



# SAFER CORNWALL

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## Safer Falmouth Summary 2025










# Introduction

This profile provides a **picture of crime and community safety issues** for this area. It compares the Falmouth town area with the average for other large towns in Cornwall (towns with a population of 10,000 or more), described within this profile as “urban”.

Safer Falmouth was established in 2016 to facilitate and support a **co-ordinated multi-agency approach to community safety** issues to improve feelings of safety and public reassurance, reduce the risk of harm to the community and protect vulnerable groups. The multi-agency group involves local community members in the work of the partnership and encourage social inclusion and community participation through being part of the problem-solving process and having a sense of pride in Falmouth.

## key statistics

	Current <b>population of</b> Falmouth town area is <b>23,695</b>	<b>13%</b> are aged <b>under 16</b> 16% Cornwall / 19% England
<b>People</b>		<b>21%</b> are aged <b>over 65</b> 25% Cornwall / 18% England
	<b>15%</b> live in the <b>20% most deprived neighbourhoods</b> in England	
<b>Vulnerable groups</b>		<b>Education &amp; skills</b>
<b>12%</b> of people have <b>no qualifications</b>		16% in Cornwall 18% across England
	£406,081 average <b>house price</b>	
<b>Housing</b>	£341,635 across Cornwall £356,508 across England	<b>Economy</b>
<b>58%</b> are in <b>full time jobs</b>		62% in Cornwall 69% across England
	<b>8%</b> of people have a <b>limiting long-term illness</b> that limits activities <b>a lot</b>	
<b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b>	9% in Cornwall 7% across England	<b>Access &amp; transport</b>
		<b>21%</b> of households <b>do not have a car</b>
		15% in Cornwall 24% across England

Except where stated this profile provides information for **the geographical area representing Falmouth Town as defined by [Local Insight \(communityinsight.org\)](https://communityinsight.org)**; comparisons are drawn with the average for other large towns in Cornwall (with a population of 10k or more, also described as “urban”) and Cornwall as a whole.

## Cornwall overview

Over the last 12 months we have seen crime rates rise across Cornwall. There were 33,425 crimes reported in the 12-month period ending December 2024. This is an **increase of 11%** and can mostly be accounted for by increases in **stalking** and **harassment** offences, **assaults without injury**, **shoplifting**, **criminal damage** and **public order offences**.

**Shoplifting** has increased across the country and is at its highest levels for the last 20 years. In Cornwall, we have seen a rise of 23% compared with last year. Responses to this type of crime include Shopwatch radios and bespoke crime prevention training in our larger towns.

**Criminal damage** makes up 12% of all recorded crime and is a highly visible sign of disorder in communities, which can negatively affect public perceptions of crime and feelings of safety.

**Violence** makes up a third of all recorded crime and has **increased by 10%** overall, with the majority of the rise coming from **violence without injury** offences. Violence with injury has seen a smaller rise overall and has reduced in some larger towns where there have been targeted initiatives.

Reporting of domestic abuse is a key factor. Cornwall sees a greater proportion of crime recorded as **domestic abuse** (36%) and the number of these crimes is still **increasing**, whereas nationally police recorded domestic abuse crimes have started to fall for the first time in a decade.

Safer Cornwall is focusing on **prevention approaches** through local delivery of the Serious Violence Prevention Programme and five-year strategies to tackle **domestic abuse** and **sexual violence** and **violence against women and girls**. These form part of our Strategic Framework to prevent serious violence in Cornwall.

There were 7,844 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** reported to the police in the last 12 months. After a long period of reduction, we are now seeing trends begin to rise again. Across our larger towns, we are starting to see the benefits of targeted initiatives such as **Safer Streets** and **Hotspot Patrols** with some towns seeing lower than average rises.

### Understanding crime increases

It is estimated that improvements in crime recording have **increased recorded crime by 8%** providing more opportunities to support victims and keep communities safe.

Devon and Cornwall Police are focused on keeping communities safe and delivering justice for victims through:

- **Improved access for victims** via increased front offices and improvements in 101 call wait times
- Effective **hotspot policing** initiatives
- **Improving response times** to incidents
- **Pro-active operations** focused on serious and organised criminals
- **Securing more positive outcomes** for victims through improved investigation quality

Safer Cornwall continues to provide opportunities for local people to talk to services about the issues that matter and find out what help is available, through community events and drop-in sessions. This aims to increase **confidence to report** and therefore we expect to see an increase in reported incidents as a result, particularly in areas with more persistent issues.

A new [Partnership Plan for 2025-2028](#) was launched in April 2025 setting out plans for the next three years. Safer Cornwall's priorities include ensuring our **public spaces** are safe for everyone, tackling **domestic abuse and sexual violence** and reducing the harms of **drugs and alcohol**. As well as providing an effective response to what is happening now, the Plan aims to prevent issues in the future by addressing the **underlying causes of harm**.

### What are the key trends for the Falmouth town area?

Along with other large towns in Cornwall, Falmouth is a hotspot for crime and anti-social behaviour. It has a population of just under 24,000 but during the summer and autumn months this increases due to the number of visitors in the town

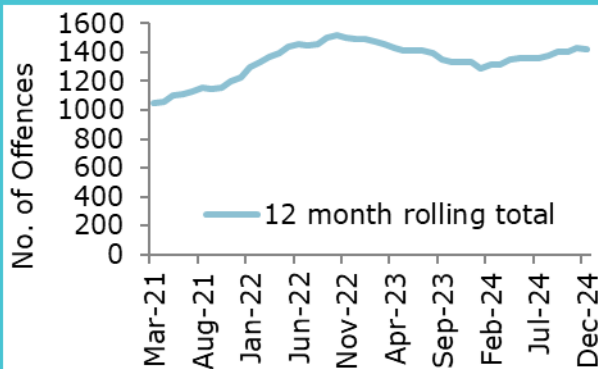
- The **volume of crime has increased by 6%** equating to an additional 86 reported offences. The rise is lower than the increase seen across Cornwall and the other Safer Towns. Rates of all crime types in Falmouth are generally lower than the average seen across the Safer Towns.
- The volume of **violent crime has fallen** in Falmouth, with both violence with and without injury reducing over the 12 month period. This is in contrast with the rest of Cornwall where there have been increases in both crime types.
- We have seen a 46% **increase in the number of stalking and harassment offences** in the town. The increase is greater than the rise across Cornwall. Increases in this crime type can be linked to **improved recording of cyber related offences** by the police. Cyber offences now account for a third of all stalking and harassment offences.
- There has been a 43% **increase in the number of victims aged under 18** in the town. This increase can be attributed to rises in stalking and harassment offences where the victim is aged under 18.
- There has been an increase in **other sexual offences** (+18 crimes) over the 12 months ending December 2024. The rate of offences is lower than that of the urban area average and the number of **rape offences has remained stable** when compared with the previous year. Further analysis shows that the increase is not linked to offences reported retrospectively.
- There has been a **53% increase in shoplifting** in Falmouth. The scale of increase is higher than the rises seen across Cornwall and other Safer Towns. During the summer of 2024 Falmouth started using the DISC reporting system which may account for some of this increase as businesses can now report offences in a more convenient way.
- Criminal damage has **risen by 16%** (27 crimes), although rates are still lower than the Safer Town average. These crimes are highly visible and can negatively impact residents perceptions of crime.

Crime / incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Dec 24	Year ending Dec 23	Annual Change	Urban areas	Urban areas trend
All crime	▲	57.3	1,421	1,335	6%	●	▲
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▶	15.2	378	374	1%	●	▶
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▶	9.2	227	231	-2%	●	▲
Non-Crime Domestic	▲	6.1	151	143	6%	●	▶
Rape	▶	0.9	22	25	-12%	●	▲
Other Sexual Offences	▲	2.1	51	33	55%	●	▲
Stalking and Harrassment	▲	6.8	168	115	46%	●	▲
Homicide	▶	0.0	0	0	0%	●	▶
Violence with Injury	▼	7.5	187	222	-16%	●	▶
Violence without Injury	▼	8.7	216	238	-9%	●	▲
Drug Offences	▶	1.3	31	28	11%	●	▲
Possession of Weapons	▼	0.4	11	20	-45%	●	▲
Burglary - Residential	▼	0.8	21	31	-32%	●	▶
Burglary - Business and Community	▲	0.6	15	6	150%	●	▲
Robbery	▶	0.4	9	9	0%	●	▲
Vehicle Offences	▶	2.2	55	54	2%	●	▲
Shoplifting	▲	8.5	210	137	53%	●	▲
Other Theft	▶	4.5	111	113	-2%	●	▶
Criminal Damage	▲	8.1	201	174	16%	●	▲
Arson	▶	0.2	4	3	33%	●	▼
Public Order Offences	▼	2.7	66	74	-11%	●	▲
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	▲	1.1	28	21	33%	●	▲
Anti-social behaviour incidents	▼	15.2	378	449	-16%	●	▲
Street Drinking/Begging/Drug Litter	▲	2.3	58	50	16%	●	▲
Hate Crime	▲	0.9	22	16	38%	●	▶
Under 18 Victims of Crime	▲	5.6	140	98	43%	●	▲

- Crime rate lower than urban areas
- Crime rate higher than urban areas

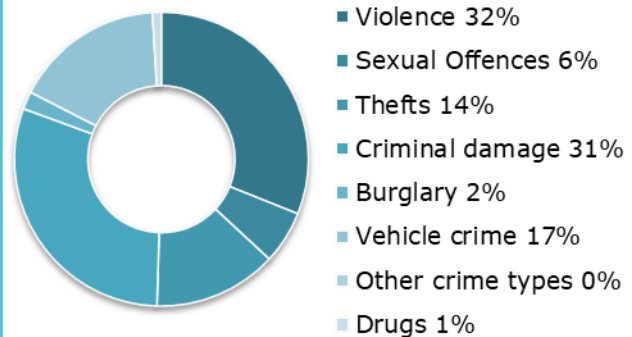
Note that caution should be taken when interpreting percentage change relating to small numbers (where there are less than 20 crimes per annum), due to the volatility of small numbers. The above table includes reported crime and incidents meaning that non crime domestic and Anti-Social behaviour are not included in the total number of offences in the "All Crime" total.

## Trend



Crime in Falmouth has increased by 6% which is lower than the Cornwall and Safer Town average.

## Offences

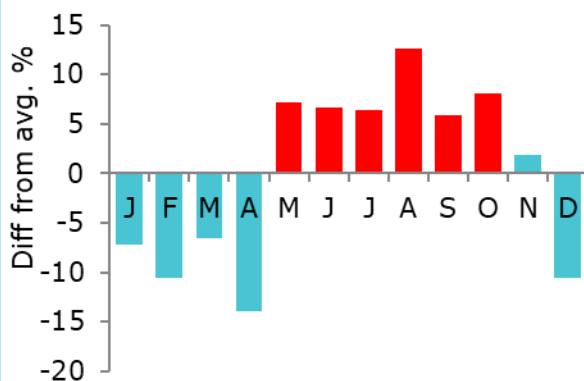


There are lower levels of theft and drug offences in Falmouth.

Criminal damage and vehicle offences are much higher.

## Seasonality

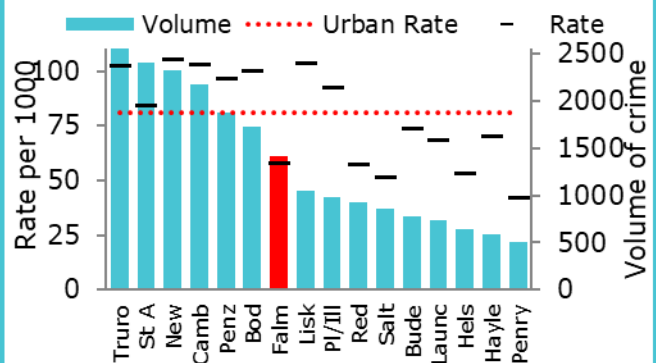
(based on a 3 year average)



Crime in Falmouth follows a seasonal pattern with higher-than-average levels during the summer months. Falmouth sees this period extend to October which coincides with town festivals and the new cohort of students starting in the town.

## Comparison

(based on combined rate and volume)



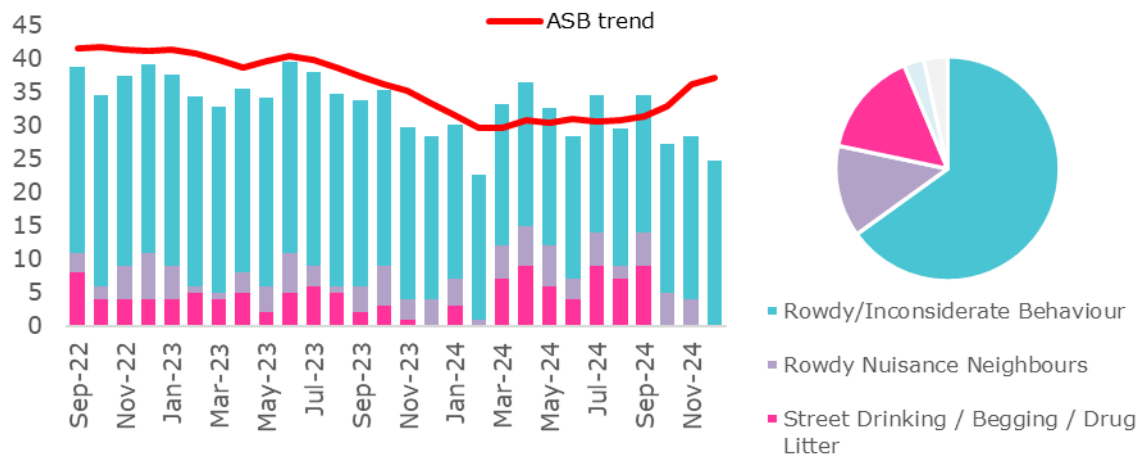
The rate of crime in Falmouth is lower than the urban average.

The volume of offences reported is comparable to towns of Bodmin and Liskeard.



## Anti-social behaviour

**Anti-social behaviour** in Falmouth has **fallen by 16%** in Falmouth which is in contrast to the Cornwall and Safer Town trend.



- The **biggest reduction has been seen in rowdy nuisance behaviour**, which has fallen by 26%. This reduction is in contrast to the rising trends seen elsewhere.
- Street drinking related ASB (+8 incidents) and rowdy nuisance neighbours have increased slightly but rates remain lower than the urban area average.

## What residents think

As part of the update of our new Partnership Plan, we invited local people to "Have Your Say" about the **community safety issues that matter** on a day-to-day basis in the local area and what could be done to improve things.

Our **on-line survey** was available via Cornwall Council's [Let's Talk Cornwall](#) in July and August 2024. We also held some **face-to-face engagement events** in the summer.

Across Cornwall, 63% of people said they **felt safe** during the day in their local area. 52% of respondents in Cornwall **felt very unsafe or fairly unsafe** after dark in their local area, which indicated a deterioration in feelings of safety from the 2023 survey (41%).

- Only 16 people living in Falmouth responded to the survey. Of these, 88% **felt safe** in their local area during the day which is higher than the average for Cornwall (63%) and 37% said they **felt unsafe** after dark which is better than the 52% for Cornwall. These are however small numbers so it's hard to draw any firm conclusions from it.

**SAFER  
CORNWALL**

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