

Introduction

This paper provides an analysis of the cost of crime in Warwickshire during the year 2006/07. It uses the latest Home Office estimates on the costs of different crime types to estimate an overall cost for the County. It also disaggregates the cost of crime across wards and specific agencies.

The costs considered in the Home Office report go beyond the direct financial costs of an offence (e.g. the value of property that has been stolen) to include the following:

- Costs in **anticipation** of crime, e.g. insurance, security
- Costs as a **consequence** of crime, e.g. value of property stolen, property damaged, victim services, lost output, physical and emotional impact
- Costs in **response** to crime, e.g. criminal justice system costs

The Home Office report only considers the costs of offences against individuals and households. Updates to the costs of crimes against commercial and public sector victims are planned for a forthcoming Home Office publication. All costs are 2003 prices, so may slightly underestimate the actual value in today's prices.

Potential uses for this information include examining the cost of crime on specific agencies, helping produce more robust cost-benefit analysis of interventions and helping to identify particular geographic locations for more intensive responses.

Key Findings

- Recorded crimes against individuals and households cost Warwickshire approximately £85 million during 2006/07. That represents £233,000 every day.
- Recorded violent crime accounted for more than £51m during 2006/07.
- A key component of the overall total is the monetary value attached to the physical and emotional impact of crimes on victims. This accounts for 46% of the total cost of crime.
- The cost of recorded violent crime to Warwickshire's health services was approximately £5.9m. This will exclude any unrecorded offences and will therefore represent a significant underestimate.
- Not surprisingly, the wards with the highest costs of crime are generally in and around the main town centres. Abbey ward in Nuneaton recorded crimes accounting for more than £4.5m during 2006/07.
- The twenty wards with the highest costs of crime account for half of all costs across the County, implying the costs are relatively concentrated in a small number of key locations.
- In terms of cost per person, there were variations across the County, ranging between £98 per resident in Stratford-on-Avon District up to £217 per resident in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough, with an average of £157.

Analysis

Estimated Costs of Crime

The Home Office has estimated the costs of crime associated with a range of crime types against individuals and households. As mentioned, these estimates attempt to cover all associated costs, including costs to agencies involved in responding to crime and the criminal justice system.

The table below illustrates how the estimates are disaggregated into their constituent parts.

Cost of Crime by Type

Crime Type	Costs in anticipation	Costs as a consequence	Costs in response				Average Cost
			Police	Courts	Probation	Other	
Serious wounding	£2	£7,075	£5,917	£930	£349	£7,149	£21,422
Other wounding	£2	£7,075	£412	£64	£59	£443	£8,055
Sexual offences	£8	£28,132	£1,524	£228	£52	£1,494	£31,438
Common assault	£0	£1,186	£119	£19	£16	£102	£1,442
Robbery	£21	£4,660	£878	£140	£80	£1,501	£7,280
Domestic burglary	£398	£1,732	£576	£37	£68	£456	£3,267
Theft of vehicle	£916	£3,022	£81	£4	£29	£85	£4,137
Theft from vehicle	£166	£642	£31	£2	£6	£11	£858
Other theft	£33	£301	£191	£10	£28	£71	£634
Criminal damage	£49	£692	£76	£5	£3	£41	£866

1. All costs are averages.
2. Costs in anticipation include defensive expenditure and insurance administration.
3. Costs as a consequence include physical and emotional impact on victims, value of property stolen, property damaged or destroyed, victim services, lost output and health service costs.
4. Costs in response include costs to the Police, prosecution, Magistrates' Court, Crown Court, jury service, legal aid, non-legal aid defence, Probation service, prison service, criminal injuries compensation and other CJS costs.

For example a theft from vehicle offence will cost, on average, £858. This includes not only the cost of any property stolen but also car insurance, car security devices, the emotional impact on the victim, victim services, lost output and Police costs. This is an average and will clearly hide significant variations.

Costs of Crime in Warwickshire

Based on the above estimates of individual offences, it is possible to approximate the total cost of crime across the County. The table below lists crime types, number of offences, cost per offence and total cost.

Cost of Crime by Type and Volume

Crime Type	Average Cost	Number of offences 2006/07	Total Cost
Serious wounding	£21,422	178	£3,813,116
Other wounding	£8,055	3,618	£29,142,990
Sexual offences	£31,438	424	£13,329,712
Common assault	£1,442	1,739	£2,507,638
Robbery of personal property	£7,280	367	£2,671,760
Domestic burglary	£3,267	2,850	£9,310,950
Theft of vehicle	£4,137	1,696	£7,016,352
Theft from vehicle	£858	5,200	£4,461,600
Other theft	£634	6,380	£4,044,920
Criminal damage	£866	10,240	£8,867,840
Total of Above			£85,166,840

Total recorded crime against individuals and households cost Warwickshire more than £85 million during 2006/07. This represents more than £233,000 every day of the year.

Serious violent offences account for a significant proportion of this total, largely due to the values attributed to the physical and emotional impact against the victim. Recorded violent crime accounted for more than £51m during 2006/07.

Disaggregating the Total Cost

The total cost of crime, £85m, can be disaggregated into various categories. This helps us to understand the impact of crime against individuals and households in a range of different ways, for example costs to the victim, costs to agencies and the impact on Warwickshire's economy.

The table below illustrates how this total can be broken down. Figures for specific CJS agencies are further disaggregated in the following section.

Cost of Crime by Type

Type of Cost	Total Cost
<i>Costs in anticipation of crime</i>	£4,282,023
Defensive expenditure	£2,297,252
Insurance administration	£1,984,771
<i>Costs as a consequence of crime</i>	£64,950,021
Physical and emotional impact on direct victims	£39,582,467
Value of property stolen	£8,830,035
Property damaged/destroyed	£4,063,798
Property recovered	- £1,129,045
Victim services	£121,538
Lost output	£7,587,644
Health services	£5,893,584
<i>Costs in response to crime</i>	£15,934,796
Criminal Justice System	£15,934,796
Total of Above	£85,166,840

Clearly, a key component of the overall total is the monetary value attached to the physical and emotional impact of crimes on victims. This accounts for 46% of the total cost of crime. The Home Office has produced the national estimates using the following methodology:

“The Home Office commissioned research to develop and apply methodologies for valuing the intangible victim costs of violent crime specifically. One of these approaches, developed by academics at the universities of Sheffield and East Anglia, collated evidence from a range of sources, including the BCS, on the prevalence and severity of various health state outcomes associated with a range of violent crime incidents. These health outcomes were then translated into estimated losses of quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). This is a concept which has been developed and used extensively in the health service area, and subject to extensive theoretical and empirical validation. Reductions in QALYs as a result of suffering a violent crime incident can then be translated into money terms by applying a monetary estimate of a QALY derived from research again undertaken for the DfT.”

Costs to Agencies

The Home Office methodology disaggregates the cost of crime across a range of different agencies that can be involved in dealing with crime. This might include the Police, Probation, Courts, victim services, health services and prison service. This section considers the costs of crime to these agencies in Warwickshire.

Cost of Crime by Type and Agency

Crime Type	Police	Health	Probation	Courts	Victim Services	Prison Service
Serious wounding	£1,053,226	£239,944	£62,122	£165,540	£1,246	£486,118
Other wounding	£1,490,331	£4,874,368	£213,344	£231,424	£25,312	£484,544
Sexual offences	£646,176	£388,384	£22,048	£96,672	£13,568	£304,856
Common assault	£206,941	£213,897	£27,824	£33,041	£10,434	£22,607
Robbery	£322,226	£177,261	£29,360	£51,380	£5,872	£312,317
Domestic burglary	£1,641,600	-	£193,800	£105,450	£31,350	£880,650
Theft of vehicle	£137,376	-	£49,184	£6,784	£1,696	£106,848
Theft from vehicle	£161,200	-	£31,200	£10,400	£5,200	£20,800
Other theft	£1,218,580	-	£178,640	£57,420	£6,380	£127,600
Criminal damage	£778,240	-	£30,720	£51,200	£20,480	£61,440
Total of Above	£7,655,896	£5,893,854	£838,242	£809,311	£121,538	£2,807,780

Recorded crimes against individuals and households cost the listed agencies in the region of £18 million during 2006/07. Of this total, the Police incurred costs of more than £7.6m.

The cost of recorded violent crime to Warwickshire's health services was approximately £5.9m. This will exclude any unrecorded offences and will therefore represent a significant underestimate.

Ward-level Data

It is possible to calculate a cost of crime figure for each ward across the County. Not surprisingly, the highest costs are associated with town centre wards, largely because these are the areas with the highest levels of reported violent crime.

The table below lists the 'top twenty' wards in Warwickshire in terms of the cost of crime against individuals and households.

Cost of Crime, Top Twenty Wards, 2006/07

Rank	Ward	District	Total Cost
1	Abbey	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£4,644,738
2	Brunswick	Warwick	£3,176,320
3	Clarendon	Warwick	£2,971,972
4	Newbold	Rugby	£2,635,068
5	Caldecott	Rugby	£2,302,022
6	Camp Hill	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£2,275,790
7	Wem Brook	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£2,264,058
8	Bar Pool	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£2,125,136
9	Willes	Warwick	£1,963,192
10	Poplar	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£1,950,956
11	New Bilton	Rugby	£1,667,374
12	Milverton	Warwick	£1,623,154
13	Bede	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£1,590,922
14	Stratford Avenue and New Town	Stratford-on-Avon	£1,566,702
15	Stratford Guild and Hathaway	Stratford-on-Avon	£1,536,494
16	Kingswood	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£1,533,470
17	Warwick West	Warwick	£1,494,050
18	Exhall	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£1,485,292
19	Warwick South	Warwick	£1,433,922
20	Attleborough	Nuneaton & Bedworth	£1,427,074

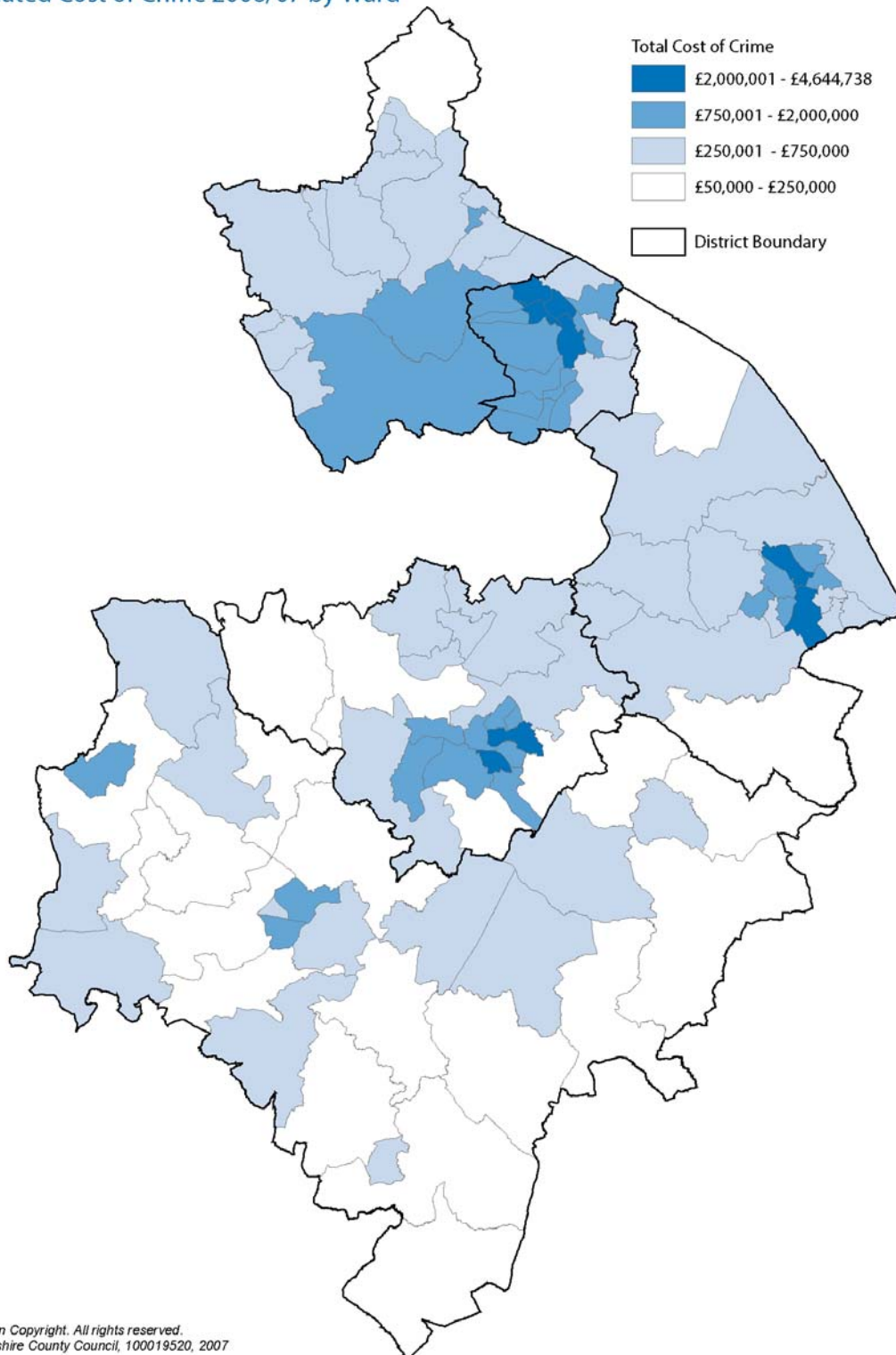
Abbey ward in Nuneaton & Bedworth covers the commercial town centre and a some residential areas to the west. During 2006/07, crimes against individuals and households amounted to more than £4.6m worth of costs. This represents 5.5% of all costs incurred across the County.

Nine of the 'top twenty' wards are located within Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough.

These twenty wards account for almost £42m or 50% of the total cost of crime across Warwickshire.

The map below illustrates the ward level totals.

Estimated Cost of Crime 2006/07 by Ward



As mentioned previously, most of the largest totals are in and around the main town centres. For example, every ward within Leamington and Warwick towns suffered crimes amounting to more than £750,000.

Actual Crime vs. Cost of Crime

Another potentially interesting comparison could be made between the actual volume of crime in a locality and the cost of those crimes. Traditionally the focus for practitioners has always been on the volume of crime – an alternative would be to consider the relative impact crimes have on an area. It may be that a particular ward has a relatively small number of recorded crimes but they may be, generally, at the more serious end of the scale. Agencies might want to consider whether there should be an additional focus on these kinds of areas.

The first table below lists wards where the cost of crimes recorded within them places them further up the 'league table' than a simple consideration of crime numbers would do. The second table provides the converse – wards where the volume of crime is high but the cost is relatively lower.

Comparing the Cost of Crime and Actual Crime, 2006/07 – 'relatively expensive wards'

Ward	District	Rank (cost of crime)	Rank (volume of crime)	Difference
Hurley & Wood End	North Warwickshire	55	80	25
Cubbington	Warwick	53	68	15
Water Orton	North Warwickshire	59	71	12
Crown	Warwick	25	36	11
Manor	Warwick	37	47	10
Atherstone North	North Warwickshire	60	70	10

These 6 wards account for 5% of the total cost of crime in the County but only 3.8% of the actual volume

Comparing the Cost of Crime and Actual Crime, 2006/07 – 'relatively less expensive wards'

Ward	District	Rank (cost of crime)	Rank (volume of crime)	Difference
Dunchurch & Knightlow	Rugby	65	42	23
Henley	Stratford-on-Avon	75	54	21
Fosse	Rugby	57	42	15
Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon	56	41	15
Stoneleigh	Warwick	74	59	15
Earl Craven & Wolston	Rugby	54	40	14
Eastlands	Rugby	64	51	13

Ranks are out of 105, where 1 is the highest

Actual volumes of crime refer to the categories included in the cost analysis only

Interestingly, all of the wards that have the greatest differences between cost of crime and actual volume of crime are clustered in particular Districts/Boroughs. Those wards that, relatively speaking, perform better for volume of crime than cost of crime tend to be located in North Warwickshire and Warwick, whereas the wards that perform better for cost of crime than volume of crime are generally clustered in Rugby and Stratford-on-Avon. This implies that, in general terms, North Warwickshire and Warwick are suffering relatively more expensive types of crime.

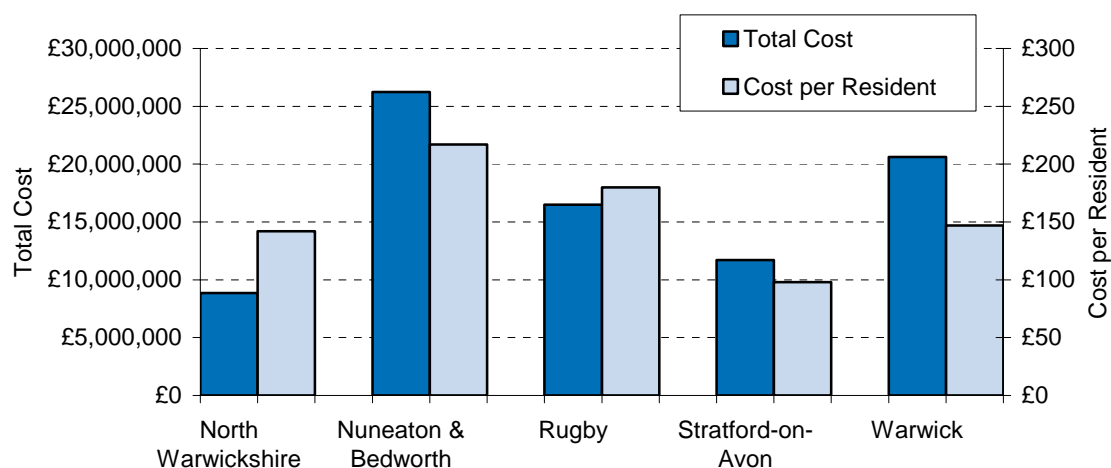
It is also interesting to note that none of the wards listed in these two tables feature in the 'top twenty' for either volume or cost of crime, implying that the wards with the highest costs associated to them also have the highest volumes.

Cost per Person

It is not possible to calculate the total cost of crimes committed against residents of Warwickshire as some offences against Warwickshire's residents will take place outside of the County. What is possible is a calculation of the average cost per resident for crimes committed within the County's boundary.

It is also possible to produce this estimate for each District within Warwickshire. Going beyond that geographical scale (e.g. ward) would not be sensible as offences committed within town centres would significantly skew the figures in those areas.

Cost of Crime per Resident 2006/07, by District



On average, crimes against individuals and households in Warwickshire cost each resident of the County £157 during 2006/07.

At District level, figures were as follows:

Cost of Crime per Resident 2006/07, by District

District	Total Cost	Cost per Resident
North Warwickshire	£8,848,878	£142.04
Nuneaton & Bedworth	£26,230,802	£217.32
Rugby	£16,502,674	£180.16
Stratford-on-Avon	£11,695,226	£98.28
Warwick	£20,630,388	£147.04
Warwickshire	£83,907,968	£157.16

Average cost per resident ranged between £98 in Stratford-on-Avon District up to £217 in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough.

References

The cost figures used in this report are taken from the Home Office Online Report 30/05 "[The economic and social costs of crime against individuals and households 2003/04](#)", published in 2005. For more details on the methodology please refer to that report.

Further Information

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