



Newham London

NHS
Newham

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010

The London Borough of Newham

18th January 2011

8.0 Safer Newham

8.1 Crime

Unless otherwise stated all data in this section are drawn from Newham BCU Strategic Assessment Version A, February 2010. Domestic violence is covered in chapter 14. Chapter 14 also contains more details on offenders and their health and social care needs and on sex workers.

Research shows many connections between crime and health. These include:

- Damage to the physical and mental health of crime victims
- Crime against health service staff
- The impact of crime on vulnerable groups (e.g. homeless people)
- Fear of crime can negatively impact on people's emotional wellbeing and quality of life.¹

8.1.1 Violent crime

In Newham the level of violence against the person is 9.9 offences per 1,000 people in the population, the worst in the peer group² which has an average of 6.6. Most serious violence shows at 0.4 offences per 1,000, again the worst in the peer group (peer average 0.1). Overall there is an established downward trend in violence against the person over the past 5 – 6 years, however it is estimated that 09-10 will see an increase on the previous year.

Geographical analysis of violent crime shows the main “hot spot” to be Stratford Town Centre. Other areas of note are:

- The junction of High Street North and Barking Road
- Upton Park
- The junction of Woodgrange Road and Romford Road.

Temporal analysis of violent crime shows the main period for offences to be Monday to Friday between 15:00 and 17:59 (the post-school period). There are also peaks in offending on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 21:00 to 00:00.

Analysis of violent crime in Newham shows;

- An over-representation of Eastern European involvement (particularly where alcohol is involved)
- 45% of crimes categorised as “most serious violence” features either a victim or suspect under the influence of alcohol
- Nearly one third of crime categorised as “most serious violence” has a youth (10-19) offender and nearly one quarter a youth victim
- There is a continuing reduction of domestic violence offences over the past 5 years although there are concerns that domestic violence may be going un-reported.

Research has highlighted that domestic violence is a particular issue relating to substance misuse with 90% of women in substance misuse treatment having experienced domestic violence and a high proportion of men in treatment admitting to perpetrating domestic violence³.

8.1.2 Residential burglary

In Newham, the level of residential burglary is 5.9 offences per 1,000, the second worst in the peer group. While there is an established downward trend since 05-06, it is estimated that 09-10 figures will be higher than the previous year.

¹ NHS Executive; *A review to support the development of the health strategy for London: crime and disorder*, NHS, 1999

² The peer group is a group of 15 boroughs that the Home Office deems most similar to Newham in terms of deprivation, population and crime statistics. These are: Liverpool North, Liverpool South, South Tyneside, Enfield, Leicester, Birmingham East, Birmingham South, Greater Manchester, Lewisham, Waltham Forest, Kingston upon Hull, Coventry, Greenwich & Barking and Dagenham.

³ Galvani, S & Humphreys, K; *The impact of violence and abuse on engagement and retention rates in substance use treatment*; (NHN National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, 2007)

Analysis of residential burglary shows:

- Just over a third of those arrested for burglary in the past two years have tested positive for class A drugs although this is in decline (37% in 2008 to 25% in 2009)
- Between 12% and 26% of those arrested for residential burglary in Newham are non-residents
- 10% of residential burglary offences in 2009 were carried out specifically to obtain a motor vehicle.

8.1.3 Personal and commercial robbery

In Newham, the level of personal robbery is 2.3 offences per 1,000 population, the worst in the peer group. The level of commercial robbery is also the worst in the peer group at 1.2 offences per 1,000 population. There is estimated to be a large increase in robbery (approximately 25%) in 09-10 however the long term trend is still downwards.

Geographical analysis shows that Stratford is the main robbery “hot spot” in Newham and temporal analysis shows that more than a quarter of all robbery offences occur during the 18:00 to 20:59 period. Further analysis of robbery shows:

- More than half of robbery offences are committed by young offenders (aged 10-19) with the majority being committed by small groups of youths.
- 28% of those arrested for robbery in Newham are non-residents
- 22% of those arrested for robbery tested positive for Class A drugs.

8.1.4 Anti-Social Behaviour

The London Borough of Newham received over 17,000 calls to the ASB hotline during 2009, a considerable reduction on previous years. Geographical analysis shows that ASB is concentrated in two main areas, Upton Park and the lower end of High Street North.

Further analysis of ASB reports show:

- 34% of calls relate to noise nuisance with a further 8% relating to nuisance behaviour including disruptive neighbours.
- 28% of calls relate to fly tipping

8.1.5 Sex working

For information on the health and social care needs of sex workers see chapter 14. The data in this section is based on geographically referenced crime allegations under the classifications soliciting/loitering and kerb crawling. These data were extracted from the Metropolitan Police CRIS database. In total there were 24 kerb crawling offences and 8 soliciting/loitering offences during 2009. These mostly relate to a specific targeted police action in July 2009 in the Romford Road area.

8.1.6 Drug and Alcohol related crime

Alcohol and drugs remain key drivers behind a significant proportion of the borough's crime and ASB. 24% of those being supervised by probation in Newham have drug misuse issues and 20% have alcohol misuse issues. Data show that alcohol is linked to many violent crime incidents whereas drugs are associated with acquisitive crime.

8.1.7 Crime and emerging communities

Crime figures show an over-representation of Eastern European offenders, particularly around alcohol related crime. In total the percentage of people brought into custody on Lithuanian, Polish or Romanian passports has increased from 5% in quarter 1 of 2006 to 14% in quarter 4 of 2009. While the Eastern European population has increased (see chapter 6), this increase in arrests is believed to be disproportionately large.

Perceptions of crime

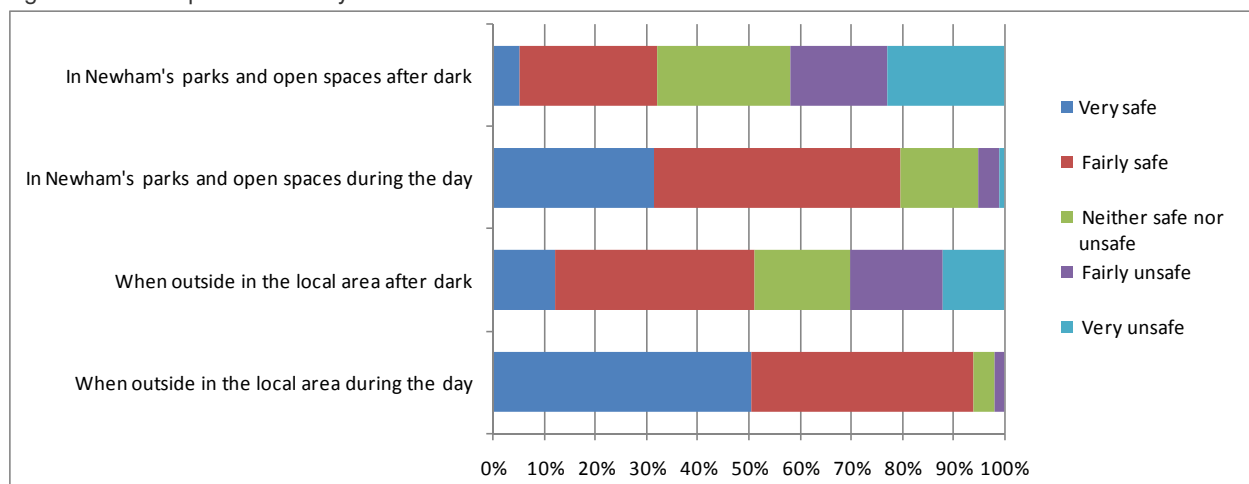
When asked the three things that bothered residents most about their local area (Liveability Survey, 2009):

- 20% of respondents said crime
- 13% of respondents said anti-social behaviour
- 10% of respondents said gangs/teenagers hanging around
- 4% of respondents said drug related issues
- 4% said fear of crime/feeling unsafe/improve security
- 1% said vandalism

In addition:

- 32% of respondents perceived people being drunk or rowdy to be a problem
- 23% of respondents perceived street theft(mugging) to be a problem
- 18% of respondents perceived car theft to be a problem
- 13% of respondents perceived burned out cars to be a problem
- 13% of respondents perceived hate crimes to be a problem
- 13% of respondents perceived physical assault to be a problem

Figure 8.1: Perceptions of safety in Newham



Source: Liveability Survey, 2009

While there were very few people who felt unsafe in their local area during the day (2%), only 50% of respondents felt very safe and only 31% felt very safe in Newham's parks and open spaces during the day. There were 42% of respondents who felt unsafe in the local parks and open spaces after dark and 30% who felt unsafe in their local area after dark. Women were more likely to feel unsafe in their local area after dark (39% compared to 20%) as were those over 75 (48%) and those who were mobility impaired (47%).

8.2 Young people and crime

Children and young people represent one of the most vulnerable groups in society and most are likely to become a victim of crime or abuse. Young people who are perpetrators of crime are also commonly victims as well as offenders. Teenagers are more likely to be assaulted, including sexual assault; those under 10 tend to be victims of robbery such as having their bike stolen or their family home burgled. Feeling safe is an important aspect of mental wellbeing (see chapter 14 for more information on mental wellbeing).

Nearly one third of the crime classified as “most serious violence” has a youth (aged 10-19) offender and nearly one quarter has a youth victim. Offending tends to occur at congregation points such as Stratford Mall and Woodgrange Road⁴. A clear association between fast food outlets and violent crime and ASB has been identified by the police. In 54% of robbery offences there is a youth offender and a quarter of robbery victims are also aged 10 to 19.

8.2.1 Offending Patterns

During 2008-09, the last full year for which we have statistics that are comparable with other areas, the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (i.e. those who are mainly under 19) was the second highest rate in London, and had experienced a 25.8% increase from 2006-07.⁵

However, data for 2009-10 indicates that there were 350 new entrants to the Youth Justice System, compared to a 2008-09 total of 470, which indicates a 26.5% fall. This is thought to be linked to the new multi agency triage process applied to all young people arrested in Newham.

If re-offending is taken into consideration, at the three month and six month follow up points, re-offending rates for the 2009 cohort of young offenders have been lower than both the original 2005 baseline and the rate for the 2008 tracker cohort (see figure 14.14 below).⁶

Examining the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload by ethnic group during the mid point of each month between December 2009 to March 2010, black young people remain the highest proportion of young offenders (varying from 38.3%-40.1%), closely followed by Asian (25.15% - 26.4%) and White (18.1%-21.1%) young people. It must be noted that as these are snapshots of the caseload at any one time, it can only therefore give an indication of the composition of the group of young people in contact with the YOT.

8.3 Young people’s perceptions of crime

Based on local survey data, most children and young people in Newham enjoy their environment; the parks, the streets and the open spaces. The majority felt safe at home and at school, however there are certain risks such as accidental injury, theft, bullying, harassment and victimisation that affect children and young people’s experiences.

The Newham Household Panel Survey 2008 which involved 11-15 year olds found that:

- 99% of children felt safe at home;
- 93% felt safe at school;
- 81% felt unsafe walking in Newham at night;
- 77% felt safe in the area immediately outside their school,
- 60% felt safe in parks and open spaces, while 40% felt unsafe.

The Tellus 4 Survey reported that 61% of pupils in Newham have not experienced bullying in school (56% nationally) and 85% have not experienced bullying outside of school (79% nationally).

8.4 Key issues and gaps

There is currently little information on hate crime, particularly disability hate crime, and on violent crime relating to disability discrimination. Further work needs to be done in this area to investigate the extent of the issue in Newham.

The difference between perception of night time and day time safety impacts on the independence and quality of life of Newham’s residents.

Crime and perception of crime impact on the health and wellbeing of the population. Action to make Newham residents feel safer may also have a preventative affect on health and social care.

⁴ Newham BCU Strategic Assessment Version A, February 2010

⁵ NI 111 Data 2008/09 (First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System)

⁶ NI 119 (Rate of proven re-offending by Young Offenders) data, Newham Youth Offending Information Service (2009)

