



# Violence Reduction Network

Strategic Assessment 2023

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# Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

**This detailed report examines crime, disorder, and community safety in the London Borough of Croydon from April 2022 to September 2023. The focus is on understanding the types of crimes, their frequency, and emerging safety issues in the borough.**

The main goal is to provide a strong foundation for the next year of work by the partnership and meet its legal obligation as required by the Serious Violence Duty.

## **Crime Rate**

On a year-to-year comparison (January 2022/December 2022 with January 2023/December 2023), Croydon experienced a slight increase of 0.9% in overall crime, compared to a 6.5% increase in across London as a whole.

During the assessed period from April 2022 to September 2023 the volume of offences were 59,989, with a crime rate of 154.4 per 1,000 people residing in the Borough.

These numbers rank Croydon as 18<sup>th</sup> in crime rate per 1,000 people and 6<sup>th</sup> in crime volume among the London Boroughs.

## **Crime Types**

Violence against the person was the most prominent offence in the Borough, with 11,575 incidents of Violence without Injury, 5,514 incidents of Violence with Injury and 10 homicides. Violence against the person saw an increase of 1.3%, compared to a 4.5% increase across London. Theft was the second most prominent offence with 9,980 incidents. Theft incidents increased by 12.4% in 2023, compared to a 19.4% increase across London. There were 1,688 incidents of Robbery of Personally Property. Robberies have had an alarming increase of 23.8 percent in 2023, compared to an 18.8% increase across London.

# Executive Summary

## **Knife crime**

Knife crime saw an increase of 24.5% during 2023, compared to a 17.2% increase across London. During the assessed period Croydon recorded 1,086 offences of knife crime with a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 people.

These statistics rank Croydon as 8<sup>th</sup> in crime rate per 1,000 people and 4<sup>th</sup> in crime volume among the rest of London Boroughs.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

Domestic Abuse saw a decrease of 2.0% during 2023, compared to an increase of 1.1% across London. During the assessed period 7,589 incidents of domestic abuse were recorded with a rate of 19.5 per 1,000 people.

Croydon was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in rate per 1,000 people and 1<sup>st</sup> in crime volume among the rest of London Boroughs.

Sexual offences saw a decrease of 4.0% during 2023, compared to a decrease of 2.8% across London. During the assessed period 1,870 incidents of sexual violence were recorded with a rate of 4.8 per 1,000 people.

Croydon was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in crime rate per 1,000 people and 2<sup>nd</sup> in crime volume among the rest of the London Boroughs.

## **Locations**

While Croydon Town Centre (*including the High Street, shopping centres and North End*) maintained its status as a primary hotspot, noteworthy shifts were observed. West Croydon Station continued to be a high-crime area, but emerging concerns pointed towards Thornton Heath and Purley as new violence and crime hotspots.



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# **Safer Croydon Partnership**

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# Safer Croydon Partnership

The Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) acts as the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Croydon, as stipulated by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The SCP is responsible for co-ordinating the development and implementation of Croydon's Community Safety Strategy. The partnership comprises the police, council, fire, probation and health agencies, as well as businesses, and community and voluntary sector organisations. It works with other boards on Croydon's Local Strategic Partnership on crime and safety matters, in particular the Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Adults Safeguarding Board.

The strategic priorities that were set out in the Safer Croydon Partnership Strategy 2022 – 2024: were:

- 1. Tackle domestic abuse*
- 2. Protect young people from violence and exploitation*
- 3. Tackle disproportionality in the criminal justice system*
- 4. Strengthen community resilience, offer trauma-informed services, focusing on Hate Crime, and build trust in the partnership*
- 5. Focus on high priority neighbourhoods.*

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1: ([05a Appendix 1 - Community Safety Strategy.pdf \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#))

# **Serious Violence Duty**

# Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty, which is encompassed in the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 is part of the Government's broad approach to prevent and reduce serious violence. The key strands being a multi-agency public health approach to understanding the drivers and impacts of serious violence, and a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Responsible authorities (also known as "duty holders") who are subject to the Duty include: local authorities, the police, youth offending teams, Integrated Care System, Probation, and the fire service.

The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy.

The agreed definition of serious violence is the following:

*Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences.*

In addition to the Serious Violence Duty Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act has been amended to make preventing and reducing Serious Violence a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

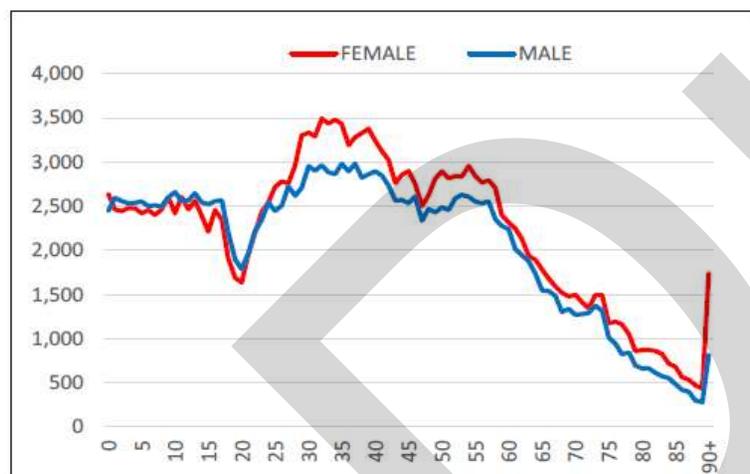
The commencement of the Serious Violence Duty was the 31 of January 2023.

# Croydon Profile

# Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

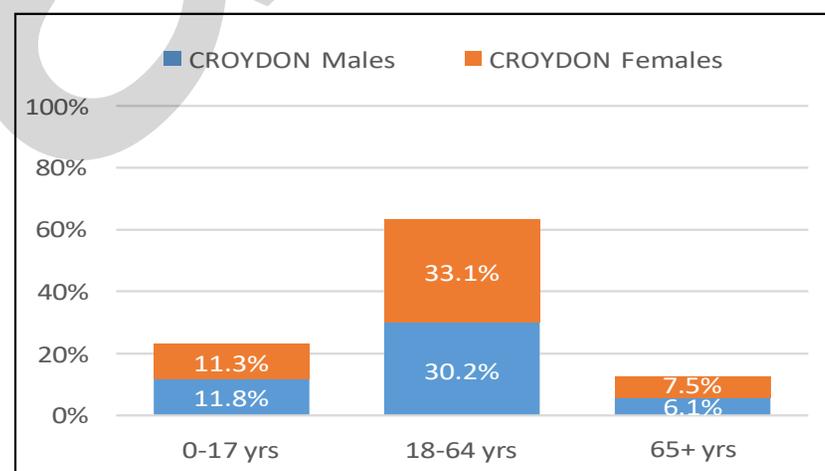
## Age and Sex Profile in Croydon (Census 2021)

- Roughly 1 in 4 Croydon residents (23.1%) are aged between 0-17 years.
- Croydon has a smaller proportion of male residents compared to females in the 1-22 year age group.
- All other ages have more females than males.
- The highest difference is in those residents aged 90+ years where there are twice as many females (1,739) as males (817).



## Croydon Age and Gender Profile (Census 2021)

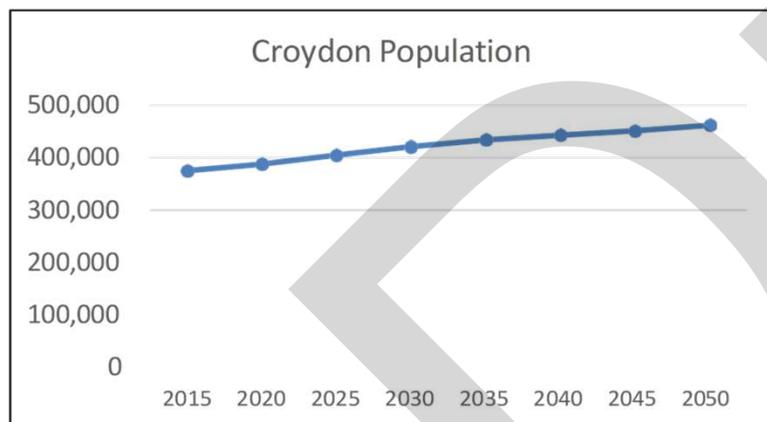
- Higher proportion of males compared to females in the 0-17 years age band in Croydon.
- There is a higher proportion of females to males in the 18-64 years age band.
- The 65 years plus age group makes up 13.6% of the total population in Croydon compared to the average for London of 11.9%



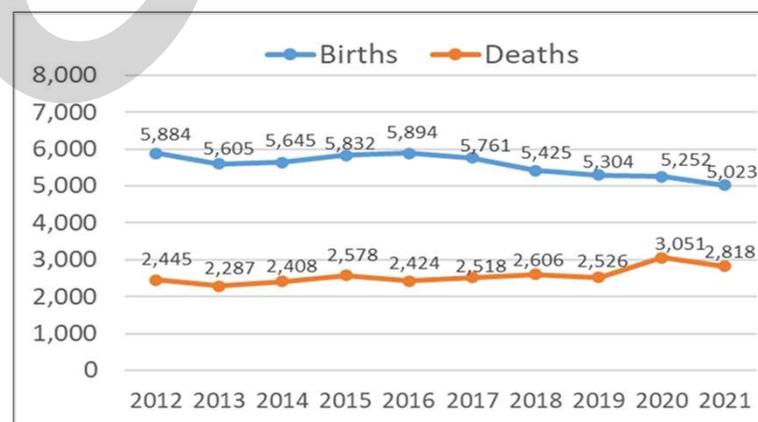
# Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

- Croydon is the largest of all the London boroughs in terms of population, with approximately 390,800 residents (ONS Census 2021).
- Nearly a quarter of Croydon's population (23.1%) are aged 17 years and under compared to the average for London of 21.6%.
- In Croydon, 63.3% of its residents are in the 18-64 years age band compared to 66.6% in the same age band in London.
- Croydon has a higher proportion (13.6%) of residents 65 years or over compared to the average for London which is 11.9%.
- Croydon's population is growing. The borough population recorded in Census 2001 was 330,587 and in the 2011 Census it had increased to 363,378.
- Census 2021 estimates 390,800 Croydon residents and this is expected to increase to just under 500,000 by 2050.

Projected population growth in Croydon



Births and Deaths in Croydon over the last 10 years



# Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

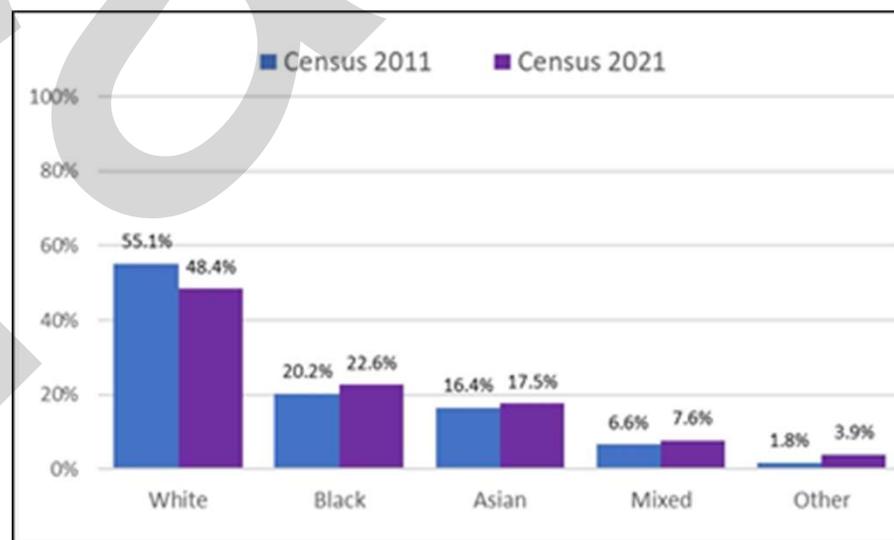
## Ethnic group by age

Like other London boroughs, Croydon has a higher proportion of residents from the Non-White communities compared to the national average. The Census 2021 data shows that there was more diversity in the younger age group population in Croydon.



## Croydon's Broad Ethnic group profile

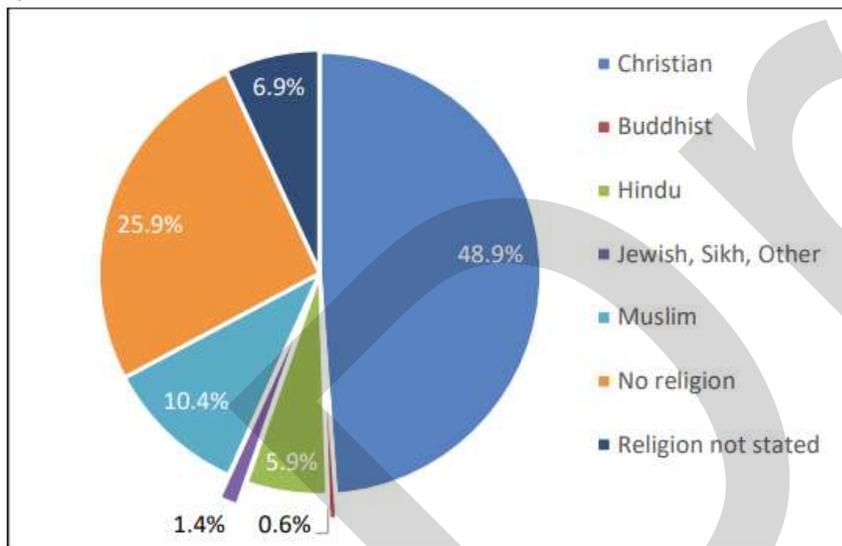
Over the 10 year period from 2011 to 2021, there has been a 6.7% reduction in the number of residents from the White communities living in Croydon. The proportion of residents from the Black communities has increased by 2.5% and from the Asian communities by 1.1%. Residents identifying as "Other" have increased by 2.1% and the proportion of residents of "Mixed" ethnic origin has increased by 1% over the 10 years.



# Social, demographic, and economic characteristics of the local population

## Religion of Croydon residents

Just under half (48.9%) of Croydon respondents for the Census 2021 stated they were “Christian” compared to 56.4% for the Census 2011. About 1 in 4 (25.9%) stated that they had no religion compared to 1in 5 (20.0%) for Census 2011. Croydon people following the Muslim religion are the second biggest religious group, after Christians, increasing from 8.1% to 10.4% over the 10 years to March 2021.



# Children and Social Care

The Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) regularly reviews data and performance figures. The CSCP supports the delivery of safe multi-disciplinary practice in the borough. Benefiting significantly from highly experienced and competent leaders, the partnership demonstrates a capability to identify and focus on those issues relevant to the needs of local children and young people.

**270**

family cases open to Early Help  
(2022: 232)

**681**

children on a Child In Need Plan (CIN)  
(2022: 603)

**425**

local children looked after  
(2022: 445)

Number of children in Croydon aged under 18:

**95,309**

almost 25% of the Croydon population.

Rate of open cases, per 10,000 of the under 18 population was:

**416.6**

This is an increase of 15% on last year which was lower at 362.1.

(For comparison in 2021-22 London was 347 and our statistical neighbour was 355)

**9069**

number of contacts to the 'Front Door' where the reason was a referral to CSC (18,157 SPOC forms)

Number of referrals into Early Help

**1831**

**0**

number of children who died from Serious Youth Violence  
(For comparison in 2021-22 there were 4)

**3742**

open referrals – (excluding cases allocated to children with disability team)

**507**

children on a Child Protection Plan (CP)  
(2022: 440)

**102**

unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)  
(2022: 114)

**757**

care experienced (over 18, supported)  
(new indicator)

**25**

number of child death notifications (any cause) – a return to pre-covid levels. (For comparison in 2021-22 there were 18)

The rate of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 of the under 18 population was

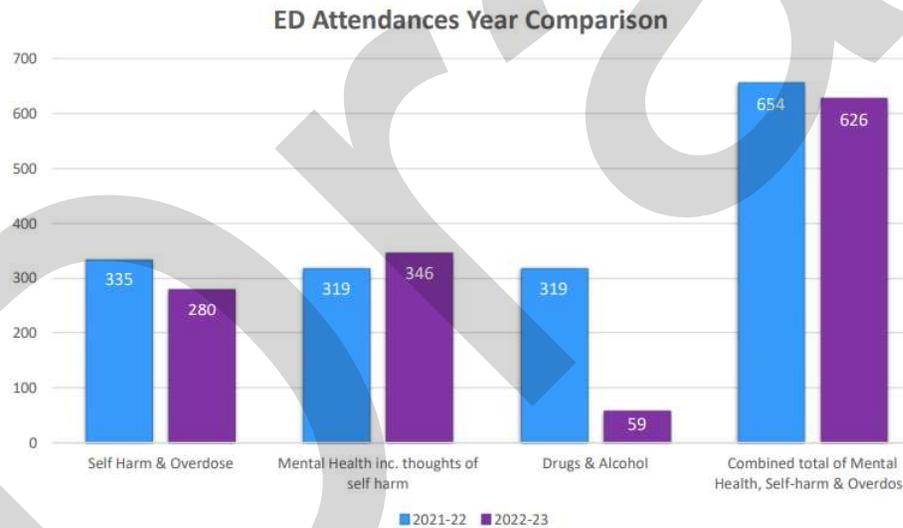
**56.2**

This is an increase 21% on last year which was lower at 46.2  
(For comparison in 2021-22 London was 37.5 and our statistical neighbour was 38.5)

# Children and Social Care

There has been a decrease in children attending the emergency department in Croydon due to mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm, overdose, and issues related to drugs and alcohol. Children facing mental health challenges require timely and specialized interventions to address the root causes of distress and promote their overall well-being.

The Safer Croydon Partnership recognises the important of collaborating with mental health professionals, schools and community organisations to enhance mental health resources for children. By fostering a supportive environment that encourages open dialogue, education, and early intervention, Croydon aims to create a community where children feel empowered to seek help and receive the necessary support.



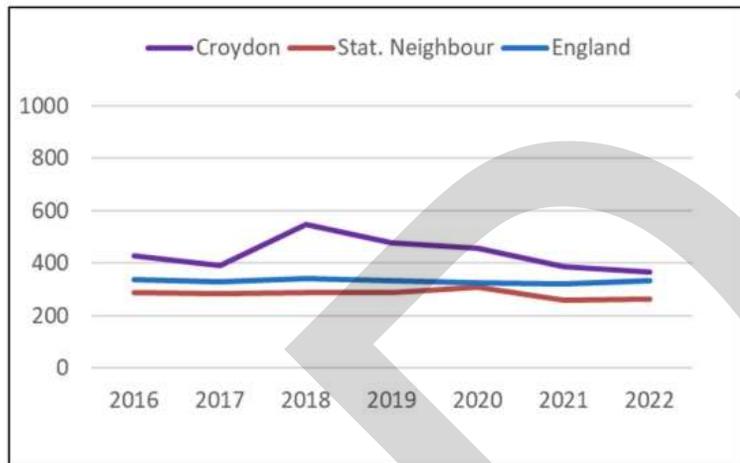
# Children and Social Care

The most common reason for a child being in need in Croydon is 'abuse or neglect' and 'absent parenting'. The Croydon Children in Need rate is consistently higher than the regional and national rates every year. As at 31 March 2022, the rate was 365 children in need for every 10,000 children. This is a reduction on the previous rate of 388 per 10,000 children.

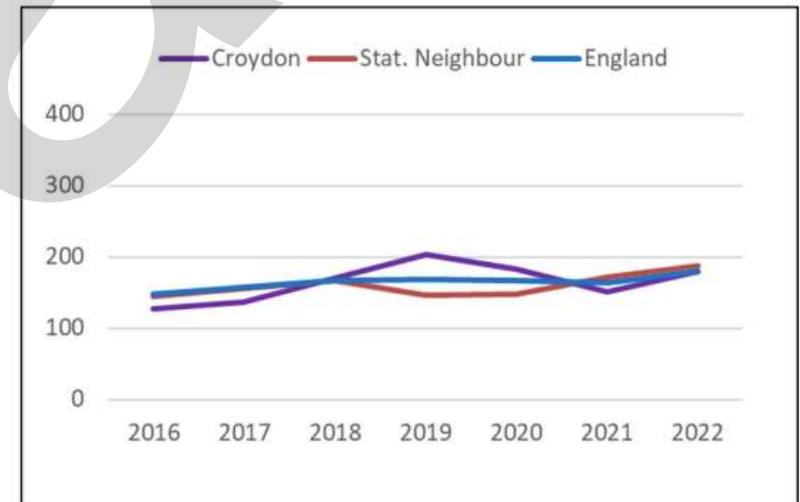
Figure 1 shows that the rate of child protection referrals to children's social care has been decreasing every year since 2018. The latest year figure for 2022 is 365 per 10,000 children compared to 388 per 10,000 children in the previous year. Despite the downward trend, the rate remains higher than Croydon's statistical neighbours and the national average.

The number of section 47 enquiries, investigations undertaken where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, has been rising in Croydon since 2014. Figure 2 shows that the rate of section 47 referrals in Croydon was above Croydon's statistical neighbours and England rates from 2018 to 2020. The latest Croydon rate for 2022 is 180 per 10,000 children which is the same as Croydon's statistical neighbours but lower than the national average of 188 per 10,000 children.

**Figure 1 – Rate of referrals to children social care services per 10,000 children**



**Figure 2 – Rate of section 47 enquiries per 10,000 children**



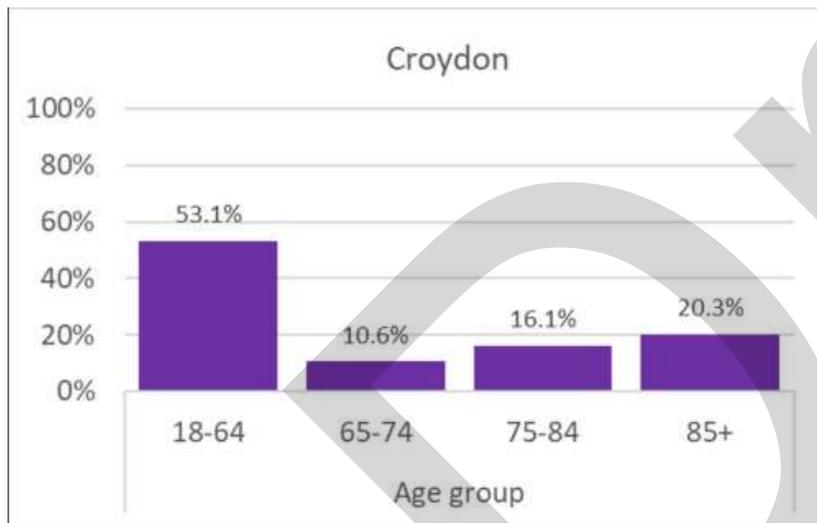
# Adults in Social Care

According to the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) in 2021/2022, there were 2,244 individuals in Croydon involved in all types of safeguarding enquiries. This is slightly more than in 2020/2021 when there were 2,232 individuals involved in safeguarding concerns.

There were 597 individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries. The table below breaks down the age group of individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries 2021/2022.

The data shows that during 2021/2022, there were 12,233 new clients accessing the adult social care system in Croydon, a total that has risen every year.

The table below shows the number of requests for support received from new clients in Croydon from 2017/2018 - 2021/2022.



# Substance Misuse

A total of 1585 Croydon adults were in specialist drug and/or alcohol treatment in Croydon.

Two in every three adults in treatment were male (67%).

58% (n. 915) were new presentations to treatment in the year.

Almost half of all adults in treatment (42%) were opiate users, the majority of these were already in treatment at the beginning of the year.

There were more alcohol-only adults entering treatment in the year than there were opiate users.

Of those in treatment, over two thirds (67%) had a white ethnic background, proportionately higher than the general adult population of Croydon but smaller than the national average in treatment.

Overall, Croydon had proportionately more people from non-white ethnic groups in treatment compared to England.

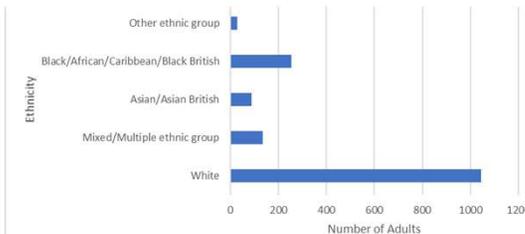
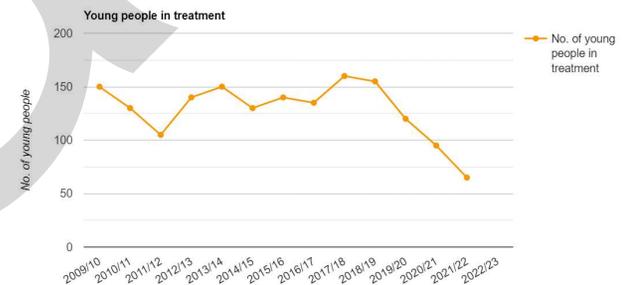
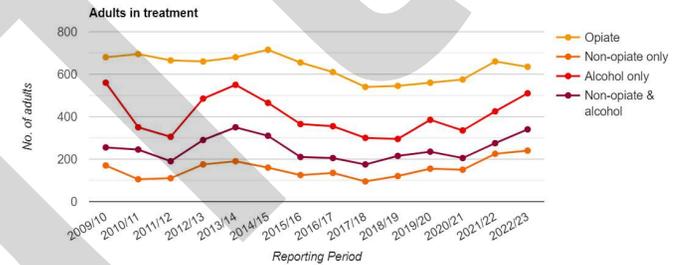
## Young People

A total of 65 children and young people from Croydon were accessing specialist drug and alcohol services.

31% were aged 14-15 and 62% were aged 16-17.

The majority were accessing services for cannabis, alcohol and/or nicotine.

29% of all those in treatment came through the criminal justice route; this is similar to the London average of 31%.



# Hospital Presentations

The majority (67.7%) of the cases presented at hospital were males.

Under 18s contributed approximately 56% of the referrals.

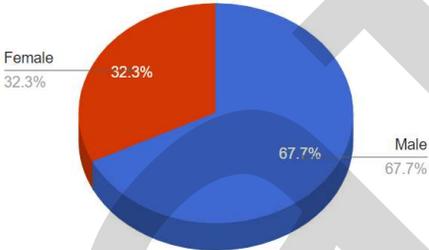
The primary reasons for hospital presentations included 'assault with a body part' and 'assault with a weapon', highlighting a notable proportion of violent incidents.

Breaking down hospital presentation reasons by age range, our data show that assault with a body part is more common in the 22-25 age group.

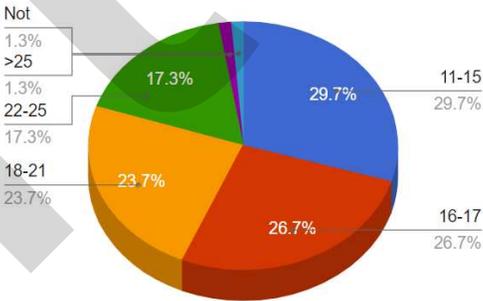
Assault with a body part is more prevalent among males, while mental health-related presentations are more evenly distributed between female and male.

The 'streets' are the most common location of incident followed by home. This emphasises the importance of addressing safety concerns in public spaces.

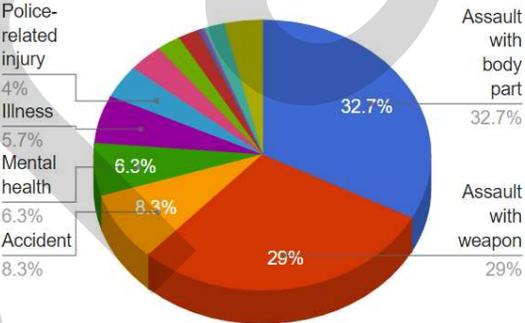
Gender



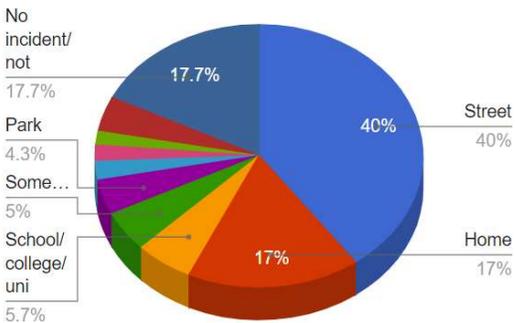
Age range



Reason for hospital presentation



Location of incidents

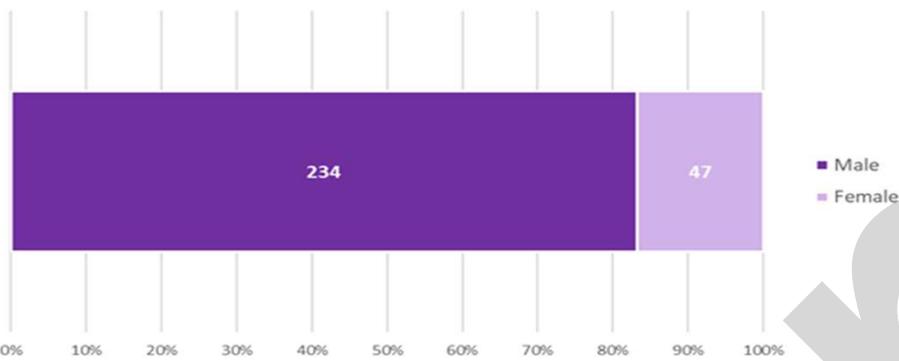


# Service Profile

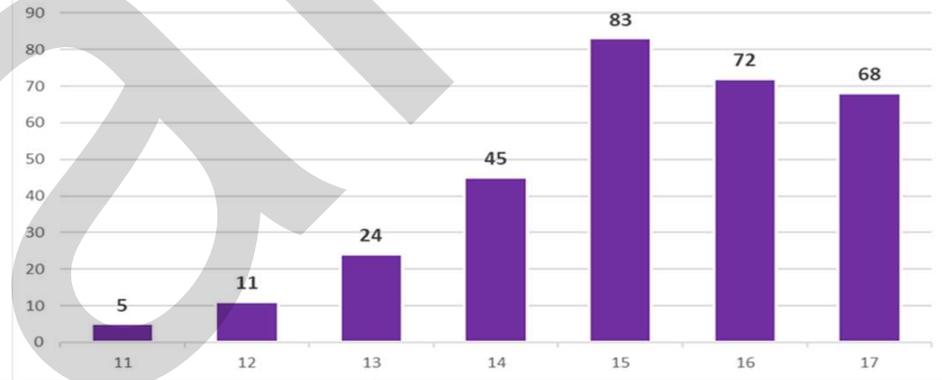
# Youth Justice Service

**Disproportionality** - The YJS continues to see an overrepresentation of 'black or black British' males, albeit there was a reduction during this period. Girls remain to be less representative within the cohort but are often younger in age when engaging with the service (13-14 whereby the average age for males 15-17). The YJS has devised a Disproportionately Action Plan which details how this can proactively address the issue.

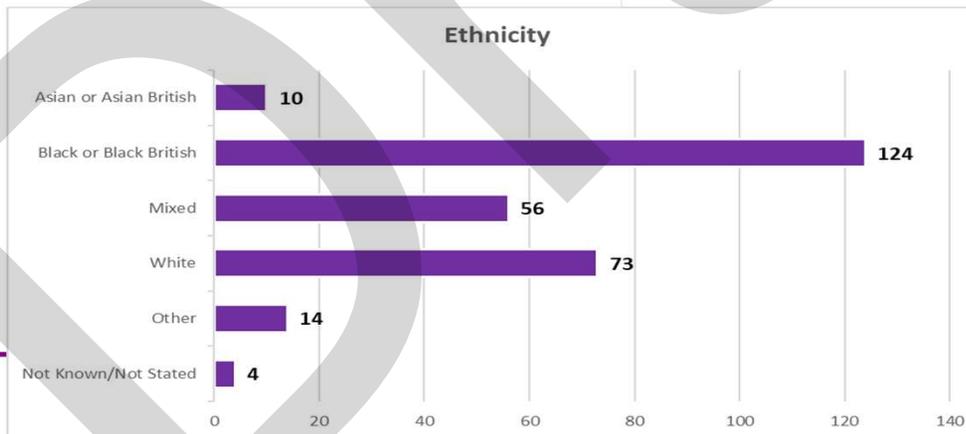
Gender



Age



Ethnicity

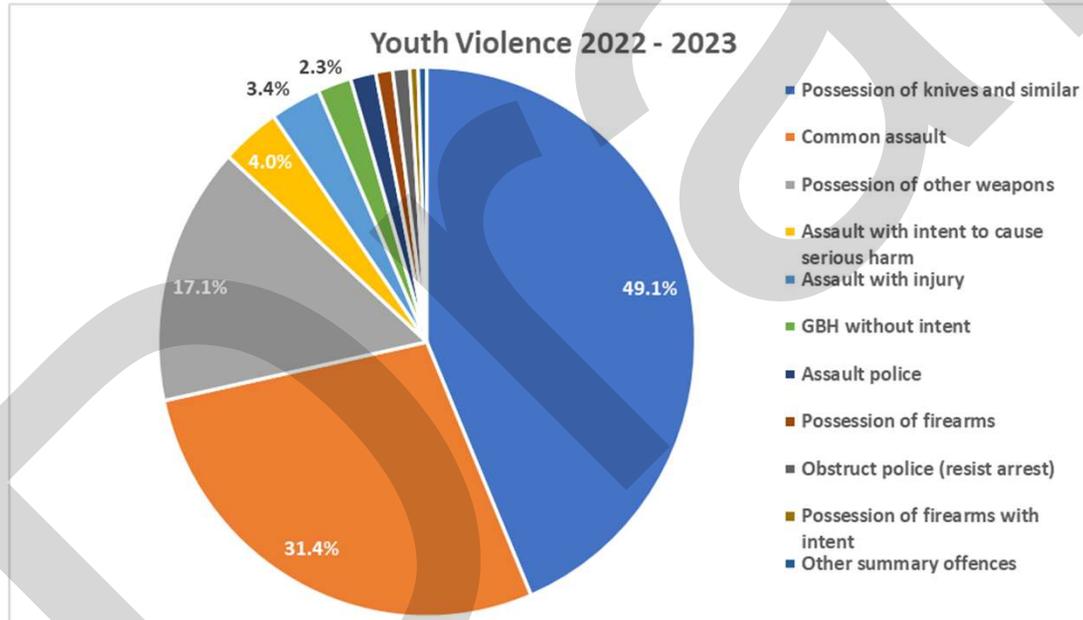


# Youth Justice Service

The 'possession of knives and similar' with 'possession of other weapons', alongside 'common assault' constitutes to approximately 97% of Youth Violence Offences involving individuals known to the service.

The Safer Croydon Partnership recognizes that addressing these specific offences requires a targeted approach that considers socio-economic factors, educational opportunities, and community engagement.

The Safer Croydon Partnership has undertaken initiatives to engage with local communities, schools, and families to provide educational programs and mentorship opportunities aimed at diverting young individuals away from the path of violence.

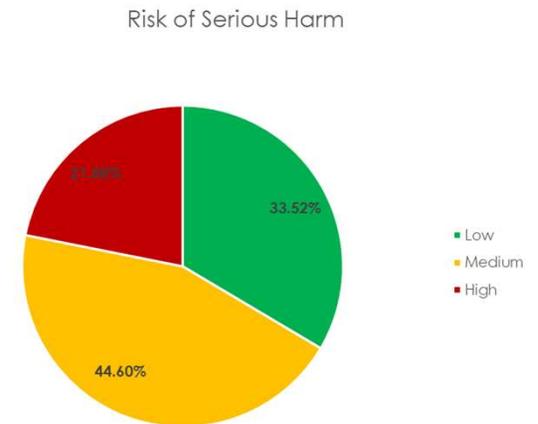
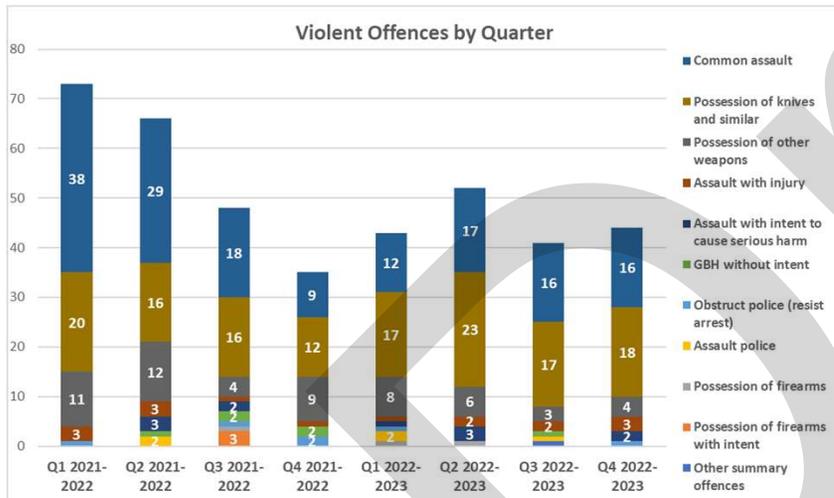


# Youth Justice Service

In the context of violence offences, 'common assault' also exhibit prevalence in Croydon as it can also be seen by quarterly breakdown. These incidents may be rooted in various factors, including interpersonal conflicts, peer influence, or socio-economic disparities. The Safer Croydon Partnership prioritizes community-led interventions and outreach programs that foster positive relationships, mentorship, and skill-building among the youth.

The risk of serious harm within the Youth Justice Service in Croydon is the assessment of the potential threats or dangers faced by young individuals involved in the justice system. This risk evaluation considers various factors to determine the likelihood of serious harm, including harm to themselves or others. Common elements in this assessment may include: Criminal Behaviour, History of Violence, Mental Health, Substance misuse, Family and Environmental Factors, Educational Engagement, Peer Influence and Protective Factors. As can be seen in the chart, approximately 65% of the individuals involved in YJS are considered to be of medium and high risk.

The goal of assessing the risk of serious harm within the Youth Justice Service is to tailor interventions and support services to address the specific needs of each young person, reduce the risk factors, and promote positive outcomes for their well-being and rehabilitation. The assessment process is dynamic and ongoing, adapting to changes in the individual's circumstances and progress within the justice system



# Youth Justice Service

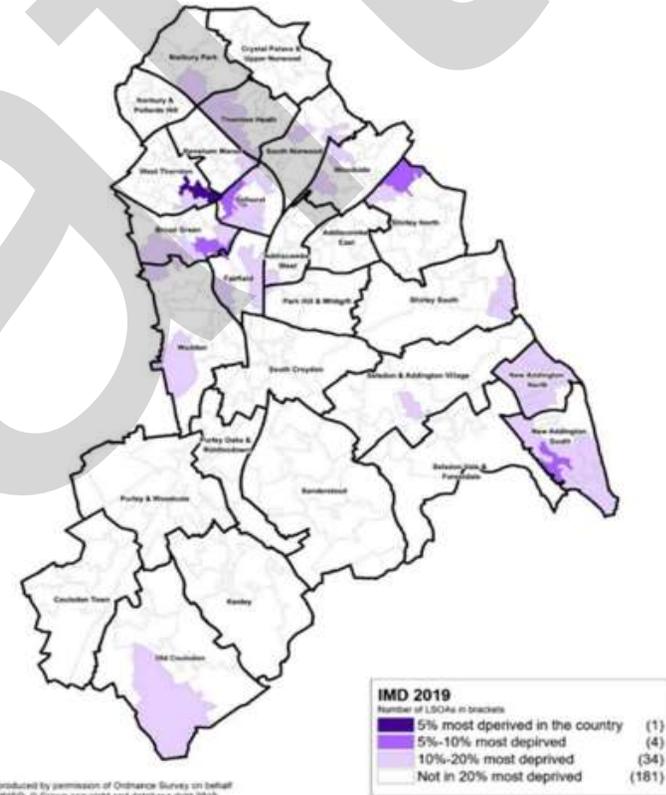
Youth offences are directly linked with areas of deprivation across the Borough.

The map shows that 12 of Croydon's 220 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the top 10% most deprived in the country and in fact there are three areas in the wards of Fairfield and Selhurst that are in the top 5% most deprived LSOAs in the country.

The most deprived areas in Croydon correspond with those with the highest youth offending rates. Croydon is 18th most deprived out of 33 London boroughs.

The table indicates where the individuals who are engaging with the service reside.

Indices of Deprivation 2019  
Croydon Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)

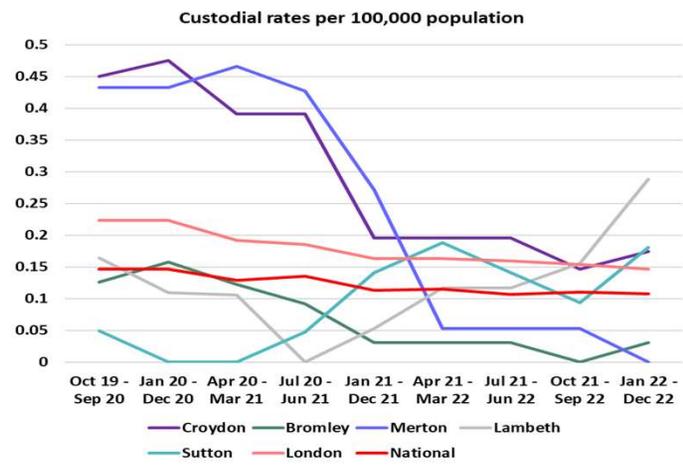
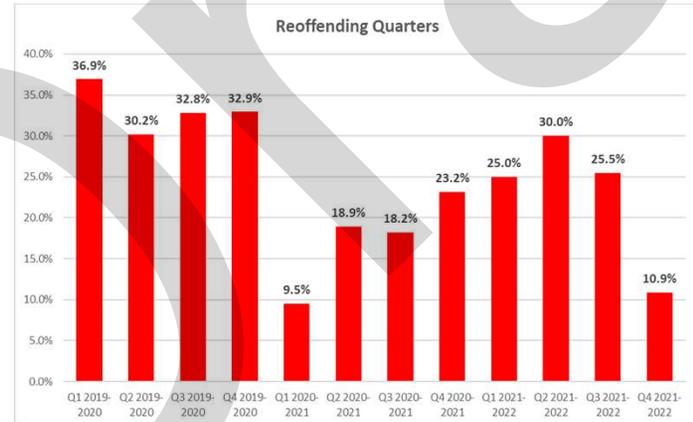
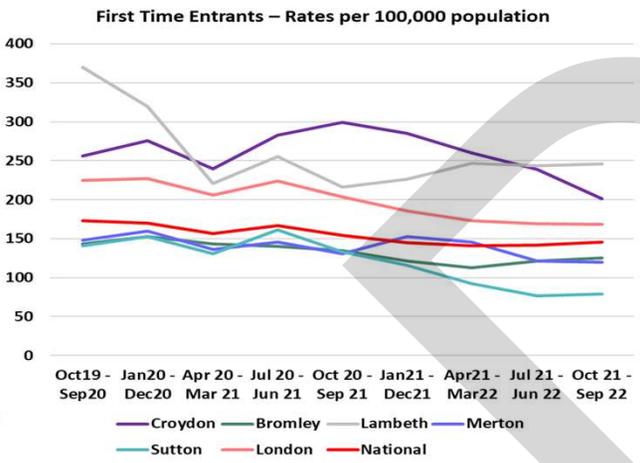


# Youth Justice Service

**1. First Time Entrants:** Whilst Croydon Youth Justice Service remains to have high numbers of First Time Entrants in comparison to neighbouring boroughs the numbers have significantly reduced and the trajectory is to be in line with the London average. Contextually, Croydon has a much larger youth population than other boroughs, so this is a promising and positive picture. Whilst in part the reduction can be attributed to COVID 19 pandemic and the introduction of Community Resolutions as well as efforts being made to continue to divert young people away from the criminal justice system through a number of projects and community sector interventions.

**2. Re-offending rates** – re-offending has also seen a reduction since 2020. Notably, less young people have come through the system, however the YJS continues to evaluate and modify its interventions and services to assist young people in this area. It uses evidence-based approaches as detailed in research to increase protective factors for desistance to reduce recidivism.

**3. Custodial rate** - Custody rates have seen a decline within the Borough. What remains however is a national picture of the overrepresentation of certain groups in custody and for Croydon this is the case. The graph below shows a welcomed reduction of the use of custody. Currently, all children subject to custody (remanded or sentenced) had been accused or convicted of serious offences, reflective of the borough's priorities.



# National Probation Service (NPS)

The current individuals engaging with the National Probation Service have the following characteristics:

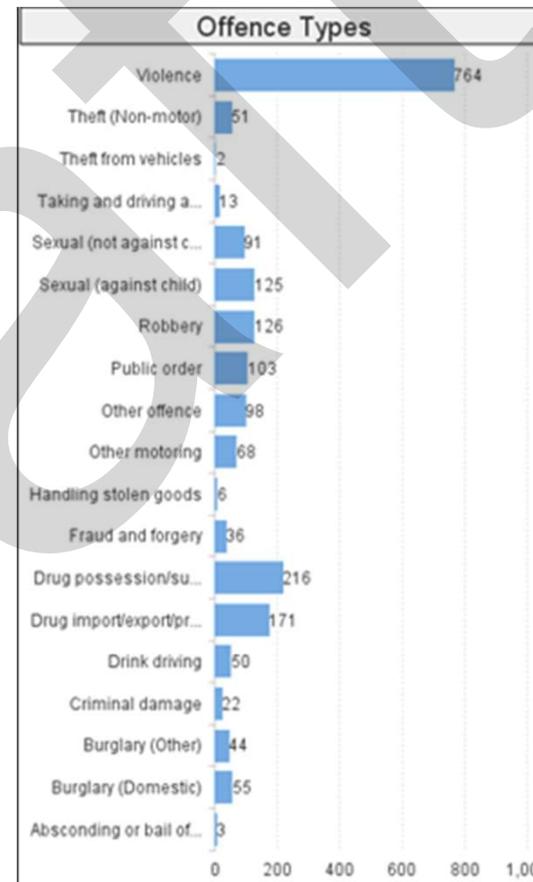
- 94% male, 6% female
- 42% black, 24% white, 10% mixed heritage
- 20% 18-25yo, 36% 26-35yo, 23% 36-45yo
- 74% heterosexual (although it should be noted that 24% of the caseload have not disclosed their sexuality)
- 84% no disability
- 21% no religion, 21% Christian, 32% other.

Again, this is interconnected with the Youth Justice Service landscape, the prevalence of Black and minority ethnic males engaging with the Probation service is directly linked with deprived and densely populated areas of Croydon which source high volumes of criminality.



# Probation landscape

The probation landscape in Croydon reflects a unique set of challenges, notably evident in the disproportionate occurrence of violence within its statistics. Violence stands out as a significant contributor to reported offences. This underscores the important role of strategies aimed at curbing violence in driving an overall reduction in crime within the probation setting. By focusing on violence reduction strategies, Croydon aims to create a safer environment for its residents.



# Overall Crime Profile

# Comparison to London

Croydon has shown resilience and positive trends in managing its **crime rates** in comparison to other London boroughs. Despite facing challenges like any urban area, Croydon has consistently demonstrated a commitment to community safety and crime reduction. When examining crime rates in various categories, Croydon often fares well in comparison to other boroughs, showcasing a steady rate below London average. That is a result of implementing proactive measures to address specific crime concerns, contributing to a safer environment for the communities.

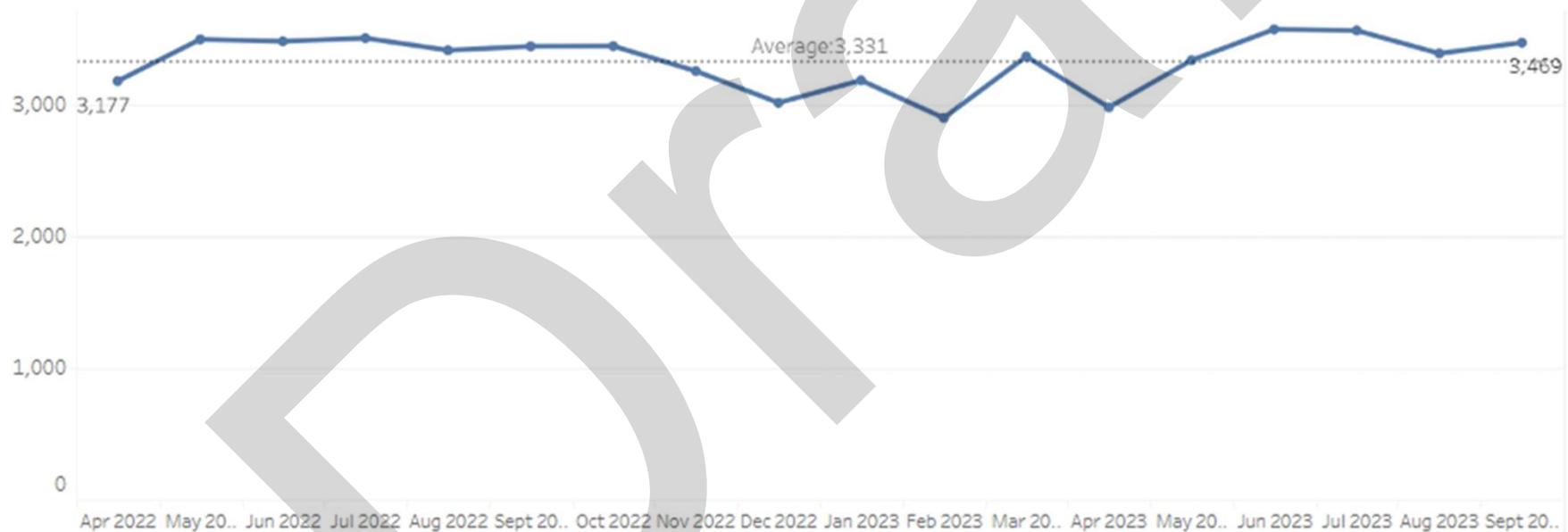
The charts demonstrating Croydon's overall crime rates compared to London, and a rolling 12-month comparison to London.

Croydon's crime rate per 1,000 residents is lower than the London average.



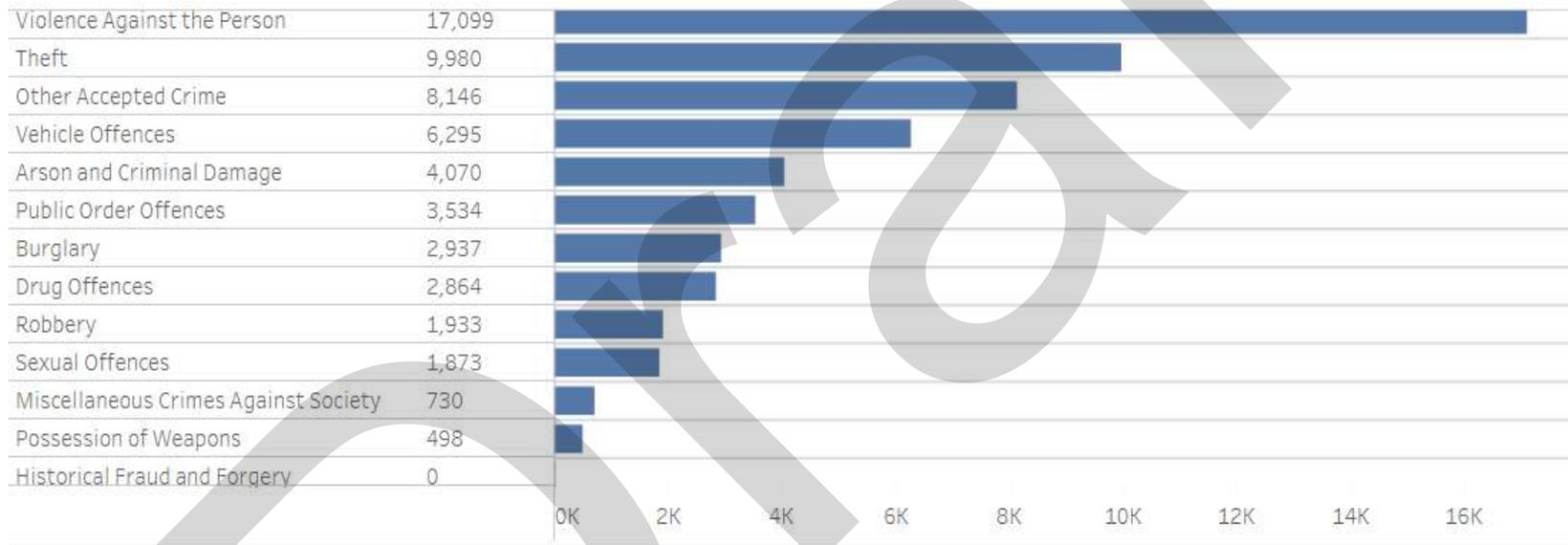
# Summary of offences

Between April 2022 and September 2023, 59,959 offences were recorded in Croydon, averaging 3,331 recorded crimes per month. That translates to a rate of 154.3 offences per 1,000 population. While Croydon recorded the 6<sup>th</sup> highest count of crimes among the London Boroughs, it is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in rate of offences per 1,000 population. That should always be taken into account as Croydon always shows a higher volume of crime as a result of being the highest populated borough in London.



# Offences breakdown

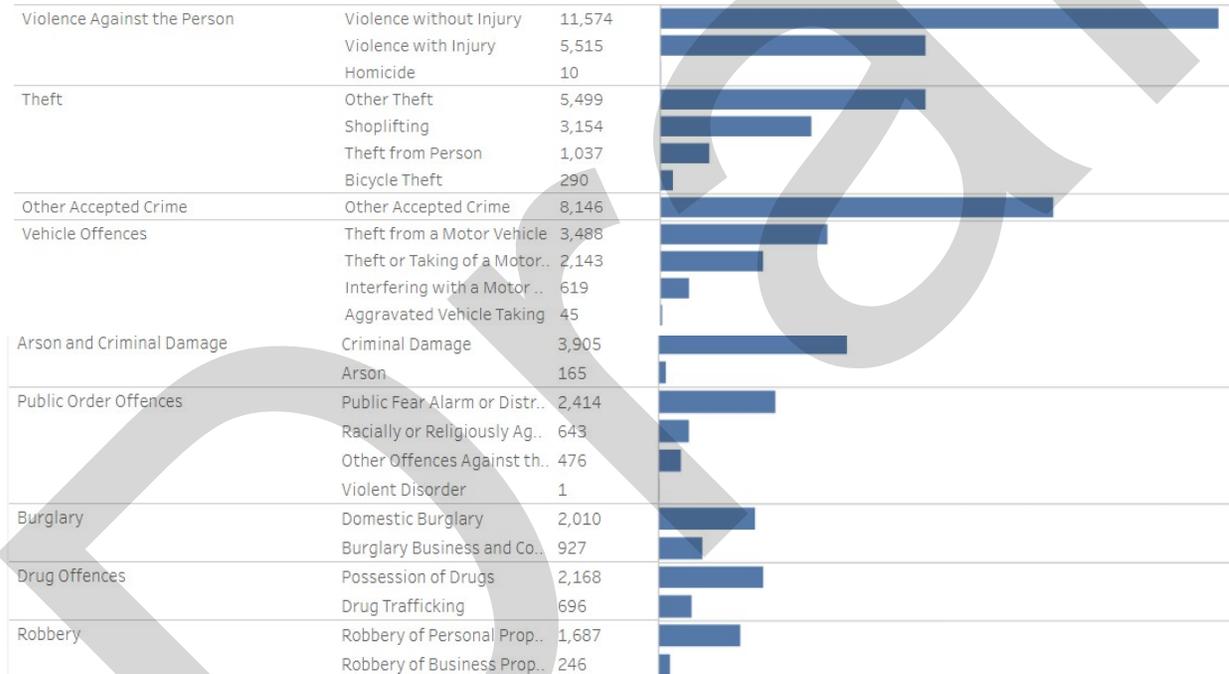
Violence against the person and theft emerge as the most prominent offences within the assessed period. The statistics reveal a pressing need to address and mitigate the impact of these crimes on the local community.



# Offences breakdown

Within the 17,099 reported incidents of violence against the person in Croydon, 5,515 resulted in injuries.

Within those, Croydon faced the tragic loss of 10 lives due to homicides. Each homicide represents not just a statistic but a profound tragedy, affecting families, friends, and the broader community. These cases demand meticulous investigation and a multi-faceted response, addressing both the immediate consequences and the systemic factors contributing to such devastating outcomes. Collaborative efforts between police, community organisations, and support services are crucial to prevent further loss of life and addressing the root causes that may lead to violence as evident by the CSCP Serious Youth Violence Thematic Review<sup>1</sup> and Domestic Homicide Reviews<sup>2</sup>.



1: [17\\_cscp\\_thematic\\_review\\_serious\\_youth\\_violence\\_full\\_document.pdf \(croydonlcsb.org.uk\)](#)

2: [Why do we carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews? | Croydon Council](#)

# Offence Profile

# Serious Youth Violence

Crime Volume		
	Croydon	London Average
Year 1	315	188
Year 2	371	217
Year 3	531	259
Year 3 to Year 2 Difference	160	41
Year 3 to Year 2 % Difference	43.1%	19.0%
Year 3 to Year 1 Difference	216	71
Year 3 to Year 1 % Difference	68.6%	37.5%

Volume Ranking (Out of 32 boroughs – 1<sup>st</sup> being the borough with highest number of offences)

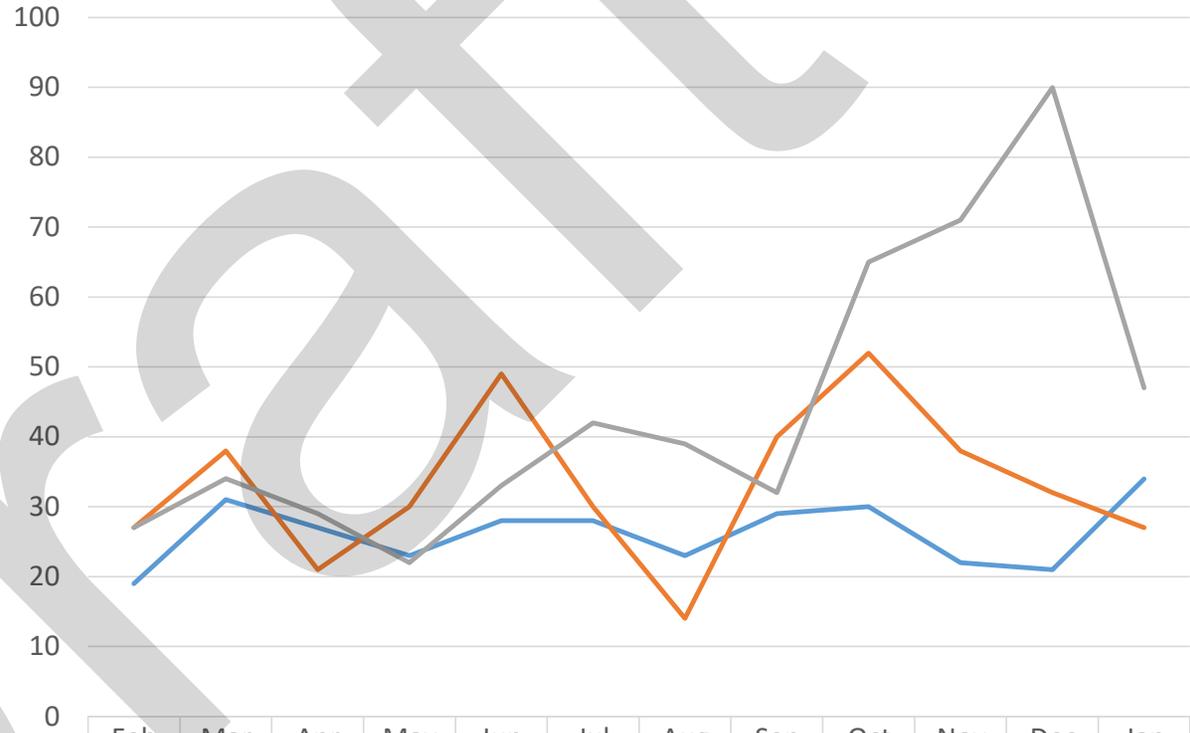
Year 1 = 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Year 2 = 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Year 3 = 1<sup>st</sup>

Crime Rate		
	Croydon	London Average
Year 1	2.81	2.35
Year 2	3.55	2.72
Year 3	5.02	3.20
Year 3 to Year 2 Difference	1.47	0.49
Year 3 to Year 2 % Difference	41.4%	17.9%
Year 3 to Year 1 Difference	2.21	0.86
Year 3 to Year 1 % Difference	78.6%	36.5%

Crime Rate Ranking – Rate of offences per 1,000 residents (Out of 32 boroughs – 1<sup>st</sup> being the borough with highest number of offences)

Year 1 = 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Year 2 = 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Year 3 = 3<sup>rd</sup>

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Year 1 (Feb 21 - Jan 21)	19	31	27	23	28	28	23	29	30	22	21	34
Year 2 (Feb 22 - Jan 22)	27	38	21	30	49	30	14	40	52	38	32	27
Year 3 (Feb 23 - Jan 23)	27	34	29	22	33	42	39	32	65	71	90	47



## Serious Youth Violence (SYV)

80% of the victims are male, with an increasing trend for female victims, approximately 2% annually during the last 3 years. White Europeans accounted for the highest total percentage of victims (45.70%), followed by Afro-Caribbeans (37.58%). Afro-Caribbeans accounted for the highest percentage of victims within their ethnicity (49.65%), followed by White Europeans (56.41%).

**Gender:** The victim data skews heavily male, with 65% male victims compared to 48% of Croydon's population being male. This suggests young men are disproportionately affected by serious youth violence relative to their share of the population.

**Age:** 27% of victimization occurred among 18-24 year olds, while this age group accounts for only 5.5% of Croydon's population. This indicates serious youth violence disproportionately impacts 18-24 year olds.

**Ethnicity:** The victim data shows high representations of Afro-Caribbeans (37.6% of victims ages 1-17) and White Europeans (43.7% of victims ages 1-17). In Croydon, 22.6% are Black African/Caribbean and 48.4% are White. This suggests young Black/African/Caribbeans may be over-represented as victims relative to their share of Croydon's population.

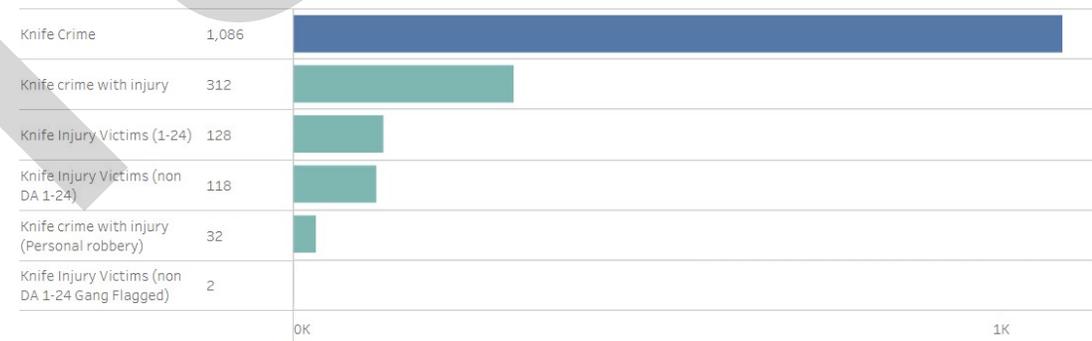
In summary, the data indicates serious youth violence inordinately impacts young men, those aged 18-24, and potentially Black/African/Caribbean groups compared to their demographic profiles in Croydon.

# Knife crime

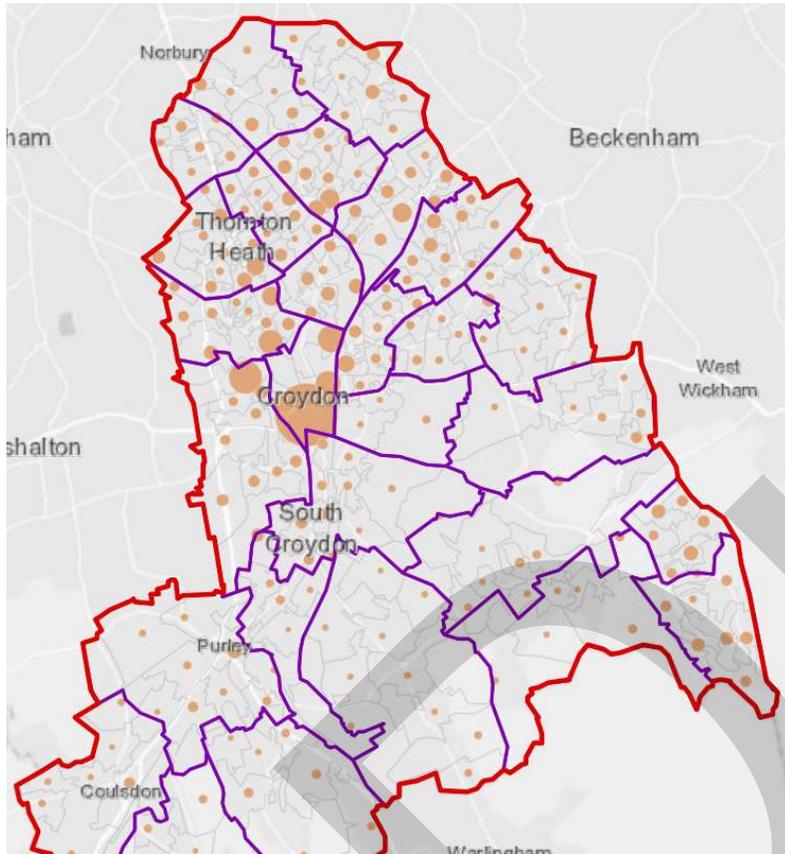
Over the span of April 2022 to September 2023, a total of 1,086 knife-related incidents have been reported, with 312 of them resulting in injuries. This translates to an average of 60 incidents per month, highlighting the persistent nature of this issue. An increasing trend occurs from April to October each year, highlighting the need for targeted interventions during these months.

Knife crime went up by 24.5% during 2023. During the assessed period Croydon recorded 1,086 offences of knife crime with a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 people.

These statistics rank Croydon as 8<sup>th</sup> in crime rate per 1,000 people and 4<sup>th</sup> in crime volume among the rest of London Boroughs.



## Knife crime



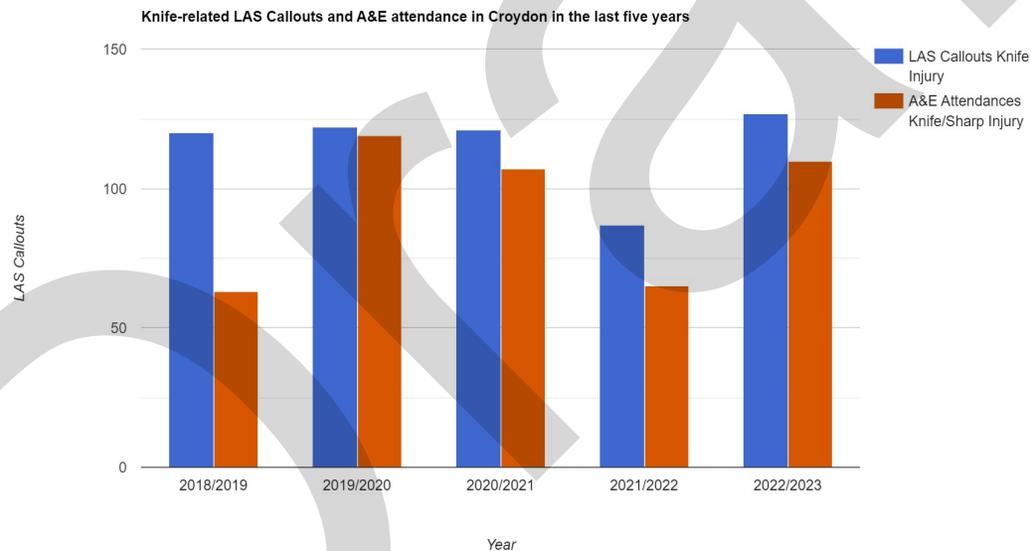
Knife crime remains a key concern in Croydon. The borough has identified specific hotspots where incidents of knife crime are more concentrated, with notable areas including West Croydon, the Town Centre, and parts of the northern and eastern wards, such as New Addington and the Shrublands area.

The Safer Croydon Partnership continues to monitor and adapt its strategies, recognizing the need for sustained collaboration between law enforcement, community organisations, and residents to create lasting solutions and ensure the safety of Croydon's residents.

# London Ambulance Service (LAS) and A&E attendances

The number of incidents attended by the London Ambulance Service (along with the A&E attendances) for knife/sharp injuries showed a decrease in 2021/22 but increase in 2022/23.

The increase in knife injuries aligns with the overarching pattern of increased youth violence.

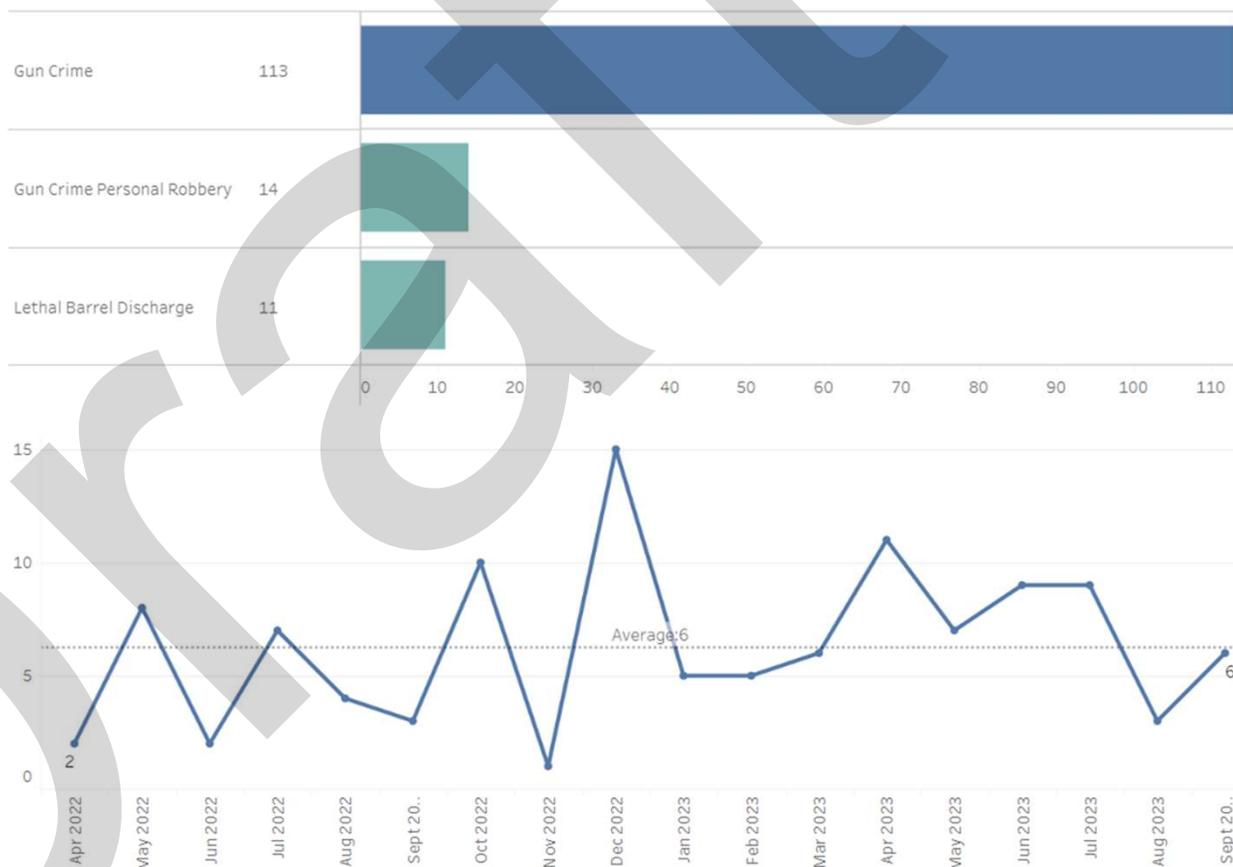


# Gun crime

There has been 113 gun crime offences, equating to approximately 0.3 offences for every 1,000 people in the borough.

Croydon is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in crime rate per 1,000 people and 5<sup>th</sup> in crime volume among the London Boroughs.

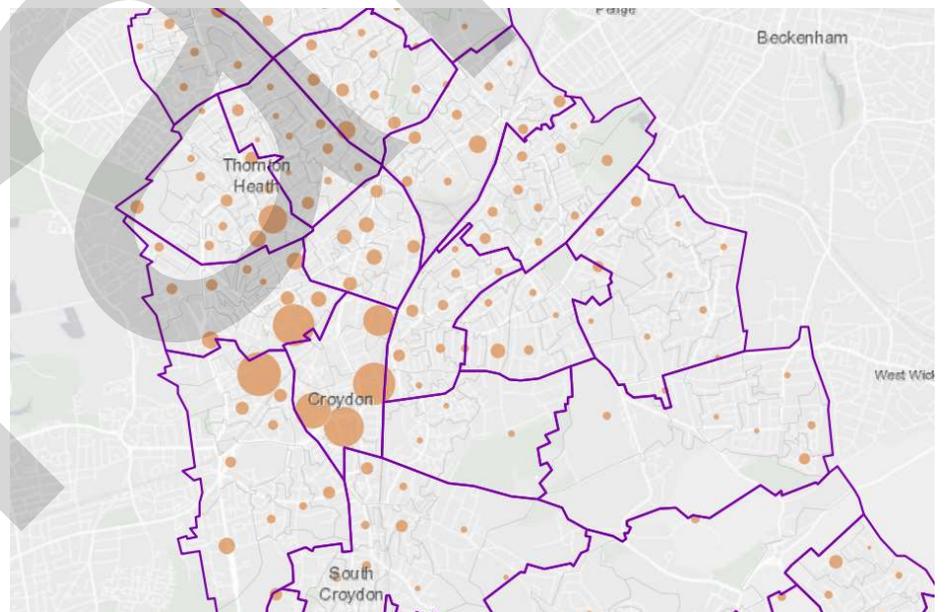
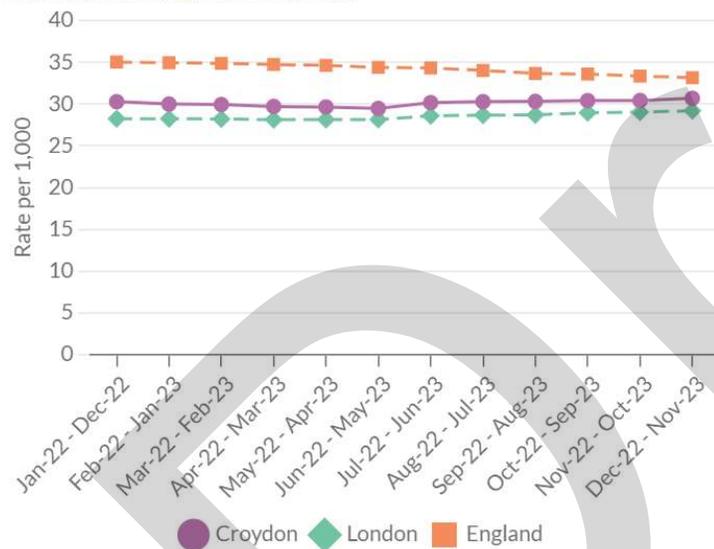
The link between gun crime and youth violence is intricate and multifaceted. The statistics indicate that out of the 113 gun crime offences, 14 were specifically classified as related to 'personal robbery'. This highlights the intersection of gun crime with other offences, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies that address not only the presence of firearms but also the broader issues contributing to criminal behaviour.



# Violence and Sexual Offences

Whilst the Boroughs rates show that it is above the London average, it is lower than the average in England. The vast majority of the offences have taken place in low LSOA areas of the borough which are densely populated. As it can be seen in the hotspot map: the Town Centre, North End and Selhurst are the areas with the highest number of recorded offences followed by Thornton Heath.

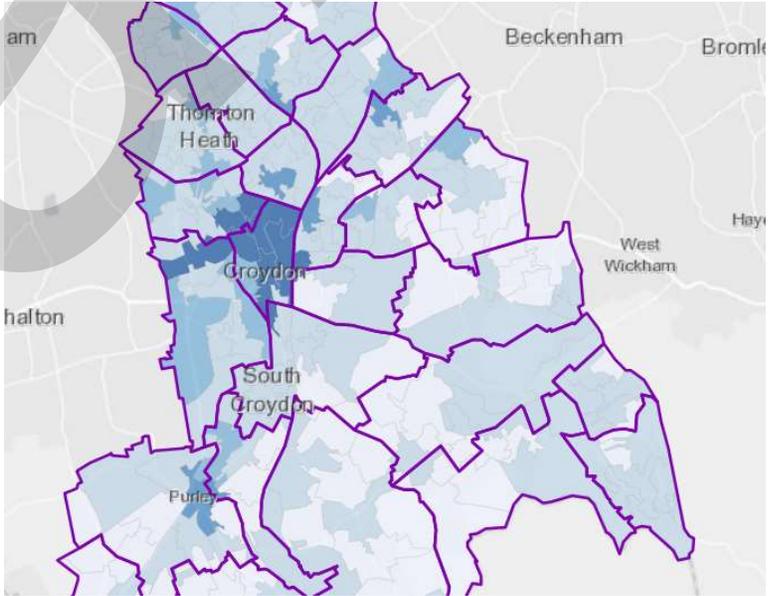
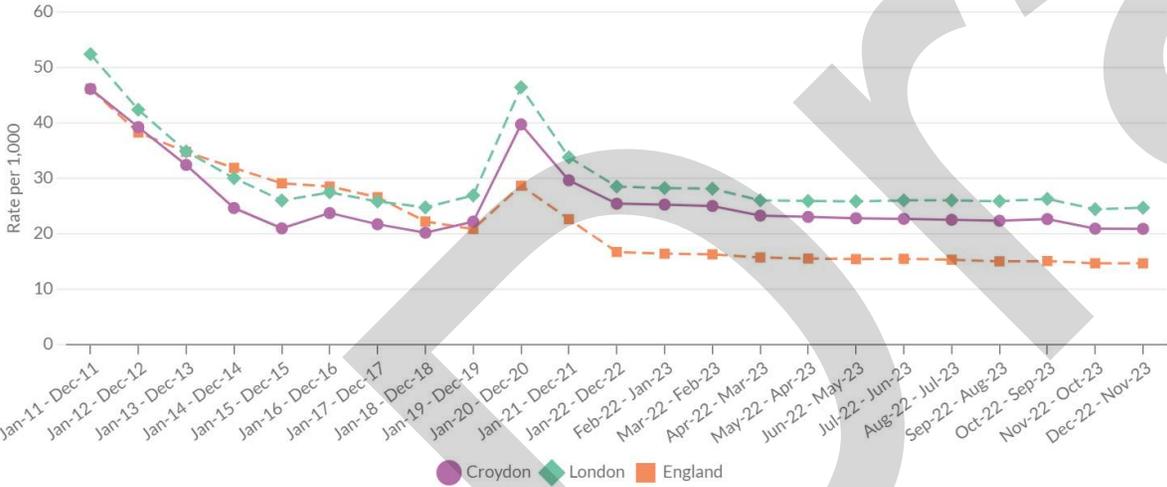
Violence and sexual offences Rate



# Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) mainly affects the Town Centre extending to North End and West Croydon Station. Thornton Heath and Purley are emerging hotspots and are under close observation. Croydon’s rates have been maintained below London’s average following successful measures as the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), while another PSPO is being set up for Thornton Heath and surrounding areas.

Efforts to combat ASB in Croydon should focus on community engagement and education. Building trust between residents and local authorities fosters a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining a safe environment.



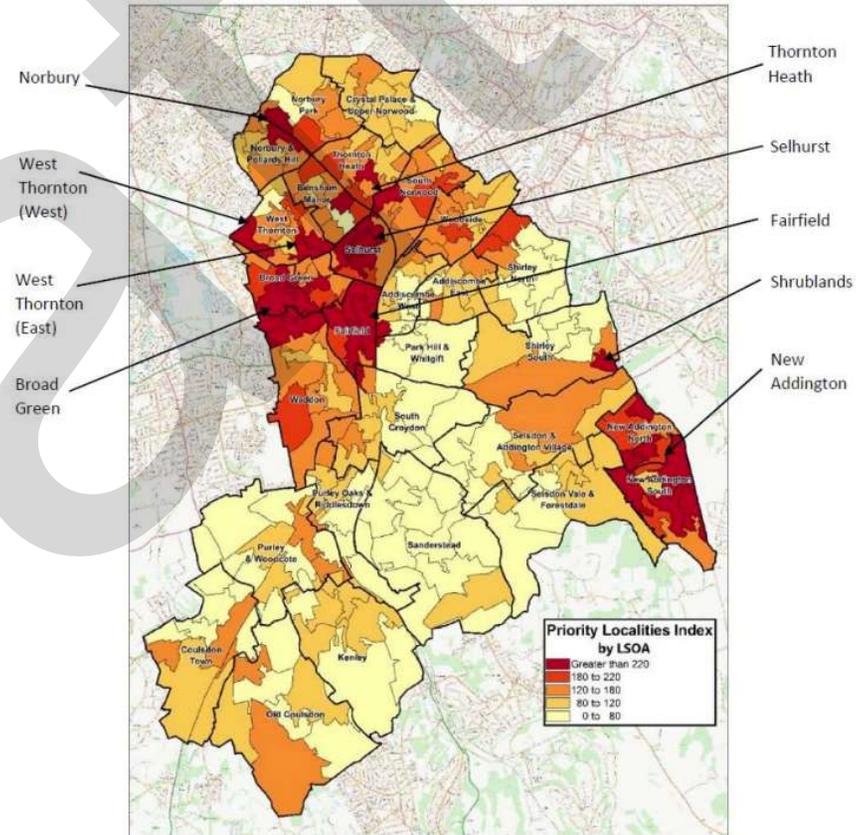
# Offenders

**Offenders:** 20% of crime suspects in Croydon are classified as repeat offenders, belonging in 0-24 age group.

Repeat offenders are responsible for more than 40% of crime in Croydon. In specific types of violence including domestic abuse, knife crime and serious youth violence, repeat offenders are responsible for approximately 50% of all offences committed.

The homes of suspects and repeat suspects are highly concentrated in the Priority Localities Index areas. A focus on high harm suspects will provide a more manageable, resource-focused and intensive approach to reducing serious crime in the borough.

A small group of people in Croydon, less than 10% of all offenders, causes half of the serious harm in the borough. These individuals are involved in severe crimes like violence, sexual offenses, robbery, and arson. They are responsible for a significant portion of serious harm, including domestic abuse, youth violence, and violent incidents. When we look at repeat offenders who cause a lot of harm, we find common issues like drug use, mental health problems, and alcohol.



# Victims

Most adults who become victims of crime are between 18 and 45 years old, and a significant number of them experience domestic violence within this age range.

For young people aged 10 to 17, almost one-fifth of all harm from crimes is linked to knife-related incidents.

A small group of people, around 9% of all victims, end up being victims of 20% of the total crimes and cause 31% of the harm caused by crimes. This group often faces repeat victimization in areas like domestic violence, hate crime (mostly between neighbors due to increased interaction during lockdown), and alcohol-related crime.

Focusing on helping victims who suffer 50% of the harm caused by crime, instead of those accounting for 50% of the total crimes, would make better use of limited resources, as this group is much smaller (95% smaller). High-harm victims experience serious violence, including domestic abuse, non-domestic violence with injury, serious youth violence, sexual offenses, and arson. However, they are not typically victims of hate crime. Identifying and supporting these high-harm victims is crucial for more effective resource allocation.

# **VAWG Profile - Domestic Abuse**

# Domestic Abuse

Croydon recorded 7,584 domestic abuse offences reported.

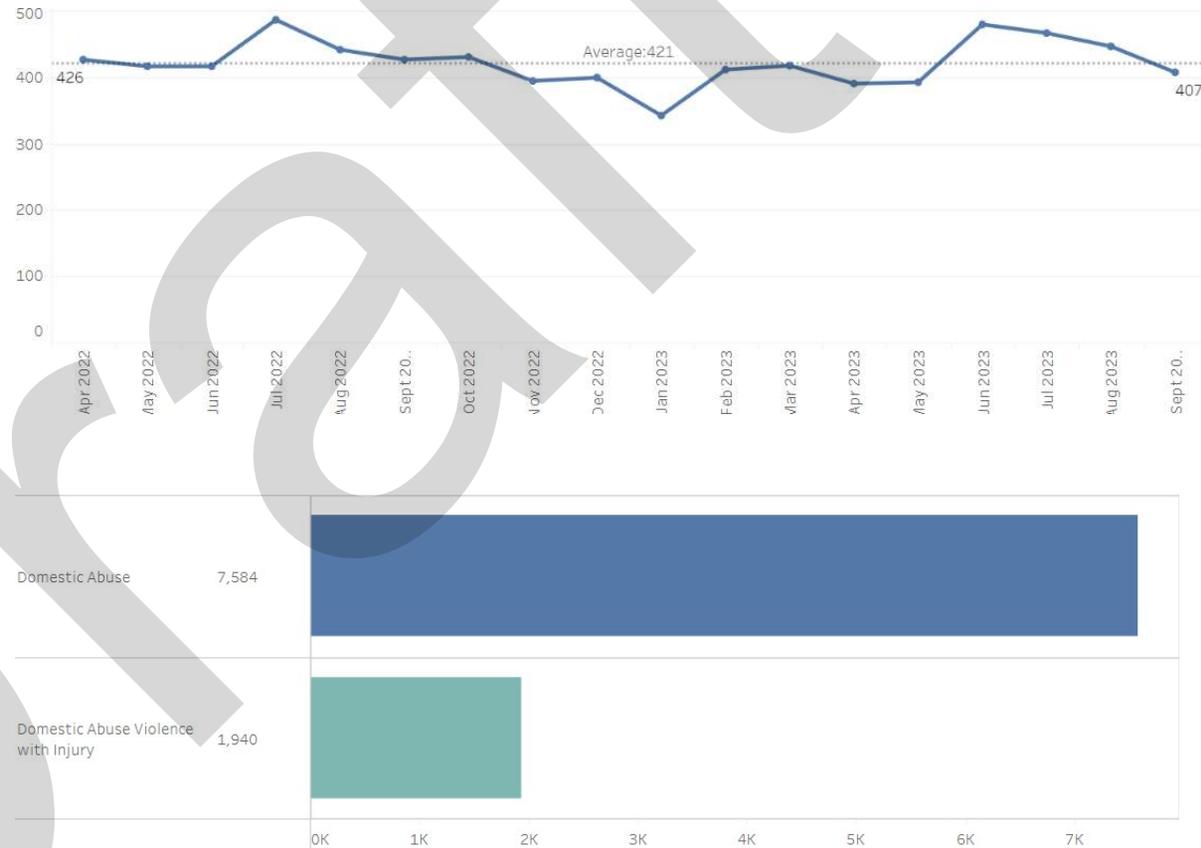
This translates to a rate of 19.5 offences for every 1,000 people living in Croydon.

These numbers make Croydon ranking first in volume and sixth in rate among all the London Boroughs.

In addition, from those offences 1,940 were recorded as Domestic Abuse including Violence with injury.

The equates to 5.0 offences per 1,000 people and ranking Croydon as 4<sup>th</sup> in crime rate and 1<sup>st</sup> in crime volume among the other London boroughs.

The term "Domestic Abuse Violence with injury" means that, out of these incidents, 1,940 cases involved physical harm. This alarming number shows that there's a need to address the root causes of domestic abuse in our community.



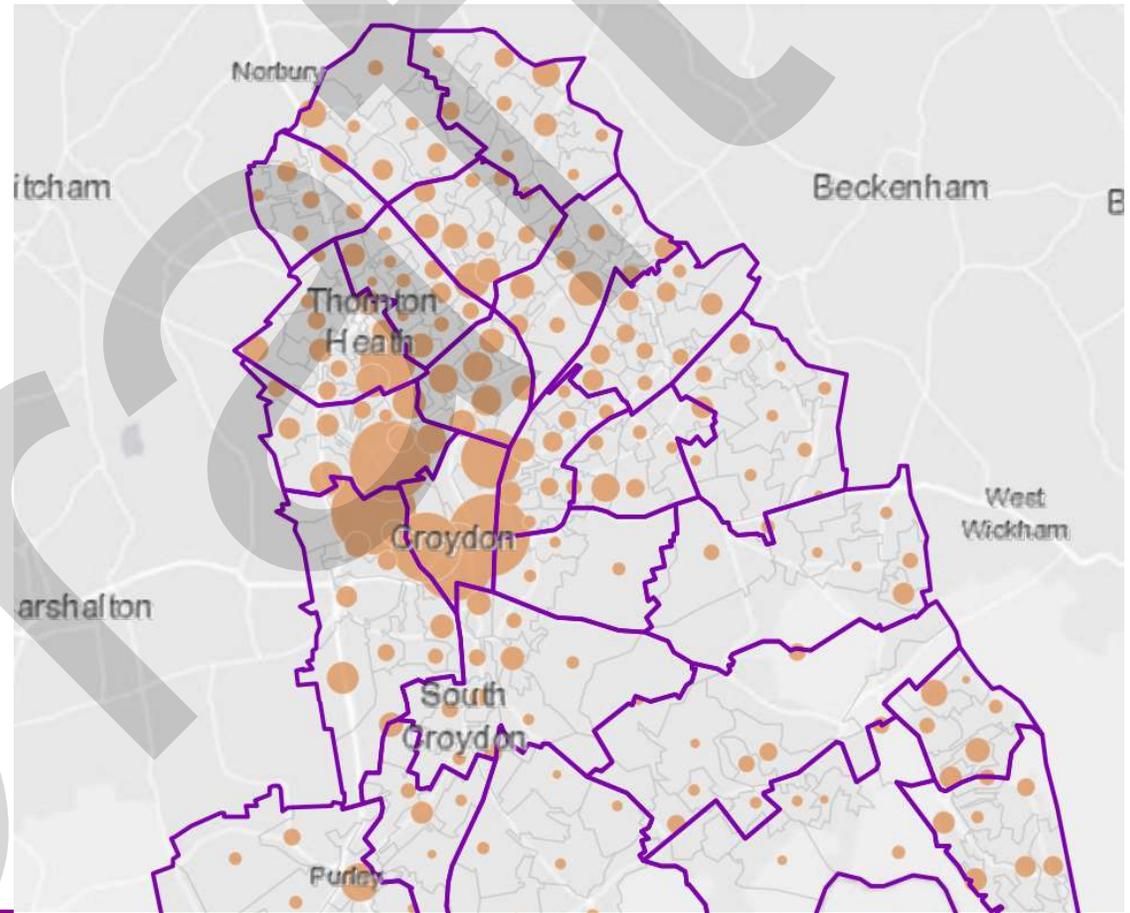
# Locations

In Croydon, along with the Metropolitan Police data, the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Family Justice Service (FJS) referrals provide valuable insights into the locations most affected by domestic abuse.

MARAC and FJS referral statistics highlight the prevalence of domestic abuse cases throughout the borough. These referrals serve as crucial indicators of areas where individuals may be particularly vulnerable.

Examining MARAC referrals reveals specific locations where the need for intervention and support is heightened. MARAC focuses on cases with high levels of risk, ensuring that resources are directed towards those in immediate danger.

Family Justice Service referrals contribute to a comprehensive understanding of domestic abuse trends. These referrals encompass a broader spectrum, including cases that may not yet be classified as high risk but still require support and intervention.



# Victims/Survivors

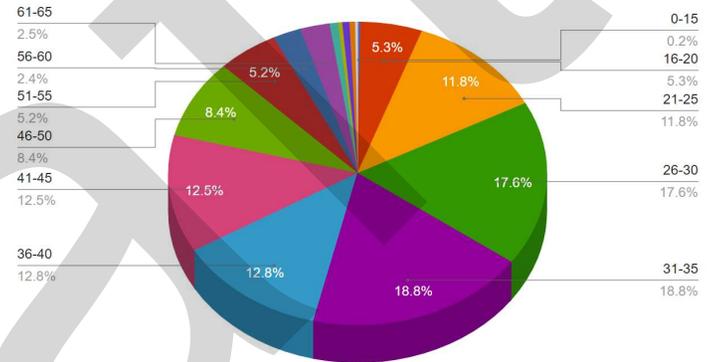
The FJS received 1,296 referrals from April 2023 to January 2024.

**AGE:** A notable proportion falls within the age range of 26 to 35, including individuals in their late twenties to mid-thirties, constituting 35.53% of the recorded data. There is a substantial representation of individuals aged 36 to 50, collectively making up 32.95% of the dataset. The younger age brackets, from 16 to 25, contribute significantly, comprising 34.71% of the total.

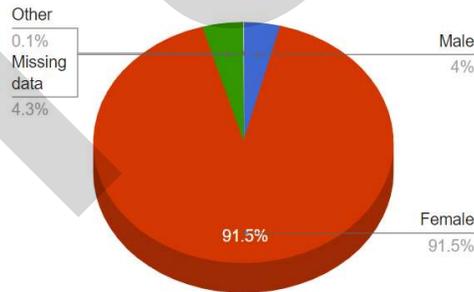
The gender distribution data underscores a predominant representation of females, constituting 91.53% of the dataset. These numbers are in accordance with the overall London statistics confirming that Domestic Abuse is a problem which is predominantly affecting women.

Among the identified ethnicities, British constitutes the largest group at 19.65%, followed by Caribbean at 17.29%, and African at 13.53%.

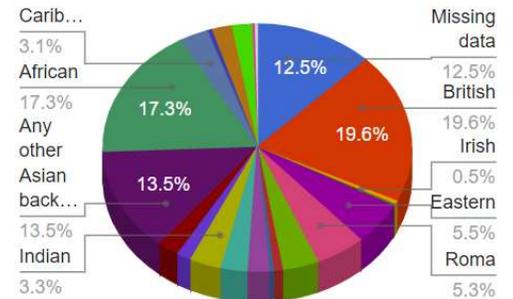
Age

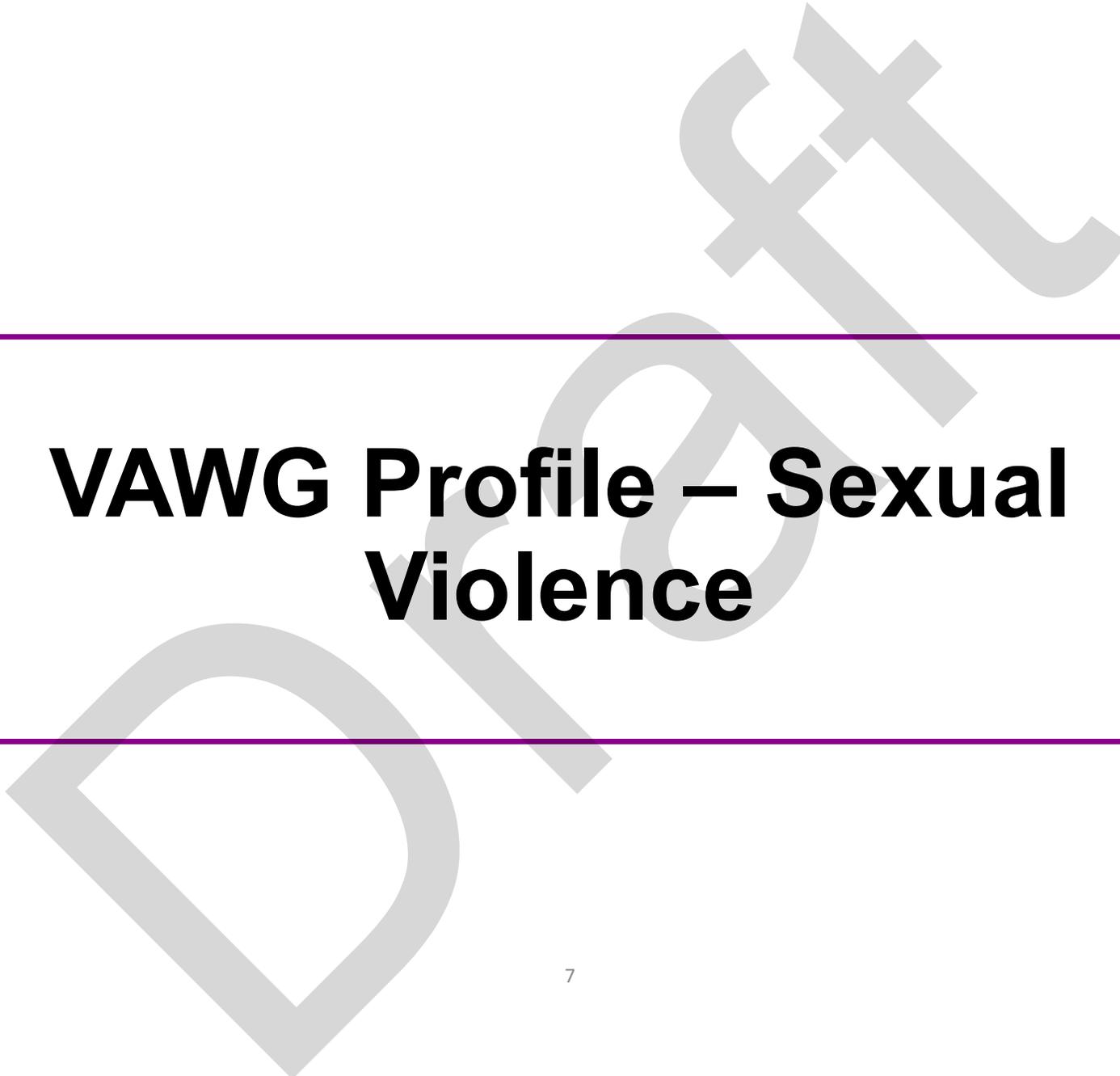


Gender



Ethnicity





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# **VAWG Profile – Sexual Violence**

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# Sexual Violence

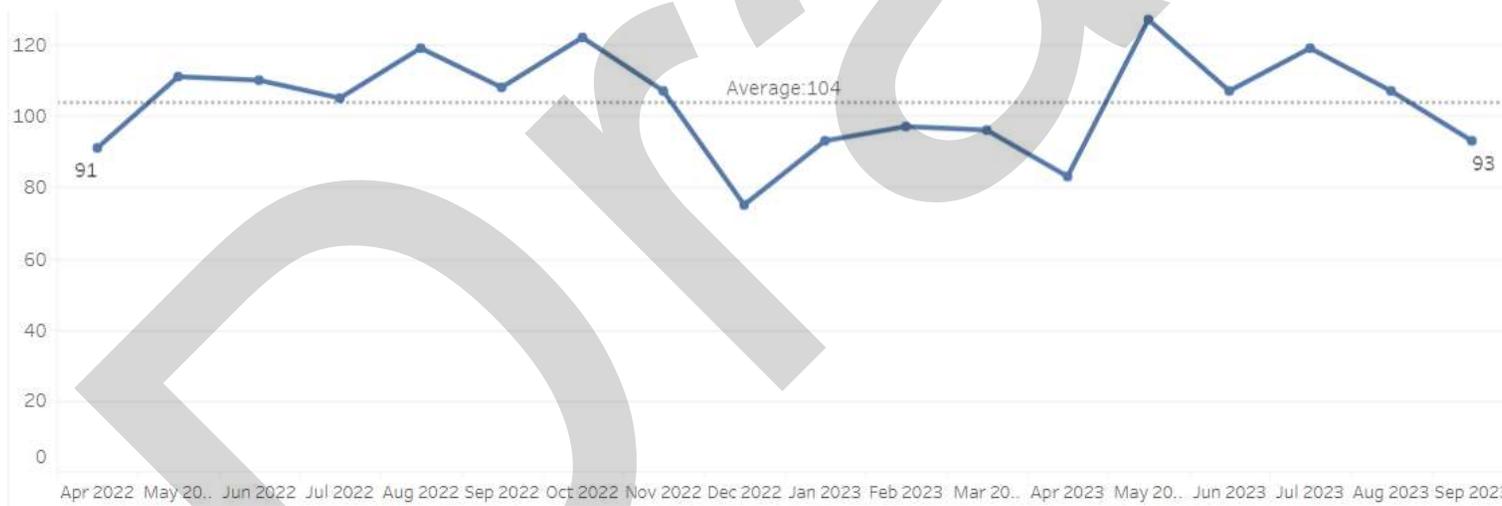
Throughout the assessed period, 1,870 sexual offences were recorded in the borough, echoing at a rate of 4.8 offences per 1,000 people.

From those, 762 incidents were recorded as rape, encapsulating a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 people.

These figures position Croydon as 8<sup>th</sup> in crime rate per 1,000 people and 2<sup>nd</sup> in crime volume among the other London boroughs.

A significant portion of these offences have a starting point online, highlighting the intricate relationship between technology and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Delving into demographics is complex—victims spanning diverse backgrounds and age groups, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of this violence. Simultaneously, understanding the demographics of perpetrators becomes imperative for developing effective preventive strategies.

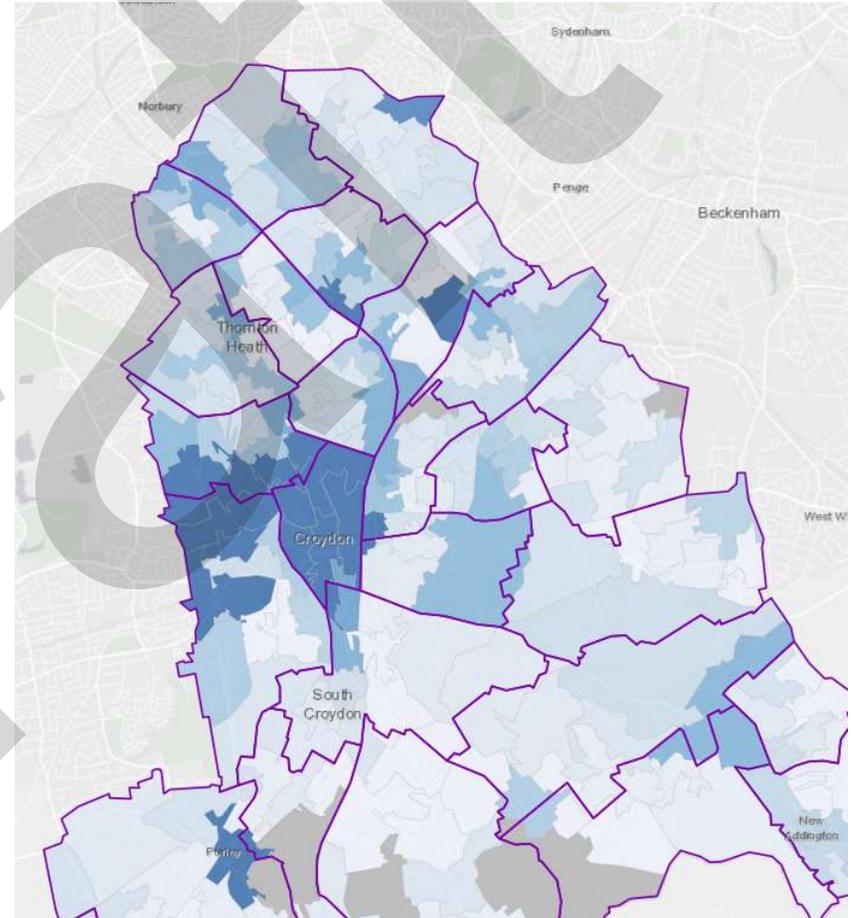


# Locations

Public transport hubs often emerge as locations where sexual harassment incidents occur. The bustling nature of these areas, including train and bus stations, creates an environment where harassers may exploit crowded conditions and anonymity. Understanding this dynamic enables targeted awareness campaigns and increased security measures.

The night economy, encompassing entertainment districts, bars, and clubs, presents an increased risk of sexual harassment. Factors such as crowded venues, alcohol consumption, and reduced visibility contribute to an environment where perpetrators may take advantage.

Spatial analysis of reported incidents unveils specific locations with higher prevalence rates. These include the East and West Croydon stations, an extended ratio of the town centre and Purley as an emerging sexual harassment hotspot.



# Public transport profile

The British Transport Police (BTP) play a pivotal role in ensuring safety and security within train and tram stations within Croydon. A closer examination of incident data reveals distinct patterns at two key stations—East Croydon and West Croydon.

East Croydon Station, as one of the busiest transport hubs in the area, witnessed 264 incidents during the reporting period. The majority of these incidents encompassed violent crimes and instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB). This web of incidents extends beyond the confines of the station, including on-train situations. There is a clear pattern between the offences landscape in the areas surrounding the station and the offences committed within the station or inside the trains.

West Croydon station had 41 recorded incidents. While a lesser number compared to its eastern counterpart, again the majority of these incidents involve violent crimes and ASB. Notably, West Croydon has managed to avoid the surge in incidents witnessed around North End and London Road. T

## East Croydon Station



The number of crimes & ASB offences per 100,000 passengers has **increased from 1.26 to 1.91** comparing Jan 2023-Dec 2023 with the same period a year earlier



## West Croydon Station



The number of crimes & ASB offences per 100,000 passengers has **increased from 0.86 to 1.72** comparing Jan 2023-Dec 2023 with the same period a year earlier





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# **Work of the Safer Croydon Partnership**

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# Delivery Plans

## **Youth Safety Action Plan**

The Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026, Outcome 4 centres on "Croydon being a cleaner, safer, and healthier place, a borough we're proud to call home". A key priority is to tackle anti-social behaviour, knife crime and violence against women and girls so that Croydon feels safer. As part of this, the mayor has committed to delivering a Youth Safety Delivery Plan that focuses on keeping children and young people safe on the streets of Croydon. The plan will crucially be delivered by working in partnership with children, young people, and young adults, communities and families, and the voluntary sector.

The draft Action Plan was taken to cabinet in September 2023: [Appendix A 2023-08-07 Youth Safety Delivery Plan FINAL.pdf \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Action Plan**

The Safer Croydon Partnership will develop a high-level three-year plan to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). The plan will set out a clear multi-agency, long-term approach to tackling and preventing VAWG and to take our work to the next level by actively involving a greater number of people and partners in our solutions to reduce violence against women and girls. It will include a delivery plan that is focused on outcomes.

In September 2022, the Mayor of Croydon made a commitment of Intent to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). [Tackling Violence against Women and Children - Statement of Intent - Report - MJP amends.pdf \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)

# Voice of the Community

## **PSPO Thornton Heath and Surrounding areas**

The PSPO Cabinet report approved by Cabinet in May 2023, stated that the Council would conduct a formal 6-week consultation to enable Croydon's residents and visitors to feedback on a PSPO covering a geographical area in and around Thornton Heath. As a result of the consultation, there were 551 respondents to the consultation with 78% strongly agreed with the need for a PSPO in Thornton Heath and its surrounding area. Only 11% strongly disagreed.

## **PSPO Town Centre**

Following the PSPO Cabinet report that was taken to Cabinet in July 2022, it was agreed that the Council would conduct a formal 6-week consultation to allow residents and visitors the opportunity to provide their comments and feedback on a PSPO covering a geographical area, in and around the Town Centre. There was a total of 1,390 respondents to the survey. 2.2 Over 80% of respondents "definitely agree" with a PSPO in the town centre. 90% of respondents either "definitely agree" or "somewhat agree" with a PSPO.

## **Community Engagement Board**

In April 2023, the Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP) launched a new Community Safety Engagement Board (CSEB) to listen to and collaborate with residents and community groups on community safety initiatives. The CSEB has provided a platform for communities across Croydon to engage with the council, police, fire brigade, probation, and health services – the agencies that make up the SCP – to work together to tackle crime and disorder issues. Additionally, the CSEB will aim to increase awareness of the SCP's work to tackle crime and disorder across Croydon, helping to reassure residents and improve public confidence in community safety initiatives.

# Recommendations

# Recommendations

## **Community Partnership**

The collaboration that has taken place amongst the community groups, faith organisations, residents, businesses as well as the members of the Safer Croydon Partnership should continue and potentially look to increase.

## **Knife Crime**

Knife crime is a priority for the Safer Croydon Partnership and this should remain. The residents and the communities of the borough have sadly seen the impact this has had and further action is required to protect Croydon's residents.

## **VAWG**

There is a high level of Domestic Abuse in Croydon and the Safer Croydon Partnership must ensure that they priorities addressing DASV.

## **Hotspot Locations**

The areas identified in the Community Safety Strategy still remain the hotspot locations. The SCP must be flexible in considering the emergence of other seasonal areas.

## **School Work**

Schools play a vital role in the prevention and detection of crime. Greater collaboration is required between the Safer Croydon Partnership, schools and community groups to ensure young people receive the support they need whilst at school and travelling throughout the borough.

## **Funding**

The SCP has seen the benefit of funding to supplement existing work. Further multi-agency bids should be explored to improve pre-existing resources.

These recommendations aim to create a multifaceted approach, addressing the complexities of sexual violence in Croydon through proactive policing, community engagement, victim support, and targeted education. Collaborative efforts among various agencies and stakeholders will be crucial to achieving lasting impact in fostering a safer and more resilient community.