

Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove

This report describes crime trends up to May 2009 and reports against key crime targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11.

1. Performance against Targets for Key Crime Types, 2008/9 (end of year)

Police recorded crimes, April 2008 to end of March 2009	number of crimes Apr 07-Mar 08	number of crimes Apr 08-Mar 09	reduction target (from 2007/08 baseline)	2008/09 outturn compared with 2007/08		rank within 15 benchmarked CDRPs ^a (lower rank is better)
				on target	not on target	
			target			
Total Crimes	27,536	25,146	-5%			5
Criminal Damage	4,973	4,179	-5%			11
Serious Violence (GBH/more serious violence)	141	174	-10%			9
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	2,204	1,876	-5%			8
Domestic Burglary	1,180	1,172	-5%			3
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	2,015	2,267	-6%			3
Pedal Cycle Theft	823	941	-10%			6
Domestic Violence Crimes	1,358	1,246	no target			
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	554	316	-5%			
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	184	129	+5%			

Main points

Total crimes reduced by 8.6% in 2008/9 compared with 2007/8, exceeding the 5% reduction target.

Criminal damage and assaults with less serious injury, both high volume crime types, showed very good reductions compared with 2007/8. However, serious violence offences, although much lower in number, showed an increase at the end of the year. However, this is likely to have been influenced by a review of recording practices.

^a See Appendix for further information around the benchmarking arrangements

After showing an increase earlier in the year, the year end result for domestic burglary was very similar to that of 2007/8. However, both motor vehicle and cycle theft showed a notable increase.

2. Performance against Targets for Key Crime Types, 2009/10 (to end May)

Police recorded crimes, April to May 2009 (inclusive)	number of crimes Apr 08-May 08	number of crimes Apr 09-May 09	reduction target (from 2008/09 baseline)	2009/10 performance to end May compared with same period in 2008/09		rank within 15 benchmarked CDRPs ^b (lower rank is better)
				on target	not on target	
			target			
Total Crimes	4,377	4,718	-3%			5
Criminal Damage	801	868	-5%			10
Serious Violence (GBH/more serious violence)	29	31	-5%			7
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	341	343	-5%			5
Domestic Burglary	221	230	-3%			2
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	339	452	-3%			2
Pedal Cycle Theft	128	182	tbc			6
Domestic Violence Crimes	205	202	no target			
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	75	64	no target			
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	21	26	no target			

NB. The data for 2009/10 up to the end of May shown in the above table only cover a 2 month period. Because of normal variations in data, these data may not be a reliable reflection of performance at this early stage in the year, especially in those crime areas where there are relatively low numbers.

Main points

Total crimes have increased by 8.4% in the first two months of 2009/10 compared with the same period in 2008/9.

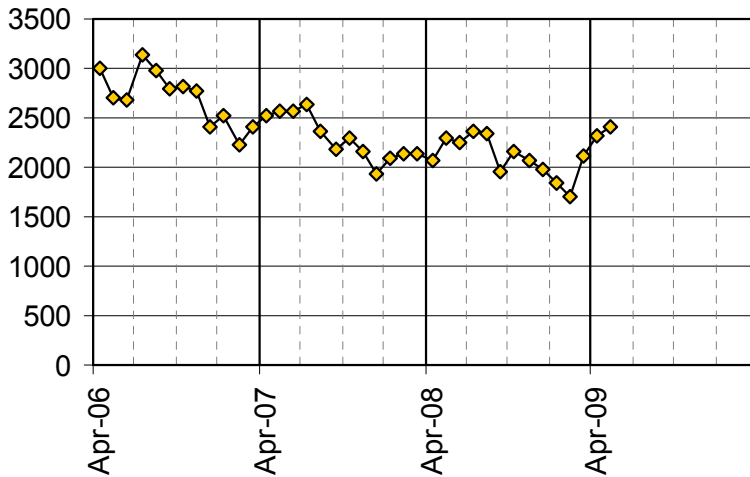
Beneath the total, none of the separate crime types are suggesting an encouraging picture at this early stage in the year, (with the exception of domestic violence and racist/religiously motivated crimes/incidents). Motor vehicle and cycle theft are starting the year with substantially more crimes recorded than at the beginning of last year. This is also the position with criminal damage; these include a significant number graffiti offences carried out by a single perpetrator.

Although crimes are increasing across a range of crime types in the city, we are nonetheless performing better than the average of our benchmarked group on most crime types, and our benchmarking ranking has improved on most of these measures compared with the previous report to the Community Safety Forum.

^b See Appendix for further information around the benchmarking arrangements

3. Crime trends up to May 2009

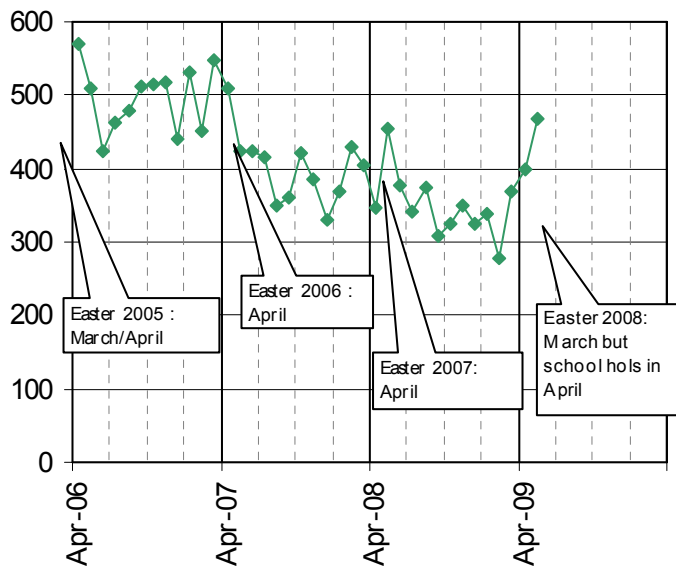
Total Crimes, April 2006 to May 2009



As would be expected in line with seasonal patterns observed in previous years, there has been a rise in total crimes between February and May.

In contrast to the year on year decline over the previous three years, the number of total crimes in the first two months of 2009/10 is about 8% higher than in the same period in 2008/9.

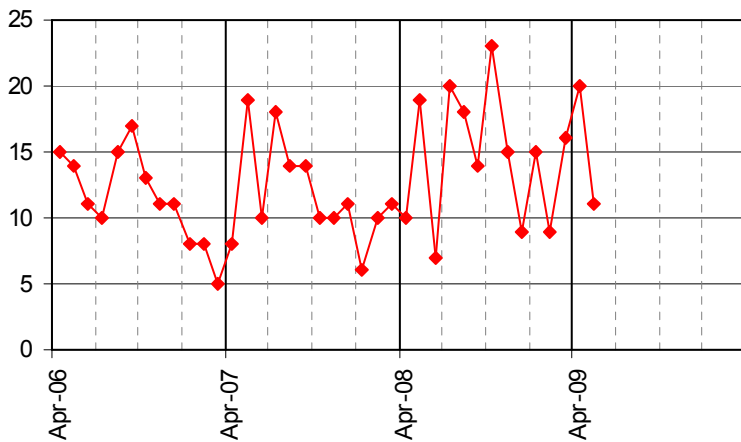
Criminal Damage, April 2006 to May 2009



There has been a steep increase in the number of criminal damage offences since February.

The number recorded in May was the highest monthly figures in the last two years. This included the recording of about 60 graffiti offences perpetrated by the same person.

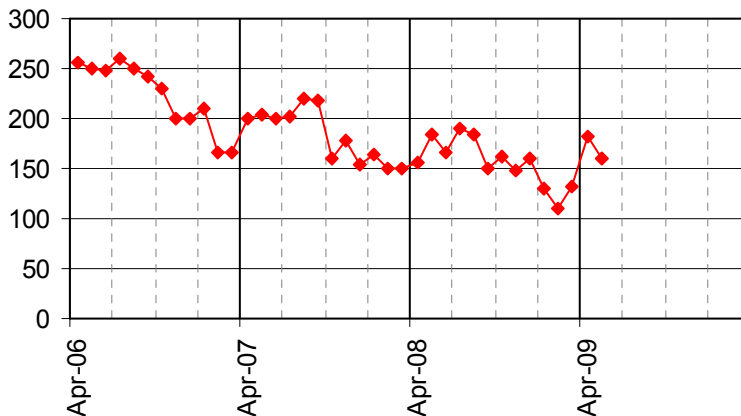
Serious Violence (GBH+)
April 2006 to May 2009



The number of serious violent crimes (GBH and more serious) in the first two months of 2009/10 (31 crimes recorded in this period) are fairly similar to those in the same months in 2008/9.

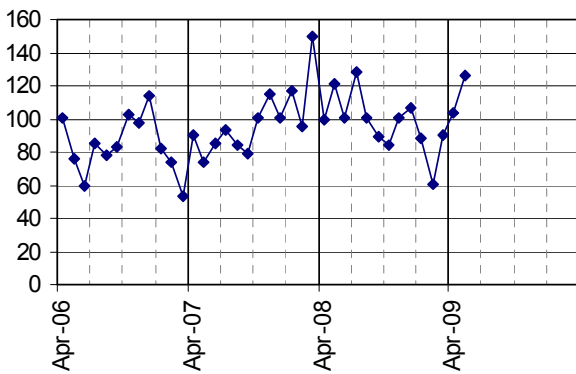
(NB. Categorisation of serious violence crimes was reviewed during 2008 resulting in a slight increase in numbers recorded.)

Assault with Less Serious Injury (ABH)
April 2005 to May 2009



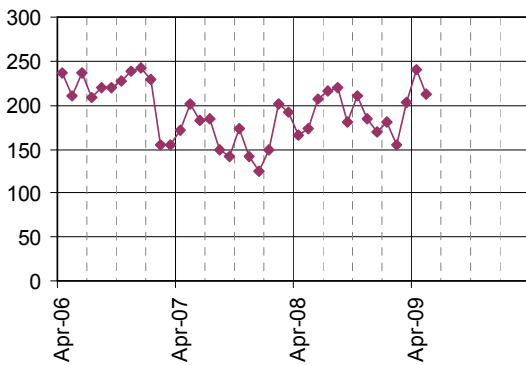
The number of assaults with less serious injury in the first two months of 2009/10 are showing similar levels to those in the same period in 2008/9.

Domestic Burglary, April 2006 to May 2009



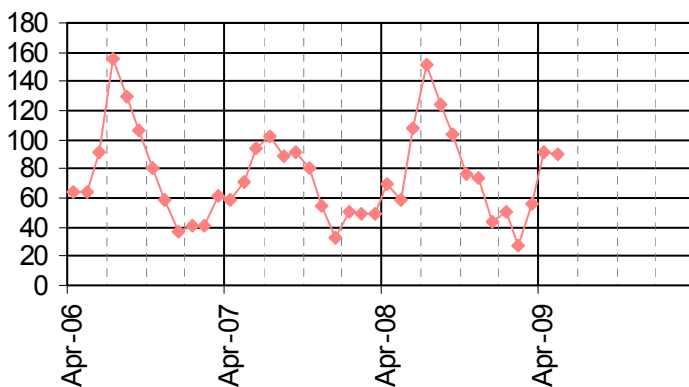
The decreasing trend evident over the course of 2008/9 has been reversed over the last three months. The number of domestic burglaries has risen steeply since February from 60 in that month to over 120 in May.

Vehicle Crime, April 2006 to May 2009



In the month of April the number of vehicle crimes was at its highest level for more than two years and remains relatively high in May.

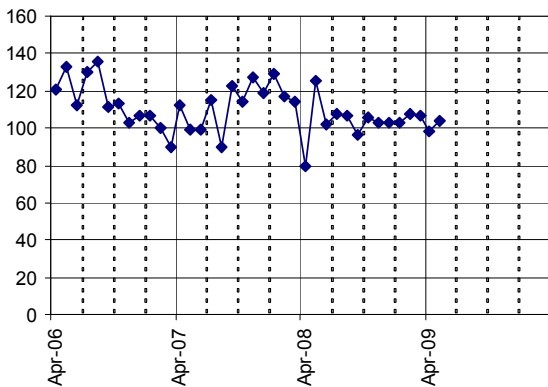
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2006 to May 2009



Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. However, numbers in the first two months of 2008/9 are about a third higher than in the same months in previous years.

Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

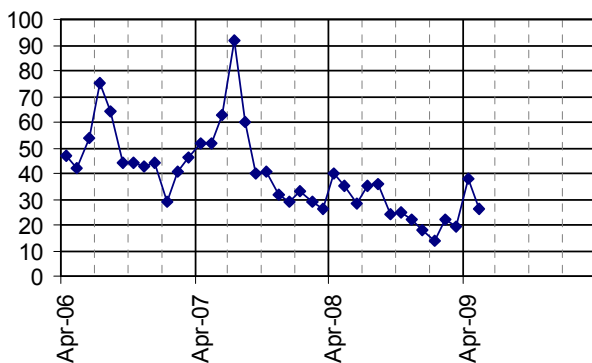
Domestic Violence Crimes, April 2006 to May 2009



The number of domestic violence crimes remains between about 95 and 110 per month over the last 12 months.

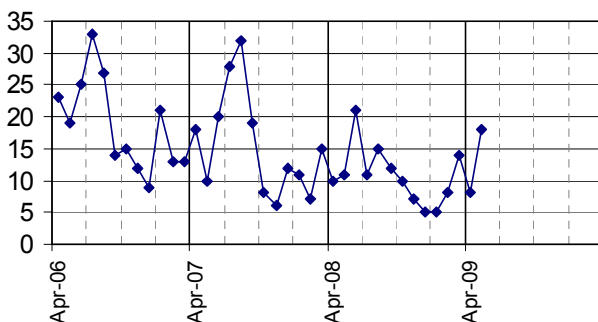
Please note that crimes and incidents data would normally be reported here. However, there was a problem with the reliability of DV incident data so these have been omitted from the current report.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents, April 2006 to May 2009



The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents, typically modulated by more incidents during the summer months, appears to be continuing.

LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents, April 2006 to May 2009



A seasonal pattern continues to be evident in the data on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic crimes and incidents, with higher levels tending to occur in the summer.

Appendix.

A note on how Brighton & Hove's performance is compared with other CDRPs.

For the purposes of assessing the relative performance of Brighton & Hove CDRP (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) in reducing crime, our performance is compared (benchmarked) with the performance of 14 other 'Most Similar' CDRPs. The Home Office have created these groupings to help provide information on how CDRPs, police forces, etc. are performing.

CDRPs within a 'Most Similar' grouping have been assessed as having similar characteristics in terms of 24 socio-demographic and geographic variables which are strongly linked to increased levels of crime, fear of crime, or incidents.

We are able to compare our crime trends and current performance with our Most Similar CDRPs. The data presented on page 1 of this report (see right-most column of the table) shows our ranked position within this group of 15 CDRPs. For example, a ranking of 1 indicates that a CDRP is performing best within the group, and a ranking of 8 shows that the CDRP is in the middle ranked position.

Other Members of Brighton & Hove's Most Similar CDRP Group (from Apr 2008) area as follows:

LB Barnet
Bournemouth
Cheltenham
LB Croydon
LB Ealing
Eastbourne
LB Hackney
LB Hammersmith & Fulham
LB Kensington & Chelsea
LB Lambeth
Reading
LB Southwark
LB Wandsworth
Wycombe