

Community Safety Trends and Performance:

Update April 2003

Introduction

The following pages describes progress on performance measures related to areas of work contained in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2002-05. Monthly trend data and comparisons with the same period in the previous year are presented.

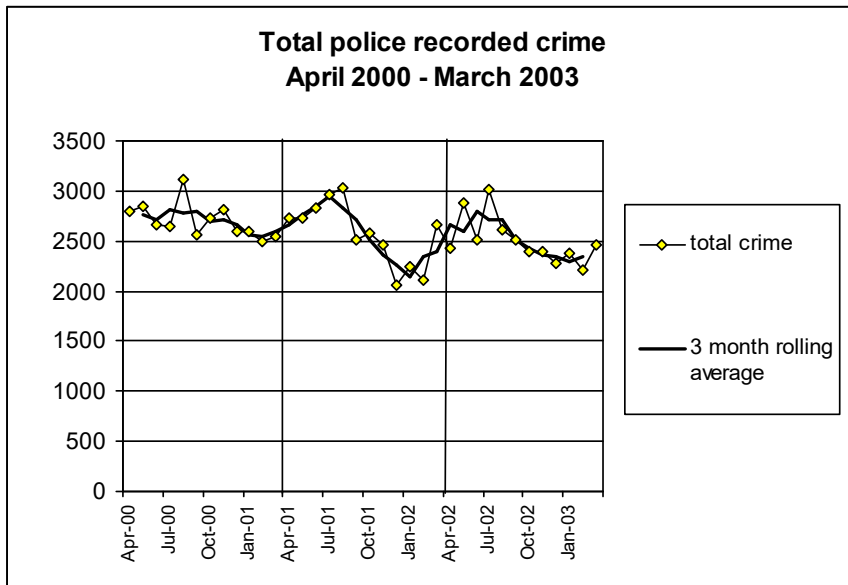
Police data are taken as a 'snapshot' from a 'live' database in which the data are constantly changing. To see beyond some of this statistical instability, three month rolling averages are presented alongside the raw monthly trend data. These enable us to gain a clearer view of trends. (These rolling averages are calculated as the average of the current month, the previous month and the following month.)

Where numerical targets have been set, progress against these is also reported. The findings are summarised below.

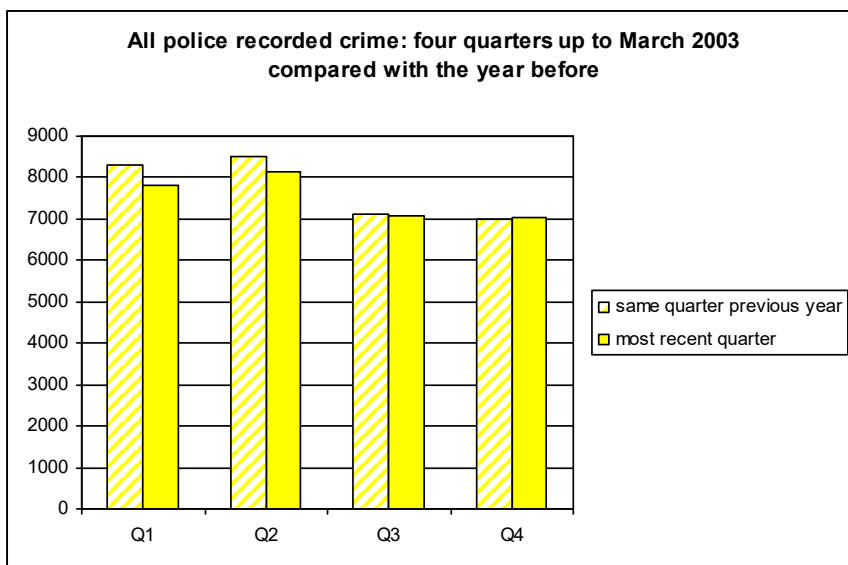
Summary of performance against targets

	target 2002/03 (against 2001/02 baseline)	status at end of 2002/03	change since last report	comments	page
Total crime	2% reduction	2.8% reduction	better	Seasonal pattern – decline since summer peak	2
Violence crime in a public place	0% increase (PSA target)	0.6% reduction	better	March levels as high as last summer, after relatively low levels during winter	3
Public place assaults (A&E)	0% increase (PSA target)	3.2% increase	better	Relatively low levels January/February after peak in November/December	4
Domestic burglary	2% reduction	6.0% incr	worse	Rising trend since November 2002	5
Vehicle crime	6% reduction	3.4% increase	better	Recent improvement in performance, but insufficient to meet target	6
Domestic violence	80% arrest rate	77.6%	better	Data fluctuating, but showing no consistent trend over last 18 months	7
Racist crimes and incidents	49% detection rate	40.6%	better	Clear seasonal pattern (higher levels of crime in summer)	8
Homo/transphobic crimes and incidents	no numerical target set	-	-	Low number of reports and variable data, but apparent declining trend since April 2001	9
Robbery	no numerical target set	-	-	No consistent pattern	10

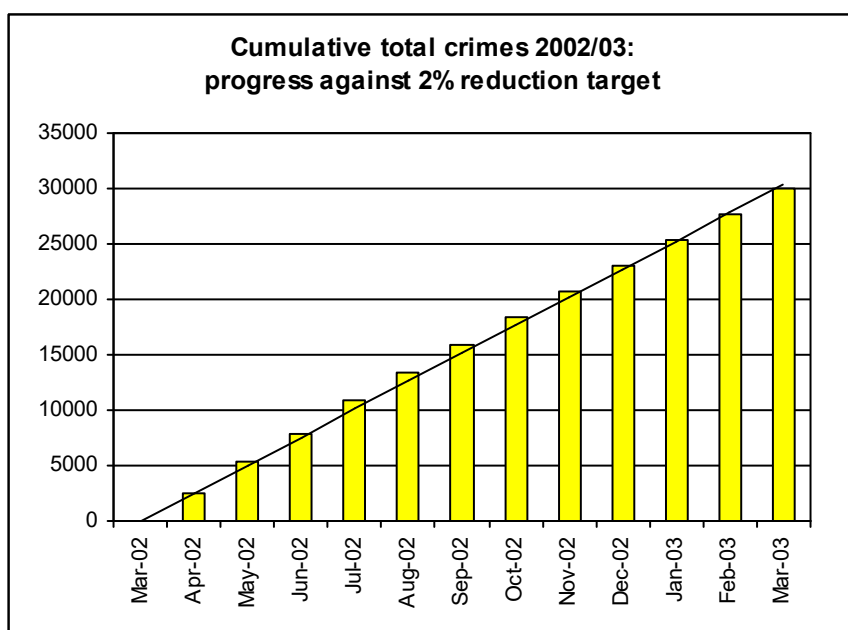
Total Police Recorded Crime



- There is continued evidence of a seasonal pattern.

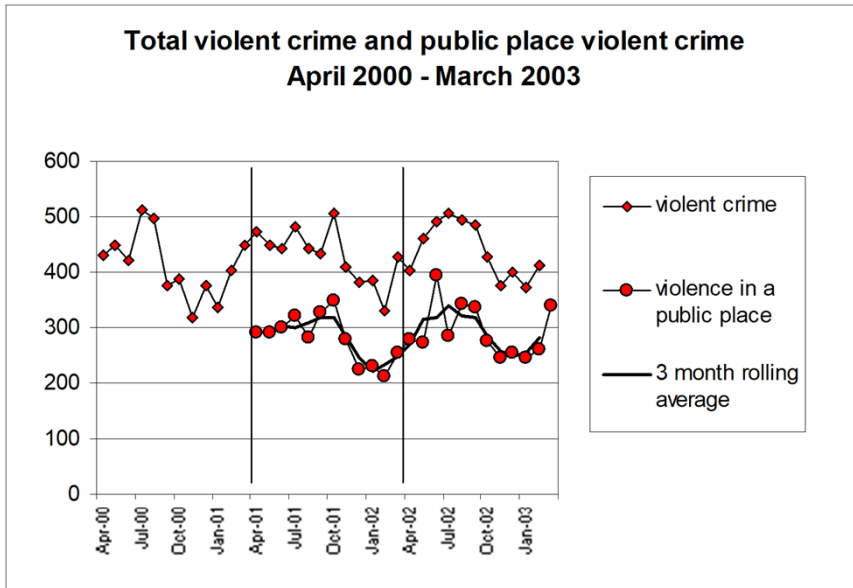


- The last two quarters have had very similar levels of crime to the same quarters in the previous year. The reduction achieved was due to progress made during the first half of the year.



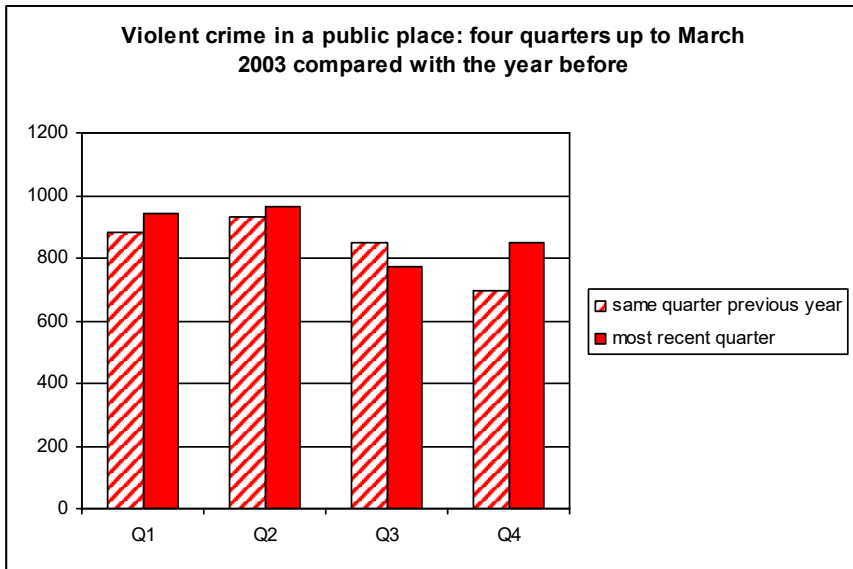
- Crimes have reduced by 2.8% compared with 2001/02.

Police recorded Violent Crime in a Public Place

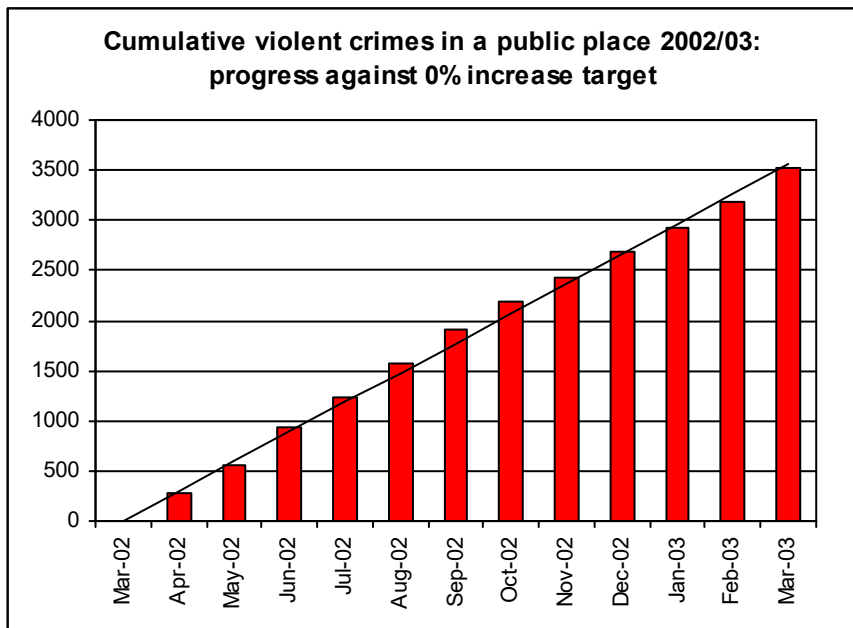


- Public place violent crimes remained low during the winter months, but March data have shown a steep rise to levels similar to those of last summer.

(Police recorded violent crime data have been affected by interim violent crime recording practices in place between Nov 2001 and June 2002. This had the effect of lowering police recorded figures by an average of 34 violent crimes in a public place and 41 violent crimes of all types per month over this period. Adjustments to recorded crimes from April to June have been accounted for in June and July data and therefore, the monthly figures are not reliable between April and July 2002. However, the cumulative total during 2002/03 is correct.)

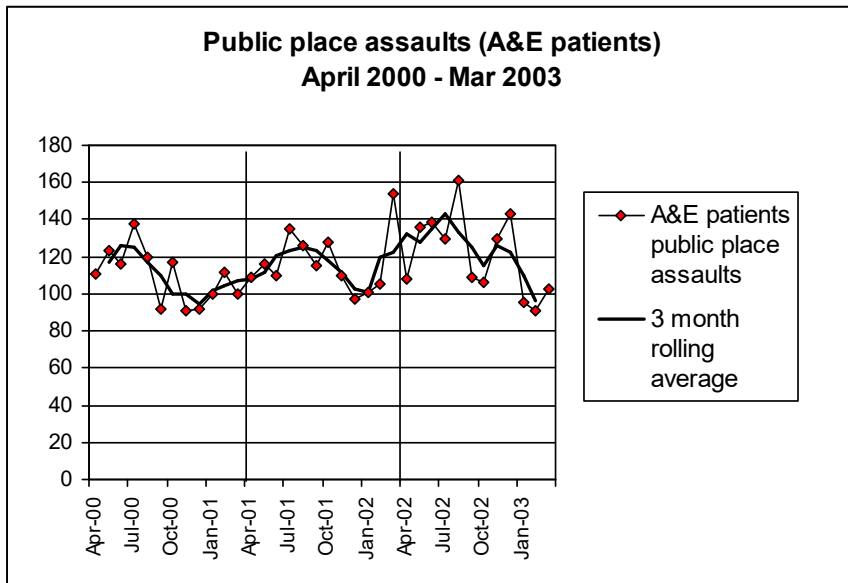


- The increase during the last quarter compared to the same quarter in 2001/02 is mainly a reflection of enhanced levels during March 2003.

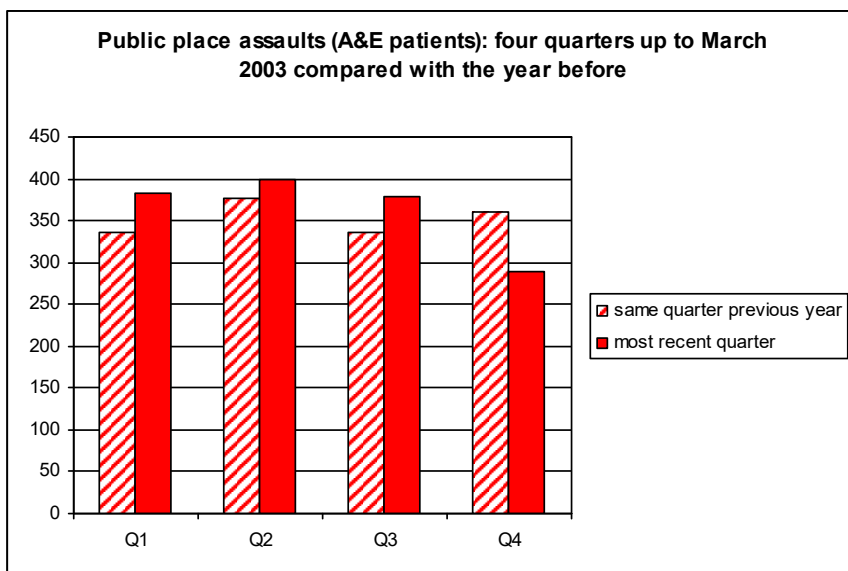


- Violent crimes in a public place will have reduced by 0.6% by the end of 2002/03 if current trends continue. The position has improved since the previous report.

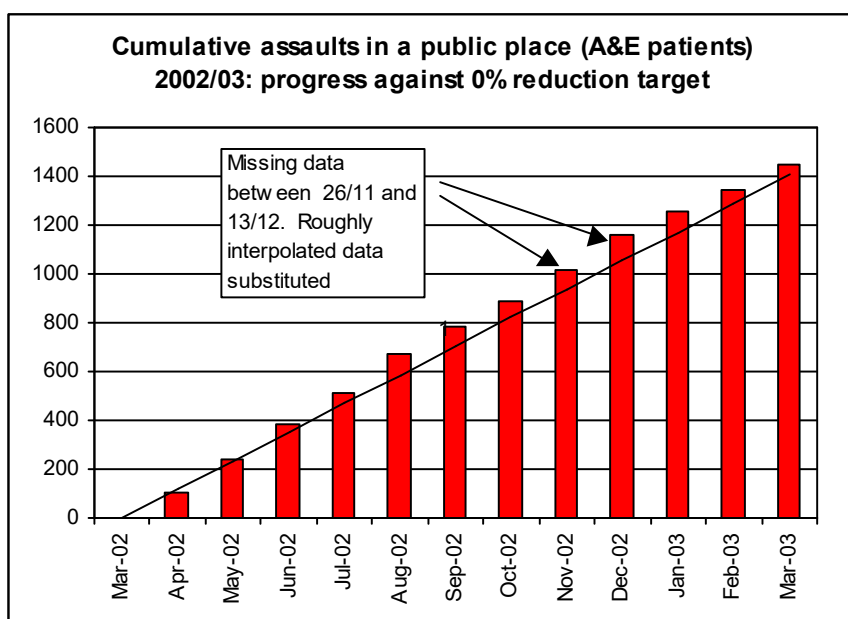
Assaults in a Public Place (A&E Patients)



- A&E data for November and especially December showed a peak that was not present in the previous year. However, January to March figures have dropped again.
- Note: due an interruption in computer facilities at A&E, between 26/11 and 13/12, November and December data have been crudely interpolated for these two months

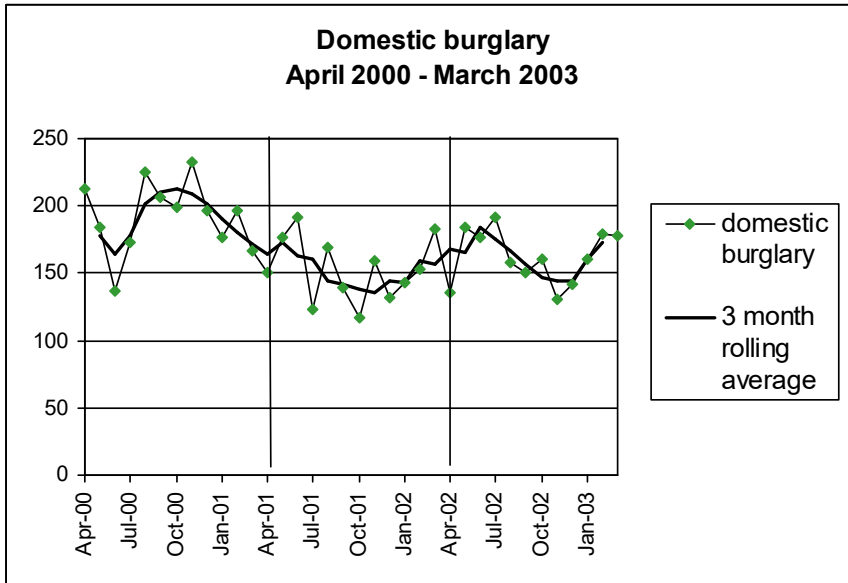


- Since April 2002 quarterly data had been consistently higher than the same quarters in the previous year, but the fourth quarter in 2002/03 has shown a good reduction on the fourth quarter in 2001/02.
- See note on missing data above

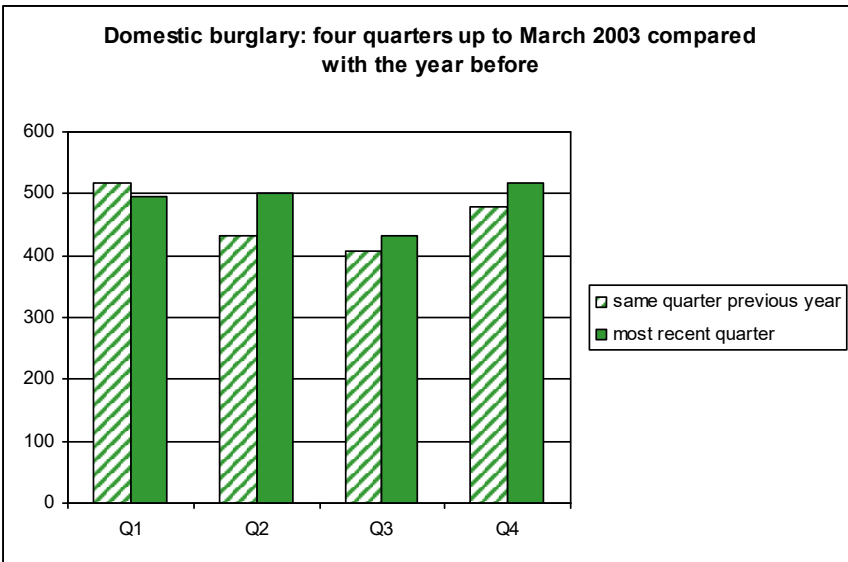


- Cases of assault in a public place attending A&E increased by 3.2% in 2002/03 compared with 2001/02.

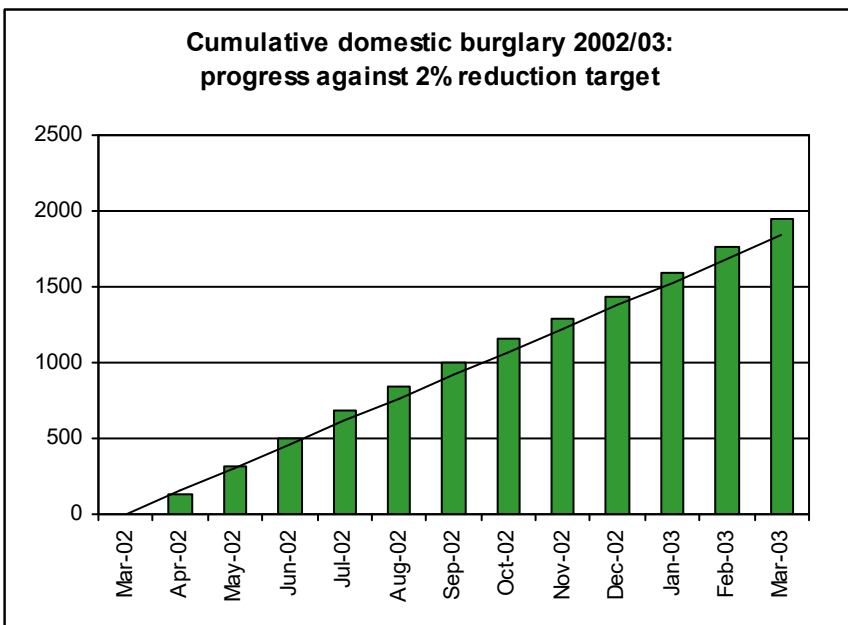
Domestic Burglary



- Although domestic burglaries were declining during the first part of the year, they have risen again since November 2003.

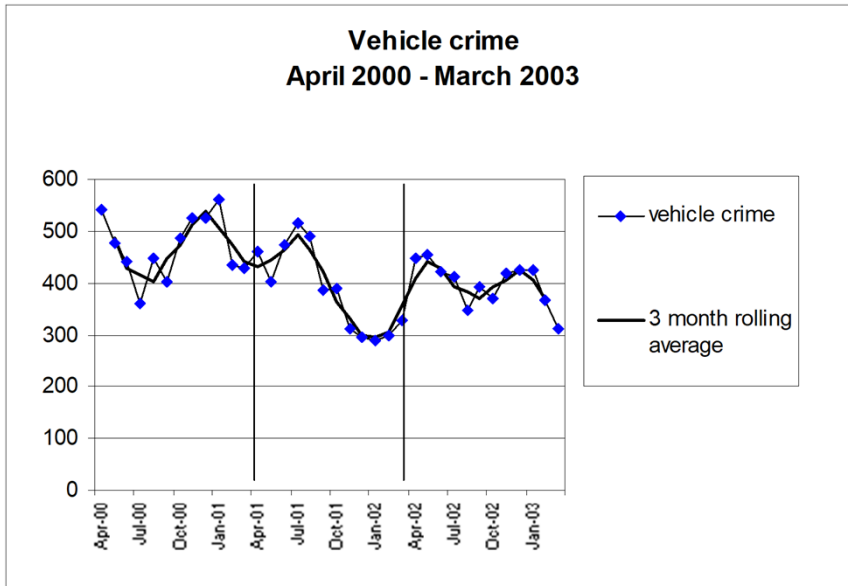


- There were more burglaries during the second, third and fourth quarters of 2002/03 than there were in the same quarters of 2001/02.

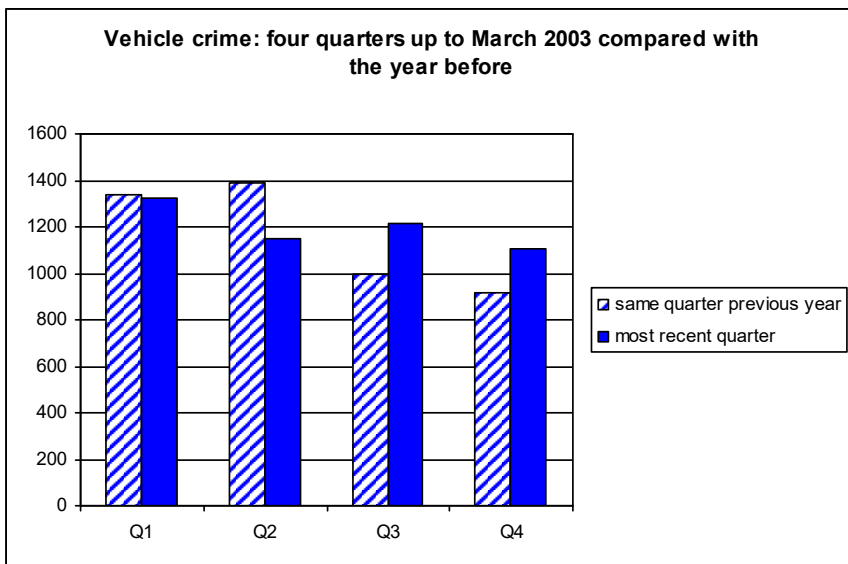


- Domestic burglaries have increased by 6.0% in 2002/03 in 2002/03.

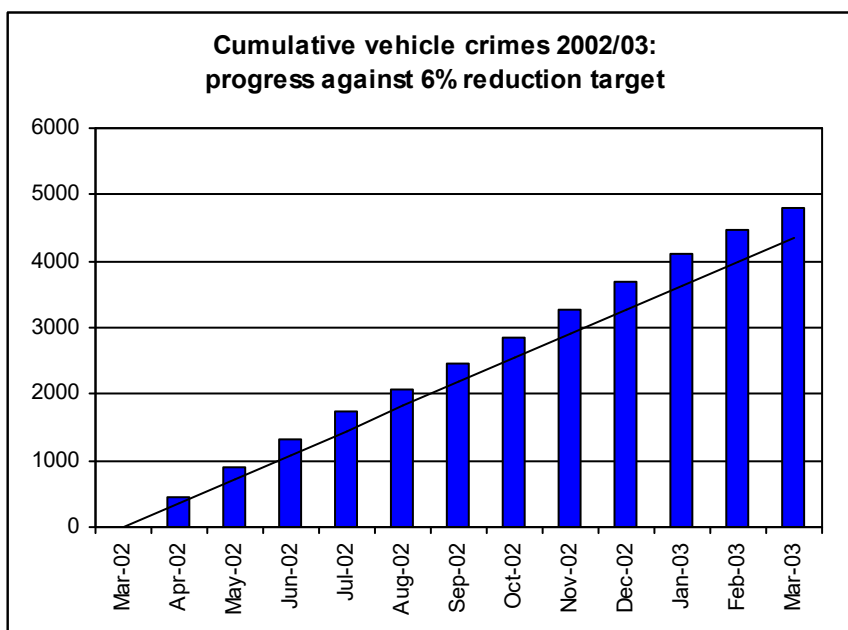
Vehicle Crime



- Since the steep rise in vehicle crime following the winter months on 2001/02, there has been no consistent pattern, but data for March 2003 have reached their lowest level since winter 2001/02.

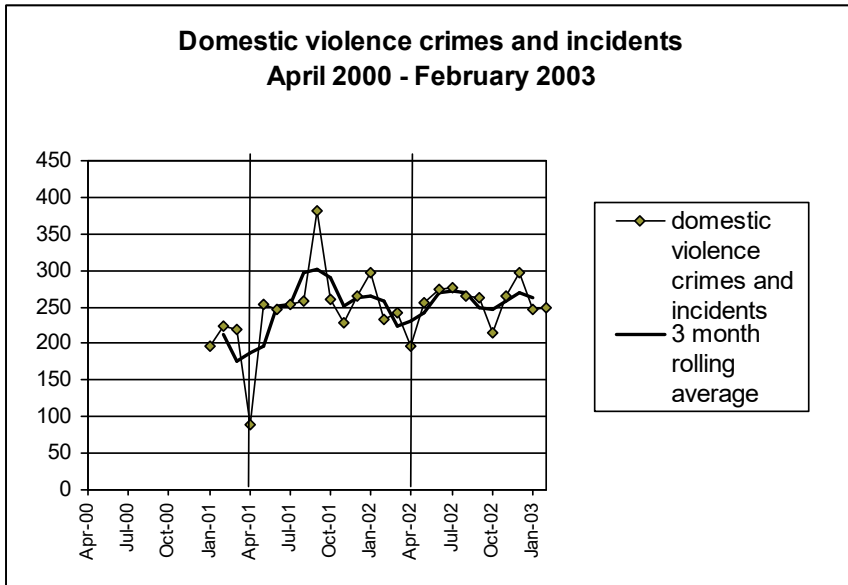


- There were more vehicle crimes the fourth quarter of 2002/03 than in the same quarter in 2001/02, although performance in the most recent quarter was better than in the rest of the year.

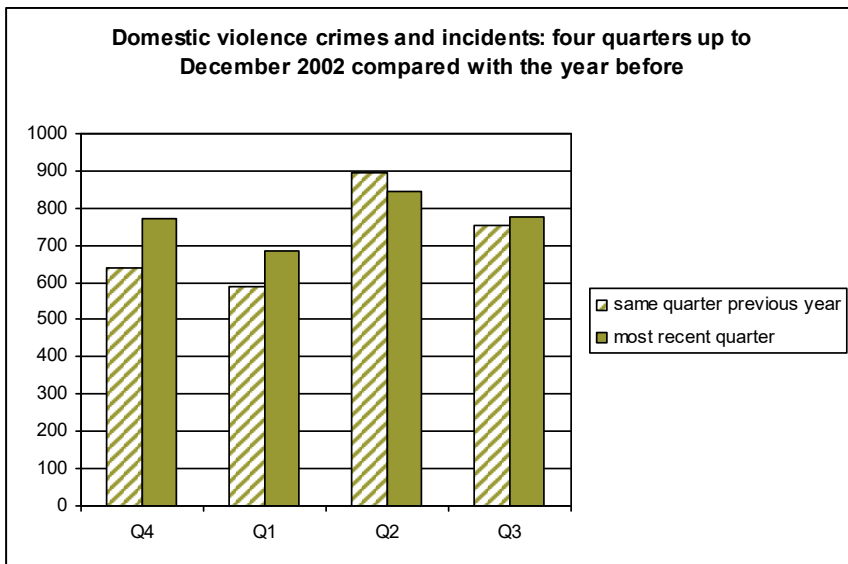


- Vehicle crimes have increased by 3.4% in 2002/03 compared to the 2001/02.

Domestic Violence

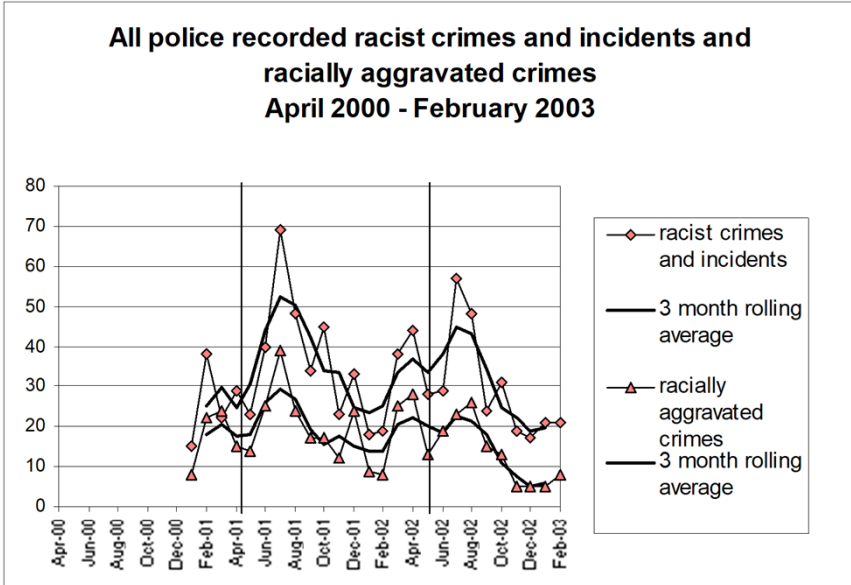


- Data over the last 18 months have fluctuated. There has been no overall trend over this period.

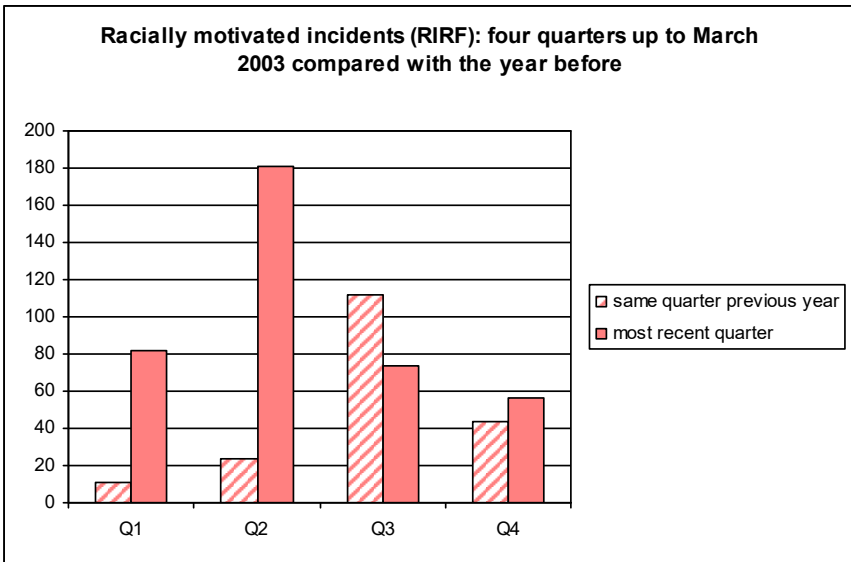


- A seasonal pattern has been evident shows up quite clearly in the quarterly data with the lowest levels occurring between April and June, and the highest levels occurring from July to September.

Racial Crimes and Incidents

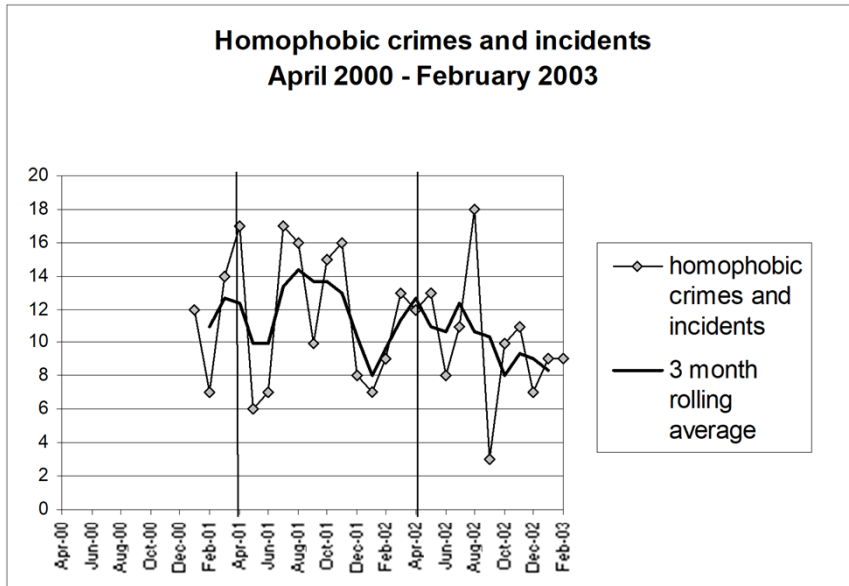


- There is a clear annual pattern to racial crimes and incidents, with levels in the summer about double those in the winter. This is likely to be a reflection of the number of overseas students and visitors which increases during the summer months.

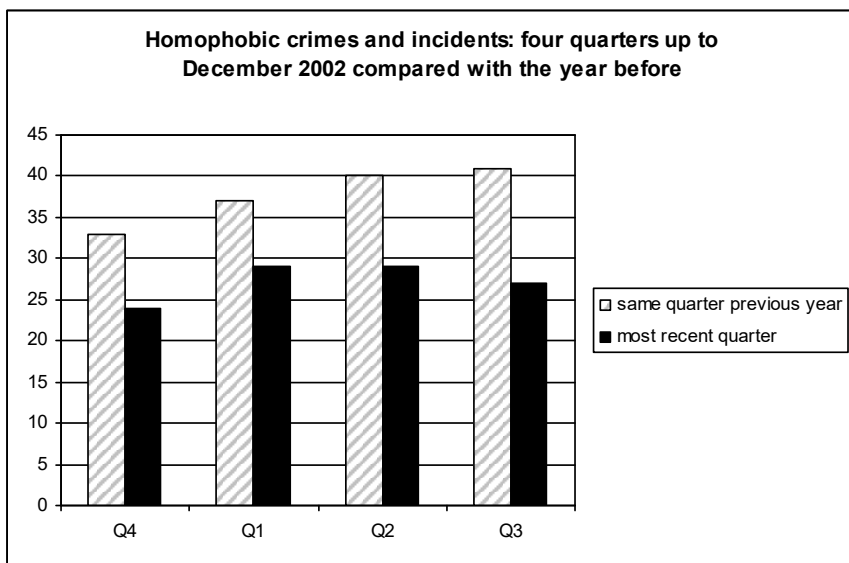


- Data recorded through the Racial Incident Report Form are heavily influenced by the number of reports being passed from the police. The flow of police data to the RIRF common reporting system has not been consistent over the period shown here.

Homophobic Crimes and Incidents

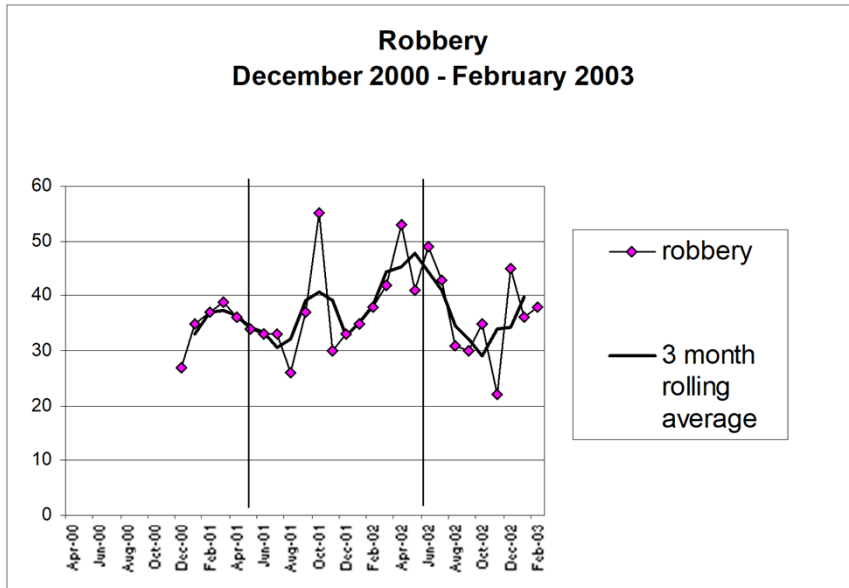


- Police recording of homophobic crimes and incidents began at the end of 2000.
- Since there are relatively few recorded homophobic crimes and incidents, there is a lot of variability in the data. However, on average there appears to be a gradual decline in cases over the last 18 months.



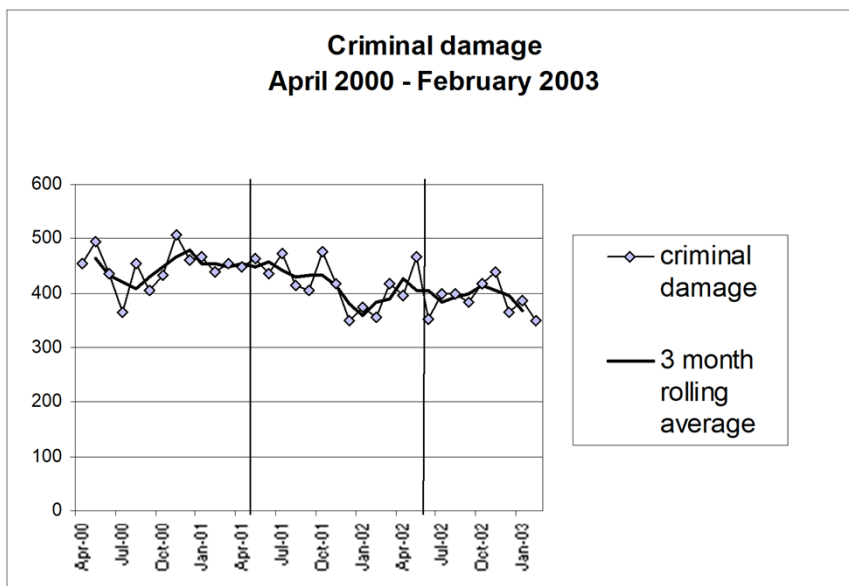
- There have been fewer cases during each of the last four quarters compared with the same quarters during the previous year.

Robbery



- There is no consistent pattern in robberies.

Criminal Damage



- Smoothed data since April has averaged at about 400 crimes per month
- In the longer term, police recorded criminal damage has shown a slightly, but steadily decreasing trend since April 2000.