



Home Office

Violent crime, disorder and criminal damage since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003

2nd Edition

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Home Office Online Report 16/07

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Summary

- A subset of 30 forces in England and Wales provided data for violent crimes, disorder and criminal damage offences recorded between October 2004 and November 2006. Of these forces, 18 also provided data for offences recorded as occurring at specified locations such as city centres and in or near licensed premises.
- The numbers of more serious violent crimes fell in the year after the introduction of the Licensing Act in November 2005 compared with the previous year, with the decreases occurring particularly in the evening hours before midnight, but with increases between 3am and 6am.
- A fall also occurred in less serious wounding offences in the year after the Act. The number of these offences had been rising prior to the Act.
- There is an indication of some increase between the hours of 3am and 6am for each offence group, but the total offences in this time period account for only a very small proportion of the 24-hour total (four per cent in the year to November 2006).
- The rise from 3am and up to 6am is likely to partly reflect the change to opening hours of licensed premises and the increased numbers of people in a public place at these times, including the police, with greater resources being placed on the streets to deal with disorder.
- There was no overall percentage change in the number of assault without injury offences occurring in the night-time period in the year following the introduction of the Act for the 30 forces, though in this instance the overall figure for England and Wales indicated an estimated increase of five per cent. While the levels fell in the early evening, there was a rise in the early hours of the morning. This pattern of assault with no injury recording may have been influenced by the widening of the powers of arrest in January 2006.
- The numbers of harassment offences showed a rise in the year preceding the introduction of the Act, in part driven by the increased use of penalty notices for disorder. The increase continued after the Act came in and was greater for offences occurring in the night-time period than during the day.
- In the police force areas covered by this study, there was a small (two per cent) increase in criminal damage offences occurring after 9pm in the year following the introduction of the Act, even though overall criminal damage fell slightly (One per cent).

1. Introduction

The *Licensing Act 2003* came into force on November 24 2005. It established a single integrated scheme for licensing premises, dealing with alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment, and enabled flexible opening hours. The Act also introduced a range of further powers to help crime reduction and disorder partners deal with problems of alcohol misuse. Police were given expanded powers to close down disorderly and noisy licensed premises. The police, residents and others were empowered to seek reviews of licences, backed up by a range of measures that impact on businesses and their profits, such as limiting opening hours, or closing on weekends. Increased fines and penalties were also introduced, such as for selling alcohol to people who are drunk, for breach of licence conditions, and for selling alcohol to children.

The Home Office is leading an evaluation of the Act on levels of crime and disorder, using a range of measures at both a national and local level. These include national crime surveys, supplemented with five case studies. The results from this evaluation will be published at the end of 2007.

To complement the findings from the main evaluation, this monitoring exercise was carried out to get an indication of the change in police recorded crime following the introduction of the *Licensing Act 2003*. Initial findings were previously published in *Crime in England and Wales 2005/06* (Walker *et al.*, 2006). This paper builds on this, providing a more detailed analysis for data up to November 2006 and will contribute to the overall evaluation of the Act. It focuses on the types of offences that occur around licensed premises or can occur as a result of alcohol misuse, to see whether there was a change in recorded violent crime, disorder and criminal damage following the introduction of the Act in November 2005 and whether the timing of offences had changed.

2. Method

Time-stamped recorded crime monthly data from October 2004 to November 2006 were requested on a voluntary basis from the 43 Home Office police forces in England and Wales, of which 30 forces were able to provide data. These forces are listed in Annex A and are broadly representative of England and Wales. The subset includes some of the largest forces in the country, such as the Metropolitan Police Force and Greater Manchester Police, as well as some smaller, rural forces, such as Dyfed-Powys, Cumbria and Wiltshire, with a regional spread across the country. The 30 forces account for just under three quarters of all offences recorded in England and Wales.

A further request was made for numbers of violent crime, disorder and criminal damage offences occurring in specific locations, such as city centres and in or near licensed premises, where alcohol misuse is most likely to occur. Eighteen of the forces were able to provide these data for each of the offence groups and also include a mix of large and small forces (also listed in Annex A).

The study focused on five groups of offences that can occur as a result of alcohol misuse and night-time disorder (see Annex B for the specific offences included in these groups):

- more serious violent crimes (including murder and manslaughter);
- less serious wounding offences;
- assault with no injury;
- harassment;
- criminal damage.

Threats to kill were excluded from the more serious violent crime group partly because a recent recording clarification has led to substantial ongoing falls in the recording of these offences by the police (Taylor *et al.*, 2007).

The time-stamped data have been grouped into two day-time periods: 6am-11.59am and 12pm-5.59pm, and four night-time periods: 6pm-8.59pm, 9pm-11.59pm, 12am-2.59am and 3am-5.59am. The combined night-time period, 6pm-5.59am, has been used to summarise the overall night-time impact. It was selected as it allowed for changes in the evening hours when early intervention by the police may be expected to show an effect, as well as throughout the night-time and early morning hours when disorder related to the night-time economy may be seen.

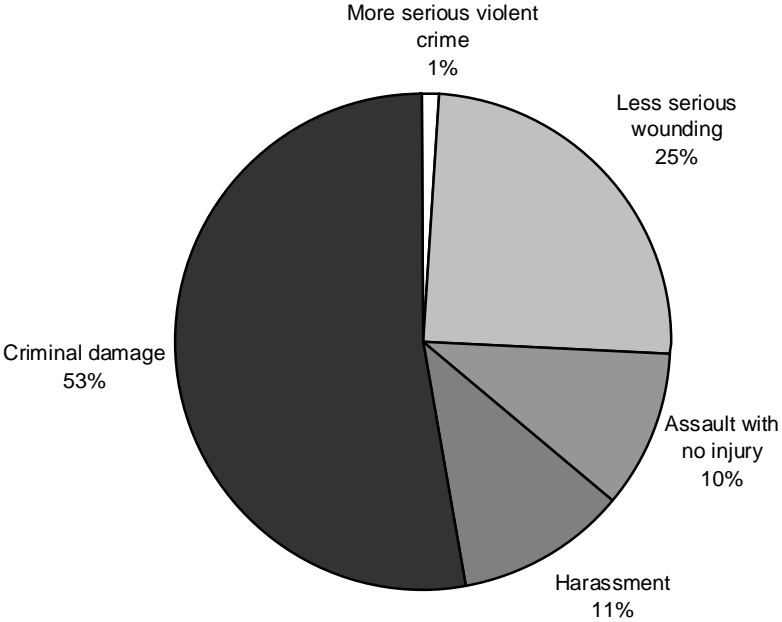
To allow a longer trend pattern to be reviewed, data for the total 24-hour period has been taken from the national collection of recorded crime held by the Home Office for the 30 forces in the study. These data are included in the individual offence tables in the Annex. The ongoing investigation of a crime may mean that the recording of an offence changes – these data reflect the latest position at the time of the report, while time-stamped information provided to the study remain as originally reported.

An assessment of the change in the occurrence of offences is made by comparing data for the combined twelve months after the introduction of the Licensing Act (December 2005 to November 2006) with the same twelve-month period in the previous year (December 2004 to November 2005).

Twelve-month moving averages were calculated rolling forward to November 2006. These yearly averages were then indexed on the year to November 2005 and are shown at three-monthly intervals. The indices show the trend for each of the offences in relation to the year prior to the Act being introduced, and take into account seasonal variation (see Hird and Ruparel, 2007, for an analysis of seasonality in recorded crime). Moving averages were calculated for the night-time period, 6pm-5.59am, for the period December 2004 to November 2006, and also for the 24-hour data from the national collection for the same 30 forces, for the period December 2003 to November 2006.

Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of the total subset of offences by the five offence types. Criminal damage is the largest group, accounting for over half of the subset. The less serious wounding offences accounted for a quarter of the subset. Harassment and assault with no injury each accounted for around ten per cent of the total, while more serious violent crimes comprised one per cent. Overall, this group of offences accounted for 39 per cent of all recorded crimes in 2005/06.

Figure 1: Percentage distribution of offences by offence type within the subset of 30 forces



3. Results

3.1 All offences in the subset

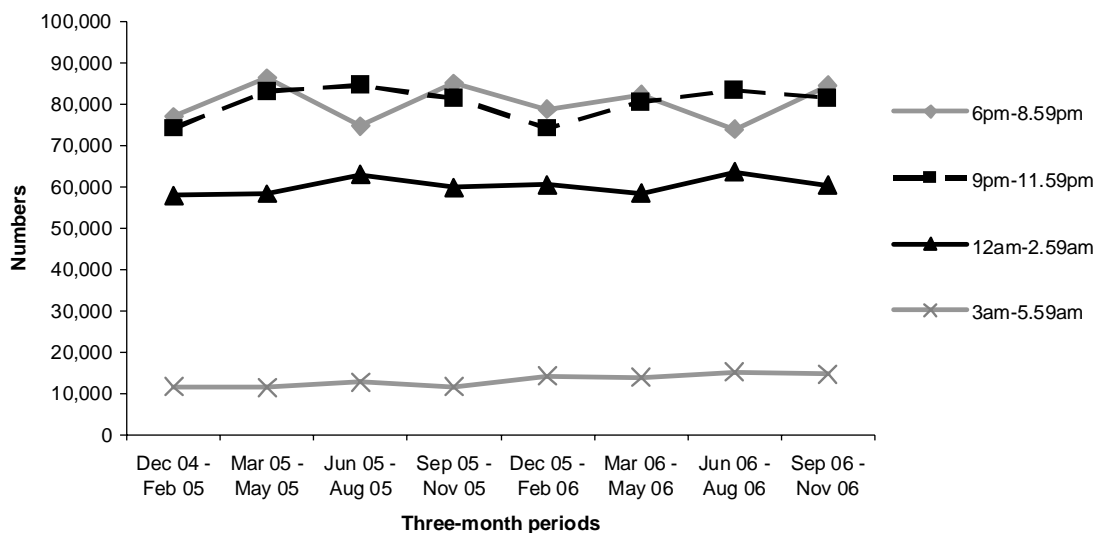
No evidence of overall rise in levels of offences following the introduction of the Act

There was a slight fall in the total (24-hour) number of violent crime, disorder and criminal damage offences in the 30 forces between the two twelve-month periods (one per cent), while there was a slight rise (one per cent) in the overall number of these offences occurring in the night-time period, 6pm-5.59am.

Figure 2 shows the number of offences in grouped hour periods during the evening and night-time. A step rise appears to occur in the number of offences happening between 3am and 6am in the December 2005-February 2006 period, immediately following the introduction of the Licensing Act with a rise of 22 per cent compared with September-November 2005.

Table 1 (see section 5 for annex of tables) gives the number of offences occurring in the subset of 30 forces in each day and night-time period.

Figure 2: Numbers of offences in three-monthly periods by time of night



3.2 More serious violent crimes

Fall in more serious violent crimes in the year after the introduction of the Act but with a rise in crimes between 3am and 6am after December 2005

There was an overall fall of five per cent in the number of night-time more serious violent offences (occurring between 6pm and 6am) in the year after the introduction of the Licensing Act (see Table 2). This decline began between December 2005 and February 2006, as illustrated in the indexed moving averages (see Figure 3a). Prior to this, levels were largely stable. There was an overall fall of ten per cent in the number of these more serious offences between the years before and after the Licensing Act.

The overall fall in the more serious violent offences in this monitoring exercise are in line with the national figures (Lovbakke *et al.*, 2007). The results from the *Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly update to December 2006* show that serious wounding (excluding threats to kill which were affected by recording changes) fell by ten per cent in October-December 2006 compared with the same quarter in 2005.

The falls mainly occurred in the day-time and the evening hours before midnight (Figure 3b). In contrast the numbers of offences occurring between 3am and 6am increased in the year after the introduction of the Act by 25 per cent. However, only around eight per cent of the more serious crimes occurred in this time period (in the year to November 2006) and therefore this change does not have a strong impact on the levels of crime overall. The rise in the offences between 3am and 6am occurred in December 2005-February 2006, immediately after the Act came in, with a step rise. Figure 3c shows that the levels were thereafter stable.

Figure 3d shows the profile of the number of offences by hour during the night-time for December 2004-November 2005, the year preceding the introduction of the Licensing Act, and December 2005-November 2006, the year after the Act came in. The chart illustrates the lower levels between 6pm and up to midnight for the year after the Act, compared with the previous year, with a shift in the peak from 11pm-11.59pm to 12am-12.59am. It also shows the slightly greater numbers between 3am and 6am.

Figure 3: More serious violent crime

Figure 3a: Indexed twelve-month moving averages (base = year to November 2005), night-time and total 24-hour offences

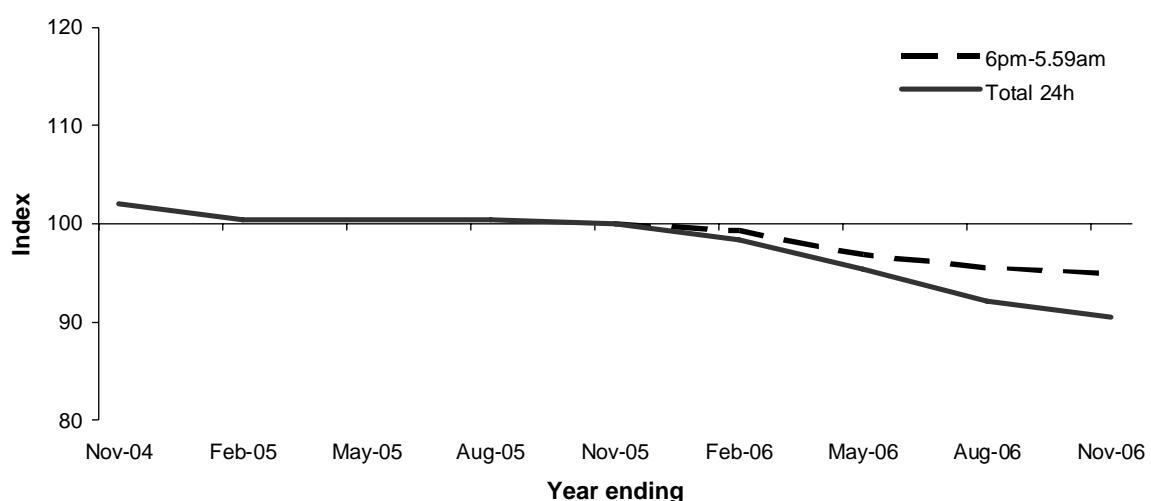


Figure 3b: Difference in number of offences compared with previous year by hour period, December 2005- November 2006

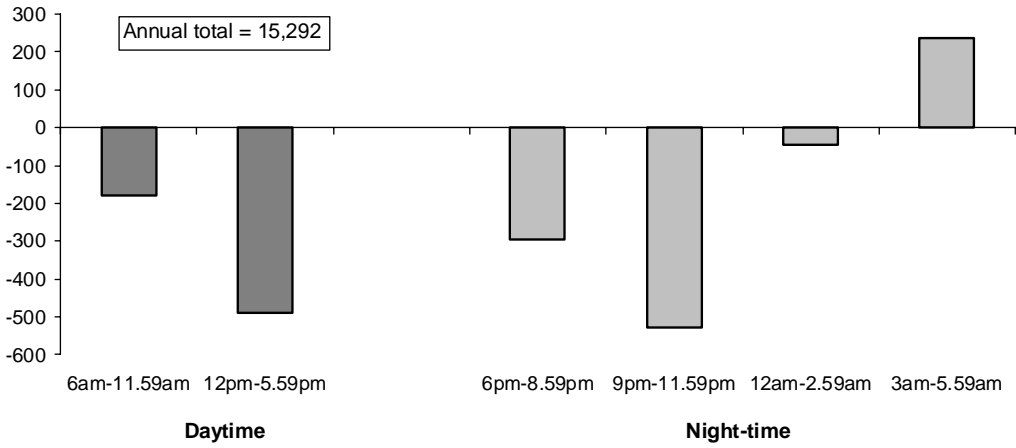


Figure 3c: Numbers of offences in three-monthly periods by time of night

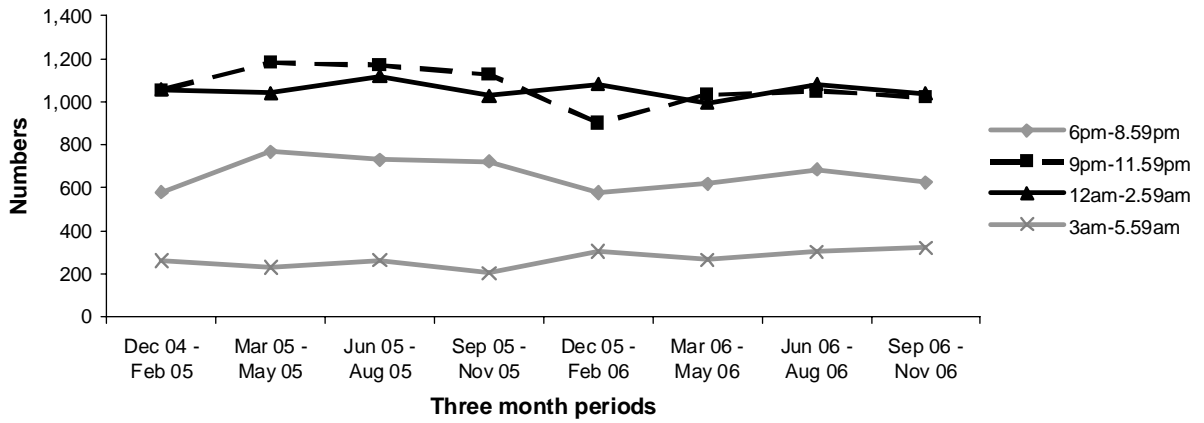
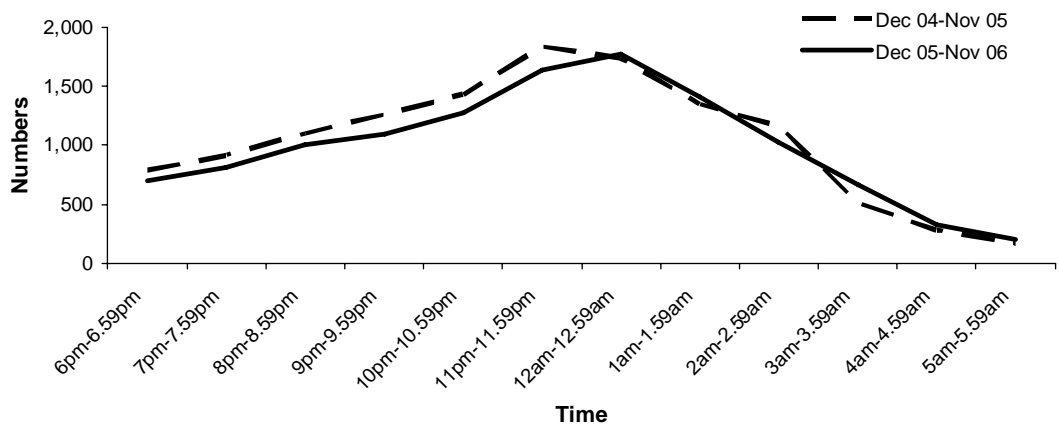


Figure 3d: Number of offences by hour, 6pm to 5.59am, by year



3.3 Less serious wounding offences

Fall in less serious wounding offences between 9pm and 3am after June 2006 with a small rise in offences between 3am and 6am

There was a fall of three per cent in the number of less serious wounding offences occurring between 6pm and 6am in the year after the introduction of the Licensing Act (see Table 3). The indexed moving averages show that the levels were stable in the period immediately after the Act came in, after which the levels fell – from around June-August 2006 (Figure 4a). Data for the full 24 hours suggest that the plateau occurred after a period of rising numbers of less serious wounding offences. These data showed a steeper fall than occurred in the night-time offences. Overall there was a five per cent fall in the total number of less serious woundings between December 2004-November 2005 and December 2005-November 2006.

The fall in less serious wounding occurred during the day and in each night-time period up to 3am (Figure 4b). The most substantial fall at night occurred in the hours from 9pm and up to midnight. Figure 4d shows the shift in peak offending from between 11pm and midnight to between midnight and 1am, and the slightly higher numbers of offences after 3am. The rise between 3am and 6am occurred in the period immediately following the introduction of the Act, December 2005-February 2006, with the levels then remaining stable after this (Figure 4c). The offences in this early morning period accounted for five per cent of the total less serious wounding offences in the year to November 2006.

These patterns are broadly similar in the less serious wounding data recorded by the subset of 18 forces as occurring specifically in city centres and in or near licensed premises (see Table 3a). Falls occurred in the hours before midnight, as well as for some three-month periods for offences happening between midnight and 3am. The rise was particularly pronounced for the 3am-5.59am period, although the overall number of offences recorded at this time was still small.

Figure 4: Less serious woundings

Figure 4a: Indexed twelve-month moving averages (base = year to November 2005), night-time and total 24-hour offences

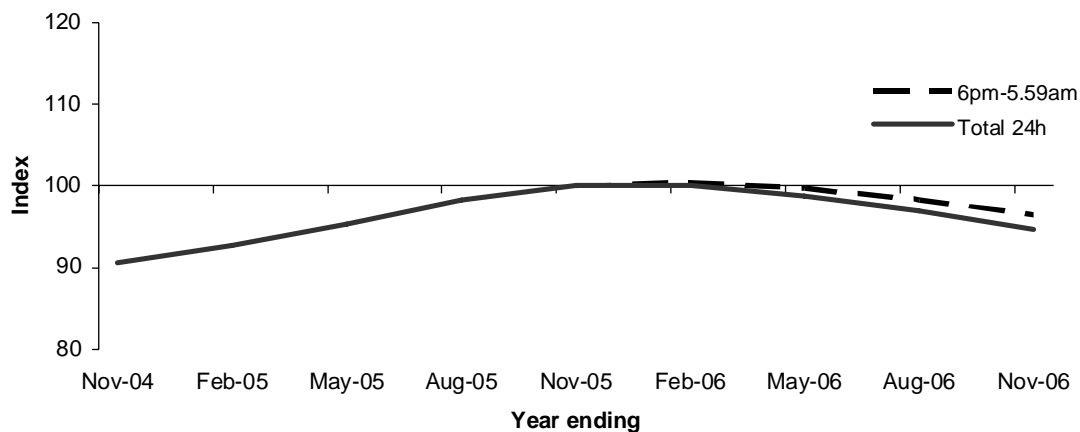


Figure 4b: Difference in number of offences compared with previous year by hour period, December 2005-November 2006

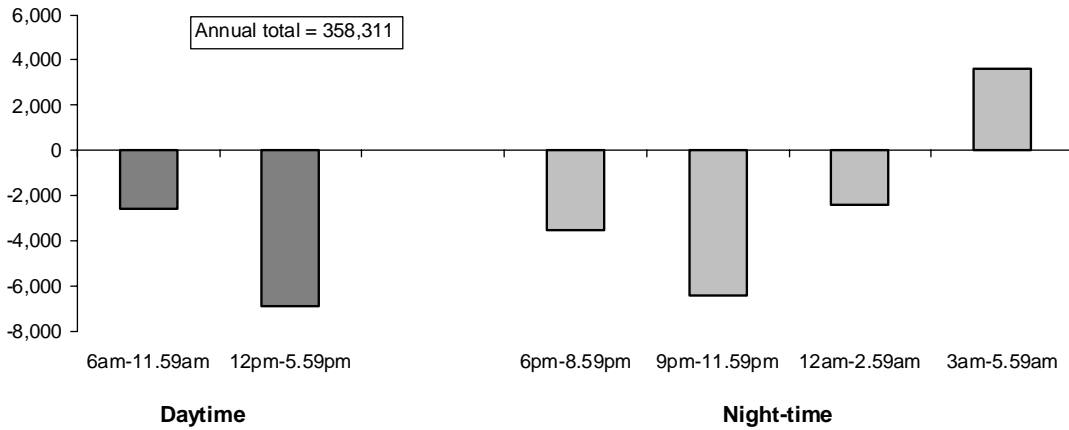


Figure 4c: Numbers of offences in three-monthly periods by time of night

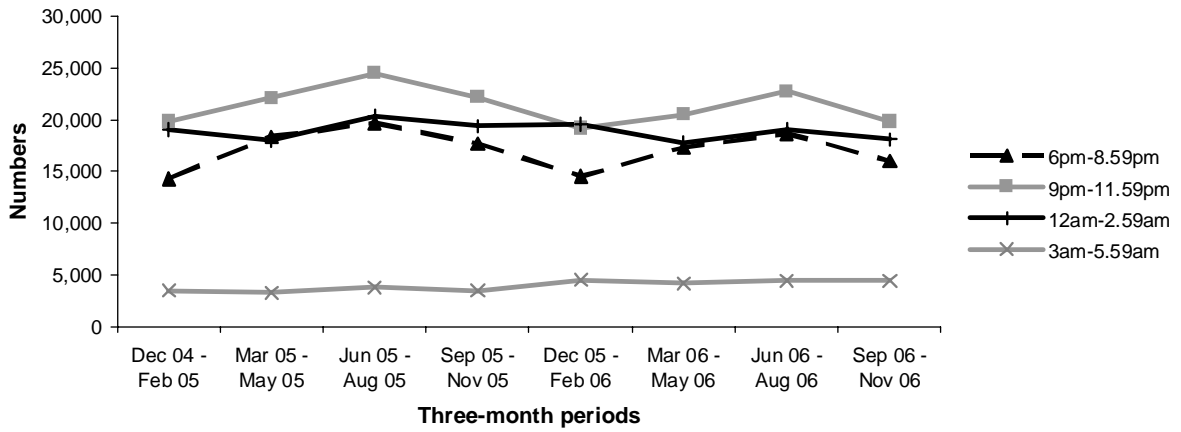
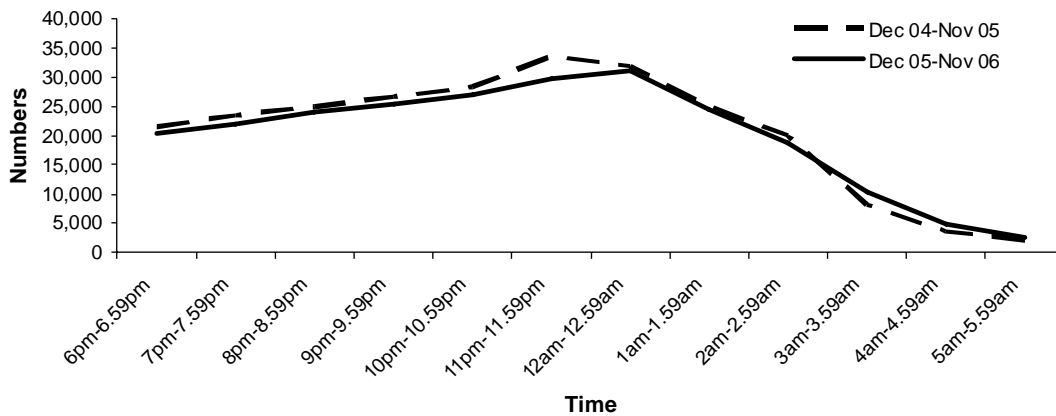


Figure 4d: Number of offences by hour, 6pm to 5.59am, by year



3.4 Assault with no injury

Lower levels of assault with no injury up to May 2006, followed by a rise both overall and at night

The level of assault with no injury happening between 6pm and 6am remained stable in the year to November 2006 compared with the previous year (see Table 4). The moving averages indicate a longer-term fall in these assaults in the periods preceding the Act, with the numbers levelling off between December 2005 and May 2006, followed by a rise in the numbers of assaults with no injury both at night and overall (Figure 5a).

Figure 5b shows a substantial fall during the daytime and between 6pm and 9pm. The greatest night-time rise occurred between 3am and 6am, with a step rise occurring in December 2005-February 2006 (Figure 5c). Offences occurring in this early morning period accounted for four per cent of the all assault with no injury offences (in the year to November 2006).

The hour profile (Figure 5d) shows that the highest levels of assault with no injury offending were throughout the evening up to 1am, after which the levels fell sharply. The profile doesn't show a shift in the peak offending as observed for the offences with injury.

The levelling off and subsequent rise in the number of assault with no injury offences may be linked to the introduction of the *Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005* in January 2006. This included a widening of the police powers of arrest to include all offences; prior to this an arrest for a common assault (with no injury) offence could only be made in limited circumstances.

These patterns are broadly similar to the assault with no injury offences recorded by the subset of 18 forces as occurring specifically in city centres and in or near licensed premises (Table 4a). A decrease occurred in the number of offences happening between 6pm and midnight in the year to November 2006, compared with the previous year, while there was a rise in the hours after midnight.

Figure 5: Assault with no injury

Figure 5a: Indexed twelve-month moving averages (base = year to November 2005), night-time and total 24-hour offences

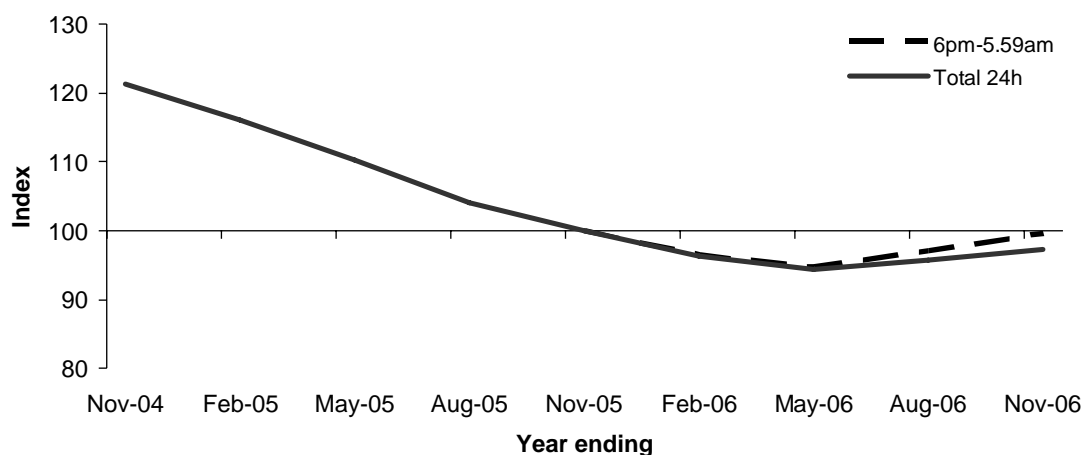


Figure 5b: Difference in number of offences compared with previous year by hour period, December 2005- November 2006

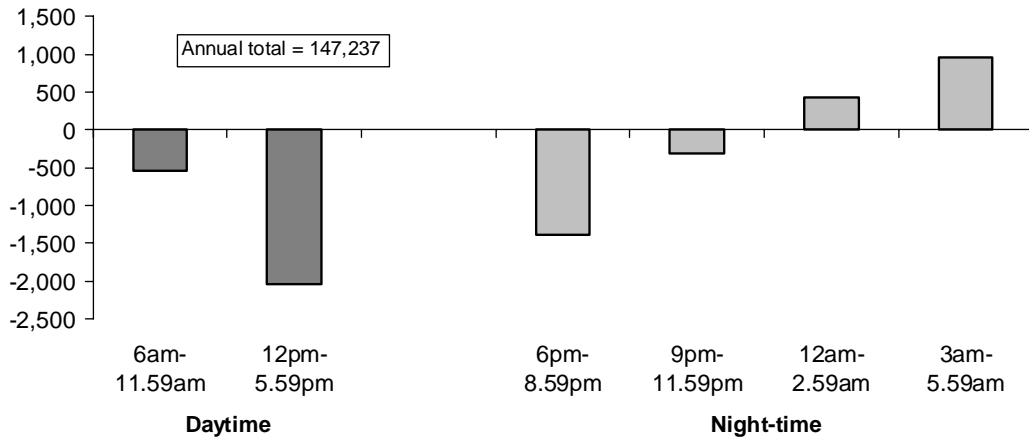


Figure 5c: Numbers of offences in three-monthly periods by time of night

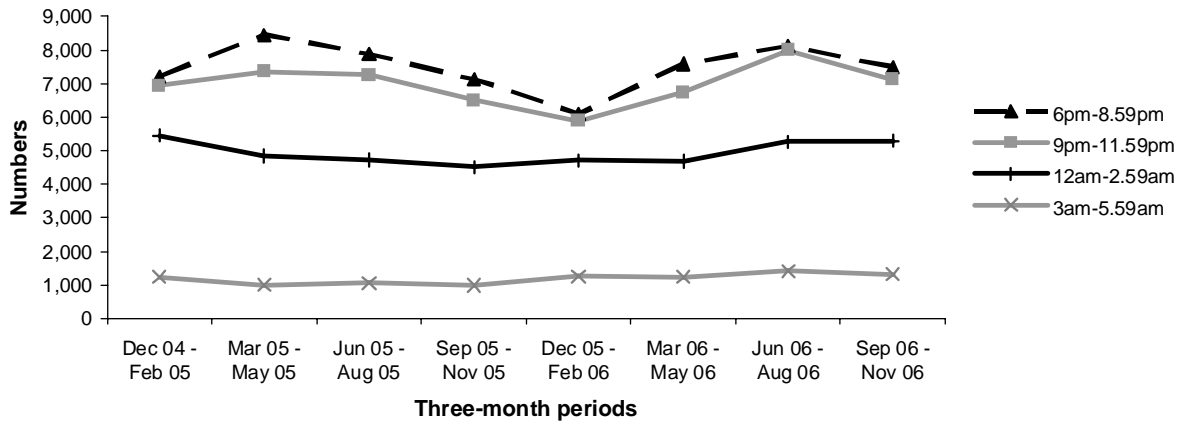
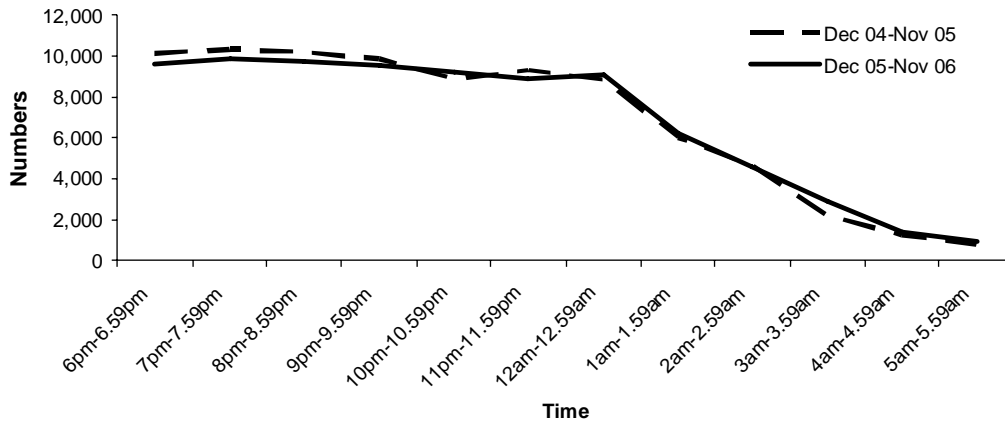


Figure 5d: Number of offences by hour, 6pm to 5.59am, by year



3.5 Harassment

Increased numbers of harassment offences were recorded, likely to be linked to the increased use of penalty notices for disorder

There was a rise of seven per cent in the numbers of night-time offences (6pm-5.59am), compared with an overall rise of two per cent for the total 24-hour harassment offences (see Table 5). The indexed moving averages indicate that the increase preceded the introduction of the Act (Figure 6a). The levels of harassment in part reflect increased policing activities and the use of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs). The annual bulletin, *Crime in England and Wales 2006/07*, showed that just over two fifths of detections for harassment were the result of PNDs, more than for any other type of offence (Nicholas *et al.*, 2007). Harassment accounted for 53 per cent of all PNDs issued in 2006/07. The numbers of PNDs issued increased sharply following their roll-out to forces during 2003/04, with an overall rise of 143 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 and by a further 32 per cent in the following year to reach over 139,700 in 2006/07. The rise in harassment offences between 2005/06 and 2006/07 was entirely accounted for by the offences for which a PND was issued.

The increases in harassment offences in each day and night-time period are shown in Figure 6b. While there was a general overall rise in harassment, the early morning period (3am-5.59am) showed a step rise following the introduction of the Licensing Act, after which the levels remained stable (Figure 6c).

The profile of harassment offences by hour in Figure 6d shows an unusual pattern with stable levels through the evening until a sharp peak between midnight and 1am, with the levels then falling. The figure shows an almost identical pattern in the two twelve-month periods with no shift in the timing of offending.

Harassment recorded by the 18 forces as occurring specifically in city centres and in or near licensed premises also showed consistently higher levels in the year to November 2006, compared with the previous year (see Table 5a).

Figure 6: Harassment

Figure 6a: Indexed twelve-month moving averages (base = year to November 2005), night-time and total 24-hour offences

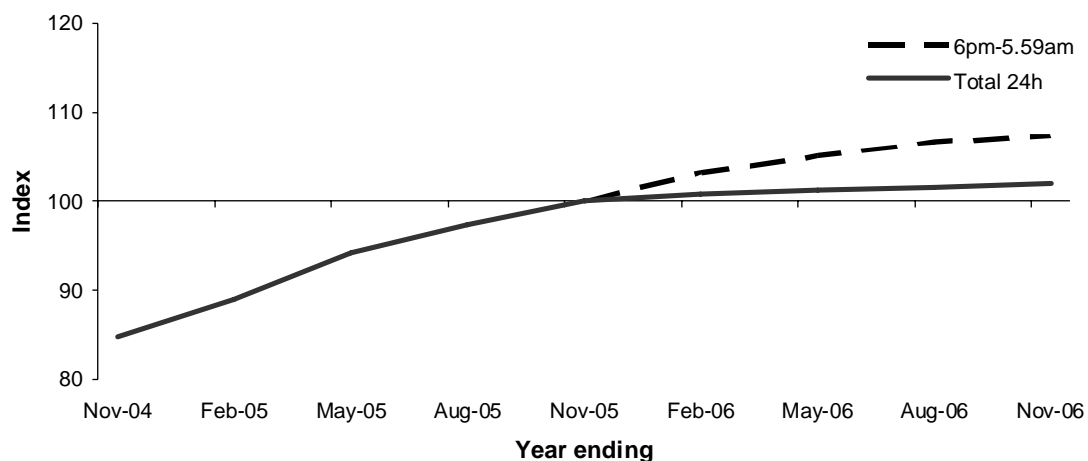


Figure 6b: Difference in number of offences compared with previous year by hour period, December 2005- November 2006

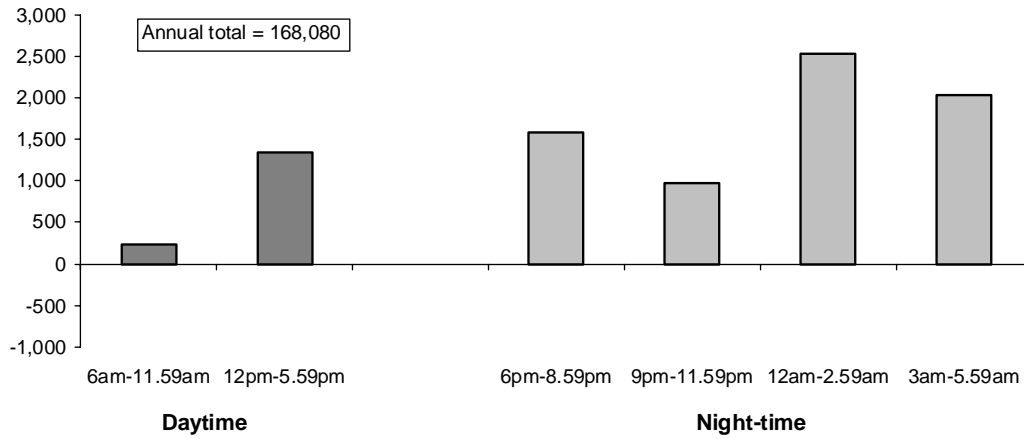


Figure 6c: Numbers of offences in three-monthly periods by time of night

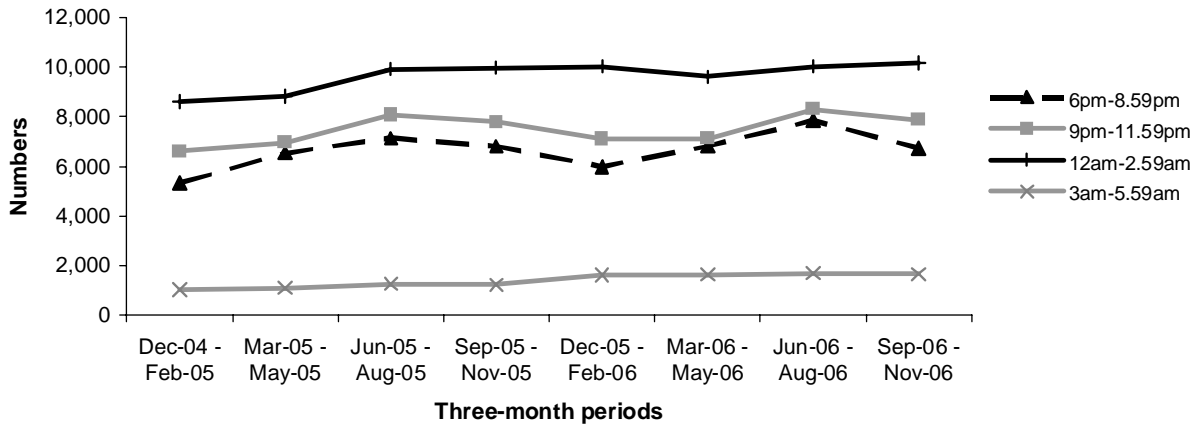
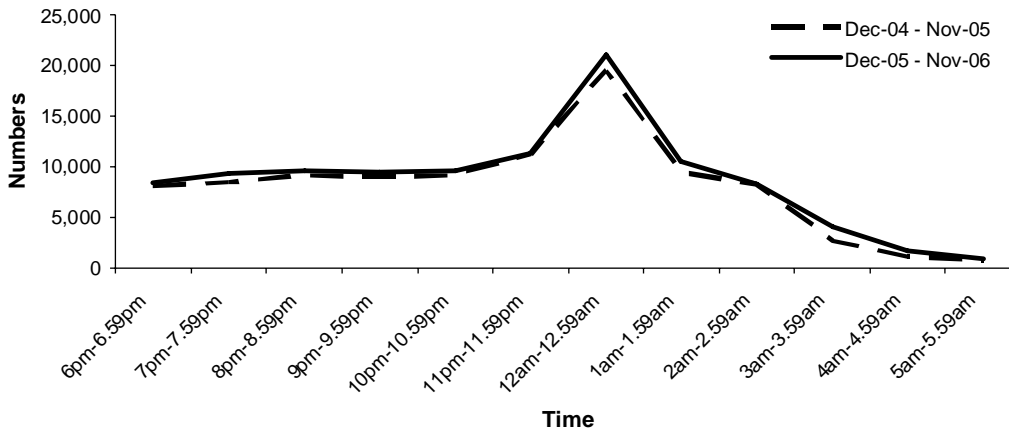


Figure 6d: Number of offences by hour, 6pm to 5.59am, by year



3.6 Criminal damage

Small increase in the levels of criminal damage occurring between 9pm and 6am while levels fell during the day

There was a rise of two per cent in the number of night-time offences (from 9pm) in the year after the Act compared with the year preceding the introduction of the *Licensing Act* (see Table 6). In contrast, the overall levels fell slightly (by one per cent). The moving averages indicate that the overall numbers of criminal damage offences fell slightly in the early part of 2005 before levelling off from around the summer of 2005 (Figure 7a). The night-time offences rose in the December 2005-February 2006 period.

While there were substantial falls in the numbers of offences during the daytime, substantial increases occurred in all evening and night-time hour periods from 9pm (Figure 7b).

The 6pm-8.59pm period shows a strong seasonal pattern, with troughs in the summer (June-August) and higher levels in the other three-month periods (Figure 7c). Offences in the other night-time periods show more steady patterns. The number of offences happening between 3am and 6am were consistently higher in each of the four three-monthly periods after the introduction of the Act compared with the equivalent periods in the previous year.

The peak hours of criminal damage offending during the evening and night-time were between 6pm and 1am, after which the levels fell sharply. Criminal damage shows a similar profile of offending by hour to that for assault with no injury and does not show any shift in the timing of offences after the introduction of the *Licensing Act* (Figure 7d).

Figure 7: Criminal damage

Figure 7a: Indexed twelve-month moving averages (base = year to November 2005), night-time and total 24-hour offences

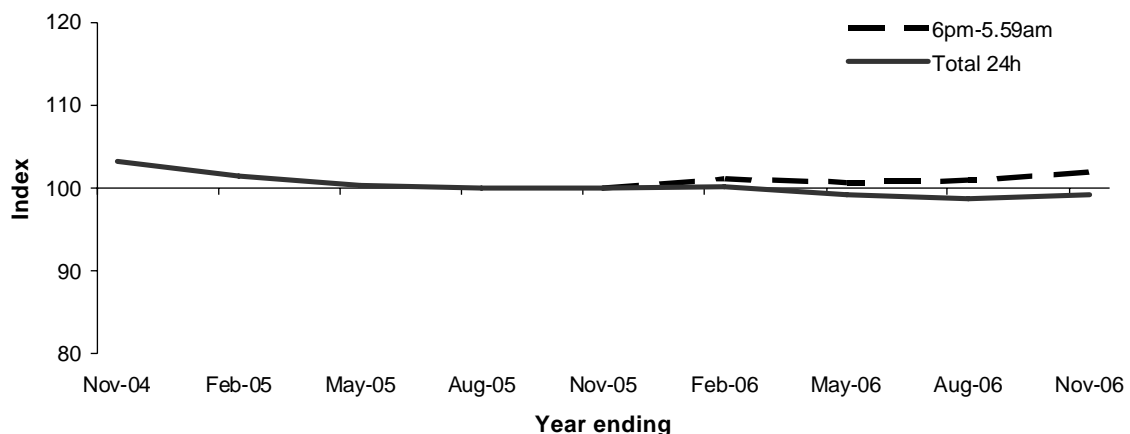


Figure 7b: Difference in number of offences compared with previous year by hour period, December 2005-November 2006

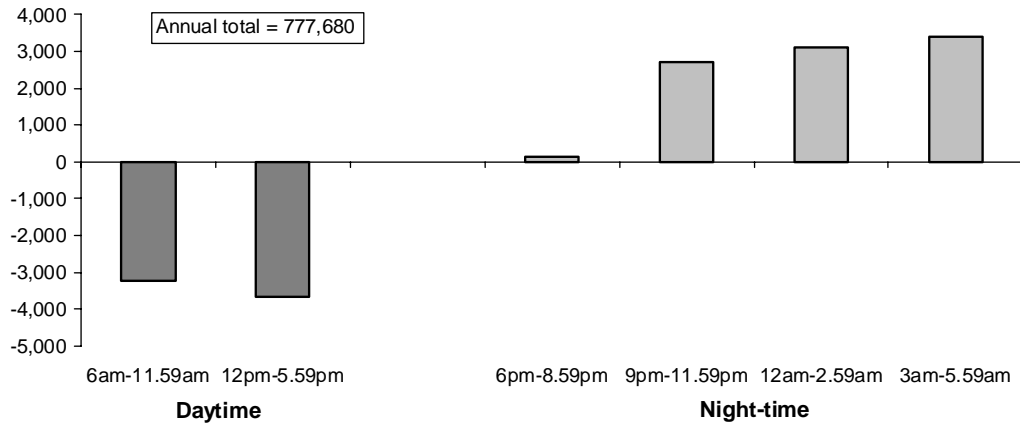


Figure 7c: Numbers of offences in three-monthly periods by time of night

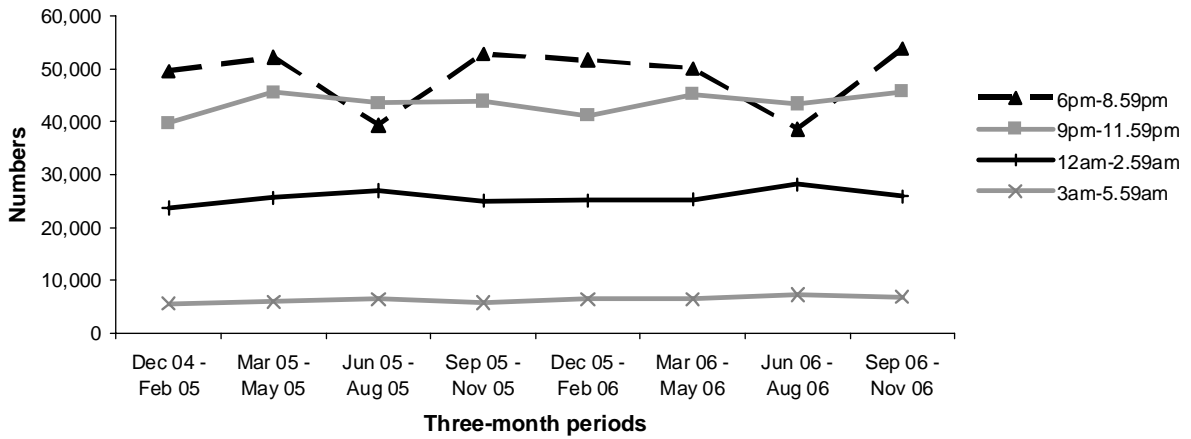
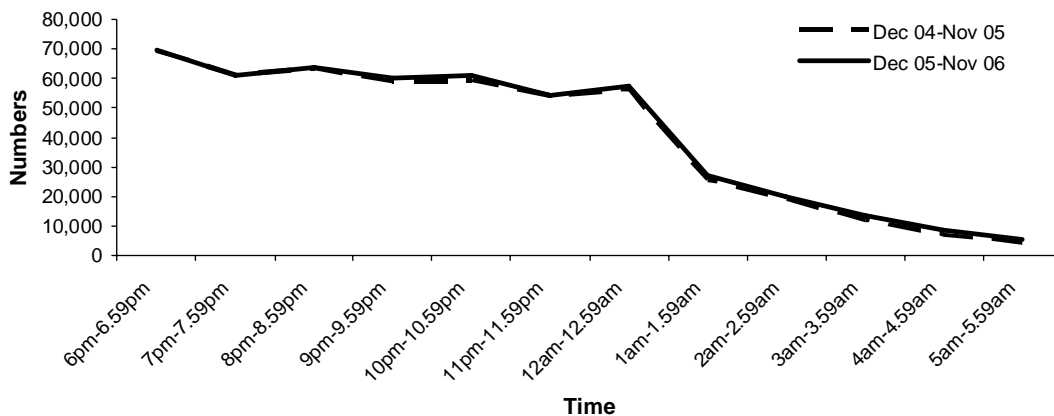


Figure 7d: Number of offences by hour, 6pm to 5.59am, by year



3.7 The overall change in night-time violent crime, disorder and criminal damage offences in England and Wales

We cannot assess to what degree these patterns have resulted directly from the licensing changes, or other factors. However, the number of violent crimes, disorder and criminal damage offences occurring in England and Wales as a whole during the night-time period can be estimated by applying the proportion of offences by type occurring between 6pm and 6am recorded in the 30 forces in the two twelve-month periods to the overall numbers of offences in the 43 Home Office forces during the same periods.

By following this approach it is estimated that overall there were around 12,000 fewer violent crimes with injury in the night-time period in the year after the *Licensing Act* was introduced, December 2005–November 2006, compared with the year before the Act came in (a fall of six per cent for more serious violent crime offences and three per cent for less serious woundings).

Overall we estimate that there was an increase of around 5,400 assaults with no injury (five per cent), 12,900 offences of harassment (nine per cent) and 19,800 offences of criminal damage (three per cent) in the year following the introduction of the Act occurring in the night-time period between 6pm and 6am. The estimated national increase in night-time assault with no injury, as compared with a zero per cent increase in the time-stamped data, was due to a more rapid rise in the numbers of these offences from January 2006 in the forces that did not provide time-stamped data, compared with the 30 forces in the study.

The trends in the non-injury offences are harder to interpret because of the impact of increased police activity and the use of penalty notices for disorder. Their use is very likely associated with the specific efforts by the police to proactively address offences associated with the night-time economy.

The findings in this monitoring exercise are supported by the latest analysis of violence-related injury from accident and emergency records (Sivarajasingam *et al.*, 2007). The authors of this study concluded that increased violent crime as recorded by the police is inversely associated with levels of violence-related harm and suggested that increased police action on violence, with early intervention, can reduce the risk of injury requiring treatment.

4. Conclusion

The monitoring exercise has examined the pattern of offences by time of evening in relation to the introduction of the *Licensing Act 2003* in November 2005. There were overall falls in more serious violent crimes and less serious wounding offences, both involving injury, following the introduction of the *Licensing Act 2003*.

Assault with no injury showed lower levels after the Act came in, followed by a rise from around June 2006. In contrast harassment showed increased levels that predated the licensing changes, while the night-time levels of criminal damage rose slightly after the Act came in despite an overall fall in criminal damage.

There was also a small but consistent rise for crimes occurring between 3am and 6am, however offences in this time period accounted for only around four per cent of all offences recorded in this study in the year to November 2006.

The patterns of recorded crime are influenced by changes in recording practices and policing activities. Specific campaigns have targeted alcohol misuse and led police forces to adopt different practices or to place greater resources on the street to deal with disorder (Home Office, 2006). These efforts may have contributed to the increased recording of offences in the early hours of the morning. Penalty notices for disorder have provided a sanction for low-level disorder offences and their increased use, together with the increased powers of arrest, will also have led to increased recording of offences such as assault with no injury, harassment and criminal damage.

The recorded crime statistics also reflect the location and activities of the public, and the rise in offences in the early morning, small in number, will reflect the greater number of people (including the police) in public spaces at these times as a result of the flexibility in closing times introduced as a result of the *Licensing Act 2003*.

5. Tables

Table 1: All offences in five types of offences by time of day, three-month period and year, subset of 30 forces

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6am - 5.59pm	126,542	143,532	130,863	133,476	534,413	125,045	136,565	124,696	130,163	516,469
6pm - 8.59pm	77,058	86,359	74,825	85,165	323,407	78,846	82,464	73,949	84,640	319,899
9pm - 11.59pm	74,196	83,136	84,572	81,465	323,369	74,211	80,606	83,435	81,594	319,846
12am - 2.59am	57,968	58,353	63,096	59,965	239,382	60,542	58,424	63,551	60,482	242,999
3am - 5.59am	11,613	11,525	12,776	11,629	47,543	14,156	13,793	15,210	14,619	57,778
Not known	3,029	3,217	3,257	3,110	12,613	2,601	2,561	2,385	2,062	9,609
6pm-5.59am sub-total	220,835	239,373	235,269	238,224	933,701	227,755	235,287	236,145	241,335	940,522
Total in 24-hour period	350,406	386,122	369,389	374,810	1,480,727	355,401	374,413	363,226	373,560	1,466,600

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6am - 5.59pm	-1,497	-6,967	-6,167	-3,313	-17,944	-1	-5	-5	-2	-3
6pm - 8.59pm	1,788	-3,895	-876	-525	-3,508	2	-5	-1	-1	-1
9pm - 11.59pm	15	-2,530	-1,137	129	-3,523	0	-3	-1	0	-1
12am - 2.59am	2,574	71	455	517	3,617	4	0	1	1	2
3am - 5.59am	2,543	2,268	2,434	2,990	10,235	22	20	19	26	22
Not known	-428	-656	-872	-1,048	-3,004	-14	-20	-27	-34	-24
6pm-5.59am sub-total	6,920	-4,086	876	3,111	6,821	3	-2	0	1	1
Total in 24-hour period	4,995	-11,709	-6,163	-1,250	-14,127	1	-3	-2	0	-1

**Table 2: More serious violent crime
in all locations, in subset of 30 forces**

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	2,953	3,222	3,285	3,081	12,541	2,865	2,913	3,124	3,008	11,910
6pm-8.59pm	580	769	731	723	2,803	577	619	686	626	2,508
9pm-11.59pm	1,055	1,182	1,170	1,126	4,533	901	1,034	1,051	1,021	4,007
12am-2.59am	1,057	1,041	1,120	1,029	4,247	1,083	995	1,084	1,039	4,201
3am-5.59am	261	230	264	203	958	304	265	303	322	1,194
Total in 24-hour period	3,869	4,290	4,386	4,060	16,605	3,623	3,861	4,022	3,786	15,292
Total in 24-hour HO collection	3,819	4,332	4,537	4,007	16,695	3,540	3,837	3,989	3,737	15,103

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	-88	-309	-161	-73	-631	-3	-10	-5	-2	-5
6pm-8.59pm	-3	-150	-45	-97	-295	-1	-20	-6	-13	-11
9pm-11.59pm	-154	-148	-119	-105	-526	-15	-13	-10	-9	-12
12am-2.59am	26	-46	-36	10	-46	2	-4	-3	1	-1
3am-5.59am	43	35	39	119	236	16	15	15	59	25
Total in 24-hour period	-246	-429	-364	-274	-1,313	-6	-10	-8	-7	-8
Total in 24-hour HO collection	-279	-495	-548	-270	-1,592	-7	-11	-12	-7	-10

**Table 3: Less serious wounding offences
in all locations, in subset of 30 forces**

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	56,618	61,701	68,273	62,732	249,324	57,716	59,740	64,845	58,304	240,605
6pm-8.59pm	14,287	18,358	19,686	17,681	70,012	14,525	17,292	18,663	15,987	66,467
9pm-11.59pm	19,824	22,066	24,483	22,195	88,568	19,162	20,483	22,726	19,827	82,198
12am-2.59am	19,066	18,031	20,328	19,390	76,815	19,535	17,788	19,018	18,069	74,410
3am-5.59am	3,441	3,246	3,776	3,466	13,929	4,494	4,177	4,438	4,421	17,530
Total in 24-hour period	84,294	95,391	101,299	95,607	376,591	85,520	90,950	94,785	87,056	358,311
Total in 24-hour HO collection	85,386	97,263	103,139	96,565	382,353	85,755	92,333	95,754	87,891	361,733

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	1,098	-1,961	-3,428	-4,428	-8,719	2	-3	-5	-7	-3
6pm-8.59pm	238	-1,066	-1,023	-1,694	-3,545	2	-6	-5	-10	-5
9pm-11.59pm	-662	-1,583	-1,757	-2,368	-6,370	-3	-7	-7	-11	-7
12am-2.59am	469	-243	-1,310	-1,321	-2,405	2	-1	-6	-7	-3
3am-5.59am	1,053	931	662	955	3,601	31	29	18	28	26
Total in 24-hour period	1,226	-4,441	-6,514	-8,551	-18,280	1	-5	-6	-9	-5
Total in 24-hour HO collection	369	-4,930	-7,385	-8,674	-20,620	0	-5	-7	-9	-5

**Table 3a: Less serious wounding offences
in city centres and near licensed premises, in subset of 18 forces**

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	5,485	5,232	4,958	5,181	20,856	5,624	5,237	4,729	4,563	20,153
6pm-8.59pm	663	746	653	603	2,665	649	632	662	514	2,457
9pm-11.59pm	2,153	2,093	1,917	2,094	8,257	2,084	1,888	1,694	1,568	7,234
12am-2.59am	2,557	2,310	2,282	2,379	9,528	2,683	2,456	2,178	2,201	9,518
3am-5.59am	112	83	106	105	406	208	261	195	280	944
Total in 24-hour period	6,084	5,943	5,617	5,765	23,409	6,147	5,832	5,302	5,117	22,398

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	139	5	-229	-618	-703	3	0	-5	-12	-3
6pm-8.59pm	-14	-114	9	-89	-208	-2	-15	1	-15	-8
9pm-11.59pm	-69	-205	-223	-526	-1,023	-3	-10	-12	-25	-12
12am-2.59am	126	146	-104	-178	-10	5	6	-5	-7	0
3am-5.59am	96	178	89	175	538	86	214	84	167	133
Total in 24-hour period	63	-111	-315	-648	-1,011	1	-2	-6	-11	-4

**Table 4: Assault with no injury
in all locations, in subset of 30 forces**

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	20,833	21,648	20,907	19,113	82,501	17,948	20,242	22,774	21,222	82,186
6pm-8.59pm	7,209	8,452	7,877	7,120	30,658	6,091	7,580	8,111	7,496	29,278
9pm-11.59pm	6,940	7,363	7,255	6,498	28,056	5,896	6,735	7,989	7,116	27,736
12am-2.59am	5,449	4,837	4,720	4,511	19,517	4,707	4,690	5,263	5,292	19,952
3am-5.59am	1,235	996	1,055	984	4,270	1,254	1,237	1,411	1,318	5,220
Total in 24-hour period	37,884	39,852	36,884	35,432	150,052	32,887	37,458	39,185	37,707	147,237
Total in 24-hour HO collection	38,435	40,524	37,470	35,632	152,061	32,728	37,779	39,536	37,863	147,906

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	-2,885	-1,406	1,867	2,109	-315	-14	-6	9	11	0
6pm-8.59pm	-1,118	-872	234	376	-1,380	-16	-10	3	5	-5
9pm-11.59pm	-1,044	-628	734	618	-320	-15	-9	10	10	-1
12am-2.59am	-742	-147	543	781	435	-14	-3	12	17	2
3am-5.59am	19	241	356	334	950	2	24	34	34	22
Total in 24-hour period	-4,997	-2,394	2,301	2,275	-2,815	-13	-6	6	6	-2
Total in 24-hour HO collection	-5,707	-2,745	2,066	2,231	-4,155	-15	-7	6	6	-3

**Table 4a: Assault with no injury
in city centres and near licensed premises, in subset of 18 forces**

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	1,065	977	721	767	3,530	865	871	955	906	3,597
6pm-8.59pm	167	190	149	138	644	140	152	181	143	616
9pm-11.59pm	489	401	283	328	1,501	368	349	386	377	1,480
12am-2.59am	396	362	275	283	1,316	331	326	346	344	1,347
3am-5.59am	13	24	14	18	69	26	44	42	42	154
Total in 24-hour period	1,245	1,179	891	915	4,230	1,043	1,061	1,171	1,086	4,361

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	-200	-106	234	139	67	-19	-11	32	18	2
6pm-8.59pm	-27	-38	32	5	-28	-16	-20	21	4	-4
9pm-11.59pm	-121	-52	103	49	-21	-25	-13	36	15	-1
12am-2.59am	-65	-36	71	61	31	-16	-10	26	22	2
3am-5.59am	13	20	28	24	85	100	83	200	133	123
Total in 24-hour period	-202	-118	280	171	131	-16	-10	31	19	3

Table 5: Harassment
in all locations, in subset of 30 forces

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	21,541	23,391	26,385	25,764	97,081	24,720	25,170	27,881	26,437	104,208
6pm-8.59pm	5,324	6,517	7,150	6,795	25,786	5,979	6,806	7,857	6,726	27,368
9pm-11.59pm	6,595	6,960	8,077	7,789	29,421	7,093	7,122	8,309	7,875	30,399
12am-2.59am	8,606	8,827	9,917	9,972	37,322	10,026	9,613	10,031	10,179	39,849
3am-5.59am	1,016	1,087	1,241	1,208	4,552	1,622	1,629	1,684	1,657	6,592
Total in 24-hour period	35,187	39,561	43,262	42,184	160,194	39,427	41,397	44,472	42,784	168,080
Total in 24-hour HO collection	39,415	43,544	46,233	44,513	173,705	40,791	44,272	46,899	45,370	177,332

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	3,179	1,779	1,496	673	7,127	15	8	6	3	7
6pm-8.59pm	655	289	707	-69	1,582	12	4	10	-1	6
9pm-11.59pm	498	162	232	86	978	8	2	3	1	3
12am-2.59am	1,420	786	114	207	2,527	17	9	1	2	7
3am-5.59am	606	542	443	449	2,040	60	50	36	37	45
Total in 24-hour period	4,240	1,836	1,210	600	7,886	12	5	3	1	5
Total in 24-hour HO collection	1,376	728	666	857	3,627	3	2	1	2	2

Table 5a: Harassment
in city centres and near licensed premises, in subset of 18 forces

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	691	705	753	731	2,880	897	842	895	905	3,539
6pm-8.59pm	104	122	108	123	457	137	125	170	123	555
9pm-11.59pm	251	257	260	244	1,012	299	273	302	284	1,158
12am-2.59am	319	306	364	349	1,338	429	401	373	444	1,647
3am-5.59am	17	20	21	15	73	32	43	50	54	179
Total in 24-hour period	816	864	904	911	3,495	1063	1008	1087	1121	4,279

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	206	137	142	174	659	30	19	19	24	23
6pm-8.59pm	33	3	62	0	98	32	2	57	0	21
9pm-11.59pm	48	16	42	40	146	19	6	16	16	14
12am-2.59am	110	95	9	95	309	34	31	2	27	23
3am-5.59am	15	23	29	39	106	88	115	138	260	145
Total in 24-hour period	247	144	183	210	784	30	17	20	23	22

Table 6: Criminal damage
in all locations, in subset of 30 forces

i) Numbers of offences

	Dec 04 - Feb 05	Mar 05 - May 05	Jun 05 - Aug 05	Sep 05 - Nov 05	Dec 04 - Nov 05	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	118,890	129,411	116,419	127,534	492,254	124,506	127,222	117,521	132,364	501,613
6pm-8.59pm	49,658	52,263	39,381	52,846	194,148	51,674	50,167	38,632	53,805	194,278
9pm-11.59pm	39,782	45,565	43,587	43,857	172,791	41,159	45,232	43,360	45,755	175,506
12am-2.59am	23,790	25,617	27,011	25,063	101,481	25,191	25,338	28,155	25,903	104,587
3am-5.59am	5,660	5,966	6,440	5,768	23,834	6,482	6,485	7,374	6,901	27,242
Total in 24-hour period	189,172	207,028	183,558	197,527	777,285	193,944	200,747	180,762	202,227	777,680
Total in 24-hour HO collection	202,530	222,370	196,066	211,132	832,098	204,540	213,777	191,847	215,856	826,020

ii) Difference and percentage change compared with the same three-month period in the previous year

	Difference in number of offences					Percentage change				
	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Feb 06	Mar 06 - May 06	Jun 06 - Aug 06	Sep 06 - Nov 06	Dec 05 - Nov 06
6pm - 5.59am sub-total	5,616	-2,189	1,102	4,830	9,359	5	-2	1	4	2
6pm-8.59pm	2,016	-2,096	-749	959	130	4	-4	-2	2	0
9pm-11.59pm	1,377	-333	-227	1,898	2,715	3	-1	-1	4	2
12am-2.59am	1,401	-279	1,144	840	3,106	6	-1	4	3	3
3am-5.59am	822	519	934	1,133	3,408	15	9	15	20	14
Total in 24-hour period	4,772	-6,281	-2,796	4,700	395	3	-3	-2	2	0
Total in 24-hour HO collection	2,010	-8,593	-4,219	4,724	-6,078	1	-4	-2	2	-1

Table 7: Difference in number of offences by hour, December 2005-November 2006, compared with previous year, in subset of 30 forces

	More serious violence	Less serious wounding	Assault with no injury	Harassment	Criminal damage
6am-11.59am	-178	-2,541	-547	228	-3,212
12pm-5.59pm	-489	-6,848	-2,033	1,342	-3,666
6pm-6.59pm	-87	-1,211	-489	263	122
7pm-7.59pm	-108	-1,389	-477	867	-258
8pm-8.59pm	-100	-945	-414	452	266
9pm-9.59pm	-163	-1,206	-290	447	1,099
10pm-10.59pm	-158	-1,384	366	461	1,467
11pm-11.59pm	-205	-3,780	-396	70	149
12am-12.59am	33	-793	236	1,517	907
1am-1.59am	65	-561	201	983	1,386
2am-2.59am	-144	-1,051	-2	27	813
3am-3.59am	159	2,089	693	1,372	1,478
4am-4.59am	43	1,150	178	542	1,241
5am-5.59am	34	362	79	126	689
Not known	-15	-172	80	-811	-2,086
Total 24-hour period	-1,313	-18,280	-2,815	7,886	395

Annex A: List of participating forces

All locations	Specified locations
Avon and Somerset	Avon and Somerset
Bedfordshire	Cleveland
Cambridgeshire	Cumbria
Cleveland	Derbyshire
Cumbria	Devon and Cornwall
Derbyshire	Dyfed-Powys
Devon and Cornwall	Essex
Dorset	Gloucestershire
Durham	Greater Manchester
Dyfed-Powys	Humberside
Essex	London, City of
Gloucestershire	Norfolk
Greater Manchester	North Yorkshire
Hertfordshire	Northamptonshire
Humberside	South Yorkshire
Lincolnshire	Suffolk
London, City of	West Midlands
Merseyside	West Yorkshire
Metropolitan	
Norfolk	
North Yorkshire	
Northamptonshire	
Northumbria	
South Wales	
South Yorkshire	
Suffolk	
West Mercia	
West Midlands	
West Yorkshire	
Wiltshire	

Annex B: Offence coverage

Offence description and Home Office offence code:

More serious violent offences	1 Murder 2. Attempted murder 4.1 Manslaughter 5 Wounding or other act endangering life
Less serious wounding	8A Other wounding 8D Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding
Assault with no injury	104 Assault on a constable 105A Common assault 105B Racially or religiously aggravated common assault
Harassment	8C Harassment 8E Racially or religiously aggravated harassment
Criminal damage (excluding threat to commit criminal damage)	56 Arson 58A Criminal damage in a dwelling 58B Criminal damage in a building other than a dwelling 58C Criminal damage to a vehicle 58D Other criminal damage 58E Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling 58F Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling 58G Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle 58H Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage

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Produced by the Research Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office

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ISBN: 978 1 84726 431 2

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Errata

Page i, first paragraph - 'September 2006' amended to 'November 2006'.