



PROPERTY CRIME

PROPERTY CRIME

Definition

There is no common definition of Property Crime, however for the purpose of the Lambeth Community Safety Audit 2004 we have defined it as follows:

Property Crime includes any incident involving a property other than a motor vehicle. This can include both damage to and taking of property.

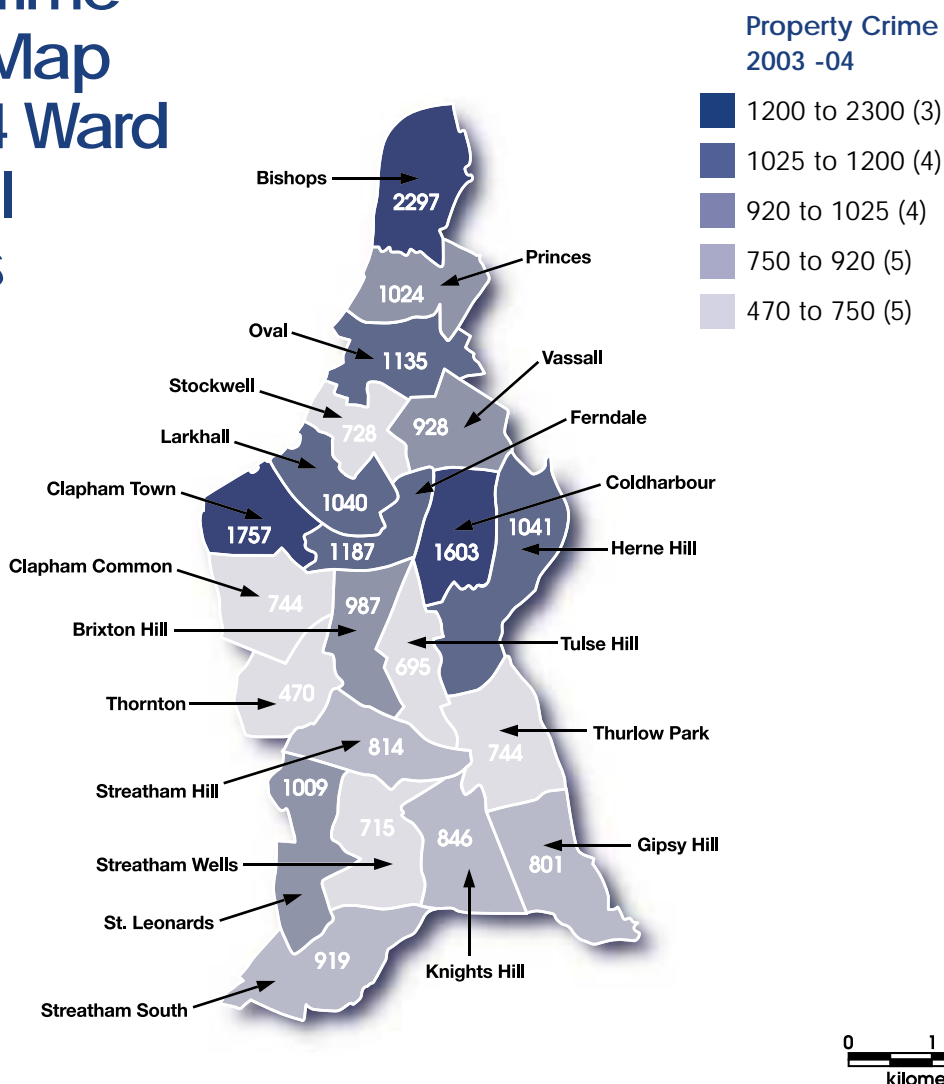
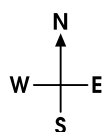
Property Crime includes:

- Robbery of Business Property
- Burglary in a Dwelling
- Burglary in Other Buildings
- Theft from Shops
- Theft/Taking of Pedal Cycles
- Other Theft
- Handling Stolen Goods
- Criminal Damage to a Dwelling
- Criminal Damage to Other Buildings
- Other Criminal Damage
- Fraud-Counted per Victim
- Fraud-Other Fraud & Forgery
- Going Equipped

And attempts of any of the above

NOTE: The figures used are 'mappable ward totals' unless otherwise stated. These figures will differ from borough totals.

Map 6 Property Crime Thematic Map for 2003-04 Ward totals for all categories



What do our statistics tell us?

- In FY2003-4 the ward total figures for Property Crimes show there were 69 such offences for every 1000 people in Lambeth
- In FY2003-4 the ward total figures for Property Crime show a 8% decrease (1559 fewer offences) compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 Burglaries From A Dwelling reduced by 17% (725 fewer offences) compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 Robberies Committed Against Commercial Premises decreased by 32% (79 fewer offences) compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 Theft and Handling⁷ offences reduced by 4% (361 fewer offences) compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 the MPS detected a 29% increase in Going Equipped⁸ offences (a total of 115 offences) compared to FY2002-3
- The top three Property Crime offences are Other Theft, Burglary To A Dwelling and Criminal Damage To A Dwelling and they account for 65% of Property Crime (no change from the previous year)
- Other Theft offences accounted for 1 in every 3, or 6250 property crimes during FY2003-4
- In FY2003-4 Dwelling Burglary offences accounted for 20% of Property Crime (3624 offences) despite a reduction in offences
- In FY2003-4 Criminal Damage To A Dwelling accounted for 12% (2160 offences) of Property Crime
- The MPS website shows that the above offence categories of Property Crime account for 44% of the TNOs in FY2003-4. This is a 7% decrease since FY2002-3, following from a 3% decrease the financial year before that
- In FY2003-4 British Transport Police (BTP) figures show Property Crime decreased by 19% (total of 352 offences from 435 the pervious year). We classified Property Crime as being Fraud Offences and Theft From Railway
- The data received from Victim Support was grouped into linked categories that we thought fell into the Property Crime theme:
 - Aggravated Burglary
 - Burglary/Theft Dwelling
 - Burglary Artifice
 - Other Theft
 - Fraud & Deception
 - Criminal Damage
 - Arson

- In FY2003-4 there was a 28% decrease in referrals to Victim Support for Property Crime (total of 4480 referrals) compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 Deliberate Domestic Property Fires decreased by 4% (total of 276 fires) compared to 287 in FY2002-3
- Out of the 2315 Pre-sentence Reports written by the Probation Services in FY2003-4, 376 were related to Property Crime, from this figure 52% were Burglary, 10% were Criminal Damage and 37% were Fraud/ Forgery

Priority wards

The above map highlights the three priority wards in relation to Property Crime for Lambeth. The wards are the same for FY2002-3 and FY2003-4 figures.

- In FY2003-4 Bishops, Clapham Town and Coldharbour accounted for 26% of the total Property Crimes for the borough when all datasets were added together
 - Bishops 11% (2297 offences)
 - Clapham Town 8% (1767 offences)
 - Coldharbour 7% (1603 offences)
- When reviewing the crime maps for each of the priority areas, a recurring theme was the A23 (between Acre Lane and Oval Station)

What makes up these areas?

Bishops Ward

- Other Theft within Bishops Ward accounted for 3% (1506 offences) of the TNOs for the borough
- In FY2003-4 MPS data states that 70% (1506 offences) of Property Crime within Bishops ward were offences of Other Theft
- There are seven identified locations (where six out of the seven were entertainment locations or focused around Waterloo Station) within this ward which were the focus of Other Theft

Clapham Town

- In 2003-4 Clapham Town accounts for 8.5 % (1576 offences) of all the Property Crime in Lambeth. This is the same figure for 2002-3
- 47% of these offences were Other Theft compared to 52% for 2002-3
- 13% Offences were Dwelling Burglary, compared to 12% to 2002-3

⁷ Theft & Handling offences include Theft From Shops, Pedal Cycle Theft, Other Theft & Handling Stolen Goods

⁸ Going Equipped – anyone who in their possession items to commit a crime

Coldharbour

- In FY2003-4 Property Crime decreased by 5% (total of 1334 offences) compared to 1411 offences in FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 Residential Burglary reduced by 19% compared to FY2002-3

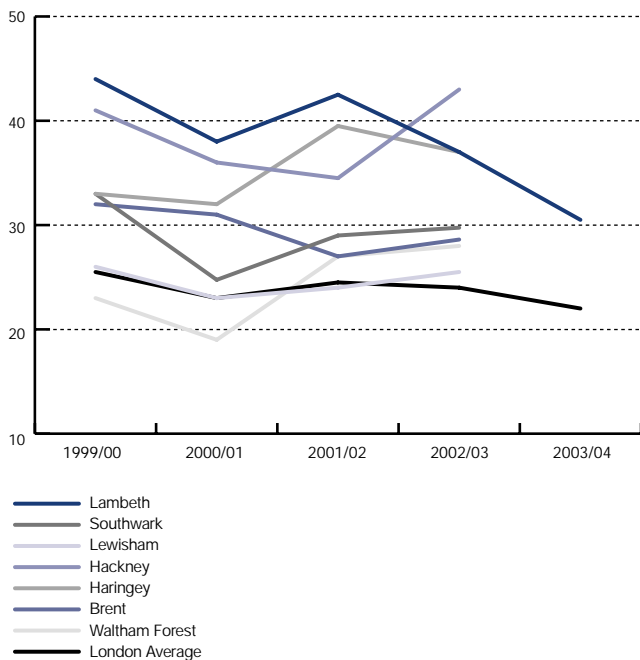
Key categories of Property Crime

The following categories are the focus for the Property Crime committed in Lambeth.

Residential Burglary

Table 18 (below) shows the levels of Domestic Burglary offences compared to other London Boroughs that receive additional Neighbourhood renewal funding in order to achieve national floor targets.

Table 18
Recorded Domestic Burglaries per 1000 households. Lambeth and similar local authority districts



- In FY2003-4 Burglaries of Dwelling offences reduced by 17% (total of 3624 offences) compared to FY2002-3 (4329 offences)
- In FY2003-4 Thurlow Park recorded the highest level of burglary (264) compared to 224 recorded incidents in FY2002-3, an 18% increase
- A profile for the victim of Residential Burglary is predominantly white female between 21-29 years
- The most frequently recorded times were between 12.00 hours and 17.59 hours

Commercial Robbery

- There have been 79 fewer Robberies Committed Against Commercial Premises in the borough, a reduction of 32% from 247 in FY2002-03
- There were 2920 cases of Fraud and Forgery in 2003-4 compared to 3,437 and 2002-3 and 3939 in 2001-2, an overall reduction of 26%
- There were 1006 reported Thefts From A Shop in 2003-4 compared to 1,246 in 2002-3 and 1,394 in 2001-2, an overall reduction of 28%
- There were 1,288 Non Dwelling Burglaries in 2003-4 compared to 1284 in 2002-3 and 1,560 in 2001-2 an overall reduction of 17%
- Seven properties have been identified as vulnerable commercial premises as part of the raid control initiative.⁹
- Operation Refresh in Brixton Town Centre as seen a reduction in reported cases of commercial robbery since its launch in 2003-4
- Priority Wards for Commercial Robbery are Coldharbour, Bishops, Clapham Town and Ferndale as well as the Streatham A23 corridor

Criminal Damage

- Sometimes it can be difficult to distinguish what is damage to a property and an attempt to force entry and perform a burglary
- Criminal damage to a dwelling accounted for 12% or 2160 offences of property crime in FY2003-4 compared to 2167 in FY2002-3

When did they occur?

Having analysed property crime for the borough in FY2003-4 the following graphs illustrate when crimes took place by month, days of the week and time. Please note that the times have been taken from the 'committed from' time, which shows an indicator of the times of day the offence took place

- There is little fluctuation throughout the year with a slight peak in offending during summer months with July being the highest month
- Again, little variation between days of the week but with a peak on Fridays
- There are peaks in offending between 09:00-09.59 hours and 18.00-18.59 hours however incident levels generally start to rise from 08.00 hours right through the day to around midnight

⁹ A set of anti robbery measures of commercial premises to increase prevention and detection

Table 19
Chart showing seasonal trends in Property Crime, FY2003-2004

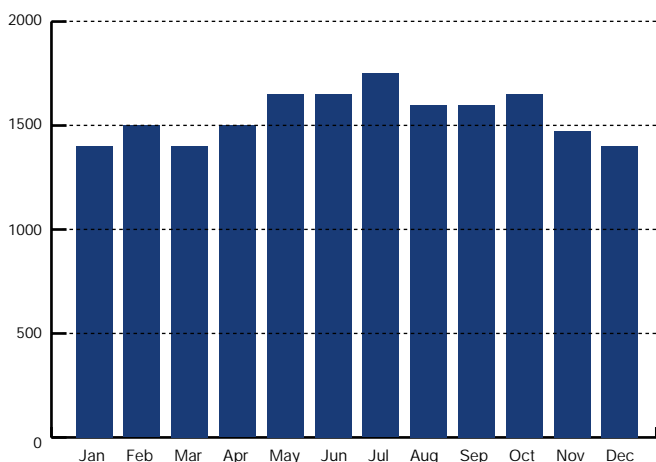


Table 20
Chart showing the days of the week for Property Crime, FY2003-2004

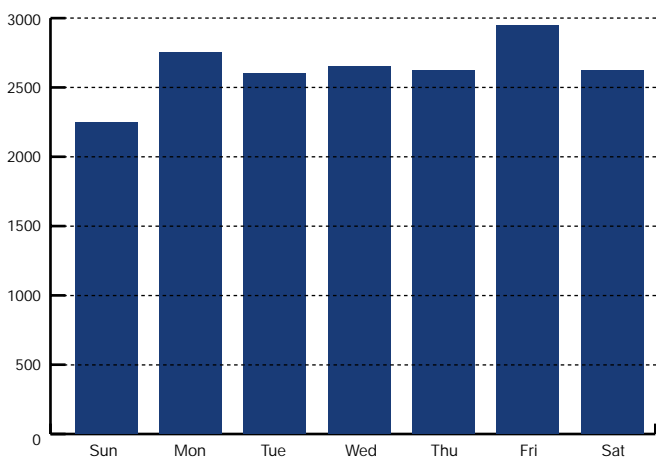
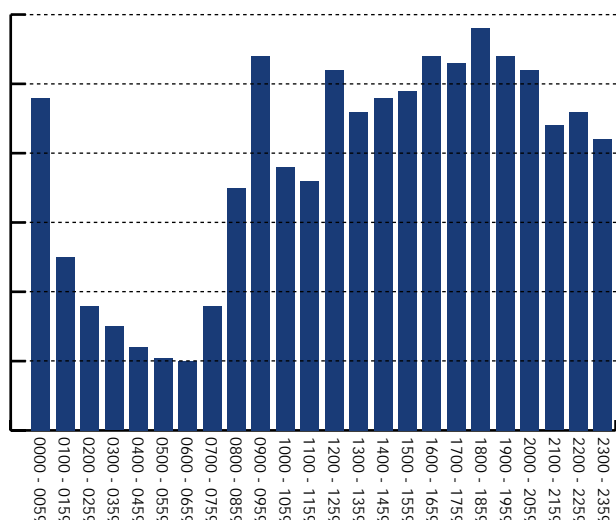


Table 21
Chart showing peak times for Property Crime, FY2003-2004



Who were the suspects and victims of Property Crimes?

Looking at our three priority wards in more detail our analysis indicates:

Victims

- 21% (1097) of the victim's age was unknown 20% of those known were aged between 25-29 years
- 29% (1055) of the victim's gender was not known. 58% of the known victims were female
- 30% (1630) of the victim's ethnicity was not known. 71% of the known victims (2634) were white-skinned Europeans
- In FY2003-4 referrals to Victim Support for Property Crime decreased by 28% (a total of 4480 cases referred) compared to FY2002-3

Suspect

- Of those with known ages 68% (1598) were between the ages of 15-34
- Of those where the sex is known 83% (2039) were male
- Of those where the ethnicity is known 52% (1285) were African-Caribbean and 35% (860) were white-skinned European

What did you tell us?

Residents Survey

- 12% of respondents to the face-to-face survey had experienced residential burglary in the last five years
- 5.2% had experienced residential burglary in the last year. 1.3% were repeat victims
- 16% of respondents to the self completion questionnaire said they had been victims of residential burglary over the last five years
- In the past 12 months the figure was 5.2% and 2.2% were repeat victims
- 98% of respondents stated that they felt safe in their home during the day and 90% felt safe at night
- 15% of respondents stated that improved security of doors and windows made them feel safer now than they did 12 months ago
- 1.8% of respondents stated that they had had their business burgled in the last 5 years and 1.1% in the last 12 months
- 42% of respondents felt most concerned about burglary
- Home owners (49%) were more likely to be worried about burglary than council owners (33%)

- 32% of home owners were worried about vandalism compared to 18% of council tenants
- In most respondent households 90% had at least some form of home security advice, 66% had window locks and 27% have a burglar alarm rising to 40% for owner occupiers

Our young people said...

- Young people between the ages of 2-10 were asked to draw what made them feel safe. 49 young people (78%) drew a picture of their home as a place where they felt safe

Our focus groups said...

- Surprisingly, burglary was rarely mentioned amongst our focus groups even within the elderly forums, who were more concerned about safer transport and easy access/mobility issues

What have we done so far?

- Lambeth Housing spend £1m a year specifically on target hardening on estates which have high levels of residential burglary through the Home Safe Scheme delivered by Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust
- Operation Refresh in Brixton Town centre has continued to be successful since it began in September 2003, launching a range of different initiatives to tackle crime. New CCTV cameras have now been installed in both the open and covered markets in Brixton. Furthermore, year-to-date figures for Commercial Robbery show a decrease of 12% against last year
- Secure by Design scheme is carried out by Lambeth Police to improve the security of new builds and refurbishments in the borough
- Design out crime advice is given at the planning stage of new builds and refurbishment by Lambeth Police
- Crime prevention advice is available to any household or commercial property in Lambeth through Lambeth Police
- The Bobby Scheme is available for elderly or vulnerable residents who have suffered repeat victimisation, to improve home security through Victim Support
- Residential Burglary Project is being delivered in the hot spot area in Thurlow Park
- Publicity by the Police and Council in relation to 'securing your home'
- Business watch schemes are currently operating in town centre areas

- A Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is now in place in Lambeth. There are 77 Neighbourhood Watch schemes registered in Lambeth in 2003-4
- Clapham Park Project is operating a successful target-hardening scheme to improve security

Emerging Priorities

- Residential Burglary hotspots are becoming more prevalent in non-estate areas
- There is a lack of support for victims of Property Crime
- Opportunity crime around entertainment/ tourist areas to reduce Other Theft
- Vulnerable businesses in secondary locations (i.e. outside of major town centres)