
A Picture of Crime in Cumbria 2005/06

Overview

This briefing presents details of crime counts, by offence type, in Cumbria and its 6 districts. Comparisons are made to national crime rates, and crime rates in the North West region.

Crime in England and Wales is measured using two sources – the British Crime Survey (BCS) and Police recorded crime (RC).

The British Crime Survey is a survey of a representative cross sample of people in England and Wales, which measures the amount of crime by asking people about crimes they may have experienced, and their attitudes and perceptions towards crime and other Home Office issues.

The survey is an alternative to police records. It is not affected by reported crimes or changes to the way crimes are recorded as it includes crimes which aren't reported to the police.

For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>

Police recorded crime – this data is collected by police and covers crimes which are reported and recorded by them. Police recorded crime provides measures of trends and local crime pattern analysis; and forms the basis of an important indicator of police workload.

For more information, please follow this link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/recordedcrime1.html>

Key Findings

- Overall, crime in Cumbria is below the national average.
- The level of worry about burglary and violent crime in Cumbria was lower than the national average.
- Levels of confidence in the local police were higher than the national average.
- Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, there was a significant reduction in the rate of violent crime in Cumbria.
- Cumbria recorded the lowest rates of total recorded crime, burglary and theft of and from vehicles in the North West region.
- Carlisle district has the highest rates of crime in the county. South Lakeland has the lowest crime rates.
- Criminal damage, offences against a person and theft have the highest rates of crime by offence type throughout the county.
- Robbery and sexual offences have the lowest crime rates throughout the county.

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National Picture – England and Wales

(Source: Home Office, National Statistics, 2005-06)

- Nationally, crime continues to fall. The risk of becoming a victim of crime is at its lowest (23% in 2005-06) for over 10 years.
- In 1995, crime in England and Wales peaked. Since then, according to the BCS, crime has fallen by 44%. In particular there have been large falls in burglary (down 59%), vehicle thefts (down 60%) and violent crimes (down 43%).
- In 2005-06 police recorded 5.6 million crimes. From 2004-05 police recorded crimes decreased by 1%.
- The BCS estimated that there were 10.9 million crimes experienced by people over the age of 16, compared to 8.4 million in 1995.
- Men aged between 16-24 were most at risk of becoming victims of violent crime
- 12.6% of men aged between 16-24 experienced a violent crime, compared to the national average of 3.4% (all adults).
- Older people were least likely to be victims of violence or crime.
- Those who live in large cities are more at risk of crime than those who live in rural areas. The risks of becoming a victim of crime in rural areas is around 50% of those elsewhere.
- The overall opinion of the public is that they are becoming less worried about crime as it has fallen (from 1995). However, 1 in 3 people believe there is more crime now compared with 2 years ago. People have more positive perceptions about crime in their local area. There has been a fall in the amount of people who believe crime has increased in their area.

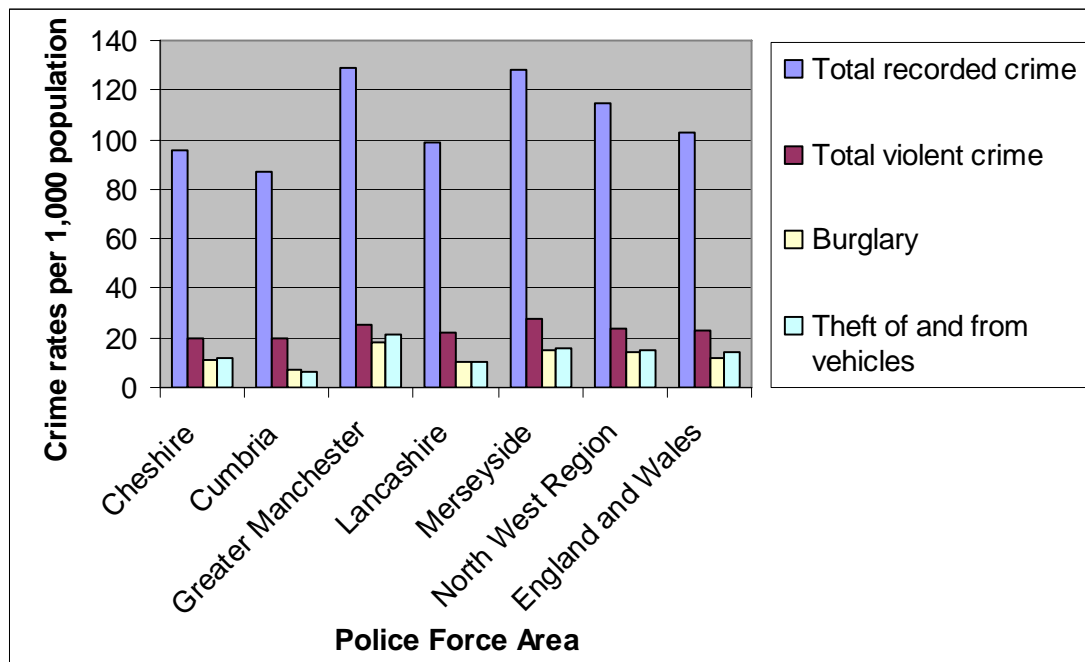
North West Picture

(Source: Home Office, 2005-06)

- Overall recorded crime in the North West (115 offences per 1000 population) was above the national rate (103 per 1000 population). In particular, criminal damage (29 offences per 1000 population) was higher than the national rate (22 per 1000 population).
- Between 2004-05 and 2005-06 there has been a 6% decrease in burglary and a 2% increase in criminal damage.
- In 2004-05 and 2005-06, counts of burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime were similar to the national average. Household crime and personal crime decreased.
- Cumbria recorded the lowest rates of total recorded crime, burglary and theft of and from vehicles in the region, and these rates were below the national average.
- Between 2004-05 and 2005-06, a significant reduction in the rate of violent crime was seen in Cumbria. The risk of victimisation of personal crime in Cumbria was lower than average.
- The rates of household crime and personal crime in Cumbria and Merseyside were lower than the national average.

Crime in the North West Region, England and Wales

Figure 1. Rates of recorded crime by police force area, 2005 - 06



(Source: Crime in England and Wales 2005/06: North West Region)

Total recorded crime in Cumbria is the lowest in the North West region, and in England and Wales, at a rate of 87 counts (per 1000 population). There were 115 counts in the North West region, and 103 counts in England and Wales. Greater Manchester had the worst counts of crime at a rate of 129.

Merseyside has the worst rates of violent crime (28 per 1000 population), compared to Cumbria and Cheshire (20), the North West (24) and England & Wales (23).

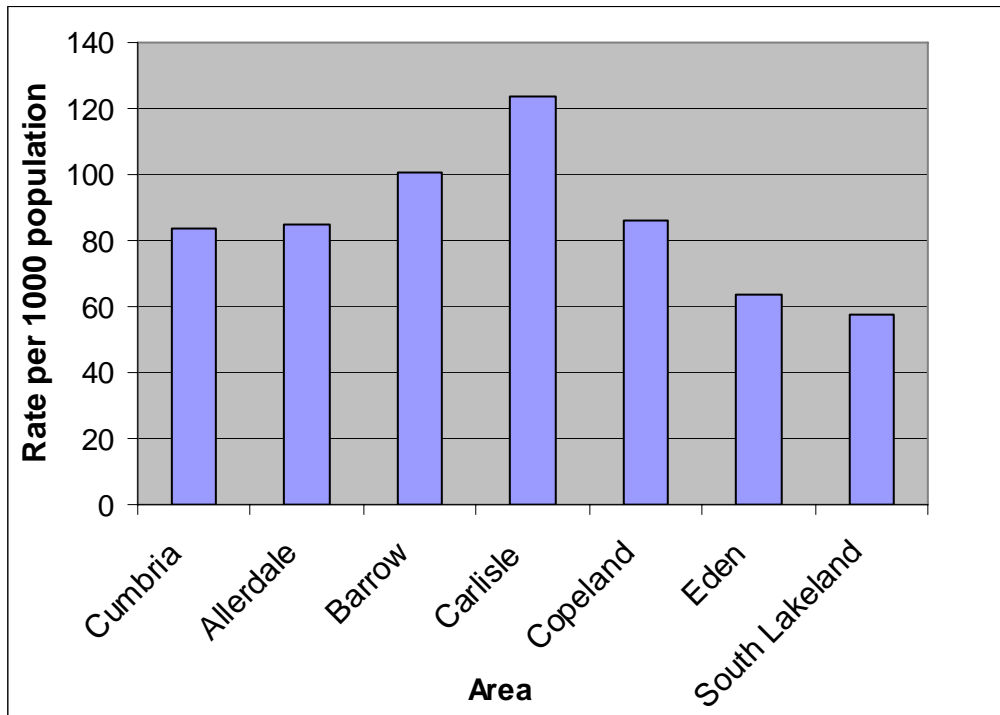
Cumbria has the lowest rates of burglary (7 per 1000 population) compared to a rate of 18 in Greater Manchester, 14 in the North West and 12 in England & Wales.

Rates of theft of and from a vehicle are also the lowest in Cumbria (6 per 1000 population) compared to 15 in then North West and 14 in England & Wales. Greater Manchester has the worst rate at 21 per 1000.

Crime in Cumbria

The following graphs are based upon reported crimes/incidents between 01/10/05 to 30/09/06

Figure 2. Total Counts of Crime in Cumbria and its districts

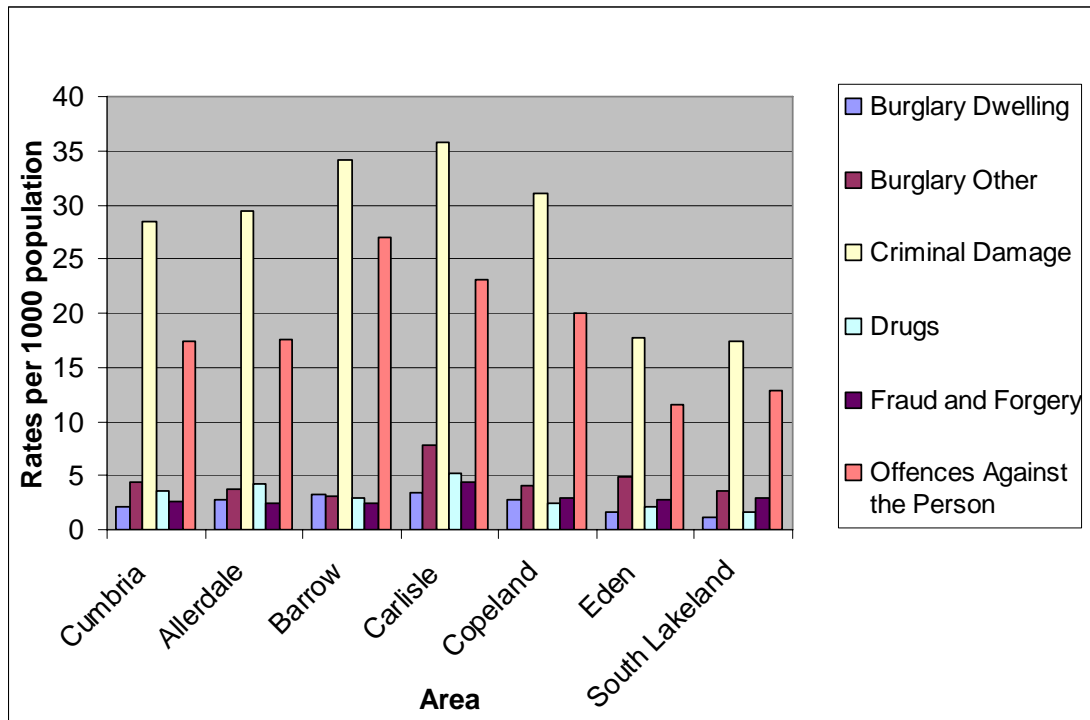


(Source: Cumbria Partnership Support (CuPS) /Cumbria Constabulary)

The Carlisle district has the worst counts of crime at a rate of 123.8 per 1000, followed by Barrow (100.4). South Lakeland has the lowest counts of crime (57.7) followed by Eden (63.8).

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Figure 3. Counts of Crime in Cumbria and its districts by offence type

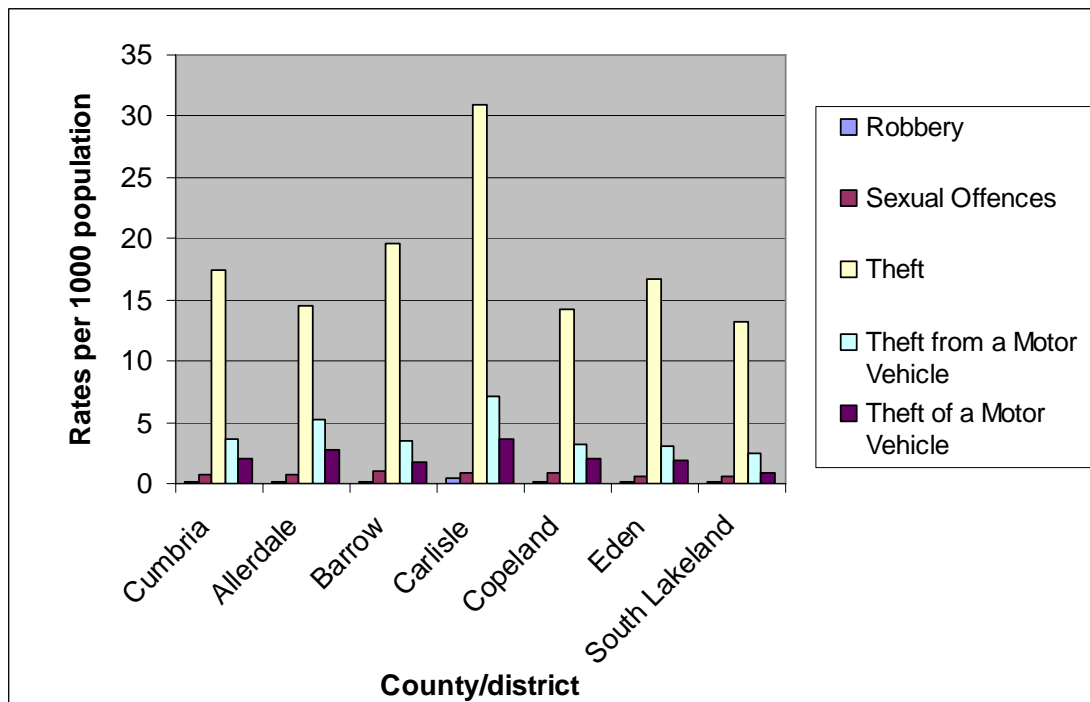


Carlisle has the highest rates of burglary, criminal damage, drugs, and fraud and forgery.

Barrow has the highest rates of offences against a person at a rate of 27 per 1000 population.

South Lakeland and Eden have significantly lower rates.

Figure 4. Counts of Crime in Cumbria and its districts by offence type (continued)



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Carlisle has the worst rate of robbery at 0.4 per 1000 population. Allerdale and South Lakeland have the lowest rates at 0.1.

Copeland has the highest rate of sexual offences at 0.9. All rates of this offence type are relatively low. Eden and South Lakeland have the lowest rates at 0.6, just below the county average of 0.7.

Carlisle has the worst rates of theft at 30.9. South Lakeland has a significantly lower rate of 13.2, lower than the county rate of 17.4.

Carlisle has the worst rates of theft from a motor vehicle (7.1) and theft of a motor vehicle (3.7). South Lakeland has the lowest rates at 2.4 and 0.8.

Perceptions and fear of crime

The Quality of Life Survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute in Autumn 2006. Over 4,000 Cumbrian residents were surveyed. Various questions were asked around crime and safety, including those who have been victims of crime; how safe people feel in their local area; how important it is in making an area a good place to live; what types of crime are considered to be the biggest problem; and if levels of crime has got better or worse in their local area. The results of these particular questions are summarised as follows.

Fear of crime and becoming a victim of crime is quite evenly divided throughout the county at a total of 49%. The fear of crime is most prominent in the Carlisle district at 61%, and less prominent in Eden at 35%.

The survey reveals that 12% of Cumbrian's have been a **victim of crime** in the last year. This is higher in Barrow at 16% and in Carlisle at 14%. Victim's of crime have a propensity to be those aged between 25 – 34 years. 20% of people in this age band have been victims of crime, compared to 6% of those aged 65 and over.

Results county wide show that the people of Cumbria consider levels of crime to be important in making an area **a good place to live**. 61% of people living in the Carlisle district consider it to be important; 56% in Allerdale; 54% in Barrow; 47% in Copeland; 57% in Eden; and 55% in South Lakeland. All almost more than half the proportion of those surveyed.

With reference to the types of crime that people consider to be the **biggest problem** in their local area then 'parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children' is considered to be a 'serious problem' at a county level of 21%. Key concerns are around anti-social behaviour and substance abuse. 76% of people consider 'people sleeping rough on the streets or in public places' to be 'not a problem'.

Only 5% of Cumbrian's feel their **local area has got better** in the last 3 years. 67% believe it has remained the same and 17% believe it **has become worse**. A negative change is more prominent in Copeland at 22% followed by Carlisle at 20%. Residents in Allerdale and South Lakeland have had a more positive outlook.

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76% of Cumbrian's **feel safe** outdoors after dark, compared to 21% of those who do not feel safe. Levels of feeling unsafe are more prominent in Carlisle at 33%, compared to those in South Lakeland at just 11%. 85% of people in South Lakeland feel safe, and 82% in Eden. 25% of women feel more unsafe than men.

For more detailed information and to view the results of the survey, please follow this link: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/consultation/2006qolsurvey.asp> or contact Kieran Barr on 01228 606308 or Kieran.barr@cumbriacc.gov.uk

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Data/Information Source:

Cumbria Partnership (CuPS)
Home Office
Office of National Statistics
British Crime Survey
Police Performance Assessment 2005/06
Quality of Life Survey 2006 (Cumbria County Council)

Further Information

For further help or information please visit our website

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/factsandfigures/default.asp>

Alternatively, please contact us by email:

factsandfigures@cumbriacc.gov.uk

You can also contact us by telephone on:

01228 606510