



Community Safety

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Crime has fallen in Hackney: by 39.5 % over five years, the second largest drop of all London boroughs. Satisfaction with the Police and the Fire Brigade are six per cent above the London average. However, despite these improvements Hackney has the fourth highest crime rate in Inner London, and fourth highest rate compared to similar local authorities. Hackney's residents see crime as the problem most in need of improvement, however, crime is also commonly identified by residents as a high priority problem for improvement across the country.¹

Total Crime

In order to compare the level of crime in Hackney with other areas, we look at the number of offences per 1,000 people over a given period of time². The crime rates in Hackney during the previous five years were higher than those of London and England as a whole. However, Hackney's crime rate has fallen steadily, mirroring regional and national trends.

Table 1: Crime rate per 1000 – Hackney, London, England/Wales

	Hackney	London	England/Wales
2008/09	141.72	111.9	86
2007/08	154.9	115	92
2006/07	150	123	102
2005/06	167.3	133	105
2004/05	175	138	107
2003/04	186	145	114

Source: Home Office, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/soti.html>

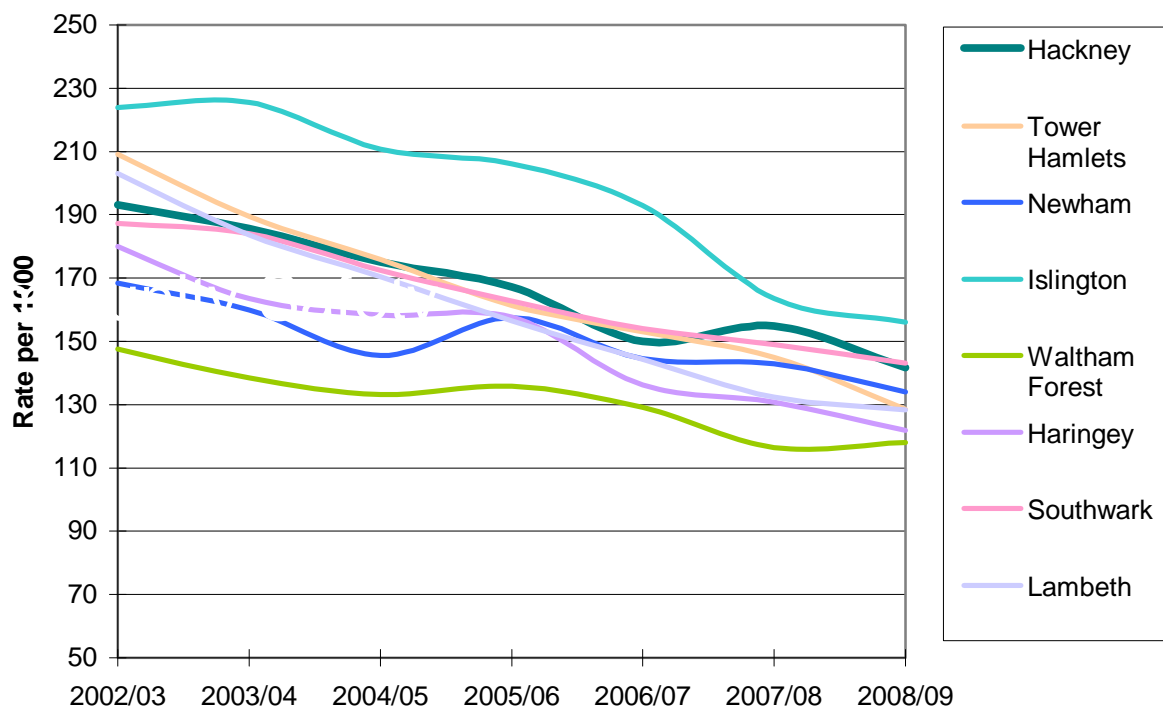
¹ The full Crime and Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment will be available shortly from www.hackney.gov.uk. It will be updated annually.

² The most recent data at regional and national level is for 2007/08, therefore this year is used as the most recent comparator.

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Figure 1 shows the changes in overall crime rate in Hackney and its geographical and statistical neighbours since 2002/03. The graph shows an overall decrease in Hackney's crime from a rate of 193.1 per 1000 in 2002/03 to 141.7 in 2008/09. The overall crime rate in other boroughs has also been falling, so Hackney continues to have a higher crime rate than its neighbours, with the exception of Islington

Figure 1: Overall crime in selected London boroughs 2002/03-2008/09



Source: Home Office Statistics, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/soti.html>

Crime Comparison

Crime is unevenly distributed throughout the capital, with Westminster having a far higher crime rate than all other Inner London boroughs (Table 2). Westminster is a significant outlier due to the high numbers of visitors and crimes related to that economy. Hackney has the fifth highest crime rate in Inner London, above its neighbour Tower Hamlets, and almost 15 per thousand population below Islington. The lowest rate is seen in Wandsworth – 88.93 per thousand.

Table 2: Total of Crimes 2008/09 in Selected London boroughs

Borough	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000	Inner London Rank
Camden	34,172	147.35	3
Greenwich	28,670	128.48	9
Hackney	29,712	141.72	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	22,923	132.86	6
Islington	29,374	156.38	2
Kensington and Chelsea	21,973	123	10
Lambeth	35,164	128.69	8
Lewisham	31,555	122.07	11
Southwark	39,260	143.08	4
Tower Hamlets	27,711	128.70	7
Wandsworth	25,091	89.02	12
Westminster	63,307	270.39	1
Newham	33,503	134.22	n/a
Waltham Forest	26,234	118.01	n/a

Source: Home Office Statistics

The Home Office uses comparisons with a group of local authority area that they have defined as our statistical peers. This group comprises 15 local authorities: Brent, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey, Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Birmingham, Brighton & Hove, Leicester, Liverpool and Wolverhampton. Within this group Hackney recorded the fourth highest crime rate in 2009/10 after Haringey, Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

Crime in Hackney

Table 3 shows the crime rate for various offences, compared to the London rate. 2005/06 data is given to show the local trend. There is a fall in the Hackney rate for all offences except drug offences which is notable as a type of crime highly dependent on police enforcement activities, and the rate for crimes such as criminal damage and fraud are now below the London average.

Table 3: Crime Rate per 1000, Hackney and London

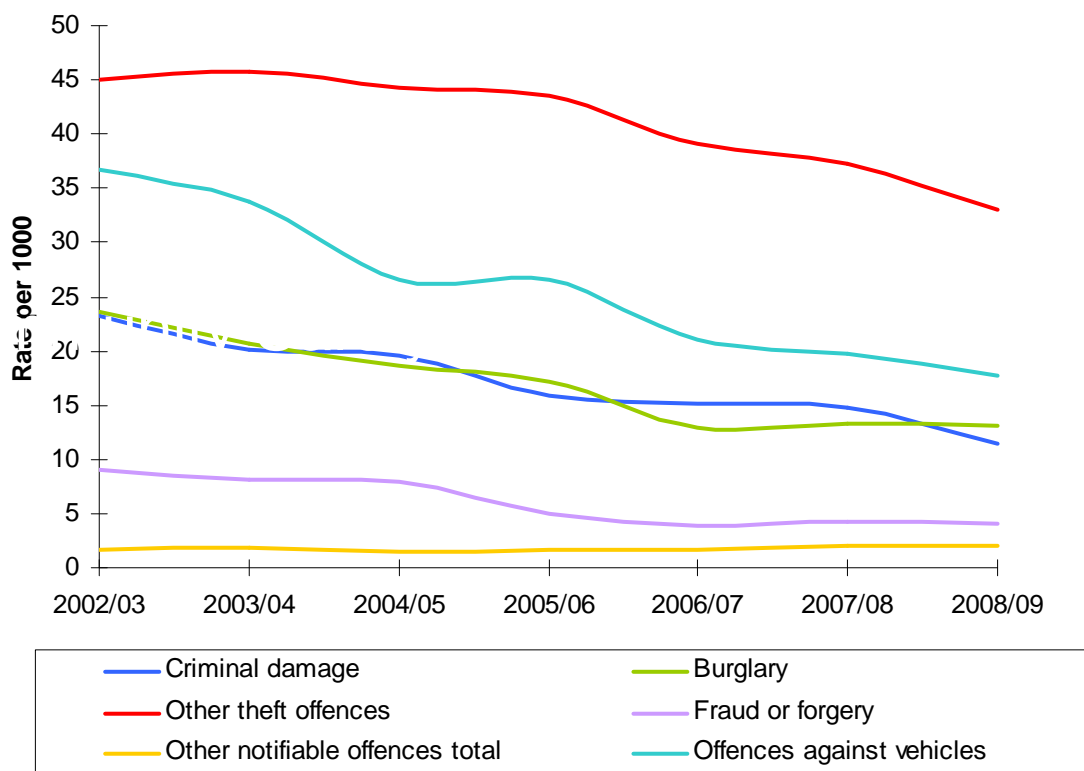
	Hackney (2005/6)	Hackney (2008/9)	London (2008/09)
Total offences	150.53	141.72	111.91
Burglary	17.13	13.13	12.39
Criminal damage	15.93	11.47	12.61
Drug offences	10.26	22.27	10.12
Fraud and forgery	4.9	4.02	5.14
Offences against vehicles	26.55	17.72	14.87
Other offences	1.70	2.01	1.56
Other theft offences	43.49	32.99	26.65
Robbery	8.96	5.26	4.31
Sexual offences	2.24	2.01	1.16
Violence against the person	36.08	30.84	23.10

Source: Metropolitan Police

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Figures 2 and 3 show trends in crime levels by type during the last six years in Hackney. While most types of crimes have decreased, including robbery, fraud, theft, vehicle crime and criminal damage, there has been a sharp increase in drugs offences and violence against the person is on the decrease. Theft, violence against the person and drug crime are the most common types of crime, but vehicle crime has decreased sharply since 2002/03.

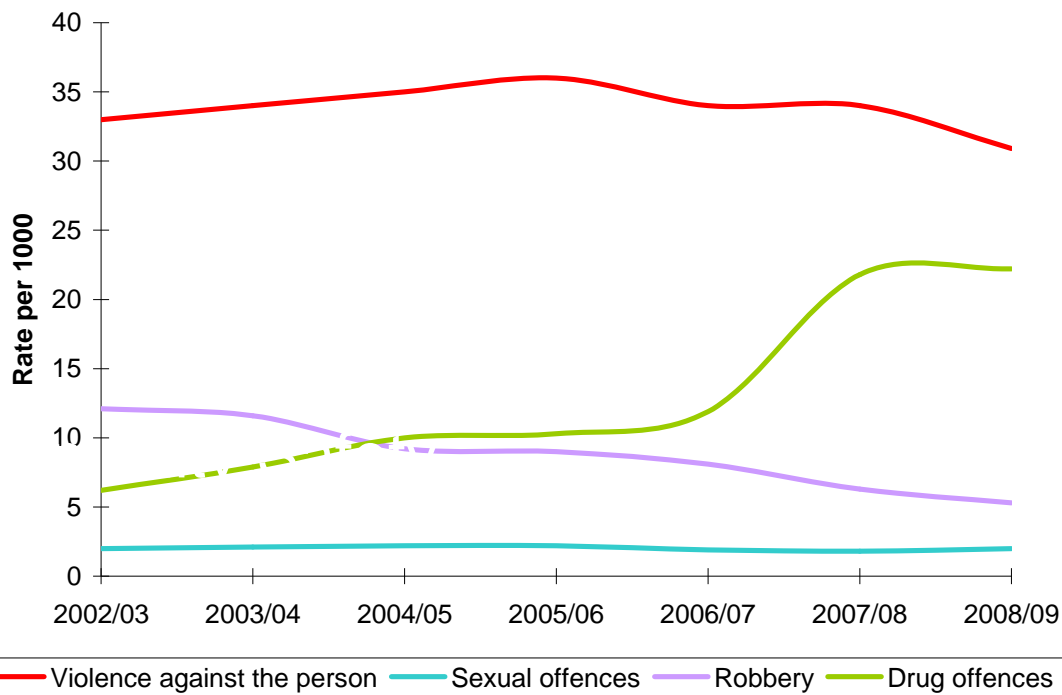
Figure 2: Property Crime in Hackney



Source: Home Office Statistics, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/soti.html>

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Figure 3: Crime and Individuals



Source: Home Office Statistics, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/soti.html>

Hackney had the second highest rates of drug offences in Inner London in 2008/09. In contrast, the neighbouring borough of Newham had 11 per 1,000 less drug offences than Hackney. However, this increase in offences recorded can be attributed to police pro-activity in tackling drug offences, namely cannabis warnings.

Table 4: Drug offences per 1000 residents, comparison between Hackney and Inner London, 2008/09

	Drug offences
Camden	19
Westminster	23
Hackney	22
Hammersmith & Fulham	12
Haringey	11
Islington	18
Kensington & Chelsea	16
Lambeth	15
Lewisham	11
Newham	11
Southwark	19
Tower Hamlets	14
Wandsworth	5
Waltham Forest	10

Source: Home Office Statistics, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/soti.html>

The number of drug offences varies significantly by ward in Hackney. Table 5 shows the number and rate of offences in all wards, with Haggerston having considerably more offences, and a much higher rate, than other wards. In fact, Haggerston has almost twice the number of drug offences than Dalston, which has the next highest number of offences, and more than nine times the number of offences than New River, Clissold and Springfield wards. This particularly high rate of drug offences in Haggerston is likely linked to the night time economy in Shoreditch.

Table 5: Drug offences per 1000 residents by ward, 2008/09

Ward	Number of Drug Offences 2008/09	Crime Rate for Drug Offences (per 1000 population)
Haggerston	901	78.06
Dalston	456	40.62
Hackney Central	307	28.87
Chatham	322	27.98
Queensbridge	299	26.86
Hackney Downs	237	21.78
Stoke Newington Central	240	21.66
Victoria	220	18.38
Hoxton	200	18.00
De Beauvoir	193	17.60
Brownswood	170	17.07
Leabridge	178	16.04
Wick	124	11.91
King's Park	119	11.19
Cazenove	127	10.72
Lordship	102	8.86
New River	98	8.66
Clissold	84	7.23
Springfield	74	6.24

Source: Metropolitan Police Monthly Statistics; ONS 2008 ward level mid-year estimates

The incidence of all crime varies considerably across the borough. Table 6 compares the crime rate within Hackney's wards for three types of offences. It shows that Dalston, Haggerston, Queensbridge and Chatham tend to have higher crime rates for these offences. Theft and handling in Haggerston is more than four times the borough average. Areas such as New River, Springfield and Kings Park have lower levels of offending.

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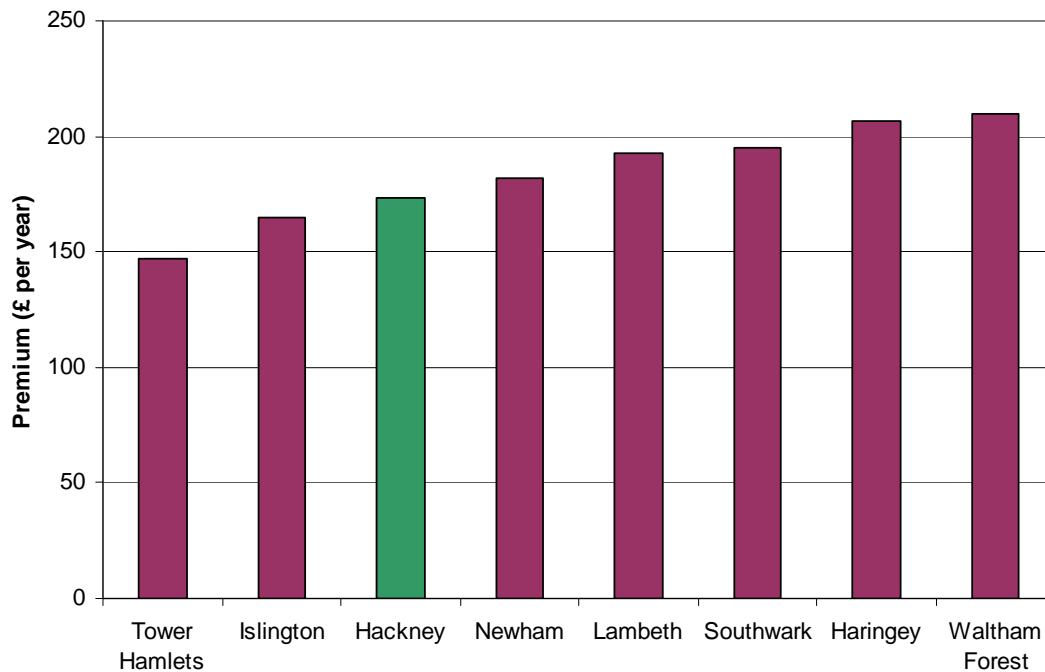
Table 6: Offences per 1000 population by Hackney Ward (12 months to June 2009)

	Burglary	Theft and handling	Violence against the Person
Brownswood	12.4	19	19
Cazenove	9.4	25.7	19
Chatham	15.2	63.1	48.2
Clissold	11.4	32.4	20.8
Dalston	17.2	87.8	50.4
De Beauvoir	13.5	53.5	31.4
Hackney Central	13.1	50.1	42.2
Hackney Downs	10.2	30.6	32.3
Haggerston	30.3	224.7	58.3
Hoxton	14.7	44.9	31
Kings Park	6.4	18.8	23
Leabridge	13.1	37.7	32.4
Lordship	7.3	27.6	14.2
New River	12.7	31.6	23.4
Queensbridge	24.9	76.8	33.2
Springfield	8.3	16.5	18.3
Stoke Newington	10.4	51.1	35.3
Central			
Victoria	14.5	49.2	28.9
Wick	14.1	33.7	25.4
Hackney Average	13.6	50.7	25.4

Source: Metropolitan Police (June 2009)

The relative crime risk in each area influences the home insurance premiums payable. The graph below shows the home insurance premiums payable in Hackney and selected London boroughs in May 2009. Hackney compares relatively favourably to other east and central London boroughs, with only Islington and Tower Hamlets residents being offered lower premiums.

Figure 4: Home Insurance Premiums



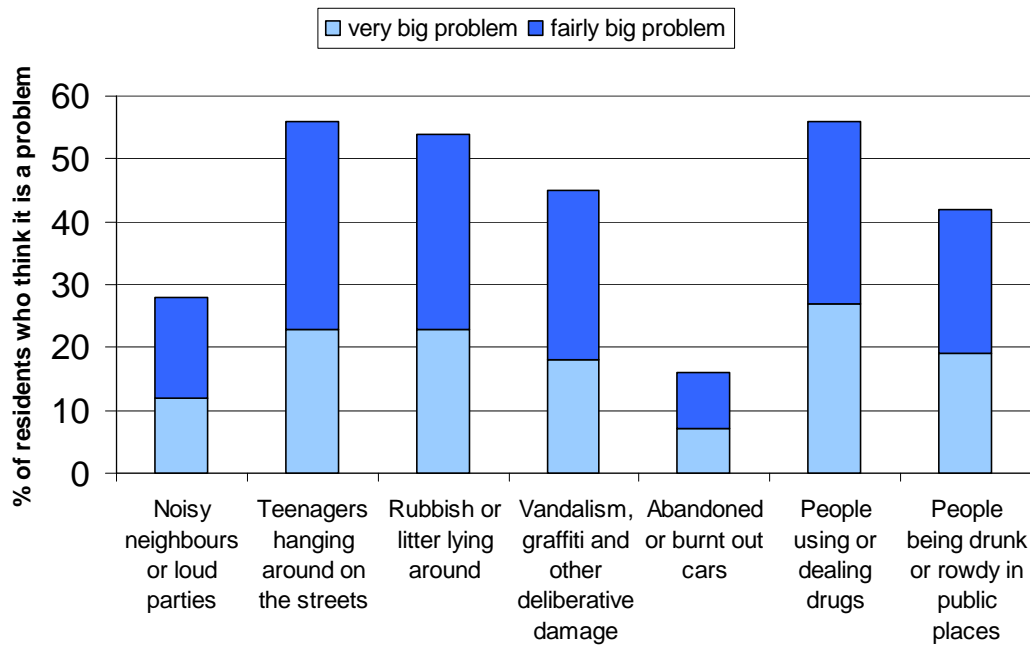
Source: <http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/code-breaker>, 2009

Anti Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is any behaviour that harms the quality of life of residents in an area, causing distress or alarm. A survey conducted by MORI (Figure 5) identifies what Hackney residents perceive to be the main acts of anti-social behaviour. It reveals that the local population is concerned about both crime and environmental issues. The most prominent worry was people using or dealing drugs, which 57% of people identified as being a fairly or very big problem closely followed by teenagers hanging around on the streets (56%). This was followed by rubbish and litter (54%) and acts of vandalism (45%).

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Figure 5: Residents Perceptions of ASB 2008

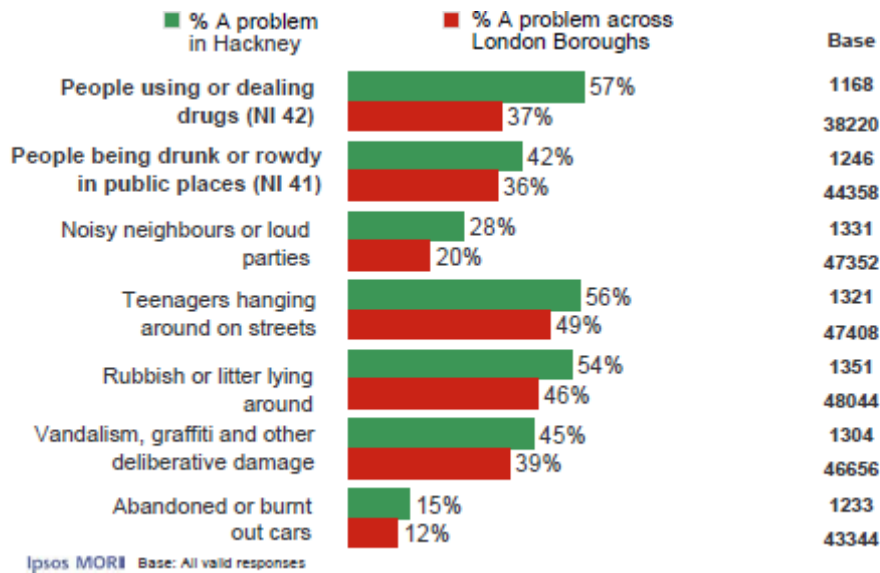


Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

These figures are higher than the average for London across every act of anti-social behaviour. However, concerns regarding drug dealing are significantly greater in Hackney than they are in the rest of London, with only 37% of people thinking it was a problem in London compared to 57% in Hackney (Figure 6)

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Figure 6: A comparison between ASB in Hackney and London

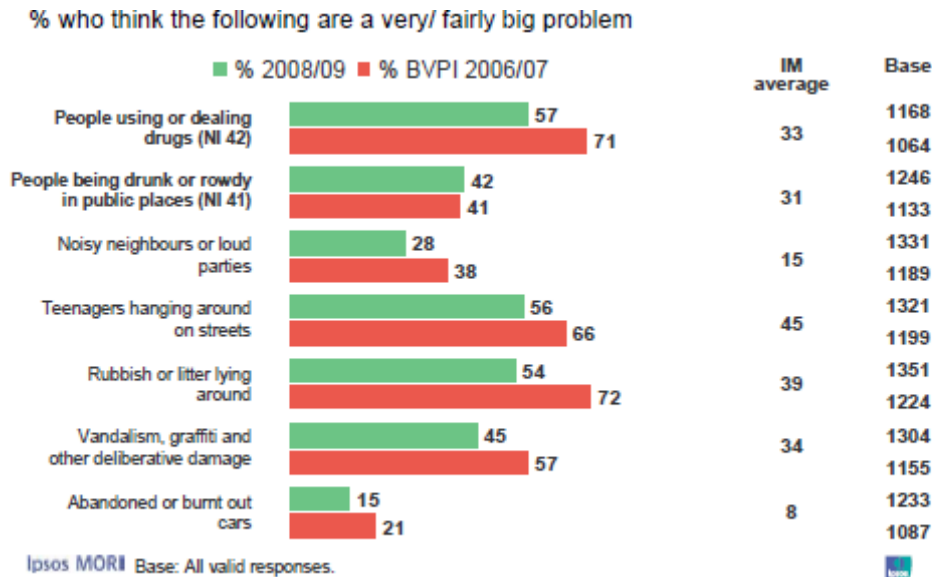


Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

However, despite higher perceptions of ASB as a problem in Hackney, recent data on this shows an overall improvement in comparison to previous years (Figure 7), with large falls in the perception of rubbish or litter lying around (18% decrease) and people using or dealing drugs (14% decrease). Only the perception of people being drunk or rowdy in public places increased, by 1%.

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Figure 7: Perceptions of ASB – Comparative data



Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is tackled via a range of interventions by the Safer and Cleaner Partnership in Hackney including Anti Social Behaviour Action Panels (ASBAP); the Youth Support Team; Challenge and Support (a prevention service within the Youth Offending Team); Dispersal Zones; Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs); Family Intervention project (FIP); services for victims and witnesses of ASB; Introduction of Policing Pledge; and Neighbourhood Warden Services in Hackney; Crackdown (a speedy resolution of ASB related to class A drug use or supply by obtaining closure orders on premises); and London Fire Brigade's (LFB) Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention Scheme.

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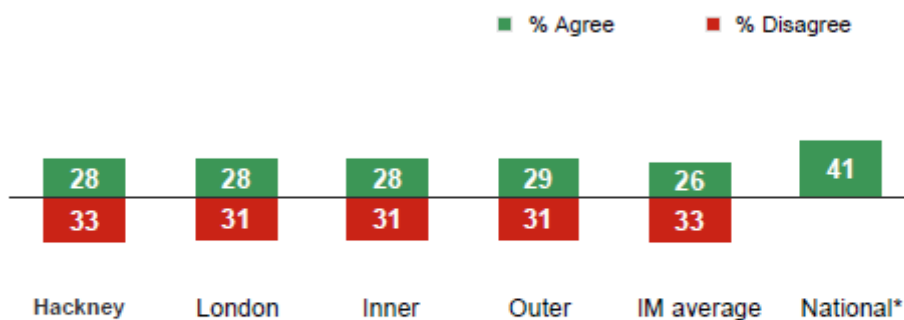
Local Views and Fear of Crime

Crime and the fear of crime can have a major impact on individuals, at times reducing the quality of life and people's sense of belonging to a community. British Crime Survey 2008 indicates that 77% of residents now have confidence in Hackney's Police, a rise of 55 % in less than two years.

Recent Place Survey results (see figures 8 & 9) reveal that while the proportion of Hackney residents agreeing that the public's views are sought in relation to crime and ASB is in line with the rest of London, the proportion that feel that these issues are being successfully dealt with is lower than average compared to London.

Figure 8: Understanding concerns about crime and ASB

Q How much would you agree or disagree that the police and other local public services seek people's views about these issues in your local area?



Ipsos MORI

Base: All valid responses (1330). * National figures based on British Crime Survey, a continuous survey of adults in England and Wales. Findings based on 46,983 face-to-face interviews conducted between April 2007 and March 2008. Please note: this question was introduced mid-way through the 2007/08 wave.

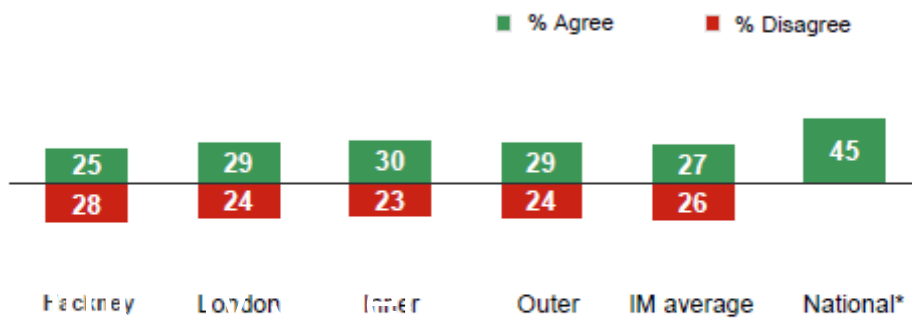


Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

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Figure 9: Understanding concerns about crime and ASB

Q And how much do you agree or disagree that the police and other public services are successfully dealing with these issues in your local area?



Base: All valid responses (1274). * National figures based on British Crime Survey, a continuous survey of adults in England and Wales. Findings based on 46,983 face-to-face interviews conducted between April 2007 and March 2008. Please note: this question was introduced mid-way through the 2007/08 wave.

Ipsos MORI

Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

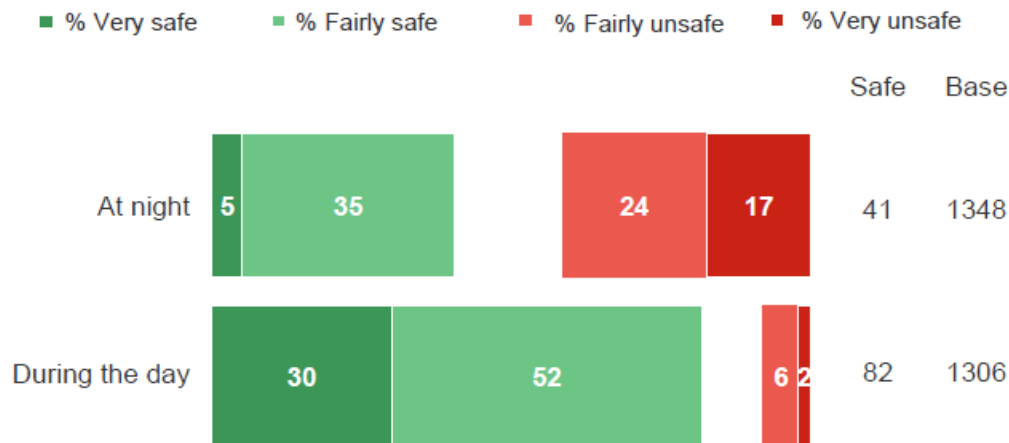
Fear of crime can affect people's health and well being, causing stress and restricting people's actions. Levels of anxiety about crime vary amongst any population: age, sex, health and income can all affect how much fear an individual is likely to experience. Women, people on low incomes, the elderly, and the sick or disabled are more likely to be affected. In addition, victims of crime are likely to have a greater fear of crime³.

In Hackney, after dark, women (48%) and younger residents (46% of under 35s) feel more concerned, while older residents are more concerned during the day (12% of over 55s). Overall, residents feel considerably less safe in their local area when it is dark (Figure 10), with 41% saying they feel unsafe, and more than one in six saying they feel very unsafe (17%).

³ Focus on Social Inequalities, ONS, 2004

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Figure 10: How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area...?



INSON MORI Base: All valid responses

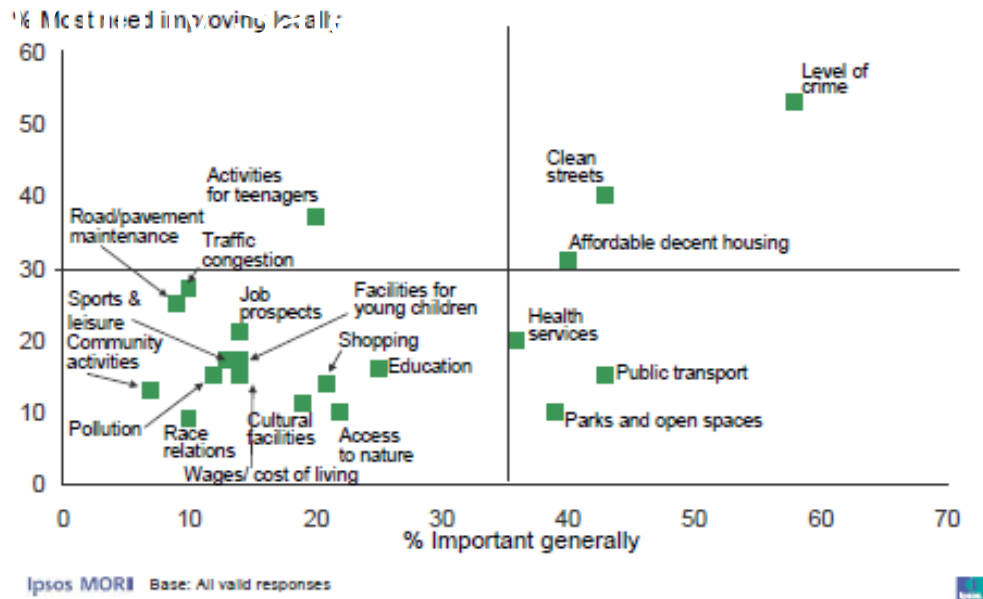


Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

The London Borough of Hackney regularly conducts a quality of life survey with its residents, in 2008/09 this was as part of the Place Survey. The results are shown in Figure 11. They illustrate which issues the population feels are most important to quality of life and which are in most need of improvement. The scatter graph indicates that while crime and clean streets stand out as the top two concerns, health services, housing, public transport, parks and activities for teenagers are also high priorities for improvement. Most other topics are grouped closer together, with similar levels of importance and need for improvement.

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Figure 11: Quality of Life Ideal Vs Needs



Source: Place Survey, MORI (2009)

