

## 1. Community Safety Overview

- 1.1. Many confuse community safety as being solely in regard to crime reduction but it is more than this. Community safety is about helping communities to feel and be safe. Road safety, trading standards, fire and rescue, regulating licensed premises, producing and implementing *partnership* strategies for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and domestic abuse, and reducing criminal activities by installing “guardians” such as CCTV or alley gating are just some examples of community safety. This overview will have a focus on police recorded crimes rates over time, serious/fatal and slight road traffic collisions and youth offending.
- 1.2. Police recorded crime rates provide a consistent comparison of comparing crime trends over time and also indicate police workload. Figure 1 shows crime rates for all crime split by district/borough council area, this does not include incidents such as ASB. Gloucester City Local Authority (LA) and Cheltenham Borough Council (BC) have historically experienced higher rates of crime when compared against the South West region and England as a whole. However crime rates in Cheltenham BC were considerably lower than the national crime rate in 2015/16 for the first time since the new crime recording standard was introduced back in 2003. This is in comparison to 10 years previously where crime rates in Cheltenham were significantly higher than England. Also, annual recorded crime rates lowered in Cheltenham in 2015/16 whereas they increased nationally.
- 1.3. In 2003/04, crime rates in Gloucester City LA amounted to approximately 180 crimes to every 1,000 people living in the city. Compare that with the figure released in 2015/16 where crimes rates have more than halved to just under 80 crimes per 1,000 people – this is a significant reduction in crimes witnessed by the resident population of this local authority. The lowest crime rates over the last 12 years have been in the more rural district council areas of the Forest of Dean, Cotswold and Tewkesbury.
- 1.4. Individual ward level crime rates are available on our Interactive Report located on the Community Safety section of the Inform Gloucestershire website via the “Crime” button. Westgate Ward in Gloucester City consistently has the highest crime rate in Gloucestershire each year – this area comprises a large part of the city centre of Gloucester. This is also

true when looking into crime types of Burglary, Criminal Damage, Theft and Violence Against the Person as well as police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents. Central Ward in Stroud is consistently the next highest crime/ASB rate ward in the county behind Westgate.

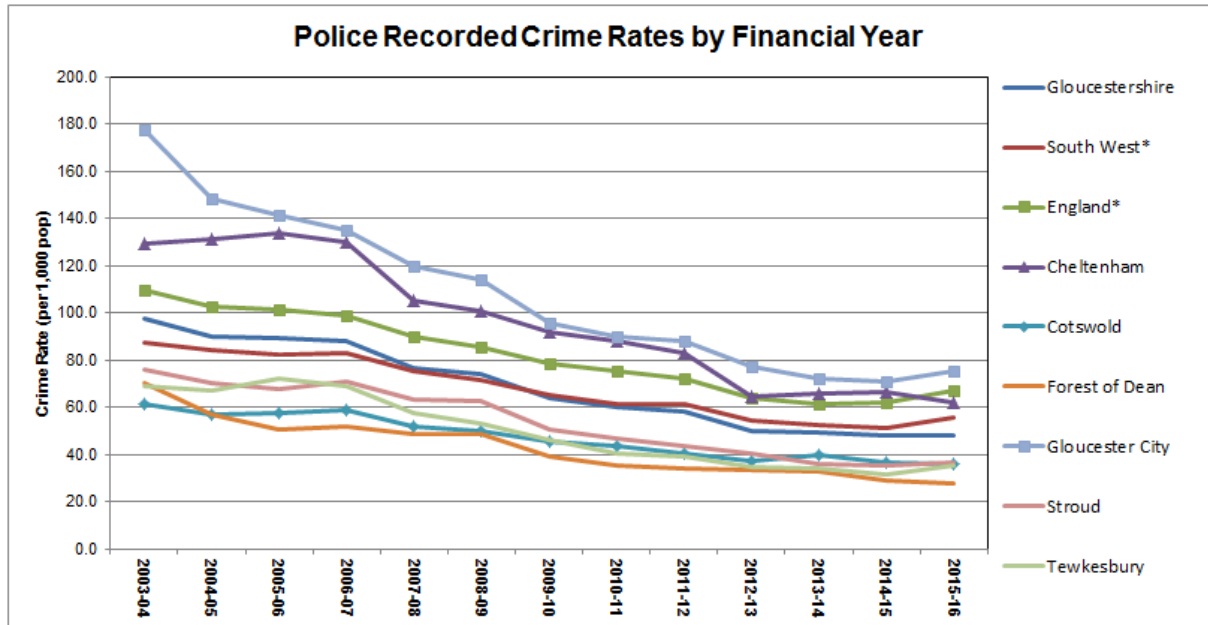


Figure 1: Police Recorded Crime Rates by Financial Year<sup>1</sup>

- 1.5. Road Safety is a statutory duty for every local authority and to deliver the best results in reducing road traffic collisions it is essential to adopt partnership working. This is indeed the case for Gloucestershire's Road Safety Partnership which incorporates the County Council, Gloucestershire Highways, Police and the Fire and Rescue Service. The following two charts show yearly totals (calendar years) for Road Traffic Collisions in the county<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.6. For the last two calendar years Gloucestershire has experienced an increase in the number of people that are killed or seriously injured on roads in the county. The dip in 2010 has been partly attributed to extreme weather conditions during the winter resulting in fewer cars driving on the road<sup>3</sup> and any motorists that were on the road at this time drove with great care therefore having a marked effect on the year end total of Killed or Seriously Injured.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Gloucestershire Constabulary and Office for National Statistics

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership. All Road Safety figures (as per Dept for Transport guidance) include Motorway, Trunk Roads (parts of A46, A40, A417 & A419 as long as it occurs in Gloucestershire) and excludes some data such as deliberate acts, medical episodes. Definitions: Killed: Human casualties who sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days (before 1954, about two months) after the accident. Confirmed suicides are excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership and <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/interesting/dec2010>

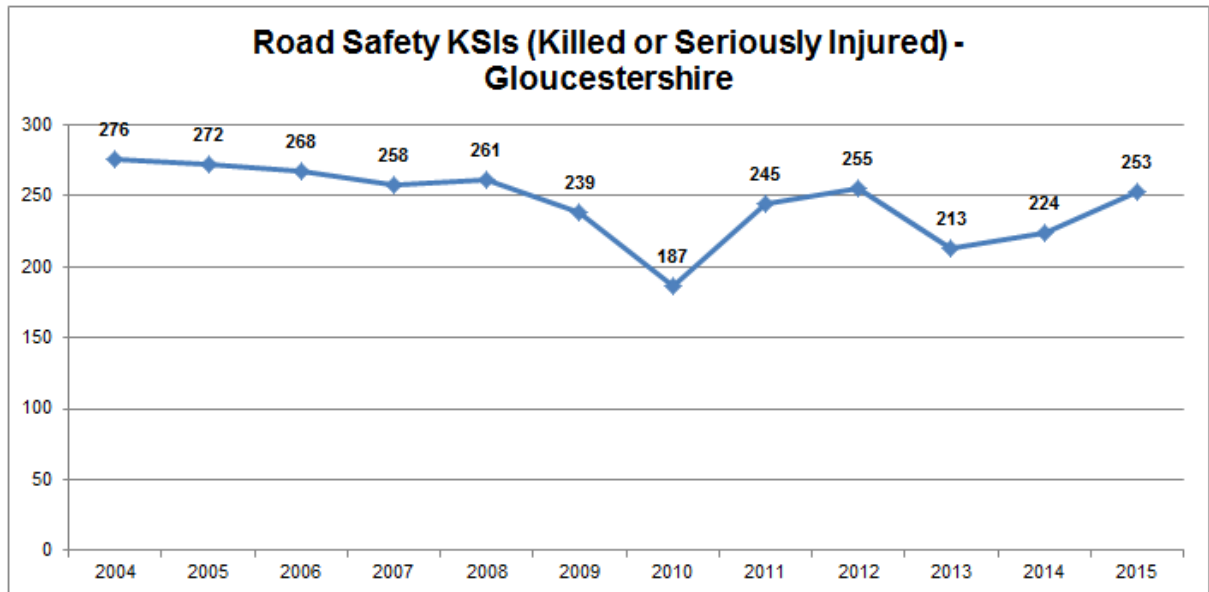


Figure 2: Number of Casualties Killed or Seriously Injured<sup>4</sup> by RTCs in Gloucestershire by Calendar Year

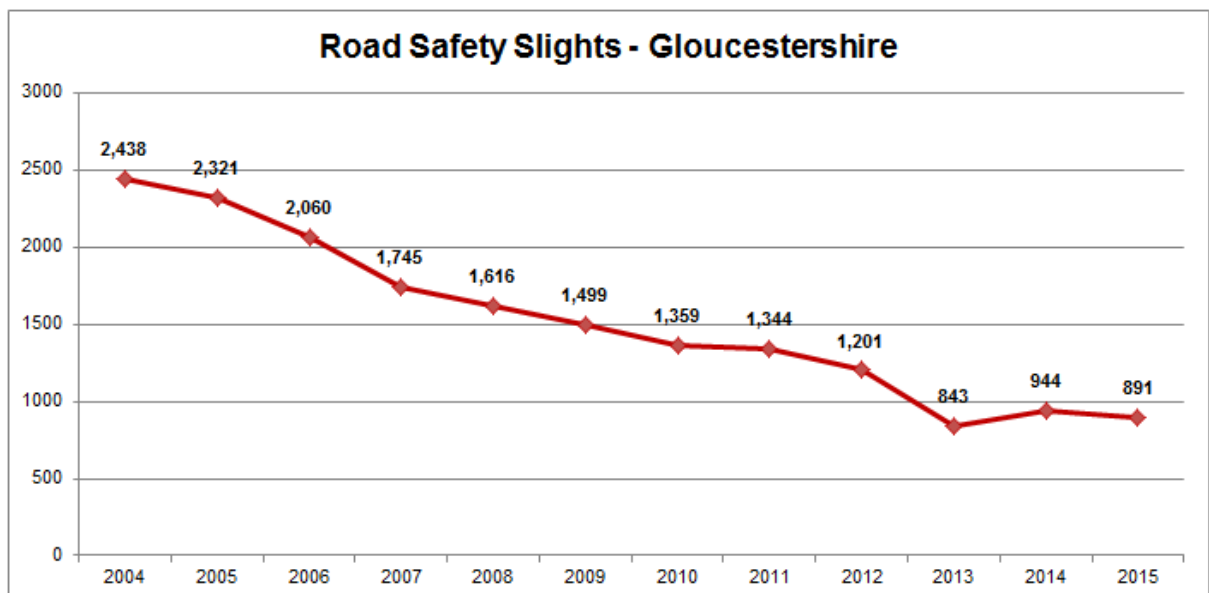


Figure 3: Number of Casualties with Slight<sup>5</sup> injuries from RTCs by Calendar Year

1.7. In Gloucestershire, youth support services such as the Youth Offending Service (YOS) are delivered by Prospects on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, working with the police, local Community Safety

<sup>4</sup> Serious injury: An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an “in-patient”, or any of the following injuries whether or not they are detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, burns (excluding friction burns), severe cuts, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and injuries causing death 30 or more days after the accident.

<sup>5</sup> Slight injury: An injury of a minor character such as a sprain (including neck whiplash injury), bruise or cut which are not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention. This definition includes injuries not requiring medical treatment.

Partnerships and other agencies to prevent young people from getting involved with crime and anti-social behaviour. The information presented here relates to children aged 10 – 17 years of age. During 2015/16 there were 443 young offenders recorded by the Youth Support Team in the county representing a 31% increase on the total from the year before – 2014/15.

- 1.8. More detailed data for young offenders in 2015/16 has yet to be published so the following details refer to the 2014/15 cohort. The majority of young offenders in 2014/15 between ages 10 and 14 committed violence against the person, theft and criminal damage crimes. From ages 15 upwards, drug offences become more prevalent along with theft crimes and crimes of violence. Burglary dwelling and non-dwelling is more prevalent a crime in the 17 year old age group. 91.5% of young offenders are classed as White with approximately 8 out of 10 young offenders being male.<sup>6</sup>

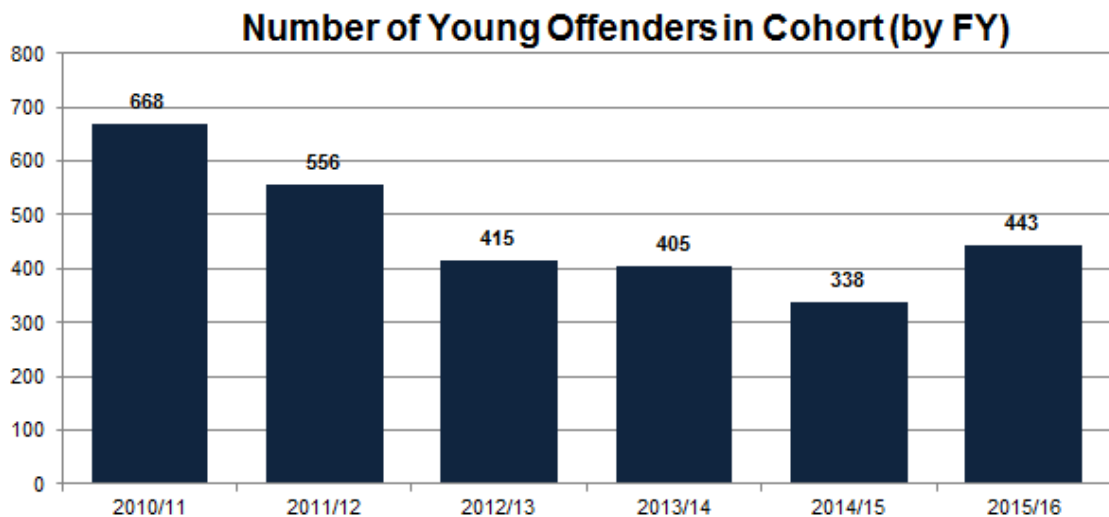


Figure 4: Number of Young Offenders in Gloucestershire<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-annual-statistics-2014-to-2015>, “Local Level Data”

<sup>7</sup> Source: Youth Support Team, Gloucestershire County Council