

Lewes in Detail:
Report for Lewes District Council

Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion
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Contents

Executive summary	5
Key indicators across Lewes	9
Section 1. Background and context	12
1.1 Deprivation, poverty and social exclusion – what do we mean?	12
1.2 Presenting information across Lewes	13
1.3 Lewes in context.....	13
Section 2. Who lives in Lewes?	15
2.1 Introduction.....	15
2.2 Population counts across Lewes	15
2.3 Population density	17
2.4 'At-risk' groups: Young children, older people, and non-white ethnic groups.....	18
Section 3. Multiple deprivation across Lewes.....	21
3.1 Introduction.....	21
3.2 Multiple deprivation across Lewes	22
3.3 Employment Deprivation.....	24
3.4 Income Deprivation.....	25
3.5 Health Deprivation and Disability	27
3.6 Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	27
3.7 Crime.....	28
3.8 Living Environment Deprivation.....	29
3.9 Barriers to Housing and Services	29
Section 4. People out of work: Who is affected?	31
4.1 Introduction.....	31
4.2 People out of work across Lewes	32
4.3 People out of work through unemployment.....	34
4.4 People out of work through sickness.....	35
Section 5. Living on a low income	38
5.1 Introduction.....	38
5.2 People living on a low income across Lewes.....	39
5.3 Young people (aged under 20) living on a low income	41
5.4 Older people (aged 60 and over) living on a low income	43
Section 6. Children living in low income households.....	46
6.1 Introduction.....	46
6.2 Children living in low income households across Lewes	47
6.3 Children aged under 5 living in low income households	47
6.4 Children aged 5-19 living in low income households.....	49
6.5 Indices of Deprivation 2004, Income Deprivation affecting Children Index.....	50
Section 7. Health, sickness and disability	52
7.1 Introduction.....	52
7.2 Health, sickness and disability across Lewes.....	53
7.3 People in receipt of health benefits.....	54
7.4 Census indicators of health.....	56
Section 8. Education and skills.....	59
8.1 Introduction.....	59

8.2 Educational disadvantage.....	60
8.3 Pupil exam performance.....	61
8.4 Pupils staying on at school after 16.....	63
8.5 Adults with no qualifications.....	65
Section 9. Housing and households	68
9.1 Introduction.....	68
9.2 Housing type and condition	68
9.3 Housing tenure and vacancy.....	70
9.4 Household overcrowding.....	71
Section 10. Crime	73
10.1 Introduction.....	73
10.2 Crime counts across Lewes	74
10.3 Geographical distribution of crime across Lewes.....	77
Section 11. Living environment.....	79
11.1 Introduction.....	79
11.2 The ID 2004 Living Environment domain	79
11.3 The Indoors and Outdoors Living Environment sub-domains	80
Appendix A. Mapped Datasets	81
A.1 Maps accompanying this report.....	81
A.2 Reading the maps in this report.....	121
Appendix B. Data sources and descriptions	124
Appendix C. Knowing the geographies	130
Appendix D. Estimating population denominators at small area level.....	132
Appendix E. Lewes Data Tools for Social Inclusion.....	133

Executive summary

This area profile report was commissioned by Lewes District Council. The report draws together information from a number of key social and economic deprivation sources to give a detailed picture of social exclusion across Lewes. The District is also examined in the broader contexts of East Sussex, the South-East region and England as a whole.

Who lives in Lewes?

1. 92,177 people were counted in Lewes District on the 2001 Census. There were significantly more females than males (52.2% compared with 47.8%) – a bigger difference than seen in the South-East and England as a whole, likely due to an older population combined with females greater life expectancy.
2. The proportion of people aged 65 and over in Lewes (22.6%) was significantly above the England (15.9%) and South-East (16.4%) averages. At the more detailed ward level, in the Seaford West ward, 37.8% (or more than one in three people) of the population was aged 65 and over. By contrast the proportion of the population aged 0-4 across Lewes is 5.3%, compared with 5.9% across the South-East and 6.0% across England.
3. The proportion of people from non-white ethnic groups is extremely low across both Lewes (2.1%) and East Sussex (2.3%) compared with the South-East (4.9%) and England as a whole (9.1%), and only one ward across the District (Lewes Priory with 4.2%) shows a significant level of people from non-white ethnic groups.

Multiple deprivation across Lewes

4. Across England, Lewes ranks in the least deprived third of all 354 Districts measured using the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, however Lewes is in the most deprived 50% of all 67 Districts across the South-East region.
5. At the more detailed SOA level¹, no areas across Lewes are in the most deprived 20% of all areas across England on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 score, with a single area in Newhaven Denton and Meeching ward in the most deprived 30% across England. However at a regional level, nine areas (14.5% of the District) are in the most deprived 20% of all areas across the South-East. Although overall levels of deprivation across the District are low compared with the situation across England, there are pockets of relatively deprived areas in the coastal areas of Newhaven and Peacehaven.
6. Of the individual components of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, Barriers to Housing and Services has the greatest impact on levels of deprivation across Lewes. Nearly one-third of the District is in the most deprived 20% of all areas across England in terms of Geographical Barriers, reflecting the rural nature of the District and indicating potential difficulty with access to services.
7. Education and skills deprivation is also relatively high across Lewes, with 14 SOAs across the District (22.6%) in the most deprived 20% of all areas across the South-East. In terms of children and young people educational deprivation eight areas (12.9%) are in the most deprived 20% of all areas across England. Although overall levels of pupil attainment are high across the District (see below), in these areas many children may face increased risk of social and economic exclusion in future.
8. Although Employment deprivation is low relative to the situation across England, more than one-quarter of the District is in the most deprived 20% of all areas across the South-East. In nine areas across the District (14.5%) – concentrated along the coastal areas of Newhaven, Peacehaven and Seaford – more than one in ten of all working age adults are experiencing employment deprivation.

¹ The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 is released at Census Super Output Area (SOA) level, which are significantly smaller than wards. Across Lewes there are 62 SOAs, and 21 wards.

People out of work: Who is affected?

9. Overall worklessness rates in Lewes are well below that of East Sussex and England, but above that of the South-East region. The major driver of worklessness is people workless through sickness – across Lewes the total worklessness population of 3,660 (6.7%) is made up of 815 people workless through unemployment (1.5% receiving Jobseekers Allowance benefits) and 2,845 people workless through sickness (5.2% receiving Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance).
10. In the Peacehaven East ward 10% of all working age adults are workless through either unemployment or sickness, with nearly one in eleven of all working age adults in the ward claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.

Living on a low income

11. Nearly 5,000 people across Lewes (6.6%) aged 16 and over are living on a low income (receiving either Income Support or Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance means tested benefits), below the England (9.7%) and East Sussex rates (8.2%) but just above the South-East (6.4%).
12. In Newhaven Valley ward 11% of all people over 16 (or more than one in ten) are living on low income benefits, while Newhaven Denton and Meeching is the ward with the largest population of people living on a low income (495 people or 8.6% of all people over 16).
13. The proportions of people aged 16 to 19 living on low income are significantly lower across Lewes than the County, region and England, and lower than expected given the overall levels of low income across the District. This is likely due to young people tending to move out of the District to Brighton and London in order to find work.
14. Across Lewes, 2390 people aged 60 and over (9.0%) are living on the Income Support Minimum Income Guarantee, compared with 1.5 million (14.5%) across England as a whole, 10.0% across the South-East and 10.3% across East Sussex. In seven wards more than one in ten of all people aged 60 and over are receiving Income Support – Newhaven Valley, two in Lewes town (Lewes Castle and Lewes Bridge), two in Peacehaven (Peacehaven East and West), East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs, and the more rural Ditchling and Westmeston ward. In the ward with the highest proportion, Newhaven Valley, 18.0% of all people aged 60 and over are living on Income Support.

Children living in low income households

15. Nearly 2,000 dependent children in Lewes aged 0-19 are living in low income households, 10.7% of all children across the District. Of these, 540 were aged under 5, or 12.3% of all children under 5 in Lewes, suggesting an increased likelihood of families with young children suffering income deprivation. These figures are below the corresponding averages across England, the South-East and East Sussex, however there are areas within the District with significantly higher proportions of children affected.
16. In two wards – Peacehaven East (21.2%) and Newhaven Denton and Meeching (20.0%) more than one in five of all children aged under 5 are living in low income households, while in a further three wards – Seaford Central (18.2%), Lewes Bridge (17.4%) and Peacehaven West (16.7%) – more than one in six of all children aged under 5 are in this category. In the older 5 to 19 age group, Newhaven Valley ward registers 20.7% of the children aged 5-19 in this ward, more than one in five, as living in low income households.
17. At the more detailed Super Output Area (SOA) level, one area in Peacehaven North has over one in three of all children under 16 living in low income households, and in a further four areas – in Newhaven Denton and Meeching, Lewes Priory, Seaford North and Newhaven Valley – more than one in four of all children under 16 are similarly living in low income households.

Health, sickness and disability

18. Overall, people in Lewes are in relatively good health compared to other areas of England. The proportions of people on health benefits across the District – people needing care, people needing higher rate of care, and people needing mobility assistance – are all below the averages across England (although well above the corresponding South-East proportions), and no areas are in the most deprived 20% of areas across England on the Indices of Deprivation 2004 Health domain.
19. However this summary hides areas with substantial proportions of people receiving health benefits, based mainly in the coastal areas of Peacehaven and Seaford and likely due to the relatively high proportions of older age groups. In the Peacehaven East (8.1%) and West (7.8%) wards, more than one in thirteen of all people aged 16 and over are receiving a Care component of either Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance. In the same two wards more than one in thirty people are receiving the Higher Rate Care component, a measure of severe health need.
20. In five wards across Lewes, more than one in ten of all people reported themselves in “not good health” – Peacehaven East (12.8%), Seaford West (11.4%), Peacehaven West (11.3%), Seaford Central (10.4%) and Seaford East (10.0%) – while in the Peacehaven East ward more than one in four people reported themselves as having limiting long-term illness.

Education and skills

21. Overall, Education and skills levels across Lewes are relatively high. The pupils living in Lewes and attending maintained schools in 2003 achieved higher passes than their counterparts nationwide at Key Stage 4, with 56.1% of pupils obtaining five or more GCSE levels graded C or above compared with 50.7% across England, 55.3% across the South-East and 54.6% across East Sussex. These results were consistent with the Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 results where pupils across Lewes typically scored at or above national, regional and County averages.
22. However at a more detailed level, a number of wards across the District show significantly lower levels of pupil attainment. In one ward – Peacehaven East (31.9%) – fewer than one in three pupils left school with five or more good GCSE level passes, while in a further two wards – Newhaven Denton and Meeching (35.3%), and Newhaven Valley (36.4%) – less than two in five pupils did so. This matches the levels of education and skills deprivation seen above, with 8 areas across the District in the most deprived 20% of all areas across England in terms of children and young people educational deprivation. At the other end of the scale, in Ditchling and Weston ward nearly 90% of pupils achieved five or more GCSE passes at C grade or above.
23. The proportion of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in Lewes (9.5% or 1,173 pupils) is well below the England (16.1%) and East Sussex (12.6%) averages, and roughly equal to the South-East average (9.6%). In only one ward across Lewes is the level of FSM eligibility above the England average – Newhaven Valley where 16.4%, or 111 pupils, are eligible. In a further six wards – Peacehaven North, Newhaven Denton and Meeching, Peacehaven East, Seaford North, Lewes Castle and Seaford Central more than one in ten of all pupils are eligible for FSM.
24. In terms of adult skill levels, 16,823 adults (26.2%) across the District reported themselves as having no qualifications, below the England (28.9%) and East Sussex (27.2%) proportions but well above the South-East (23.9%) level. At ward level this ranged from more than two in five of all adults (40.1%) in Peacehaven East having no qualifications to 15.6% in Kingston ward. Two further wards reported more than one in three adults with no qualifications – Peacehaven West (36.7%) and Newhaven Denton and Meeching (34.0%). At the more detailed Output Area level, one area in Ouse Valley and Ringmer ward (in Ringmer) shows more than 50% of all adults with no qualifications.

Housing and households

25. Only 27 households (less than 0.1%) across Lewes are without basic amenities as defined by both lack of central heating and without sole use of a bath or shower and toilet. However, nearly 2,000

households (4.9%) lack central heating, seen across much of the rural areas particularly in the East of the District, but also in Newhaven and Lewes town. In Newhaven Valley ward more than one in twelve of all households lack central heating.

26. Levels of owner occupation are extremely high in Lewes (78.2%), well above the corresponding proportions across England (68.7%), the South-East (75.1%) and East Sussex (75.0%), and higher than across all Districts in East Sussex except for Wealden (83.3%). By contrast the level of social rented housing across Lewes (11.0%) is lower than across England (19.3%), the South-East (14.0%), and East Sussex (11.9%).
27. The proportions of overcrowded households across Lewes (5.2% of all households) are also well below the levels across England (7.2%), the South-East (5.9%) and East Sussex (5.6%). At ward level more than one in ten of all households in Newhaven Valley and Seaford Central are overcrowded.

Crime

28. Levels of crime across Lewes on all the major crime types are well below the England, South-East and East Sussex averages. No areas show crime levels in the most deprived 30% of all areas across England (using the Indices of Deprivation 2004 Crime domain), with only one area in the most deprived 20% across the South-East.
29. Crime levels across the District are highest in the urban areas of Newhaven, Lewes town and Seaford Central, however the levels here are still well below national averages – 58 of the 62 SOAs across Lewes are in the least deprived 50% of all areas across England in terms of crime levels.

Living environment

30. Overall Lewes has relatively low levels of Living Environment deprivation when compared with England as a whole – only one area in Newhaven Valley is in the most deprived 20% of areas in England, with five areas in the most deprived 20% of all areas across the South-East.
31. The major driver of Living Environment deprivation across the District is the Indoors domain – eight of the areas across Lewes (12.9%) are in the most deprived 20% of all areas across the South-East on this measure compared with only one area on the Outdoors domain. This reflects the mainly rural nature of the District, with levels of air pollution and traffic accidents involving pedestrians and/or cyclists low compared with the rest of England and the South-East region. The higher levels of Indoor Living Environment deprivation reflect slightly higher proportions across the District of housing in poor condition and/or lacking central heating.

Key indicators across Lewes

Who lives in Lewes	Lewes	England
All people ²	92,177	49,138,831
People aged 15 and under ³	17,325 (18.8%)	9,901,581 (20.2%)
People aged 65 and over ⁴	20,809 (22.6%)	7,808,000 (15.9%)
People in non-white ethnic group ⁵	1,914 (2.1%)	4,459,470 (9.1%)
Indices of Deprivation 2004 Lewes summaries	South-East rank ⁶	England rank ⁷
Average IMD 2004 SOA score ⁸	27 (40.3%)	243 (68.6%)
Average IMD 2004 SOA rank ⁹	27 (40.3%)	239 (67.5%)
Extent score ¹⁰	37 (55.2%)	280 (79.1%)
Local concentration score ¹¹	32 (47.8%)	255 (72.0%)
Employment scale ¹²	29 (43.3%)	246 (69.5%)
Income scale ¹³	33 (49.3%)	242 (68.4%)
Lewes SOAs in the most deprived 20% ¹⁴	South-East	England
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004	9 (14.5%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Employment domain	16 (25.8%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Income domain	11 (17.7%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Health domain	7 (11.3%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Education & Skills domain	14 (22.6%)	4 (6.5%)
ID 2004 Children and Young People sub-domain	12 (19.4%)	8 (12.9%)
ID 2004 Adult Skills sub-domain	13 (21%)	3 (4.8%)
ID 2004 Crime domain	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Living Environment domain	5 (8.1%)	1 (1.6%)
ID 2004 Outdoors sub-domain	1 (1.6%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Indoors sub-domain	8 (12.9%)	1 (1.6%)
ID 2004 Barriers domain	14 (22.6%)	14 (22.6%)
ID 2004 Wider Barriers sub-domain	7 (11.3%)	0 (0%)
ID 2004 Geographical Barriers sub-domain	14 (22.6%)	20 (32.3%)

² Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

³ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

⁴ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

⁵ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

⁶ Ranked over all 67 South-East Districts, with 1 being the most deprived and 67 the least deprived. Figures in brackets show the *percentage rankings*, the rank as a percentage of all 67 Districts.

⁷ Ranked over all 354 English Districts, with 1 being the most deprived and 354 the least deprived. Figures in brackets show the *percentage rankings*, the rank as a percentage of all 354 Districts.

⁸ Source: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM 2004.

⁹ Source: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM 2004.

¹⁰ Source: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM 2004. The extent score measures the proportion of people in Lewes living in the most deprived areas in England.

¹¹ Source: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM 2004. The local concentration score measures the level of deprivation across the most deprived areas in Lewes containing exactly 10% of the population.

¹² Source: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM 2004. The income and employment scales measure the *total number* of people living in income and employment deprivation respectively, so are heavily weighted by the size of population across Lewes.

¹³ Source: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM 2004.

¹⁴ The number and percentage of SOAs across Lewes that are in the most deprived 20% of all areas across England and the South-East region, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 and all domains and sub-domains.

	Lewes	England
People out of work		
Working age people workless (JSA and IB/SDA) ¹⁵	3,660 (6.7%)	2,939,416 (9.2%)
Working age people workless through unemployment ¹⁶	815 (1.5%)	730,464 (2.3%)
Working age people workless through sickness ¹⁷	2,845 (5.2%)	2,208,952 (6.9%)
People under 50 workless through sickness ¹⁸	1,340 (3.7%)	1,136,272 (4.9%)
People over 50 workless through sickness ¹⁹	1,505 (8.1%)	1,072,680 (12.3%)
Living on a low income		
All people living on a low income (IS and JSA-IB) ²⁰	4,975 (6.6%)	3,872,353 (9.7%)
Young people (aged under 20) living on a low income ²¹	115 (2.6%)	134,329 (5.3%)
People under 50 living on a low income ²²	2,040 (5.7%)	1,949,173 (8.3%)
Older people (aged 60 and over) living on a low income ²³	2,390 (9.0%)	1,501,612 (14.5%)
Children living in low income households		
All children living in low income households (IS) ²⁴	1,995 (10.7%)	1,900,982 (17.6%)
Children under 5 living in low income households ²⁵	540 (12.3%)	541,518 (19.9%)
Children aged 5-19 living in low income households ²⁶	1,455 (10.2%)	1,359,464 (16.8%)
Health, sickness and disability		
People needing care ²⁷	4,605 (5.0%)	2,770,503 (5.6%)
People needing higher rate of care ²⁸	1,810 (1.7%)	1,008,930 (2.0%)
People needing mobility assistance ²⁹	2,385 (3.6%)	1,756,700 (4.5%)
People with limiting long-term illness ³⁰	17,375 (18.8%)	8,809,194 (17.9%)
People who are permanently sick and/or disabled ³¹	2,550 (4.0%)	1,884,901 (5.3%)
People in "not good health" ³²	7,841 (8.5%)	4,435,876 (9.0%)
People providing unpaid care ³³	9,695 (10.5%)	4,877,060 (9.9%)

¹⁵ People in receipt of unemployment (Jobseekers Allowance) or sickness (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance) benefits. Source: DWP 2003.

¹⁶ People in receipt of unemployment benefits (Jobseekers Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

¹⁷ People in receipt of sickness benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

¹⁸ People aged under 50 in receipt of sickness benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

¹⁹ People aged 50 and over in receipt of sickness benefits (Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

²⁰ People in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

²¹ People aged under 20 in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

²² People aged under 50 in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance). Source: DWP 2003.

²³ People aged 60 and over in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support, known as the Minimum Income Guarantee for people aged 60 and over). Source: DWP 2003.

²⁴ Dependents of people in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support). Source: DWP 2002.

²⁵ Dependents aged under 5 of people in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support). Source: DWP 2002.

²⁶ Dependents aged 5-19 of people in receipt of means-tested benefits (Income Support). Source: DWP 2002.

²⁷ People in receipt of care component of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance benefits. Source: DWP 2003.

²⁸ People in receipt of higher rate care component of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance benefits. Source: DWP 2003.

²⁹ People in receipt of mobility component of Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance benefits. Source: DWP 2003.

³⁰ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

³¹ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

³² Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

³³ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

Education and skills	Lewes	England
Pupils eligible for free school meals ³⁴	1,173 (9.5%)	1,244,064 (16.1%)
Pupils with 5 or more A*-C passes at GCSE ³⁵	549 (56.1%)	292,409 (50.7%)
Pupils staying on at school ³⁶	2,340 (68.8%)	1,283,819 (67.6%)
Full time students aged 18-74 ³⁷	1,658 (2.7%)	1,543,512 (4.5%)
Adults with no qualifications ³⁸	16,823 (26.2%)	10,251,674 (28.9%)
Housing and households	Lewes	England
Households lacking amenities ³⁹	27 (0.07%)	32,739 (0.16%)
Households lacking central heating ⁴⁰	1,939 (4.9%)	1,711,405 (8.4%)
Households lacking sole use of bath/shower ⁴¹	87 (0.22%)	66,706 (0.33%)
Social rented households ⁴²	4,383 (11.0%)	3,940,728 (19.3%)
Overcrowded households ⁴³	2,050 (5.2%)	1,457,512 (7.1%)
Average house prices ⁴⁴	£167,232	£141,108
Crime	Lewes	England
Violence against the person offences ⁴⁵	716 (7.8)	781,545 (15.6)
Sexual offences ⁴⁶	48 (0.5)	46,568 (0.9)
Robbery offences ⁴⁷	52 (0.6)	106,650 (2.1)
Burglary from a dwelling ⁴⁸	373 (9.4)	422,680 (20.2)
Thefts of a motor vehicle ⁴⁹	243 (2.6)	299,306 (6.0)
Thefts from a vehicle ⁵⁰	703 (7.6)	627,360 (12.5)

³⁴ Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), DfES 2003.

³⁵ Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), DfES 2003.

³⁶ People aged 16-19 in receipt of Child Benefit, DWP 2002.

³⁷ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

³⁸ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

³⁹ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001. This indicator consists of households lacking central heating and without sole use of bath / shower and toilet.

⁴⁰ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

⁴¹ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

⁴² Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001. This indicator consists of households rented from council, housing association or registered social landlord.

⁴³ Source: Census, Office for National Statistics, 2001.

⁴⁴ Source: Land Registry, 2002.

⁴⁵ Source: Home Office, 2002-2003. Crime rates in parentheses are offences per thousand people.

⁴⁶ Source: Home Office, 2002-2003. Crime rates in parentheses are offences per thousand people.

⁴⁷ Source: Home Office, 2002-2003. Crime rates in parentheses are offences per thousand people.

⁴⁸ Source: Home Office, 2002-2003. Crime rates in parentheses are offences per thousand households.

⁴⁹ Source: Home Office, 2002-2003. Crime rates in parentheses are offences per thousand people.

⁵⁰ Source: Home Office, 2002-2003. Crime rates in parentheses are offences per thousand people.