



SAFER OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Needs Assessment Oxfordshire 2026

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Section 1. Introduction

Section 1a. About this assessment

The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is an annual, evidence based, joint-partnership report involving key partners from across the local community safety sphere. It brings together recorded crime data, demographic analysis and geographic intelligence to provide a comprehensive picture of crime and community safety across Oxfordshire. The aim is to inform relevant stakeholders of the key regional priorities relating to suspects and victims of crime.

This report covers data recorded between January 2018 and December 2025, providing an eight-year trend analysis across all major crime categories across the five local authority districts of Oxfordshire: Oxford, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire. Where appropriate, year-on-year comparisons are made to the previous twelve-month periods. All data is drawn from Thames Valley Police's crime recording system and reflects valid crime as defined in this report.

Section 1b. Serious violence – The Duty

Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty ("the Duty") on a range of specified authorities. This will ensure relevant services work together to share information and allow them to target their interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.

The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships and by making sure they have a strategy in place to explicitly tackle serious violence.

The duty must be:

1. Focused on a defined population
2. With and for communities: embed the voices and lived experiences of the communities
3. Focused on long and short-term solutions
4. Rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle problems: learn from others to guide our activities to what is most effective

Serious violence – Definition

Serious violence (SV) has been given a single definition across the Thames Valley broadly based on home office guidance.

“Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.”

This is broadly based on the original Home Office definition and is inclusive of all ages, location types (public / private), and domestic flags.

Please note this is knife crime according to the Home Office Annual Data Requirement (ADR) 160 – knife crime definition.

Section 1c. Valid Crime Definition

The data provided is taken from Thames Valley Police’s crime recording system. Additional information identified during the investigation may lead to a reassessment of the crime classification. Information held on the system is also subject to review to ensure compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules for Recording Crime and the National Crime Recording Standard. As a result of this, crime levels and classifications may change over time and this data may not match data previously published or data published in the future. For this reason, the data should only be used as an indicator of crime trends.

Reported crime is all reports of crime recorded on the crime recording system. Reported crime is made up of Recorded Crime, Non-Crime Occurrences and Cancelled Crimes, the definitions for the latter two are defined below.

Non-Crime Occurrence: This term is used to describe a record of an incident which has come to the attention of the police, which, on the balance of probabilities, would normally amount to a notifiable crime, but a resultant crime has not been recorded.

The specific circumstances where this would happen are:

1. The incident is reported by a third party and either:
 - a. The alleged victim declines to confirm the crime or

- b. The alleged victim cannot be traced
- 2. The incident is being dealt with by another police force
- 3. The National Crime Recording Standard or Home Office Counting Rules for Recording Crime direct that a crime should not be recorded.

Reasons for a crime being valid even if the victim did not confirm:

- 1. State-based (or victimless crime) does not need to be confirmed by the victim for obvious reasons.
- 2. Victim-based crime must be confirmed by the victim, but this does not always have to be the case. The most obvious of these exceptions will be homicide where the victim cannot confirm the offence. We can record a crime when a professional third party has reported it (health professional, social services, etc.). We can also record where there is evidence that a crime has occurred even if the victim denies it (i.e., CCTV footage).
- 3. For domestic abuse, sometimes the victim does not recognise that a crime has occurred, and we will record that crime if we believe that it has occurred.

Cancelled Crime: An offence can only be cancelled if it has been recorded as a crime. The situations when a crime can be cancelled are governed by the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Specific circumstances when an offence can be cancelled are listed below:

- 1. The offence was committed in another force area.
- 2. There is additional verifiable information which determines that no notifiable crime has been committed.
- 3. The crime constitutes part of a crime already recorded.
- 4. The crime was recorded in error.
- 5. The crime was recorded as an assault and there is additional verifiable information that the offender acted in self-defence.

6. The crime is an offence of fraud and there is clear auditable information that shows that the offender has been dealt with in another area.

Recorded crime will be all reports of crime excluding those offences that fit within the above criteria for non-crime occurrence and cancelled crime.

Example of 'Non-Crime Occurrence' will be a domestic incident non-crime, child protection, etc., where there is no HO Stats code.

Section 1d. Definitions of other terms used in this report

- **Acquisitive crime** – offences where the primary motive is material gain, comprising of the following classifications: burglary dwelling, burglary non-dwelling, robbery, shoplifting, theft and vehicle theft.
- **Anti-social behaviour (ASB)** – incidents of nuisance, disorder or conduct likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress, recorded across three types: community, personal and environmental.
 - ASB figures are recorded separately from valid crime and are not recorded in the overall crime totals.
- **Child abuse** – offences recorded under the child abuse qualifier flag.
- **Child sexual abuse** – offences flagged specifically as child sexual abuse
- **Child sexual exploitation (CSE)** – offences flagged specifically as child sexual exploitation.
- **Criminal damage** – offences involving deliberate damage to property, comprising of the following classifications: arson, criminal damage to dwelling, criminal damage to a non-dwelling property and vehicle damage.
- **Domestic abuse** – offences flagged as involving domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is not a standalone crime category but is recorded as a flag across multiple crime categories.
- **Hate crime** – offences flagged under any of the following five strands: racial, disablist, homophobic, faith-based and transgender. Each strand is counted separately as well as in combination.
- **Knife crime** – offences flagged as knife-enabled. Knife crime is reported as a flag across multiple crime types rather than as a standalone category.
- **Population estimates** – per capita figures used throughout this report are calculated using mid-year population estimates sourced from the Oxfordshire

Data Hub.¹ Where available, the population estimate for the same year as the crime data is used. For 2025 crime data, the mid-2024 estimate is applied as the mid-2025 estimate was not available at the time of producing this report. All per capita figures for 2025 should therefore be treated as approximate

- **Sexual offences** – offences classified under the sexual offences crime category, including rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, sexual activity offences and other sexual offences.
 - **Rape** – offences within the sexual offences category where the crime classification contains the word rape, excluding attempted rape.
- **Serious flags** – a group of four distinct qualifier flags applied to offences that indicate particularly serious or complex forms of harm: female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour-based violence and modern slavery. Given the low volumes across all four categories, these are presented in a single section.
 - **Female genital mutilation (FGM)** – offences flagged for involving the practice of partial or total removal or external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.
 - **Forced marriage** – offences where a person is married without their free and full consent.
 - **Honour-based violence** – offences flagged for being committed in the name of so-called honour, typically involving violence or abuse directed at a person perceived to have brought shame on their family or community
 - **Modern slavery** – offences involving exploitation of individuals.
- **Violence against women and girls (VAWG)** – offences carrying the VAWG qualifier flag. VAWG is recorded as a flag across multiple crime types, rather than as a standalone crime category.

¹ Oxfordshire Data Hub. 'Oxfordshire Data Hub – Population – Current Population'. Oxfordshire County Council, n.d. <https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/population/current-population/>.

Section 2. Executive Summary

- The overall volume of recorded crime is reducing, but this should not be interpreted as a reduction across the board. Countywide recorded crime remains above pre-pandemic levels and is increasingly shaped by high-harm and vulnerability related offending rather than volume acquisitive crime alone.
- The largest fall is in acquisitive crime, suggesting some reductions in high-volume neighbourhood and property-based offending; however, the rise in robbery indicates that this more serious acquisitive crime has not followed the same trajectory.
- The most significant trend is the continued growth in interpersonal, hidden, and relationship-based crimes; particularly violence without injury, sexual offences, child abuse, and VAWG, indicating that safeguarding demand is becoming a larger share of the overall crime picture
- Children and young people remain a risk group. The concentration of victims aged 11–17 in sexual offences and child abuse, alongside notable younger suspect profiles across several categories, points to the need for sustained early help, safeguarding, and prevention activity.
- Domestic abuse remains one of the clearest cross-cutting drivers of harm, underpinning large parts of violence, and VAWG offences. This reinforces the need to view domestic abuse as a system-wide strategic issue rather than a single-category concern.
- The rise in hate crime and the return to growth in knife crime are important warning indicators. Although smaller in volume than other categories, both can be signals of community tension and escalating harm that warrant close partnership attention.
- Place continues to matter. Oxford and Cherwell carry the greatest volumes of overall crime and several high-harm categories, but the geography is not uniform: Cherwell stands out in child abuse and VAWG, while rural districts show higher ASB, reinforcing the need for locally tailored responses.
- Deep dive analyses will be carried out on violent crime, the landscape of youth crime, and VAWG (including domestic abuse).

Section 3. Overall Crime Trends

National and Force Comparisons²

Percentage change compared to 2024	England and Wales	Thames Valley	Oxfordshire
Total recorded crime	-2	-2	-3
Violence against the person	0	1	-4
Violence with Injury	-4	-4	-4
Violence without Injury	1	1	7
Sexual offences	5	10	9
Robbery	4	13	2
Theft offences	-8	-9	-12
Residential Burglary	-11	-11	-9
Non-residential Burglary	-13	-13	-9
Shoplifting	-1	-2	-5

Table 1: National and Force Comparisons

Oxfordshire remains broadly in line with Thames Valley and England and Wales on total recorded crime, with a slightly larger overall reduction (-3% compared with -2% for both comparators). One of the areas where Oxfordshire appears out of line is violence without injury, which has increased by 7% compared with rises of just 1% in Thames Valley and England and Wales. Also, although in line with Thames Valley, sexual offences which have increased by 9% in Oxfordshire compared with a rise of 5% in England and Wales.

In contrast, Oxfordshire has seen a stronger reduction in theft offences (-12% compared with -9% in Thames Valley and -8% in England and Wales). Non-residential burglary has also fallen in Oxfordshire, but the reduction (-9%) is smaller than in both Thames Valley and England and Wales (-13%)

Oxfordshire Crime

Valid crime (recorded crime meeting home Office counting rules – see *Section 1 for more details*) in Oxfordshire has fallen for the second consecutive year, continuing a modest downward trend from the 2023 peak. The overall volume remains considerably higher than it was in 2018, meaning the picture is one of a plateau and gradual decline rather than a return to pre-period baselines.

In total, there were 45,042 recorded offences in 2025, representing a 2.7% decrease from 2024, but an 11.1% increase from the 2018 baseline data. According to current and historical population estimates from the Oxfordshire Data Hub, Oxfordshire's population grew by approximately 8.6% since 2018. On a per capita basis, the

² [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics](#) – December 2025 edition

county recorded 59 offences per 1,000 residents in 2025 compared 57.7 offences per 1,000 residents in 2018.

The crime classification breakdown shows acquisitive and violence without injury — the latter a subcategory of Violence Against the Person — together accounting for around six in ten of all recorded offences, confirming these two categories remain the primary drivers of overall volume.

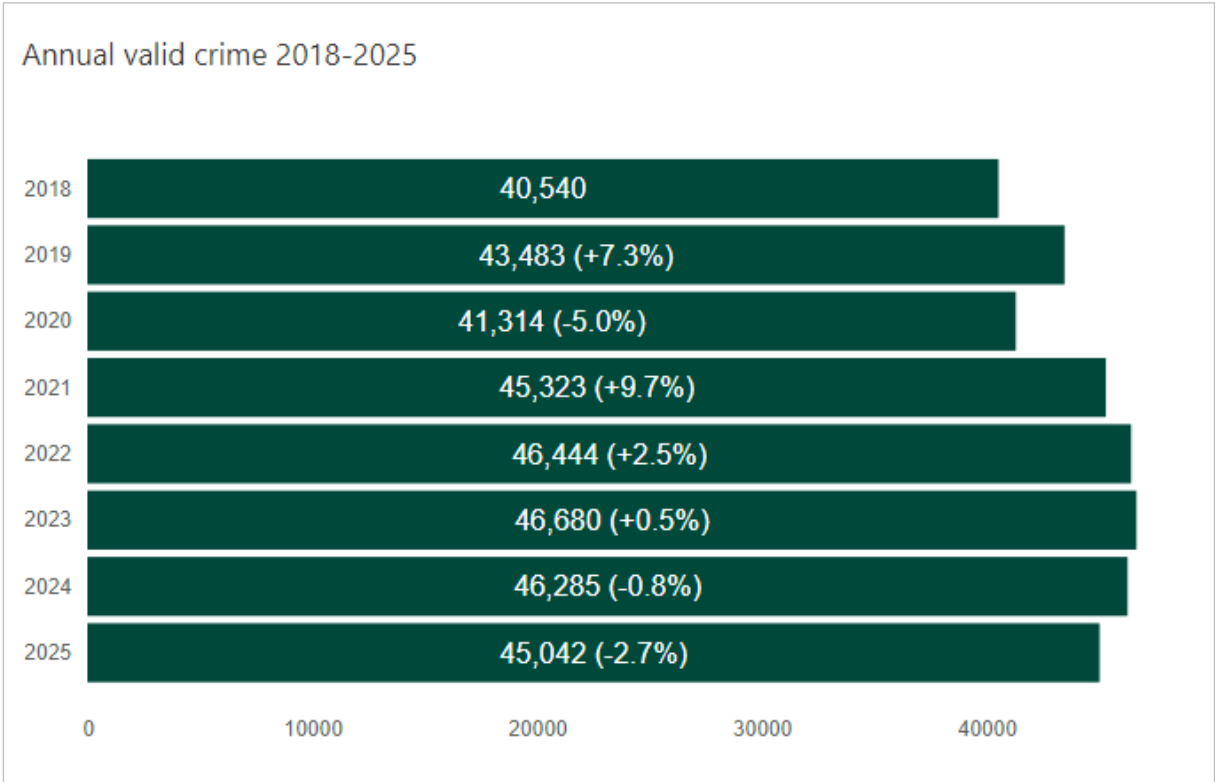


Figure 1: Annual valid crime occurrences - 2018-2025

The annual trend shows a peak in 2023 followed by two successive years of decline. The 2020 dip reflects the impact of Covid-19 lockdowns on recorded crime, followed by a noticeable increase from 2021 to 2023. The reductions in 2024 and 2025 are more gradual, and the overall level remains well above the 2018 baseline, indicating that the increase in recorded crimes seen across the period has not been reversed..

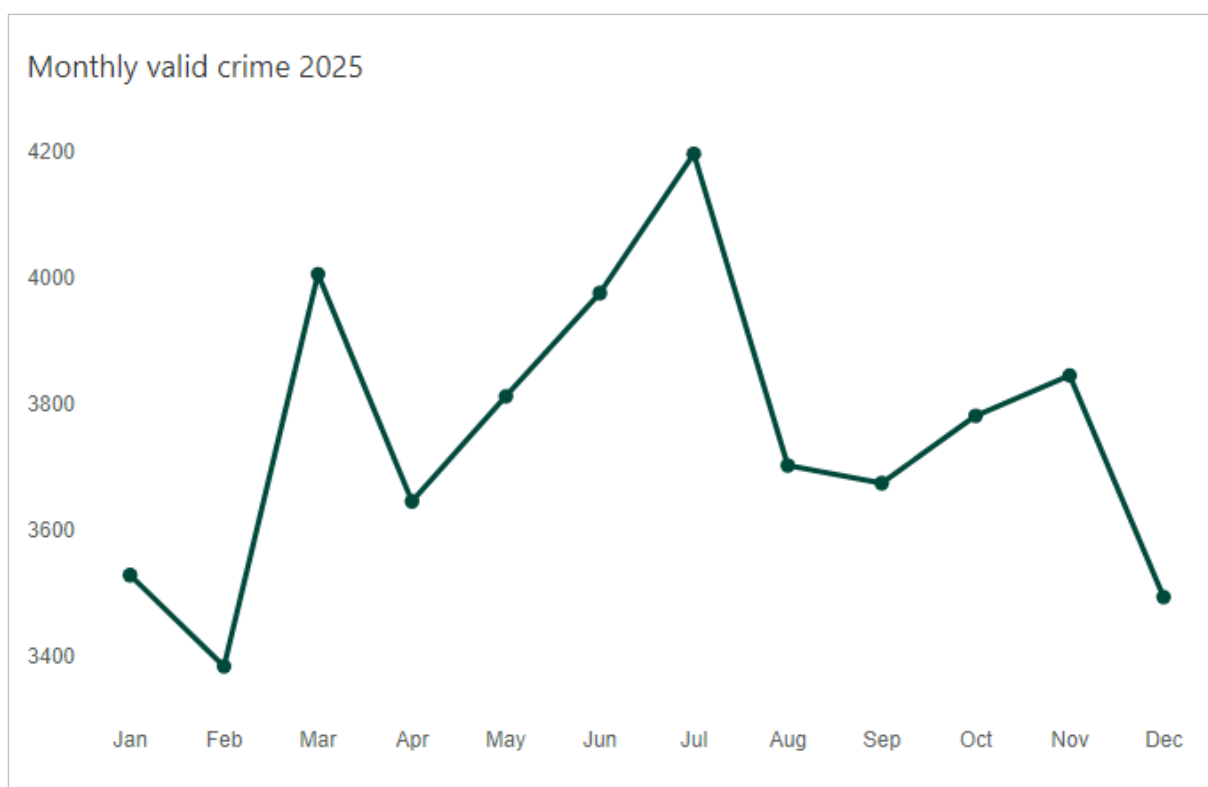


Figure 2: Monthly valid crime occurrences - 2025

The monthly profile for 2025 shows a pronounced trough in February followed by a sharp recovery in March, with a further peak in July before volumes fall away in the final quarter of the year. The July peak is consistent with seasonal patterns identified in earlier years for both violence and acquisitive offending.³ The sharp December drop is consistent with the seasonal pattern seen across analysis period.

³ Last year's SIA notes that July is peak month for both forms of violence and is the second for acquisitive crime. October has the highest amount of acquisitive crime and the second highest violence without injury.

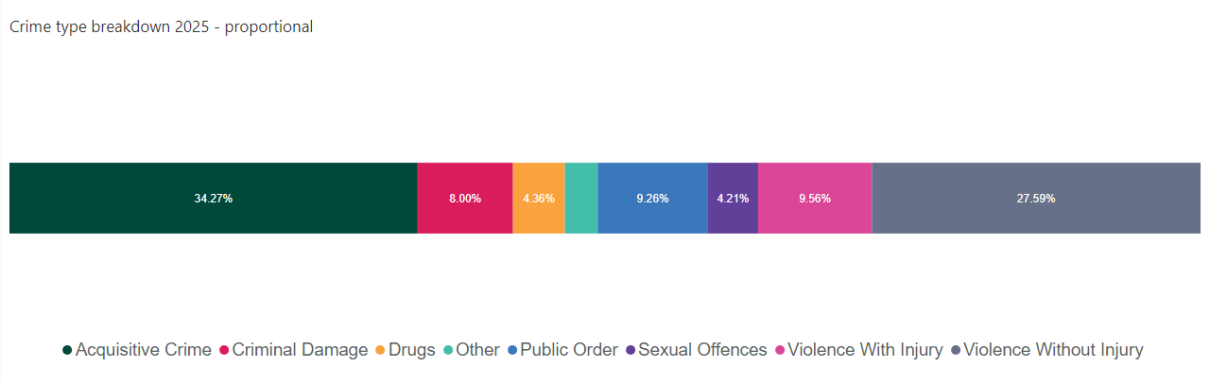


Figure 3: Proportional breakdown of crime types in 2025

The proportional breakdown confirms that acquisitive crime remains the largest single category, followed by violence without injury. Together, these two categories account for 6 in 10 of all valid crime. The relative shares of other categories – including public order, sexual offences and violence without injury – have remained broadly stable. It should be added that year-on-year changes at county level can mask contrasting patterns at district level and across crime types, which the sections below address in turn.

Section 4. Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime has fallen by more than 10% compared with 2024, reversing three consecutive years of growth following the post-pandemic low point in 2021. The fall brings volume back below 2023 levels and represents the largest single-year reduction in acquisitive crimes across the full analysis period, excluding the COVID-affected year of 2020.

Overall, there were 15,437 recorded offences, accounting for approximately 35% of all valid crime recorded across Oxfordshire. Theft is the largest subcategory by volume and shoplifting remains substantial, though the overall picture suggests the sharp rise in shoplifting that characterised 2023 and 2024, and which the 2025 report attributed partly to increased retailer reporting confidence, has not continued at the same rate in 2025.

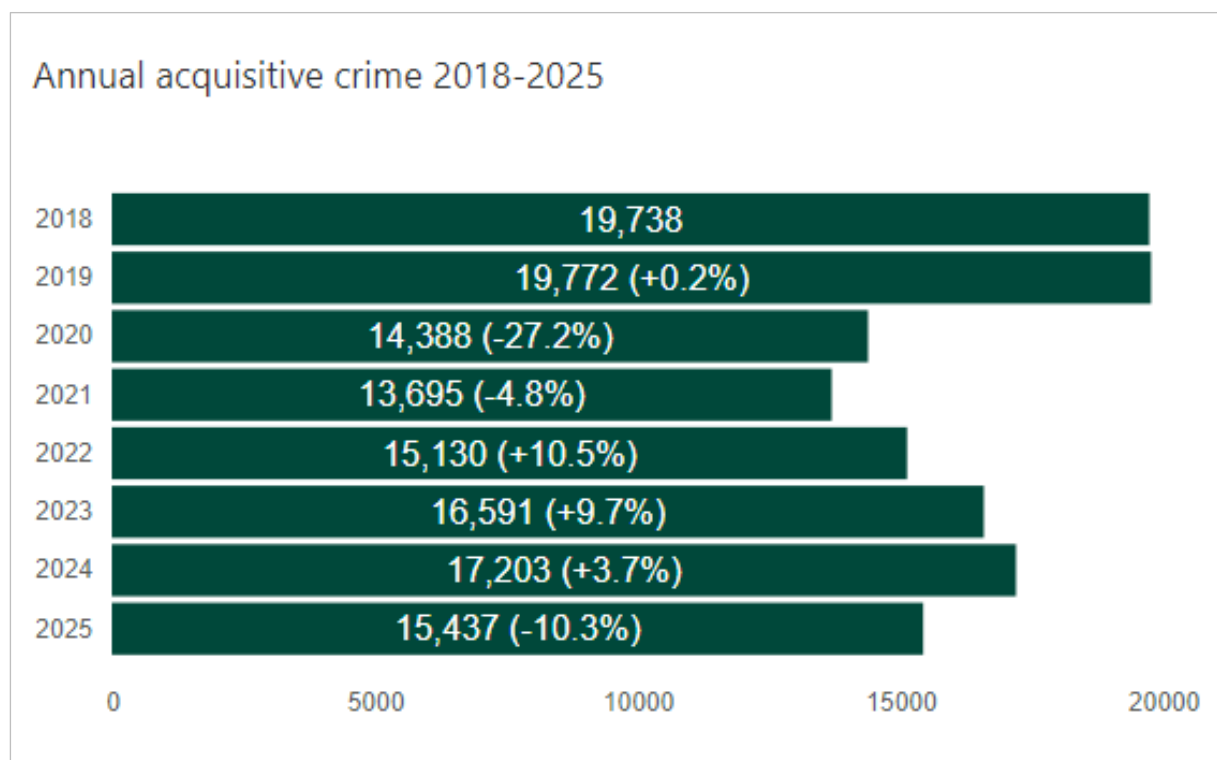


Figure 4: Annual acquisitive crime – 2018-2025.

The annual trend illustrates the distinctive shape of acquisitive crime across the period: a near-flat 2018-2019 baseline, a sharp COVID-related fall in 2020, a slow recovery through 2021 and 2022, accelerating growth in 2023, and then a clear reversal in 2025. Both these trends can be attributed to the annual trend for theft, shoplifting and vehicle theft, the three largest sub-categories in acquisitive crime. The 2025 total is the lowest since 2022 and sits well below the pre-pandemic baseline.

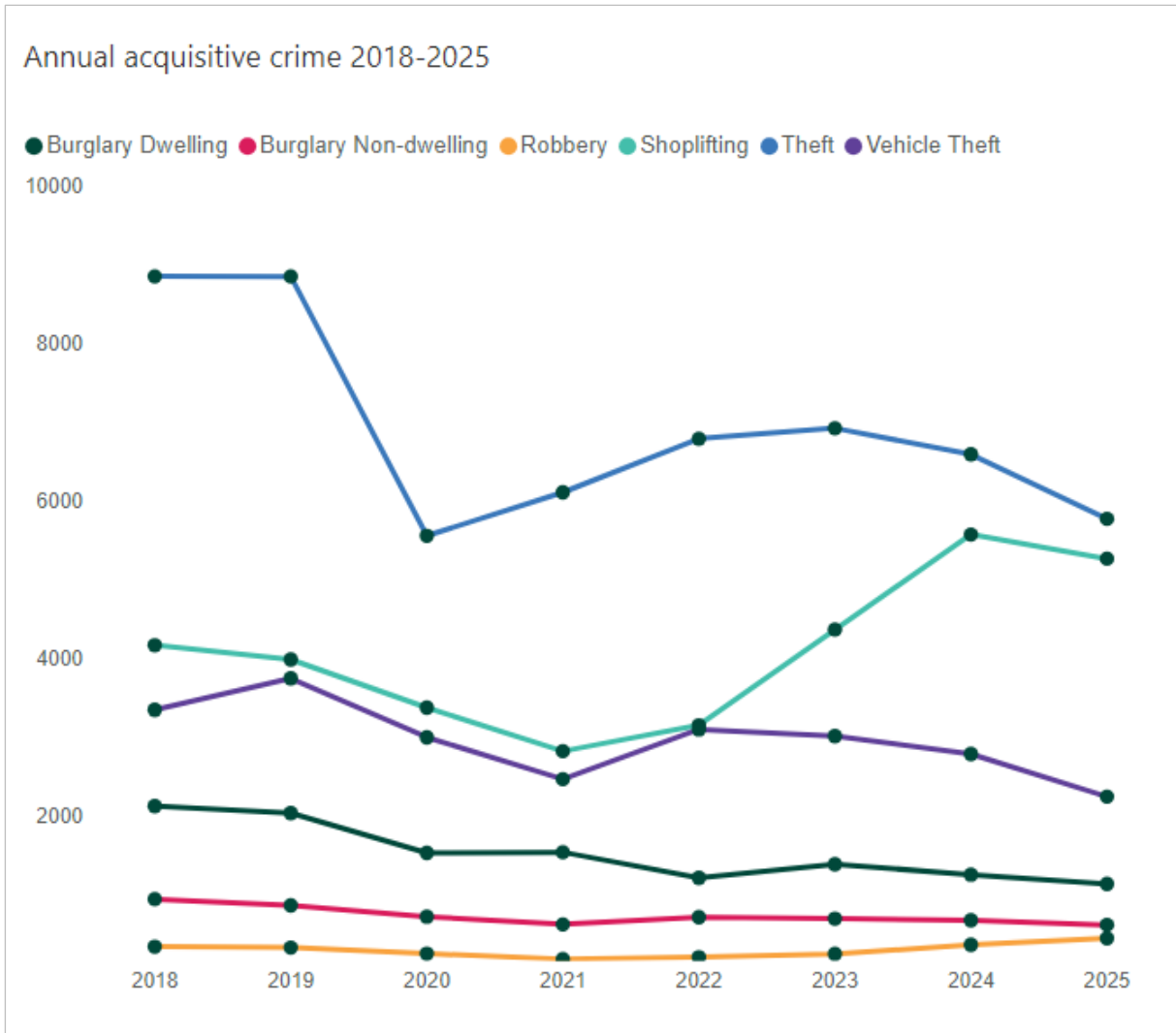


Figure 5: Annual acquisitive crime by offence type from 2018 to 2025

At the sub-category level, theft has continued to fall after its post-pandemic peak of 2023 and is almost at the same level as 2020. Encouragingly, despite the increase between 2020 and 2023, it has still not reached pre-pandemic levels. Shoplifting which had increased by 98% between 2021 and 2024, registered a slight decrease in numbers following three successive years of significant growth. Vehicle theft, which had risen sharply in 2022, continued its gradual downwards trend and fell below 2021 levels. Robberies registered their highest number across the entire recording period (2018-2025), exhibiting a 153% increase from the post-pandemic dip from 2021.

It is worth noting that shoplifting and robbery are the only sub-categories where the post-pandemic peak is higher than the pre-pandemic peak.

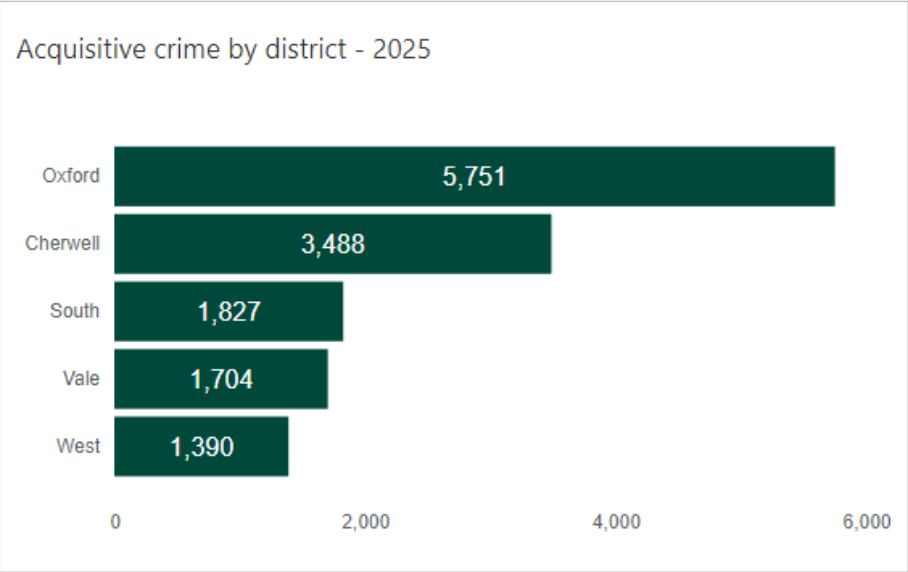


Figure 6: Acquisitive crime by district in 2025

At a district level, Oxford accounts for well over a third of all acquisitive crime across the county. Cherwell is the second highest district but records substantially fewer offences than Oxford. The three rural districts – South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire – record broadly comparable volumes despite differences in their population sizes.

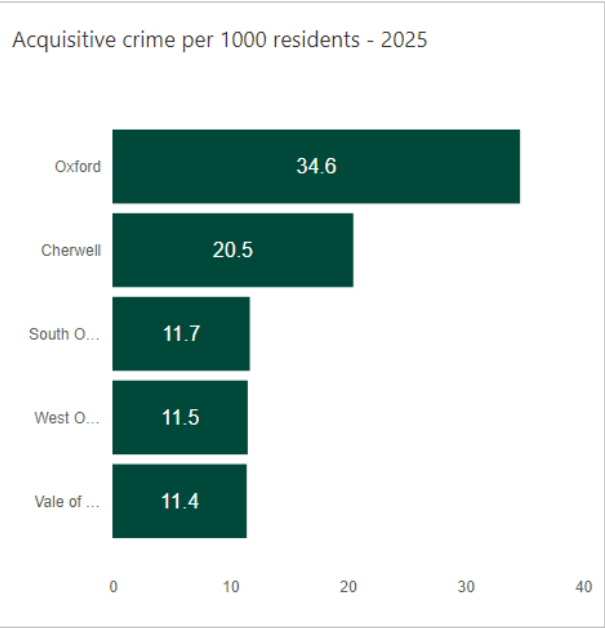


Figure 7: Acquisitive crime rate per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

When adjusted for population, Oxford records 34.6 offences per 1000 residents, Cherwell 20.5, South Oxfordshire 11.7, West Oxfordshire 11.5, and Vale of White Horse 11.4.

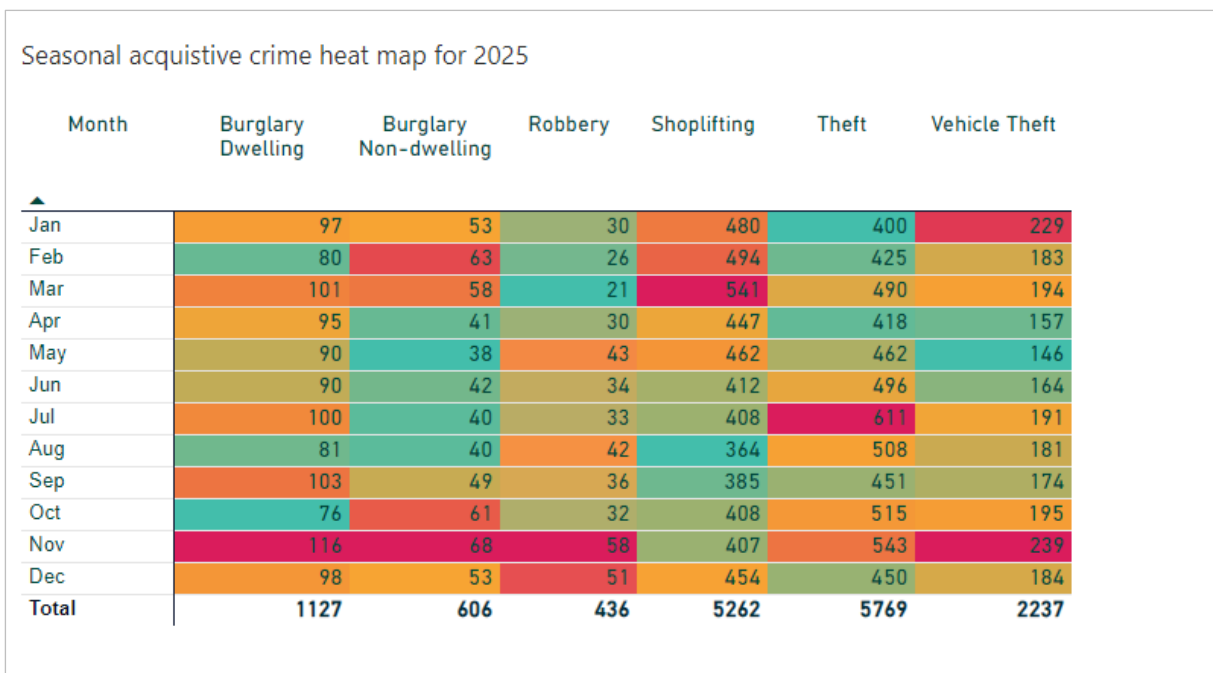


Figure 8: Seasonal heat map of acquisitive crime by offence type in 2025

The seasonal heat map shows November as the peak month for burglary dwelling and robbery, consistent with the pre-festive season pattern identified in last year's report. Theft peaks in the summer months, a pattern that has been observed across the recording period (2018-2025), apart from 2020 which could be attributed to the pandemic. Shoplifting is most elevated in March and remains relatively high throughout the Spring months. It should be noted that shoplifting does not have a seasonal pattern which has repeated over the years. The October-November acquisitive peak identified in the 2025 report as a notable feature of the seasonal pattern is again visible in the 2025 data, particularly in shoplifting and vehicle theft.



Figure 9: Proportional breakdown of acquisitive crime subcategories in 2025

Theft and shoplifting together account for more than 7 in ten acquisitive offences, confirming that volume in this category is dominated by relatively high-frequency offending rather than by burglary or robbery. Burglary dwelling, while lower in volume, carries a disproportionate impact on victims and communities, with research

showing its impacts on victims’ confidence, ability to sleep and depression levels.⁴ Considering this, its November peak warrants specific seasonal awareness

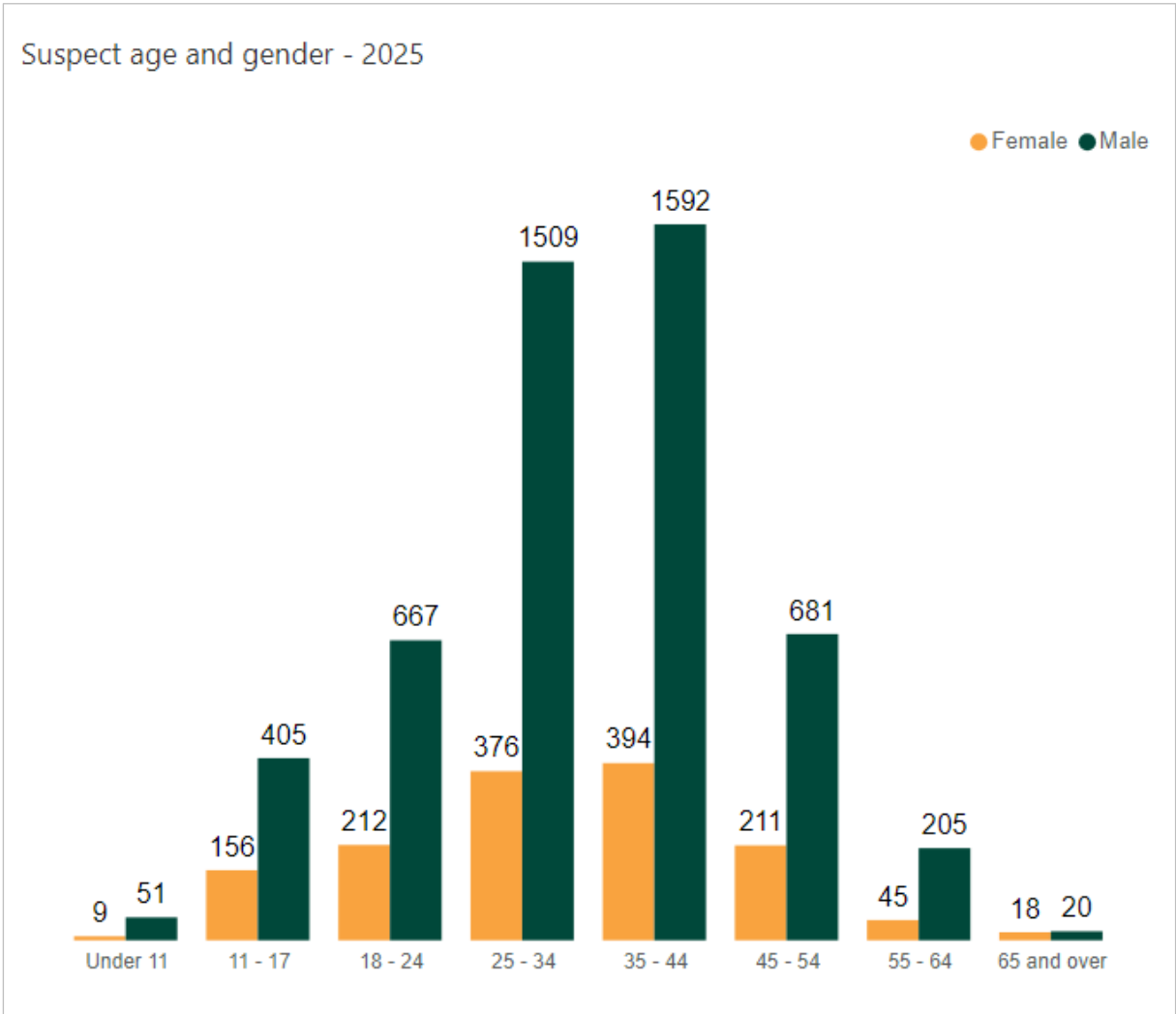


Figure 10: Suspect age and gender distribution (acquisitive crime) in 2025

The suspect profile is predominantly male across all age bands. Male suspects were most commonly in the 35–44 age bracket, with a near-equal concentration in the 25–34 range. Female suspects peak in the 25-34 bracket. Male suspects aged 11–17 account for approximately 8% of all male acquisitive suspects, a proportion the 2025 report identified as part of a wider pattern of younger suspect profiles across multiple crime categories.

⁴ Sentencing Council. ‘Victims Central to New Guideline for the Sentencing of Burglars’, 13 October 2011. <https://sentencingcouncil.org.uk/latest/victims-central-to-new-guideline-for-the-sentencing-of-burglars/>.

Section 5. Violent Crime

Section 5a. Violence with Injury

Violence with injury has continued its gradual downward trend, falling for the third consecutive year. The overall trajectory is positive and reinforces the picture of sustained improvement in this category since the post-pandemic recovery period.

Overall, there were 4,305 recorded offences, representing a 4% decrease from 2024. Domestic abuse related offences accounted for approximately 30% of all offences, while knife related offences accounted for approximately 3%.

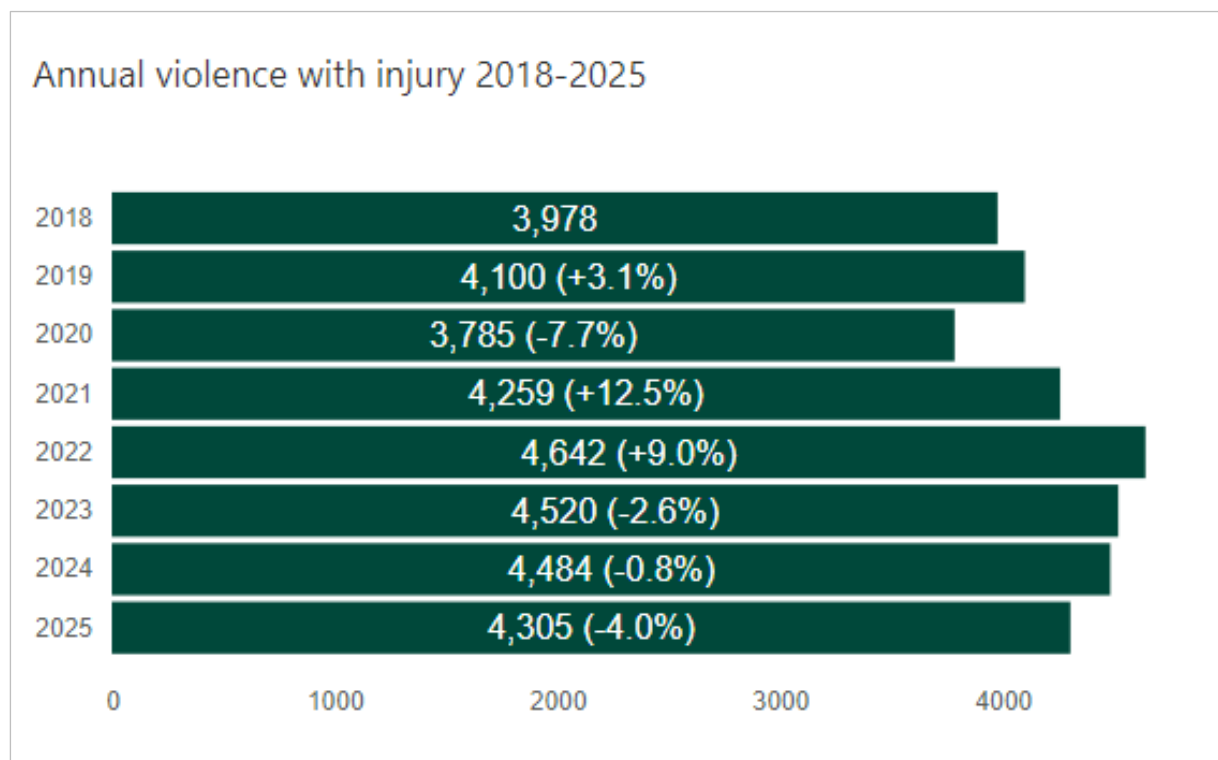


Figure 11: Annual violence with injury - 2018-2025

The annual trends show a peak in 2022 followed by three years of successive decline. The post-pandemic recovery in 2021 was sharp, and the sustained reduction since 2022 is a meaningful development. The 2025 total, despite declining, remains above 2018 and 2020 levels.

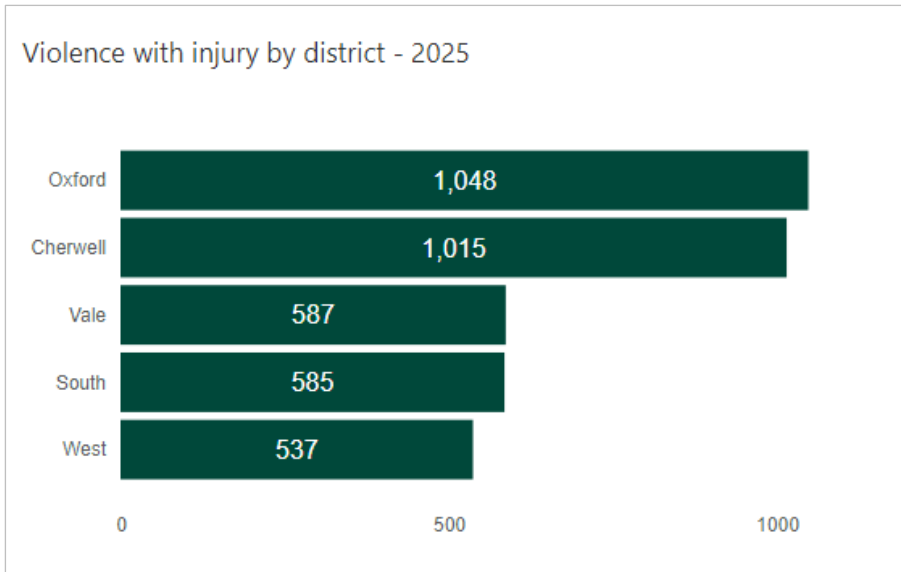


Figure 12: Violence with injury by district in 2025

At a district level, Oxford and Cherwell have very similar volumes and together account for approaching half of county totals, while the other three districts are broadly comparable to each other. Cherwell records a volume closely comparable to Oxford, consistent with the concentration of population in its larger settlement.

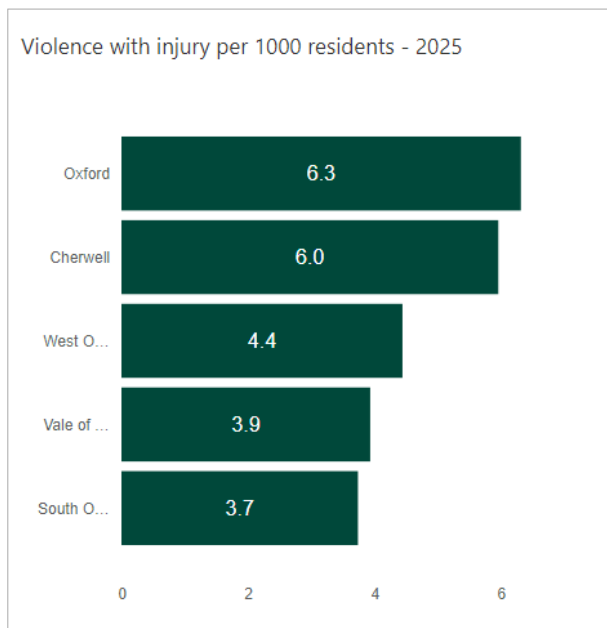


Figure 13: Violence with injury per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

When adjusted for population, Oxford records 6.3 offences per 1000 residents, Cherwell 6.0, West Oxfordshire 4.4, Vale of White Horse Oxfordshire 3.9, and South Oxfordshire 3.7.

Violence with Injury Day-Hour Heat Map - 2025

Hour of Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
01:00	14	13	14	11	16	52	48
02:00	8	12	4	10	5	38	42
03:00	7	11	6	7	6	15	34
04:00	3	5	5	2	10	20	17
05:00	5	5	10	6	7	5	10
06:00	3	3	3	8	7	2	6
07:00	6	6	8	20	6	10	6
08:00	10	11	22	17	18	12	4
09:00	24	12	32	16	17	12	11
10:00	23	22	19	20	27	25	20
11:00	16	21	23	22	37	22	23
12:00	29	38	29	25	38	16	26
13:00	31	23	30	24	40	18	22
14:00	39	34	38	28	34	26	23
15:00	36	52	44	44	48	39	30
16:00	44	40	48	33	33	35	33
17:00	34	58	38	35	44	29	22
18:00	40	45	39	37	57	39	33
19:00	37	37	42	35	29	42	44
20:00	21	34	25	30	40	41	33
21:00	31	39	28	27	36	38	36
22:00	24	32	25	29	35	43	34
23:00	23	14	17	20	33	35	28
24 (Midnight)	50	43	48	51	43	51	67
Total	558	610	597	557	666	665	652

Figure 14: Violence with injury day-hour heatmap 2025

The day-hour heat map shows two distinct concentrations: the period between 23:00 and 03:00 on Friday and Saturday where counts are highest; and Monday to Friday between 15:00 and 17:00, which is a consistently elevated period across weekday afternoons.

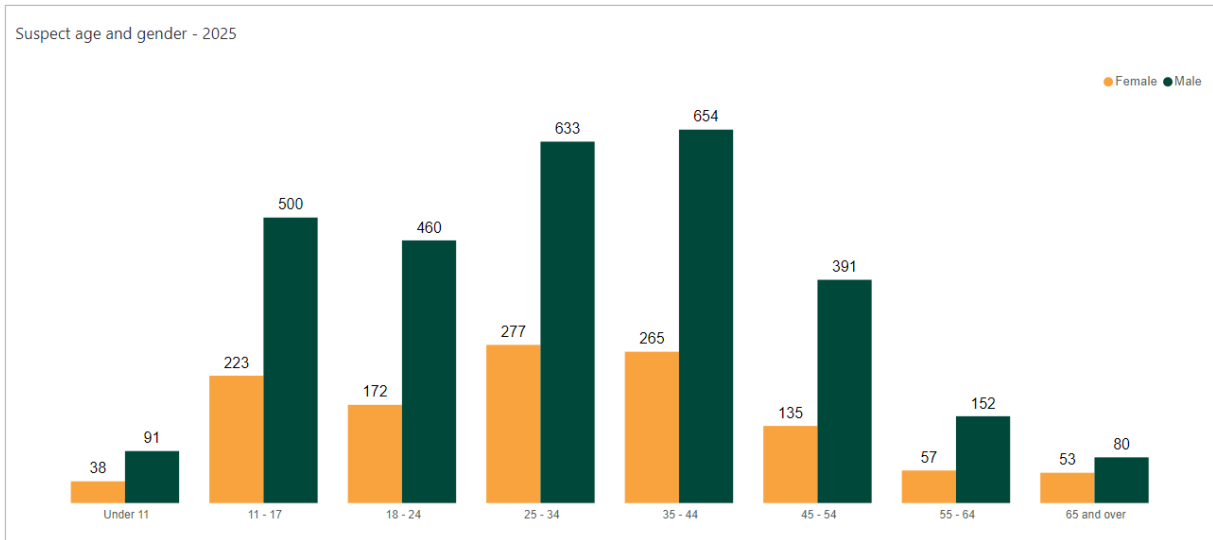


Figure 15: Suspect age and gender distribution (violence with injury) - 2025

The peak suspect age is 35-44 for males, with a near-equal concentration in the 25-34 bracket. Among female suspects, the highest concentration is in the 35-34 and the 35-44 age brackets.

Domestic abuse is a factor in over 35% of all recorded offences in age groups above 18 for both males and females. It should be noted that the 18-24 age bracket is the only one where female suspects (44%) are committing a higher proportion of domestic abuse related offences compared to male suspects (37%).

Section 5b. Knife Crime

Knife crime has risen significantly in the past year, reversing the downwards trend which had been observed since 2022. Overall, there were 171 recorded offences, representing a 17% increase from 2024.

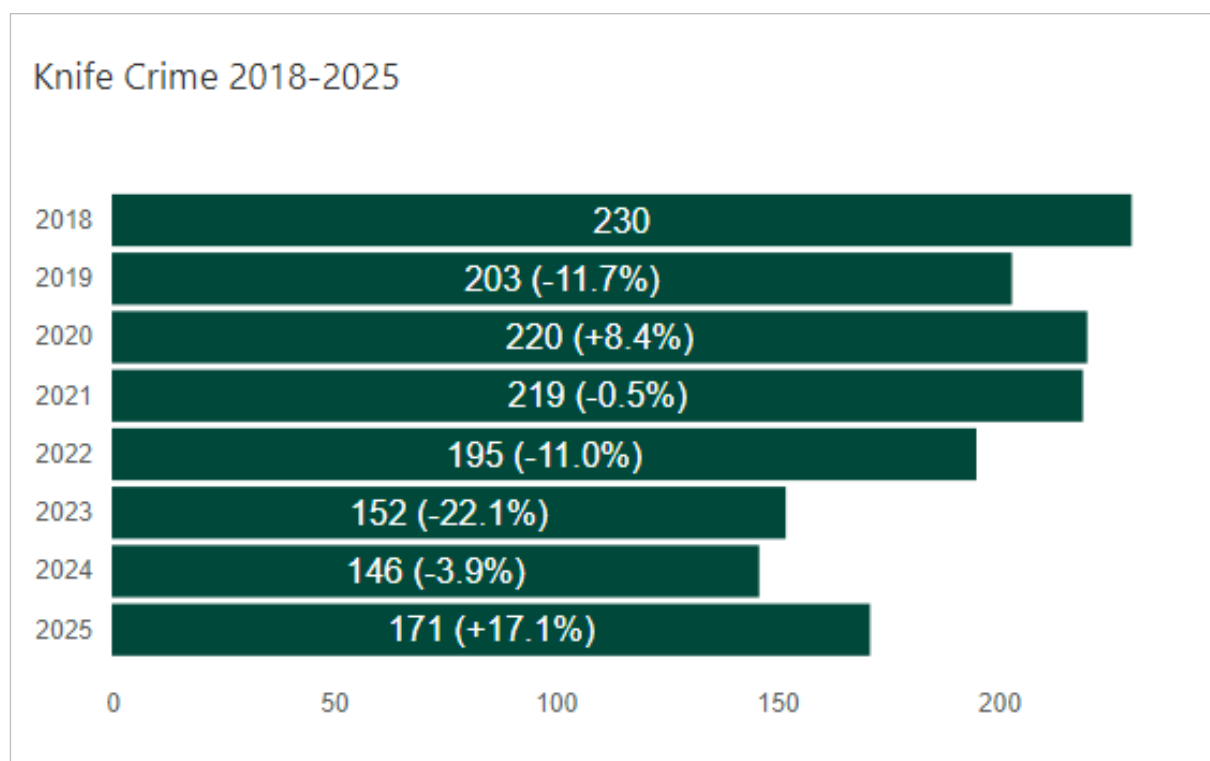


Figure 16: Annual knife crime, 2018-2025

The annual trends show a that following a relatively similar profile between 2018 and 2021, knife crime dropped significantly post-pandemic, falling by 33% between 2021 and 2024. This trend has been reversed in 2024 where knife crimes increased by 17%. The overall numbers, however, remain below pre-pandemic levels.

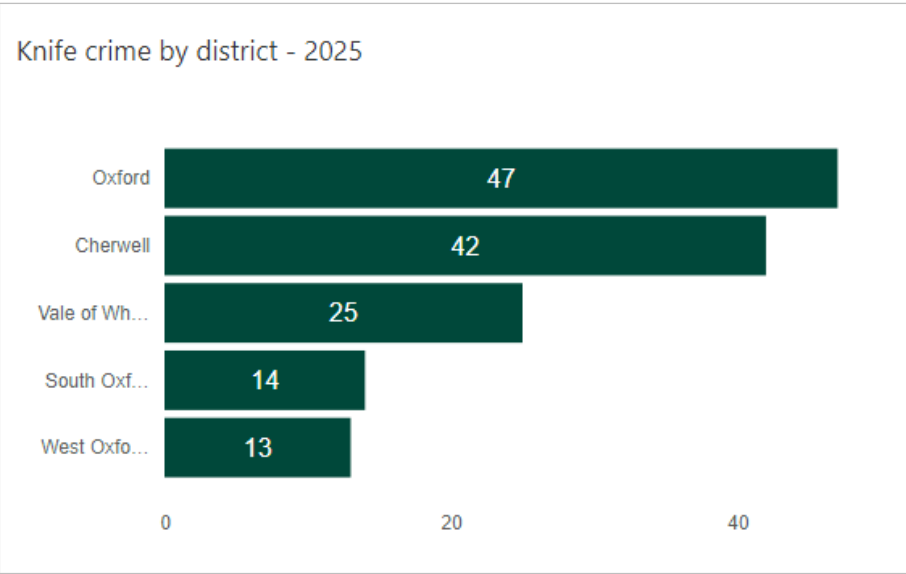


Figure 17: Knife crime by district in 2025

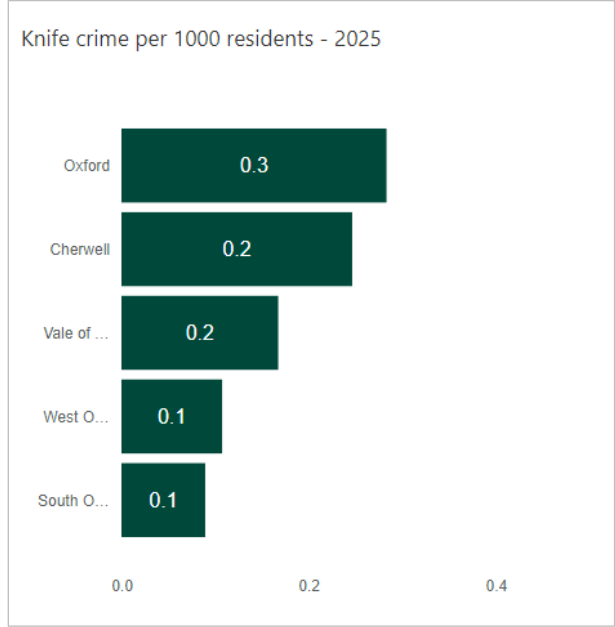


Figure 18: Knife crime per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

At a district level, knife crimes were concentrated in Oxford and Cherwell, which recorded 47 and 42 offences respectively. When adjusted for population, Oxford remained the highest-risk area with 0.3 recorded offences per 1000 residents, while South and West Oxfordshire recorded the lowest rates of 0.1 offences per 1000 residents

Section 5c. Violence without Injury

Violence without injury has risen in 2025, reversing the decrease seen in 2024. The 2025 report attributed the 2024 fall in part to the reclassification of some harassment occurrences as non-crimes. The 2025 increase reverses this and brings the volume to its highest point in the full analysis period. The increase is broad-based, though harassment and stalking — flagged in 34.7% of all violence without injury offences — are a significant component of the overall volume.

Overall, there were a total of 12,426 recorded offences, representing an approximately 7% increase from 2024. Domestic abuse was flagged in 31.7% of offences, while harassment or stalking were flagged in 34.7% of offences. These proportions place violence without injury as the category with the highest domestic abuse association.

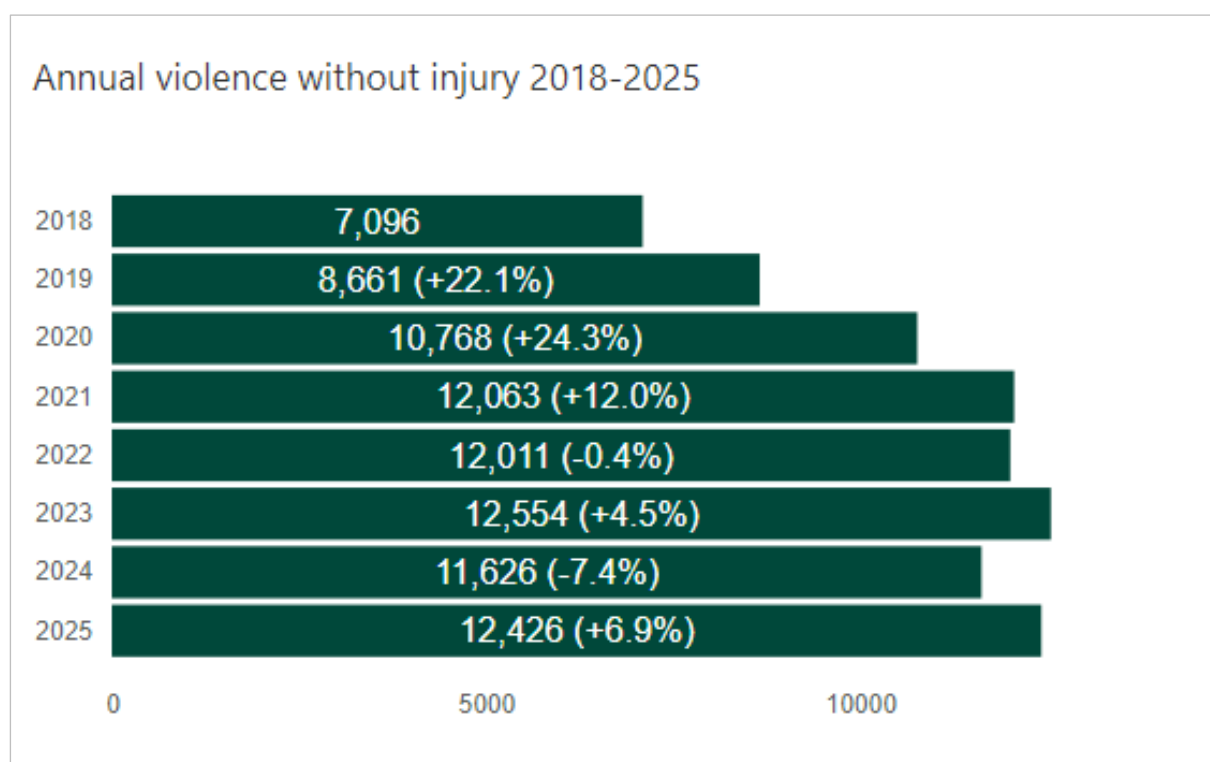


Figure 19: Annual violence without injury - 2018-2025

Growth was rapid from 2018 to 2021, levelled off between 2021 and 2023, dipped in 2024 following the reclassification of some harassment offences as non-crimes as noted in the 2025 report, and has resumed in 2025. The 2025 total is the highest recorded in the full analysis period and the category now accounts for more than a quarter of all valid crime in the county.

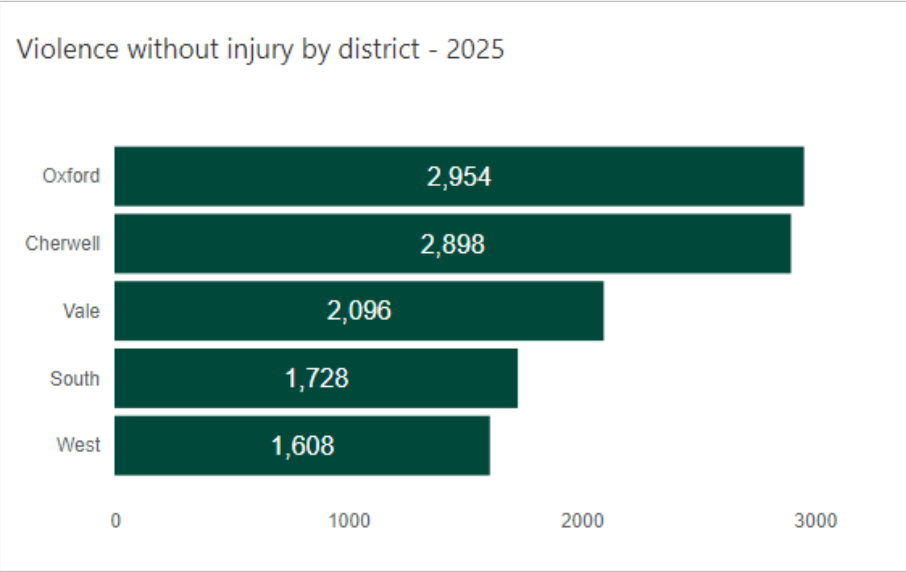


Figure 20: Violence without injury by district in 2025

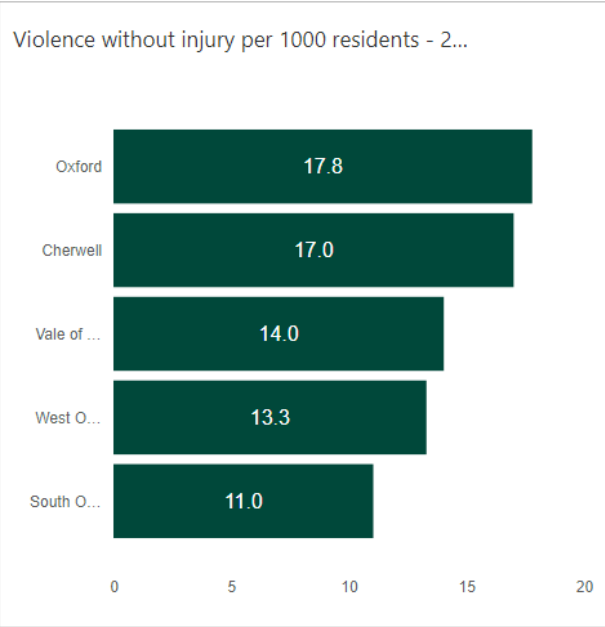


Figure 21: Violence without injury per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

At a district level, Oxford and Cherwell record the highest volumes, with the remaining three districts at broadly half that level. At a per capita level, Oxford and Cherwell have similar rates of recorded offences per 1000 residents. West Oxfordshire, which has the lowest number of recorded offences, has a per capita rate similar to Vale of White Horse. South Oxfordshire records the lowest recorded offences per 1000 residents.

Violence without Injury Day-Hour Heat Map - 2025

Hour of Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
01:00	21	31	20	29	30	78	75
02:00	14	36	26	28	32	63	61
03:00	20	18	16	17	12	35	59
04:00	10	10	18	8	15	20	31
05:00	6	19	15	13	11	17	12
06:00	9	18	13	10	15	10	14
07:00	24	30	22	38	32	16	19
08:00	58	66	55	63	51	48	19
09:00	80	81	67	80	76	53	46
10:00	78	62	82	73	71	60	64
11:00	102	77	98	98	80	60	64
12:00	120	102	117	87	122	78	76
13:00	99	99	98	77	110	95	72
14:00	100	100	115	86	112	82	84
15:00	113	124	122	119	143	94	77
16:00	144	143	125	102	92	79	90
17:00	108	99	108	129	110	110	83
18:00	125	116	124	127	102	92	87
19:00	108	116	111	128	91	115	104
20:00	109	96	83	88	109	118	100
21:00	92	99	74	83	89	113	86
22:00	64	82	82	71	99	94	65
23:00	59	52	62	67	85	96	65
24 (Midnight)	160	140	181	127	159	135	143
Total	1823	1816	1834	1748	1848	1761	1596

Figure 22: Violence without injury day-hour heatmap in 2025

The day-hour pattern is markedly different from violence with injury. Rather than a sharp late-night concentration on Friday and Saturday, offending is distributed consistently across daytime and evening hours throughout the week, consistent with the interpersonal nature of much of this category. The midnight row is elevated across all days of the week.

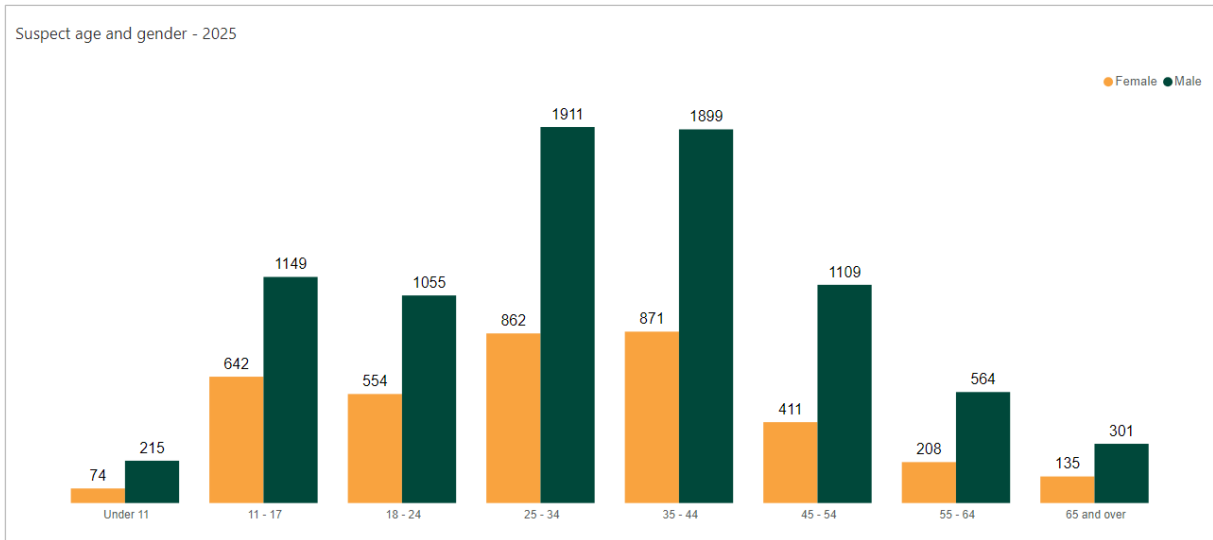


Figure 23: Suspect age and gender breakdown (violence without injury) in 2025

The peak suspect age group is 25-34, with both male and female suspects showing a broad spread across the working age population that extends strongly into the 35-44 bracket. Female suspects are proportionally more represented in this category than in most others. It should be added that the 11-17 age group contributes a notable share of both male and female suspects. Male suspects aged 11–17 number 1,149, approximately 14% of all male suspects in this category, while female suspects number 642, approximately 17% of all female suspects in this category. These numbers are consistent with the county-wide pattern of younger suspect profiles identified in the 2025 report across multiple crime categories.

Section 6. Sexual Offences

Sexual offences increased again in 2025, marking the highest annual total recorded across the full eight-year analysis period and continuing an unbroken upward trend that has been observed since 2018.

Overall, there were a total of 1,896 recorded offences, including 570 instances of rape. The overall count amounts to an increase of 9.3% from the previous year, while rape offences increased by a concerning 11.8%. The total number of offences has nearly doubled since 2018, with an overall increase of 82.5%. The peak victim age group for this category was 11-17.

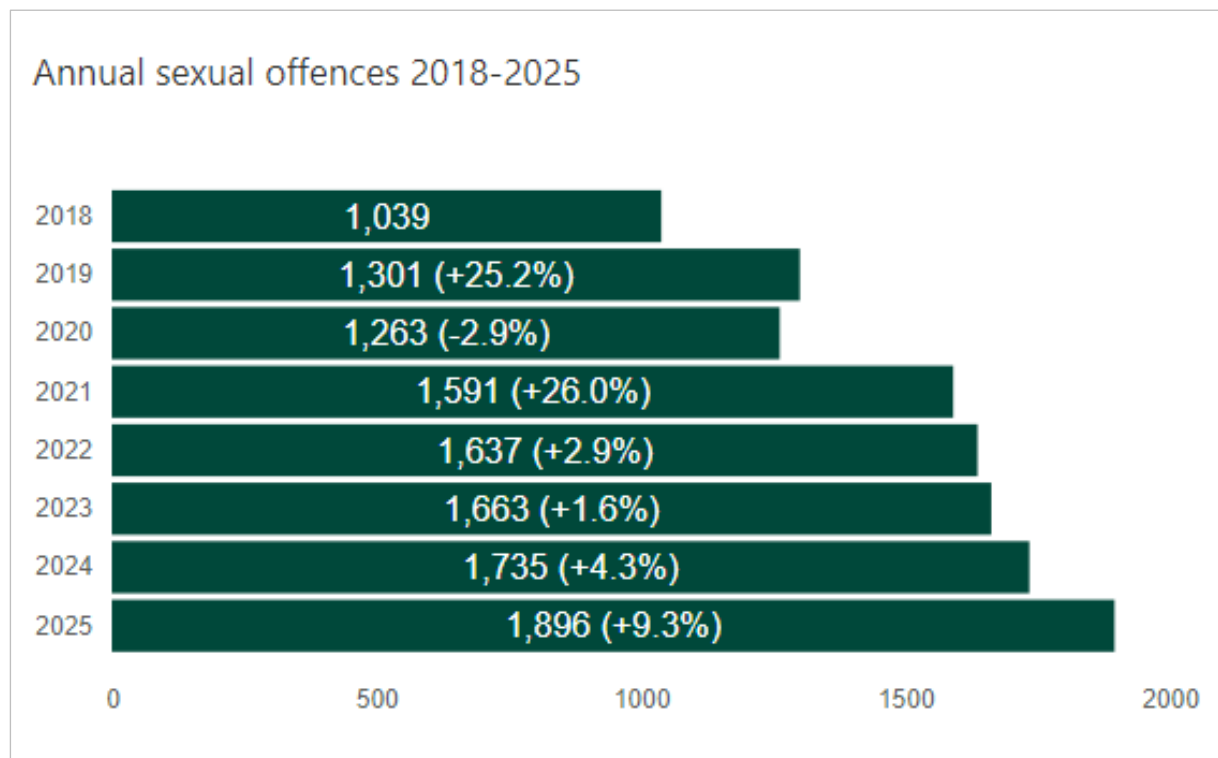


Figure 24: Annual sexual offences - 2018-2025

The annual trends show unbroken growth across the full period with only a marginal dip in 2020 which could be attributable to the pandemic. The trajectory has been consistently upward, and 2025 marks both the highest volume and the steepest year-on-year increase since 2021. The absence of any plateau in this trend distinguishes sexual offences from most other crime categories in this report, where the period from 2022 onwards has seen either stabilisation or decline.

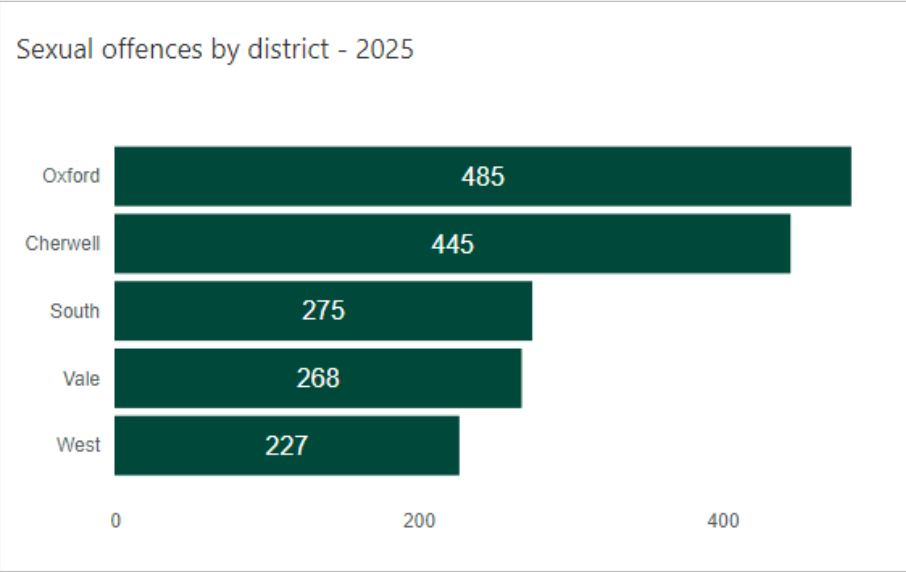


Figure 25: Sexual offences by district in 2025

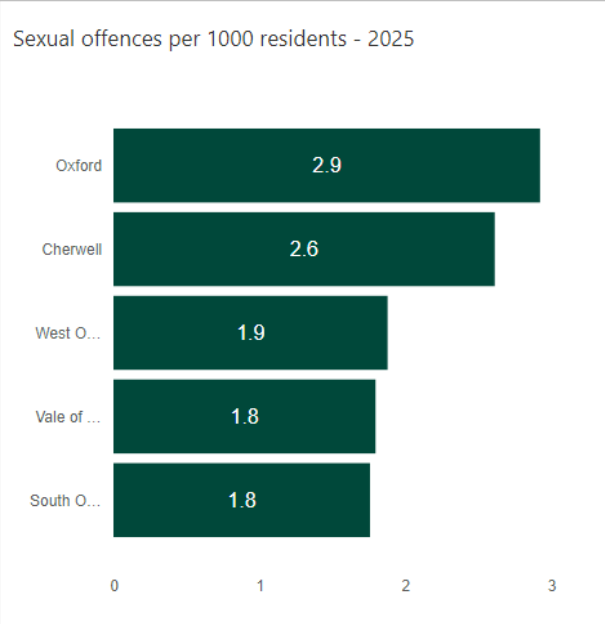


Figure 26: Sexual offences per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

The distribution across districts is broadly proportional to population and urbanisation. Oxford and Cherwell together account for approaching half of all recorded sexual offences. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse record similar volumes despite their differing population sizes.

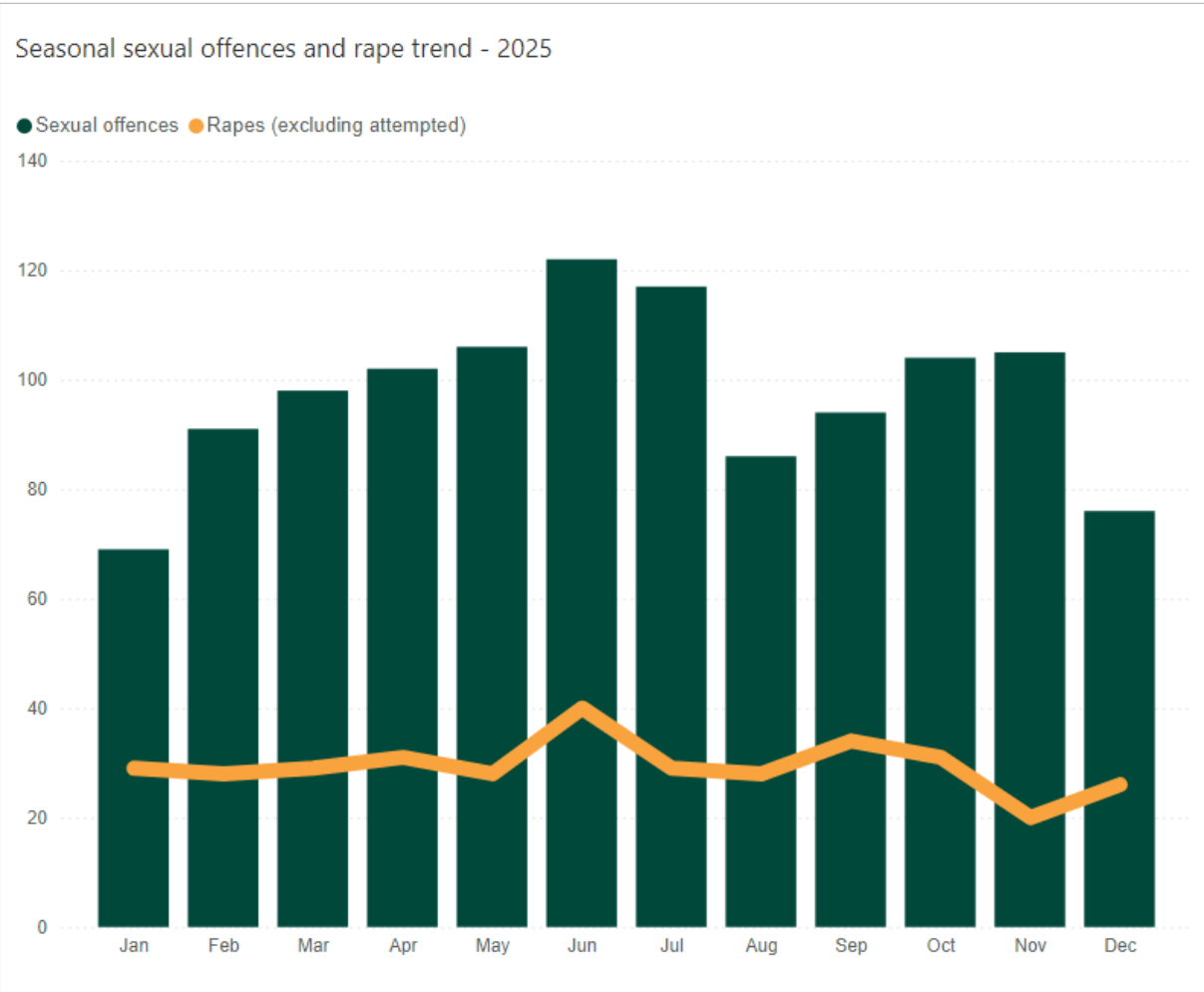


Figure 27: Sexual offences and rape seasonal trend in 2025

The seasonal chart shows offending is highest in the summer months with a clear peak in June, and a secondary elevation running from October into November. Rape volumes, shown separately, are more evenly distributed across the year without the pronounced summer peak seen in total sexual offences, suggesting the seasonal uplift is driven more by other sexual offences than by rape specifically.

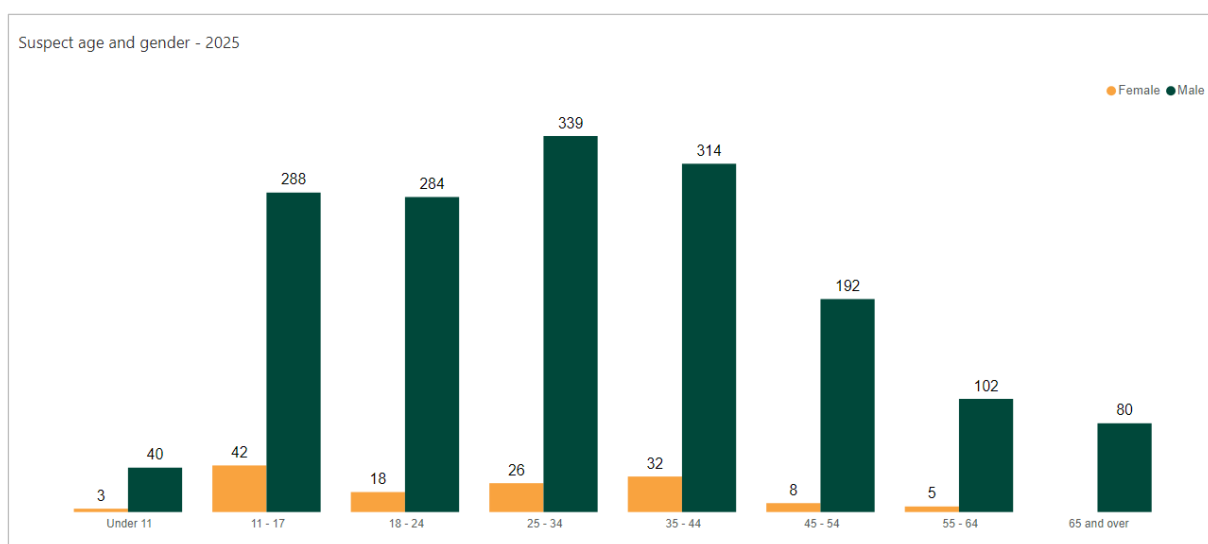


Figure 28: Suspect age and gender breakdown (sexual offences) in 2025

The suspect profile is overwhelmingly male across all age bands. The highest concentrations fall in the 25–34 and 35–44 groups, though the 11–17 male bracket is also notably large, consistent with the pattern of younger suspect profiles identified across multiple crime categories in the 2025 report.

The peak victim age group is 11–17, which is a cause for serious concern and a persistent feature of the sexual offences data in Oxfordshire. Of the total 435 recorded offences involving victims in this age group, the top 5 classifications are as follows:

- Sexual assault of female 13 or over 170
- Rape of female over 16 years 60
- Rape of female under 16 years 43
- Sexual assault of female under 13 34
- Sexual communication with a child 29

Section 7. Child Abuse and Exploitation

Child abuse offences have risen again in 2025, reaching their highest level in the analysis period, a growth trajectory that represents the steepest rate of increase of any crime category in this report, with volume up 158.7% since 2018. For the purpose of this report, "Child Abuse Offences" refers to a recorded offence where at least one specific child vulnerability or abuse flag was identified by law enforcement at the time of reporting. These flags include child abuse, child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.

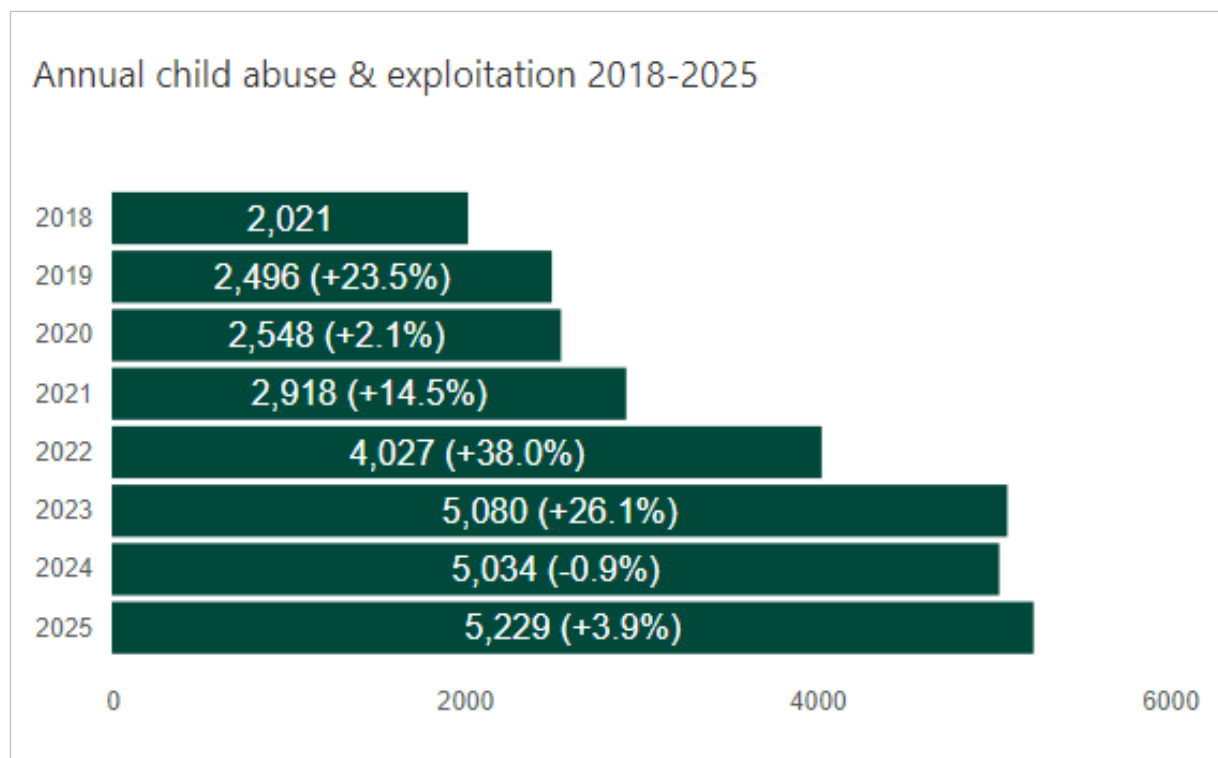


Figure 29: Annual child abuse - 2018-2025

Overall, there were a total of 5,229 recorded offences, representing an increase of approximately 4% from 2024. Most worryingly, however, the volume has increased by 158.7%, i.e., more than one and a half times, since 2018. The peak victim age group in this category was 11-17, consistent with the pattern observed across the recording period (2018-2025). Child sexual exploitation was present in 2.3% of all recorded offences.

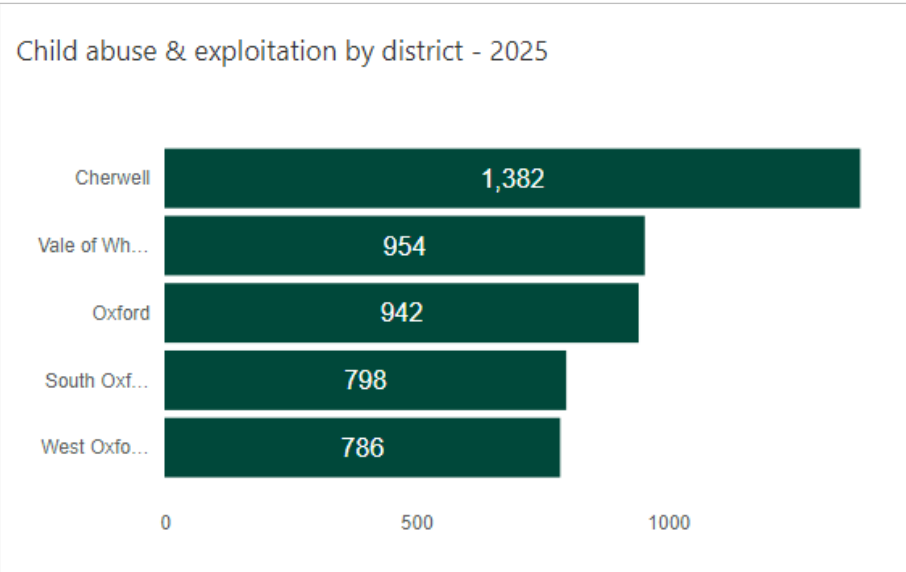


Figure 30: Child abuse by district in 2025

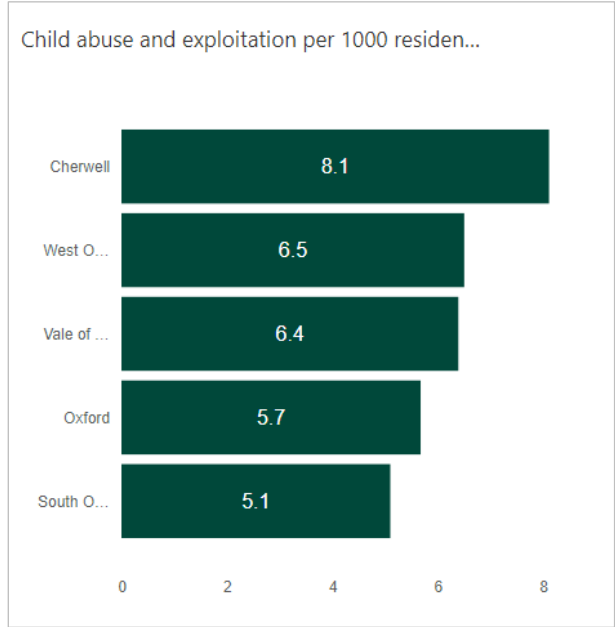


Figure 31: Child abuse per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

Cherwell recorded the highest volume of any district, accounting for more than a quarter of all county child abuse offences. This concentration is disproportionate relative to Cherwell’s population. On a per capita level, Oxford, which leads most other crime categories, is the fourth highest district here.

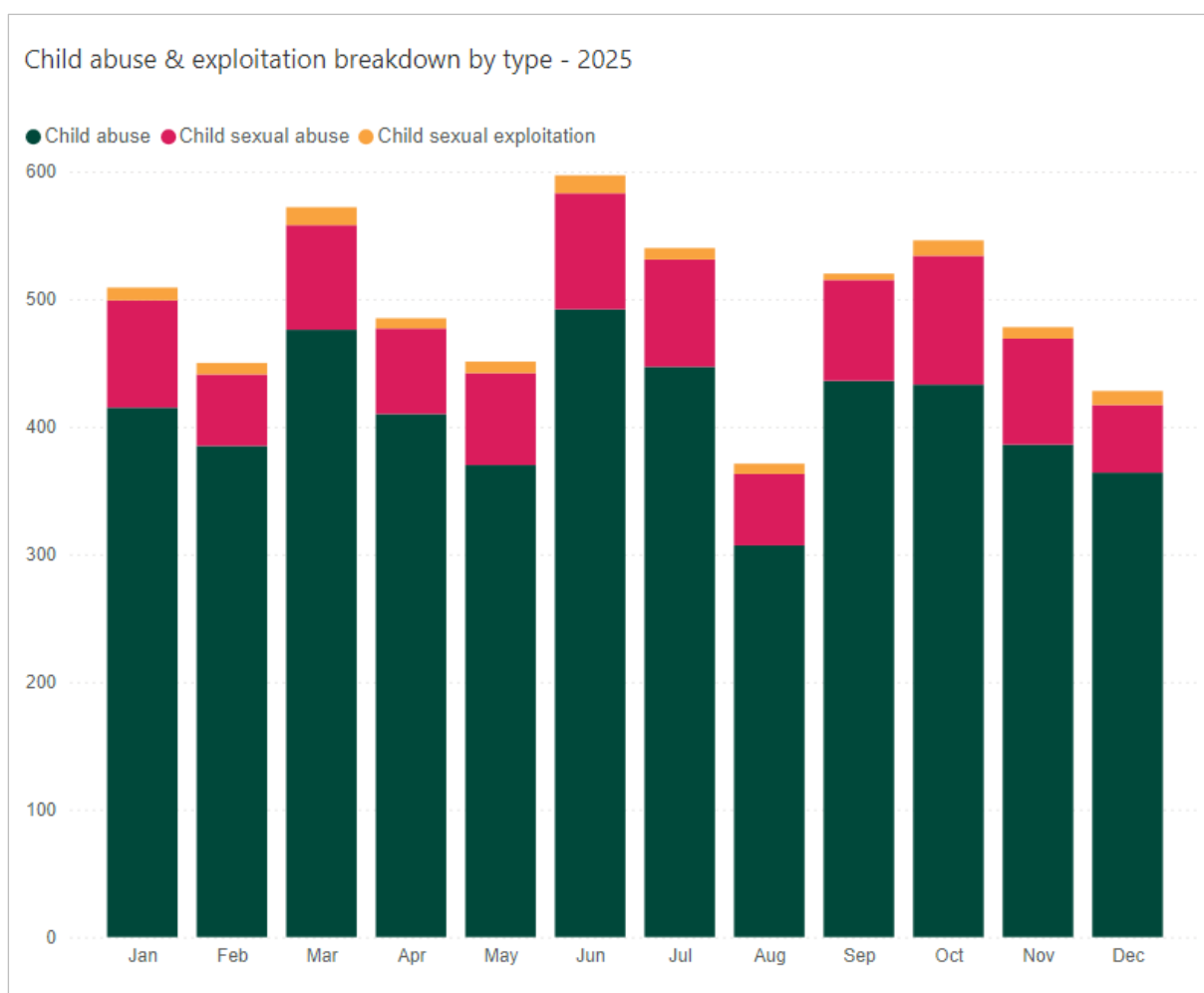


Figure 32: Child abuse and exploitation breakdown by type in 2025

At a seasonal level, child abuse accounts for the dominant share in every month, with child sexual abuse forming a consistent secondary layer throughout the year. Child sexual exploitation remains a smaller but distinct component at around 2.3% of total offences. The monthly profile does not show a pronounced seasonal pattern, though volumes appear somewhat higher in the spring and early summer months.

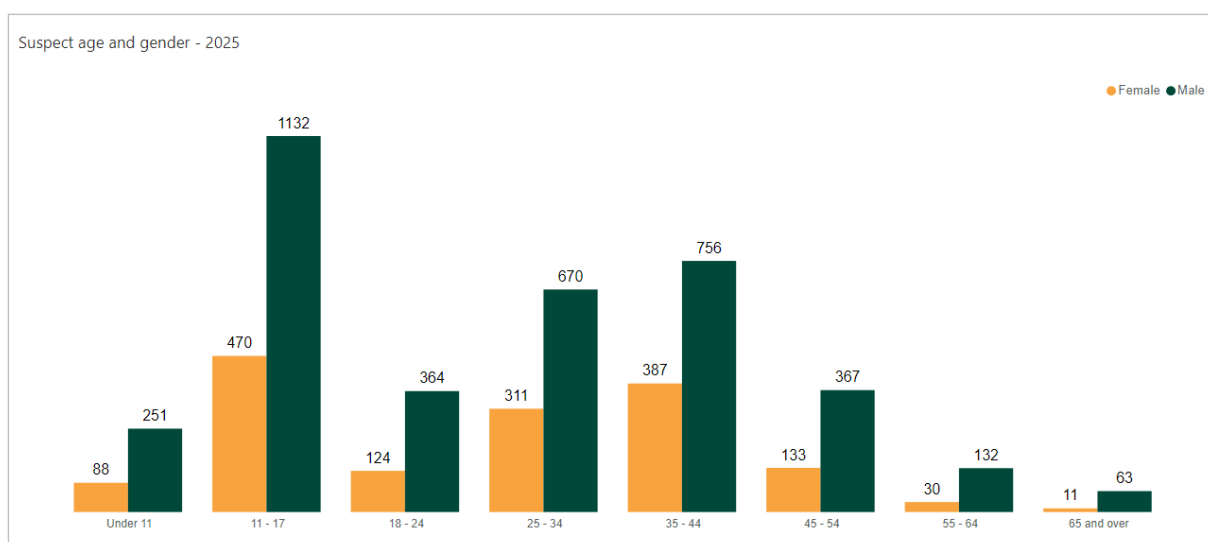


Figure 33: Suspect age and gender breakdown (child abuse and exploitation) in 2025

The suspect age profile shows the largest concentrations in the 11–17 and 35–44 male bands, indicating that perpetrators span both the peer group and adult generations. The peak victim age group is 11–17, consistent with the pattern seen in sexual offences and reflecting the age range at which abuse and exploitation are most frequently identified and reported. The presence of suspects in the under-11 category, while small, requires careful interpretation given the potential for peer-on-peer abuse at very young ages. Female suspects are present across all age bands, with the highest concentrations in the 11–17 and 35–44 groups

Section 8. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

VAWG offences have increased in 2025 following two successive years of decline, returning broadly to 2023 levels. The overall picture since 2018 is one of substantial growth, with current volumes approaching double those at the start of the period. The 2024 decrease has not been sustained, and the underlying volume of VAWG offending in Oxfordshire remains high.

Overall, there were a total of 9,624 recorded offences, representing an increase of 3.5% from 2024, and an increase of 60.7% from 2018. Domestic abuse was a factor in 46.9% of all recorded offences, confirming that domestic abuse is the primary driver of VAWG volume across the county. The peak victim age group was 35-44.

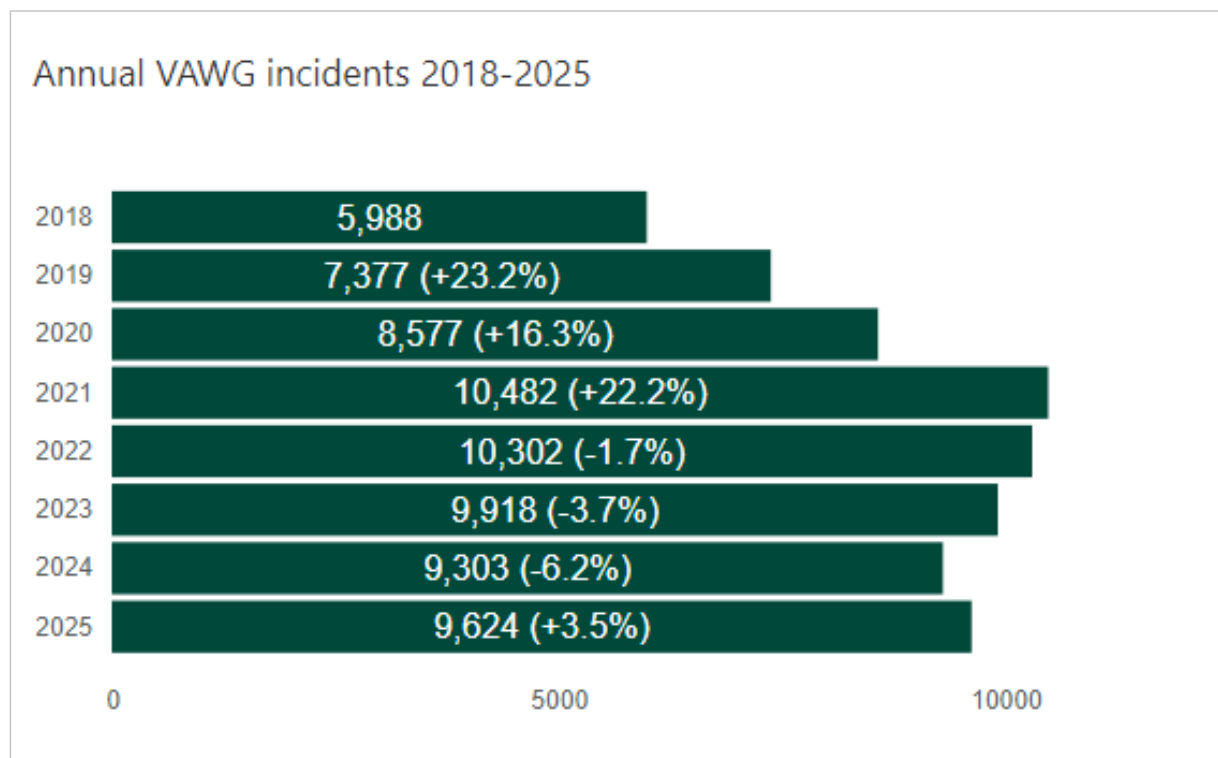


Figure 34: Violence against women and girls - 2018-2025

The annual trend shows rapid growth from 2018 to 2021, a period of relative stabilisation and modest decline from 2022 to 2024, and then a return to growth in 2025. The 2025 total is the second highest in the full analysis period. Volumes have settled at a level substantially higher than the 2018 baseline and have not returned to a sustained downward trajectory.

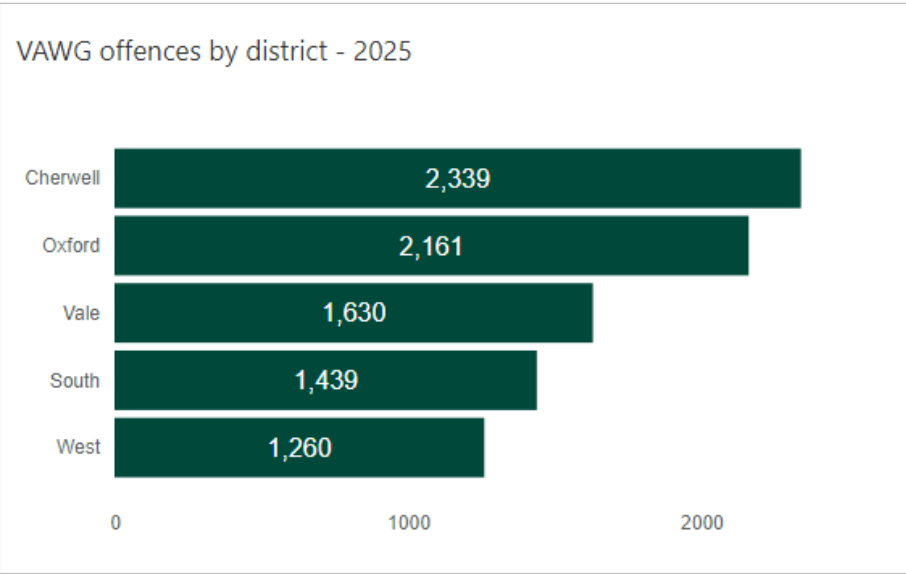


Figure 35: VAWG by district in 2025

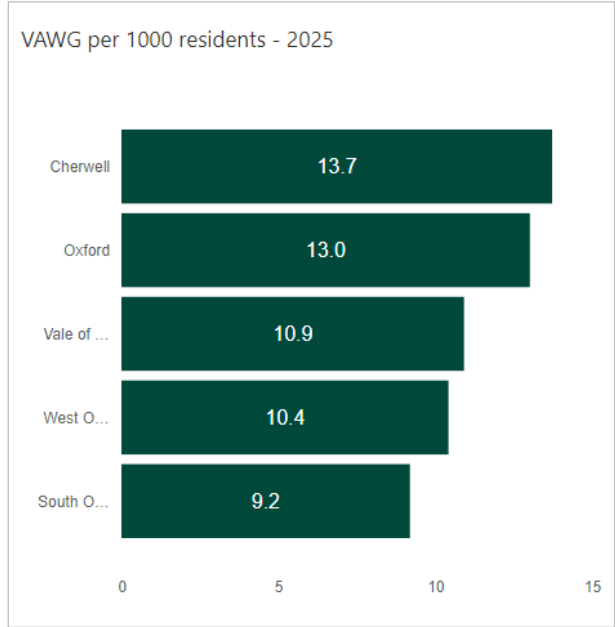


Figure 36: VAWG per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

At a district level, Cherwell recorded the highest level of recorded offences followed by Oxford. At a per capita level. South Oxfordshire had the lowest number of offences per 1000 residents despite have a greater number of offences than West Oxfordshire.

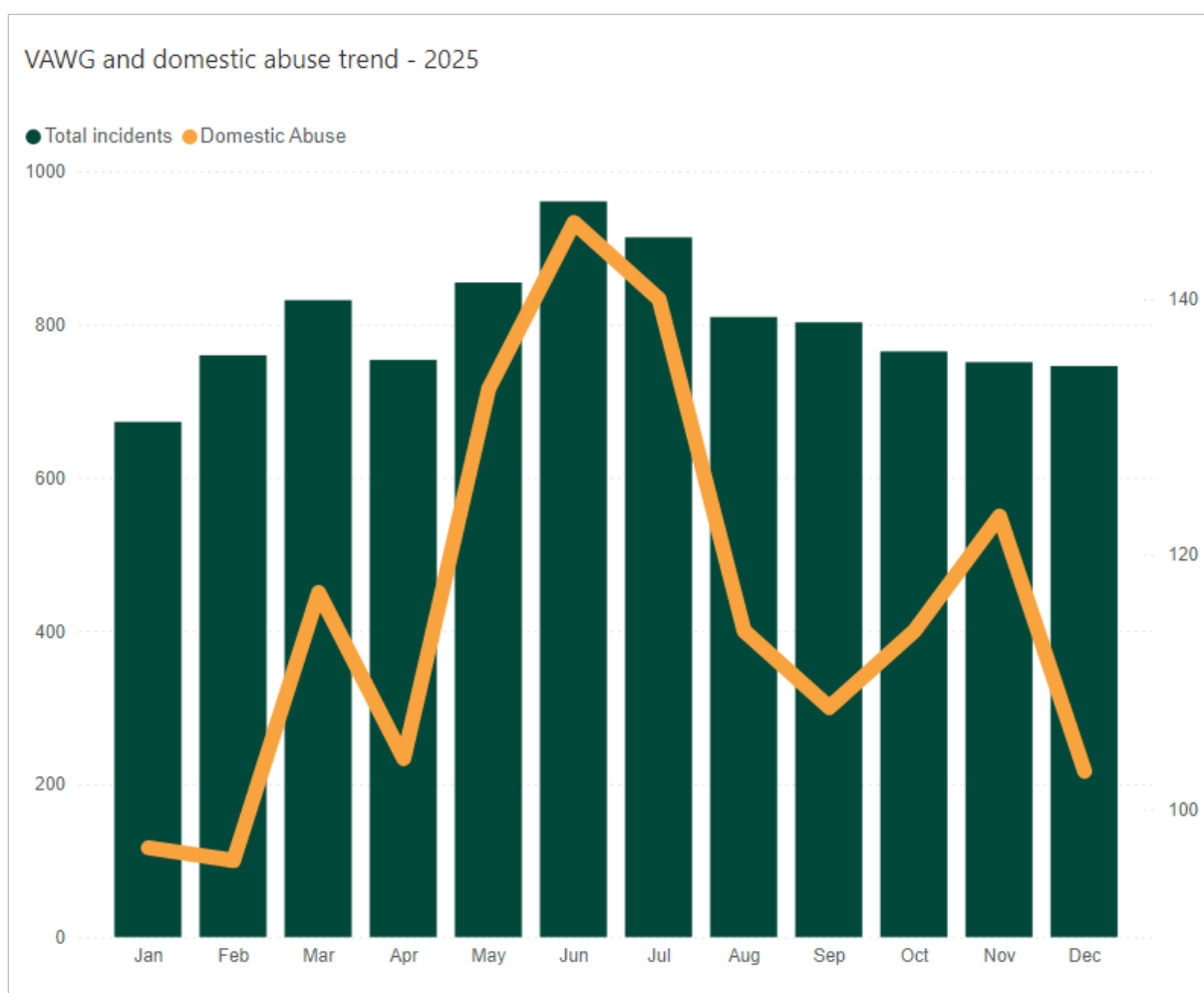


Figure 37: VAWG and domestic abuse seasonal trend in 2025

The seasonal trend chart for VAWG peaks in the summer, which is consistent with the seasonality identified for violence in the 2025 report. Domestic abuse also peaks in the summers, though this peak is much more pronounced than the peak for overall VAWG offences. This is consistent with research which shows that intimate partner violence and domestic abuse spike in summers compared with other seasons.⁵

⁵ Graboys, Sam. 'Understanding Summer Surges in Domestic Violence'. CAWC, 31 July 2024. <https://www.cawc.org/news/understanding-summer-surges-in-domestic-violence/>.

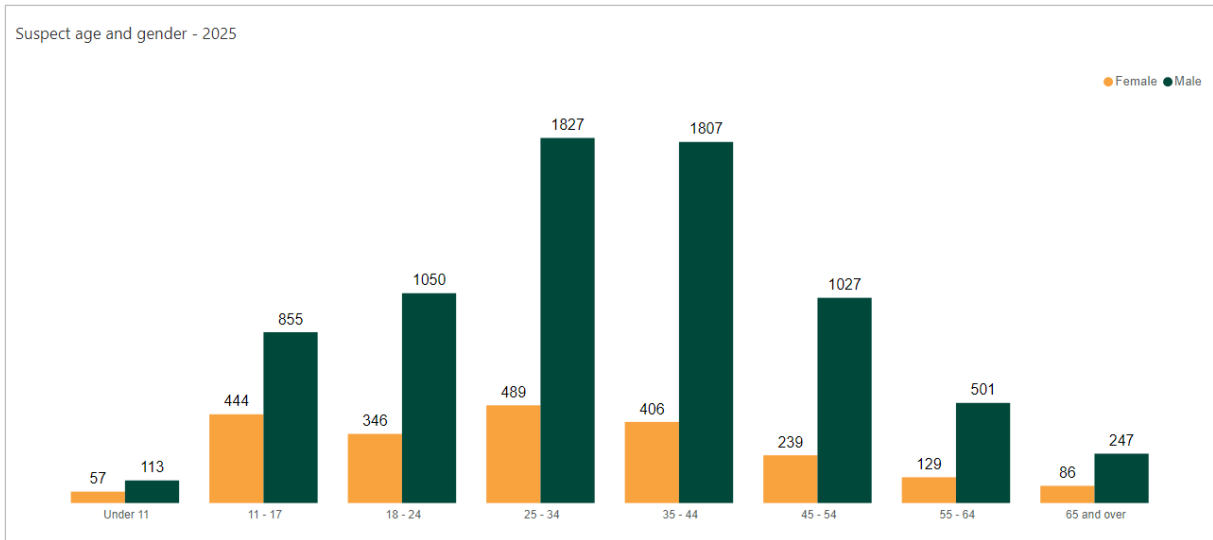


Figure 38: Suspect age and gender breakdown (VAWG) in 2025

The suspect profile is predominantly male, with peak concentrations in the 25–34 and 35–44 age groups. Female suspects are present across all age bands and in proportionally higher numbers than in most other violent crime categories. The peak victim age group is 35–44, which is older than the peak seen in most other offence types and reflects the demographic profile of domestic abuse victimisation visible in the data.

Section 9. Hate Crime

Hate crime has increased sharply in 2025, recording the highest annual total in the analysis period and reversing two years of decline. The increase from 2024 is the largest single-year rise seen in this category across the full eight-year period, and the volume is now more than double that recorded in 2018.

Overall, there were a total of 1,373 recorded offences, representing an increase of 23% from 2024. Racial hate crime crimes accounted for 68% of all offences, with 25-34 representing the peak suspect age group.

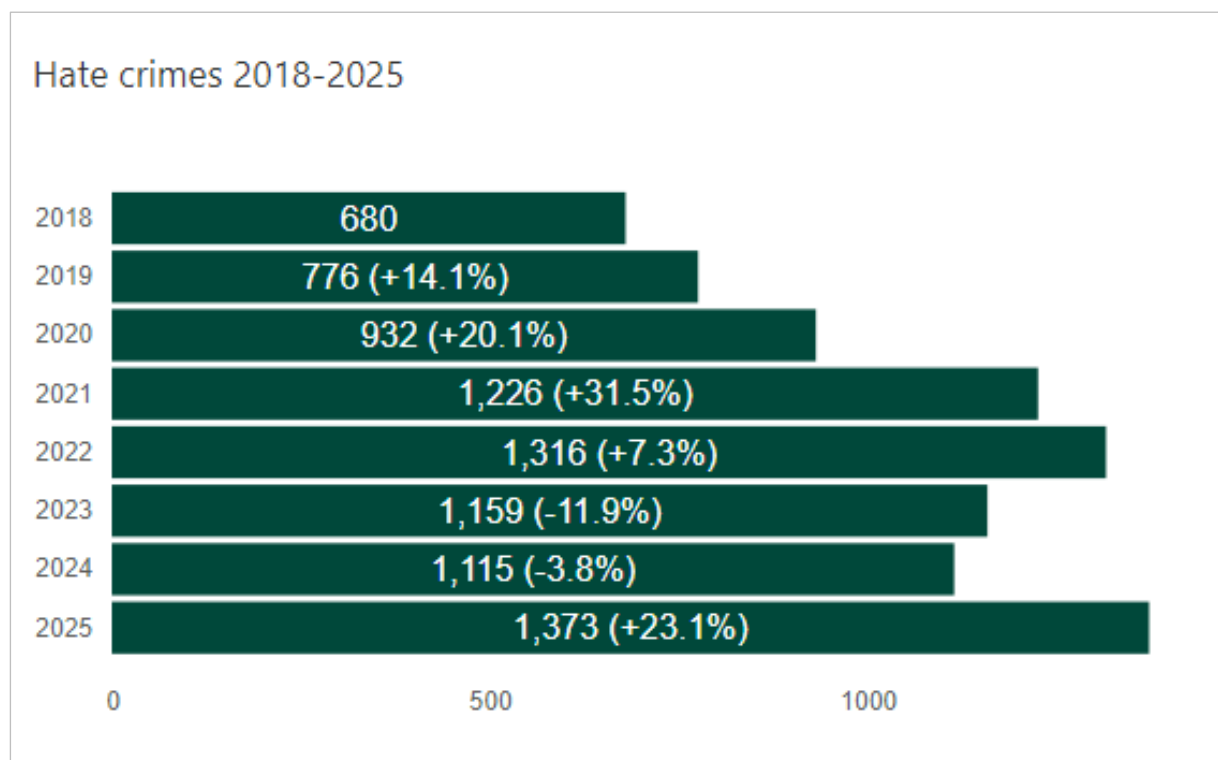


Figure 39: Annual hate crimes - 2018-2025

The annual trend shows consistent growth from 2018 to 2022, a period of decline in 2023 and 2024, and then a sharp reversal in 2025 that takes total volume to a new high for the analysis period. The two-year decline had suggested a possible downward correction, but the 2025 increase is large enough to eliminate that trend

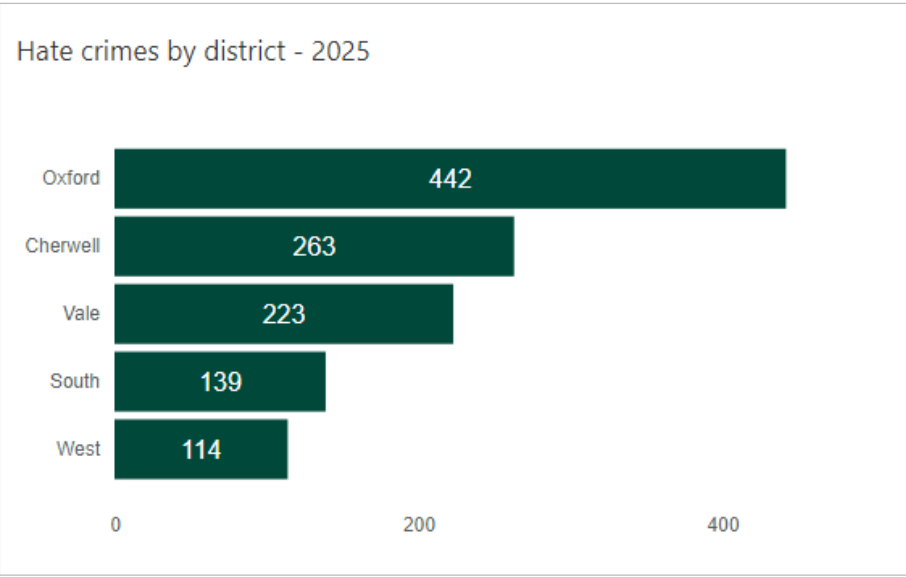


Figure 40: Hate crimes by district in 2025

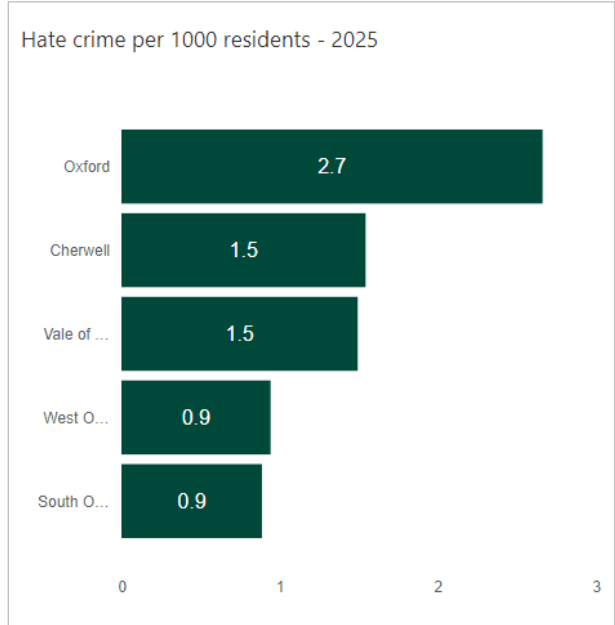


Figure 41: Hate crimes per 1,000 residents in 2025

Oxford accounts for more than a third of all county hate crime, a concentration consistent with its position as the most urbanised district. Vale of White Horse records the third highest district total, which is disproportionate relative to its volumes in most other crime categories covered by this report.

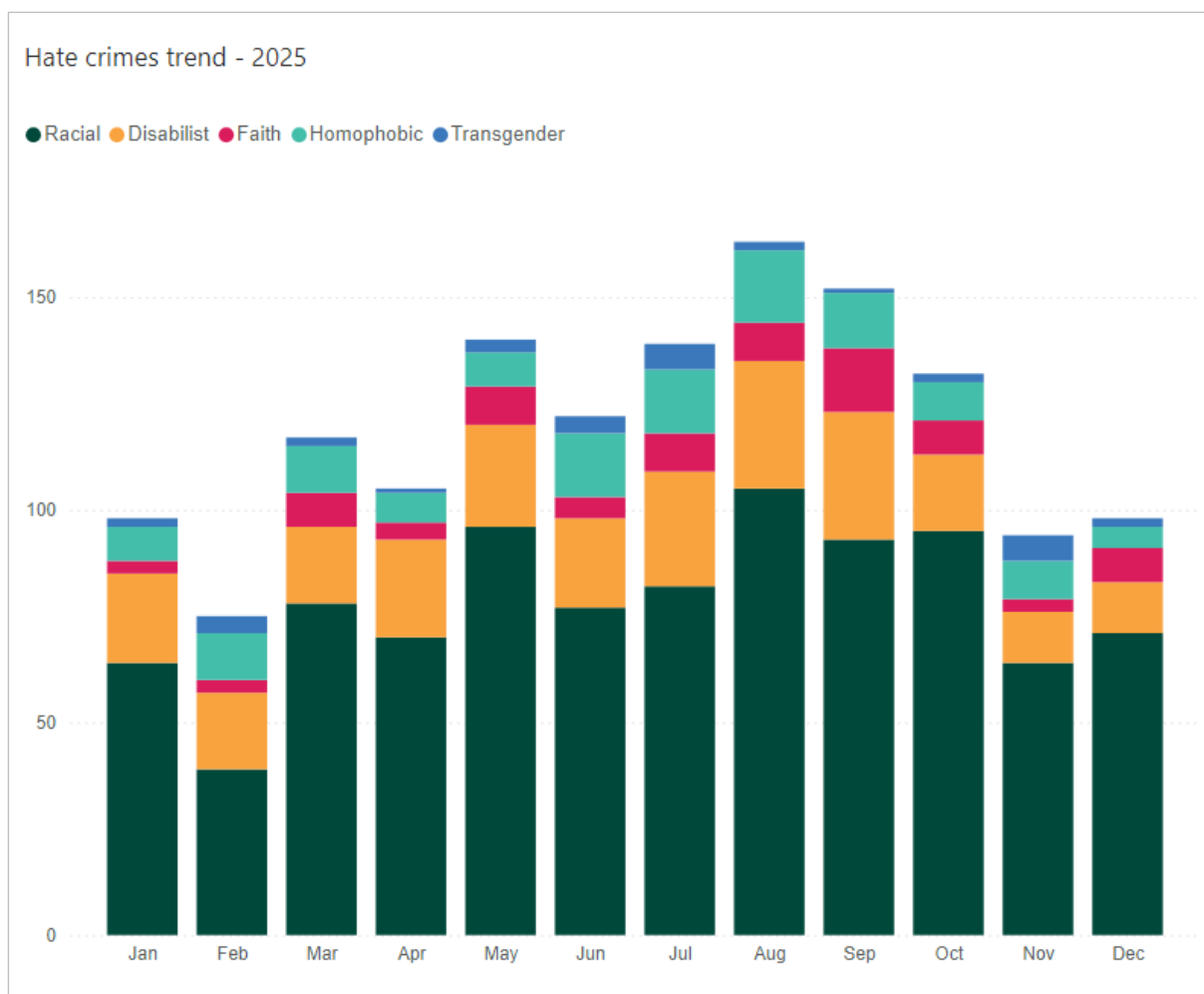


Figure 42: Seasonal trend of hate-crime breakdown by type in 2025

The monthly trend shows volumes rising from the spring onwards with peaks in August and September. Racial hate crime forms the dominant layer in every month, and its seasonal pattern largely determines the overall shape of the chart. Non-racial strands - disability, faith, homophobic and transgender - are individually small in volume but consistently present throughout the year.

Across all hate crime strands in 2025, public order offences (44.8%) and violence without injury (37.8%) are the two most common associated crime classifications, together accounting for most of the recorded hate crime. Violence with injury is the third most common classification overall.

The pattern above – where hate crime is most frequently classified as public order offences and violence without injury – is also observed across racial, faith and homophobic strands of hate crime. Two strands, however, depart from this pattern in ways that warrant specific attention.

- Disabilist hate crime, which accounts for approximately 18% of all hate crime, is the only strand where violence without injury (53%) is the leading classification. Moreover, violence with injury (16%) and acquisitive crime

(13%) feature more prominently in disablist hate crime than in other strands

- Transgender hate crime, while the smallest strand at around 3% of all hate crime, also shows a higher proportion of violence with injury (49%), followed by public order offences (25%) and violence with injury (17%)

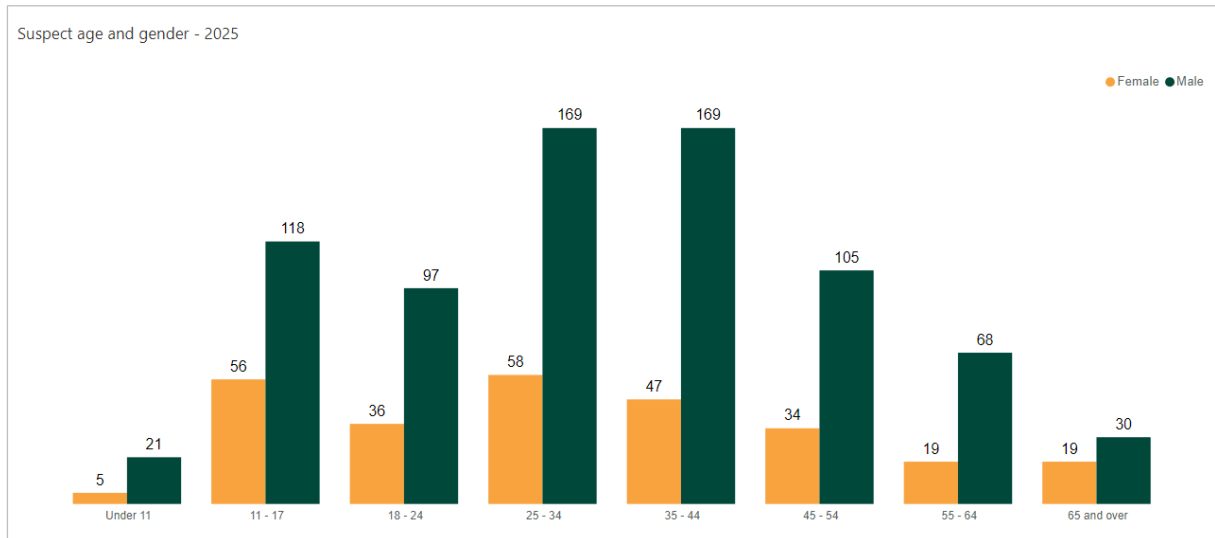


Figure 43: Suspect age and gender breakdown (hate crime) in 2025

The suspect profile is predominantly male across all age bands, with peak concentrations in the 25–34 and 35–44 brackets. The 11–17 male group is also notable in size, consistent with the pattern of younger suspect involvement seen across multiple crime types in this report. Female suspects are present in small numbers across most age bands

Section 10. Serious Flags

Serious flags refer to recorded offences which could be categorised as modern slavery, honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Modern slavery was the highest-volume category within the serious flags section, with 123 offences recorded in 2025. Honour based violence recorded 29 offences in 2025, consistent with recent years and showing no marked upward or downward trend. Forced marriage and FGM each recorded a single occurrence in 2025. While these figures are too low to support trend analysis, their presence in the data confirms that both forms of harm continue to be identified within the county.

District	Modern Slavery	Honour Based Violence	Forced Marriage	FGM
Cherwell	240	59	1	
2018	28	3		
2019	30	12		
2020	44	5		
2021	38	7		
2022	39	1		
2023	22	11		
2024	15	7		
2025	24	13	1	
Oxford	287	48	1	
2018	20	7	1	
2019	34	5		
2020	44	5		
2021	56	3		
2022	51	5		
2023	34	8		
2024	24	7		
2025	24	8		
South Oxfordshire	88	9		
2018	4			
2019	19			
2020	6			
2021	12	1		
2022	18	2		
2023	15	2		
2024	8			
2025	6	4		
Vale of White Horse	93	12		1
2018	5	2		1
2019	7	2		
2020	16			
2021	17	4		
2022	14			
2023	16	2		
2024	11	2		
2025	7			
West Oxfordshire	78	6		1
2018	3			
2019	13	1		1
2020	3			
2021	23			
2022	8	3		
2023	10	2		
2024	4			
2025	14			
Total	1004	154	4	4

Figure 44: Serious flags breakdown by districts and year

The district-level breakdown shows Oxford holding the highest cumulative modern slavery total across the full period. Overall, modern slavery volumes in individual districts have declined from the peaks seen in 2020–2022. Cherwell records the highest 2025 honour-based violence figure of any district at 13 recorded offences.



Figure 45: Modern slavery and honour-based violence seasonal trend in 2025

The seasonal trend for modern slavery shows relatively consistent monthly volumes across the year. Honour based violence shows greater month-to-month variability, though the numbers are small enough that individual incidents can produce apparent peaks. October is the highest month overall across the combined series.

The ethnicity data for honour-based violence shows recorded offences are concentrated within the Asian community (Indian Asian, Pakistani Asian and other Asian ethnic groups) consistent with national data on honour-based violence.⁶ While looking at this data, it is important to consider that the figures are likely to represent a fraction of actual prevalence due to underreporting, as well as the fact that recording depends heavily on the awareness and training of the practitioners making referrals, meaning year-on-year changes can reflect operational factors as much as genuine changes in the volume of harm occurring.⁷

⁶ 'Honour Based Abuse - All Data Collated for 01/08/2022 - 31/07/2023'. National Police Chiefs' Council, n.d. <https://www.npcc.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/publications/disclosure-logs/national-crime-coordination-committee/2024/317-2024---honour-based-abuse-data.pdf>.

⁷ UK Parliament. 'Honour-Based Abuse Will Remain Hidden Unless Victim Support Improves, Women and Equalities Committee Warns', 19 July 2023.

Section 11. Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) increased in 2025, reversing a downward trend that had run consistently since 2021. Having fallen across three successive years to a low point in 2023, recorded ASB occurrences rose in both 2024 and 2025, with 2025 marking the second consecutive year of growth. While the category remains below its 2021 peak, the renewed upward movement warrants monitoring.

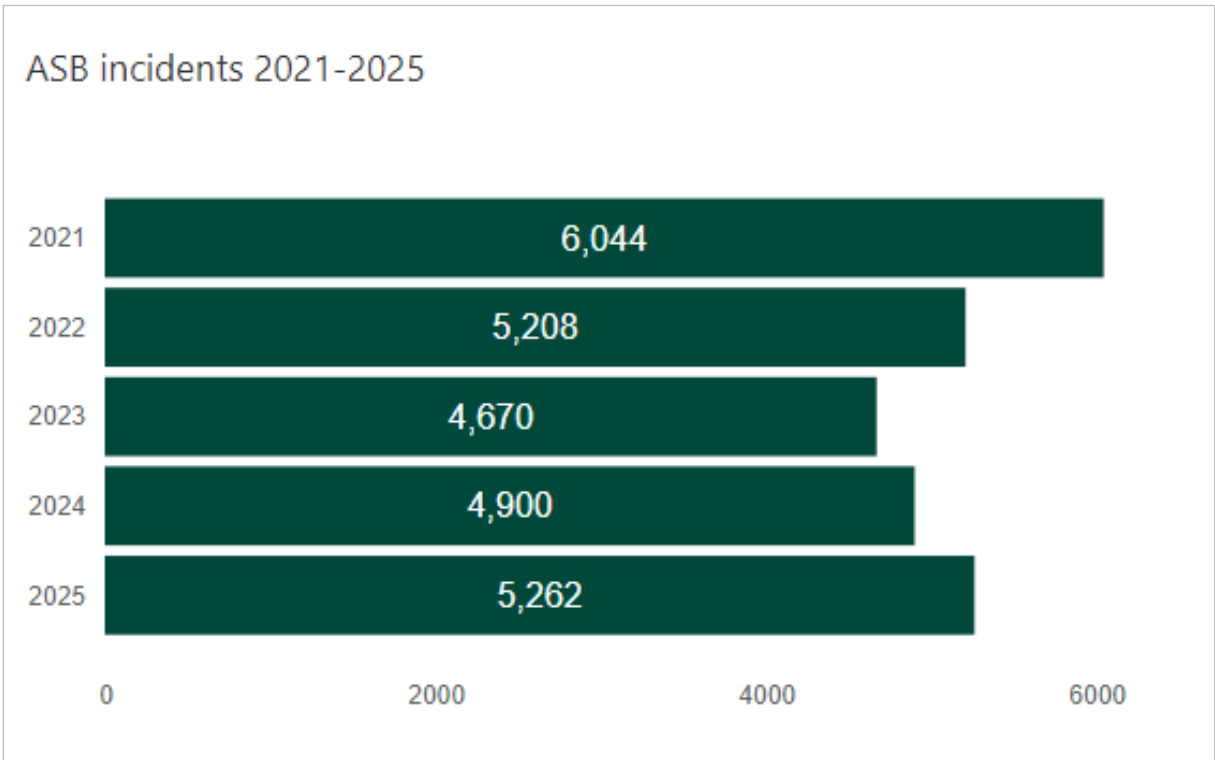


Figure 46: ASB annual trend – 2021-2025

Overall, there were a total of 5,262 recorded incidents, representing an increase of 7.4% from 2024. Community ASB incidents accounted for 72.8% of all reported incidents.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/328/women-and-equalities-committee/news/196559/honourbased-abuse-will-remain-hidden-unless-victim-support-improves-women-and-equalities-committee-warns/>.

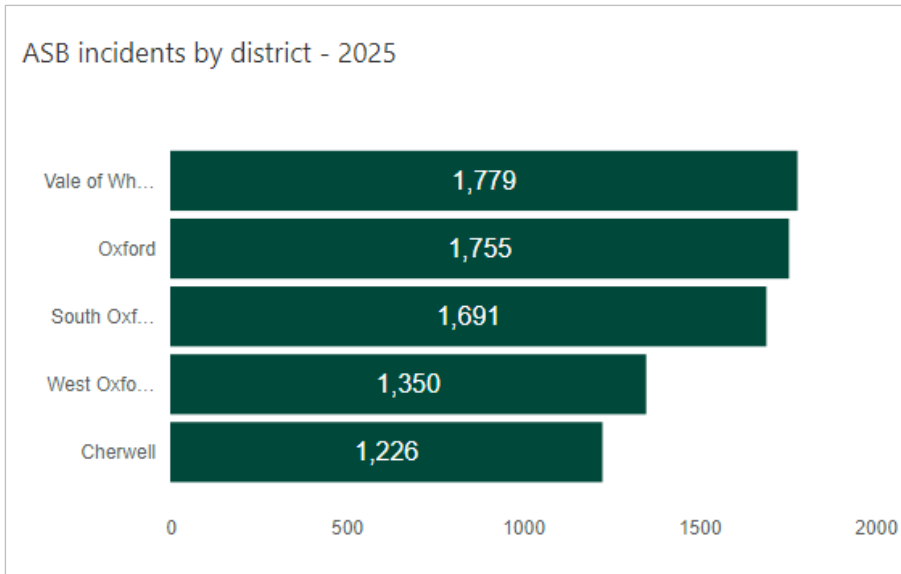


Figure 47: ASB incidents by district in 2025

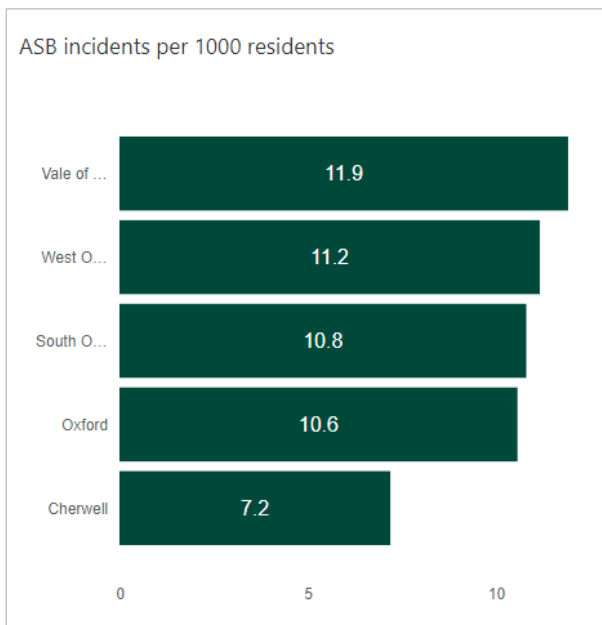


Figure 48: ASB incidents per 1,000 residents by district in 2025

The district distribution of ASB is notably different from most other crime categories in this report. When considering volume of incidents, Vale of White Horse and Oxford recorded similar numbers, but the per 1,000 residents rates tell a different story. Vale of White Horse records the highest rate in the county, followed by West Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire. Oxford, which leads or is near the top in almost every crime category, falls to fourth on a per capita basis. Cherwell recorded both the lowest raw value and the lowest rate per 1,000 residents by a considerable margin. This pattern suggests that ASB in Oxfordshire is not primarily an urban phenomenon.

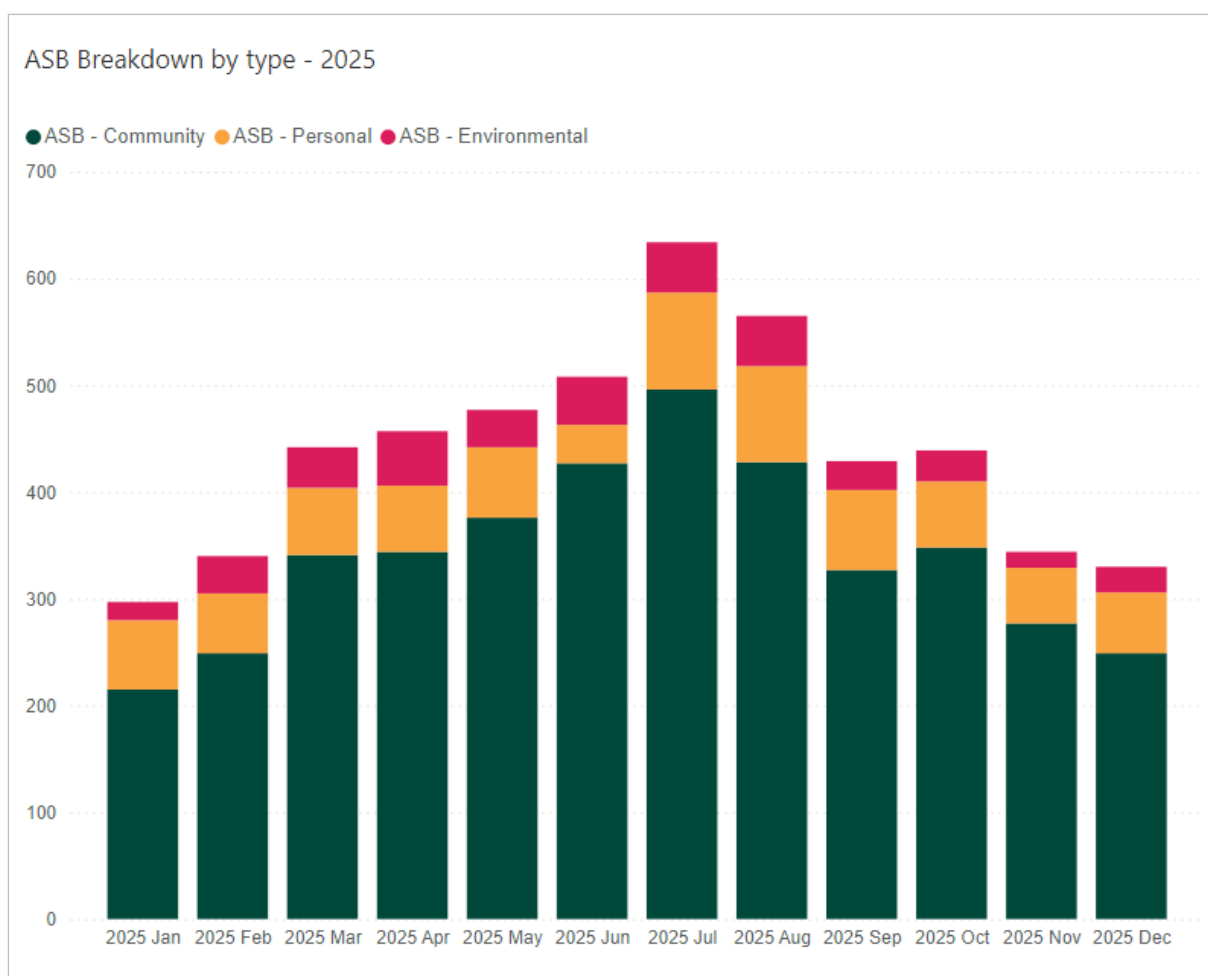


Figure 49: Seasonal trend of ASB breakdown by type in 2025

The seasonal profile shows a pronounced peak in the summer months, with July the highest point of the year across all three ASB types. Community ASB drives this seasonal pattern, though personal and environmental ASB also rise during the same period. Volumes are notably lower in the winter months from November through February, with January and February the quietest months of the year. The summer concentration is consistent with patterns observed in other parts of the country.⁸

⁸ Maisie Lillywhite. 'Gloucestershire PCC Says Heat "Brings Worst out of People"'. *BBC News*, 1 July 2025. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgjjx0ypwpo>.



Figure 50: Top 10 police neighbourhoods by ASB incidents in 2025

The police neighbourhood breakdown shows JW Witney and MW Wantage/Grove as the two highest volume neighbourhoods, with Oxford Central third. The presence of Witney and Wantage/Grove at the top of this list is consistent with the elevated per capita rates seen in West Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse at district level. Multiple Oxford neighbourhoods appear in the top ten, confirming Oxford's overall ASB volume is spread across several areas, rather than concentrated in a single location.

ASB Day-Hour Heat Map - 2025

Hour of Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
01:00	12	11	14	13	21	23	17
02:00	14	10	9	6	12	19	12
03:00	8	9	8	7	13	12	18
04:00	9	8	4	3	8	14	12
05:00	6	6	8	9	6	11	10
06:00	4	9	10	7	5	10	4
07:00	9	11	10	12	10	9	7
08:00	22	15	23	11	17	10	13
09:00	23	23	18	23	17	22	19
10:00	21	27	23	19	30	17	27
11:00	25	28	27	27	18	28	26
12:00	36	24	27	34	39	35	25
13:00	27	31	30	45	38	25	24
14:00	33	40	39	49	36	50	55
15:00	52	46	46	59	32	55	46
16:00	52	45	50	54	49	58	42
17:00	51	45	59	57	46	61	47
18:00	40	57	44	49	70	66	54
19:00	53	73	66	40	67	59	56
20:00	41	38	58	48	67	57	47
21:00	41	45	45	41	61	66	31
22:00	43	40	34	36	62	52	51
23:00	27	38	26	38	41	62	27
24 (Midnight)	44	42	52	32	41	60	42
Total	693	721	730	719	806	881	712

Figure 51: ASB incidents day-hour heat map in 2025

The day-hour heat map shows that ASB is concentrated in the late afternoon and evening across all days of the week, with the period 15:00 to 22:00 the most active. Saturdays record the highest single-day total, while Friday and Saturday evenings show the most intense concentrations. The early hours from 01:00 to 07:00 are the quietest period across all days.

Section 12. Suspect Demographics

In 2025, 15,526 unique suspects were recorded across all recorded crime categories. Male suspects accounted for 70.3% of the total suspect pool, with 28.51% of suspects having a prior offending history.

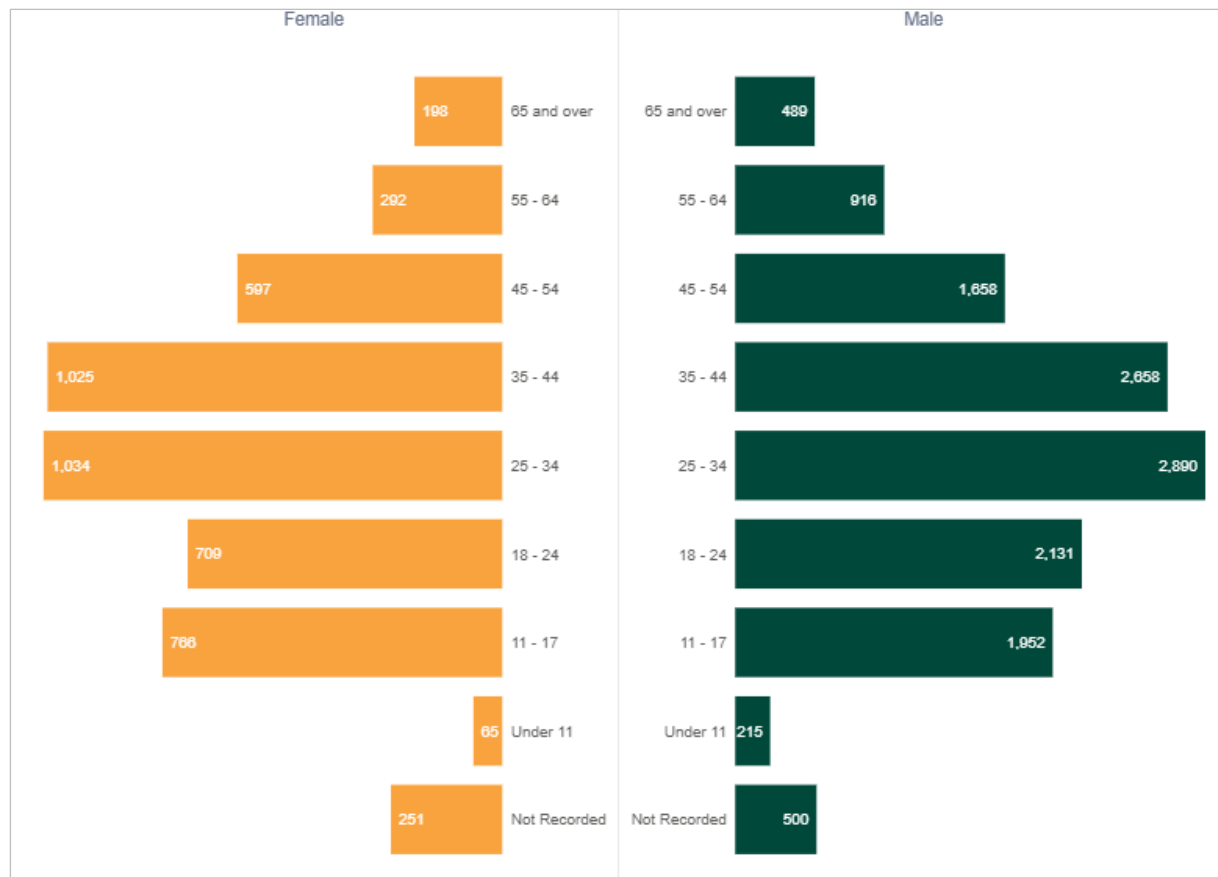


Figure 52: Suspect population pyramid by age-group in 2025

The suspect pyramid shows a clear concentration in the working-age population for both male and female suspects. Male suspects peak in the 25–34 age bracket at 2,890, with a near-equal concentration in the 35–44 bracket at 2,658. Female suspects peak slightly earlier, in the 25–34 bracket at 1,034, with a very similar count in the 35–44 bracket at 1,025. The 11–17 age band is notable for both sexes, reflecting the county-wide pattern of younger suspect involvement identified across multiple crime categories in this report. The under-11 category records 65 female and 215 male suspects. Given that the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10 years old, any suspects recorded below this age could reflect data quality issues in recording rather than prosecutable offending.

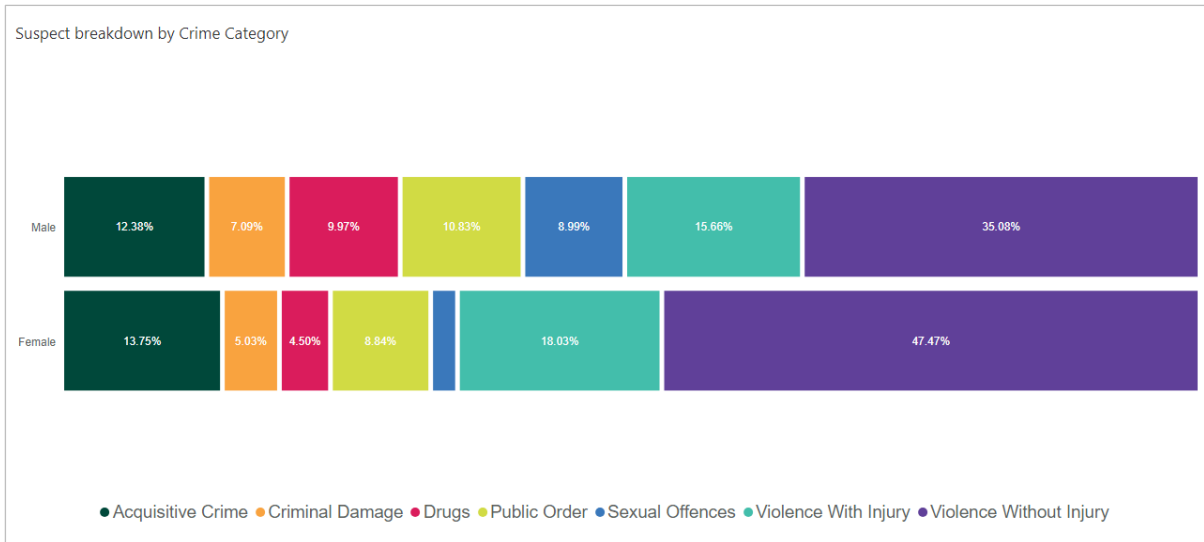


Figure 53: Suspect breakdown by crime category and gender

The breakdown of suspects by gender and crime category reveals differences in offending patterns between male and female suspects. Violence without injury accounts for the largest share of offending for both sexes but is considerably more prominent among female suspects at 45.93% compared to 33.21% for male suspects. Violence with injury follows as the second largest category for both, at 17.45% for female suspects and 14.88% for male. Male suspects are more broadly distributed across other categories, with notably higher proportions drugs (9.44%), sexual offences (8.51%) and public order (10.25%).

A note on interpretation: the percentages above show each crime category as a proportion of that gender's total number of suspects and should not be read as a comparison of raw suspect counts between males and females.

Section 13. Victim Demographics

In 2025, 27,283 unique victims were recorded across all valid crime categories in Oxfordshire. Female victims accounted for just under half the total at 46.51%, consistent with the significant domestic abuse and VAWG components of the overall crime picture. There were 3,822 repeat victims recorded in 2025, representing approximately 14% of all unique victims, a finding that underlines the concentration of harm among a smaller group of individuals who experience crime on more than one occasion.

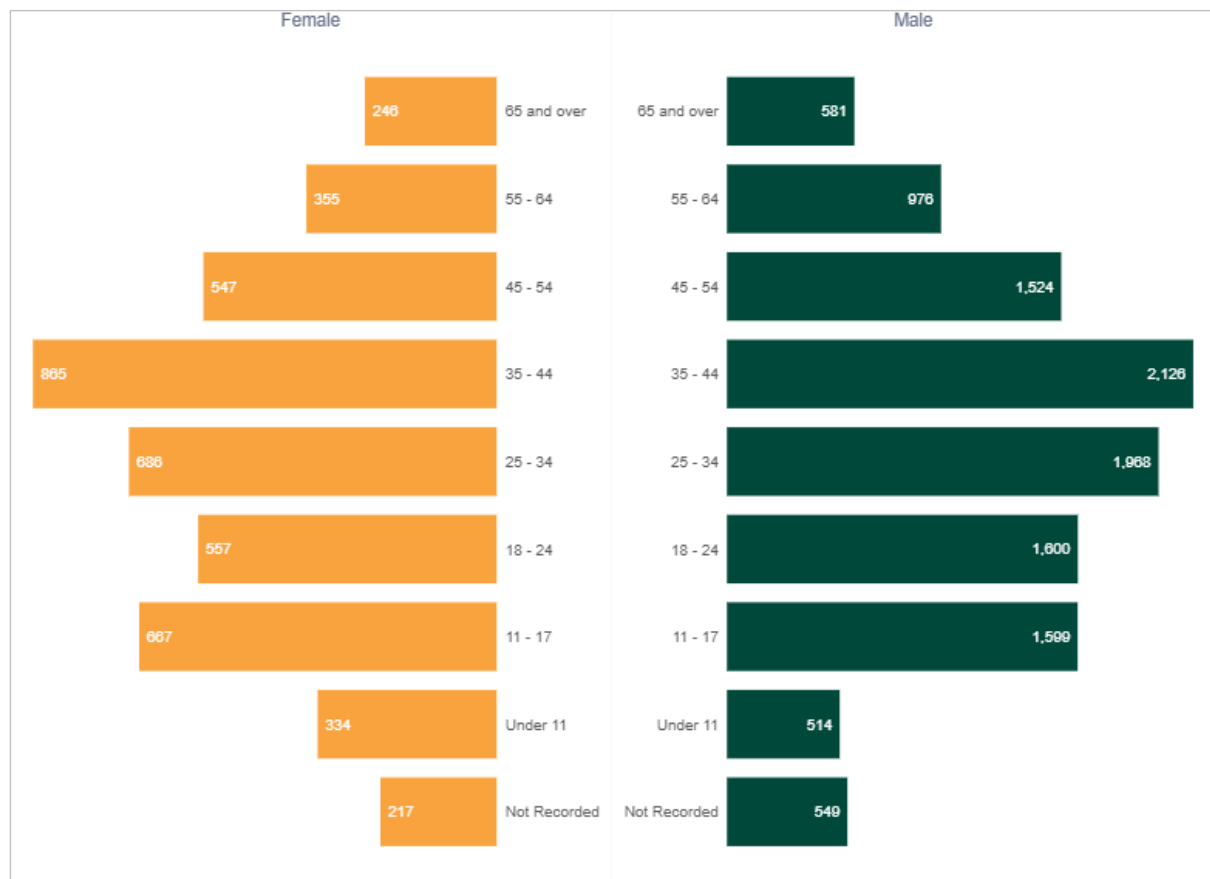


Figure 54:: Victim population pyramid by age-group in 2025

The victim pyramid shows a broader age distribution than the suspect pyramid, with victimisation spread more evenly across adult age groups. Male victims peak in the 35–44 bracket at 2,126, with similar concentrations in the 25–34 bracket at 1,963 and the 18–24 bracket at 1,800. Female victims peak in the 35–44 bracket at 885, followed closely by the 25–34 bracket at 886. The 11–17 age band records 667 female and 1,599 male victims, a substantial figure that reflects the concentration of child and young person victimisation identified across sexual offences, child abuse and violence categories earlier in this report. The under-11 category records 334 female and 514 male victims, which warrants attention given the child abuse and exploitation volumes identified in section 7. The not-recorded category which amounts to over 750 victims represents an opportunity for improving data collection and subsequent analysis.

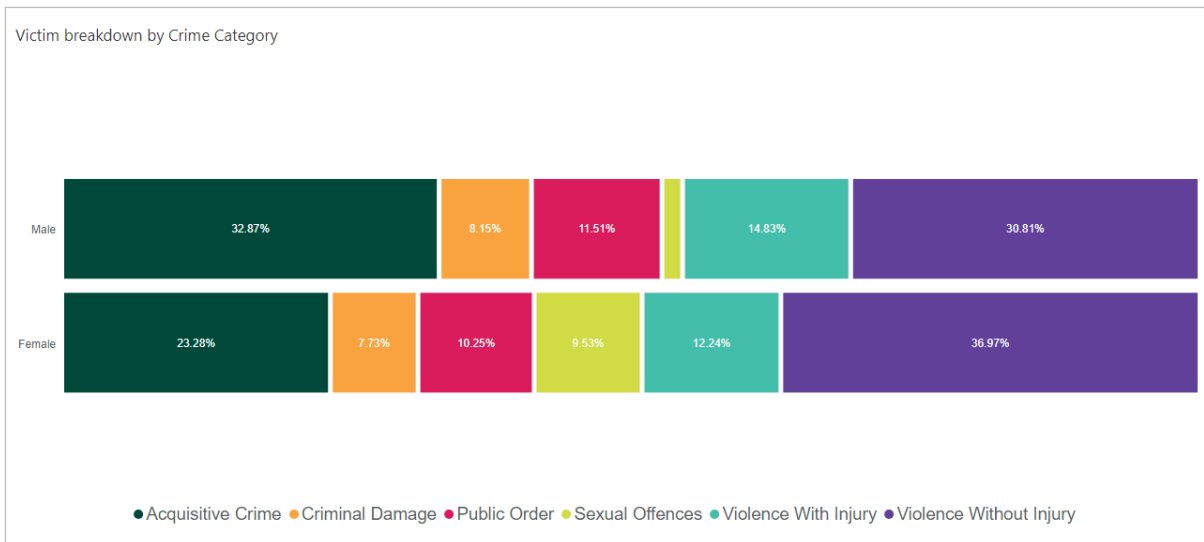


Figure 55: Victim breakdown by crime category and gender

The breakdown of victims by gender and crime category shows a clear difference in the nature of victimisation experienced by male and female victims. For female victims, violence without injury accounts for the largest share at 36.41%, followed by acquisitive crime at 22.93% and violence with injury at 12.05%. Sexual offences account for 9.38% of female victims. For male victims, acquisitive crime is the largest category at 32.39% followed by violence without injury at 30.35%, and violence with injury at 14.61%.

A note on interpretation: the percentages above show each crime category as a proportion of that gender's total number of victims and should not be read as a comparison of raw victim counts between males and females.