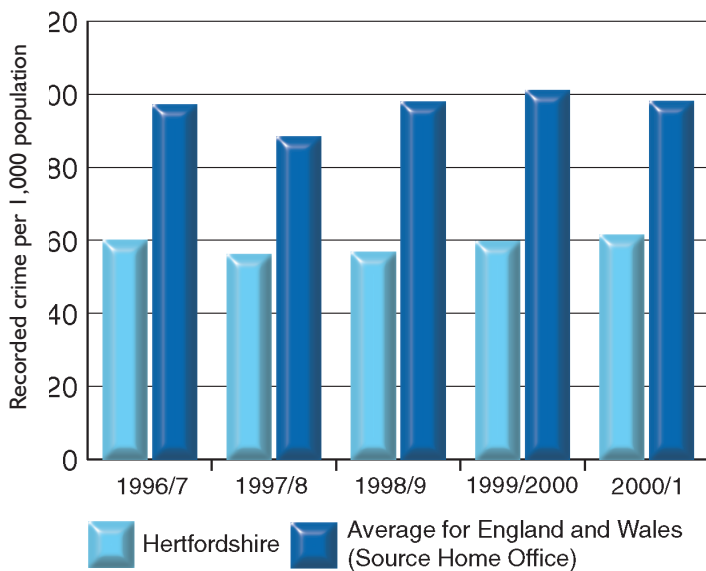


Crime

Crime is one of the most obvious indicators affecting quality of life. It is often fear of crime which keeps people in their houses, rather than out enjoying the local countryside or out in towns at night. Actual crime causes a financial burden on the community and contributes to social exclusion and the decline of neighbourhoods. Crime is also closely linked to many other quality of life indicators - unemployment, housing, and health for example.

INDICATOR CRI - Recorded Crime per 1,000 Population



Hertfordshire Constabulary took over two divisions - Hertsmere and Broxbourne - from the Metropolitan Police in April 2000, which means it now polices the whole of the county. Comparison of statistics over a ten year period for the county is difficult as crime was recorded in a different way by the Metropolitan Police; moreover the population now policed by Hertfordshire has increased from over 800,000 in 1991 to over a million in 2001 - a combination of population growth in the county and the new areas.

However, we can see from the above chart that crime in Hertfordshire is low compared to the national average. Crimes per 1,000 population for 2000/1 were 61.6 compared to an England and Wales average of 98.1. This illustrates that Hertfordshire remains as one of the safest counties in the country, with the fourth lowest level of recorded crime and the lowest level of recorded violent crime.

During 2001, the Constabulary has experienced a high level of reorganisation and the county is now policed in three areas rather than the former nine divisions. The adoption of the National Intelligence Model means that intelligence is now increasingly being used to concentrate resources on particular crime hotspot areas and to actively target criminals. Additional aims are to increase the visibility and accessibility of officers to Hertfordshire's communities.



Ongoing public concerns include 'nuisance youths', the need for visible policing and traffic problems such as speeding and parking. These are priorities for the future in addition to improving overall detection rates and recruitment of police officers to the county force. The latter problem is due to pay differentials between here and London, and the high cost of living in Hertfordshire.

Community Officers are now employed throughout the county. Each council ward across the Hertfordshire policing district has named officers as first points of contact for members of the public wishing to report non-emergency and community crime and disorder issues. Community Officers within the unit also deal with domestic violence, hate crime, crime prevention, local licensing issues and vulnerable people.

Further information sources:

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You can view the annual report for the Hertfordshire Police Authority and give your comments at:

www.herts-police-authority.org.uk