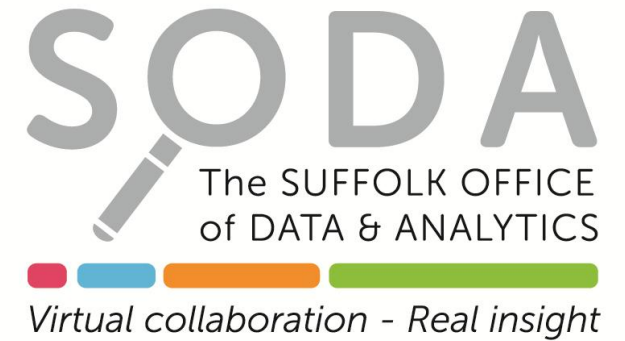




Suffolk Community Safety Partnerships 2024/25 -2026/27

Interim Strategic Assessment

March 2026



Author

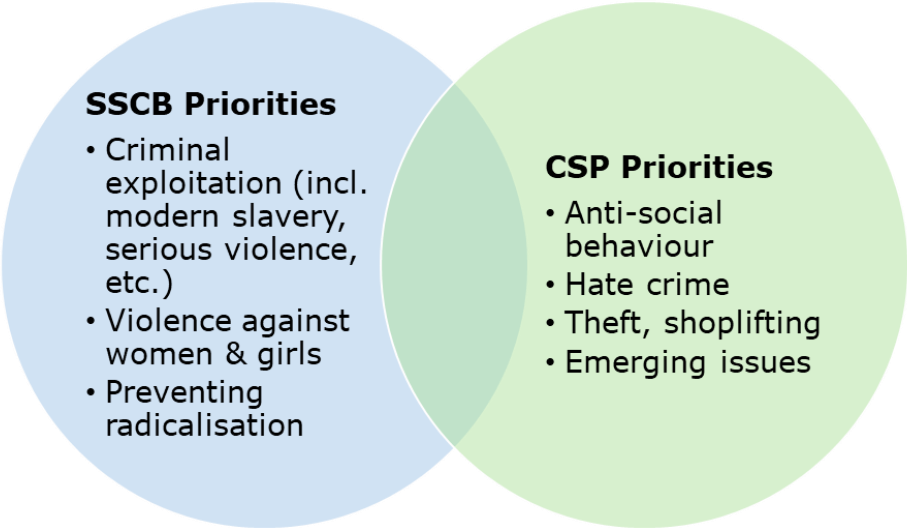
Michaela Breilmann, Head of
Suffolk Office of Data & Analytics

Content

Introduction	Page 3
Note on data and links to other SODA products	Page 4
Summary of crime in Suffolk	Page 5
Assessment and recommendations	Page 6
Crime in Suffolk	Page 7

Introduction

- Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are collaborative bodies in England and Wales that bring together various organisations to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending in their local areas. The main purpose of CSPs is to make communities safer and better places to live.
- Within the Suffolk System, CSPs sit within the Safer, Stronger Communities Board (SSCB), alongside other senior elected councillors and officer roles from a range of organisations including County, District and Borough Councils, Suffolk Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, and Integrated Care Boards. There are also several established partnerships which interconnect with the priorities of the SSCB, such as Health and Wellbeing Board, Criminal Justice Board, Children’s and Adult’s Safeguarding Partnerships, Youth Justice Board and Safer Schools Board, ensuring that strategic priorities are aligned across the Suffolk System.
- In 2024, a comprehensive assessment was undertaken, providing each CSP with the most up to date evidence to set strategic priorities and objectives until March 2027. CSP Priorities were aligned with those of the SSCB:



- All Suffolk CSPs agreed the same objectives, which were then localised in each CSP’s Action Plan (*see Appendix for Action Plans*). **CSP Objectives:**
 - Awareness raising of key community safety issues: supporting national communications campaigns, promoting reporting routes and delivering and promoting training.
 - Community engagement, to understand local concerns and use the insight gained to shape community safety projects, working to co-produce solutions where possible.
 - Problem solving approach in delivering key projects and action plans and in addressing new challenges as they emerge.
 - Information & data sharing on all partner projects and any relevant data from community engagement to find synergies, avoid duplication and optimise projects.
- The action plans, quarterly meetings, the quarterly SSCB dashboard, and an interim assessment conducted in March 2025 have provided the guidance/framework for CSPs to evaluate their efforts and check on their priorities since 2024.
- This report is the second interim assessment, before a new full assessment is due in April 2027.

Note on data and links to other SODA products

- This report provides crime statistics, using both public data, and some locally sourced data for items not available in the public domain.
- To enable comparison between the different geographical levels, this report provides crime rates per 1,000 population wherever possible and appropriate, rather than absolute numbers. The rates are always calculated using the most appropriate population base, e.g. for England rates we use the total England population, for Suffolk rates the Suffolk population and CSP rates that of the total CSP population. This is useful given the different sizes of population within the geographical levels, but also between the CSPs, which are not of equal size in terms of population:
 - the East CSP includes 249,664 residents (or 32% of Suffolk's total population),
 - the Ipswich CSP includes 140,274 residents (18%), and
 - the Western CSP includes 396,293 residents (50%).
- In the main this report focusses on the CSP priorities. SODA would be happy to provide further data to each CSP upon request and where possible.
 - SODA has been commissioned to evaluate all Clear, Hold, Build (CBH) initiatives across Suffolk, which will provide some overarching insight on different approaches, and what works or not works.
- For overarching SSCB priorities please also see
 - SODA's last update on [Serious Violence in Suffolk](#) (and [Serious Violence Duty – Strategic Needs Assessment](#))
 - SODA's last evaluation of the [Suffolk Criminal Exploitation programme](#) (next report due June 2026)

Summary of crime in Suffolk

- Crime rates in Suffolk remain below both regional and national averages.
- Suffolk's rates are lower for all ASB and Violence & sexual offences, compared to both regional and national averages – while rates for all other offence types are similar.
- The overall crime rate for each CSP has reduced: for the East CSP by 6%, for the Ipswich CSP by 2% and the Western one by 3% (2024/25 vs. 2025/26). For example,
 - Violence against person offences declined by 4% in the East and 6% in Ipswich, but increased by 1% in the Western area,
 - 9%-12% decline for Criminal damage/arson,
 - ASB rose by 4% in the East, but dropped in both Ipswich and Western CSPs (1% and 4% respectively),
 - 5% and 13% decline in Shoplifting in East and Western CSPs respectively, while this increased by 37% in the Ipswich CSP,
 - Around 20% decline in Public order offences in the East and Ipswich CSPs, and a 7% decline in the Western area.
- Across Suffolk, rates for sexual violence against women & girls have declined over the past three years. However, they remain higher than the rate for all sexual offences.
- DA crime numbers have fluctuated somewhat over the past five quarters and have increased in Q3 2025/26 compared to Q3 2024/25. In the Western CSP, DA crimes rose by 7% between these two quarters, while Ipswich saw a rise of 1%, with the East numbers dropping by 2%.
- Hate crimes are highest in the Ipswich CSP, where the overall rate per 1,000 population was 2.9 in 2023/24 and 3.1 in 2024/25. This represented an increase of 7% between those two years. Over the same time period, hate crime reduced by 8% in the East CSP and 25% in the Western CSP. On average, around 72% of Suffolk's hate crimes are related to race.
- Over the past 5 years, Fraud has increased nationally by 18% (*Note: sub-national data on Fraud is not available.*)

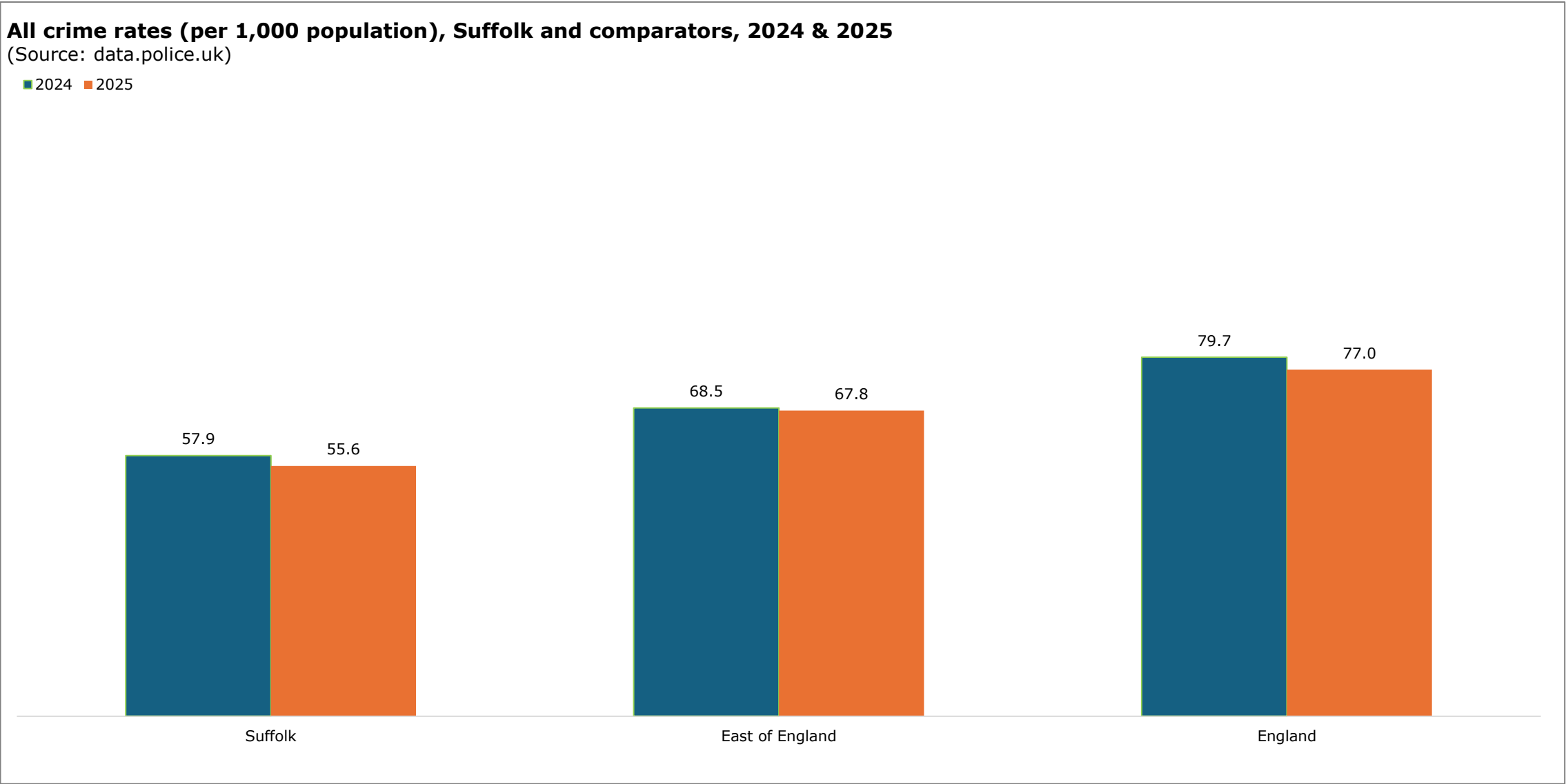
Assessment and recommendations

In addition to the analysis of crime data, we also gathered views from CSP members to understand what is working well and not so well.

- CSP stakeholders agree priorities are right, and that the link to the wider SSCB ones is working well. Suffolk's crime statistics support this view, e.g., on SSCB priorities, DA crimes and sexual violence against females over-indexing against all sexual crimes. On CSP priorities, shoplifting is a particular issue in the Ipswich CSP (clearly related to Ipswich town centre being part of this area). Rates of ASB and arson/criminal damage continue to be among the top five offence types.
- CSP stakeholders also agreed that including an 'emerging theme' (under the 'problem solving' objective) has introduced the necessary flexibility to address new challenges as they emerge.
- Linked to this though is the acknowledgement that data and information sharing could be improved, e.g., to better highlight these emerging trends (this was more often mentioned by Ipswich CSP and East CSP representative, than in the Western area). There was also mention of breaking down the data/information more, e.g. by smaller geographical areas and/or themes to aid local decision making. Also, some mentioned that the evaluation/tracking of CSP actions/campaigns to understand impact could be improved.
- Linked to the last point, two key issues were raised – concerns around Information Governance to share data remains a problem, as does the irregular attendance of some partners. The latter means that there are potentially gaps in the evidence base, when monitoring priorities, objectives, and emerging themes and deciding on actions/campaigns. It was felt that a complete picture of the partnership landscape is lacking.
- The tightening of the Action Plans was mentioned by and large as a positive, though there were some comments on the format as well that they are seen as a tick-box exercise. Which links to some comments made that CSP meetings are not strategic enough, instead focussing too much on the Action Plans and operational delivery.
- It is recommended that CSP priorities remain unchanged for 2026/27, and for CSPs to continue to support SSCB ones through, for example, awareness raising and training opportunities.
- A review of data/information being shared would ensure that gaps in the current evidence base could be identified and possibly plugged by adding new data sources. SODA has extensive experience on data sharing and overcoming Information Governance issues and could support in this area.

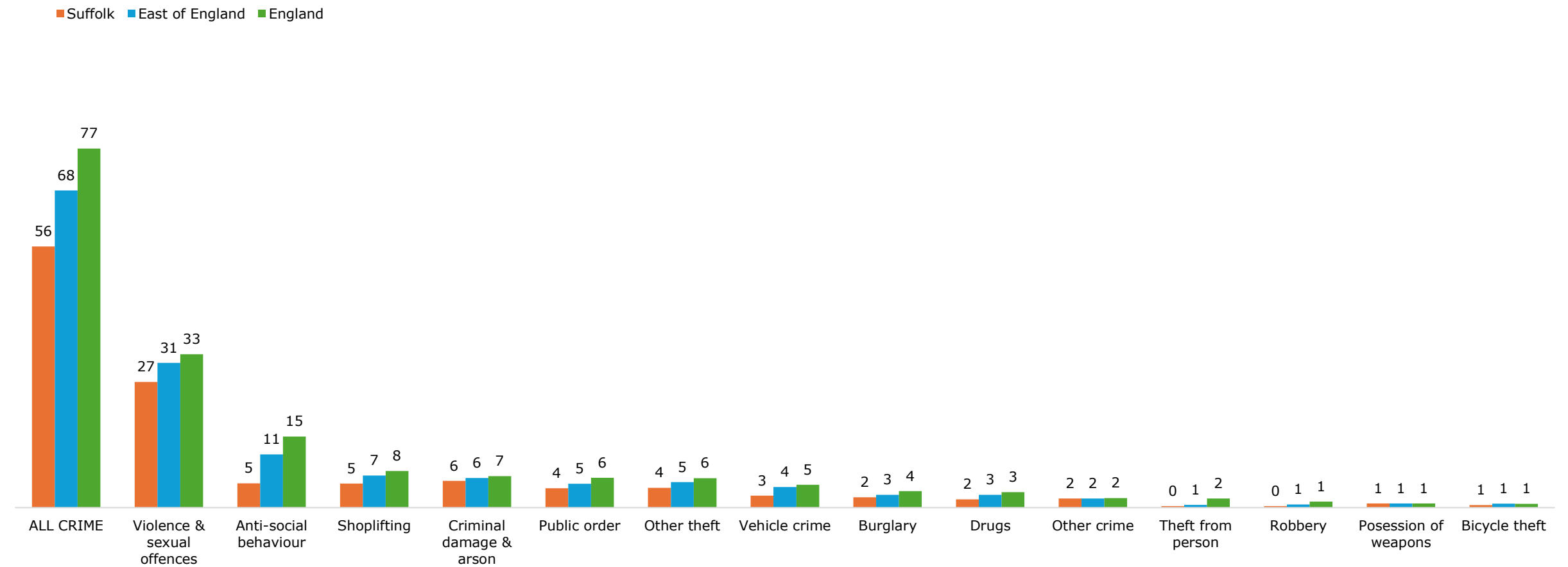
Crime in Suffolk

In 2025, the overall crime rate in Suffolk remained below both regional and national averages.



Between January and December 2025, Suffolk's rates were lower for all ASB and Violence & sexual offences, compared to both regional and national averages – while rates for all other offence types were similar.

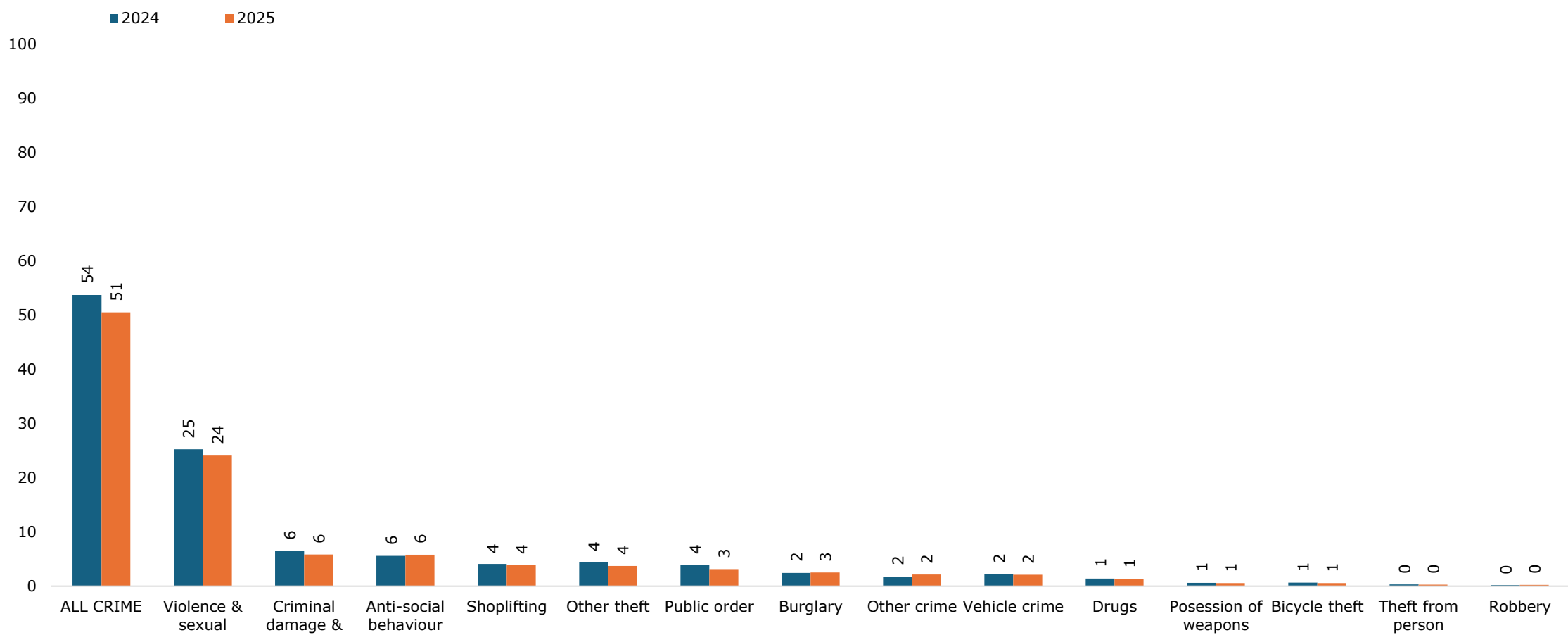
Crime rates (per 1,000 population) by type of crime, Suffolk and comparators, 2025
(Source: data.police.uk)



The overall crime rate for the East CSP has reduced by 6% (2024 vs. 2025). This includes:

- 4% decline in Violence and sexual offences
- 9% decline for Criminal damage/arson
- 4% increase in ASB
- 5% decline in Shoplifting and 15% decline in other theft
- 21% decline in Public order offences

Crime rates (per 1,000 population) by type of crime, East CSP, 2024 vs. 2025
(Source: data.police.uk)

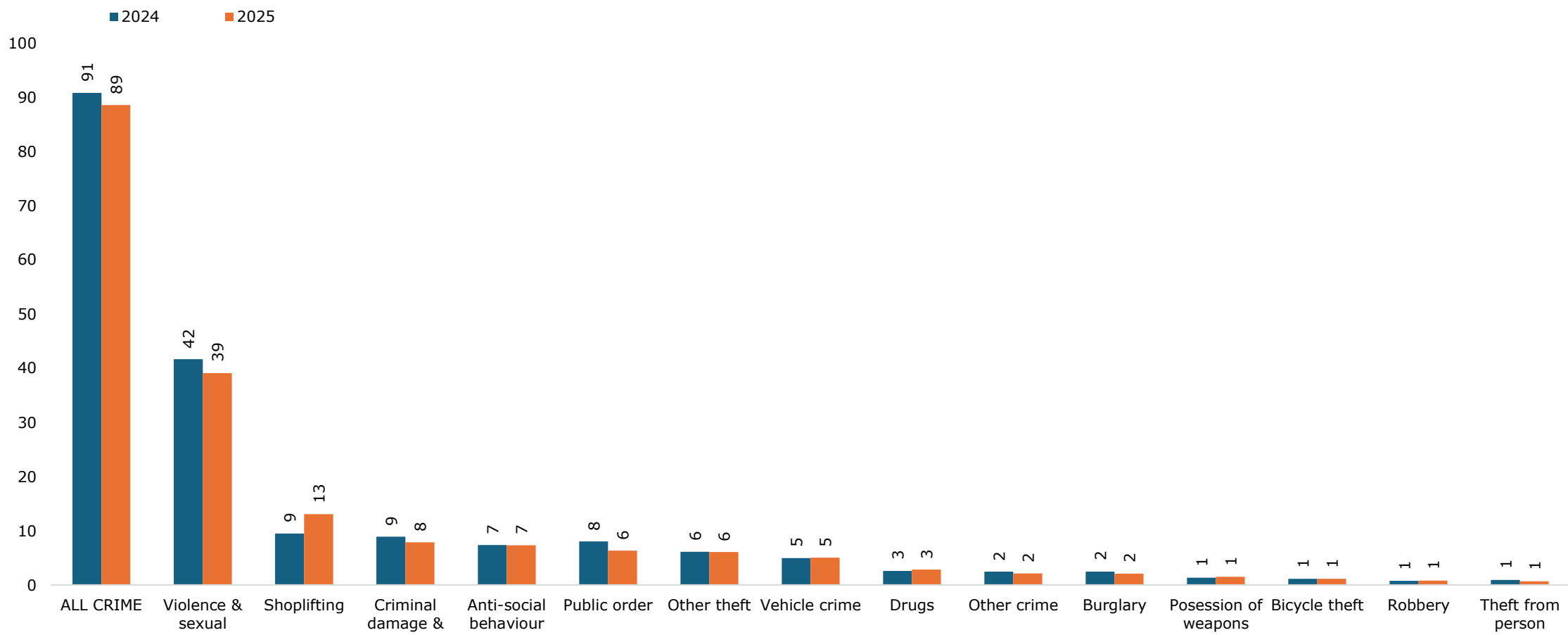


% change 2024 vs. 2025	-6%	-4%	-9%	4%	-5%	-15%	-21%	4%	21%	-4%	-5%	-5%	-10%	-13%	36%
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	------	------	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------	------	-----

The overall crime rate for the Ipswich CSP has reduced by 2% (2024 vs. 2025). This includes:

- 6% decline for Violence and sexual offences
- 37% increase in Shoplifting (due to city centre location)
- 12% decline for Criminal damage/arson
- 1% decline in ASB
- 21% decline in Public order offences

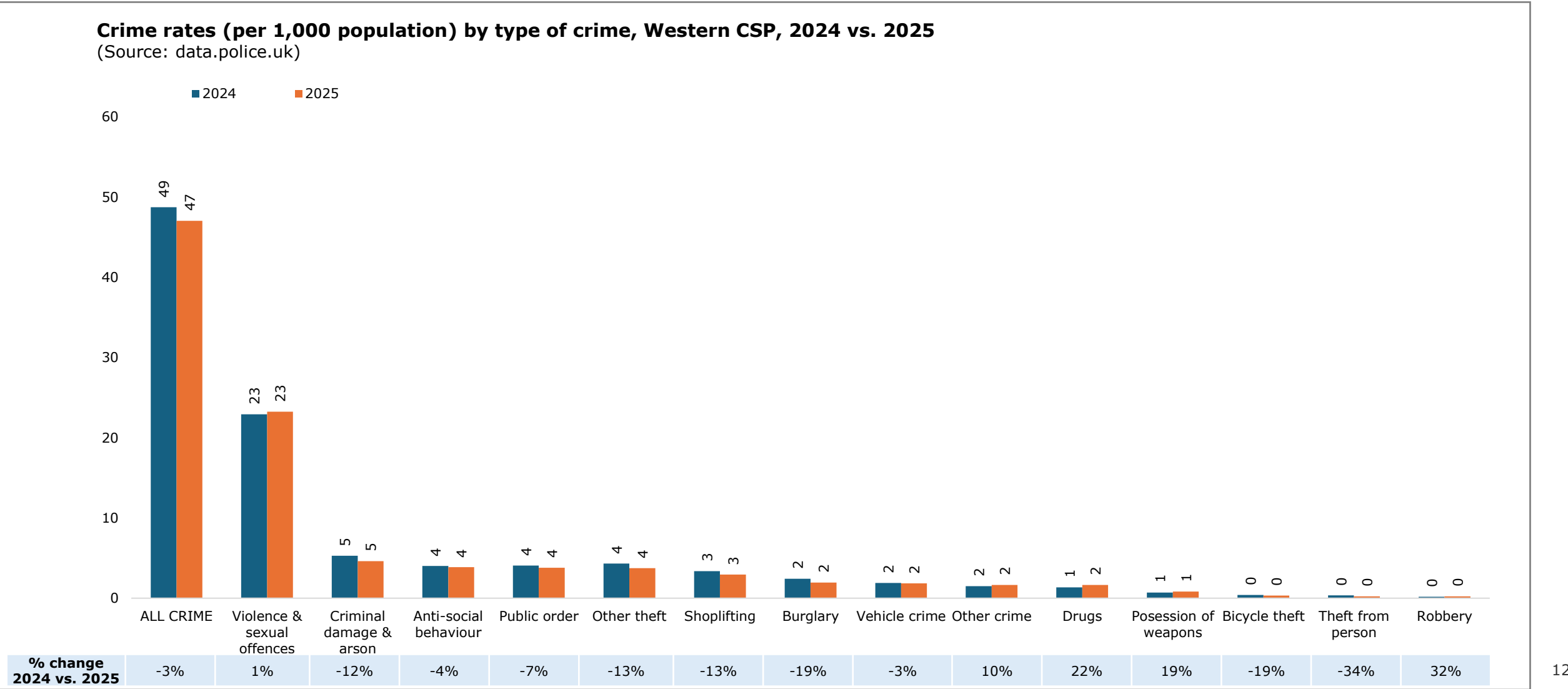
Crime rates (per 1,000 population) by type of crime, South CSP, 2024 vs. 2025
(Source: data.police.uk)



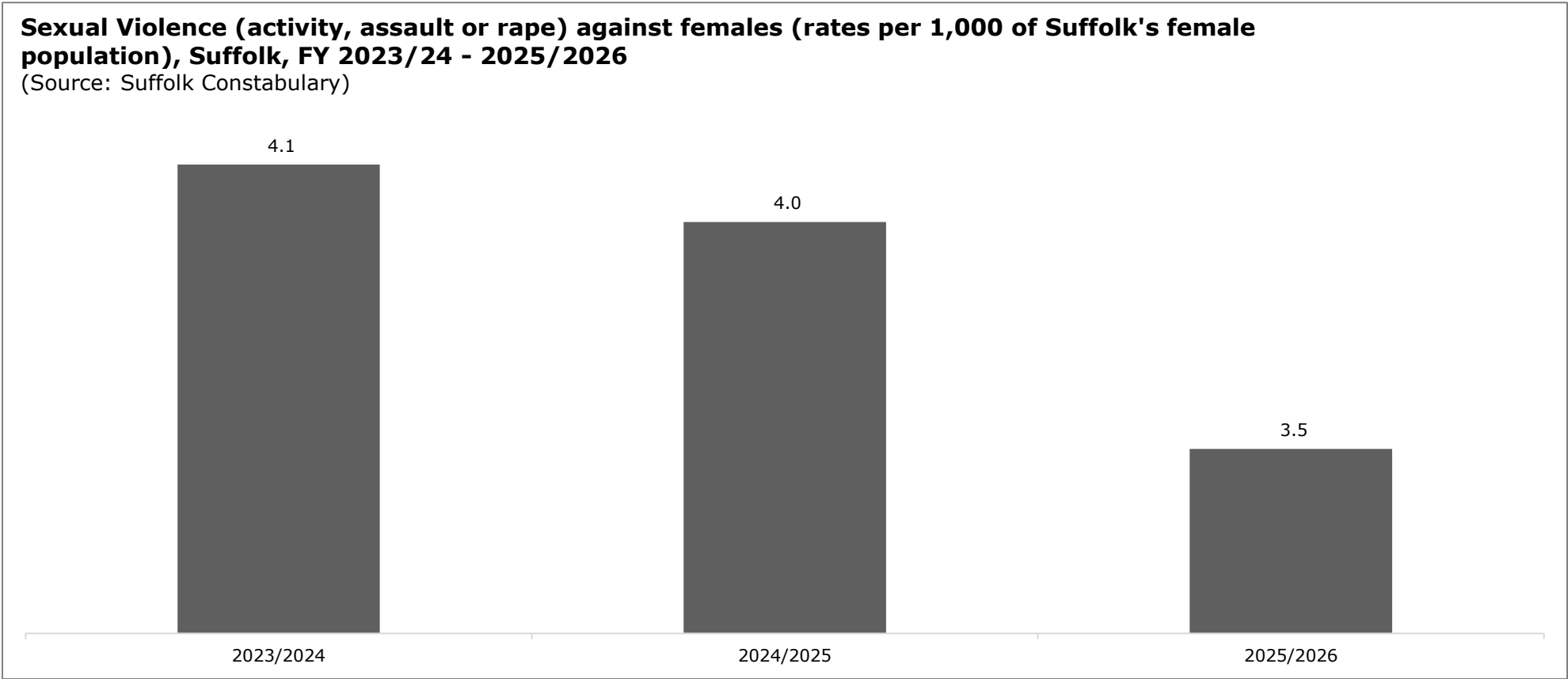
% change 2024 vs. 2025	-2%	-6%	37%	-12%	-1%	-21%	-1%	2%	8%	-14%	-16%	12%	0%	10%	-27%
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	------	-----	------	-----	----	----	------	------	-----	----	-----	------

The overall crime rate for the Western CSP has reduced by 3% (2024/25 vs. 2025/26). This includes:

- 1% increase in Violence and sexual offences
- 12% decline for Criminal damage/arson
- 4% decline in ASB
- 7% decline in Public order offences
- 13% decline for both Shoplifting and Other theft

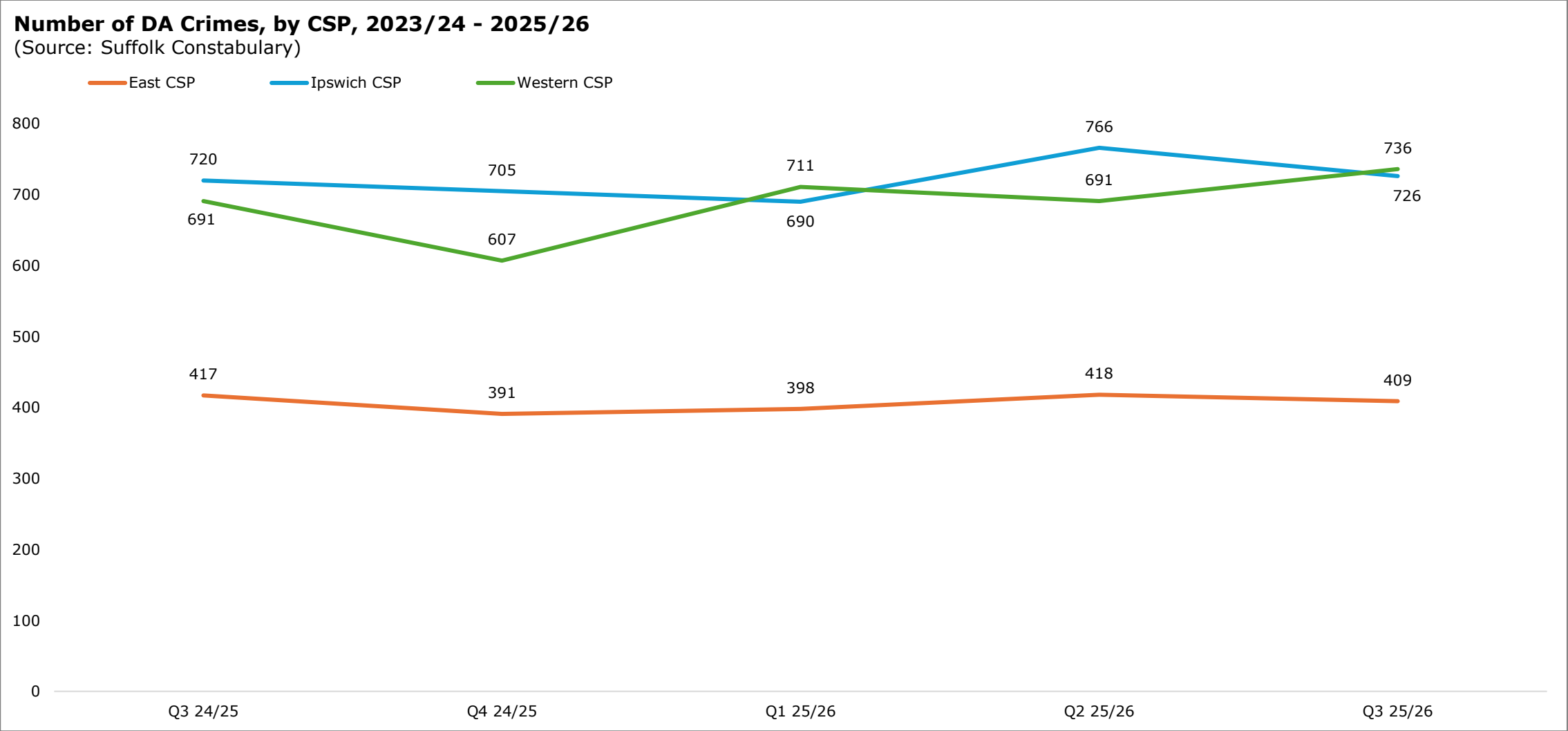


Across Suffolk, rates for sexual violence against women & girls have declined over the past three years. However, they remain higher than the rate for all sexual offences, for example, the latter stood at 3.0 in 2025/2026 (compared to 3.5 for sexual violence against females).

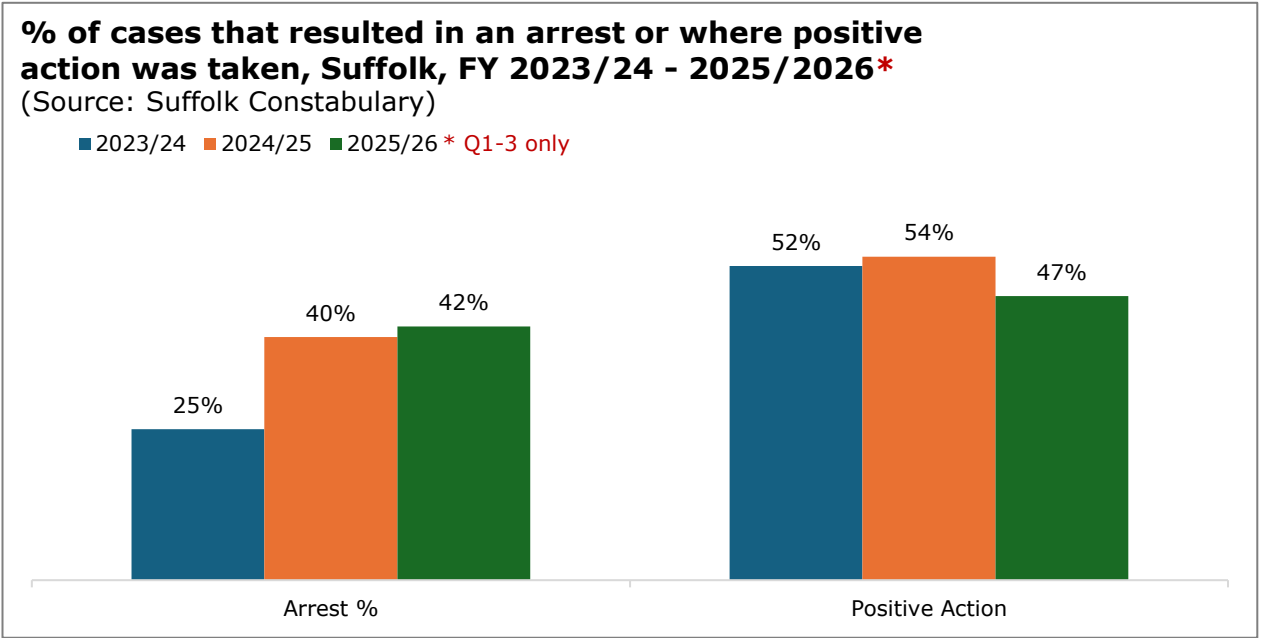
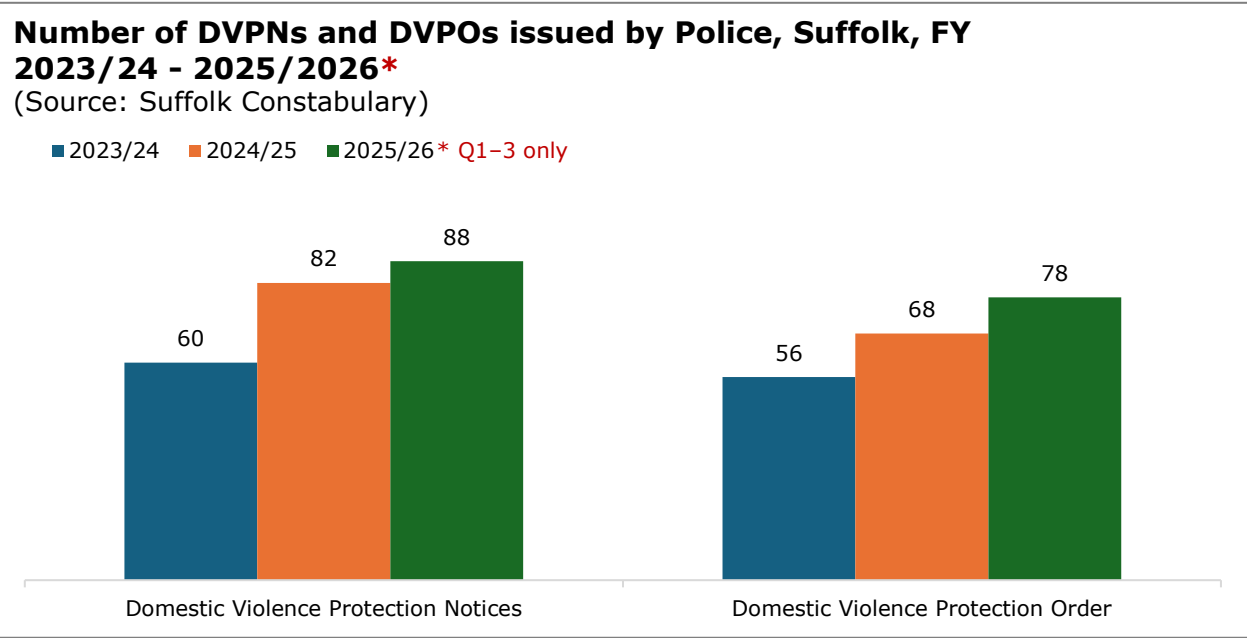


DA crime numbers have fluctuated somewhat over the past five quarters and have increased in Q3 2025/26 compared to Q3 2024/25. In the Western CSP, DA crimes rose by 7% between these two quarters, while Ipswich saw a rise of 1%, with the East numbers dropping by 2%.

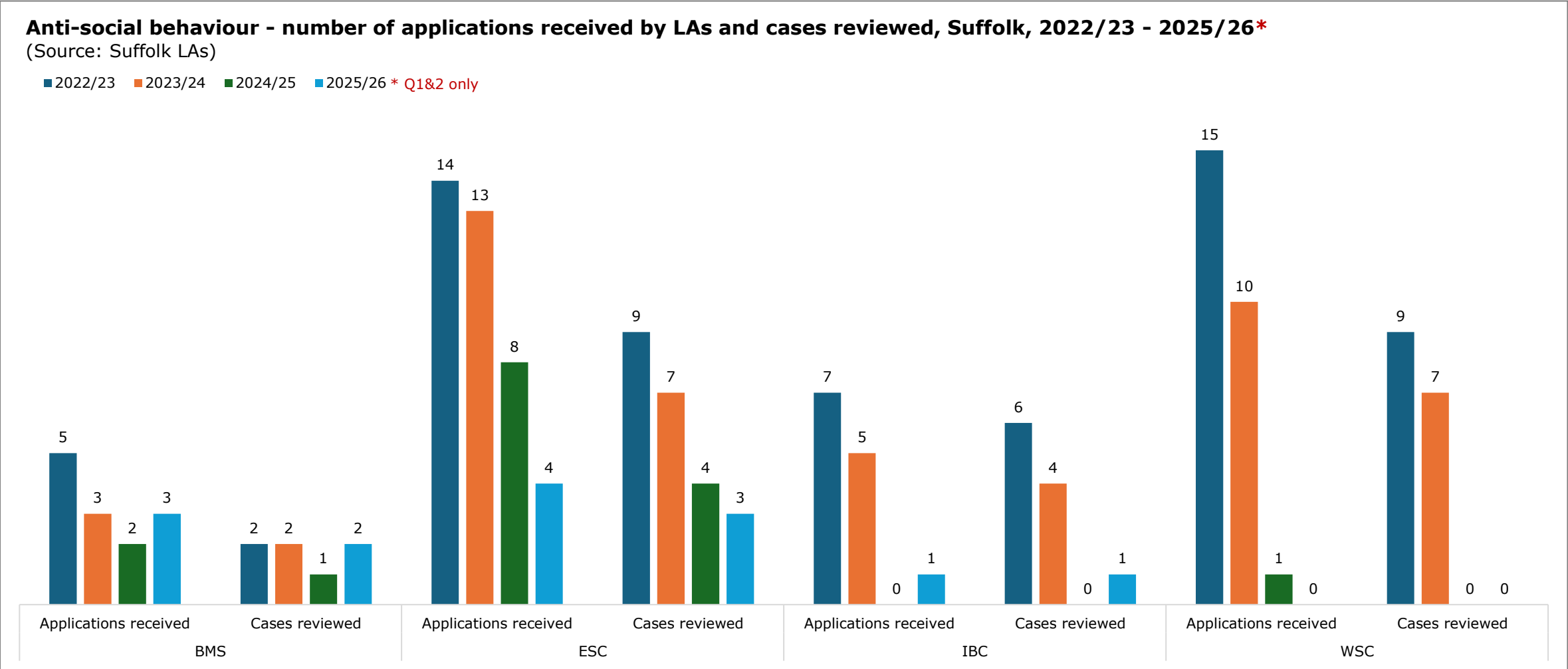
Though the absolute numbers between Ipswich and the Western CSP are not too dissimilar, given the smaller population numbers in the former mean that the Ipswich rate per 1,000 population over the past 5 quarters was 5.2 (vs. 1.7 in the Western CSP and 1.6 in the East).



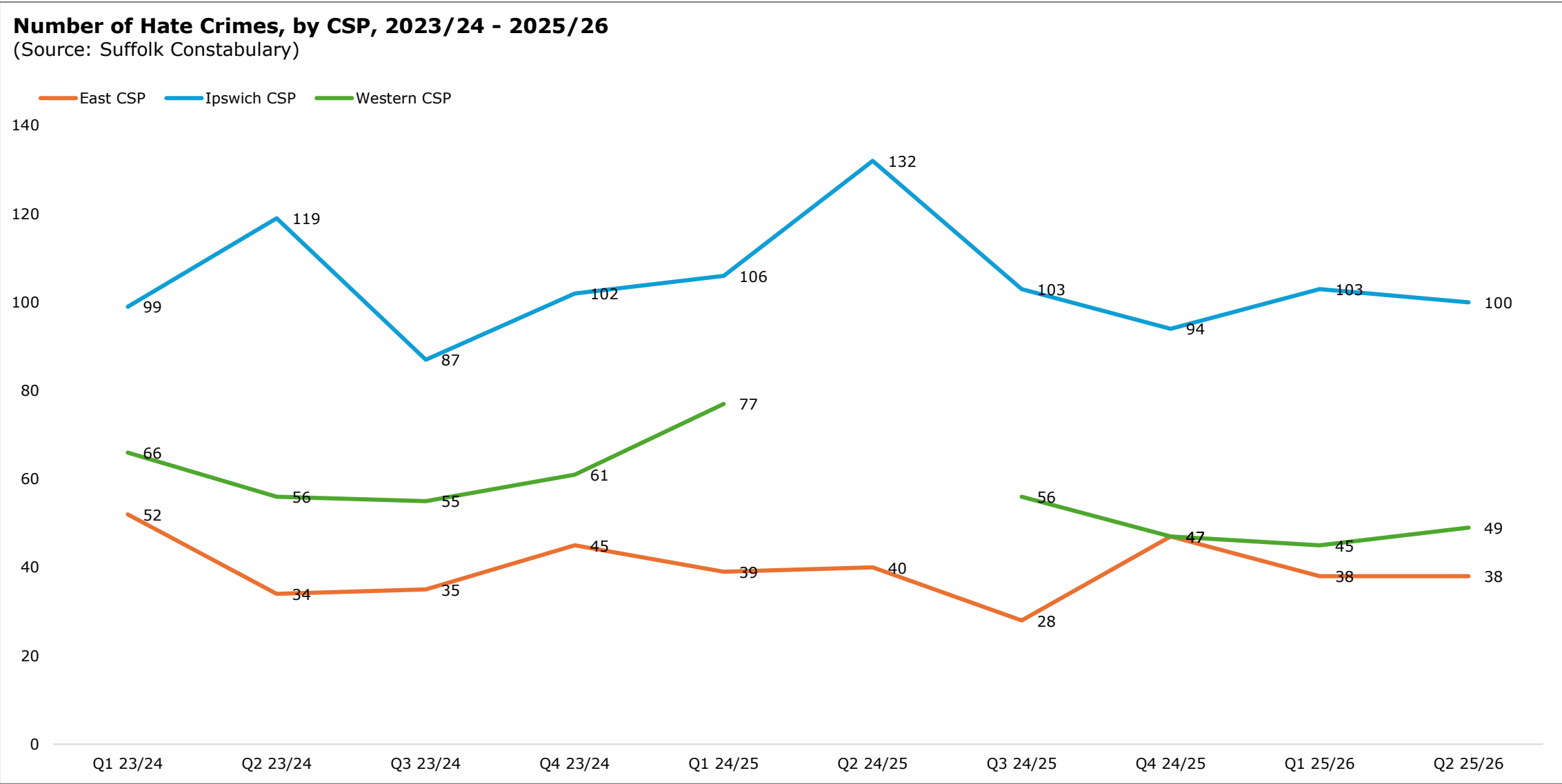
While numbers of DA offences are decreasing, the number of Domestic Violence Protection notices and orders are increasing (i.e., proportionally more cases are being issued with these). On average across the past three years, 82% of cases included a DA risk assessment.



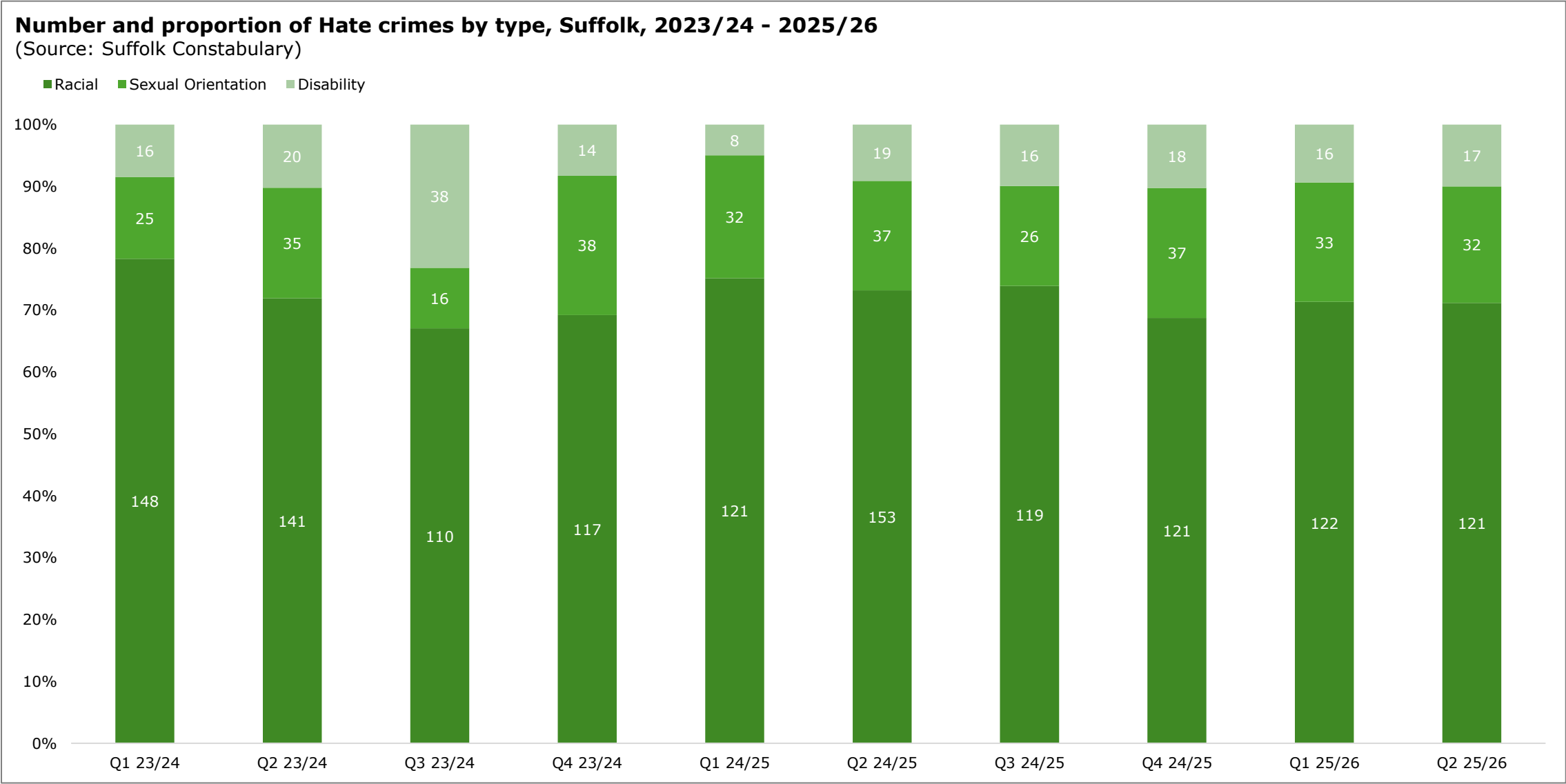
As mentioned above, ASB recorded crimes rose by 2% in the East, but dropped in both Ipswich and Western areas (1% and 4% respectively). Anti-social behaviour applications received by each LA fluctuate somewhat, but at an overall Suffolk level have decreased from a total of 41 applications in 2022/23 to 11 in 2024/25. Cases reviewed have declined in line, from 26 to 5 over the same time period.



Hate crimes are highest in the Ipswich CSP area, where the overall rate per 1,000 population was 2.9 in 2023/24 and 3.1 in 2024/25. This represented an increase of 7% between those two years. Over the same time period, hate crime reduced by 8% in the East CSP and 25% in the Western area (no data in Q2 24/25 for Western area).



On average, around 72% of Suffolk's hate crimes are related to race.



Over the past 5 years, Fraud has increased nationally by 18%, mainly driven by rising consumer & retail fraud (+33%) and bank & credit account fraud (+22%). Advance fee and Other fraud have both declined over that period (-21% and -22% respectively).

Note: sub-national data on Fraud is not available.

