

Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove

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

1. Performance data for Key Crime Types, 2009/10 (to end Aug)

Police recorded crimes, April to August 2009 (inclusive)	number of crimes Apr 08-Aug 08	number of crimes Apr 09-Aug 09	reduction target (from 2008/09 baseline)	2009/10 performance to end Aug compared with same period in 2008/09	rank within 15 benchmarked CDRPs ¹ (1=best; 15=worst)
Total Crimes	11,394	11,212	-3%	not on target	7
Criminal Damage	1,897	1,895	-5%	not on target	13
Serious Violence (GBH/more serious violence)	74	83	-5%	not on target	7
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	885	857	-5%	not on target	7
Domestic Burglary	551	577	-3%	not on target	5
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	982	1,035	-3%	not on target	3
Pedal Cycle Theft	514	475	no target		6
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	1456	1556	no target		
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	176	132	no target		
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	71	53	no target		

Main points

Although the reduction targets are not being achieved, as of the first 5 months of 2009/10, total crime is showing a reduction of 1.6% compared with last year. The position has generally improved since the previous report to the Community Safety Forum.

Overall there is a reduction in injury violence by 2%; while the bulk of these are classed as 'less serious

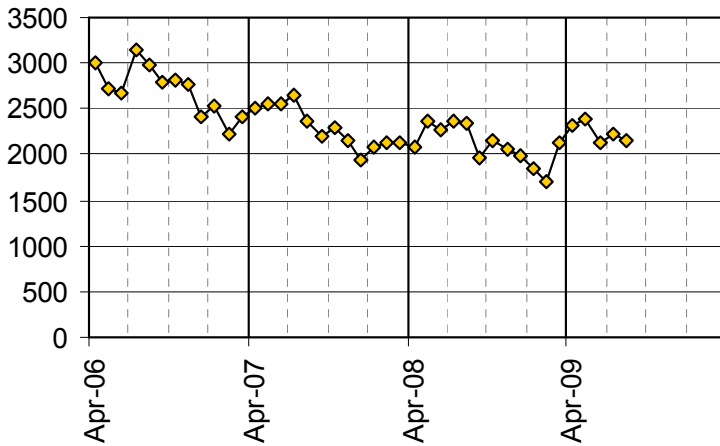
¹ See Appendix for further information around the benchmarking arrangements

injury', the smaller number of serious violence crimes is showing an increase.

Domestic burglary and vehicle crime are both showing an increase of 5%, but pedal cycle theft is down by 8%. Criminal damage is at about the same level as last year.

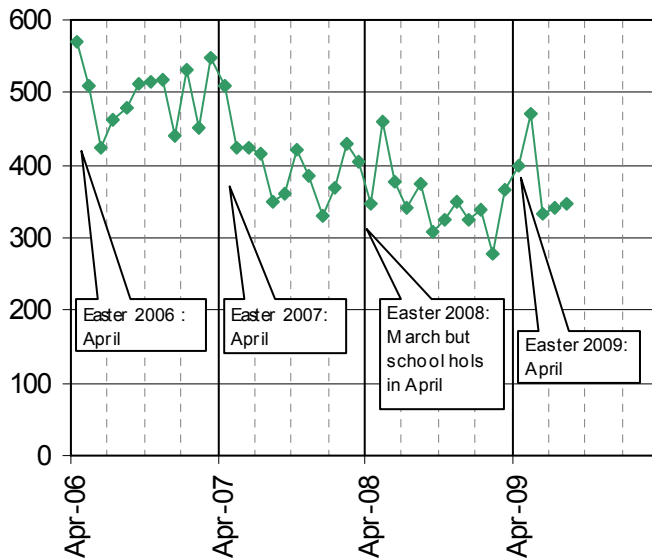
2. Crime trends up to August 2009

Total Crimes, April 2006 to August 2009



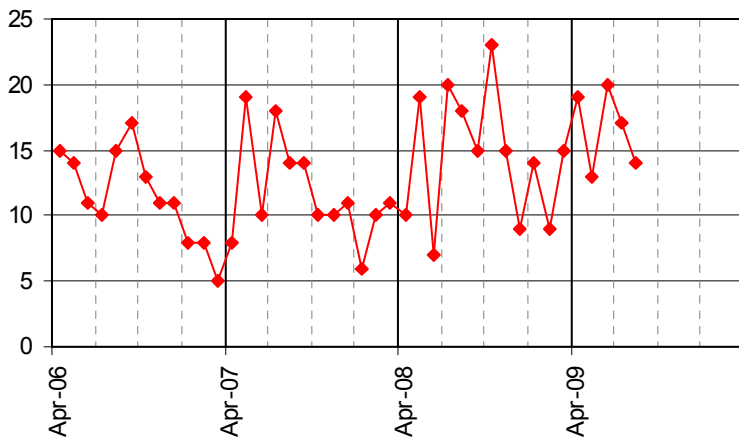
- The number of crimes occurring during the summer months has been lower than in previous years. The main reasons for this drop have been fewer thefts, criminal damage offences (see below) and assaults without injury over the last three months than is usual for the time of year.

Criminal Damage, April 2006 to August 2009



- The performance year began with a steep increase in the number of criminal damage offences, rising to a peak of about 470 in May (linked to the inputting of 60 graffiti offences in that month). The last three months have seen numbers drop back to a level which is lower than the same months in the previous three years.

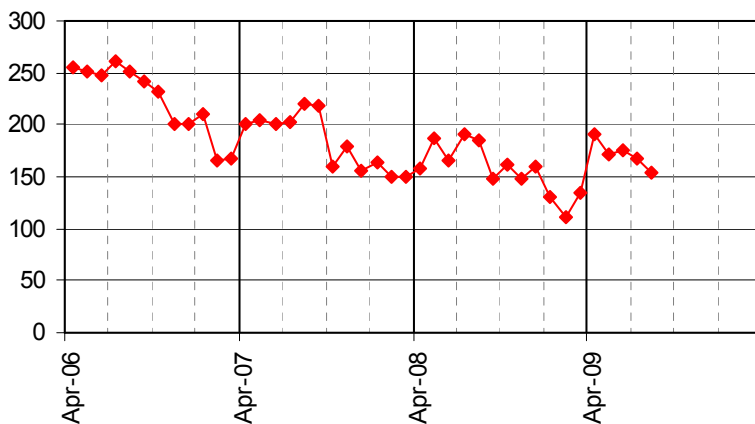
Serious Violence (GBH+)
April 2006 to August 2009



- The number of serious violence offences has averaged between about 13 and 20 per month over the last 6 months. The statistics for April to August are showing an increase compared with the same months last year, due to instability in the data, it is difficult to assess whether this is a reliable trend at this point in time.

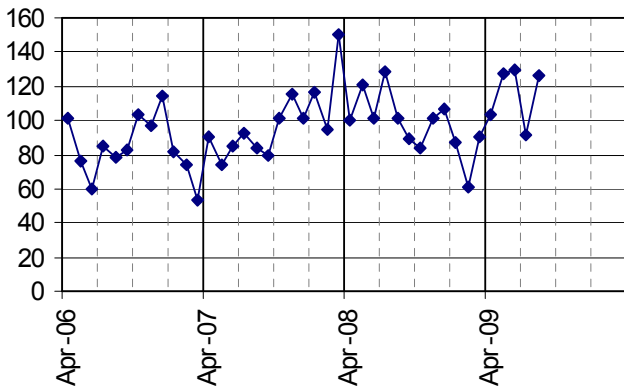
(NB. Categorisation of serious violence crimes was reviewed during 2008 resulting in a slight increase in numbers recorded.)

Assault with Less Serious Injury (ABH)
April 2006 to August 2009



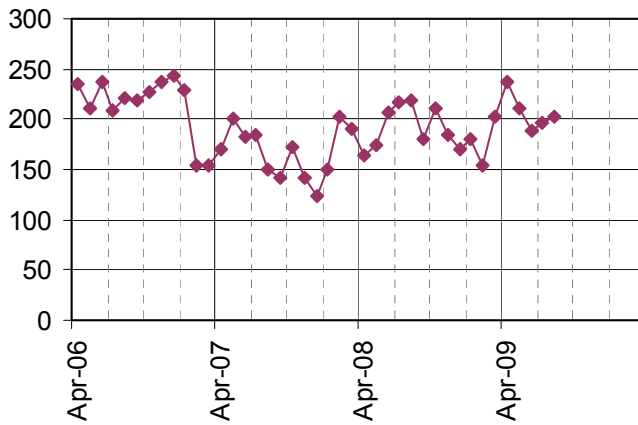
- There has been a downward trend since April, which is contrary to typical seasonal patterns around violent crime. Overall, the number of assaults with less serious injury in the first five months of 2009/10 is about 3% lower than in the same period in 2008/9.

Domestic Burglary, April 2006 to August 2009



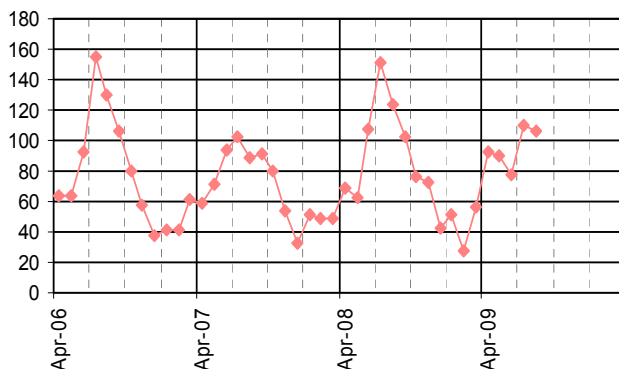
- Although numbers dipped to below 100 domestic burglaries during July, numbers since June have been over 120 per month and this has been generally higher than levels in the previous three years.

Vehicle Crime, April 2006 to August 2009



- In the month of April the number of vehicle crimes was at its highest level (237) for more than two years, but has dropped again to an average of about 200 per month in the subsequent months.
- The overall effect has been an increase of about 5% in the first 5 months of 2009/10 compared with the same months in 2008/9. Thefts of a motor vehicle have been responsible for this overall rise since last year (thefts from a motor vehicle have, in fact, dropped).

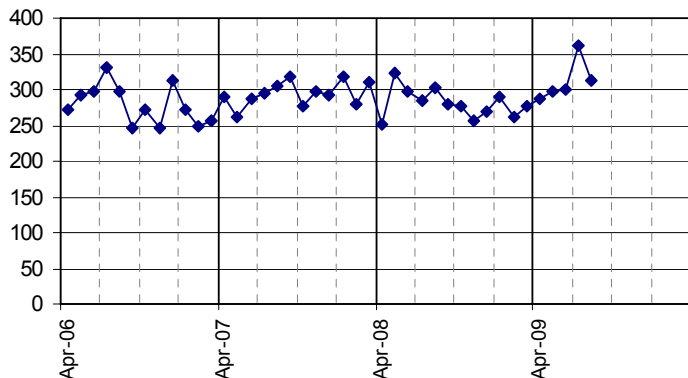
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2006 to August 2009



- Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. Although numbers in the first two months of 2008/9 were higher than in the same months in previous years, numbers over the last three months have been lower.

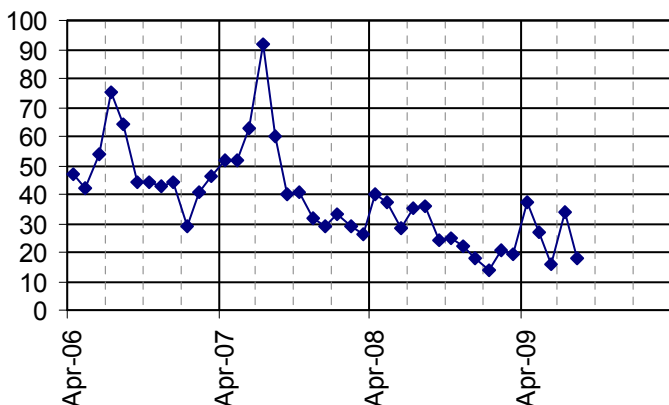
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents, April 2006 to August 2009



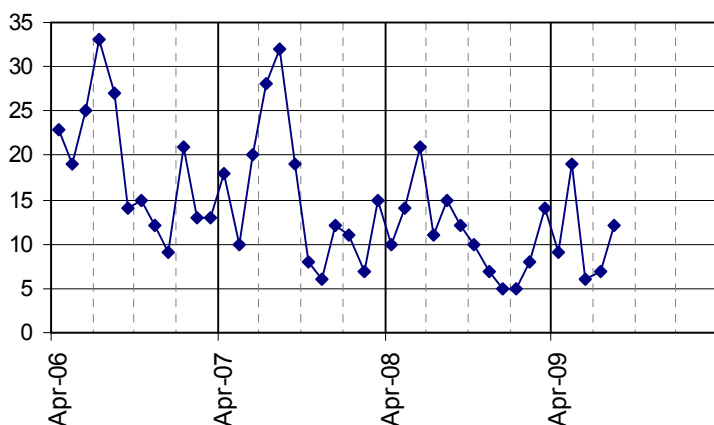
- The number of domestic violence crimes and crime related incidents has risen over the last 7 months, with a particular peak in July. The trend in those which are crimes has not shown a parallel increase, perhaps suggesting that there has been a response to the various publicity exercises which have taken place to raise awareness so that people feel more confident to report incidents of abuse at an earlier stage and before they become more serious.

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



- Although there are normally higher levels of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic incidents during the summer months, this has been less evident this year with particularly low levels in June and July.

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

