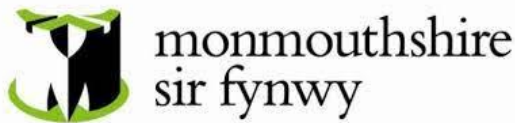


Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment for Gwent 2024



Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service



Newport Youth Offending Service



Supported by...



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Introduction

All forms of violence are unacceptable. Violence significantly harms both individuals and communities alike, and those impacts cannot be underestimated.

As a partnership of specified authorities under the Serious Violence Duty, we are committed to ensuring acts of violence are eradicated from our homes and streets. We want people across all communities of Gwent to live safe, happy, healthy lives, free from violence.

This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is the first step in improving our collective response to violence across Gwent and the local areas that make up the former county. The SNA provides a baseline assessment of the crime trends and problems themselves, but also the underlying factors that increase the risk of these crimes happening in the first place.

The issues and needs that are identified through this SNA will be taken forward through a strategy that will aim to tackle these head on through a range of interventions, by taking a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction.

However, we have all witnessed the unexpected shocks and pressures placed on society in the past 4 years, which have impacted on all crime and people's lives in general. Therefore, although this SNA is being published in early 2024, it is intended to be a 'live' document, reviewed frequently to ensure that the information remains relevant and is directing the activity and interventions accordingly.

Through this SNA and the resultant Strategy, our aim is to address the root causes of violence and abuse, and to stop the cycles we see of repeat offenders and victims. We want our communities to feel safe and be safe from violence.

Background: The Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty went live across England and Wales on 31st January 2023. More detailed information about the Duty can be found [here](#).

The Duty places a mandatory requirement on certain 'Specified Authorities' (chief officers of police, fire and rescue authorities, health boards, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services) to work together and plan to reduce and prevent serious violence. This includes identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

The Duty also requires specified authorities to consult other 'Relevant Authorities' (prison authorities, youth custody authorities and educational authorities) in the preparation of their strategy. The relevant authorities and other key partners such as wider criminal justice partners or those in the 3rd sector are identified as being key to co-operating with specified authorities with the Duty, albeit not legally bound by it.

Local policing bodies, being Police and Crime Commissioners or equivalent, have taken on the role of 'Lead Convener' for the local partnership arrangements, to support the development and implementation of the local SNA and strategy.

In Gwent, the following partners are the *specified authorities* for the purposes of the Duty:

- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Caerphilly & Blaenau-Gwent Youth Offending Service
- Gwent Police
- Gwent Probation Service (Delivery Unit)
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Monmouthshire & Torfaen Youth Offending Service
- Newport City Council
- Newport Youth Offending Service
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Torfaen County Borough Council

All Specified Authorities across Gwent are committed to complying with the requirements laid out in the guidance. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Collaborating with relevant partners by attending meetings and sharing relevant data, agency strategies, plans and other information.
- Contributing to the development of the need's assessment/s and strategy
- Committing to implement the results of the strategy - e.g., commissioning services, delivering prevention/early intervention activities.

In Gwent, the Police and Crime Commissioner has taken on the lead convener role and has supported the specified authorities in developing this SNA and the resultant strategy.

Local 'Definition' of Serious Violence

The World Health Organization's Violence Prevention Alliance, through its *World report on violence and health*, defined violence as:

"The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."

This is a useful starting point to understand some of the key criminal acts and behaviours that we are seeking to have an impact upon.

As part of the requirements of the serious violence duty, local areas are responsible for developing a 'definition' of violence based on local issues and key information available that describes the picture locally. This is in addition to those key national issues that the Home Office want to see reductions in.

Using the information above, in the development of this SNA, specified authority partners agreed to adopt a broad definition of violence, or areas of focus, to try to understand better and have an impact upon. This is as follows:

- Homicide
- Knife and gun crime
- Public space youth violence
- Youth violence in schools,
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH)
- Robbery
- Sexual violence and domestic abuse including stalking and harassment.
- Arson with threats to life
- Assaults against professionals.

It is with this definition that the SNA has focused the research and data analysis, starting with a profile of each of these violence types.

However, it has been acknowledged by all partners that this definition may change and adapt over time.

Problem profile across Gwent

All crime data have been extracted from Gwent Police systems on the 7th of June 2023 and uses the offence committed date. The data have been specifically extracted in this way to be able to capture as much detail relating to the offence as possible. Victim and Offender data have also been extracted using the same method on the 8th and 9th June 2023.

The date range used for the purpose of this profile is by financial year from April 2018 to March 2023.

Population data used in this profile has been taken from StatsWales and uses to mid-year estimates that are as close as possible to the relating year. E.g., 2021-22 uses mid-year 2020, 2022-23 uses Mid-year 2021 etc. for each local authority and for Gwent as a whole.

The age of victims and offenders is the age they were when the offence took place and will be broken down by 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65 and Over 65.

Every effort has been taken to cleanse the data and remove duplication of records where appropriate to provide data that are as accurate as possible.

Other data provided by partner agencies includes;

In 2021, the Gwent Public Services Board concluded a comprehensive Well-being Assessment mandated by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The well-being profile utilised population data spanning from 2011-2021. Local Authorities have also carried out local wellbeing assessments. Data from these assessments comes from the Census, Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (Welsh Government), and similar sources.

All data presented in the Key Issues and Findings section is stored and available on each of the 5 local authorities' websites, as a publicly accessible document. This validates the choice of using this data as it has undergone council review, received approval, and involved public consultation.

Other data sources are stated throughout (e.g. hospital attendances).

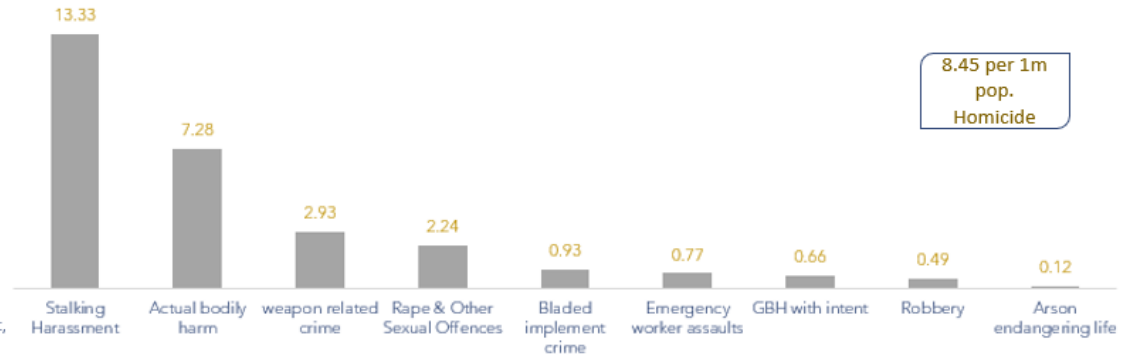
Serious Violence in Gwent

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Homicide and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Gwent



Stalking & Harassment

2018/19	11.89
2019/20	13.04
2020/21	12.88
2021/22	13.21
2022/23	15.63

Gwent's Stalking & harassment crime rate and volume has increased by 32% in the last 5-year period.

All local authority area recorded and increase in stalking & harassment. The highest rate increase was in Blaenau Gwent which increased by 57% in the last 5 years, followed by Monmouthshire with 48% and Caerphilly which increased by 35%

Homicide

2018/19	3.40
2019/20	10.15
2020/21	6.73
2021/22	6.69
2022/23	15.30

The homicide crime rate (per 1m pop.) in Gwent has increased by 350% and volume has increased by 7. 2022/23 saw an unusually high crime rate, and so far in 2023/24 its already shows numbers more in line with previous years.

The highest increase was in Torfaen and Newport which recorded a rise of 3 homicides each compared to none in 2018-19, followed by Monmouthshire with an increase of 2 homicides. Caerphilly has had a decrease and Blaenau Gwent hasn't recorded any homicides over the last 5 years.

Actual bodily harm

2018/19	7.78
2019/20	7.69
2020/21	5.73
2021/22	7.41
2022/23	7.76

ABH crime rate and volume in Gwent has shown a fairly stable trend over the last 5 years and has decreased of less than 1%.

Gwent as a whole hasn't a lot of fluctuation in the last 5-year period, this is likely due to the decreasing trend in Newport, counteracted by the increasing trend in the other 4 local authority areas. Monmouthshire in particular has seen an increasing trend with a rise of an 11% crime rate since 2018/19.

Weapon related crime

2018/19	2.47
2019/20	3.98
2020/21	2.40
2021/22	2.58
2022/23	3.21

Gwent Weapon related crime rate and volume has an increase of 30% over the last 5-year period, although the crime rate dropped dramatically in 2020/21, it now started to show a steady increase to crime rates seen in 2019/20.

Although the crime rate has increased in every local authority area, Monmouthshire had the biggest crime rate increase of 56%, followed by Blaenau Gwent 44% and Caerphilly by 34% in the last 5-year period.

Rape & Sexual offences

2018/19	1.94
2019/20	2.13
2020/21	1.69
2021/22	2.53
2022/23	2.89

Gwent Rape & Sexual offence crime rate and volume has shown a steady increase over the last 5 years of 49%.

Every local authority area has seen an increase; however, Blaenau Gwent has had the biggest rate increase of 95%, followed by Caerphilly 61% and Monmouthshire by 49%.

The rape crime rate in Blaenau Gwent has doubled and shows a year-on-year increase over the last 5-year period.

OFFENDERS
Male ~ White ~ 26-35

VICTIMS
Male ~ White ~ 26-35

Between 15:00 – 00:00



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is be made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Hospital Attendance

Hospital attendance for violence and assaults by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 for 2021/22 and a trend comparison to 2020/21 figures. These Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data were prepared by Digital Health and Care Wales.

	All Violence & Assaults (ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09)						
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
Blaenau Gwent	47.39	20.11 ê	57.38 é	60.12 é	22.85 ê	32.85 é	
Caerphilly	37.13	26.55 ê	39.22 é	32.03 ê	20.91 ê	22.01 é	
Monmouthshire	15.08	9.62 ê	22.31 é	14.80 ê	15.76 é	11.56 ê	
Newport	61.01	43.57 ê	60.66 é	52.37 ê	37.07 ê	28.76 ê	
Torfaen	29.33	42.27 é	45.14 é	32.99 ê	16.87 ê	28.47 é	
Wales	36.91	32.57 ê	34.47 é	31.40 ê	20.70 ê	21.96 é	

	Young People (Under 25) - All Violence & Assaults (ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09)						
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
Blaenau Gwent	45.97	20.72 ê	26.12 é	73.81 é	31.58 ê	31.58 è	
Caerphilly	35.83	43.74 é	40.23 ê	38.73 ê	19.32 ê	28.98 é	
Monmouthshire	16.68	8.39 ê	29.55 é	17.12 ê	30.03 é	21.45 ê	
Newport	70.84	27.73 ê	68.14 é	65.74 ê	31.25 ê	33.33 é	
Torfaen	44.94	41.42 ê	56.27 é	37.55 ê	33.63 ê	33.63 è	
Wales	45.92	37.27 ê	39.37 é	37.68 ê	23.23 ê	27.41 é	

Summary of Wales Hospital Admissions for violence (All Violence & Assaults - ICD10 codes - X91-X99; Y00-Y09) by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 and covering 2016/17 to 2021/22

Further breakdown of hospital attendance information:

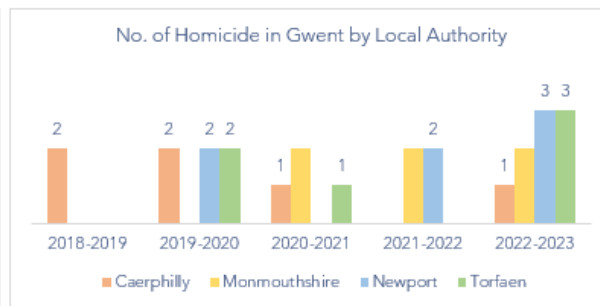
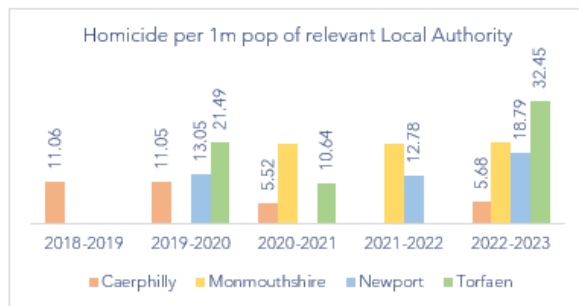
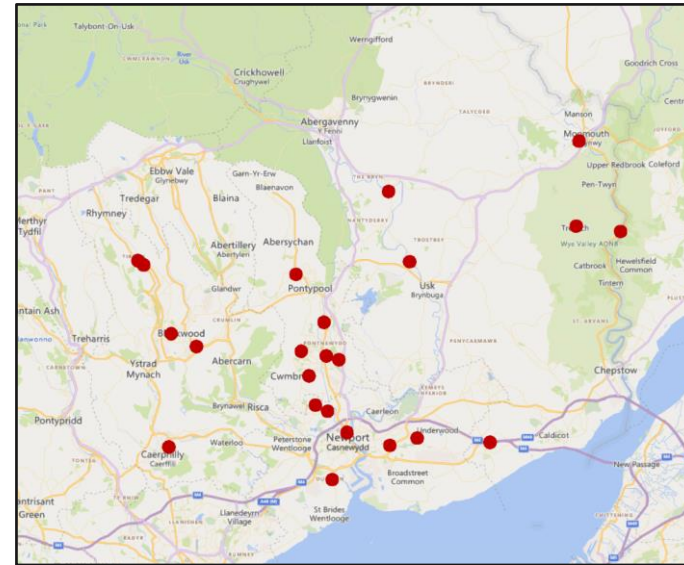


Homicide

In 2022-23 Gwent’s Homicide rate was the highest it’s been in the last 5 years and has increased by 51% since 2021-22 which gives Gwent a homicide rate of 15 per 1 million population.

This is 51% more than the England and Wales rate of homicide for 2022-23 which has been reported as being 10.1 homicides for every million people (Statista research dept. 2023). This is a stark contrast to 2021-22 when Gwent were 47% below the figure of 12.6 homicides per million population for England & Wales with a rate of 6.69.

5 out of 25 (20%) homicides since 2018-19 were committed using a bladed object. 2 in Torfaen and 2 in Newport. There is no suggestion from the data that this is becoming an increasing problem within Gwent.

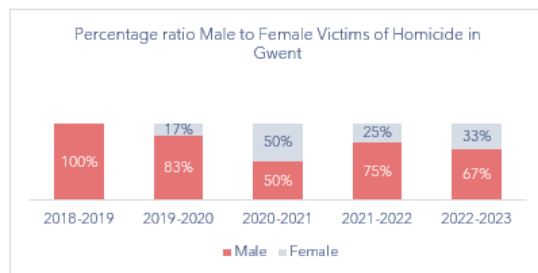


Offenders

- **Mostly male**
- **Mostly aged 18-45**

Victims

- **Mostly male**
- **Mostly aged 46-65**



Domestic Homicide

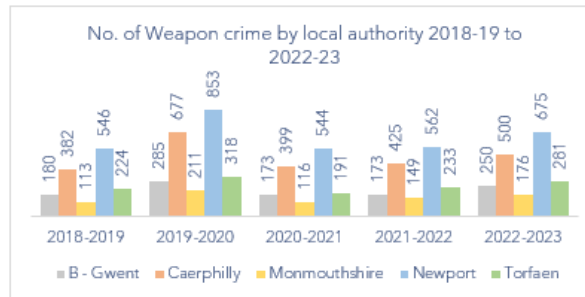
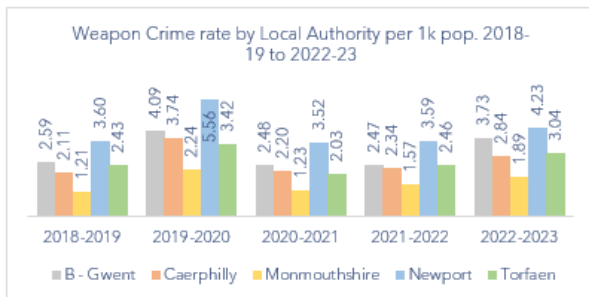
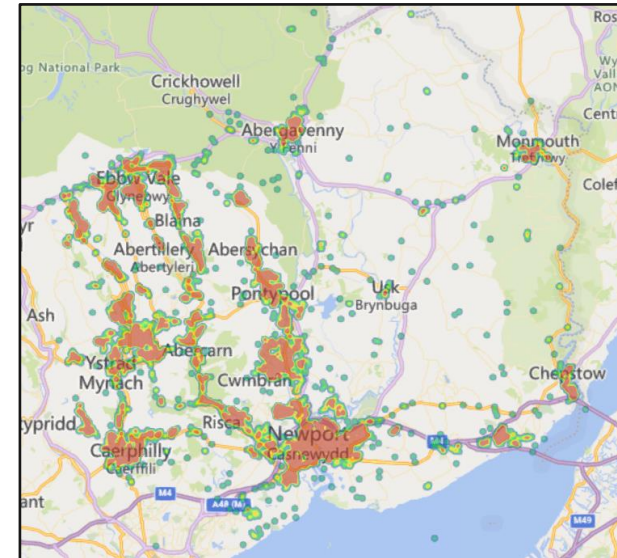
7 out of the 25 (28%) homicides recorded since 2018-19 were because of a domestic situation. The data shows a consistent pattern of approx. 2 domestic homicides per year. 71% (n=5) of domestic homicide victims were female, with the most common age being between 56-65. 86% (n=6) of domestic homicide offenders were male with the majority being over 65.

Knife and gun crime

Weapon related crime in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2019-20 with a crime rate of 3.98 offences per 1000 population. The primary weapon used is a bladed article.

The lowest crime rate was in 2020-21 with 2.40 in the last 5-year period which is highly likely due to the long periods of Covid -19 lockdown. The crime rate rose by 25% between 2022 and 2023, with Newport remaining as the Local Authority with the highest crime rate for Weapon related offences. However, Blaenau Gwent had a significant increase in crime rate of 51% between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Weapon related crime in Gwent mostly happens in the months of October and November, typically reported on a Sunday and usually around the hours of 5pm and midnight. Both victim and offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.



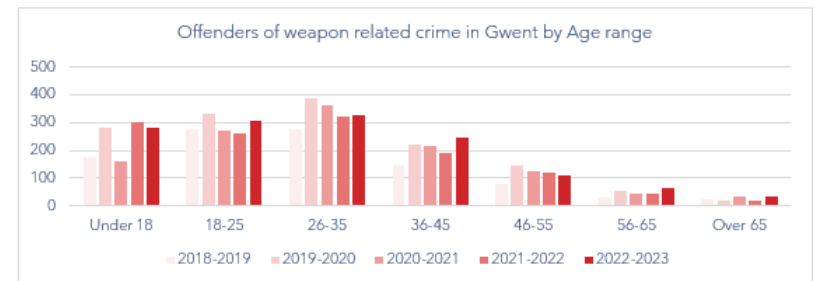
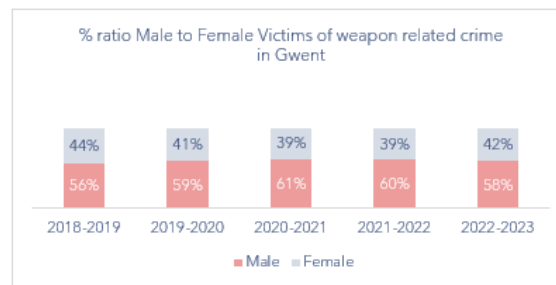
Offenders

- **Mostly male**
- **Mostly aged 18-45**

Victims

- **Mostly male**
- **Mostly aged 26-45**

Since 2018-19 most victims of **domestic weapon crime** where weapons were used were between 26-35 and were female. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.



Hospital attendance for assault by sharp objects

	Assault by sharp object (ICD10 code - X99)					
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Blaenau Gwent	5.74	0.00 ê	8.61 é	0.00 ê	1.43 é	1.43 ò
Caerphilly	3.88	1.66 ê	3.31 é	1.66 ê	2.20 é	2.20 ò
Monmouthshire	1.08	2.14 é	0.00 ê	0.00 ò	0.00 ò	1.05 é
Newport	3.35	5.94 é	3.91 ê	5.17 é	7.03 é	1.92 ê
Torfaen	0.00	1.08 é	0.00 ê	0.00 ò	3.16 é	3.16 ò
Wales	3.73	3.78 é	3.92 é	3.17 ê	2.87 ê	2.37 ê

	Young People (Under 25) - Assault by sharp object (ICD10 code - X99)					
Local Authority Name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Blaenau Gwent	0.00	0.00 ò	0.00 ò	0.00 ò	5.26 é	0.00 ê
Caerphilly	3.77	3.80 é	0.00 ê	3.87 é	1.93 ê	3.86 é
Monmouthshire	0.00	0.00 ò	0.00 ò	0.00 ò	0.00 ò	0.00 ò
Newport	8.59	2.13 ê	8.52 é	4.24 ê	6.25 é	0.00 ê
Torfaen	0.00	3.77 é	0.00 ê	0.00 ò	3.74 é	0.00 ê
Wales	3.49	3.51 é	3.41 ê	3.20 ê	3.19 ê	2.86 ê

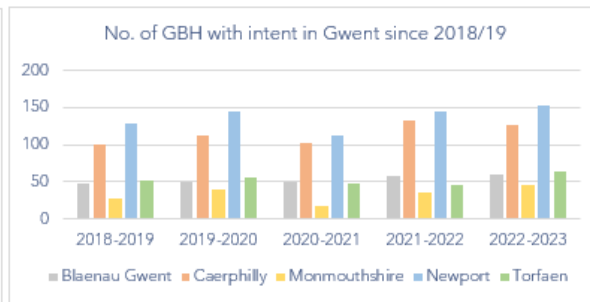
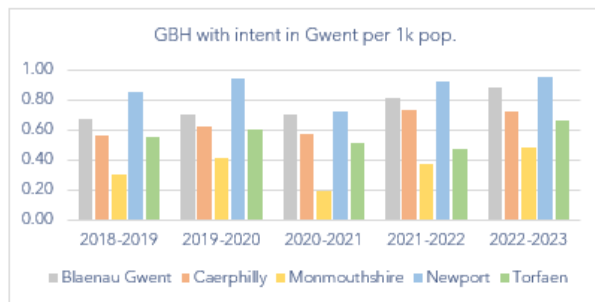
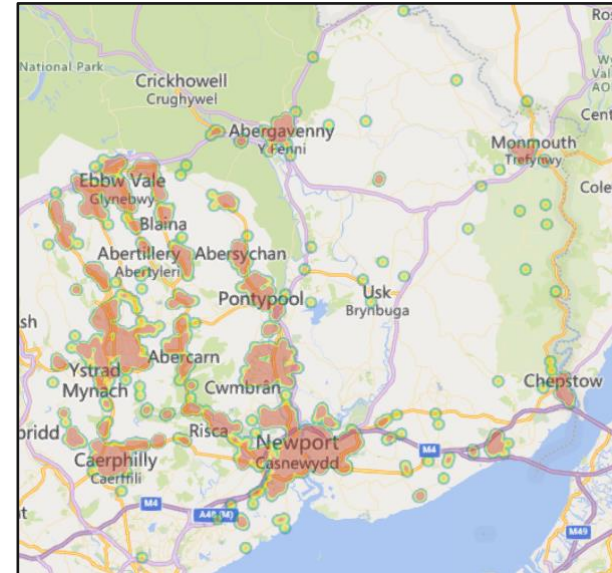
Summary of Wales Hospital Admissions for violence (Assault by sharp object - ICD10 code - X99) by Local Authority area, rates per 100,000 and covering 2016/17 to 2021/22.

Grievous bodily harm (GBH)

GBH (Grievous bodily harm) with intent crime in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2022-23 with 0.79 crimes per 1k population (n=446). GBH with intent has been increasing year on year except for 2020-21 where it was its lowest recorded in the last 5 years with 0.56 crimes per 1k population (n=33) which is due to the long periods of Covid-19 lockdowns.

In 34% of recorded crimes no weapon has been used, this means injury has been likely caused by physical contact alone rather than the use of an object. The use of a bladed implement has increased year on year and has increased by a total of 52% since 2018-19.

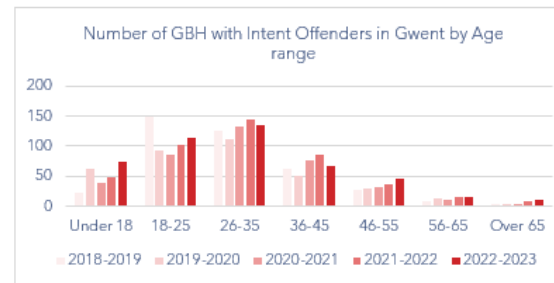
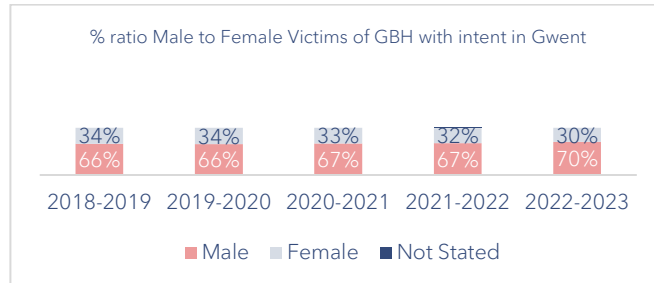
GBH with intent in Gwent mostly happens in the months of August and September, typically reported on a Saturday and usually around the hours of 5pm and midnight. Both victim and offenders are predominantly between the ages of 26-35, white and male.



Offenders
 Mostly male - 75-80%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Mostly male - 66-70%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Since 2018-19 the majority of **victims of domestic GBH with intent** were White, females, between 26-35. Offenders were mostly white, males between the ages of 26 to 35.

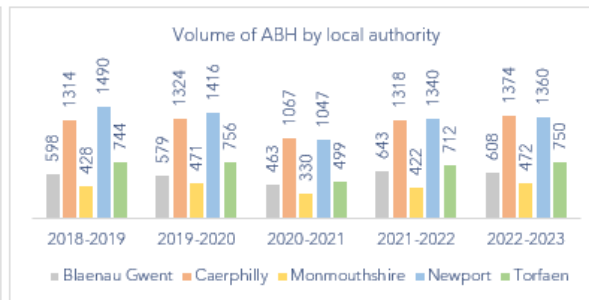
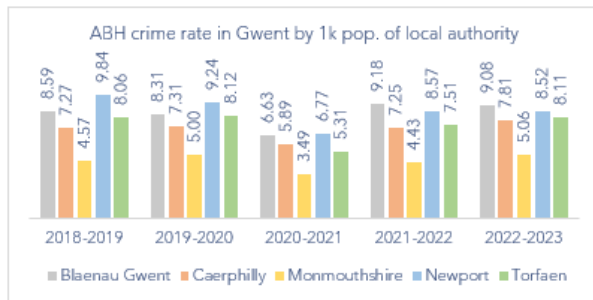
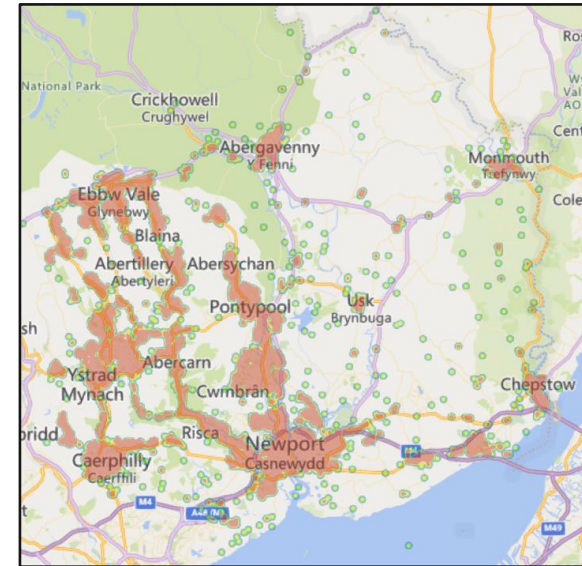


Actual bodily harm (ABH)

ABH (Actual bodily harm) crime in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2018-19 with 7.78 crimes per 1k pop. of Gwent (4,574). Since that time, it has remained stable except for 2020-21 when it reached its lowest with a rate of 5.73 (n=3,406) which was as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

ABH in Gwent mostly happens in the months of July and August, typically reported on a Saturday and usually around the hours of between 3pm and midnight. Victims of ABH were mostly white, female and either under 18 or between 26 to 35 years of age. Offenders were mostly white, male and between the ages of 26-35.

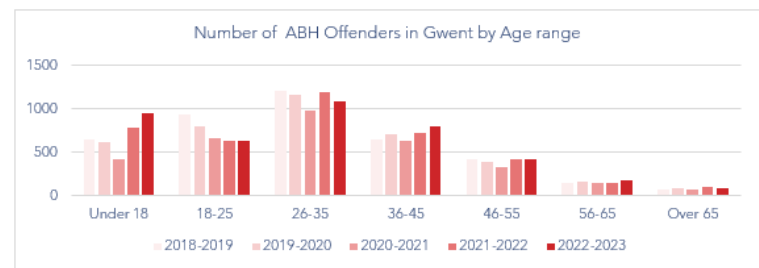
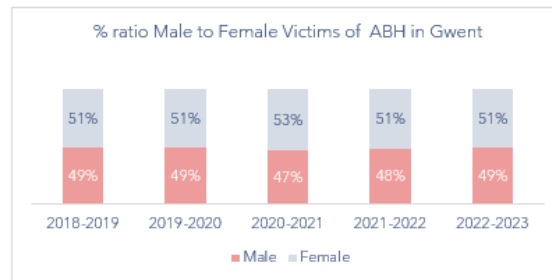
Each Local Authority area has shown higher crime rates in 2022-23 compared with pre pandemic crimes rates in 2019-20 apart from Newport which has shown a downward trend in ABH since 2018-19.



Offenders
 Mostly male - 66-69%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Mostly female - 51-53%
 Mostly aged under 18 and 26-35

In 2022-23 **Domestic related ABH** accounted for 28% (1299 out of 4564) of all recorded ABH in Gwent. This is less than the previous year which was 35% (1533 out of 4435).

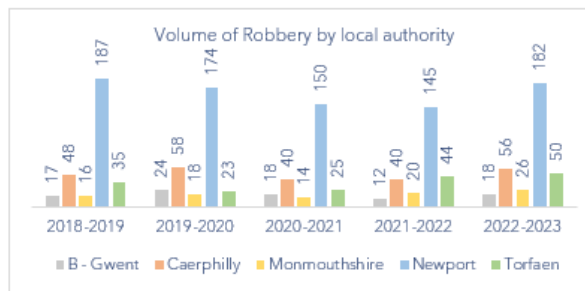
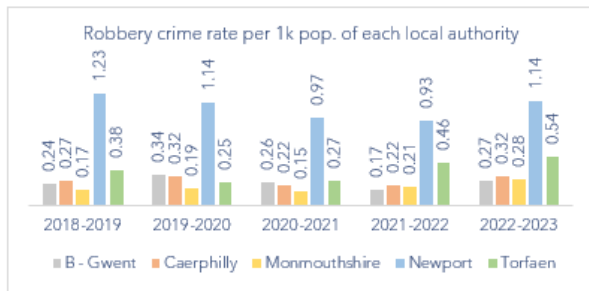
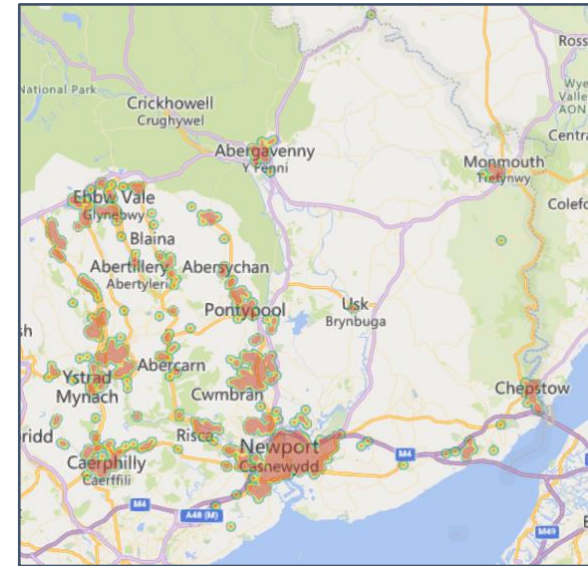


Robbery

Robbery in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2022-23 with 0.56 crimes per 1k pop. (n=332). This is the highest it's been in the last 5-year period except for 2020-21 where it dropped to 0.42 per 1k pop. (n=247).

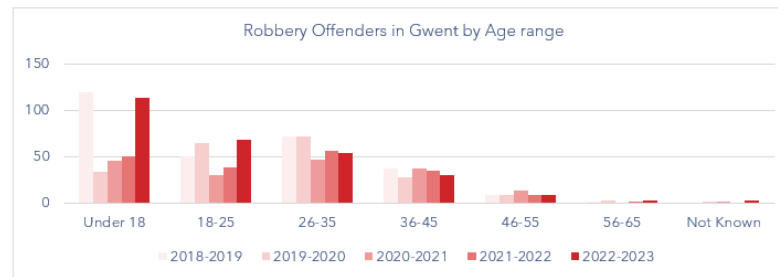
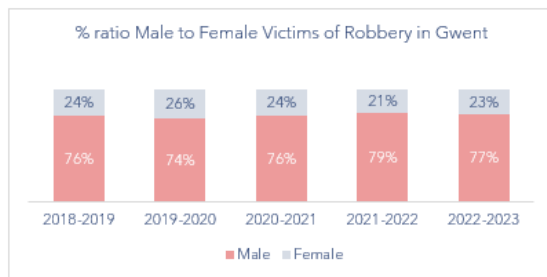
Robbery in Gwent mostly happens in the months of June and October, typically reported on a Wednesday and Saturday in the hours of 5pm and 6pm. Both victim and offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.

The most common type of weapon used is a bladed object. The category of 'no weapon used' has decreased by 64% (n=25) over the last 5 years, but the category of 'bladed implement' has increased by 216% (n=52). In 67% of all robbery crimes a weapon hasn't been recorded. Robbery where a weapon has been used increased by 16% (n=11) between 2021-22 and 2022-23.



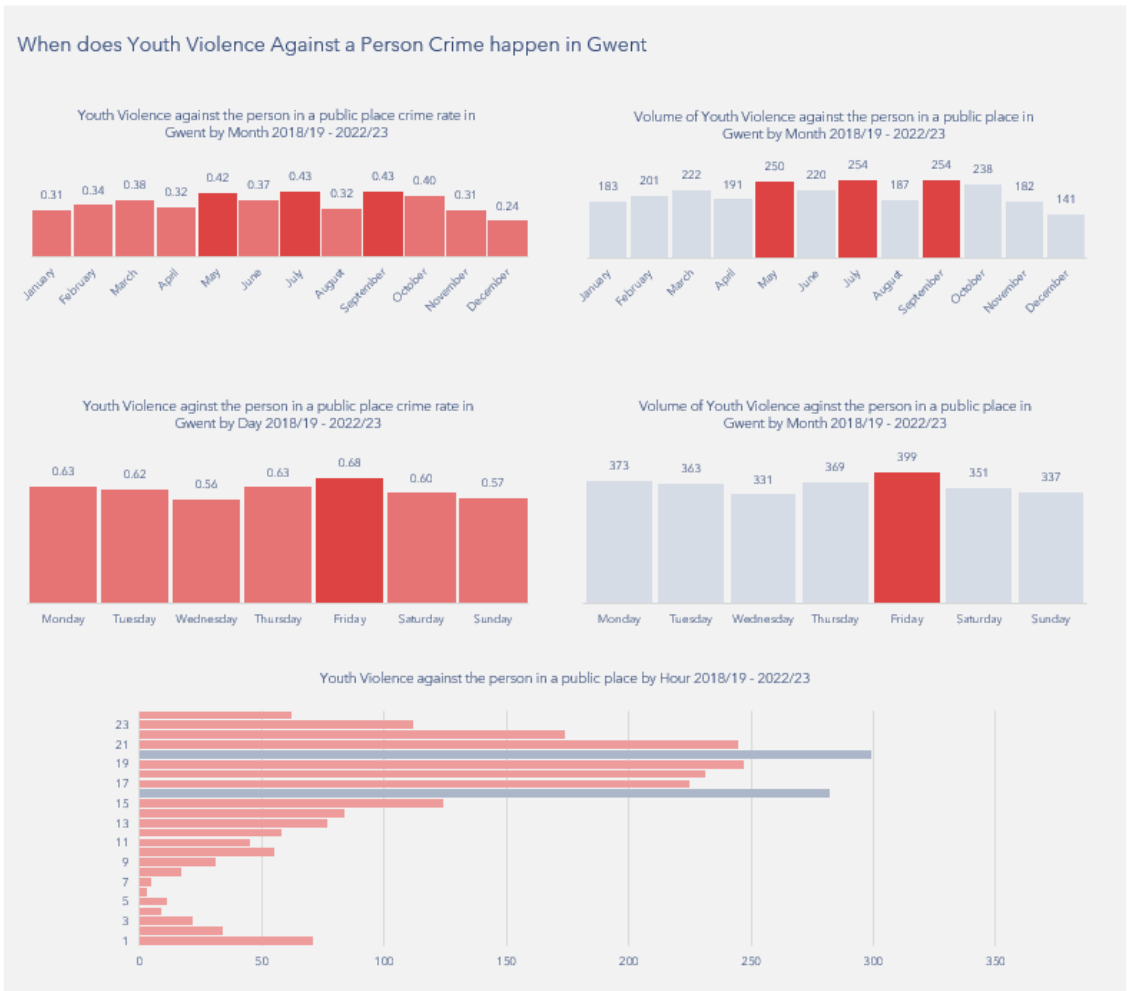
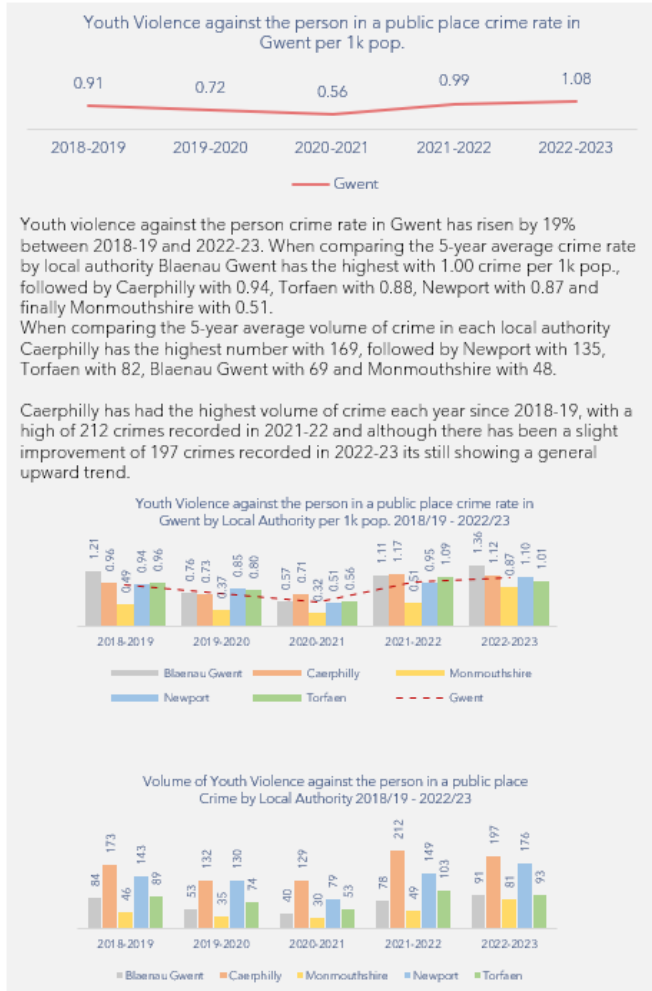
Offenders
 Mostly male - 74-79%
 Mostly aged under 18 to 25

Victims
 Mostly male - 74-79%
 Mostly aged 26-35



Public space youth violence

Please note: some of these data will also be included in the above information (and vice-versa) and are therefore not added to any 'totals' figures to avoid duplication

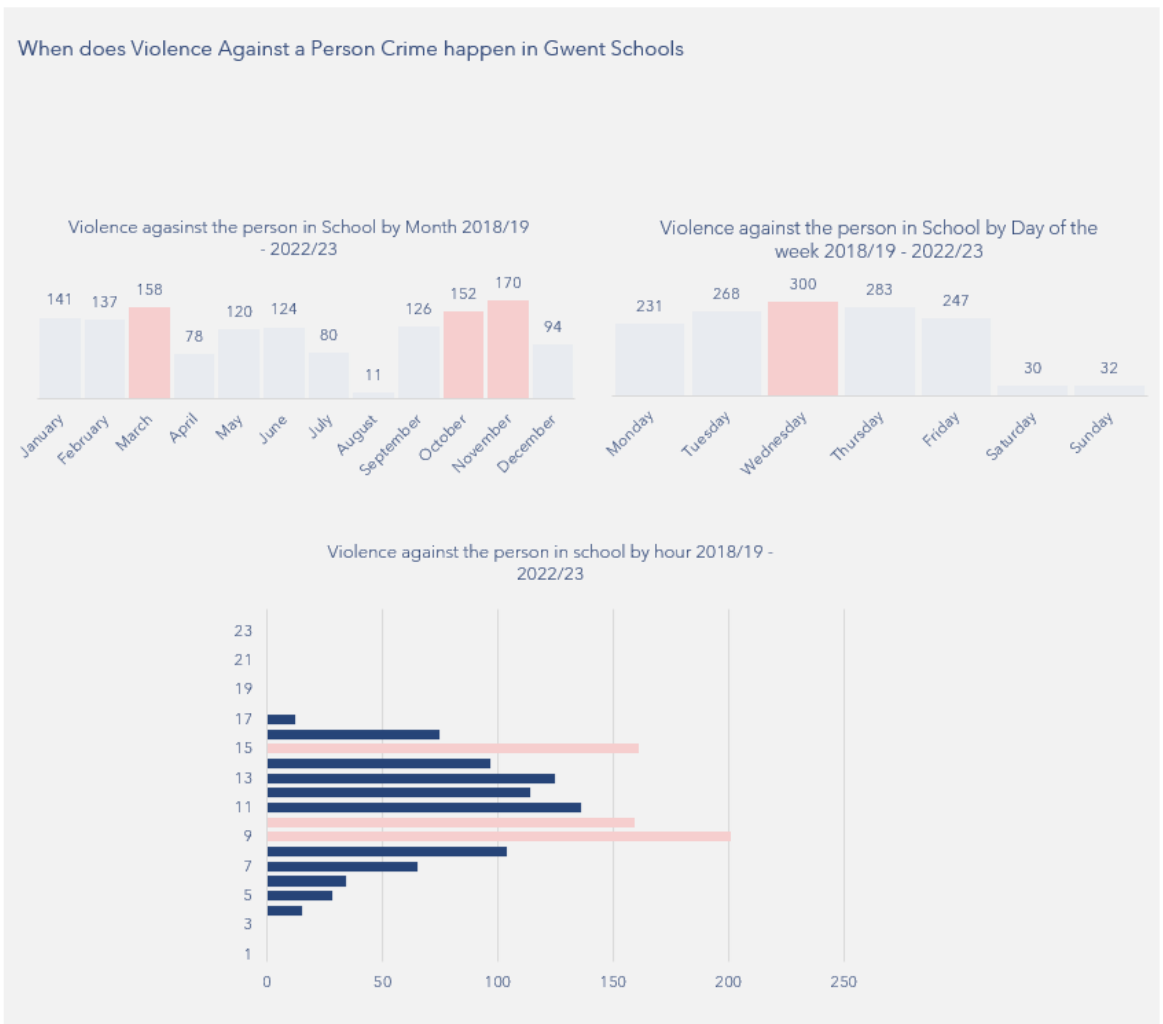
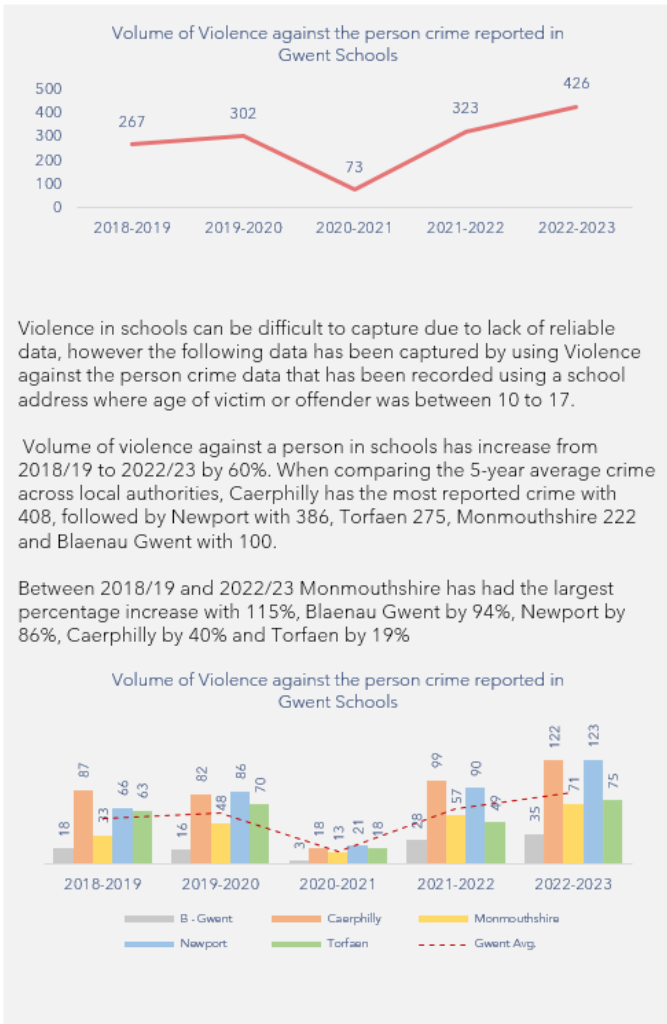


VICTIMS Ethnicity: White ♦ Female 52% / Male 47% ♦ Age: 14

OFFENDERS Ethnicity: White ♦ Female 40% / Male 60% ♦ Age: 14 - 17

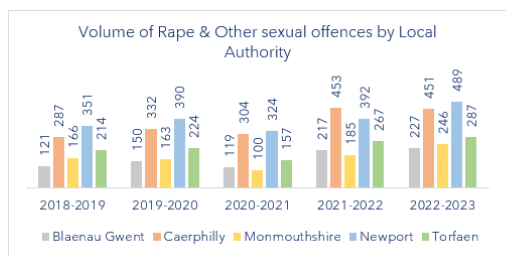
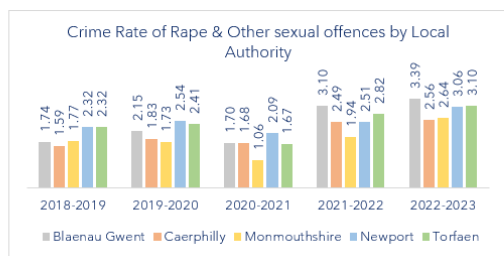
Youth violence in schools (u18)

Please note: some of these data will also be included in the above information (and vice-versa) and are not added to any 'totals' figures to avoid duplication



Sexual violence and domestic abuse (including stalking and harassment)

In developing this SNA, the specified authority partners agreed to collaborate with the Gwent Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Commissioning Board, to co-commission a consultant to complete a detailed analysis of the current sexual violence and domestic abuse picture across Gwent. This report is expected in Spring 2024 and relevant information will be added to this SNA at that time. In the interim, the high level information relating to sexual violence and domestic abuse is as follows.



In 2022-23 Gwent’s total crime rate for Rape & Other sexual offences reached a 5 year high of 2.89 per 1k pop. of Gwent. This is an increase of 14% (n=0.36) compared with 2021-23. The recorded crime rate for Rape was 11.26, and for Other sexual offences it was 2.03, These were increases of 16% (n=0.28) and 104% (n=5.75) respectively compared with the previous year.

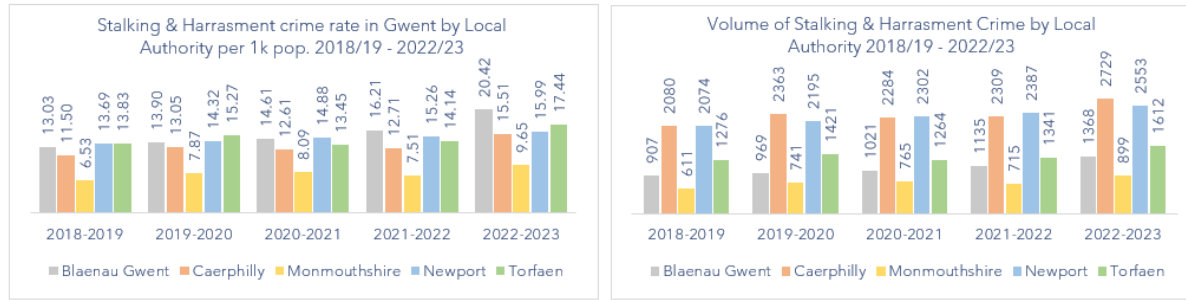
Break down of Crime Rate - Rape & Other Sexual Offences by Local Authority

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Other sexual offences	1.29	1.48	1.16	2.21	2.46
Rape	0.45	0.67	0.54	0.89	0.93
Blaenau Gwent	1.74	2.15	1.70	3.10	3.39
Other sexual offences	1.02	1.30	1.19	1.72	1.77
Rape	0.56	0.54	0.49	0.77	0.79
Caerphilly	1.59	1.83	1.68	2.49	2.56
Other sexual offences	1.16	1.29	0.71	1.38	2.02
Rape	0.61	0.45	0.35	0.57	0.62
Monmouthshire	1.77	1.73	1.06	1.94	2.64
Other sexual offences	1.58	1.86	1.37	1.69	2.08
Rape	0.74	0.68	0.72	0.82	0.98
Newport	2.32	2.54	2.09	2.51	3.06
Other sexual offences	1.67	1.85	1.15	1.94	2.12
Rape	0.65	0.56	0.52	0.88	0.98
Torfaen	2.32	2.41	1.67	2.82	3.10
Total Other sexual offences	1.32	1.55	1.15	1.75	2.03
Total Rape	0.70	1.35	2.65	5.51	11.26
Grand Total	1.94	2.13	1.69	2.53	2.89

Break down of Rape & Other Sexual Offences by Local Authority

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Other sexual offences	90	103	81	155	165
Rape	31	47	38	62	62
Blaenau Gwent	121	150	119	217	227
Other sexual offences	185	235	215	313	312
Rape	102	97	89	140	139
Caerphilly	287	332	304	453	451
Other sexual offences	109	121	67	131	188
Rape	57	42	33	54	58
Monmouthshire	166	163	100	185	246
Other sexual offences	239	285	212	264	332
Rape	112	105	112	128	157
Newport	351	390	324	392	489
Other sexual offences	154	172	108	184	196
Rape	60	52	49	83	91
Torfaen	214	224	157	267	287
Total Other sexual offences	777	916	683	1,047	1,193
Total Rape	383	748	1,473	3,091	6,219
Grand Total	1,139	1,259	1,004	1,514	1,700

Between 2021-22 and 2022-23 increased crime rates for both Rape and Other sexual offences can be seen in each Local Authority. The largest increase in crime rate for Rape was in Newport with 20% (n=0.16), and the largest increase in Other sexual offences was in Monmouthshire with 47% (n=0.64). Chart 7.1b shows the volume of Rape & Other sexual offences by local authority for the last 5 year period.

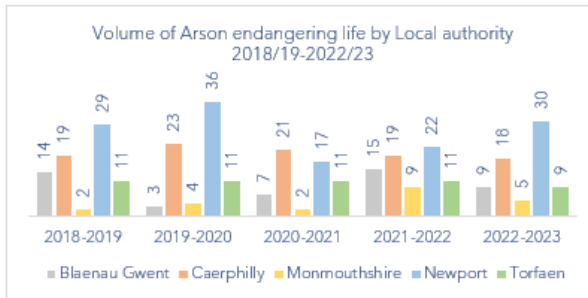
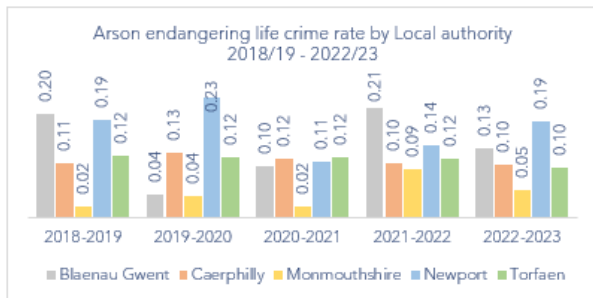
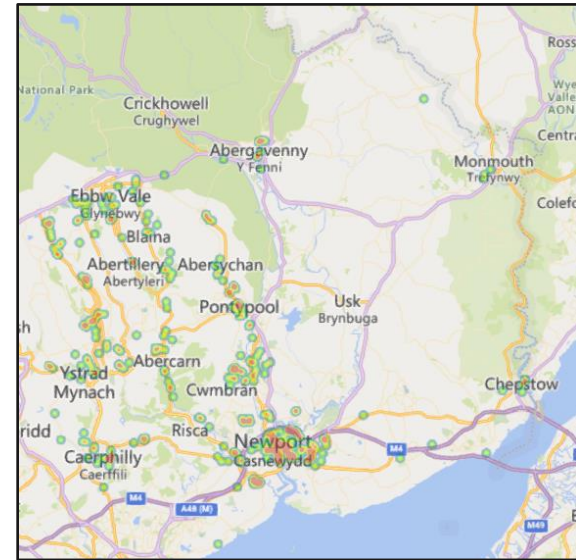


The crime rate for stalking & harassment in Gwent by local authority for the last 5 year period. In 2022-23 the crime rate was at its highest recorded in the last 5 years with 15.63 per 1k pop of Gwent, which is an increase of 18% 2.42 compared with the previous year. Blaenau Gwent had the highest crime rate in 2022-23 with a crime rate of 20.42 (n=1368), however it was Monmouthshire that has the biggest increase between 2021-22 and 2022-23 with 28% (n=2.4). Chart 7.2b shows the increase in volume of stalking & harassment crime by local authority over the last 5 year period.

Arson with threats to life

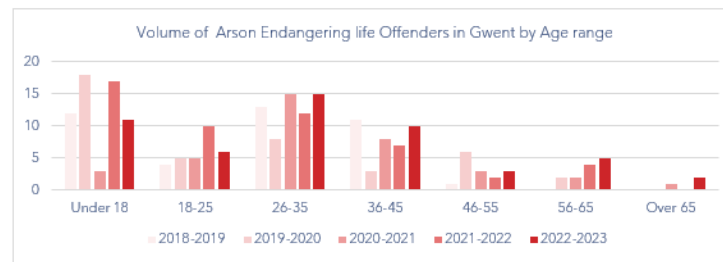
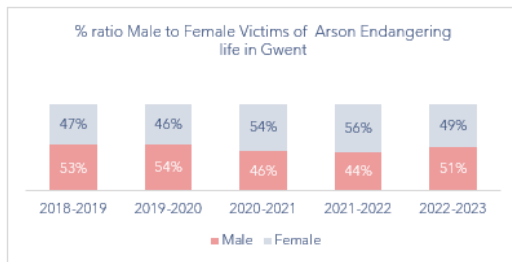
Arson endangering life in Gwent in the last 5-year period has remained stable, showing little change or increased trend, in fact showing declines in general.

Arson endangering life in Gwent mostly happens in the month of November, typically reported on a Saturday and usually around the hours of 8pm and 11pm to midnight. Victims are mostly between the ages of 35 to 45 years of age, white and equally male and female. Offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.



Offenders
 Mostly male - 68-80%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Roughly 50/50
 Mostly aged 26-45

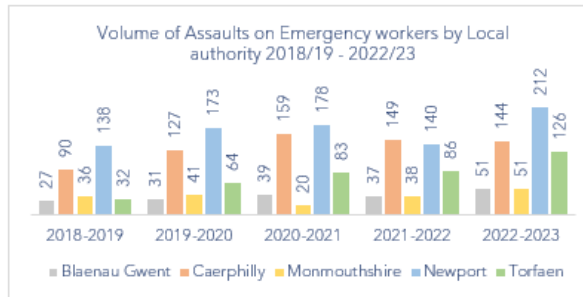
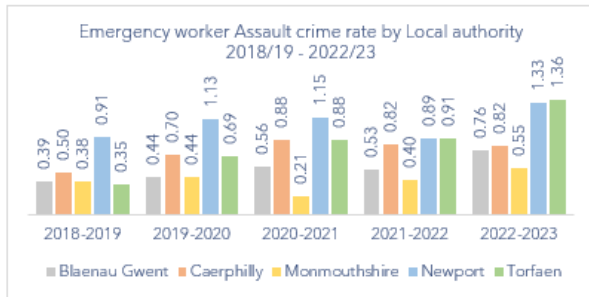
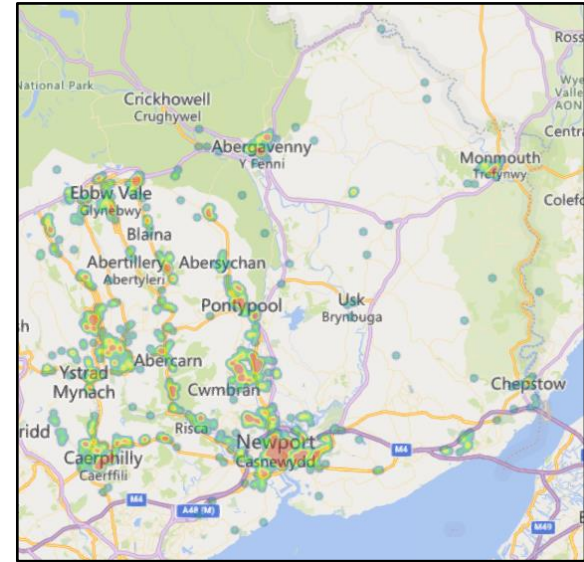


Assaults against professionals (Assault on Emergency Worker)

This information on this page relates to the specific crime type of assault on an emergency services worker, reported to Gwent Police. See next page in relation to assaults against other specified authority professionals.

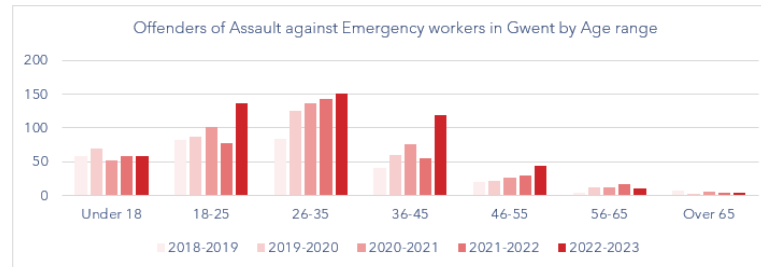
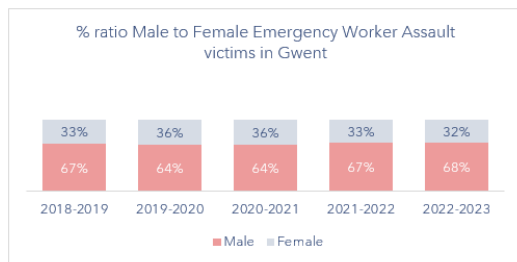
Assaults on emergency workers in Gwent in the last 5-year period peaked at its highest in 2022-23 with 0.99 crimes per 1k pop. (n=584). This is the highest it's been in the last 5-year period.

Assaults on emergency workers in Gwent mostly happens in the month of August, typically reported on a Saturday around the midnight hour. Both victim and offenders are between the ages of 26-35, white and male.



Offenders
 Mostly male - 61-65%
 Mostly aged 26-35

Victims
 Mostly female - 64-68%
 Mostly aged 26-35



All specified authority agencies reported anecdotally that assaults against staff have been steadily increasing in recent years. All specified authorities have been attempting to understand this position in each of their organisations for recording purposes, with the current position, where known, reported below.

Agency	Current Position
ABUHB	In 2022-2023, data shows 231 reported threats of violence to staff, and 113 reported physical violence against staff. This shows an improvement in reporting on the RL Datix system from previous years, but violence and aggression remain significantly underreported in ABUHB. Due to Datix reporting limitations, incidents may not reflect actual police reports. Consideration of incident context is crucial, with many stemming from individuals undergoing mental health treatment.
Blaenau-Gwent	Over the 5-year period (2018-23), reported incidents decreased from 26 to 24 annually, totaling 98 incidents. Predominantly occurring in an elderly residential home (79%), the victims, mainly care workers (74%), reported injuries such as scrapes and bumps. Social Services reported 93% of incidents indicating RIDDOR compliance.
Torfaen	Over the 5 years from 2018 to 2023, the total number of reported physical or verbal assaults in Torfaen was 72. The distribution varied each year, with the majority in education services/schools (86%), particularly notable in 2018 to 2019. Social care and housing settings accounted for 14% of cases, peaking in 2022. No cases were reported in neighbourhood service settings.

This information available here has been identified by partners as a data gap, which needs to be focused on as part of the serious violence strategy and plans.

Key issues and findings

Overview

Violent crime in Gwent has shown an upward trend over the last 5 years. Homicide in 2022-23 was at its highest, doubling figures seen in the previous years - although starting from a low baseline. Assaults on professionals, robbery, and weapon offences (specifically bladed implements) have all seen significant increased changes in the past year. Arson with threat to life has decreased between 2021-22 and 2022-23 and has shown little change or trend over the past 5-year period.

Although Newport typically has the highest volume of crime, followed by Caerphilly, due to population size, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, and Torfaen are seeing increasing trends in most violent crime categories.

The cohort of victims and offenders seem to be similar mostly being between the ages of 26-35, white and male. However, this shows slight differences in Homicide, where we typically see victims over 46 and offenders between 18-25. In ABH and Stalking and Harassment victims are more likely to be 26 to 35-year-old females. What is interesting to note is that in all categories of violent crime in this problem profile the offenders are most commonly between the ages of 26-35, male and white.

- Stalking & Harassment has the highest crime rate out of each specified violent crime categories with 15.63 per 1k pop. of Gwent.
- Homicide has seen the biggest increase in crime rate between 2021-22 and 2022-23 with 129%.
- Assaults on professionals' crime rate has increased by 32% between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Robbery crime rate has increased by 29% between 2021-22 and 2022-23
- The local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen have been the largest increasing crime rates in violence between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- Violent crime in Gwent is at its highest from April to December, often on the weekend and mostly around the hours of midnight.
- The cohort of both victims and offenders are typically between the ages of 26-35, male and white.
- In 2022-23 Gwent recorded the greatest number of homicide victims aged over 65 than previous years
- Arson with intent to endanger life remains stable, showing a decrease in 2022-23 compared with the previous year.
- Most violent crime is committed by White Males between the ages of 26-35
- Violent crime committed by young people in schools and public places, also appears to be increasing.

Blaenau-Gwent Summary

Area	Blaenau Gwent comprises of approximately 108.8km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size is 66,900 - approximately a 4.2% decrease since 2011. This is recorded as the second largest percentage reduction in population of 22 local authorities in Wales and is one of only seven local authorities with a reduction in population.
Population Density	<p>The estimated population density was 615 people per km² compared with 149 per km² for Wales.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent's population density is similar to neighboring areas, all of which are significantly above the Wales average.</p>



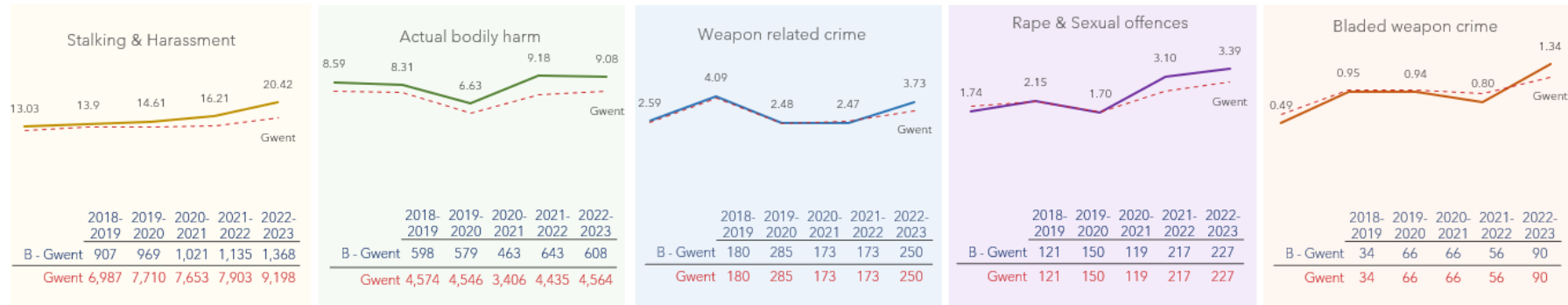
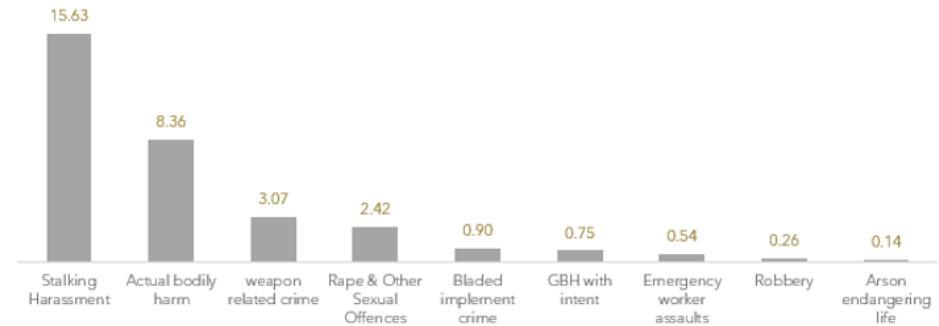
Serious Violence in Blaenau Gwent

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Actual bodily harm (ABH) and weapon related crime. Followed closely by Rape & Other sexual offences.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Blaenau Gwent



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

B-Gwent Stalking & harassment crime rate has increased by 57% and volume has increased by 51% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west had the highest 5-year average of 155.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Ebbw vale North 89.6 and Llanhilleth 87.2. All wards have been slowly increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place.

B-Gwent ABH crime rate has shown an increase of 6% and a volume increase of 2% over the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west has the highest 5-year average of 78.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Ebbw vale south 63.8 and Brynmawr 47.4. All three of these wards saw a spike in 2021/22, and all decreased in 2022/23. Other wards have sporadic increases/decreased in the last 5 years, although showing a general increase except for Cwm, which decreased 52% below 5-year avg. in 2022/23.

B-Gwent Weapon related crime rate had an increase of 44% and volume by 39% over the last 5-year period and shows a steady increase in crime rates since 2019/20.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west has the highest 5-year average of 26 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Ebbw vale south 20 and Brynmawr 19.4

All wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, however in 2022/23 Sirhowy was 46% above the 5-year avg. and Six Bells was 108% above the 5-year average, which is unusual for this ward.

B-Gwent Rape & Sexual offence crime rate has shown a significant increase over the last 5 years of 95% and a volume increase by 88%.

In terms of volume, Ebbw vale South has the highest 5-year avg. of 22 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Tredegar Central & west 18.4 and Ebbw vale North 15.4.

All wards show various fluctuations in the last 5-year period, with most wards seeing increases since 2020/21.

Bladed weapon crime rate in B-Gwent has increased by 175% and volume increased by 165% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Tredegar central & west had the highest number of crimes, with an 8.4 avg. over the last 5 years, followed by Nantyglo with a 6.6 avg. & Ebbw vale North with a 6.2 avg. The area of most concern is Blaina where there was a total of 10 crime in 2022/23 which was 2 ½ times more than the average in that area in the last 5 years. As are Sirhowy & Georgetown which have also seen a 2.5 x increase in 2022/23 compared with the 5-year average.

Blaenau-Gwent: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) data identified Blaenau Gwent as the 6th most deprived local authority in Wales, as indicated by the percentage of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) compared to other local authorities, in the most 10% deprived in Wales.</p> <p>According to the 2021 census definition of deprivation, Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion in Wales, at 61.7%.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent comprises 5 LSOAs, representing 13% of its 47 LSOAs within this category. Notably, Blaenau Gwent exhibits the highest percentage of its LSOAs, falling within the 20%, 30% and 50% most deprived areas in Wales.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent exhibits a predominantly UK-born population (96.8%), with 95.6% identifying as 'White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.' Other 'White' ethnicities, including 'White Polish,' constitute 2.2%.</p> <p>Females make up 51% of the population.</p> <p>In Blaenau Gwent, the economically active population constitutes 74.8%, slightly lower than Wales (76.2%). Employment rates are also lower, at 70.8% compared to the Welsh average of 73.6%. Economically inactive individuals (25.2%) in Blaenau Gwent surpass the Welsh rate of 23.8%.</p> <p>Only 6% of postcode areas have a prevalence of the more affluent categories ('luxury lifestyle, 'established affluence' or 'thriving neighborhoods') in Blaenau Gwent. For Wales this is 22% which is more than three times the rate in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Notably, 46.6% of the economically inactive are long-term sick, higher than the Welsh rate of 33.8%. Workless households in Blaenau Gwent are markedly higher at 21.0%, exceeding the Welsh average of 16.6%. These figures highlight economic disparities and health-related challenges, emphasising the need for targeted interventions to improve employment opportunities and address health issues in the region.</p>
<p>Homelessness and Housing</p>	<p>During 2020/21, the Housing Support Gateway in Blaenau Gwent received 1,421 referrals for support. These were broken down into specific categories with demand for service has remained high, particularly in mental health at 298, domestic abuse at 293, single parents in aid of support at 117 and over 55s (including financial inclusion, homelessness and rough sleeping) at 74.</p>

	<p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Blaenau Gwent was 145 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
Substance Misuse	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Blaenau Gwent saw nearly 255 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the 4th highest substance service assessments in Gwent, with all areas in Gwent surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Children placed outside their homes, particularly in Blaenau Gwent, show increased risks of substance use. This connection links to children looked after by local authorities due to substance use concerns or trauma-related experiences. While the number of children looked after has risen since 2016, Blaenau Gwent has seen a slight decline since 2018.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the percentage of adults in Blaenau Gwent drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 13.9% with females drinking 12.3% above the guidelines and males surpassing by 12%.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent has the highest rate of alcohol-specific admissions in Gwent between 2017 and 2018 with a rate of 734 per 100,000 people. This is 54% above the rate for Wales and 41% above the average rate across Gwent.</p> <p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Blaenau Gwent exceeded 11.5%, below the Wales average of 15.7% and reported the 2nd lowest in Gwent.</p>
Educational Attainment	<p>Census 2021 reveals education insights in England and Wales, emphasising residents aged 16 and over. Notably, 28% in Blaenau Gwent lack formal qualifications, the highest among Welsh local authorities.</p> <p>Conversely, only 22% hold level 4 or above qualifications, the lowest in Wales. An index score, ranking Blaenau Gwent as the lowest in Wales and 326th out of 331 local authorities, measures the highest qualification level.</p> <p>The Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) category includes 9 young people in year 11 and 1 in year 13 in 2021, suggesting room for enhancing purposeful engagement among the youth.</p> <p>School exclusions in Blaenau Gwent surged from 230 in Summer 2022 to 461 in Autumn 2023, but later decreased to 415 in Summer 2023. The total over this period was 1,549, primarily from secondary schools, including 4 permanent exclusions.</p>

Mental Health Issues	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Blaenau Gwent had the highest European age-standardised suicide rate within Gwent with 12.5% per 100,000 population.</p>

Blaenau-Gwent: Key issues and findings

- The top 5 categories of violence crime in Blaenau Gwent are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime, Rape & Sexual offences, and Bladed weapon crime.
- Blaenau Gwent has not recorded any homicide in the last 5-year period.
- Tredegar Central & west is the most common place for violent crime to take place.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by over 50% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has remained consistent since 2018-19 except for 2020-21.
- Weapon related crime in Blaenau Gwent has shown a steady increase over the last 5-year period and crime involving a bladed weapon has increased in rate by 173% (n=0.85) and volume by 165% (n= 56).
- 44% (n= 312) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Blaenau Gwent were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Six Bells was 108% above the 5 year average volume of weapon crime in Blaenau Gwent in 2022/23 which is unusually high for that ward.
- The area of most concern in regard to weapon crime is Blaina where there was a total of 10 crimes in 2022/23 which was 2 ½ times more than the average in that area in the last 5 years. As are Sirhowy & Georgetown which have also seen a 2.5 x increase in 2022/23 compared with the 5-year average.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2018-19 with a crime rate increase of 95% (n= 1.65) and a volume increase of 88% (n= 106)
- Victims of serious violence in Blaenau Gwent are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old except for Weapon crime where a victim is most commonly Male and ABH with intent where the victim is most commonly under the age of 18.
- Offenders of violent crime in Blaenau Gwent are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Blaenau Gwent's Risk Factors:

- Blaenau Gwent has the smallest population size against all other areas in Gwent with an estimated size of 66,900 residents.
- Brynmawr, Tredegar and Georgetown are in the overall most 50% deprived in Blaenau Gwent.
- Rassau and Beaufort are in the overall most 50% least deprived in Blaenau Gwent.
- Blaenau Gwent has the highest proportion of deprivation across the whole of Wales at 61.7%.
- The highest percentage of its LSOAs in the most 20%, 30% and 50% deprived in Wales is across Blaenau Gwent.
- Over half of its population consists of females.
- Between 2017 and 2018, Blaenau Gwent rate of 734 per 100,000 people for alcohol-specific admissions, 41% above the average rate across Gwent.
- The percentage of residents aged 16 and over who lack formal qualifications is the highest in Blaenau Gwent when compared to all Welsh local authorities.
- Blaenau Gwent had the highest suicide rate in Gwent between 2017-2021 with 12.5% per 100,000 population.

Caerphilly Summary

Area	Caerphilly comprises of approximately 278km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size is 181,731 – approximately 5.8% of the Wales population.
Population Density	The population density for Caerphilly is 6.53 people per hectare.



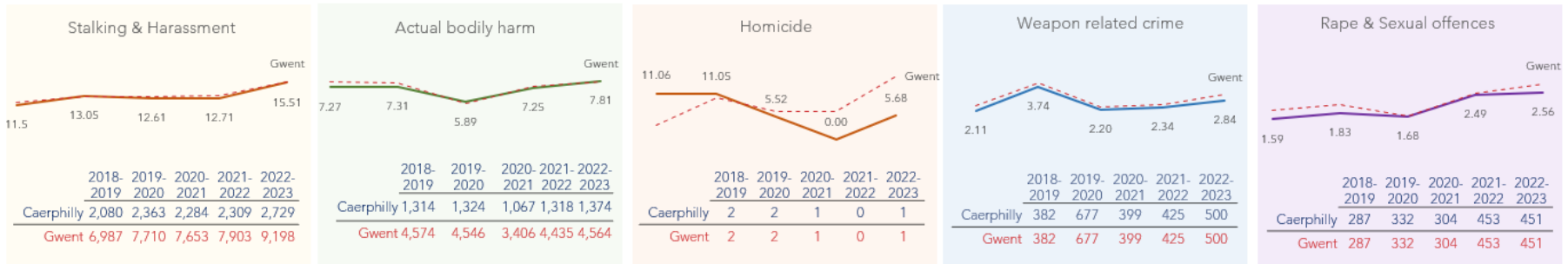
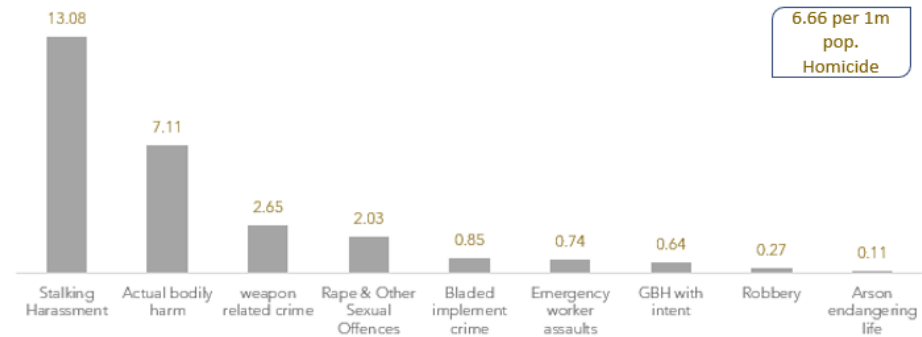
Serious Violence in Caerphilly

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Actual bodily harm (ABH) and Homicide. Followed closely by Weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Caerphilly



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Caerphilly Stalking & harassment crime rate has increased by 35% and volume has increased by 31% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Penyrheol had the highest 5-year average of 137 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen 121 and Bargoed 121.

The majority of wards have been increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place. St Martins & Maesycwmmwr have increased by more than 100% (n= 57 & 83)

between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is at the highest volumes seen in the last 5-year period.

Caerphilly ABH crime rate has increased by 7% and volume increased by 5% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume Blackwood had the highest 5-year average of 78.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Bargoed 73.6 and St Martins 72.2. Approx. half of the wards have been increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place. Crosskeys increased by 106% (n=17) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest seen in the ward in the last 5-year period.

Caerphilly Homicide crime rate has decreased by 49% and volume has decreased by 50% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Tredegar had the highest 5-year average of 1.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by St. James 0.6 and Blackwood and Pontllanfraith 0.4.

Caerphilly Weapon related crime rate has increased by 34% and volume by 31% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, St. James had the highest 5-year average of 31 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Blackwood 28 and Morgan Jones 26. Most ward decreased in 2020/21, however since then numbers have increased to the levels seen pre pandemic in all wards. Gylfach has an increase of 233% (n=7) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is unusually high volumes compared to the previous 4 years.

Caerphilly Rape & Offences crime rate has increased by 61% and volume increased by 57% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Bedwas Trethomas & Machen had the highest 5-year average of 22 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Penyrheol 21.4 and St. Martins 20.6.

Whilst the volumes are sporadic in wards over the last 5 years, Pontllanfraith showed an unusually high figures of 36 and increase of 140% between 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Caerphilly: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>Six Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across the Caerphilly area are ranked 8th in Wales as the 10% most deprived for Overall Deprivation.</p> <p>There are four LSOAs in the 11-20% most deprived category, these areas include Argoed 1, Newbridge 2, Crumlin 3 and Cefn Fforest 1.</p> <p>Lower Islywn has no LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived, with only Risca East 2 and 4 in the 21-30% bracket.</p> <p>The 2011 Census indicates unemployment rates in Caerphilly's regions for ages 16-74. In Caerphilly Basin, out of 40,646 residents, 26,961 were economically active, with a 4.9% unemployment rate.</p> <p>In Lower Islywn, there were 17,967 residents, 12,128 economically active, and a 4.9% unemployment rate. Mid Valleys East had 33,020 residents, 21,459 economically active, and a 4.6% unemployment rate.</p> <p>In Mid Valleys West, 18,556 residents, 12,045 economically active, with a 4.7% unemployment rate.</p> <p>The Upper Rhymney Valley had 20,761 residents, 12,339 economically active, and a 6.9% unemployment rate.</p> <p>All areas in Caerphilly surpass the 4.3% Wales average for unemployment.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>In the Caerphilly Basin area, 85.7% of residents were born in Wales, slightly below the county borough average of 88.6% but significantly higher than the Wales average of 72.7%).</p> <p>Additionally, in Lower Islywn, Mid Valleys East, Mid Valleys West, and Upper Rhymney Valley, over 98% residents identified as White, surpassing both the county borough and Wales average.</p>
<p>Homelessness and Housing</p>	<p>The average annual income in Caerphilly County Borough is £29,289. In relation to the average house prices across the county, a single person would have to spend approximately 6 times their salary to be able to purchase a property, which is likely to mean that many single people are prevented from buying a property without assistance, such as help from family or shared ownership.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Caerphilly was 123 with the Wales average at 112.</p>

<p>Substance Misuse</p>	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Caerphilly saw nearly 340 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the highest for substance service assessments in Gwent, surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the percentage of adults in Caerphilly drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 17.2%, with females drinking 9.1 % above the guidelines and males surpassing by 21%.</p> <p>Data from the National Survey for 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Caerphilly exceeded 19.5%, surpassing the Wales average of 15.7% and reported the 2nd highest in Gwent.</p>
<p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p>However, the average percentage of adults aged 25-64 with no qualifications across all Caerphilly areas are 25.3%.</p> <p>The overall percentage of Key Stage 4 leavers entering Higher Education in Caerphilly ranges from 5.8% to 57.7%, reflecting varying rates across different areas. Young people in Caerphilly may encounter challenges pursuing Higher Education due to financial constraints and transport availability.</p> <p>In Caerphilly Basin, repeat absenteeism fluctuates from 1.4% in Penyrheol 7 to 14.3% in Penyrheol 8 with rates ranging from 2.3% in Risca East 3 to 9.5% in Risca East 4. Mid Valleys West sees rates from 1.9% in Blackwood 3 and Blackwood 5 to 11.8% in Cefn Fforest 1. This indicator gauges the percentage of primary and secondary pupils missing more than 15% of school sessions over a three-year average.</p>
<p>Mental Health Issues</p>	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Caerphilly's European age-standardised suicide rate was 10.8% per 100,000 population, the 2nd highest suicide rate reported in Gwent.</p>

Caerphilly: Key issues and findings

- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Caerphilly are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime and Rape & Sexual offences.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by over 30% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period. Although Penyrheol has the highest 5 year average of 137, volume of crime in St Martins & Maesycwmmmer has increased by more than 100% (n= 57 & 83) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is at the highest volumes seen in the last 5-year period.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has risen slightly by 7 and 5% respectively since 2018-19 except for 2020-21 where lower rates and volumes were recorded because of the covid-19 pandemic. Blackwood had the highest 5-year average of 78.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Crosskeys increased by 106% (n=17) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest seen in the ward in the last 5-year period.
- Homicide in Caerphilly has decreased by 50% over the last 5-year period, with no homicides recorded in 2022-23.
- Weapon related crime rate in Caerphilly has shown a steady increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 3.74 seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 2.84. St. James had the highest 5-year average of 31 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Glifach has an increase of 233% (n=7) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is unusually high volumes compared to the previous 4 years.
- 47% (n= 767) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Caerphilly were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2020-21 with a crime rate increase of 61% (n= 0.97) and a volume increase of 57% (n= 164) in the last 5-year period. Pontllanfraith showed an unusually high figures of 36 crime and an increase of 140% between 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- Victims of serious violence in Caerphilly are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Weapon crime where a victim is most commonly Male.
- Offenders of violent crime in Caerphilly are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Caerphilly's Risk Factors:

- Caerphilly has the largest population size against all other areas in Gwent with an estimated size of 181,731 residents.
- Argoed 1, Newbridge 2, Crumlin 3 and Cefn Fforest 1 are in the 11-20% most deprived areas in Caerphilly.
- Upper Rhymney Valley has the highest unemployment rate across Caerphilly with 12,339 residents out of 20,761 unemployed (6.9%).
- All areas in Caerphilly surpass the 4.3% Wales average for unemployment.
- Overall, Penyrheol has the highest rate of repeat absenteeism in the Caerphilly area.
- 2021/22 data reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Caerphilly was the 2nd highest in Gwent at 19.5%.

- Caerphilly is ranked the highest for substance misuse assessment in Gwent between 2019 and 2022.
- Young people in Caerphilly are more likely to encounter challenges pursuing Higher Education in comparison to other areas in Gwent due to financial constraints and transport availability.
- Caerphilly was reported the 2nd highest for suicide rates across Gwent with a rate of 10.8% per 100,000 population.

Monmouthshire Summary

Area	The estimated area for Monmouthshire is 880km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size is 95,164 - approximately 3% of the Wales population.
Population Density	Monmouthshire has a low population density of 1.1 persons per hectare, significantly lower than the Southeast Wales average of 5.3 persons per hectare.



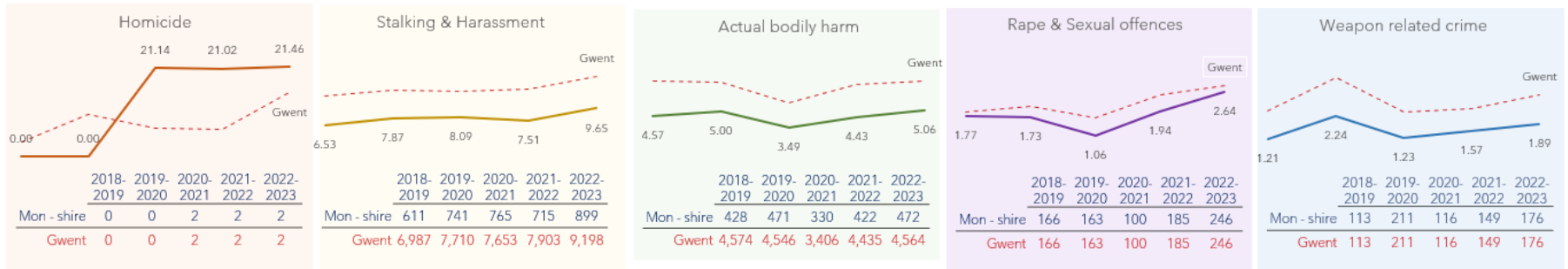
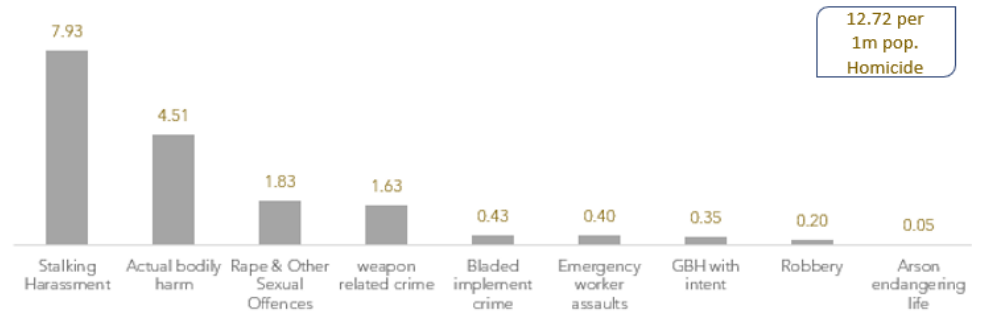
Serious Violence in Monmouthshire

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Homicide, Stalking Harassment and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by Rape & Other sexual offences.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Monmouthshire



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Homicide crime rate in Monmouthshire has increased by 21.64 (n=2) in the last 5-year period.

Trellech United has the most homicide recorded in the last 5 years with 3 (average of 0.6). Followed by Llanover, Mill and Overmonnow which each had 2 homicides (average 0.4)

Stalking & harassment crime rate in Monmouthshire has increased by 48% and volume increase of 47% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Drybridge had the highest 5-year average of 36.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Thornwell 35.2 and Overmonnow 32.8. Although there is a general upward trend, the wards that have had the largest increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 are Llanwenarth Ultra 350% (n=54), Goytre Fawr 256% (n=48), Severn 179% (n=50) and Priory 153% (n=23)

Monmouthshire ABH crime rate has shown an increase of 11% and volume an increase of 10% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, St. Marys has the highest 5-year average of 34 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Llanover 31 and Priory 24.2. Almost half the wards have an upward trend in the last 5 years, with The Elms showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=12) between 2021/22 & 2022/23

Monmouthshire Rape & Sexual offence crime rate has increased by 49% and volume has increased by 48% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Llanover has the highest 5-year avg. of 15.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Drybridge 12.2 and Lansdown 8.6

Most wards show an increasing trend over the last 5-year period.

Monmouthshire Weapon related crime rate and volume increased by 56% over the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Drybridge has the highest 5-year average of 9.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Overmonnow 9 and Priory 8.8

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, with Mill showing an unusually high figure of 6 which is an increase of 500% and a high figure compared the last previous 4 years.

Monmouthshire: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

<p>Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment</p>	<p>The 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation highlighted that none of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Monmouthshire is in the most deprived 10% in Wales.</p> <p>Monmouthshire is relatively affluent in comparison to the rest of Gwent and Wales however, recent data shows that approximately 9,500 households are in poverty.</p> <p>Monmouthshire remains the area with the lowest unemployment rate in Gwent, with an unemployment rate of 2.1% in April 2022 to March 2023.</p> <p>8% of people living in Monmouthshire are living in households in material deprivation while 16% of children live in relatively low-income families.</p> <p>Overmonnow 2, Llanover 1, Cantref 2, Lansdown and Croesononen are in the 30% most deprived in Wales.</p>
<p>Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities</p>	<p>Census 2021 data saw Monmouthshire having the 6th highest percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were employed out of all 22 Welsh local authority areas.</p> <p>There are significant income inequalities within communities in Monmouthshire with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales; research indicates that disparities between affluent and disadvantaged communities have adverse effects on various aspects including educational attainment and physical health.</p>
<p>Homeless and Housing</p>	<p>In October 2023, it was recorded that 3,892 households were awaiting social housing on the housing register with 265 of these having a homeless duty.</p> <p>Monmouthshire has seen an increase in homeless households to which remains a challenge across the county that needs to be addressed including the lack of temporary, supported and permanent accommodation.</p> <p>Recent modelling predicts that around 50% of new households will be priced out of the housing market, contributing to higher number of homeless households in the county. More homeless households are having to be housed in temporary accommodation with numbers increasing from 18 households at the end of 2018 to 189 as of October 2023.</p>

	<p>October 2023, it was reported that the number of households unintentionally homeless and in priority need per 10,000 households was 65. Out of the 65, 17% were due to mental health, learning difficulties or learning disability and 13% were issues related to fleeing domestic abuse or threats of violence.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Monmouthshire was 120 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
Substance Misuse	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Monmouthshire saw nearly 260 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the 3rd lowest for substance service assessments in Gwent, surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) definitions, it is reported that the percentage of adults in Monmouthshire drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 23.5% with females drinking 5.6% % above the guidelines and males surpassing by 15%.</p> <p>Monmouthshire has higher levels of excess alcohol consumption compared to the other Gwent local authorities.</p> <p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Monmouthshire exceeded 22.9%, surpassing the Wales average of 15.7% and reported the highest in Gwent.</p> <p>Census data revealed that in 2022, 28% of children had a parent with a substance or alcohol misuse issues which increased from 22% in 2019.</p>
Educational Attainment	<p>In the 2021/22 academic year, there were 52.2 fixed term exclusions, comprising 51.0 for five days or less and 1.0 for over five days. Additionally, pupils requiring support from the Pupil Referral Service in Monmouthshire rose from approximately 50 pupils in 2020/21 to around 150 in 2022/23.</p> <p>Careers Wales data identified that the percentage of Year 11 school leavers who were NEET in 2022 was 1.8% in comparison to 1.2% for Year 13 school leavers. This compares favorably with the Wales figures of 7.4% of 16-18 year olds.</p> <p>Since the pandemic, levels of attendance have fallen in schools across Monmouthshire and Wales.</p> <p>Primary Schools in Monmouthshire has saw attendance increasing and returning to pre-pandemic levels for pupils. 2018/19 saw attendance levels at 95.4% and in 2022/23 decreased to 92.9%.</p> <p>In 2018/19 attendance in Secondary Schools were at 95.1% and in 2022/23 decreased by 7% to 88.1%.</p>

<p>Mental Health Issues</p>	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Monmouthshire’s European age-standardised suicide rate was 10% per 100,000 population, the 2nd lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent.</p>
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Monmouthshire: Key issues and findings

- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Monmouthshire are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Rape and Sexual offences and Weapon related crime.
- Homicide in Monmouthshire has increased by 200% over the last 5-year period, between 2020-21 to 2022-23 there have been 2 homicides recorded in each year.
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by almost 50% in both rate and volume in the last 5-year period. Drybridge had the highest 5-year average of 36.8 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has risen by 11 and 10% respectively since 2018-19 except for 2020-21 where lower rates and volumes were recorded because of the covid-19 pandemic. St. Marys has the highest 5-year average of 34 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23, with The Elms showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=12) between 2021/22 & 2022/23.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen a significant increase since 2020-21 with a crime rate increase of 49% (n= 0.87) and a volume increase of 48% (n= 80) in the last 5-year period. Llanover has the highest 5-year avg. of 15.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23.
- Weapon related crime rate in Monmouthshire has shown a steady increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 2.24 (n=211) seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 1.89 (n=176). Drybridge has the highest 5-year average of 9.8 crimes between 2018/19 - 2022/23, with Mill showing an unusually high figure of 6 crimes which is an increase of 500% and a high figure compared the last previous 4 years.
- 45% (n= 201) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Monmouthshire were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Victims of serious violence in Monmouthshire are White, Male and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Stalking & Harassment where a victim is most commonly Female and in ABH with intent where the victim is most commonly under the age of 18.
- Offenders of violent crime in Monmouthshire are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Monmouthshire's Risk Factors:

- Monmouthshire has the lowest unemployment rate in Gwent, with an unemployment rate of 2.1% between 2022 and 2023.
- No LSOAs in Monmouthshire are in the 10% most deprived in Wales.
- Overmonnow 2, Llanover 1, Cantref 2, Lansdown and Croesononen are in the 30% most deprived in Wales.
- There are significant income inequalities within communities in Monmouthshire, with wealth sitting alongside relative poverty on a scale not seen in other parts of Wales.
- Against all Gwent local authorities, Monmouthshire has the highest level of excess alcohol consumptions. There are concerns about the level of substance misuse amongst young people.
- Between 2017 and 2019, Monmouthshire had the 2nd lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent at 10% per 100,000 population.
- There has been an increase in exclusions in Monmouthshire schools since the pandemic with exclusions relating to violence also increasing.
- Monmouthshire has seen an increase in pupils requiring support from the Pupil Referral Service.

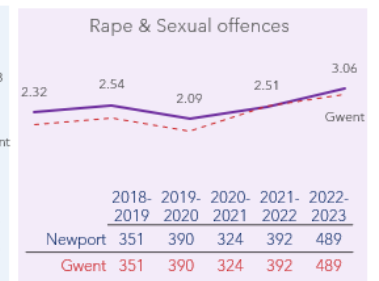
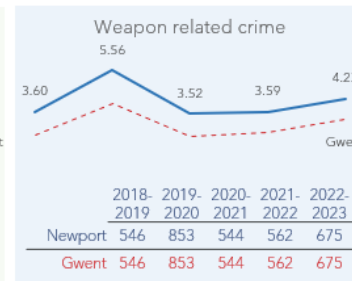
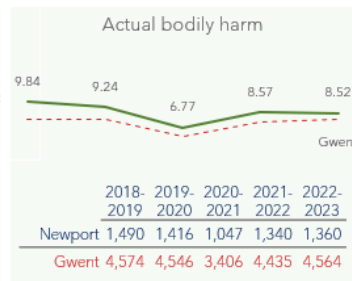
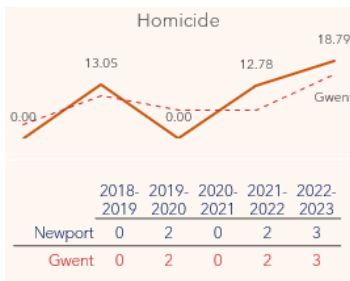
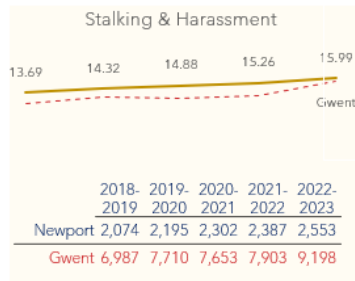
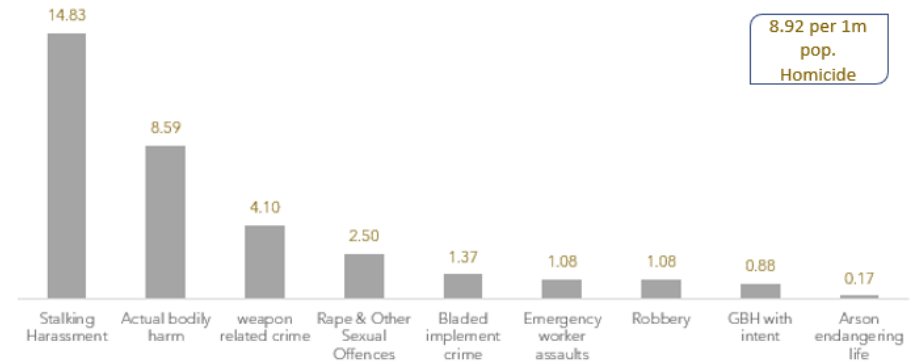
Serious Violence in Newport

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are;

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment, Homicide, and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by Weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Newport



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Stalking & harassment crime rate in Newport has increased by 17% and volume by 23% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Lliswerry had the highest 5-year average of 230.2 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Bettws 212.8 and Victoria 163. Most wards have been slowly increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place. Llanwern in particular, had an increase of 90% (n=43) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the biggest increase seen in the last 5 years.

Homicide crime rate in Newport has increased to 18.79 (n=3) in the last 5-year period.

Bettws has the most homicide recorded in the last 5 years with 5 (avg. of 1). Followed by Shaftsbury with 4 (avg. 0.8). Always and Tredegar Park with 2 (avg. 0.4)

Newport ABH crime rate has had a decrease of -13% and a volume decrease of -9% in the last 5 years.

In terms of volume Stow Hill (Incl. city centre) has the highest 5-year average of 244.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Lliswerry 128 and Pillgwenlly 122.8.

Langstone has been slowly increasing since 2019/20 but between 2021/22 and 2022/23 saw an unusual increase of 71%

Newport Weapon related crime rate has increased by 17% and volume has increased by 24% over the last 5 years.

In terms of volume, Stow Hill (Incl. city centre) has the highest 5-year average of 101 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Pillgwenlly 75.6 and Lliswerry 61.

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21 and seem to be returning to volumes seen pre-pandemic.

Newport Rape & Sexual offence crime rate has shown a significant increase over the last 5 years of 32% and volume increase of 39%.

In terms of volume, Stow Hill (Incl. city centre) has the highest 5-year avg. of 58.4 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Pillgwenlly 39.2 and Bettws 29.6.

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, with the ward Victoria showing a 105% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest figure seen during the last 5 years.

Newport: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment	<p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) revealed that nearly half of the most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Newport fall within the community safety domain. Universal credit claimants constitute 7.3% of Newport’s adult population, contrasting with 5.9% for Gwent overall. Additionally, work households account for 13% in Newport, as opposed to 16.5% in Wales.</p> <p>The WIMD highlighted that Newport encompasses a total of 23 LSOAs that rank among the top 10% most deprived areas in Wales.</p> <p>The Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey identified 13% of Newport as being part of a workless household in 2020 compared to 16.5% of Wales. In 2015, it was reported that 16.7% of Newport was part of a workless household in comparison to 18.4% of Wales.</p> <p>Newport is the only area within Gwent that has seen a rise in the unemployment rate over the last 5 years, rising from 4.6% in April 2018 to March 2019 to 4.8% in April 2022 to March 2023.</p>
Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities	<p>Over the past few years, Newport has experienced changes to the make-up of its population, with 8.2% of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic background at year ending in December 2011, rising to 10.8% in 2015 and 13.2% in 2020.</p>
Homelessness and Housing	<p>NCC Housing Prospectus identified the number of people seeking accommodation in Newport was 413 in June 2021.</p> <p>The rate of households accepted to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need per 10,000 households was reported as 59.09 in 2019, a 26.25 increase since 2015 and surpassing the Wales average of 22.52. In 2019, 46.81 of those 10,000 households were successfully prevented for at least 6 months.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Newport was 105 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
Substance Misuse	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Newport saw nearly 186 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked the lowest substance service assessments in Gwent, below the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that the percentage of adults in Newport drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 11.8%, with females drinking 9.2% above the guidelines and males surpassing by 15%.</p>

	<p>Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Newport exceeded 9.9%, below the Wales average of 15.7% and reported lowest in Gwent.</p>
Educational Attainment	<p>Census 2021 reveals 6.8% of Newport lack formal qualifications as opposed to 11.5% in 2016.</p> <p>Conversely, 39.8% hold level 4 or above qualifications, an 8.1% increase since 2016.</p> <p>The Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) Career Wales figures show that the percentage of Year 11 school leavers that are NEET are 1.3% in 2021 in comparison to 1.7% in 2016.</p> <p>Moreover, the percentage of Year 13 school leavers that are NEET in Newport is 1.09% in 2021.</p>
Mental Health Issues	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Newport's European age-standardised suicide rate was 10.6% per 100,000 population.</p>

Newport: Key issues and findings

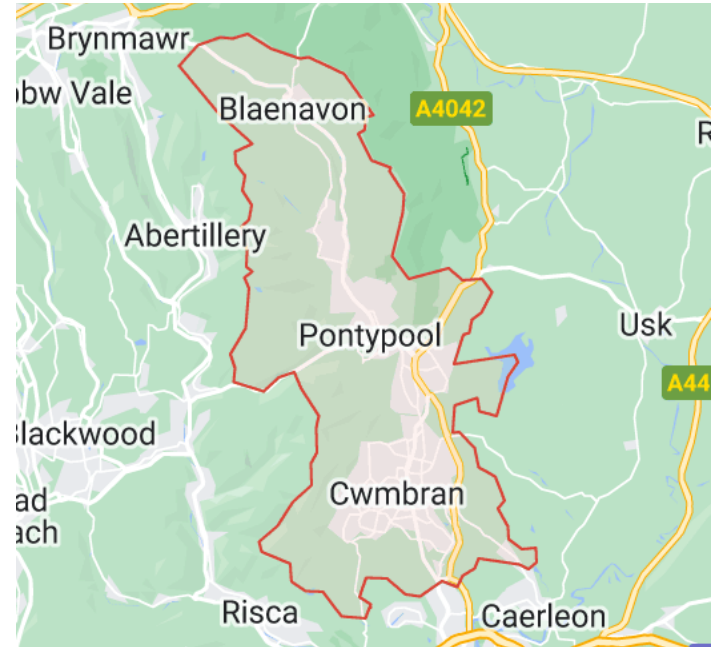
- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Newport are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime and Rape & Sexual offences.
- Stalking and harassment crime rate in Newport has shown a steady year on year increase of 17% over the last 5-year period. Lliswerry had the highest 5-year average of 230.2 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Llanwern in particular, had an increase of 90% (n=43) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the biggest increase seen in the last 5 years.
- Homicide in Newport has increased by 300% over the last 5-year period. Although sporadic over the last 5 years, in 2022-23 it reached a 5 year high of 18.79 homicides per million population (n=3).
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has shown a steady decline by 13 and 9% respectively since 2018-19. As expected, it's mostly in the Stow Hill ward which incorporates the city center however, Langstone has been slowly increasing since 2019/20 but between 2021/22 and 2022/23 saw an unusual increase of 71%
- Weapon related crime rate in Newport has shown a small increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 5.56 (n=853) seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 4.23 (n=675).
- 48% (n= 1062) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Newport were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen an increased crime rate of 32% (n= 0.74) and a volume increase of 39% (n= 138) in the last 5-year period. Victoria ward is showing a 105% increase between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest figure seen during the last 5 years.
- ABH, Weapon crime and Rape & Sexual offences are particularly high in the Stow Hill ward which is to be expected as it covers the city center.
- Victims of serious violence in Newport are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Weapon Crime where a victim is most commonly Male.
- Offenders of violent crime in Newport are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Newport's Risk Factors:

- Newport is the only area in Gwent that has seen a rise in the unemployment rate over the last 5 years.
- Newport has the 2nd largest population size in Gwent with approximately 156,447 residents.
- 2020 data identified that 13.2% of Newport are in the Black or Asian ethnic minority, a 5% increase since 2011.
- Between 2019 and 2022, Newport was ranked the lowest in terms of substance service assessments in Gwent.
- National Survey data revealed that the percentage of adults drinking above guidelines in Newport was the lowest in Gwent.
- In 2021, it was reported that 6.8% of Newport lack formal qualifications as opposed to 11.5% in 2016.

Torfaen Summary

Area	The estimated area size of Torfaen is 126km ² of the total area of Wales.
Population	The estimated population size for Torfaen is 94,000 - approximately 3% of the Wales population.
Population Density	The population density for Torfaen is 20.97 people per hectare.



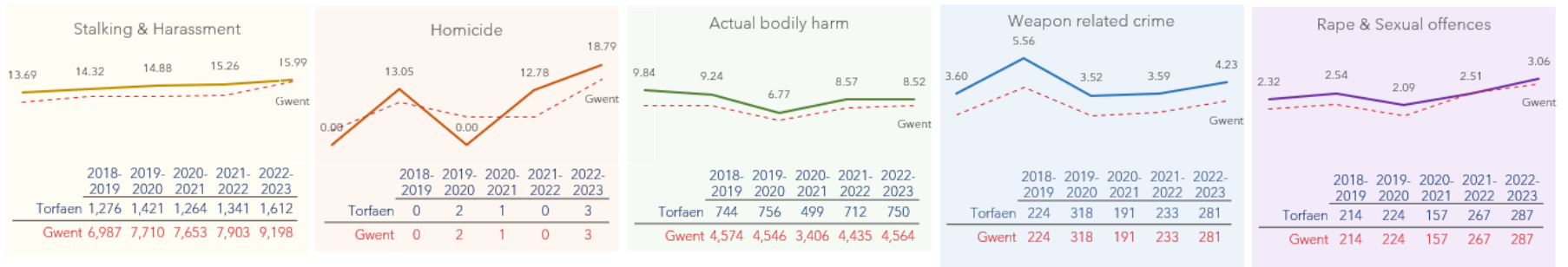
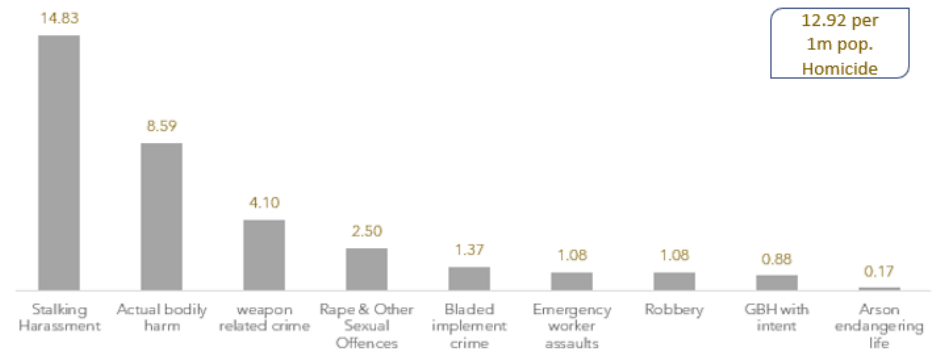
Serious Violence in Torfaen

Gwent's Serious Violence Duty has focused on 11 categories of serious violence, these are:

- o Homicide
- o Weapon Crime (with focus on bladed implements)
- o Youth violence in public places
- o Grievous bodily harm with intent
- o Actual bodily harm
- o Robbery
- o Sexual violence
- o Stalking harassment
- o Arson with threat to life
- o Assault on emergency workers

Over a 5 year average the three areas with the most recorded crimes are Stalking Harassment Homicide, and Actual bodily harm (ABH). Followed closely by Weapon related crime.

5 year average crime rates per 1k pop. of Serious Violence Duty Crime Categories for Torfaen



N.B. Crime rates used are all per 1 thousand population of either the whole of Gwent, or by the population of the local authority being referenced. This is to ensure that a fair comparison is made. Homicide crime rate is calculated per 1 million population because the numbers are so low.

Stalking & harassment crime rate in Torfaen has increased by 26% in the last 5-year period.

In terms of volume, Abersychan had the highest 5-year average of 120 between 2018/19 - 2022/23. Followed by Blaenavon 116.4 and Llantarnam 106.8.

Most wards have been slowly increasing since 2020/21 which was when pandemic lockdowns were in place.

Homicide crime rate in Torfaen has decreased to 32.45 (n=4) in the last 5-year period.

Greenmeadow, Llanyravon North, Panteg, and Two locks have all had 3 homicides in the last 5 years (avg. 0.6) and Llantarnam and Pontnewydd have each had 2 (avg. 0.4)

Torfaen ABH crime rate and volume has shown a slight increase over the last 5 years of less than 1%

In terms of volume Llantarnam has the highest 5-year average of 81.8 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Abersychan 60 and Pontnewydd 48. Approx. half of the wards have an increasing trend since the pandemic lockdowns in 20/21. Llanyravon North has seen an unusual increase of 200% (n=24) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest volume for the last 5 years.

Weapon related crime rate and volume in Torfaen had an increase of 25% in the last 5 years and shows a steady increase in crime rates since 2019/20.

In terms of volume, Llantarnam has the highest 5-year average of 31.2 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Abersychan 20.6 and Pontnewydd 18.8

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21, with Llanyravon North showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=9) between 2021/22 and 2022/23, which is the highest seen in the last 4 years.

Torfaen Rape & Sexual offence crime rate and volume has shown an increase over the last 5 years of 34%

In terms of volume, Llantarnam has the highest 5-year avg. of 21 between 2018/19 - 2022/23, followed by Abersychan 19.8 and Fairwater 17.

Most wards show an increasing trend since 2020/21 and have now exceeded pre-pandemic volume. Fairwater ward has increased by 107% in 2022/23 and is almost double the numbers seen in the previous 5 years.

Torfaen: Key population risk factors affecting violence.

Levels of Poverty, Deprivation and Unemployment	<p>Based on data derived from the Welsh Index of National Deprivation (WIMD), Blaenavon is in the top 20% of most deprived areas in Wales, Trevethin, Pontnewydd and Upper Cwmbran are in the 10% most deprived whilst Greenmeadow, Llantarnam, St Dials, Two Locks and Fairwater are in the 10-20% most deprived LSOA in the whole of Wales.</p> <p>3,613 of the 94,000 residents residing in Torfaen are unemployed. Broken down into local areas, this constitutes 249 in Blaenavon, 1,654 in Cwmbran and 1,260 in Pontypool.</p>
Gender, Social and Economic Inequalities	<p>In Cwmbran, 97.3% of residents identify as White, with approximately 1,300 belonging to non-White ethnicities. Pontypool reports 98.7% White residents, and fewer than 500 are non-White, including gypsy/traveler community in Cymynyscoy. Blaenavon records 63% White residents, with fewer than 100 identifying as non-White.</p>
Homelessness and Housing	<p>Just under half of the housing in Pontypool (48.5%) is rated at council tax band A or B, the two lowest valued housing category with a third of housing being owned outright (33.5%).</p> <p>37.9% of the housing in Cwmbran is rated as council tax band A or B with just under 30% owned out right, and about 36% is owned with a mortgage or loan.</p> <p>The majority of housing in Blaenavon (83.7) is rated as council tax band A or B with a third of housing owned outright (34.4%) and approximately 30% owned with a mortgage or loan.</p> <p>In March 2022, it was reported that the rate of looked after children per 10,000 population under 18 years in Torfaen was 209 with the Wales average at 112.</p>
Substance Misuse	<p>Between 2019 and 2022, Torfaen saw nearly 299 individuals assessed for alcohol use and ranked 2nd highest for substance service assessments in Gwent, surpassing the Wales average of 222.</p> <p>Alongside Blaenau Gwent, the Torfaen area often see children who are placed outside their homes as an increased risk of substance misuse.</p> <p>Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the percentage of adults in Torfaen drinking above the low-risk guidelines of 14 units per week was 19.6%, with females drinking 5.7% above the guidelines and males surpassing by 15%.</p>

	Data from the National Survey for Wales 2021/22 reported that the percentage of adults aged 16+ drinking above guidelines in Torfaen exceeded 18.1%, surpassing the Wales average of 15.7%.
Educational Attainment	<p>In Cwmbran, residents aged 25 to 64 with no qualifications vary from 14.1% to 29.7%, exceeding the Welsh average of 19.4%. Pontnewydd 1 has the highest rate of 34.9%. Pontypool shows similar variations, ranging from 13.3% to 32.3%, with Trevethin 1 recording the highest rate of 42%. Blaenavon reports 78% of pupils not entering higher education at 18 to 19, surpassing Torfaen (73%) and Wales (70%), with Blaenavon 2 LSOA having the highest rate at 85%.</p> <p>Additionally, in Cwmbran repeat absenteeism varies from 3.3% in Cwmbran South-East to 9.1% in Cwmbran North-West, exceeding the Wales average. Greenmeadow 1 LSOA records the highest at 11.1%, while Two Locks 2 has the lowest at 1.5%. Blaenavon absenteeism is 7.1%, surpassing Torfaen and Wales averages. Pontypool shows rates from 3.7% to 9.3%, with Cwmynyscoy having the highest LSOA rate in Wales at 21.5%.</p>
Mental Health Issues	<p>For the past few years, the European age-standardised suicide rate in Gwent has been stable at around 10 per 100,000, slightly lower than the rate for Wales of just over 12 per 100,000.</p> <p>For 2017-2021, Torfaen's European age-standardised suicide rate was 6% per 100,000 population, the lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent.</p>

Torfaen: Key issues and findings

- The top 4 categories of violence crime in Torfaen are Stalking & Harassment, ABH with intent, Weapon related crime and Rape & Sexual offences.
- Stalking and harassment crime rate in Torfaen has shown a steady increase of 26% over the last 5-year period, Abersychan had the highest 5-year average of 120 between 2018/19 - 2022/23.
- Homicide in Torfaen has increased by 300% over the last 5-year period. Most significantly in 2022-23 where the crime rate was recorded as 32.45 (n=3) which is the highest rate seen in the last 5 years.
- The rate and volume of ABH with intent has shown stability only increasing by less than 1% over the last 5-year period except for 2020-21 where there was a drop in rate & volume. Llanyravon North has seen an unusual increase of 200% (n=24) between 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is the highest volume for the last 5 years.
- Weapon related crime rate in Torfaen has shown a small increase since 2020-21 but has not yet reached the high of 3.42 (n=318) seen in 2019-20. In 2022-23 the crime rate has been recorded as 3.04 (n=281). Llanyravon North showing an unusual increase of 300% (n=9) between 2021/22 and 2022/23, which is the highest seen in the last 4 years.
- 46% (n= 401) of all known weapons used to commit crime in Torfaen were bladed implements in the last 5 years.
- Rape and Sexual offences have seen an increased crime rate and volume of 34% (n= 0.78 & n=73) in the last 5-year period. Fairwater ward has increased by 107% in 2022/23 and is almost double the numbers seen in the previous 5 years.
- The highest volume of serious violence is in the Llantarnam ward, this is because its where Torfaen's main town center is.
- Victims of serious violence in Torfaen are White, Female and between 26 - 35 years old which the exception of Weapon Crime where a victim is most commonly Male.
- Offenders of violent crime in Torfaen are mostly White, Male and between 26 - 35 years of age.

Overview of Torfaen's Risk Factors:

- Torfaen is the 2nd smallest in population size against all other areas in Gwent with an estimated size of 94,000 residents.
- Blaenavon is one of the highest deprived areas in Torfaen and in the top 20% of Wales.
- Between 2019 and 2022, Torfaen was ranked the 2nd highest for substance service assessments in Gwent.
- Blaenavon 2 LSOA and Trevethin 1 has the highest rate of residents aged 25 to 64 with no qualifications in Torfaen.
- Blaenavon has the highest repeat absenteeism across Torfaen and surpassing Wales averages.
- Torfaen has the lowest suicide rate reported in Gwent at 6% per 100,000 population.

Summary of key findings

In summary, violent crime in Gwent has shown an upward trend over the last 5 years. Even accounting for the reductions seen during the pandemic years, many of the violent crime rates of focus for this SNA have increased beyond the previous highs in 2019/20.

Significant increases in stalking and harassment, weapon related crime, rape and sexual violence have been seen, and youth violence in particular is showing increases. Arson with threats to life seems to be the only area of focus to be reducing amongst the areas of focus chosen by partners.

Due to the reliance on police recorded data in this SNA, some of this may be related to improved quality in police recording practices. These trends may also be influenced by the current cost of living crisis and a reaction to the pandemic. More research and analysis over time will need to be done to better understand this picture.

Gwent is made up of a variety of local authority areas with an even wider variety of communities. These range from the large city of Newport, through to the extensive rural county of Monmouthshire, with various towns and villages in between. Each area has its unique challenges in terms of population, crime rates and hotspots, but also in relation to those factors that increase the risk of violence occurring (such as levels of deprivation and substance misuse). This has implications for the types of response needed in each local area, despite some of the commonalities amongst the information available.

Given all of the available information a strategy will now be developed looking at the best possible response.

This strategic need assessment will be further refined and developed annually.