



**SAFER
CORNWALL**

Kernow Salwa

Newquay Safe Town Summary 2025



Introduction

This profile provides a **picture of crime and community safety issues** for this area. It compares the Newquay 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”.

Newquay Safe has been established since 2002. Originally the partnership was focused on evening and Night Time Economy (NTE) issues but due to changes with priorities for the town the partnership has adapted to address wider community safety issues. It works in partnership to address concerns outlined in the **Delivery Plan**, which is based on the evidence presented in the Newquay Town Profile, feedback from the Residents Survey and emerging concerns.

Key statistics

	Current population of Newquay town area is 25,778	17% are aged under 16 16% Cornwall / 19% England
People		20% are aged over 65 26% Cornwall / 19% England
	13% live in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England	
Vulnerable groups		Education & skills
		16% of people have no qualifications
		16% in Cornwall 18% across England
	£279,012 average house price £356,508 across Cornwall £341,635 across England	
Housing		Economy
		56% of people are in full-time employment
		62% in Cornwall 69% across England
	8% of people have a long-term illness that limits activities a lot	
Health & wellbeing		Access & transport
	9% in Cornwall 7% across England	18% of households do not have a car
		15% in Cornwall 24% across England

Except where stated this profile provides information for **the geographical area representing Newquay 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 is providing **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**. As this aims to increase public confidence to report, it can result in more incidents being reported, 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 Newquay town area?

Along with other large towns in Cornwall, the Newquay town area is a **hotspot for crime and anti-social behaviour**. It has a population of just over 25,700, which swells over the summer months with the influx of holiday makers and day visitors to the town

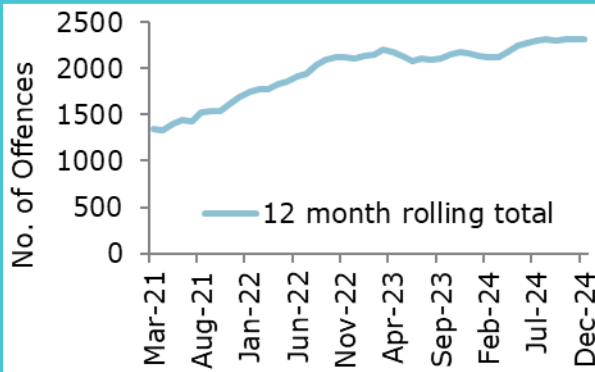
- Crime has risen by 7% in the town which is **in line with increases** we are seeing across Cornwall. This equates to an additional 149 offences being reported when compared with the previous 12 month period.
- There has been an **increase in violent crime over the past 12 months**. Rates of this type of crime are higher when compared with other towns in Cornwall. Violence with injury has increased by 16% and violence without injury has increased by 19% over this year.
- Part of this rise can be accounted for by an **increase in domestic abuse being reported** with rises greater than the rest of Cornwall. Incidents of domestic abuse are notably higher than in other areas.
- **Under 18s as victims of crime** increased by 42% (75 crimes) and the rate of this crime is higher than the rest of Cornwall and other Safer Towns. This increase can be linked rises in violence with and without injury in the town.
- **Stalking and harassment** offences have increased by 27%, which is in line with the rise we are seeing across Cornwall. Part of this increase can be accounted for by improved reporting and recording of cyber related offences.
- There has been an increase in **public order offences** in the town (+38 crimes). These offences are highly visible to our communities and combined with an **increase in criminal damage** offences could negatively impact residents perceptions of crime in the area.
- There has been an **increase in drug offences** and rates of crime are higher than the rest of Cornwall. Police reported drug offences tend to reflect the level of proactive police action locally, rather than the level of drug use.
- There have been **reductions in acquisitive crime**, particularly in **burglary offences** and **other thefts** during the last 12 months. **Shoplifting**, however, along with other towns in Cornwall has increased, although the rate of the rise is lower in Newquay.

Crime / incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Dec 24	Year ending Dec 23	Annual Change	Urban areas	Urban areas trend
All crime	▲	104.4	2,319	2,170	7%	●	▲
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▲	26.9	598	554	8%	●	▶
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▲	16.1	357	323	11%	●	▲
Non-Crime Domestic	▶	10.9	241	231	4%	●	▶
Rape	▼	1.8	41	46	-11%	●	▲
Other Sexual Offences	▶	3.0	67	71	-6%	●	▲
Stalking and Harrassment	▲	10.1	224	177	27%	●	▲
Homicide	▶	0.0	0	0	0%	●	▶
Violence with Injury	▲	15.5	345	298	16%	●	▶
Violence without Injury	▲	16.5	366	308	19%	●	▲
Drug Offences	▲	5.9	130	98	33%	●	▲
Possession of Weapons	▼	1.2	26	32	-19%	●	▲
Burglary - Residential	▼	1.8	39	52	-25%	●	▶
Burglary - Business and Community	▼	0.9	19	41	-54%	●	▲
Robbery	▶	0.6	14	18	-22%	●	▲
Vehicle Offences	▼	2.7	60	80	-25%	●	▲
Shoplifting	▲	9.5	210	189	11%	●	▲
Other Theft	▼	13.2	294	339	-13%	●	▶
Criminal Damage	▲	10.9	241	213	13%	●	▲
Arson	▶	0.2	4	6	-33%	●	▼
Public Order Offences	▲	6.7	148	110	35%	●	▲
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	▲	2.1	47	28	68%	●	▲
Anti-social behaviour incidents	▶	23.1	512	504	2%	●	▲
Street Drinking/Begging/Drug Litter	▲	3.2	72	44	64%	●	▲
Hate Crime	▶	1.1	24	20	20%	●	▶
Under 18 Victims of Crime	▲	11.5	255	180	42%	●	▲

● Crime rate lower than urban areas
● Crime rate higher than urban areas

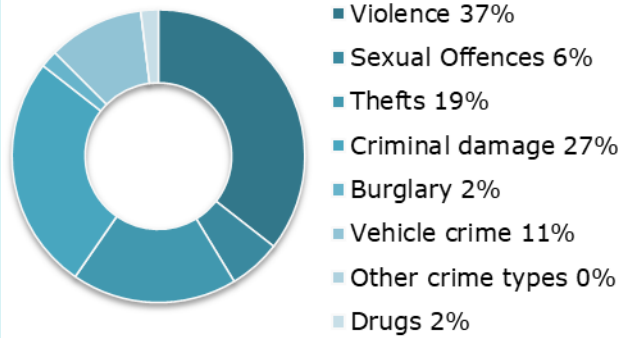
Note that caution should be taken when interpreting percentage change relating to small numbers (where there are less than 20 crimes per annum), due to the volatility of small numbers. The above table includes reported crime and incidents meaning that non crime domestic and Anti-Social behaviour are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

Trend



Crime in Newquay increased by 7% in the 12 months ending December 2024. This is slightly lower than the rest of Cornwall and the other Safer Towns.

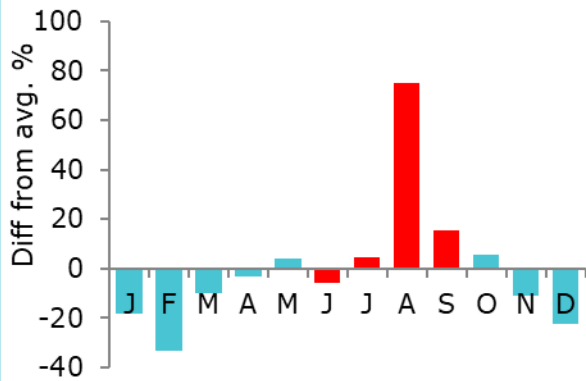
Offences



There are a higher proportion of violent offences in Newquay as well as more criminal damage and more vehicle crime.

Seasonality

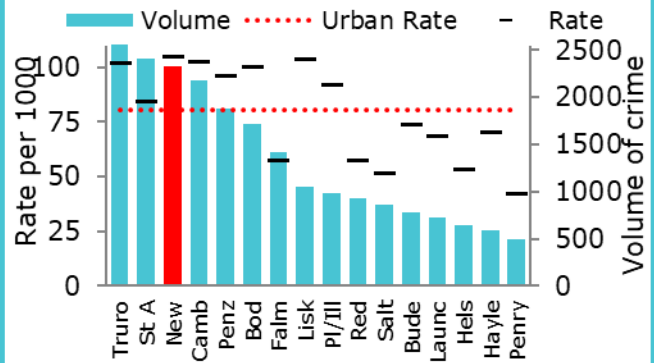
(based on a 3 year average)



Crime in Newquay is significantly higher in the summer months. The level of crime in August is approximately 70% greater than the average volume of crime for the town.

Comparison

(based on combined rate and volume)

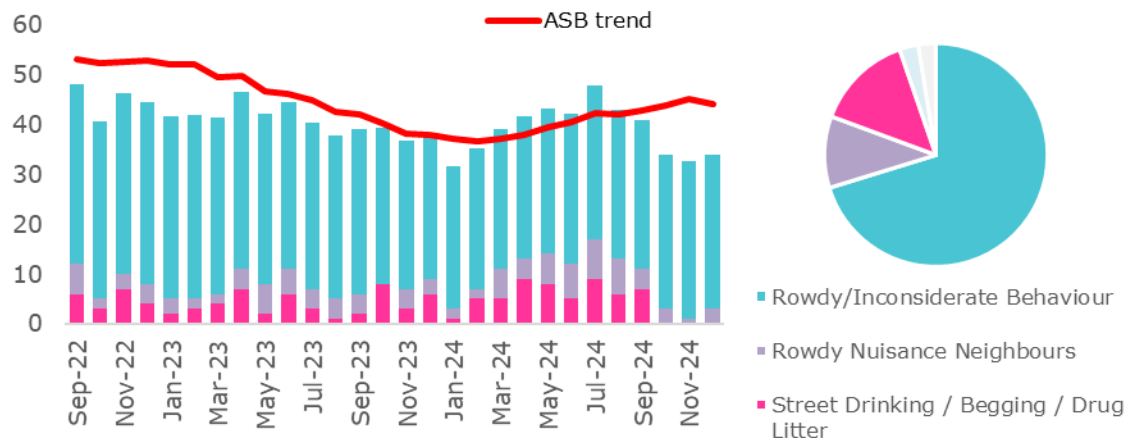


Newquay has a higher rate and volume of crime when compared with the other Safer Towns in Cornwall.

Only Truro and St Austell experience greater volumes of crime.

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour in Newquay has remained stable over the 12 months ending December 2024.



- There has been a 9% reduction in rowdy/ inconsiderate behaviour in Newquay but this still makes up approximately 70% of ASB in the town.
- There has been a 64% increase in street drinking/ begging/ drug litter (+28 incidents) and the rate of these incidents is higher in Newquay than other Safer Towns. Its should be noted that numbers are relatively small meaning percentage increases can be volatile.

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.
- 28% of respondents in Cornwall **feel very unsafe** after dark in their local area and 24% fairly unsafe which shows a deterioration in feelings of safety from the 2023 survey.
- Only 12 people living in Newquay responded to the survey. Of these, 83% **felt safe** in their local area during the day which is higher than the average for Cornwall (63%) and 50% said they **felt unsafe** after dark which is in line with the average for Cornwall (52%). These are, however, small numbers so it’s hard to draw any firm conclusions from them.

SAFER CORNWALL

Kernow Salwa