

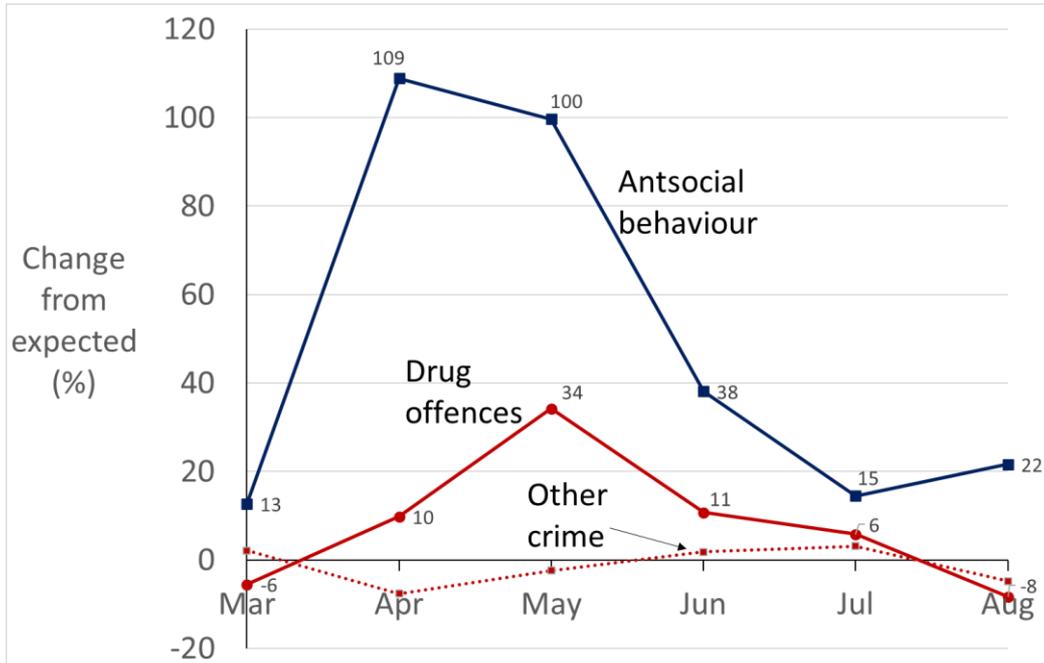


Six Months In: Pandemic Crime Trends in England and Wales to August 2020

Anton Dixon and Graham Farrell, University of Leeds.

Recorded crimes per 10,000 people in England and Wales (except Greater Manchester). Lines show the percentage difference in 2020 compared to rate expected from previous years' experience.

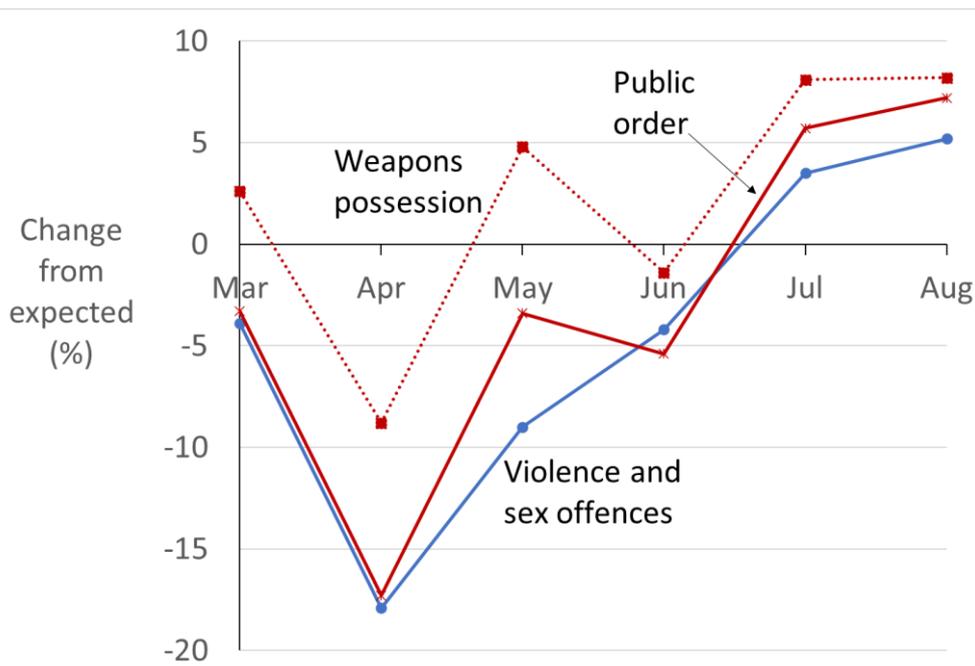
Box 1: Drug offences, other crime, and antisocial behaviour



Antisocial behaviour (ASB) and drug offences were the only 'above-expected rate' categories during lockdown. ASB likely reflects breaches of lockdown rules. Drug offences may reflect changed police activity.

The broad category of *other crime* changed little compared to most crime types.

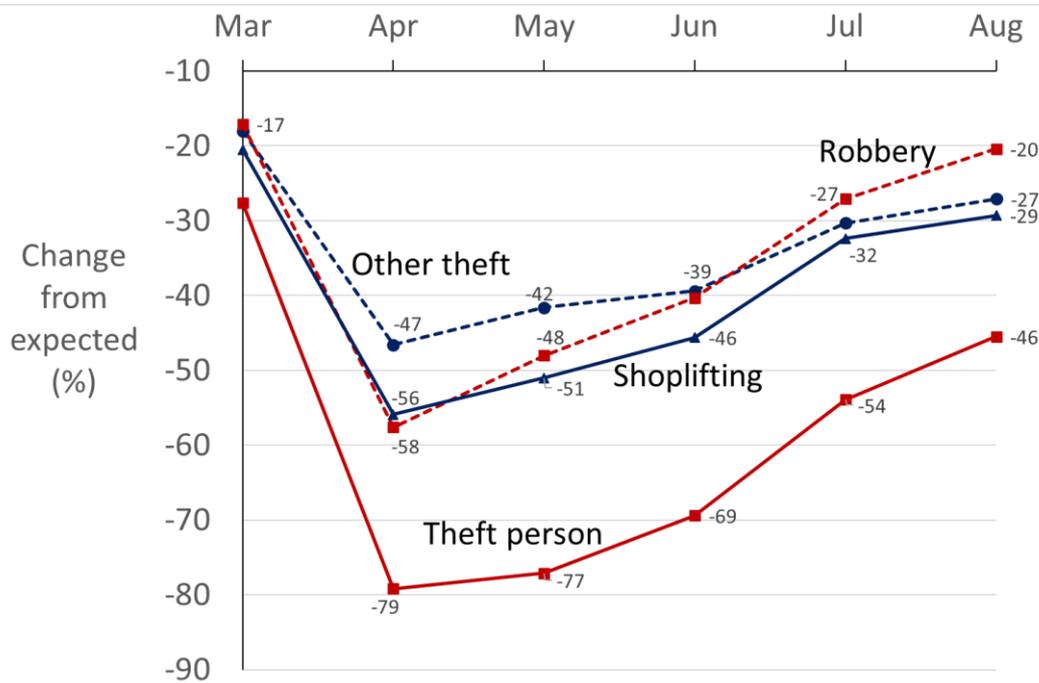
Box 2: Violence and sex offences, public order and, weapons possession offences



Violence and sexual offences declined sharply with lockdown, relative to expectation. Trends were similar for public order and weapons possession offences, which tracked each other closely.

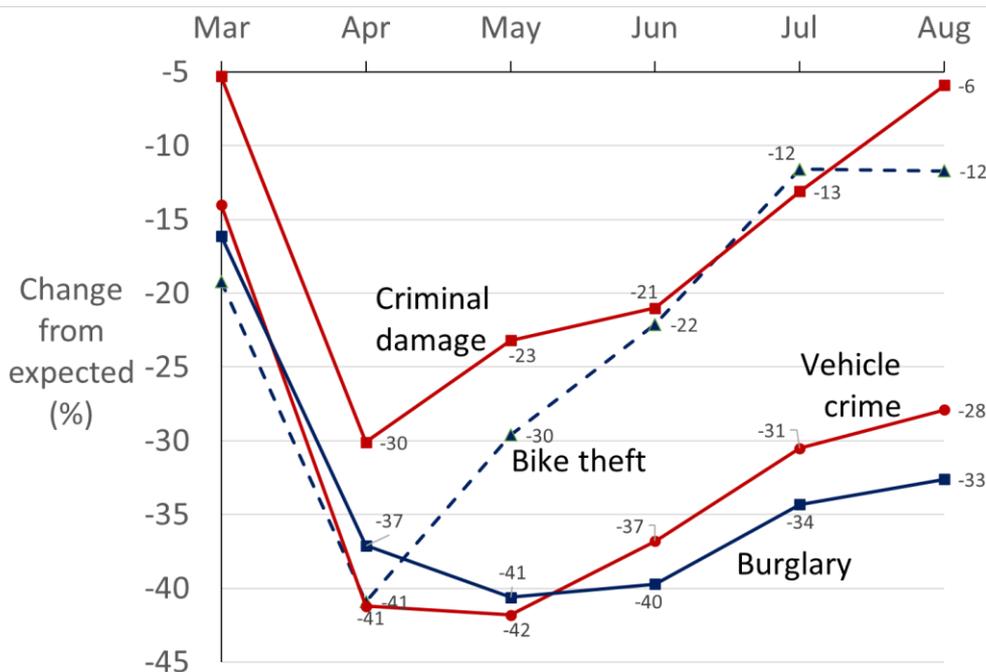
These are the only three crime types that 'switched' to higher than expected levels in July as movement restrictions were relaxed: pubs and bars opened on 4 July.

Box 3: Crime occurring disproportionately in retail and entertainment areas



Theft rates of all types were the lowest, compared to expected in lockdown: theft from the person almost 80% below 'normal' in April. Trends in different theft types tracked each other, likely reflecting reduced movement of people in retail and entertainment areas, closure of non-essential shops, and reduced use of public transport and workplaces.

Box 4: Crime in and around residential areas



Burglary and vehicles crime rates were far lower than expected, as, to a lesser extent, were criminal damage (including arson) and bike theft. Reductions likely reflect increased guardianship as people stayed home more, with many of these crimes normally occurring in and around residential areas. The bike theft trend is unusual, the quicker 'bounceback' likely reflecting increased demand for bikes.

Source: data.police.uk. Expected rates use 5-year ARIMA (Hyndman et al.'s AutoARIMA R package).

© The Authors (2020). DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5518/100/33> . ISSN: 2634-4424. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons (CC-BY 4.0).

This research was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council under the UK Research and Innovation open call on COVID-19, grant ES/V00445X/1.