

04 Domestic Burglary

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4.1 What is domestic burglary?

Home Office definition:

Domestic burglary is theft of property from peoples home as opposed to business premises. There are categories of burglary including Aggravated Domestic burglary.

4.2 What does the community think about domestic burglary?

When asked what the three most important crime and disorder issues were in their neighbourhood, respondents cited burglary/robbery/theft (35%) as their highest concern.

4.3 How does Oxford's domestic burglary rate compare nationally?

Year	England and Wales	Oxford
1998/99	473,349	2,602
1999/00	442,602	2,173
2000/01	402,984	1,590

Figure 4:1 3 year trend

Domestic burglary offences fell in the last three years both nationally and in Oxford by 15% and almost 40%, respectively. As a proportion of crime, it made up 8% of all crime nationally and 7% of all crime in Oxford in the 12 months to March 2001.

Domestic burglary crime rates are measured by the Home Office by households and population of the district. Both graphs below show that the rates in Oxford for 2000/01 are higher than the rest of Thames Valley and the National level.

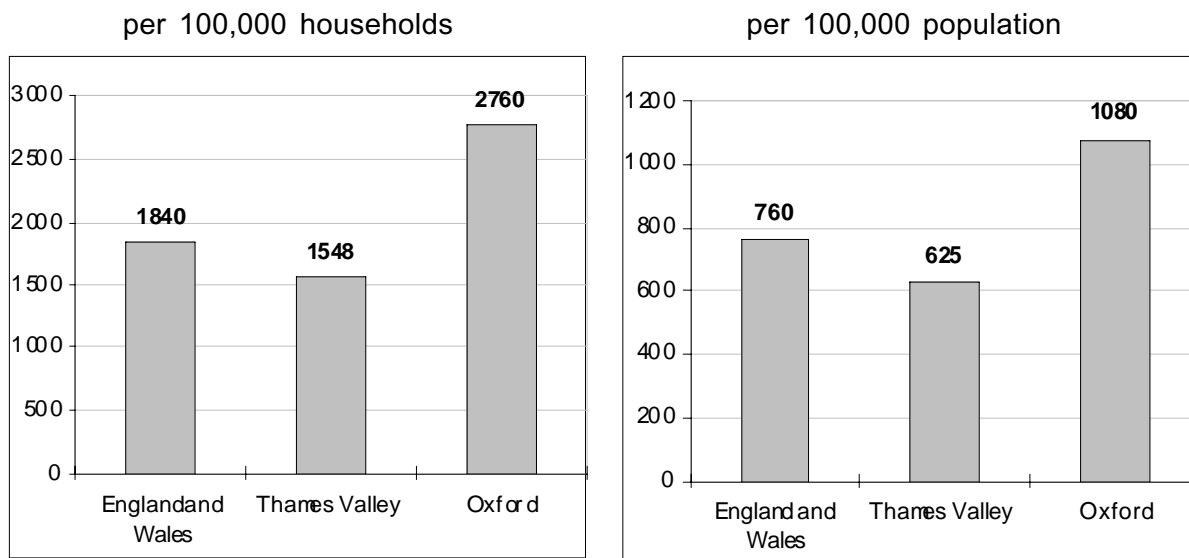


Figure 4:2 Domestic burglary rates per 100,000 population and households

4.4 How much is domestic burglary costing the community ?

Offence type	Cost per offence (£s)	Estimated cost of crime in Oxford 2000/01
Domestic burglary	2,300	3.65m

Figure 4:3 Domestic burglary costing

4.5 Does the partnership have a Best Value Reduction Target for domestic burglary ?

The government has set a performance indicator for ATMOSPHERE under the Best Value mechanism called BV126 :

	Performance estimate	Result 2000/01
Domestic burglary per 1,000 households	25.7	27.6

Figure 4:4 Best Value performance indicator for domestic violence

4.6 Where are these offences occurring in Oxford ?

Ward trends

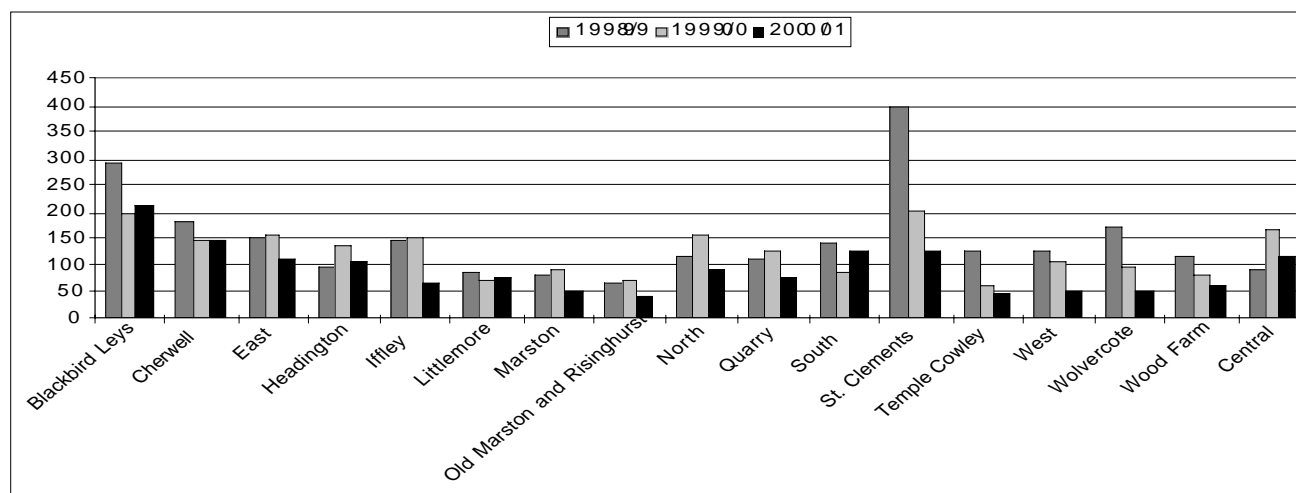


Figure 4: 5 Domestic burglary, 1998–2001

The graph above shows that domestic burglary offences have fallen in the majority of wards between 1998 and 2001. Particularly noticeable reductions occurred in St. Clements, Wolvercote, Ifley and Blackbird Leys wards. The Police Burglary Team, formed in 1999 could account for some of this reduction.

The highest wards for domestic burglary are Blackbird Leys, Cherwell, South, St. Clements and Central. Oxford city's domestic burglary rate is considerably higher than Thames Valley or National rates, although this is to be expected to some degree as Oxford is a large urban area.

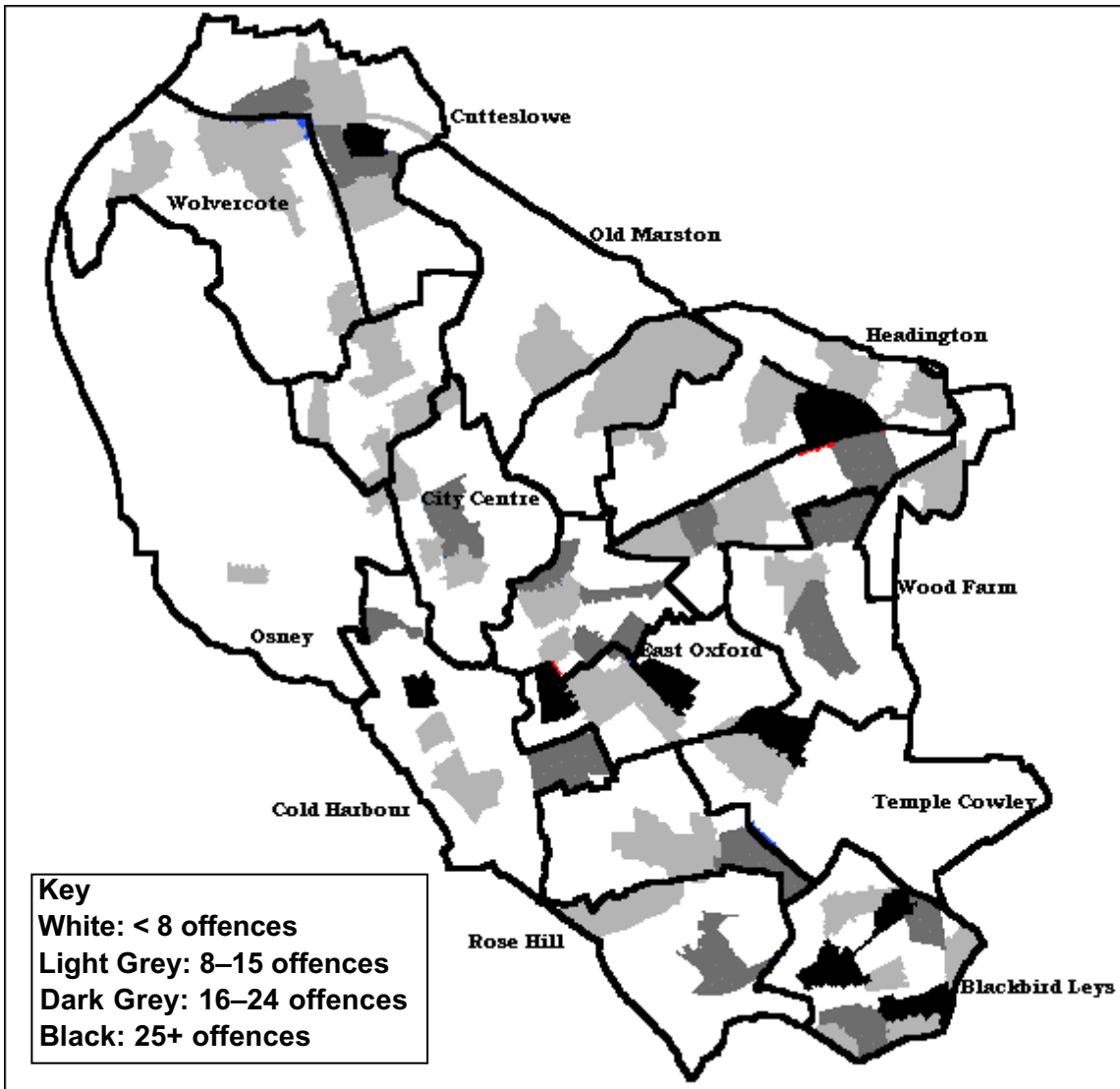


Figure 4:6 Map showing high concentration areas of Domestic burglary (April 2000–March 2001)

Concentration areas

Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Temple Cowley, East Oxford, Headington and Cutteslowe.

4.7 When do these offences take place ?

Domestic burglary offences show no particular pattern in the day of the week they are committed, although there does appear to be a significant reduction in the number of offences committed on a Sunday.

There is little difference in the split between offences committed between 7 am and 7 pm and those during the overnight 12 hour time span.

The nature of the offence makes it harder to determine the exact time of the offence, often a victim may be away from home for days or weeks.

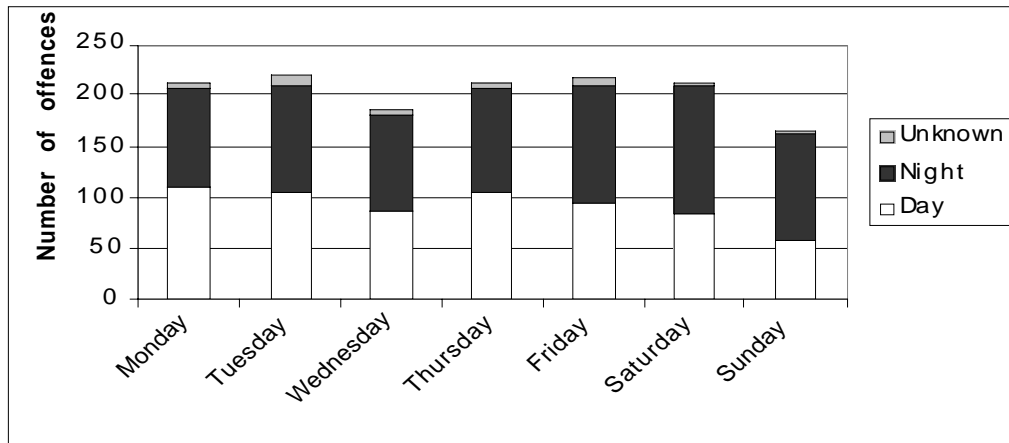


Figure 4:7 Domestic Burglary, times of day and day of week

4.8 Who are the victims?

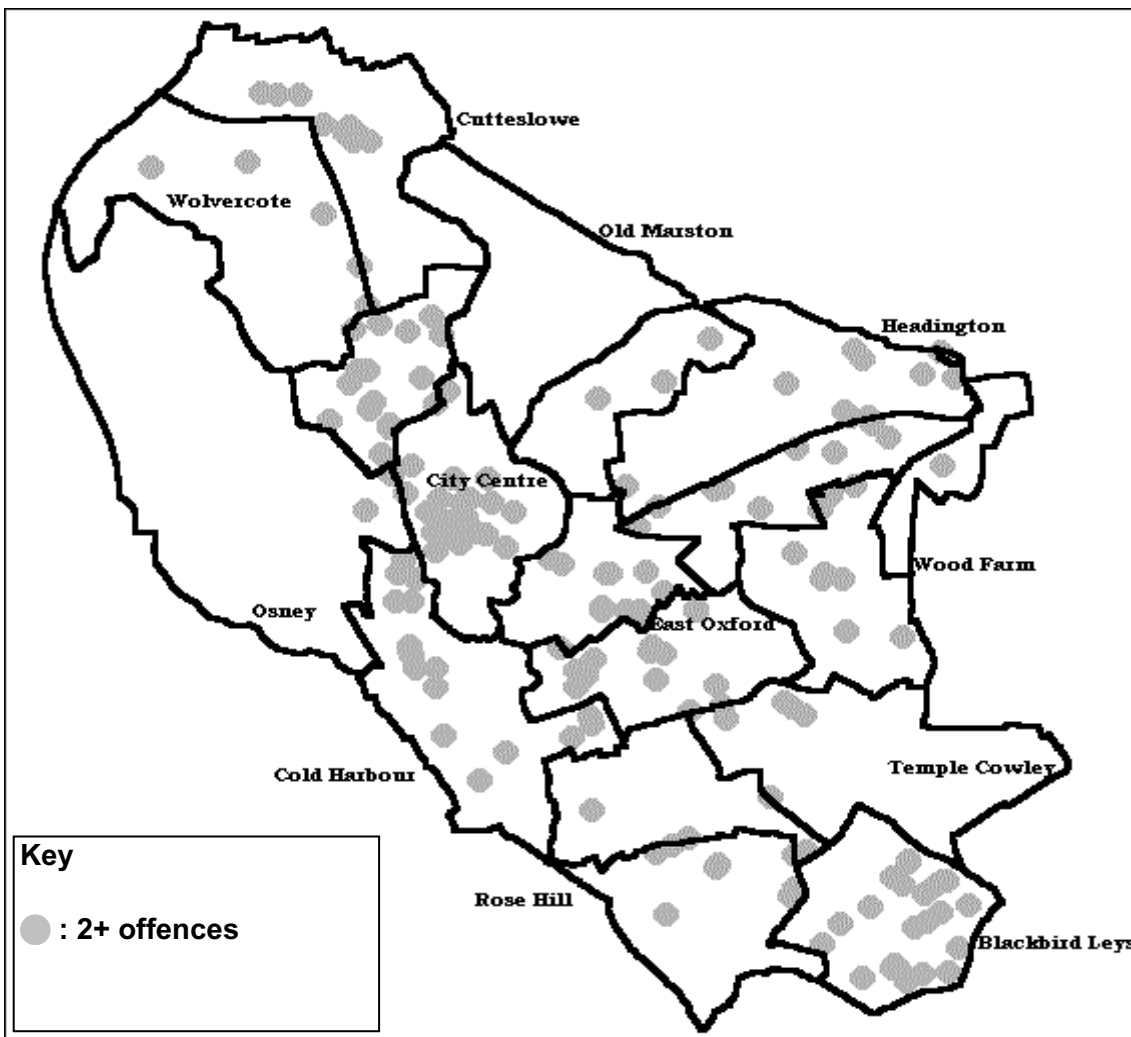


Figure 4:8 Domestic burglary repeat victims in Oxford 2001

As expected many of the areas with high levels of domestic burglary offences also have high levels of repeat victimisation, i.e. a dwelling burgled more than once during the year.

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However, it is important to note that other areas such as North ward and the city centre seem to suffer a high concentration of repeat victimisation but not necessarily a high total number of burglaries. This seems to indicate that in these areas repeat victim comprise the majority of burglaries.

Offence	Gender	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	Total
Burglary dwelling	Female	33	234	141	103	56	48	54	72	21		762
	Male	34	256	149	107	73	44	31	24	5		723

Figure 4:9 Domestic burglary offender’s Gender/Age profile

There is no significant difference in the gender of domestic burglary victims. Victims are generally aged between 20 and 49 which may reflect the population profile. Further analysis could be undertaken into the age range of victims of distraction burglaries where an offender obtains entry by deception.

4.9 Who is committing these offences ?

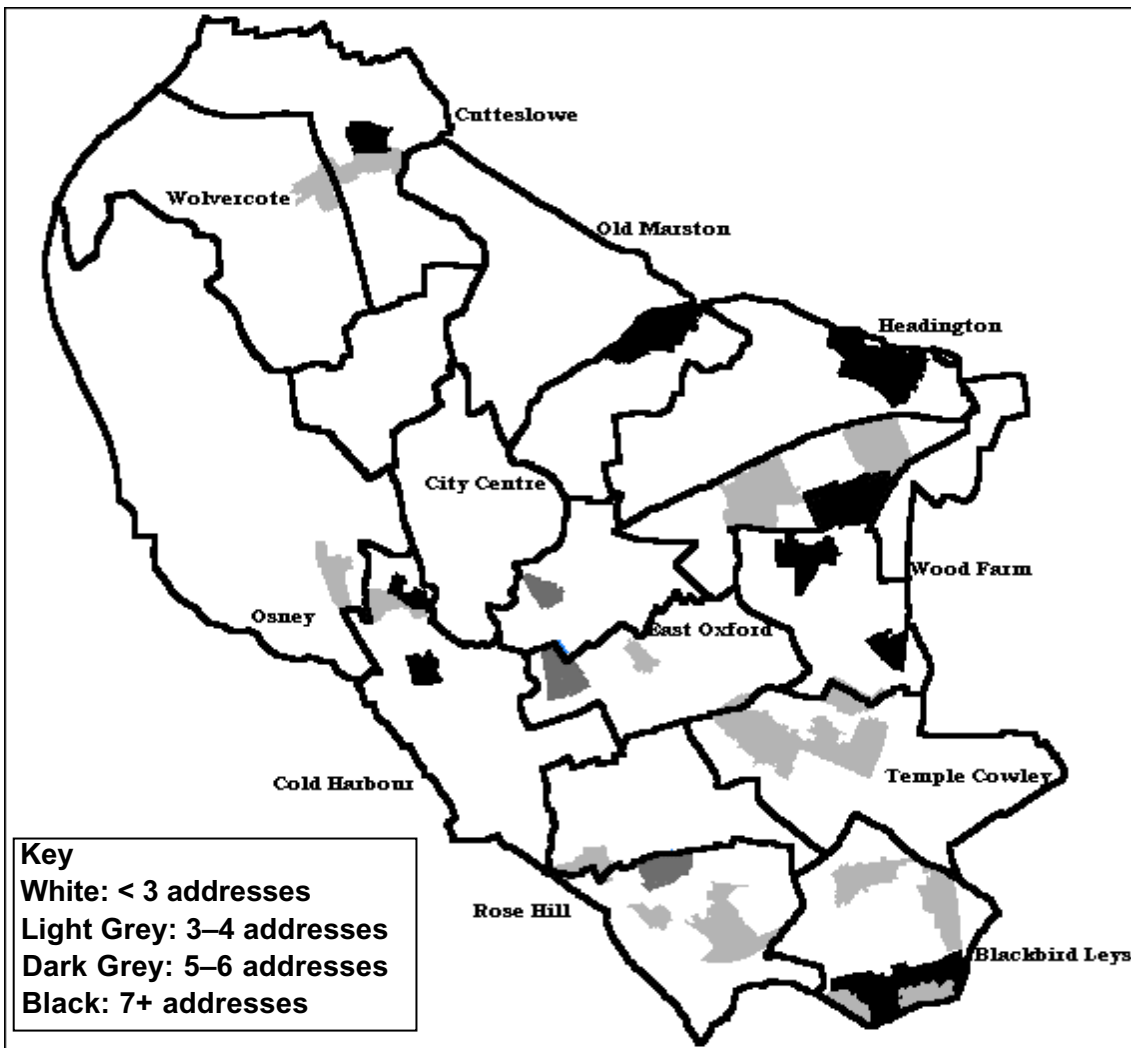


Figure 4:10 Map of home addresses of offenders arrested and processed by the police April 2000 – March 2001

The location of those arrested for domestic burglary are not necessarily in the areas that suffer from higher concentrations of domestic burglary. However, these high concentration areas are within close proximity of offenders resident areas.

	Male	Female
Probation commencements : 01/04/1998 - 31/03/2001	134	8
Youth Offending Team contacts : 01/04/2000 - 31/12/2000	35	2

Figure 4:11 Domestic burglary probation gender profile

	Under 16	16-17	18-25	26-32	33-40	41+	Total
Probation commencements : 01/04/1998 - 31/03/2001	-	-	73	46	17	6	142
Youth Offending Team : 01/04/2000 - 31/12/2000	16	21	-	-	-	-	37
Arrests : 01/04/2000 - 31/03/2001	31	30	179	77	27	17	331

Figure 4:12 Domestic burglary probation Age Profile

The tables above indicate that the majority of offenders are male and are aged between 18 and 32.

4.10 Other contributing factors

Probation data – 1 April 1998–31 March 2001

Contributing factor to offending

- Accommodation **10%**
- Alcohol **22%**
- Drugs **53%**
- Employment **14%**
- Mental Health **0%**

As shown above, drugs and alcohol issues are the most common contributing factors to offending. Many offenders starting a probation order had a combination of factors contributing to their offending.

Just over half of Oxford city offenders, who commenced a probation order between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 2001, had a drug misuse problem classed as relating to their offending. A further 22% had alcohol misuse problems and 9% had both drug and alcohol misuse problems.

Research conducted by Brookes University, titled *Heroin, Crack and Crime: The Oxford Perspective*, identified the local link between these drugs and offending behaviour.

Key findings relating to domestic burglary were:

1. The level of illicit drugs use and the level of spend on drugs by the majority of users necessitates a significantly high level of income generating activity.
2. Illicit drugs and in particular heroin and crack appear to play a significant part in the level of criminal offending in Oxford. This is particularly the case for some types of acquisitive crime, most notably shoplifting and burglary.

Employment

Only 7% of offenders were employed, the majority, 65%, were categorised as unemployed. 11% were registered as unavailable for work.

Ethnicity

Probation: Analysis by ethnic origin found that 87% of domestic burglary offenders who commenced a probation order during this period were White European. The next highest ethnic group was Pakistani with 4% of the total.

Police arrest data

As above, of those arrested by the police and processed, 87% were White European. The second highest ethnic category was Afro-Caribbean with 8% of the total arrests.