

A total of 39,035 offences were committed in Hackney during 2003-04 resulting in the borough having the fifth highest crime rate of Inner London. Overall crime in the borough as a percentage of the Metropolitan Police Service total has decreased from 3.65 per cent in 2004 to 3.53 per cent in 2005.

On average, Hackney's residents have a greater fear of crime than other people in London and England and they see crime as the problem most in need of improvement.

4.1 Total Crime

The total volume of crime in Hackney during 2003-2004 amounted to 39,035 crimes being committed in the area¹. In order to compare this figure to other areas, crime rate is used as a measure of the number of offences per 1,000 people over a given period of time. The crime rates in Hackney during 2003-2004 were higher than those of London and England overall. Hackney's yearly average of crime rates calculated from table 4.1 exceeds that of London by 10.2 per thousand and England by 18.5 per thousand (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: All crime for Hackney April 2003 - March 2004

Period	Total number of offences	Offences per 1,000 Hackney population	Offences per 1,000 London population	Offences per 1,000 England & Wales population
Apr-Jun 2003	9,463	45.3	36.5	29
Jul-Sep 2003	10,082	48.3	36.2	28.3
Oct-Dec 2003	9,860	47.2	35.5	27.6
Jan-Mar 2004	9,614	46	36	27.8

Source: Metropolitan Police

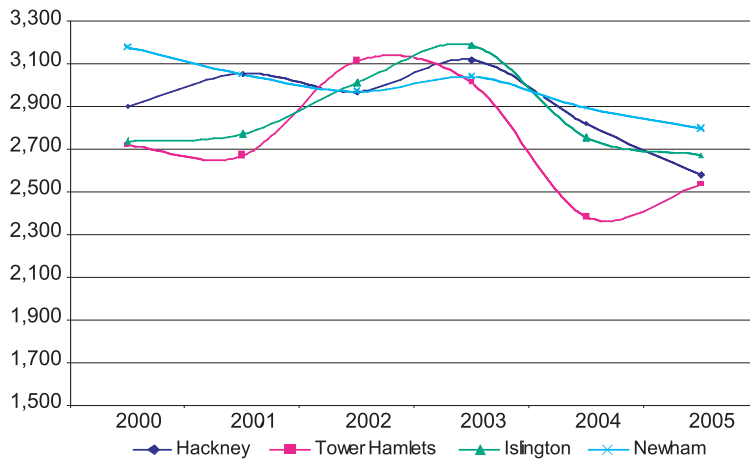
Figure 4.1 shows the changes in overall crime rate since 2000 in Hackney and its neighbouring boroughs. It is important to note that the large bulge in crime levels in 2002-03 is largely due to a change in police recording methods. The graph does however, show an overall decrease in Hackney's crime from 2000-05. This means the borough now has crime levels below Newham and Islington.

¹This revised total published by the Metropolitan Police for the financial year is slightly above the monthly totals.

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Figure 4.1: Overall crime in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Islington and Newham 2000-05



Source: Metropolitan Police

4.2 Crime comparison

Crime is unevenly distributed throughout the capital with Westminster having a far higher crime rate than all other Inner London boroughs (Table 4.2). Hackney has the fifth highest crime rate in Inner London, a rate similar to its neighbour Tower Hamlets, and 2.38 per thousand population below Islington. This is still considerably more than Wandsworth whose rate is lowest at 8.18 per one thousand.

Table 4.2: Grand total of crimes by Inner London borough²

Borough	Grand total	Rate per 1,000 ³	Rank
Camden	3,287	15.14	2
Hackney	2,585	12.49	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,009	11.36	9
Haringey	2,725	12.15	6
Islington	2,676	14.87	3
Kensington and Chelsea	1,959	10.64	11
Lambeth	3,173	11.84	8
Lewisham	2,506	10.15	12
Newham	2,801	11.31	10
Southwark	3,280	12.88	4
Tower Hamlets	2,540	12.14	7
Wandsworth	2,263	8.18	13
Westminster	5,845	25.41	1

Source: Metropolitan Police

²City of London figures have been omitted

³Rate per 1,000 calculated using 2004 population Mid-year Estimates

The percentage of crimes committed in Hackney as a proportion of the Metropolitan Police Service total fell for nearly all offences during 2004-2005 reflecting an overall drop from 3.65 per cent to 3.53 per cent. Homicide and robbery saw the largest decreases, falling by 4 per cent and 1.15 per cent respectively. There were however three types of offence – rape, gun and homophobic crime – which saw an increase during the last two years.

Table 4.3: All Hackney crimes as a percentage of MPS⁴ total

Type of offence	12 months to Dec 2004 (% of MPS Total)	12 months to Dec 2005 (% of MPS Total)	% Change 2004 - 2005
Homicide	5.67%	1.67%	-4.00%
Violence against the person (total)	3.69%	3.73%	0.04%
Rape	4.57%	5.71%	1.14%
Other sexual	3.99%	3.60%	-0.39%
Robbery (total)	5.34%	4.19%	-1.15%
Robbery (person)	5.42%	4.28%	-1.14%
Robbery (business)	4.09%	2.75%	-1.34%
Burglary (total)	3.95%	3.63%	-0.32%
Burglary residential	4.55%	4.15%	-0.39%
Burglary non-residential	2.92%	2.78%	-0.14%
Gun enabled crime	5.53%	6.25%	0.72%
Motor vehicle crime	4.19%	4.01%	-0.18%
Domestic crime	4.16%	3.50%	-0.67%
Racist crime	3.13%	2.98%	-0.15%
Homophobic crime	4.65%	5.52%	0.87%
Total crimes	3.65%	3.53%	-0.12%

Source: Metropolitan Police

4.3 Crime within Hackney

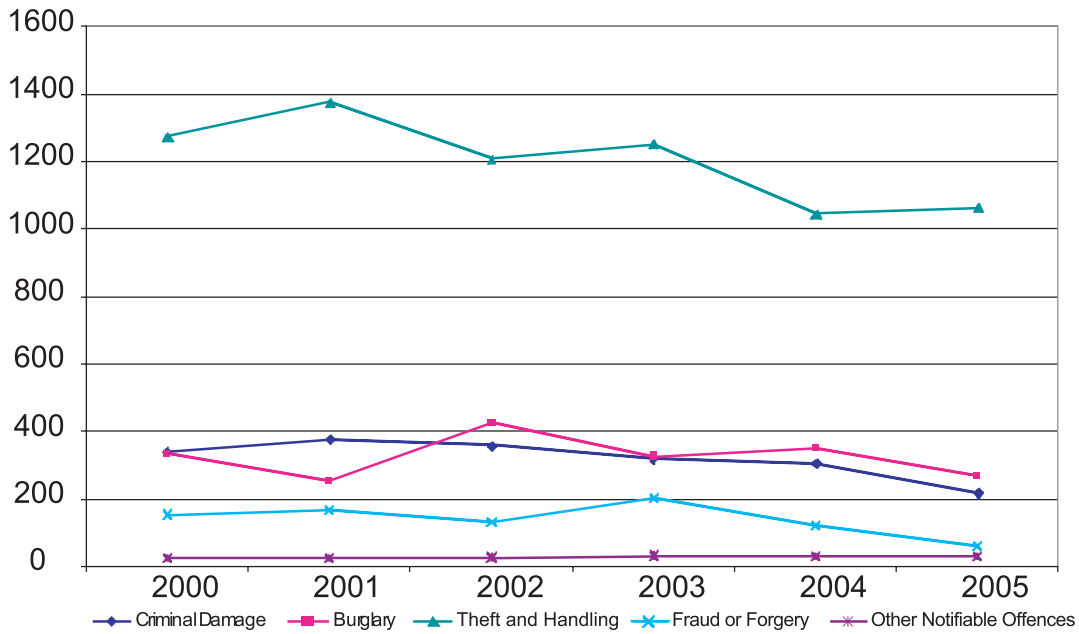
Figures 4.2 and 4.3 show trends in crime levels by type during the last five years in Hackney. While robbery, criminal damage, fraud, theft and handling have declined, there has been an increase in offences against people, in particular crimes of violence against the person, sexual offences and drugs. Theft and handling and violence against the person have remained the two most common crimes over this time.

⁴Metropolitan Police Service

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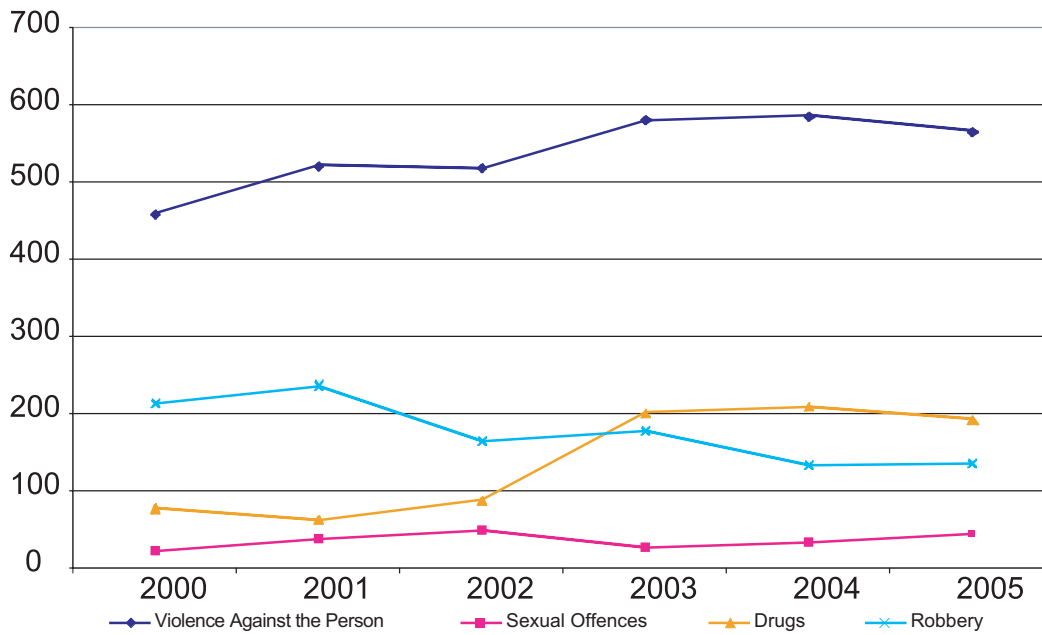
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Figure 4.2: Property crime (total)



Source: Metropolitan Police

Figure 4.3: Crime and individuals (total)



Source: Metropolitan Police

Hackney has the highest rates of burglary in Inner London and, although this figure is closely followed by Islington, the burglary rate is far higher than in most other local authorities. In contrast another of Hackney's neighbours, Newham, has the lowest burglary rate, almost 10 per thousand less than in Hackney.

Table 4.4: Domestic burglaries per 1,000 residents, year ended 31 March 2003

Borough	Burglary rate
Camden	16.2
Hackney	17.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	12.6
Haringey	15.1
Islington	17.0
Kensington and Chelsea	10.0
Lambeth	16.2
Lewisham	10.8
Newham	7.9
Southwark	12.5
Tower Hamlets	10.2
Wandsworth	11.5
Westminster	11.1

Source: London Health Observatory. Calculated using Metropolitan Police Statistics, 2002/03; ONS mid-year estimates 2002

Due to the varying characteristics of areas the incidence of crime is unevenly distributed throughout the borough. Table 4.5 compares the crime rate within Hackney's wards for three types of offences. It shows that Dalston, Haggerston and Chatham have significantly higher crime rates for these offences. Theft and handling in Haggerston is more than three times that of the borough average, while drug offences are primarily concentrated in the wards of Queensbridge, Haggerston and Dalston. Conversely areas such as New River, Springfield and Kings Park experience far fewer offences.

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Table 4.5: Offences per 1,000 population by Hackney Ward

Ward	Theft and handling	Drugs offences	Violence against the person
Brownswood	33.7	5.9	27.6
Cazenove	43.4	3.9	26.5
Chatham	93.2	13.6	57.7
Clissold	58.5	4.1	25.1
Dalston	126.2	18.3	65.9
De Beauvoir	61	8.3	29.5
Hackney Central	71.5	12.3	45.3
Hackney Downs	45.4	9.7	32.6
Haggerston	215.8	20.9	58.8
Hoxton	50.1	6.6	31
Kings Park	25	5.4	23.7
Leabridge	41.5	6.3	39.3
Lordship	38.1	4.5	20.2
New River	46.7	5	27.2
Queensbridge	72.7	25.9	44.9
Springfield	29.6	3.7	20.4
Stoke Newington Central	54.5	13.1	46
Victoria	56.1	6.2	32.2
Wick	44.3	7.3	30.8
Hackney Average	63	9.4	35.8

Source: Metropolitan Police (December 2005)

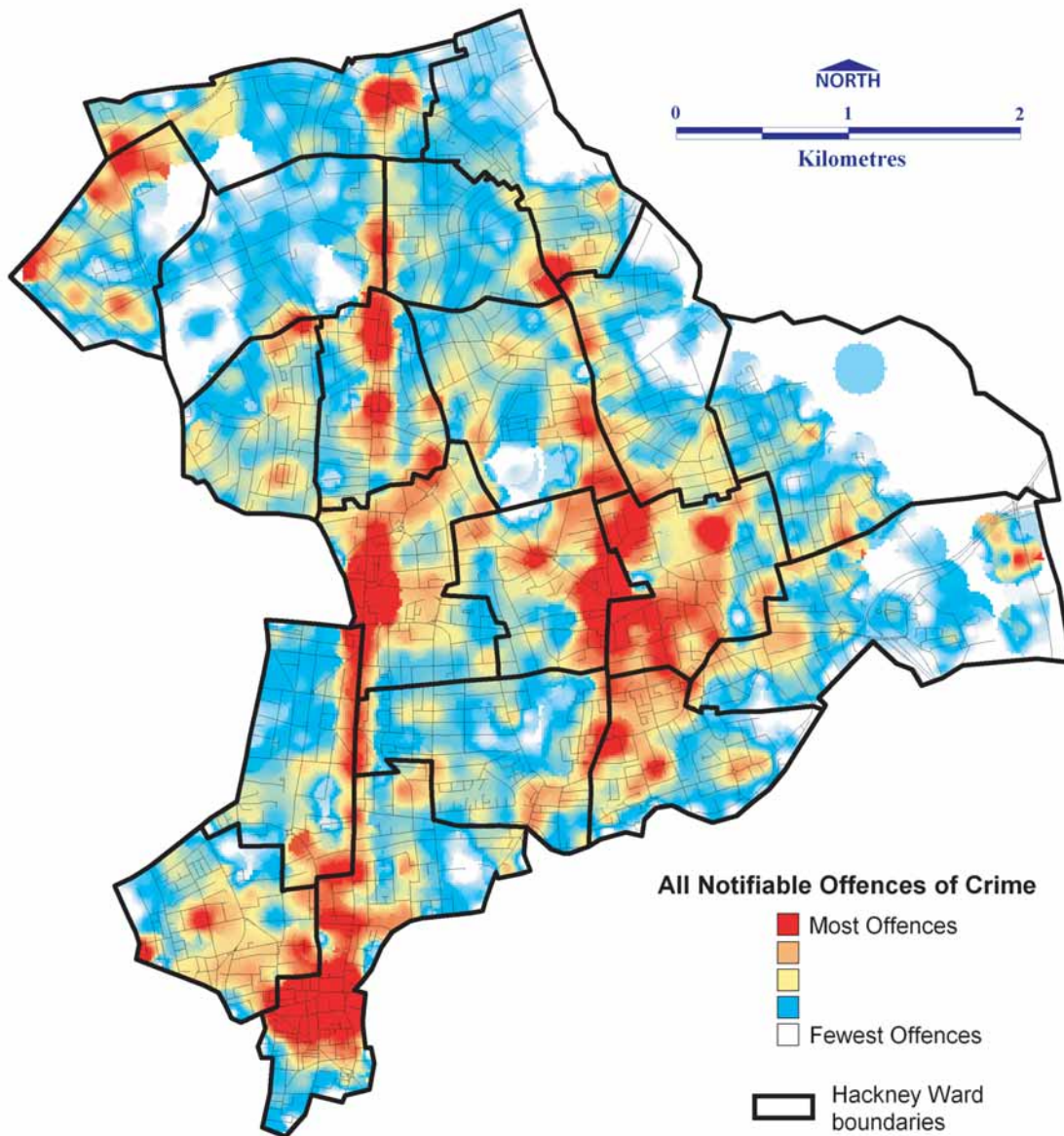
4.4 Crime hotspots

Figure 4.4 shows areas with high levels of crime throughout the borough, revealing that most crime is concentrated in town centre areas. The main crime hotspots within Hackney are located around Shoreditch High Street, Kingsland Road, Mare Street and Amhurst Road. These are all locations that have shops, bars and clubs and are close to railway stations. The map also highlights areas with low levels of crime, of which Hackney Marshes, Wick and Clissold are the most prominent.

Figure 4.4: Crime hotspots within Hackney

All Crime: April 2003 to March 2004

(Source: Metropolitan Police - Borough Information Unit).



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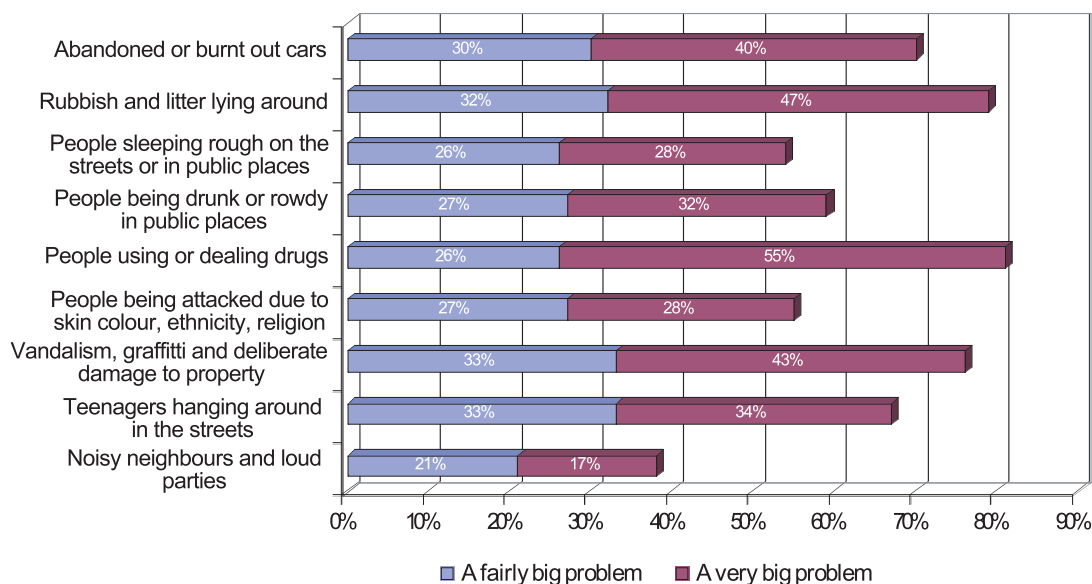
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4.5 Anti-Social Behaviour

The definition of anti-social behaviour adopted by the Hackney Anti-Social Behaviour Forum is: "Behaviour, whether or not it is itself criminal, which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to other people; including behaviour which puts people in fear of crime."

A survey conducted by MORI (Figure 4.5) identifies what Hackney residents perceive to be the main problems of anti-social behaviour. It reveals that the local population is concerned about both crime and environmental issues. The most prominent concern was drug dealing, which 55 per cent of people identified as being a very big problem. This was followed by rubbish (47 per cent) and acts of vandalism (43 per cent).

Figure 4.5: Residents perceptions of anti-social behaviour 2003



Source: Hackney Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Baseline Research, MORI (2003)

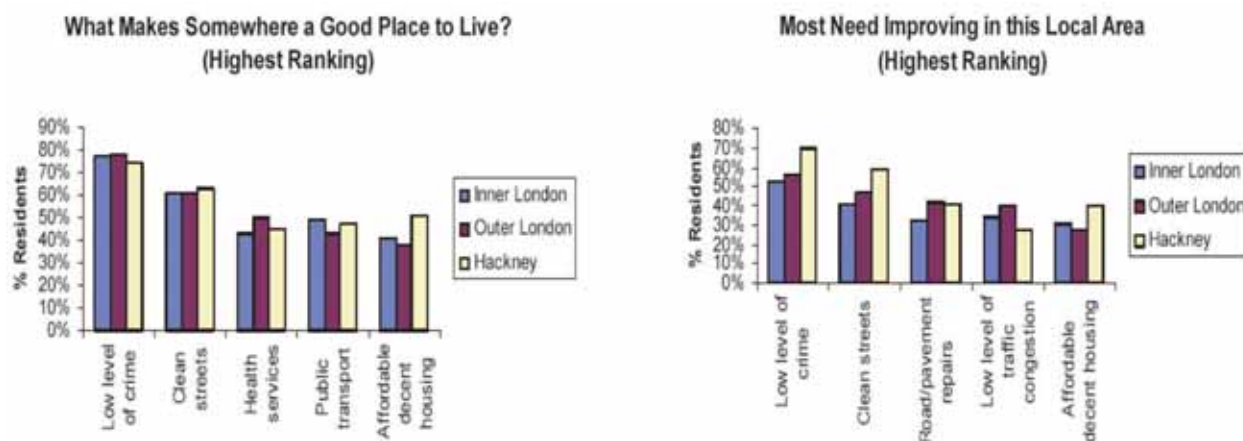
4.6 Local views and fear of crime

Crime and fear of crime can have a major impact on individuals, at times reducing quality of life and people's sense of belonging to a community. Local resident surveys (see figure 4.6) reveal that crime is the key factor determining perceptions about what makes a place good to live and is the first issue that residents feel needs to be tackled in order to improve their area.

Although minimising crime is seen as important by both Inner and Outer London residents, a larger proportion of Hackney's population stated that this is their priority area, both for

making somewhere a good place to live and for what is in need of improvement. Clean streets ranked as the second most important issue.

Figure 4.6: Local Viewpoint



Source: Figures for Hackney have been extracted from Analysis of BVPI General Survey Data 2003, London Borough of Hackney. Figures for London are extracted from Londoners Views – Findings from the 2003/4 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) Surveys: July 2004, Association of London Government and London Consultation Network Member.

Fear of crime can affect people’s health and wellbeing, causing stress and restricting people’s actions. Levels of anxiety about crime vary amongst any population. Age, sex, health and income all affect how much fear an individual is likely to experience. Overall women, people on low incomes, the elderly, sick or disabled are likely to be more affected by fear. In addition victims of crime are likely to have a greater fear of crime⁵.

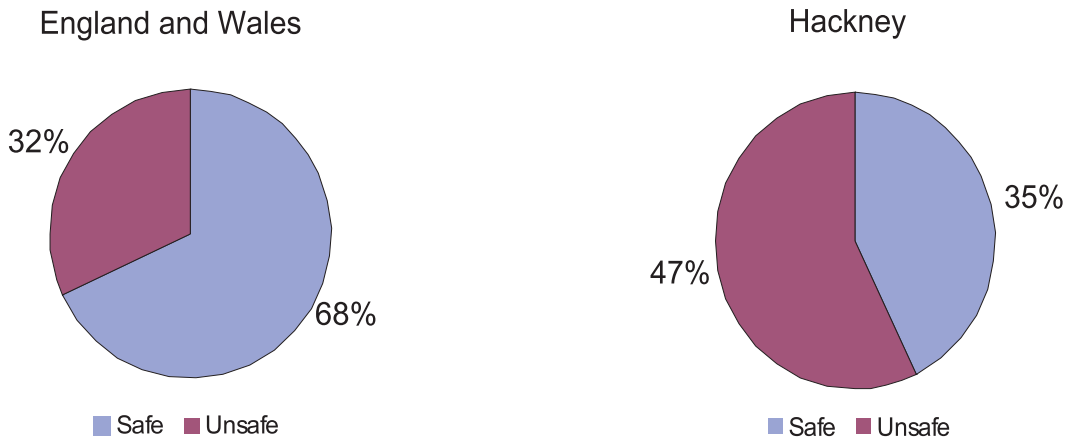
Levels of fear are particularly high within Hackney and much greater than the average for England and Wales (Figure 4.7). Nearly half of the borough’s residents (47 per cent) stated that they felt unsafe walking in their area after dark, compared to only 32 per cent nationally.

⁵Focus on Social Inequalities, ONS 2004

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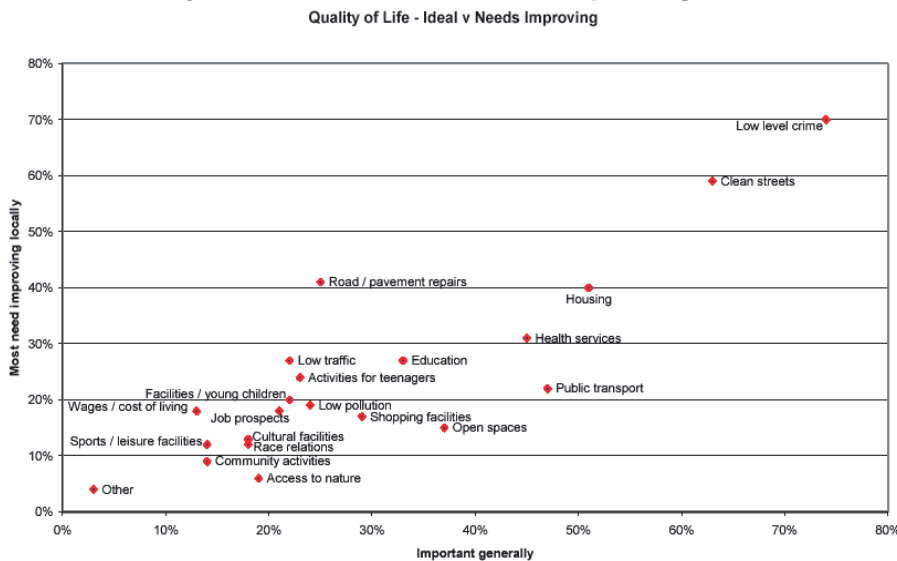
Figure 4.7: How safe do you feel when you are walking out on your own in or around this area after dark?*



Source: *Baseline Residents Survey, MORI (2003)*

The London Borough of Hackney regularly conducts a quality of life survey with its residents. Some of the results are shown in Figure 4.8. 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 and road repairs are also high priority areas for improvement. Most other issues are grouped closer together with more similar levels of importance and need for improvement.

Figure 4.8: Quality of life ideal versus needs improving



Source: *Baseline Residents Survey, MORI (2003)*

*Due to slightly different response options in the two surveys being compared here, the total for Hackney does not equal 100%