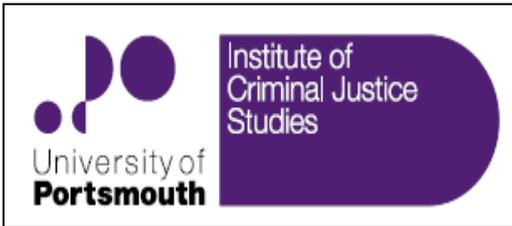


Portsmouth Community Safety Survey (2012) Summary Report



Portsmouth Community Safety Survey 2012

Conducted by the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies for Portsmouth City Council

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May 2012

Introduction

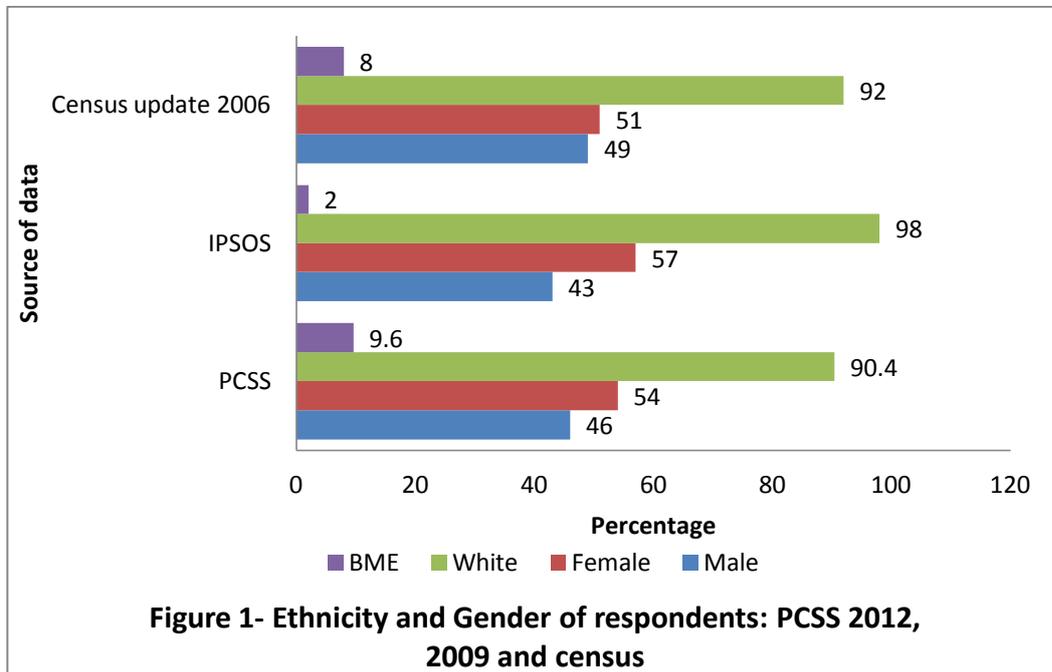
This is a summary report of the key findings from the 5th Portsmouth Community Safety Survey (PCSS). Previous surveys were carried out in 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2009 by Ipsos MORI. This 2012 survey has been carried out by second year research students in the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS). It was designed to gather opinions from Portsmouth residents on: quality of life; perceptions and experience of crime and anti-social behaviour; and fear of crime in relation to particular areas of Portsmouth. This summary report was commissioned by Portsmouth City Council to inform the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Strategic Assessment (SPPSA) and the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan (SPPP). Both of these documents identify the community safety priorities for the partner agencies involved and provide the evidence on which the allocation of relevant resources and the commissioning of associated services within Portsmouth are based.

Sample characteristics and method

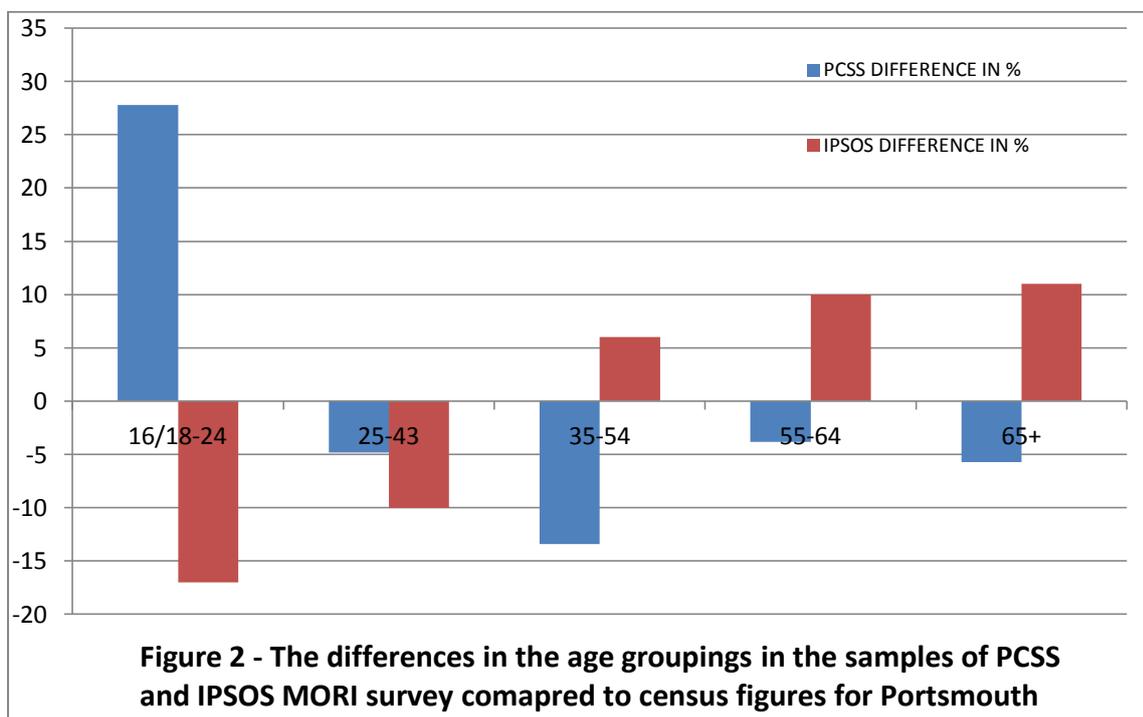
Our survey produced 1,382 responses (n=1382 unless otherwise stated), which is approximately the same size as the 1,379 responses in 2009 survey (Ipsos, 2009). Ipsos MORI had previously used telephone interview surveys, but in 2009, they used a self-completion postal questionnaire (Ipsos, 2009, p.13). In the 2012 PCSS, we used face-to-face interviews with a field force of over 140 students. This involved the use of non-probability-based convenience/opportunity sampling (Martin, 2000, p.227) and therefore did not use a randomised approach (see Francis 2011, p.26). Work will continue throughout 2012 to look at 'weighting' the data we collected so that it more closely resembles the characteristics of the Portsmouth population as captured in the census data. In the meantime, it is worth noting that the distribution of students in different locations agreed with PCC: Bridge Street Shopping Centre; Commercial Road; Palmerston Road; Cosham High Street, and Gunwharf Quays, ensured that the 2012 sample is at least as representative of the Portsmouth population as a whole as the previous Ipsos MORI (2009) survey, which has a response rate of 34%.

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Figure 1 compares the sample characteristics of our 2012 PCSS survey and the Ipsos MORI 2009 survey with the census data for Portsmouth (at the time of compiling this report, the 2011 census date was not yet available for use). It is clear that in terms of gender and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, our sample was closer to the census characteristics of Portsmouth's population. (See Ipsos, 2009, p.14).



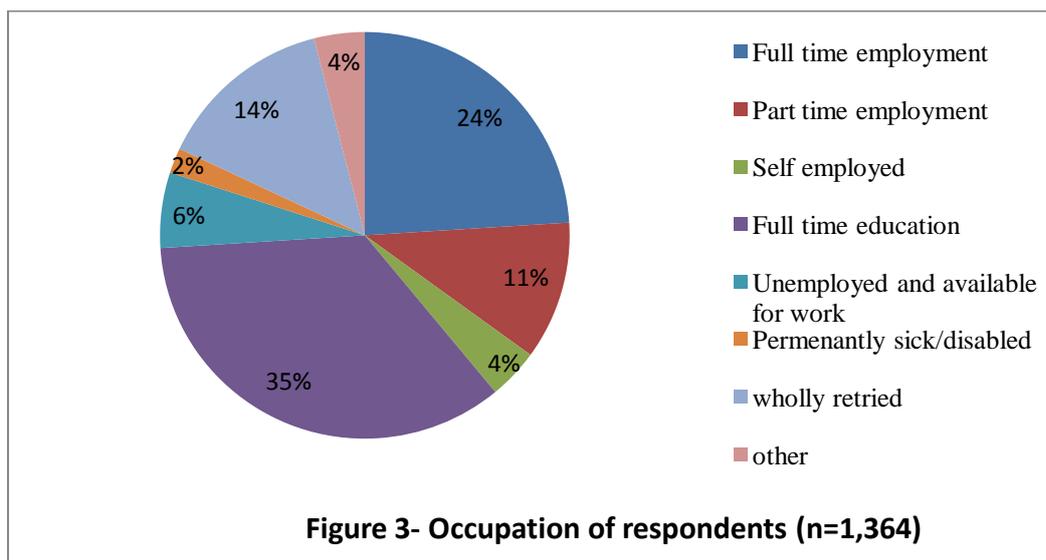
The largest variation in relation between the census figures for Portsmouth and both PCSS and Ipsos MORI surveys was in relation to age groupings, as Figure 2 demonstrates.



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There is an obvious and large bias toward youth in PCSS, while the Ipsos MORI survey tends towards bias in the older age groupings. The findings should be interpreted with caution therefore, and later work in weighting the PCSS sample will help to iron out this bias.

In the meantime however, it is worth considering that the high proportion of 16-24 respondents was mainly caused by the decision to collect data (up to 3 interviews per interviewer) from other students. Students are an under researched (see Barberet et al, 2003), but relatively large population in Portsmouth who have different worries and experiences compared to the rest of the residents and their views are important. Figure 3 shows that students made up 35% of the full sample (ie: 477 out of 1,364 respondents). The category 'other' consists of: 'looking after home', 'government training support programme' and other small categories.



Findings

Respondents ranked their quality of life according to a scale where 1 indicated an excellent quality of life and a score of 5 indicated poor quality. The mean average of these scores was used to calculate overall satisfaction. Respondents' scores for their quality of life in Portsmouth (2.4), and the area where they live (2.38), suggest overall satisfaction, but with room for improvement. This is broadly in line with findings of previous surveys that have shown a general satisfaction with quality of life, indicated by most respondents indicating a 'fairly good' quality of life for Portsmouth and their local area. BME respondents were significantly less happy ($t(1369) = -2.984$ $P < 0.05$) with their quality of life in Portsmouth. Table 1 shows the relative differences in the relevant mean average score, and also shows a similar, though not significant, pattern of the quality of life in the respondents' local areas.

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Table 1- Mean life satisfaction by Ethnicity (White n=1240 and BME n=131, overall n=1371)

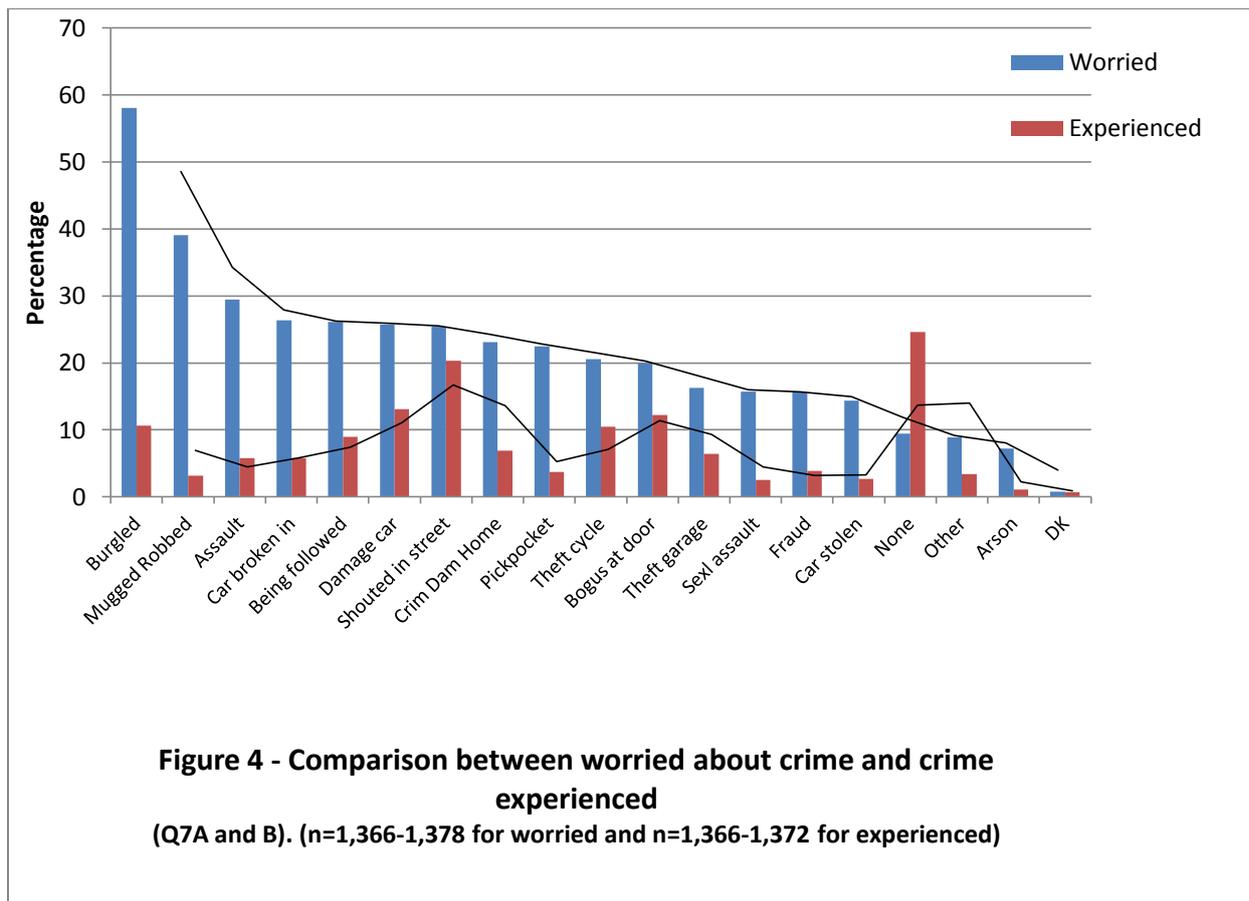
Ethnicity	Quality of life in Portsmouth (Q.1)	Quality of life in the area where you live (Q.2)
White	2.37	2.37
BME	2.66	2.45

The relatively high fear of being a victim of crime compared to the relatively low actual victimisation rate is a well known finding in criminological studies, especially through surveys such as the British Crime Survey (see Nicholas, S., Chris Kershaw, C. and Walker, A., 2007). In terms of quality of life and community satisfaction, 'fear of crime' is believed to have significance in and of itself, irrespective of experience as a victim, due to the effect it can have on people's lives (Jacobson, Millie and Hough, 2008). Further, the repetitive nature of the types of behaviour often referred to as 'anti-social', means that its impact and effects can be cumulative. These effects may compound other forms of disadvantage and are often concentrated in areas of multiple deprivations (ESRC 2009). Our survey looked at both crime and anti-social incidents or 'incivilities', based on perceptions of them and on actual experience of being of victim.

Our results show that the recent Portsmouth findings are little different to those from other victim surveys in that there is a consistent difference between concern about crimes and actual experience of them. Figure 4 shows that the top 3 most feared crimes in Portsmouth were: being a victim of burglary at 58%, with only 11% actually experiencing it ¹; being robbed/mugged at 39% (only 3% experienced it); and being assaulted at 30% (only 6% experienced it). This is a similar picture to the Ipsos MORI 2009 survey, which showed that burglary (38%), robbery (26%) and assault (20%) were the top three crimes people were worried about, while the proportion who had experienced these offences was very low (between 1-2%). Similar patterns can be seen for cars being broken into or damaged, and being followed.

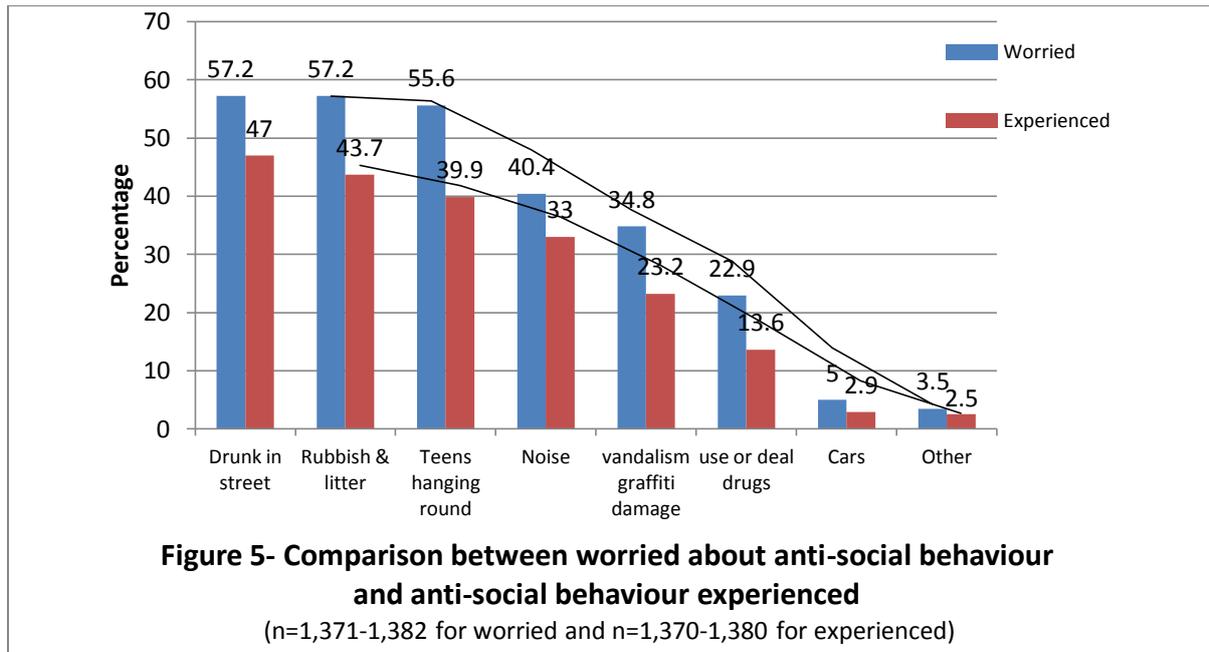
¹ It is worth noting here that previous research shows that students are particularly vulnerable to burglary (Tilley, et al, 1999; Barberet et al, 2003; McCreith and Parkinson, 2011).

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This last category indicates that the fear of crime question included some ‘incivilities’ that are more akin to anti-social behaviour than crime, and being shouted at in the street is one of these, where the gap between perceptions (25%) and experience (20%) of victimisation are much narrower. This appears to be an important point identified in this analysis. As Figure 5 suggests, while relatively serious property and violent crime seem to be feared for their damaging potential rather than for their incidence, fear of lower level incivilities or ‘anti-social behaviour’ are much more closely related to actual experience.

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Indeed, the level of worry about people being drunk in the street (57%) as ASB was almost identical to worry about the crime of being burgled (58%), yet the level of victimisation related to street drinking was only 10% lower (47%) than concern about it. The largest gap between perception and experience for anti-social behaviour was only 16%, compared to the much greater gaps between fear of serious crimes and actual victimisation. The lines added to the Figures 4 and 5 emphasise the rather different patterns in the relationship between concern and experience of crime on the one hand, and the equivalent for ASB on the other.

There are two main schools of thought in looking at ASB and its prevalence. A Home Affairs Committee report on ASB in 2005 argued that ASB has *not* been 'exaggerated by the Government or played up by the media...if anything, the headline figures cannot convey a sense of the full impact of ASB on some people's lives' (Home Affairs Select Committee, 2005, p. 1). However, some academics (Millie 2009) have argued the opposite: that political posturing and inaccurate reporting reflect a much over-stated moral panic. Based on our results, it appears that the Portsmouth respondents are closer to evidencing the HASC 2005 view.

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Table 2- Percentage of Males and Females who are fearful of crime (n=1372)

Gender	Fear of crime%
Male	59
Female	71

There were also significant differences between men and women in relation to fear and experience of crime. We found that women were significantly more fearful of crime than men, ($\chi^2(1, N=1372) = 21.68 P<0.01$, Table 2). This is consistent with the British Crime Survey (BCS), where women are more fearful of violent crime (19%) compared to men (7%), yet men are more likely to be victims of violent crime (Home Office, 2011).

Table 3- Differences between males and females: selected crimes & incivilities

Gender	Assault	Bogus callers	Being followed
Male	8.2	8.2	5.2
Female	3.6	15.5	12.2

We also identified significant gender variations in experiences of types of victimisation. Table 3 shows women experienced

significantly more bogus callers, $\chi^2(1, N=1372) = 17.1 P<0.01$, and being followed, ($\chi^2(1, N=1372) = 20.12 P<0.01$), while men were significantly more likely to have been assaulted, ($\chi^2(1, N= 1372) = 13.17 P< 0.01$).

There were also significant variations in fear of crime in particular places in Portsmouth. Figure 6 summarises the extent to which respondents who were afraid of crime (n=895-896) avoided specific places.

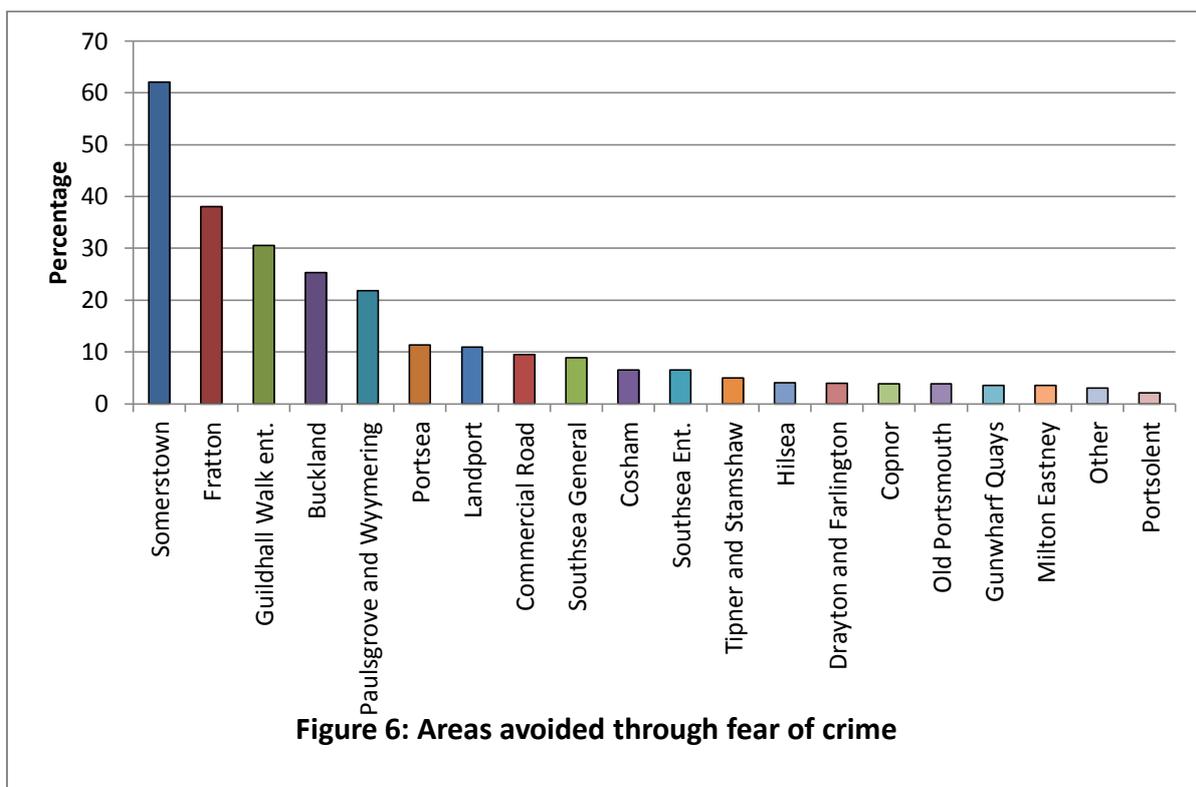


Figure 6: Areas avoided through fear of crime

We therefore examined the 4 locations most avoided in more detail, focussing on comparing students with other Portsmouth residents. Figure 7 shows students (n=482) feared Somerstown and Fratton more, while non-students (n=882) feared Guildhall Walk and Buckland more.

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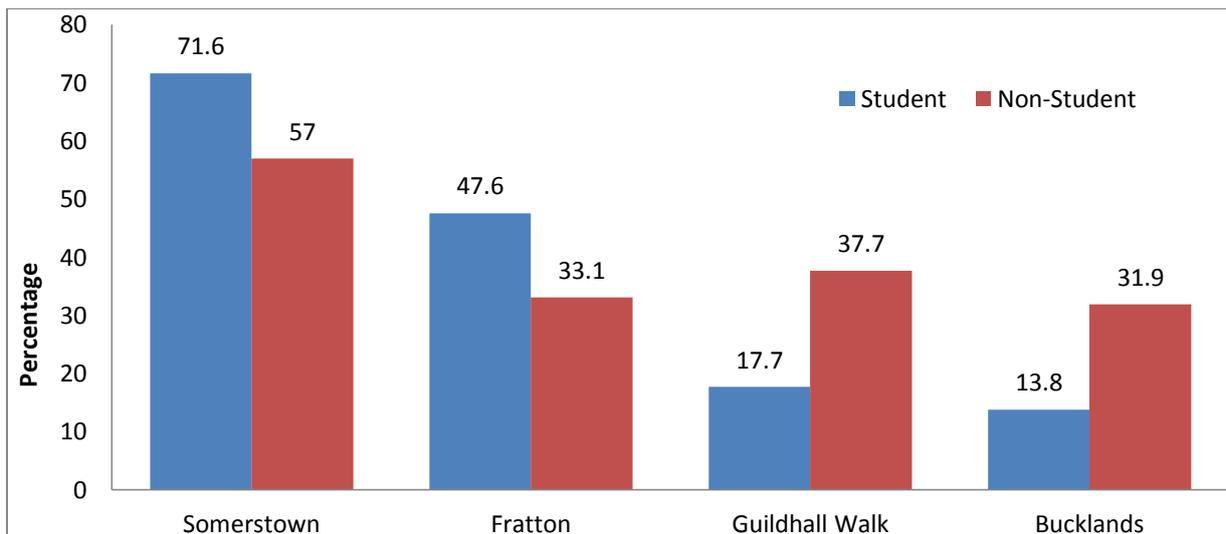


Figure 7 - Comparison between students and non-students avoided area through fear of crime (n=884-885)

Figure 8 shows that by far the most important reason given for fearing a specific place was an existing bad reputation (80% of those who expressed fear of crime) followed, at much lower levels of fear, by teens hanging around (32%) people drinking in the street (31%) and knowing someone who had been victimised in that place (28%).

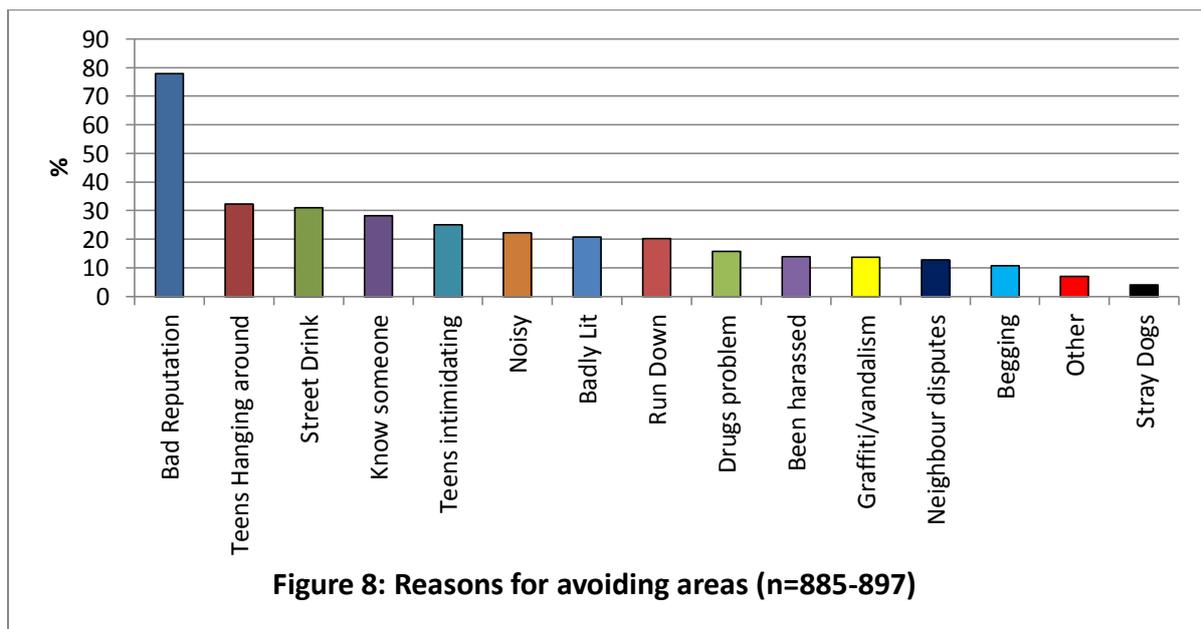
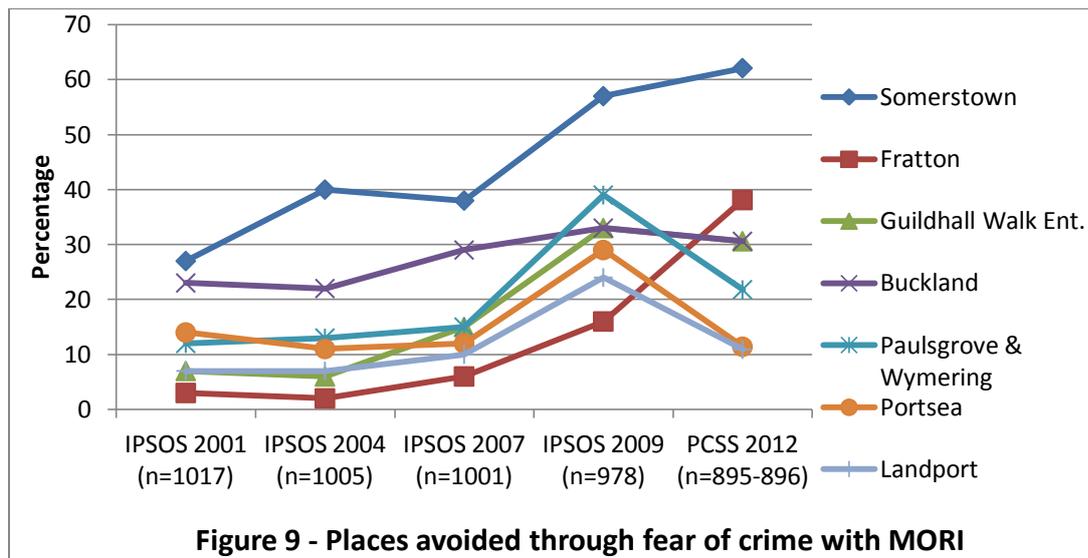


Figure 8: Reasons for avoiding areas (n=885-897)

An examination of all previous Ipsos MORI community safety reports show a clear increasing trend of Fratton and Somerstown as places to avoid (Figure 9). For Buckland and Guildhall Walk, the level of avoidance has levelled off since 2009, while Paulsgrove & Wymering, Portsea, and Landport, levels of avoidance have dropped closer to 2007 levels.

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Some of this change might be explained by the higher proportion of students in our survey than in the Ipsos MORI surveys. Indeed, Figure 7 shows that students are significantly more likely to avoid Somerstown ($\chi^2(2, N=884) = 18.41 P < 0.01$) and Fratton ($\chi^2(2, N=885) = 18.71 P < 0.01$) than non-students. However, avoidance of these places is still high in the non-student population and the Ipsos MORI surveys suggest this trend had started prior to our survey (see Figure 9). Indeed, the 57% non-student figure for Somerstown is the same as Ipsos MORI found in 2008/2009, while our 33% non-student figure (see figure 7) for Fratton is not much higher than the previous Ipsos MORI survey. This suggests that the larger student sub-sample in our survey may not be skewing views about these areas unduly.

Discussion & conclusions

When looking at the differences between fear of crime and ASB compared to actual experience, our survey findings suggests two key areas for action. First, it seems that some level of local criminal justice education campaign is required to lower levels of fear of crimes that are relatively rare, such as burglary and robbery/assault. This may need sensitive handling and perhaps some key information from police recorded crime figures broken down to small areas that are meaningful to residents, so that their experiences are not denied in areas that are higher for those offences. Such an analysis may be useful for focussing resources too. Certainly, we are aware that students suffer disproportionately from burglary and there is a fairly clear set of guidelines aimed at reducing this (see McCreith and Parkinson, 2011).

Second, it seems that experience of certain types of anti-social behaviour is relatively consistent with concern about it. Success in tackling and reducing these lower level but more frequent problems are therefore likely to have a real impact in terms of community satisfaction.

Similarly, it seems that specific places, especially Somerstown and Fratton, but also Guildhall Walk and Buckland, are being increasingly avoided, mainly due to bad reputations. This requires more research. It may be that these reputations are not deserved and reasons for avoidance may differ between students and non-students. Use of police crime and incident data would help to determine the relative levels of crime and ASB to some extent, but also surveying community safety staff and focus groups with residents may have value in determining the type and extent of intervention

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required. Other possibilities are to look at community safety enhancement programmes along the same lines as offered by SITA Trust (SITA Trust, 2011: see <http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/about-us>) which make lasting improvements to the natural environment and community life, and /or to consider adapting preferred route schemes for students to raise awareness of personal safety amongst new and existing students '*who may be unfamiliar with the layout of the local area and who do not know which areas are considered safer than others*' (see McCreith and Parkinson, 2011 p.13).

More research is also required to look at why BME residents have lower quality of life satisfaction levels. A significantly higher proportion ($\chi^2(1, N=1317) = 0.92 P=0.05$) of the BME population of our sample (22.5%) lived in Fratton and St Thomas's (which includes Somerstown) than the white population (18.9%), and these are areas that are seen to have a bad reputation. This may go some way to explaining the difference and suggests that to some extent, there may be a concordance between avoidance and real levels of ASB.

Post Script

The findings from this report were used by Portsmouth City Council to inform the subsequent Safer Portsmouth Partnership Strategic Assessment, in order to help identify the community safety priorities for partner agencies and to allocate resources and services accordingly.

http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/files/7513/5409/6973/Strategic_Assessment_2011-12_Final_version.pdf (see pp.5, 16-17, 41 & 59)

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