

Introduction

Between 2007/08 and 2009/10, the Island, with a 29% reduction, was amongst the 20 top authorities to have achieved the largest decrease in the rate of recorded crime for the 'seven key offences' (violence against the person, burglary of a dwelling, robbery, sexual offences, theft from a vehicle, theft of a vehicle and interfering with a vehicle).

This total figure included: a 30% reduction in 'violence against the person'; a reduction of between 12% & 21% for 'burglary' and a reduction of between 23% & 33% for 'theft from a vehicle'. (Source: [Local Government Association Crime Levels 2007/08-2009/10](#)).

However, despite these achievements there remain some key issues needing to be addressed, including alcohol related crime, violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

The following table shows the number of crimes and occurrences of anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported within Isle of Wight neighbourhoods for the months of February and March 2012:

| Neighbourhood Area | Feb | Mar | Total |
|--|-----|-----|------------|
| Ryde North East & North West | 115 | 147 | 262 |
| Newport North & South | 111 | 135 | 246 |
| Sandown North & South | 62 | 95 | 157 |
| Shanklin North, Central & South | 66 | 86 | 152 |
| Ryde South East & South West | 39 | 78 | 117 |
| Carisbrooke East & West | 45 | 70 | 115 |
| Ventnor East & West | 43 | 51 | 94 |
| Pan & Fairlee | 50 | 43 | 93 |
| Ryde St Johns East & West | 37 | 55 | 92 |
| East Cowes North & South, Osborne | 41 | 40 | 81 |
| Freshwater, Norton, Afton & Totland | 32 | 46 | 78 |
| Cowes Central & Medina | 37 | 34 | 71 |
| Brading, St Helens, Seaview & Nettlestone | 27 | 34 | 61 |
| Ashey & Newchurch | 33 | 27 | 60 |
| Lake North & South | 22 | 38 | 60 |
| Parkhurst | 26 | 25 | 51 |
| Cowes Castle East & West | 26 | 24 | 50 |
| Wootton & Binstead | 16 | 10 | 26 |
| Wroxall, Godshill, Chale, Niton & Whitwell | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| Gurnard & Northwood | 6 | 18 | 24 |
| Yarmouth Brighthstone & Calbourne | 7 | 13 | 20 |
| Bembridge North & South | 6 | 8 | 14 |
| Mountjoy & Central Rural | 5 | 7 | 12 |

Source: www.police.uk

The four areas highlighted, that had the highest number of reported crimes and occurrences of ASB, also appear within the Island's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that were amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England for [employment deprivation](#). In addition, the eight Island LSOAs that were amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England for [income deprivation](#) appear in the top half of the above table for recorded crime.

Crime Figures

An important development to the way in which the public can access information about reported crime in their area, has been the introduction of 'crime maps' accessed via the internet. Police forces were first required to publish online crime maps on their individual websites in January 2009. Since January 2011, similar maps have been available providing even more local 'street level' data via a single gateway - www.police.uk.

The latest 2011/12 Island crime figures, released in April 2012 suggest that there had been a reduction in crime across all categories for crime experienced in that year:

| Isle of Wight Crime Statistics | 2010/2011 | 2011/2012 | Change |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| All crime | 9590 | 8382 | -12.6% |
| Violence with injury | 1247 | 1111 | -10.9% |
| <i>Assault with less serious injury</i> | 1157 | 1037 | -10.4% |
| <i>Serious Violent crime</i> | 90 | 74 | -17.8% |
| Serious acquisitive crime including: | 862 | 597 | -30.7% |
| <i>Robbery</i> | 27 | 23 | -14.8% |
| <i>Dwelling burglary</i> | 319 | 210 | -34.2% |
| <i>Other burglary</i> | 319 | 296 | -7.2% |
| Vehicle crime | 516 | 364 | -29.5% |
| <i>Theft of a motor vehicle</i> | 124 | 117 | -5.6% |
| <i>Theft from a motor vehicle</i> | 392 | 247 | -37% |
| Criminal damage | 2098 | 1716 | -18.2% |

Source: [Hampshire Police](#)

Violent Crime -

Violent crime consists of a wide range of offences, from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, through to serious incidents of wounding and murder.

As can be seen in the table above, 'violent crime with injury' on the Island for 2011/12 has reduced by 10.9% from 2010/11. Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 there had been an increase of 26.2%. (Source: [Hampshire Police](#))

Burglary -

Burglary and other theft offences (including vehicle-related) together account for about half of overall crime in the 2010/11 Home Office statistics.

Again, a reduction was seen for the Island in all individual categories (dwelling and vehicle) as well as the overall total.

Sexual Offences -

It is difficult to obtain reliable information on the extent of sexual offences as there is a degree of under-reporting of these incidents, affecting both British Crime Survey (BCS) results and police recorded crime figures. Figures for sexual offences are heavily influenced by the willingness of the victims to report.

Substance Misuse -

Substance misuse is a major issue across the country and also exists on the Isle of Wight as well. There are approximately 600 Problem Drug Users on the Island, around 60% of whom are receiving treatment. The most common primary drug among adults is opiates and among young people is cannabis. (Source: [JSNA](#))

Nationwide substance misuse seems to be on the increase, and the following table shows how the situation compares at a more localised level for 2010/11:

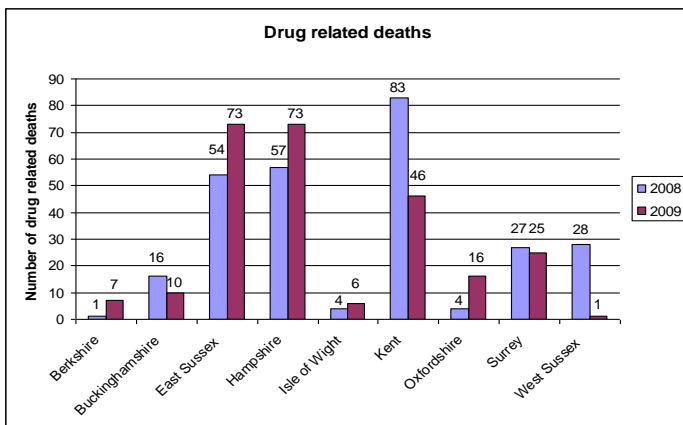
| | IOW NHS PCT | South Central Strategic Health Authority | England |
|---|-------------|--|---------|
| A | 38 | 400 | 6640 |
| B | 127 | 2226 | 51353 |
| C | 29 | 717 | 12586 |

Source: [NHS Information Centre Statistics on Drug Misuse: England, 2011](#)

Key:

- A: NHS Hospital admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of drug related mental health and behavioural disorders
- B: NHS Hospital admissions where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of drug related mental health and behavioural disorders
- C: NHS Hospital admissions where a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drugs

The following graph shows the amount of drug related deaths in 2009 for the South East region. These are the most recent figures available.



Source: [The National Programme for Substance Abuse Deaths](#)

Of the 6 drug related deaths on the Island in 2009, the make up was as follows:

Gender:

- o Male 5
- o Female 1

Age:

- o 25-34 1
- o 45-54 5

Ethnicity:

- o White 6

Main drug implicated:

- o Heroin/morphine 1
- o Methadone 3
- o Amphetamines 1
- o Other 1

Domestic Violence -

Hampshire Constabulary defines domestic abuse as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults (aged 18 or over) who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone and can be exhibited in a number of ways.

The table below shows women's refuge attendance figures by years (Island Women's Refuge):

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 (1st half) |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| Women | 41 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 30 | 14 |
| Children | 43 | 41 | 26 | 21 | 25 | 21 | 20 |

Source: [JSNA](#)

The demand for places at the refuge is estimated to be much higher than the numbers above represent – difficulties encountered with moving attendees onward, prevents the ability for new attendees to enter the refuge.

Youth Offending

The Isle of Wight Youth Offending Team (YOT) supervises young offenders, either after Court Order or at Final Warning Stage, and comprises of workers from Probation, the Police, Health and Social Services focused on dealing with children and young people who are involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour under the Crime and Disorder Act.

The IOW YOT together with teams from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils combine to form the Wessex Youth Offending Team.

Across the Wessex YOT, the Isle of Wight saw the biggest fall (24.3%) in 2008/9 of first-time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10–17 and a significant reduction in the 6 month re-offending rate in 2009. (Source: [Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11](#))

Established as a charity in 1996, [The Hampton Trust](#) runs a number of programmes and projects across a range of age groups to provide support with overcoming a challenge or issue being experienced in their life. In addition it assists at a strategic level (county and national levels) to address violence and abuse.

In partnership with the Wessex YOT, the Hampton Trust has developed the 'LINX Programme'; a 12 week programme recently awarded a National Award from the Howard League for Penal Reform. (Source: [The Hampton Trust](#)) and which covers the following:

- What is violence and abuse?
- Understanding why people are violent.
- Learning that people are in control of their own behaviour and can choose not to be violent.
- Taking responsibility for behaviour – moral responsibility.
- Learning how to notice when you are becoming violent - and how to stop.
- Learning different, non-violent ways of dealing with challenges.
- Recognising how people get wound up - and learning how to wind down.
- Negotiation and listening - how to build respectful relationships.
- Rights, Respect and Empathy for others.

Road Traffic Accidents

Department for Transport publish a range of results based on those figures for Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) that are collected and reported to them by Local Authorities.

Recent figures for the Island show that the number of people killed or seriously injured in RTAs throughout 2010 was 80. In 2011 that figure had increased to 95.

It is hoped that with the Island's roads gradually being improved by the Highways PFI project starting next year, this figure will also start to decrease.

Fires

Based throughout the Island there are ten fire stations with a headquarters in Newport. Newport Fire Station is manned 24 hours a day in addition to having a retained duty system crew, while Ryde Fire Station operates a full-time crew during the

day and reverts to a retained duty system at night. All the other Island stations have retained duty system personnel.

The table below shows the most recent figures released regarding total number of fires and their breakdown:

| April 2007-March 2008 | Isle of Wight | South East Region | England |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Total Fires | 259 | 15501 | 115318 |
| <i>Accidental</i> | 178 | 9831 | 65730 |
| <i>Deliberate</i> | 81 | 5670 | 49588 |
| Dwelling Fires | 83 | 5381 | 41487 |
| <i>Accidental</i> | 76 | 4727 | 34400 |
| <i>Deliberate</i> | 7 | 654 | 7087 |
| Other Building Fires | 86 | 3435 | 24690 |
| <i>Accidental</i> | 49 | 2283 | 15340 |
| <i>Deliberate</i> | 37 | 1152 | 9350 |
| Road Vehicle Fires | 72 | 5746 | 41241 |
| <i>Accidental</i> | 39 | 2422 | 13196 |
| <i>Deliberate</i> | 33 | 3324 | 28045 |
| Other Outdoor Fires | 18 | 939 | 7900 |
| <i>Accidental</i> | 14 | 399 | 2794 |
| <i>Deliberate</i> | 4 | 540 | 5106 |
| Total Casualties | 23 | 1233 | 10663 |
| <i>Accidental</i> | x | 40 | 358 |
| <i>Deliberate</i> | x | 1193 | 10305 |

Source: [Office for National Statistics](#)

Fire Safety education -

Fire Safety education is a key part of the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service's commitment to the safety of the community. Central to this is a comprehensive education programme which focuses on personal fire safety and domestic fire safety, with Fire and Rescue staff visiting primary schools across the Island to deliver key fire safety messages to children in Years 2 and 5.

Ultimately, all children will receive this information as part of their 'lifelong learning' within Key Stages 1 and 2. By teaching them these important lessons at an early age, it is hoped it will prepare them for when they get older. Children also take the fire safety messages home with them, teaching their parents about smoke alarms and fire safety.

The learning objectives for Year 2 are:

- To be able to identify matches and lighters as a danger
- To know that '999' is the emergency number
- To know the 'Stop, Drop, Roll' procedure
- To know to crawl low in smoke

In Year 5, children are taught:

- The need for smoke detectors and an escape plan
- How to respond to a fire alarm
- How to make the home a safer place
- How to make an emergency 999 call

The Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service will also offer local residents *Home Fire Safety Checks*. These checks are free of charge and give advice to residents on general fire safety awareness, smoke alarms and escape routes. As there is considered to be a higher risk from accidental dwelling fires, single parent families, the elderly and persons living in 'homes of multiple occupancy' are consistently targeted for these checks, however, the service will respond to any other requests for visits.

Environmental Health



The Council now participates in the new, national 'Food Hygiene Rating Scheme', operated in partnership with the Food Standards Agency.

Environmental health officers undertake unannounced food hygiene inspections of food businesses and issue a rating between 0 (meaning 'urgent improvement necessary') and a 5 (meaning 'very good').

The rating is based on the level of compliance with legal requirements relating to food hygiene practices, structure/cleanliness and management controls in place to ensure food is produced safely, found during the inspection.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme enables residents and visitors to make an informed choice about where they choose to eat out or shop for food, as it gives an idea of what's going on in the kitchen, or behind closed doors.

Ratings for business can be viewed on the [Food Standards Agency](#) website.

Trading Standards

In response to concerns about 'rogue traders', a partnership of Local Authority Trading Standards Services put together the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme.



The scheme is run using the co-operation of a number of Trading Standards Services which combined have the right expertise and motivation to offer a scheme that offers genuine benefits to both consumers and businesses. For that reason, the scheme is administered by local authority Trading Standards Services directly, and is not outsourced.

Businesses and services covered by the Isle of Wight scheme are listed on the website - www.iwight.com/bwc

Cycling Safety



Following the successful securing of government funding which will provide around £12,000 of funding each year until 2015, the Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service has recently trained eleven of its staff to become instructors to deliver 'Bikeability' courses for young people and adults.

The scheme has three levels:

- Level 1 involves training in the playground or similar off-road area.
- Level 2 is delivered on-road
- Level 3 involves a more challenging on-road training session.

The aim of these courses is to help young people: learn safe cycling practices; the importance of keeping a bicycle roadworthy; show how vital it is to wear a correctly fitted cycle helmet and how to be visible to other road users. At the end of the course, participants receive a certificate and badge in recognition of their achievement.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest voluntary community organisation in the UK. It works with other agencies to provide residents with safe and secure communities in which to live and raise families.



Every local Neighbourhood Watch group is owned and run by the people of its community. They decide what measure to take because they know their community needs best.

There are currently 364 roads within Neighbourhood Watch areas on the Island. (Source: www.iowneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk)

CCTV



The Isle of Wight Council CCTV system was launched in July 1998. It now comprises 97 CCTV cameras in Newport, Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin, Cowes and St Mary's Hospital.

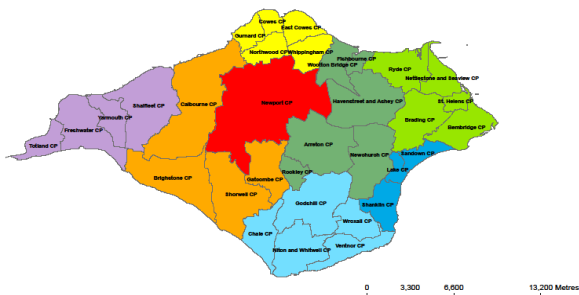
The CCTV Control Room is located in Newport and is staffed 24 hours every day. It is linked to the Police Control Room in Netley in order to ensure response/re-deployment of police resources where needed.

There are currently seven re-deployable cameras, meaning they can be moved around the Island as required. The location for use of these cameras is allocated on an evidence-led basis through a multi-agency Partnership Tasking and Coordinating Group (a sub-group of the statutory Community Safety Partnership, of which the Council is a party).

Re-deployable CCTV cameras may also be sited in non-priority areas where requested by Parish and Town Councils, or other partner agencies on the Island.

Town and Parish Councils

As well as the Isle of Wight Council, Island residents are fully represented by 33 Town and Parish Councils.



Isle of Wight Town and Parish Council Boundaries
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For a larger version of the map, click [here](#).

Town and Parish Councils are becoming increasingly involved in community life, including community safety. Because they are smaller and more community based, these councils can deal with more localised issues in a way the Isle of Wight Council cannot.

Many have their own community group and work closely with other organisations like the Police, Community Support Officers, Environmental Health and Trading Standards to support the needs of the community.

To find out more about what each Town and Parish council are doing for their community, you can contact the clerk. Contact details and website links are available through the Isle of Wight Council's [Parish Portal](#).

Pastors

Street Pastors -

Part of a national movement run by the [Ascension Trust](#), Isle of Wight Street Pastors started in 2009, wanting to show Christian concern for society by mobilising volunteers to engage with people, to care, to listen and to converse.



Street Pastors provide care, support and practical help to people out on the streets of Newport and Ventnor on a Friday night and Ryde on Friday and Saturday nights.

Working in small teams (usually 4), they will patrol the town centre to provide help and assistance to people who are suffering the effects of an over consumption of alcohol; are at risk of violence; feel unsafe; are lonely, hurt and abused, or just value the extra feeling of safety that comes from having volunteer Street Pastors around.

Street Pastors operate in close partnership with the police, but with a very different role. They go out in full uniform and equipped with various equipment and supplies of free items to distribute including:

- Flip-Flops – given out mostly to women who have broken or abandoned high-heel shoes and would otherwise walk home in bare feet.
- Chocolates – given out to cheer people up, or as a distraction technique in situations where one or more people are becoming aggressive.
- Lollypops – Very useful for calming down tense or aggressive situations because it's harder to pick a fight with someone when you are sucking a lolly!
- Bottles of water – Dehydration is a major problem on the streets and bottled water is given out every night.
- Foil blankets – people are often ill equipped for the drop in temperature as night falls. Where Street Pastors find someone suffering from cold they are able to distribute foil blankets.

School Pastors -

After a lot of preparation, research and through discussions with local schools and other groups, School Pastors launch on the Island this year.

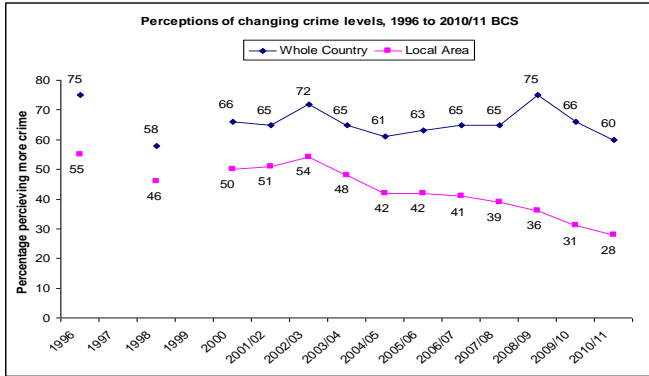
School Pastors will start in Medina College from early summer and aim to promote safety and help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour before and after school hours.

Volunteers will work in and around the school site, focusing particularly on hot-spots identified by schools, local police, parents and students. They will provide support to students who are experiencing difficulties with their school and community life.

Supplementary Information

The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides estimates on a wide range of public perception measures relating to crime and the criminal justice system.

Since 1996 the BCS has asked respondents how much they think the level of crime has changed in their local area and in the country as a whole over the last two years. The 2010/11 BCS showed that 60% of adults thought that there was 'a little more' or 'a lot more' crime in the country as a whole and 28% thought there was more in their local area. Longer term trends can be seen in the graph below:



Source: [Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)

Despite these concerns the Isle of Wight remains a relatively safe place to live compared with other parts of the UK and the situation has continued to show improvement in recent years.

For more detailed statistics on a range of crimes, please see the [Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#).

Crime Figures

The following table shows the levels of different types of crime recorded by Hampshire Constabulary (which includes the Isle of Wight) for the 12 months up to September 2011, compared with the rates for South East Region and England.

| October 2010-September 2011 | Hampshire Constabulary | South East Region | England |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Violence against the person | 31,512 | 113,920 | 727,875 |
| Sexual offences | 1,998 | 7,533 | 51,253 |
| Robbery | 1,058 | 4,986 | 75,933 |
| Burglary | 14,462 | 64,580 | 490,499 |
| Offences against vehicles | 11,862 | 54,651 | 410,249 |
| Other theft offences | 36,699 | 156,804 | 1,017,750 |
| Fraud and forgery | 4,668 | 23,875 | 137,109 |
| Criminal damage | 23,196 | 96,644 | 615,885 |
| Drug offences | 6,218 | 25,781 | 214,473 |
| Other offences | 1,718 | 8,235 | 58,992 |

Source: [Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)

Violent Crime -

Violent crime consists of a wide range of offences, from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no

physical harm, through to serious incidents of wounding and murder. Of the 31,512 violent incidents recorded in the table above, more than half involved no injury to the victim.

Burglary -

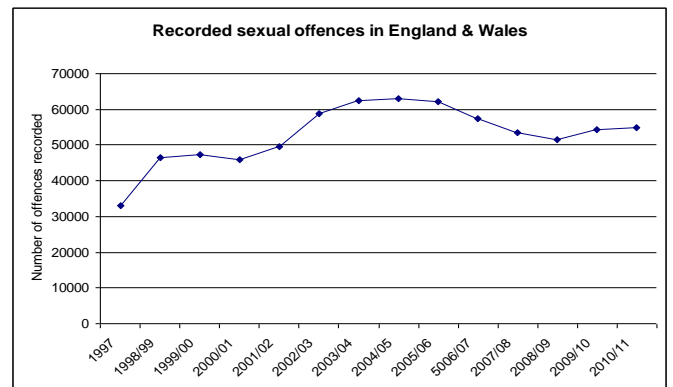
Burglary and other theft offences (including vehicle-related) together account for about half of overall crime in the 2010/11 Home Office statistics.

For 2011/12 within Hampshire Constabulary, robberies, vehicle crime and all burglaries are down 1793 from the previous year to 15643, of which house burglaries are down 206 offences to 4995. (Source: [Hampshire Police](#))

Sexual Offences -

It is difficult to obtain reliable information on the extent of sexual offences as there is a degree of under-reporting of these incidents, affecting both British Crime Survey (BCS) results and police recorded crime figures. Figures of sexual offences are heavily influenced by the willingness of the victims to report.

The following chart shows the total number of sexual offences recorded by police throughout England & Wales between 1997 & 2011. The actual number of sexual offences is thought to be higher for the reason given above.



Source: [Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)

Substance Misuse -

Alcohol-related violence accounts for almost half of all violent crime across Hampshire & the Isle of Wight. 80% of pedestrian deaths on a Friday and Saturday night are alcohol related and one in three rapes occur when the victim is drunk. (Source: [Hampshire Police](#))

Substance misuse is a major issue across the country and also exists on the Isle of Wight as well. There are approximately 600 Problem Drug Users on the Island, around 60% of whom are receiving treatment. The most common primary drug among adults is opiates and among young people is cannabis.

Nationwide substance misuse seems to be on the increase as the following table shows:

| | England | |
|---|---------|---------|
| | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |
| A | 5809 | 6640 |
| B | 44585 | 51353 |
| C | 11618 | 12586 |

Source: [NHS Information Centre Statistics on Drug Misuse: England, 2011](#)

Key:

A: NHS Hospital admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of drug related mental health and behavioural disorders

B: NHS Hospital admissions where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of drug related mental health and behavioural disorders

C: NHS Hospital admissions where a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drugs

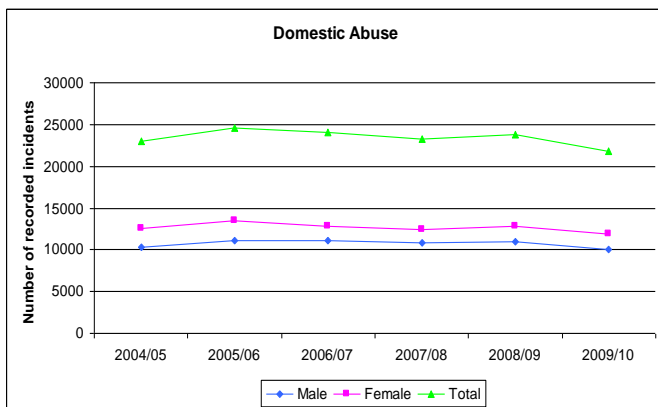
Domestic Violence -

Hampshire Constabulary defines domestic abuse as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults (aged 18 or over) who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender.

Domestic abuse can affect anyone and can involve any of the following:

- Physical abuse:
 - Punching
 - Slapping
 - Pulling hair
 - Biting
 - Burning
 - Choking
- Financial abuse:
 - Being kept without money or forced to account for your spending
 - Having your wages or benefits taken from you
- Emotional abuse:
 - Being verbally abused or made to look stupid in front of other people
 - Not being allowed to see family or friends
- Sexual violence:
 - Rape
 - Sexual assault
 - Being forced to watch or take part in pornography
 - Indecent phone calls
- Threats:
 - Verbal or physical threats.
 - Being watched, followed or pestered
- Honour Based Violence:
 - Forced Marriage
 - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
 - Dowry Abuse

The British Crime Survey statistics suggest that the male/female victim split in England and Wales is actually relatively small compared to general perception.



Source: [Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)