

crime



Crime is one of the most obvious indicators affecting quality of life. Actual crime causes a financial burden on the community and contributes to social exclusion and the decline of neighbourhoods. However, 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. The figures below illustrate that crime in Hertfordshire is well below the national averages.

Crime Figures – Hertfordshire 2003/2004

Total crime per 1,000 population

Hertfordshire – 92

England and Wales – 113

Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households

Hertfordshire – 12

England and Wales – 16

Robberies per 1,000 population

Hertfordshire – 1

England and Wales – 2

Vehicle crimes per 1,000 population

Vehicle crimes' includes recorded theft/unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle and aggravated taking of a motor vehicle

Hertfordshire – 16

England and Wales – 17

Fear of crime

Residents thinking the police do a good job

Hertfordshire – 53% +/- 5%

Most Similar Forces* - 47% +/- 1%

Residents very worried about burglary

Hertfordshire – 9% +/- 3%

Most Similar Forces* - 11% +/- 1%

Residents highly worried about car crime

Hertfordshire – 13% +/- 4%

Most Similar Forces* - 13% +/- 1%

Residents highly worried about violence

Hertfordshire – 16% +/- 4%

Most Similar Forces* - 14% +/- 1%

Residents rating disorder as high

Hertfordshire – 20% +/- 7%

Most Similar Forces* - 15% +/- 2%

* Most similar forces for Herts are: Avon and Somerset, Cheshire, Essex, Kent, Northamptonshire, Thames Valley, Warwickshire

Development of national crime recording standard

Important changes to how crime is recorded in Hertfordshire took place in April 2002 when Hertfordshire Constabulary adopted the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). In subsequent years the Constabulary has introduced further processes to ensure that all incidents that should be, are recorded as crimes. In addition the Constabulary has launched campaigns to encourage people who are the victims of crime to report them to us – in particular domestic violence or racially motivated crimes.



The previous systems only recorded a report by a member of the public as a crime if, after an initial investigation by officers, there was evidence that a crime has taken place. The new systems now record crime based on allegations made by the complainant. Crimes are only removed from the system if there is evidence that the alleged crime did NOT take place.

As a result, these new systems are much more victim orientated and victim led. This fits in with Hertfordshire Constabulary's intelligence led policing style that helps to direct resources where they are most needed. It records more information and with the new enhanced 24 hour / 7 days a week Crime Recording Bureau it encourages the public to contact the police.

The result of these continued developments in the methods used for recording crime means that the number of **recorded** crimes for the county has increased over the past two years. However the public should not be alarmed, as this does not reflect a sudden, dramatic increase in criminal activity. The increase is statistical and a result of the new systems. The new system does mean that performance between the country's different police forces can now be more realistically compared. It is also now more in line with the independent British Crime Survey.