol related hospital admissions have been decreasing in the last 5 years and are significantly better than the region and England average.

Hospital admissions for **intentional self-harm** are decreasing but are slightly above the national average. **Suicide rates** are also above the national average.

Hospital admissions for **violence** (including sexual violence) are lower than the region and national statistics and are the 5th lowest across Lancashire when looking at rate per population.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour headlines

There has been a 9.1% increase in all crime from 2021 to 2024.

West Lancashire had the 2nd lowest rate of all crime per 1000 population across the county in 2024.

There has been a reduction in burglary during 2024. West Lancashire ranks 9/14 across the county for volume.

West Lancashire has rates lower than the Lancashire average for burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, and violent crime, and has the lowest rate across the county for vehicle crime, and 2nd lowest for violent crime.

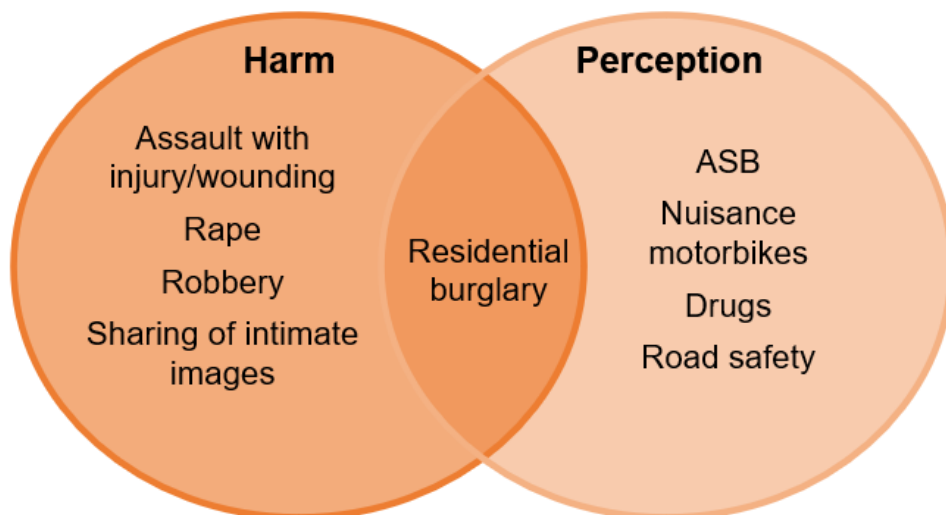
The reoffending rate for all crime is 18.2% and is below the national rate of 26.3%.

Anti-Social Behaviour incidents – West Lancashire was 4th lowest by volume and 2nd lowest by rate per 1000 population across Lancashire in 2024 and is below the Lancashire rate.

HARM AND PERCEPTION

Office for National Statistics crime severity tool was used to calculate the level of **harm** of crime in West Lancashire.

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



Residential burglary is of concern to the public and results in a high level of harm.

RISK AND THREATS

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

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- County Lines/violence related to drug supply
- Cyber crime
- Domestic abuse
- Exploitation of young people – child criminal exploitation
- Fraud
- Gang crime
- Homicide
- Knife Crime
- Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking
- Road Safety

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME



As part of Operation Genga (partnership approach to tackling organised crime) the following were highlighted as **key issues** of **Serious Organised Crime** for West Lancashire:

- County Lines OCGs (organised crime groups) travelling from Liverpool to supply Class A drugs.
- Cuckooing of home address involved in the supply of drugs.
- Exploitation of vulnerable drug users and children to deal Class A drugs.
- OCG violence which often includes weapons and firearms.
- Modern day slavery in farms across West Lancashire (West Balkan cannabis cultivation).
- Organised acquisitive crime from cross border OCG's.

ROAD SAFETY

- The number of collisions (all severities) have reduced since 2022 and are at their lowest since the pandemic. There were 157 collisions in 2024.

In 2024:

- 42% of all casualties were involved in collisions on roads with speed limits of 30mph or less.
- 35% of casualties were involved in collisions on roads with speed limits of 60mph+ which is above the Lancashire rate of 21%.
- 58% of all casualties were male, 42% female.
- The peak age groups for casualties were 15-29 years.
- 18% (n=12) of all killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in West Lancashire during 2024 were motorcyclists, which is above the Lancashire rate of 15%.
- 8% (n=5) of KSI casualties in West Lancashire were pedestrians.



VICTIM PROFILE

Where **gender** details were recorded 55% of all victims of crime were female and 45% were male.

75% of all victims were aged under 50 years old.

The most prevalent group of victims were **White British**, aged **30-44 years**.

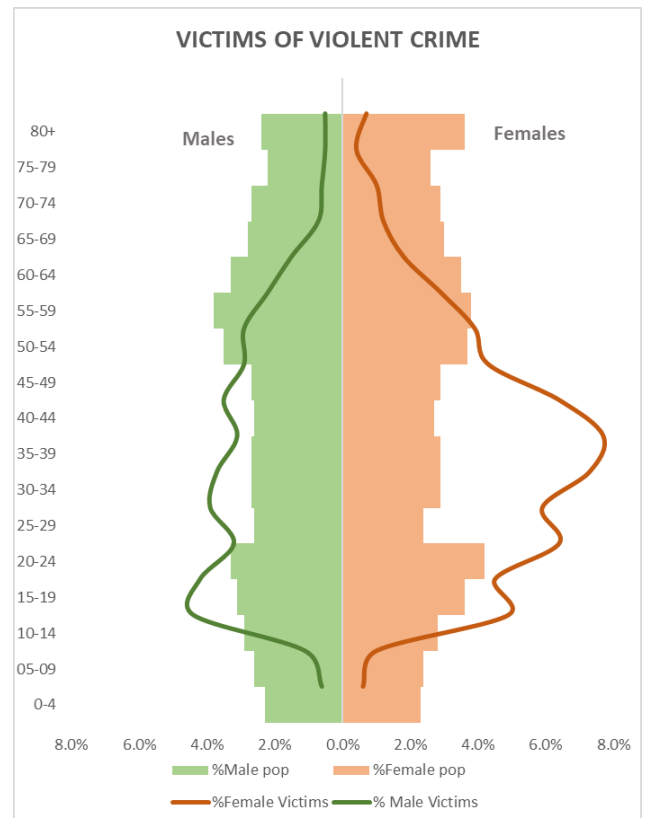
Domestic Abuse was a factor in 20% of all recorded crime.

Assault with injury and assault without injury were the most common recorded offence type for both males and females.

There is an overrepresentation of **male** victims of **violent crime** aged 10-44 compared to the overall male population breakdown for those age groups.

A greater disproportionality can be seen amongst **female** victims of **violent crime** aged 10-49 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 West Lancashire **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 74% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 26%.
- The peak age group was 30-39 years.
- Victims were predominantly White British (93%).
- 25% of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related.
- Assault without injury, assault with injury, and stalking were the most reported DA crime types in West Lancashire.
- In 2024 the highest number of offences were reported in the Skelmersdale South ward, followed by Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre, Old Skelmersdale, and Skelmersdale North wards.

In West Lancashire, 32% of all domestic abuse victims fell within the “Financially Stretched” category (ACORN, Jan22-Dec24), which key characteristics include:

- Age 16-44
- House – semi-detached or terraced
- Children at home – 1+
- House tenure – social renting



This is disproportionate when compared to the West Lancashire district population, where 25% make up this category. Therefore, showing an over representation of DA victims within the Financially Stretched category compared to the district population.

REOFFENDING

The reoffending rate for West Lancashire is 18.2%, which is below the Lancashire rate of 28.1% and the national rate of 26.3%. (MoJ release Jan 25).

Previous cohorts have shown that the **gender** split is 85% male, 15% female across Lancashire. Males account for 90%+ of reoffenders in West Lancashire.

The ethnicity of 97% of repeat offenders is white.

Peak age groups are between **18-34 years** – over 60% of all reoffenders are within these age ranges.

Peak crime types fall within the **theft** and **violence against the person** categories.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features as one of the primary concerns for the people of West Lancashire in the Lancashire Talking Survey. Annual totals of reported ASB have been reducing in recent years.

In 2024, the wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were **Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre, Ormskirk West, Skelmersdale South, and Skelmersdale North** – these wards account for 48% of ASB across the district.

- 15% of incidents were **noise nuisance**.
- 17% of incidents were **neighbour disputes**.
- 19% of incidents were **youth related**.
- 8% were **moto nuisance** related.

Peak locations include in and around The Concourse, the University, and residential addresses.



SUBSTANCE MISUSE



For young people in Lancashire, **Cannabis** is the primary substance, followed by alcohol use, and nicotine.

The gender split for young people in treatment is 65% male and 35% female.

For adults in treatment the gender split is consistent with the England average – 66% male, 34% female.

In 2023/24 58% of adults in treatment were aged 30-49 years, with a further 30% aged 50+ years.

For adults, the main drugs of concern are **heroin/opiates** and alcohol. There are also significant levels of use of cocaine powder and crack cocaine, whilst cannabis is widely used as a secondary or tertiary drug. Legal and illicit use of **benzodiazepines** is also noted – commonly linked with mental health issues.

Of the adults that required substance misuse treatment following **release from prison**, 63% successfully engaged in community-based structured treatment, compared to the national average of 47%.

In 2023/24 49% of people in treatment showed substantial progress in their treatment – comparing favourably with the England average of 47%.

SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INEQUALITIES

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

West Lancashire is ranked 178th **most deprived** district in England.

Life expectancy in West Lancashire is similar for males and lower for females than the UK average.

The **rate of employment** (85.9%) is the highest across Lancashire and has remained similar over the last 5-year period. It is above both the region (73.2%) and national rate (75.7%).

West Lancashire has the 4th lowest rate of **claimant count** (2.8%) across Lancashire and is also lower than the North West (4.4%) and UK (4.1%) rate. This count includes people on Universal Credit who are required to seek work and be available for work (2024).

Homelessness – households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act is significantly better than the region and national rate but is increasing (2023/24).



West Lancashire has the 7th highest rate of pupils achieving the **Key Stage 2** (aged 11 years) expected levels of **reading, writing and mathematics** across Lancashire, and is above the Lancashire average.

Across all districts in Lancashire, West Lancashire has the 6th lowest **attainment 8** score (average grade across 8 core subjects, 15–16-year-olds) and is lower the region and national rates.

West Lancashire (2.8%) has a lower proportion of **NEET** (not in education, employment, or training) 16-17-year-olds than the Lancashire rate (3.1%), and is 2nd lowest across the county.

West Lancashire has the 2nd lowest rate of 16–20-year-olds with no qualifications across the county.

West Lancashire has the 7th lowest rate of **child obesity** (10–11-year-olds) across Lancashire and is lower than the region and national rate.

Overweight prevalence in adults (18+ years) is similar to the regional and national rate and ranks 6th highest across Lancashire.

Physically active adults (19+ years) are lower than the region and national rate and 7th highest in Lancashire (2022/23).

19% of the population in West Lancashire are deemed **disabled under the Equality Act** – 7th lowest in the county.

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 some of the key threats at a local level. Existing Partnership Intelligence Assessments and local analytical products have been used to provide supporting evidence.

Consultation with local stakeholders has taken place through local area Consultation Workshops (June 2024).

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

Sources for this product include:

[Lancashire Insight - Lancashire County Council](#)

[Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

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