

Section 2: Statistical Analysis and Description of the District

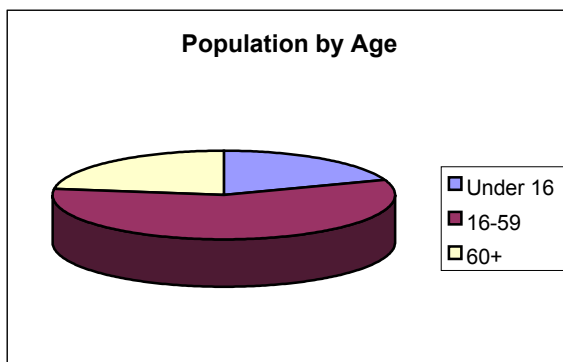
2.1 A Description of the District

Lancaster is the most northerly of the districts in Lancashire and covers an area including the historic City of Lancaster, the seaside town of Morecambe and a large rural area which includes the Lune Valley, along with the Forest of Bowland and Silverdale area of outstanding natural beauty. Major road and rail networks run through the area, with the M6 motorway and West Coast main line running the length of the district.

The Lancaster district comprises 29 electoral wards. The population of the Lancaster district is fairly evenly split between the Lancaster city area, Morecambe and Heysham and the rural area which includes the town of Carnforth based some seven miles from Lancaster with a resident population in the region of 5,150.¹

2.2 Demographic and Socio-Economic Background to Lancaster

2.2.1 Population

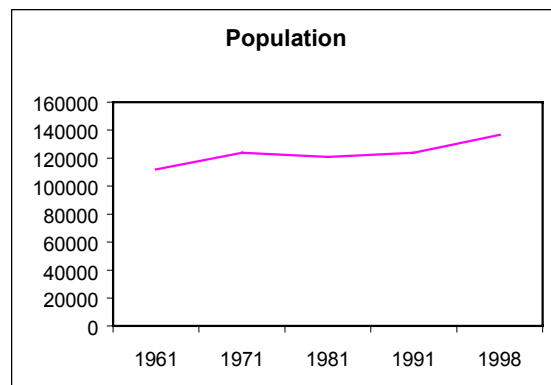


The Lancaster district, including Lancaster, Morecambe and the surrounding rural area has a resident population of 136,500. The chart on the left shows how it is broken down by age.²

Apart from a modest fall in 1981 the population of Lancaster has grown from 1961 when it stood at 112,001, through 1971 (123,663), 1981 (120,914) 1991 (123,896)³ to today's figure of 136,500 (1998).

A particularity of the Lancaster district is its resident student population. This population has risen steadily over the past decade with numbers expected to reach as high as 24,373 in 2001/2002.

For 1999/2000 the combined student population of Lancaster University and St Martin's College was 22,455.⁴



¹ The Lancaster District Profile

² MADE Project

³ The Lancaster District Profile

⁴ The Lancaster District Profile

2.2.2 Employment and Industry

The economy of the Lancaster district is dominated by the service sector which accounts for 78.3% of all employment. Manufacturing in Lancaster in 1998 was significantly lower than County, Regional and National figures with only 13.5% of total employment being in manufacturing.⁵

Between 1984 and 1995 there has been a continuing trend from full time to part time working. Furthermore, whilst the number of males in full time work has fallen the number of females in full time work has risen.⁶

Between April 2000 and April 2001 it was found that the number of people in Social Class 5 (that is unemployed, on government scheme or socially inactive) in the whole of the district was 789 of 136,500, that is 0.6% of the population.⁷ Within the district unemployment is generally significantly higher in the urban wards than in the rural wards. Certain wards, especially Alexandra and Poulton in Morecambe, and Bulk and Castle in Lancaster, have especially high unemployment rates associated with the severe economic and social problems of those areas.⁸

2.2.3 Housing

In 1991 the Lancaster District Profile showed that the tenure of households in the Lancaster district was predominantly owner occupied (76.7%).⁹ 12.1% was privately rented, 8.9% council rented and 2.3% rented from housing associations.

The town of Morecambe was popular with holiday makers in the decades prior to the 1970s but around this time package holidays took their toll and Morecambe went into decline. After that the area has declined with traditional family holiday accommodation becoming poor quality houses of multiple occupation, resulting in high percentage of transient and disaffected families in the area.

The Lancaster District Profile showed that, in 1991, Lancaster's housing stock was predominantly terraced (45%) and pre-1919 (42%), contrasting with Morecambe where semi-detached properties (44%) and flats i.e. houses of multiple occupation (30%) predominated.¹⁰

2.2.4 Quality of Life

The Lancaster district is one of contrasts, ranging from areas of high social disadvantage, such as the Alexandra and Poulton areas of Morecambe and parts of the inner ring around Lancaster Centre, to the relatively affluent villages of the Lune Valley.

The Lancaster district as a whole rates 124 in the Indices of Deprivation 2000, The district with a rank of 1 being the most deprived, and 354 the least deprived.

⁵ Lancaster District Profile

⁶ Lancaster District Profile

⁷ MADE Project

⁸ MADE Project

⁹ Lancaster District Profile

¹⁰ Lancaster District Profile

Although Lancaster does not have a high level of deprivation when compared to many other areas the deprivation indices do reveal the concentration of deprivation in the inner urban wards of Lancaster and Morecambe, especially Alexandra and Poulton. Three wards in Lancaster district (Alexandra and Poulton in Morecambe and Skerton Central in Lancaster) are ranked among the 10% most deprived wards in England on the Index of Deprivation 2000.

2.3 A Picture of Crime across the District 2000/2001

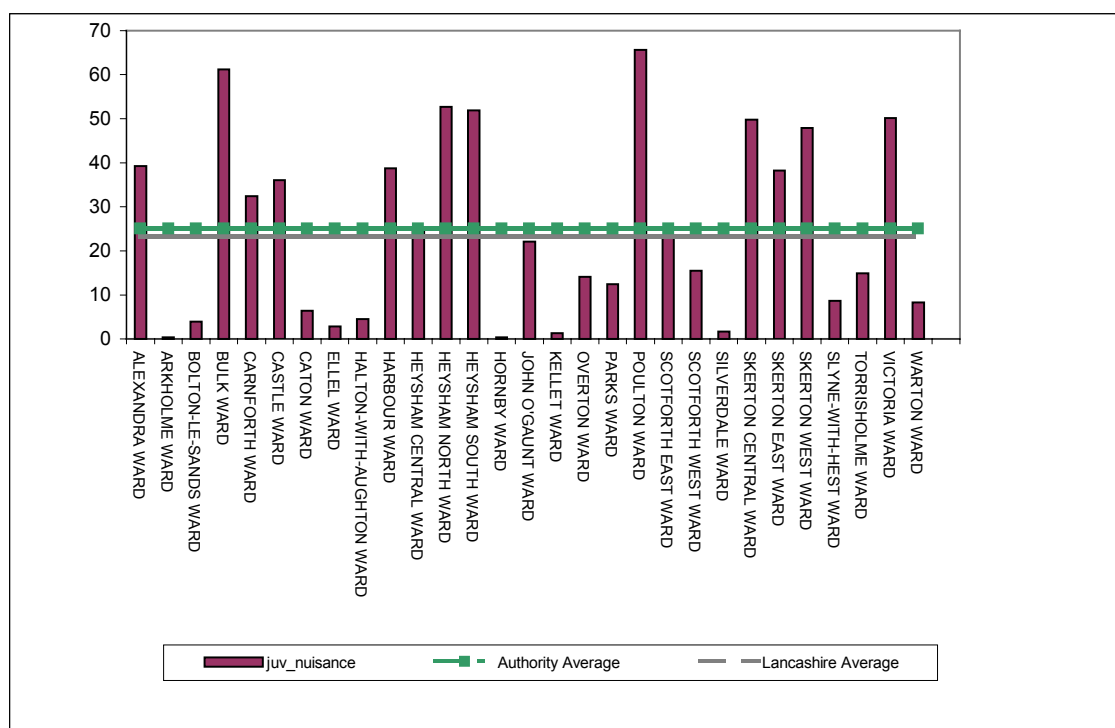
Above we have seen a picture of the district relating to socio-economic factors like housing, deprivation and population. This chapter relates to the picture of crime across the Lancaster district. Figures used are from 1st April 2000 to 31st March 2001.

2.3.1 The Lancaster District as a whole

The following gives a synopsis of crime across the Lancaster district as a whole where comparisons of types of crime in wards can be seen.

2.3.1.1 Juvenile Nuisance

The Number of incidences of juvenile nuisance by Ward (per 1000 population)



In most areas of crime Lancaster registers crime levels just below Lancashire averages. The one figure which stands out in the audit is the level of juvenile nuisance reported. The chart above shows juvenile nuisance levels above the county average in 13 of the district's 29 wards.¹¹

When viewing these high levels of juvenile nuisance it is important to remember that this is sometimes an issue of perception and tolerance. For example, every time the Police receive a complaint involving young people this incident is logged as a

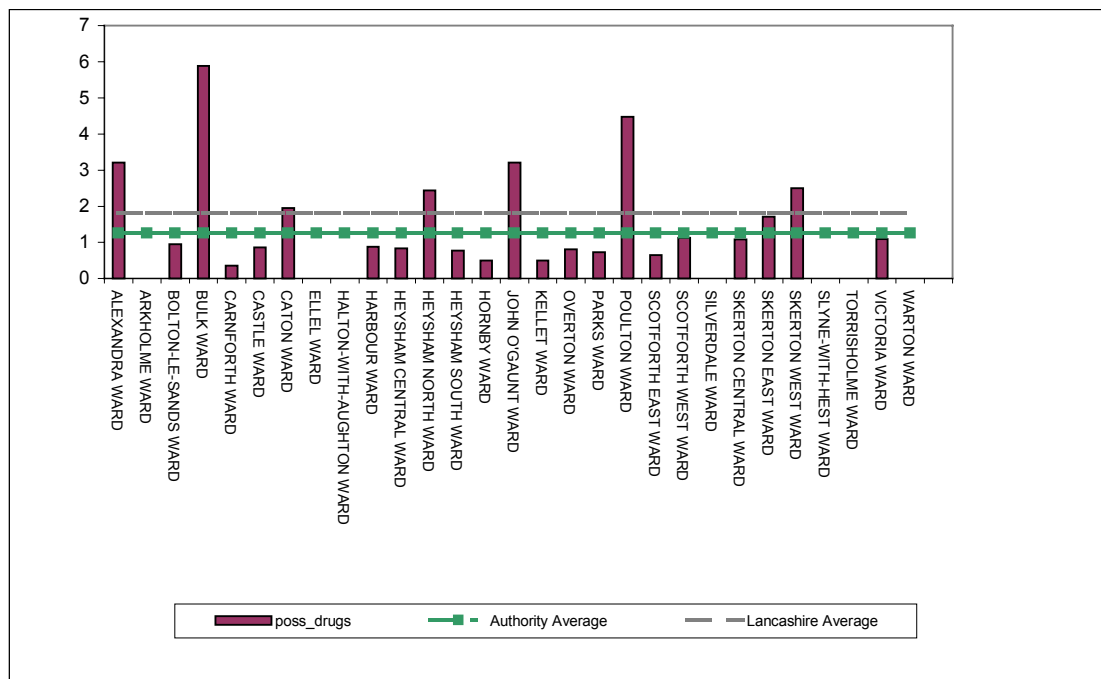
¹¹ Made Project

'juvenile nuisance'. It may be that no real anti-social behaviour has been committed. On the other hand, however, it must also be remembered that quality of life issues such as this are of paramount importance to many.

Another important point to consider is that when viewing these figures it is important to make a qualitative, as well as quantitative, judgement. The aim of this document is to consult, in an environment where resources are stretched. It must be remembered that there is a need to consider where these resources should be directed.

2.3.1.2 Possession of Drugs

The number of incidences of possession of drugs by ward (per 1000 population)



The chart shows that levels of possession of drugs are higher than the county average in seven of the 29 wards in the Lancaster district. It should be noted, however, that overall numbers of drugs possessions are still low.

2.3.1.3 Violent Crime

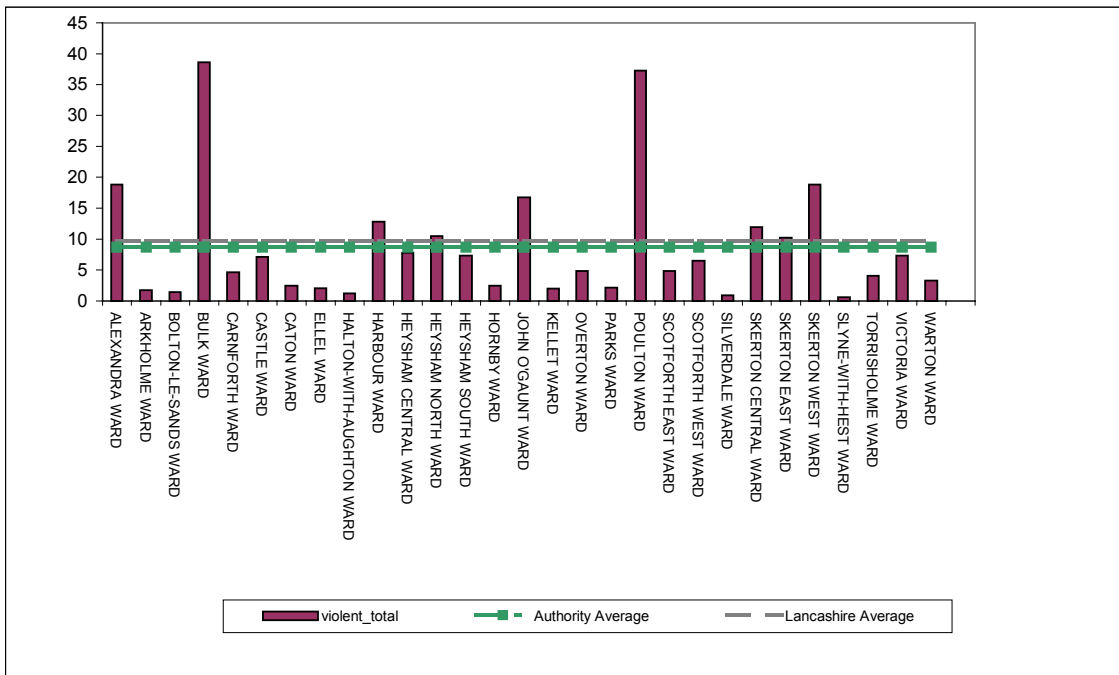
Levels of violent crime in Lancaster city centre rose from 169 incidences in the year 1998/99 to 290 in the year 2000/01.¹² In Morecambe in the same period incidences of violent crime fell from 283 to 208. Violence in the city centre has steadily risen over the past three years in line with the growing number of licensed premises in the city centre. This type of increase can discourage people from visiting the area and, in turn, have an impact on the economy of Lancaster.

The following shows eight of the 29 wards in the district having levels of violence higher than the county average.¹³

¹² Lancashire Constabulary

¹³ Made Project

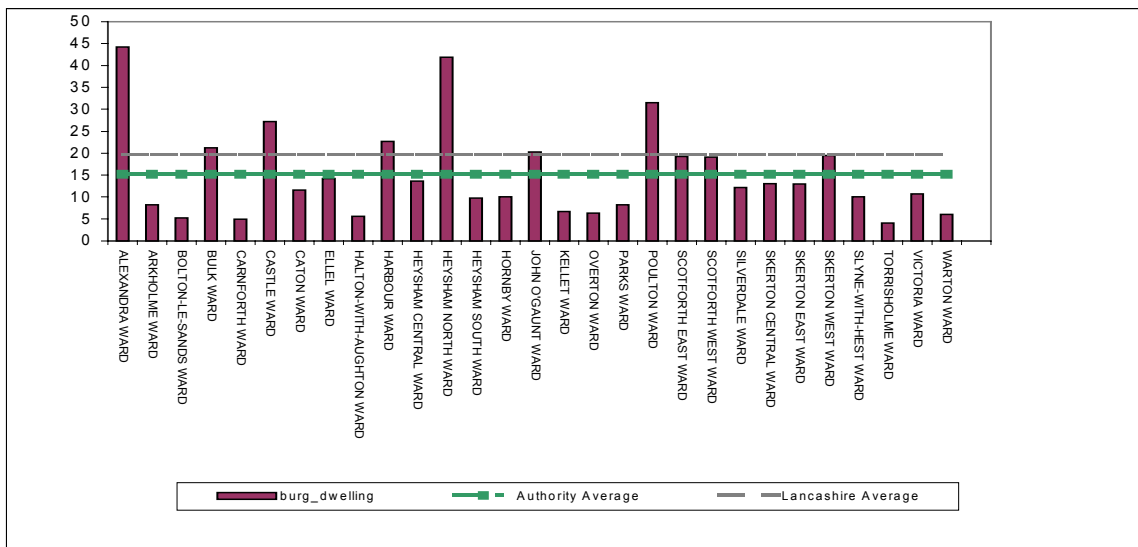
The number of incidences of violent crime by ward (per 1000 population)



2.3.1.4 Burglary

It is usually found that urban areas suffer higher levels of burglary than rural areas. The Chart below shows seven of the district's 29 wards as having household burglary levels higher than the county average.¹⁴ These are all, as would be expected, wards in the urban areas of Lancaster and Morecambe.

The number of incidences of burglary by ward (per 1000 population)



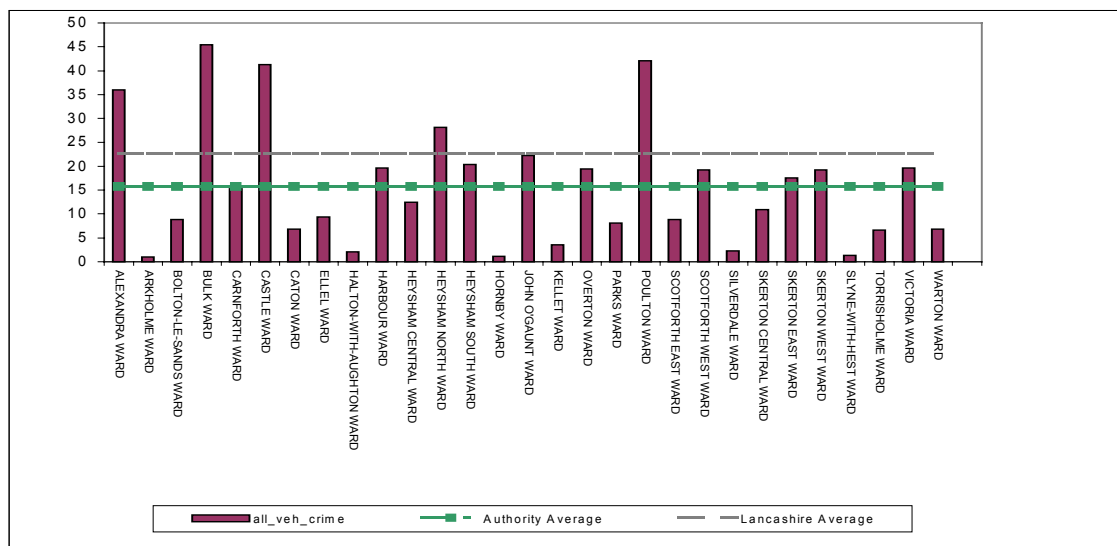
Consideration must also be given to the fact that in some rural wards figures for burglaries in buildings other than dwellings are bringing total burglary figures up to a level above the county average.

¹⁴ Made Project

2.3.1.5 Vehicle Crime

The following chart shows levels of vehicle crime as higher than the county average in five of the district's 29 wards.¹⁵ These are, as would be expected, urban wards.

The number of incidences of vehicle crime by ward (per 1000 population)



2.3.1.6 Racial Incidents

The table below shows the numbers of racial incidents reported over the past six years.¹⁶ Although the figures do show increases in racial incidents these may be due to the efforts made on the part of agencies such as the Police and City Council in enabling greater reporting of racial incidents. For example, a 24 hour racial incident reporting line is now in place in the City Council as well as in the Police Station.

	95 / 96	96 / 97	97 / 98	98 / 99	99 / 00	00 / 01
Lancaster	18	30	12	23	77	107
Morecambe	0	1	1	9	48	30
Total	18	31	17	32	125	137

2.3.1.7 Homophobic Incidents

The table below shows figures for homophobic incidents reported over the past two years.¹⁷ As with racial incidents the rise in reported incidents may be due to increased reporting due to extra efforts made by the authorities in encouraging victims of homophobic crime to report.

	1999/2000	2000/2001
Lancaster	5	14
Morecambe	5	2
Total	10	16

¹⁵ Made Project

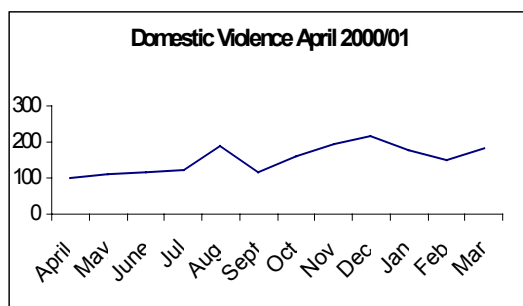
¹⁶ Lancashire Constabulary

¹⁷ Lancashire Constabulary

2.3.1.8 Incidences of Domestic Violence

From April 2000 to April 2001 there were 1832 incidences of domestic violence. The chart shows that these have stayed relatively stable over the year.¹⁸

Chart showing number of incidences of domestic violence over the year April 2000 to April 2001



2.3.2 Lancaster in Comparison with other similar areas

As stated in Section 1 of this report Community Safety Partnerships were formed in each local authority district area. For comparison purposes the Government grouped Crime and Disorder Partnerships into 'families'. The idea behind this was that partnerships would be able to compare themselves against others. The families were grouped together according to socio-economic and demographic factors such as their place on the Index of Deprivation, population and age ranges. Once grouped the Government then consulted with Crime and Disorder Partnerships as to their agreement on the grouping. As a result changes were made.

Lancaster sits within Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Group 10. There are 29 partnerships within Group 10 and the table below summarises where Lancaster stands in relation to crime levels against the other families in the group.

Type of Offence	Lowest number of offences per 1000 population	Highest number of offences per 1000 population	Number of offences in Lancaster	Lancaster's position in relation to 29 families (1 being highest crime level, 29 being lowest)
Violence against the person	8.8	22.7	9.2	27
Sexual offences	0.4	1.6	0.9	14
Robbery	0.2	5.1	0.6	21
Burglary in a dwelling	4.5	15.1	6.3	22
Theft of motor vehicles	2.8	15.4	2.8	29

The table shows that in comparison with other similar areas Lancaster is experiencing relatively low levels of these types of crime. This can be seen especially in theft of motor vehicles where our district shows the lowest levels of all in the family group.

¹⁸ Lancashire Constabulary

2.3.2.1 Sexual Assault

The above table shows that, although Lancaster in comparison with other areas in the family group has low numbers of crimes such as theft of motor vehicle and violence against the person, there are higher numbers of sexual assaults. This has resulted in further investigation into this issue.

The Rape and Sexual Assault Support Service (RSASS) in its progress report¹⁹ for December 2000 to July 2001 makes the following points.

- Reported incidences of rape/sexual assault is a vast under-estimation of the real scale of the sexual violence within the UK. The Home Office estimates that the true number of rapes/sexual assaults lies somewhere between 118000 and 295'000 per year.
- In Lancaster in the period from September 2000 to September 2001 there have been 96 referrals to the nurse/therapist of the RSASS.
- The number of reports to the Police from January to June 2001 were 26.

2.3.3. Ward Profiles

The following section takes each ward and gives a profile according to crime and disorder and social and economic conditions. The ward profiles are shown in alphabetical order and a map is included to assist the reader in understanding which ward area is being described.

If any further information is required regarding the location and ward this can be found by telephoning the Lancaster City Council on 01524 582000 and asking for the Electoral Registration Department.

Information regarding the terminology used in this section of the report can be found in the Glossary which is located in the Appendices of this report.

The figures are based on the numbers of crime from 1st April 2000 to 31st March 2001 and current levels of deprivation.

¹⁹ Rape and Sexual Assault Service – Progress Report Dec 2000 – July 2001, Lancaster Health Promotion, Morecambe Bay NHS Primary Care Trust.