



SAFER CORNWALL

Kernow Salwa

St Austell Town summary 2025









Introduction

This profile provides a **picture of crime and community safety issues** for this area. It compares the St Austell 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 St Austell 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 residents and protect vulnerable groups. The multi-agency group involves local community and voluntary sector agencies in the work of the partnership and encourages social inclusion and participation through inviting all partners to actively be involved in the problem-solving process and sharing a sense of pride in their town.

Key Statistics

	Current population of St Austell town area is approximately 28,789¹	17% are aged under 16 16% Cornwall / 19% England 25% are aged over 65 26% Cornwall / 19% England
People		
	22% live in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England	19% of people have no qualifications 16% in Cornwall 18% across England
Vulnerable groups		Education & skills
	£279,012 average house price £341,635 across Cornwall £356,508 across England	
Housing		Economy
	20% of people have a long-term illness or disability 19% in Cornwall 18% across England	
Health & wellbeing		17% of households do not have a car 15% in Cornwall 24% across England
		Access & transport

The table above provides information for the **St Austell Town area**, as defined by [Local Insight \(communityinsight.org\)](https://www.localinsight.org/) and this includes the outlying areas of **Trewoon, Carclaze, Par and St Blazey**. The population figure and all crime and ASB data in this profile focuses more tightly on St Austell town and excludes these outlying areas. 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.

¹ 2022 mid-year population estimate for St Austell town (Office for National Statistics)

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 level 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 (ASB)** 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 St Austell town area?

Along with other large settlements in Cornwall, the St Austell town area is a 'hotspot' for crime and anti-social behaviour. This is due to the large concentration of people resident in the town as well as the level of activity there. It has a population of approximately 29,000.

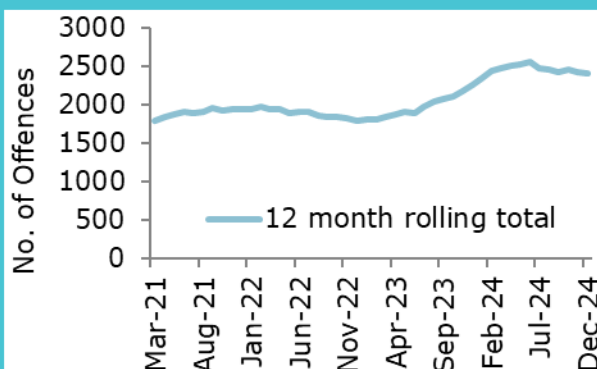
- Over the last 12 months crime has **increased by 7%** which is a lower rate of increase than the average for Cornwall and other large towns.
- We have seen a 21% **increase in the number of stalking and harassment offences** in the town. The increase is in line with the rise across Cornwall and can 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 an **increase in reported rape** (+13 crimes) and other sexual offences (+16 crimes) in the town. Further analysis shows that approximately half of these crimes are linked to domestic abuse. Very few of these offences relate to non-recent incidents reported retrospectively.
- 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.
- We have seen **possession of weapon offences** increase in St Austell. Although numbers are fairly low in volume the rates are higher in the town when compared with the rest of Cornwall. Approximately one in five of these offences have been **flagged as knife crime** (9 offences)
- **Shoplifting offences have fallen** by 8% (-23 crimes) in St Austell in contrast to the rest of Cornwall which has seen an increase.
- **The rate of violent crime in the town is lower** when compared with the other towns in Cornwall. Numbers of violence with injury and without injury offences are consistent with the previous year, with rates being in line with the average for other larger towns across Cornwall.
- **Domestic abuse offences have also shown little change** when compared with the previous year, although it should be noted there has been a small increase in non-crimes incidents (+5%).

Crime / incident type	Trend	Rate per 1000	Year ending Dec 24	Year ending Dec 23	Annual Change	Urban areas	Urban areas trend
All crime	▲	84.0	2,412	2,250	7%	●	▲
Domestic Abuse (total incidents)	▶	24.9	715	700	2%	●	▶
Domestic Abuse Crimes	▶	15.9	457	455	0%	●	▲
Non-Crime Domestic	▲	9.0	258	245	5%	●	▶
Rape	▲	1.7	48	35	37%	●	▲
Other Sexual Offences	▲	2.7	77	61	26%	●	▲
Stalking and Harrassment	▲	9.8	281	233	21%	●	▲
Homicide	▶	0.0	0	0	0%	●	▶
Violence with Injury	▶	11.0	317	306	4%	●	▶
Violence without Injury	▶	14.4	414	407	2%	●	▲
Drug Offences	▲	3.3	96	77	25%	●	▲
Possession of Weapons	▲	1.6	45	29	55%	●	▲
Burglary - Residential	▼	1.5	42	55	-24%	●	▶
Burglary - Business and Community	▶	1.3	36	36	0%	●	▲
Robbery	▶	0.7	21	17	24%	●	▲
Vehicle Offences	▲	3.8	108	93	16%	●	▲
Shoplifting	▼	8.7	251	274	-8%	●	▲
Other Theft	▲	5.5	159	139	14%	●	▶
Criminal Damage	▲	9.4	269	250	8%	●	▲
Arson	▶	0.3	9	6	50%	●	▼
Public Order Offences	▶	5.3	153	147	4%	●	▲
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	▼	1.5	44	49	-10%	●	▲
Anti-social behaviour incidents	▲	18.6	535	448	19%	●	▲
Street Drinking/Begging/Drug Litter	▲	2.5	73	34	115%	●	▲
Hate Crime	▲	1.0	29	24	21%	●	▶
Under 18 Victims of Crime	▶	9.6	276	268	3%	●	▲

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

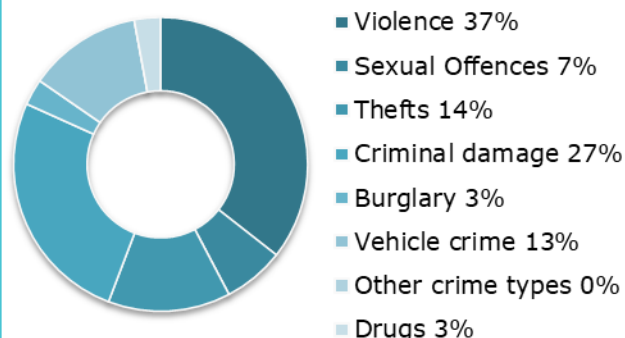
Note that caution should be taken when interpreting percentage change relating to small numbers (where there are less than 20 crimes per annum), due to the volatility of small numbers. The above table includes reported crime and incidents meaning that non crime domestic and Anti-Social behaviour are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

Trend



Overall crime increased by 7% in St Austell. This is lower than the rate of increase seen across the rest of Cornwall and other large towns.

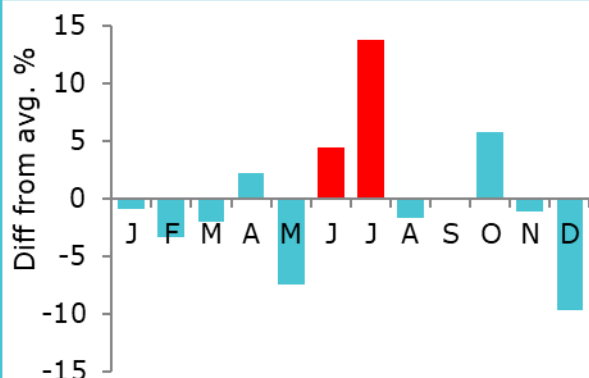
Offences



There is a higher proportion of violent offences in St Austell than the rest of Cornwall although it should be noted that these offences have not increased. There is also higher percentages of vehicle crime, criminal damage and sexual offences.

Seasonality

(based on a 3 year average)

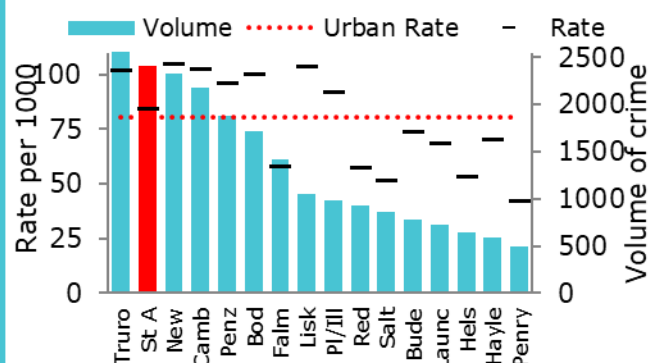


Crime follows a seasonal pattern with more crimes in the summer months of June and July.

There is a small secondary peak in October

Comparison

(based on combined rate and volume)

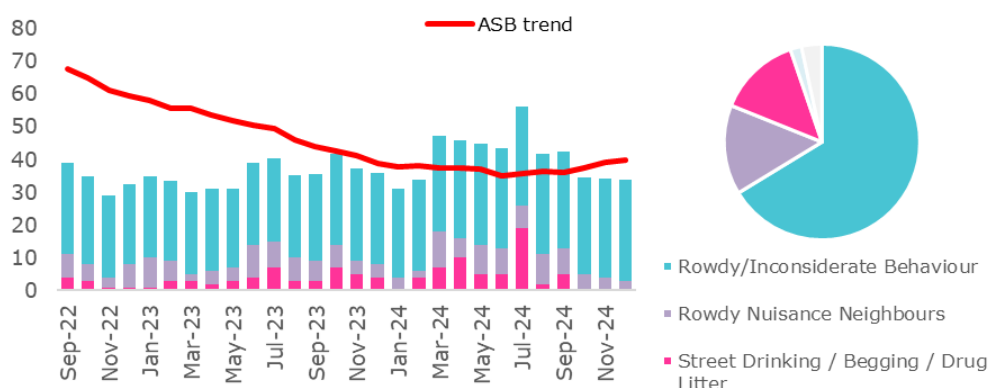


St Austell has a high volume of recorded crime, but the rate of crime per 1,000 residents is much closer to the average seen across the other large towns in Cornwall.

Anti-social behaviour

After a long period of reduction, **reports of anti-social behaviour have increased** (+19%) compared with the previous year. This can be attributed to an increase in rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour and ASB related to street drinking.

Reports of street drinking related ASB have doubled in St Austell (now 73 incidents) during the last 12 months. Although there was a spike seen in July 2024 where we had an above average number of reports, the rate is in line with other towns.



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%).

- 56 people living in St Austell responded to the survey. Of these, 52% **felt safe** in their local area during the day which is lower than the average for Cornwall (63%). 59% said they **felt unsafe** after dark which is higher than the average for Cornwall (52%). These are, however, small numbers so should be seen as indicative only.

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