

**Agenda Item 44b**

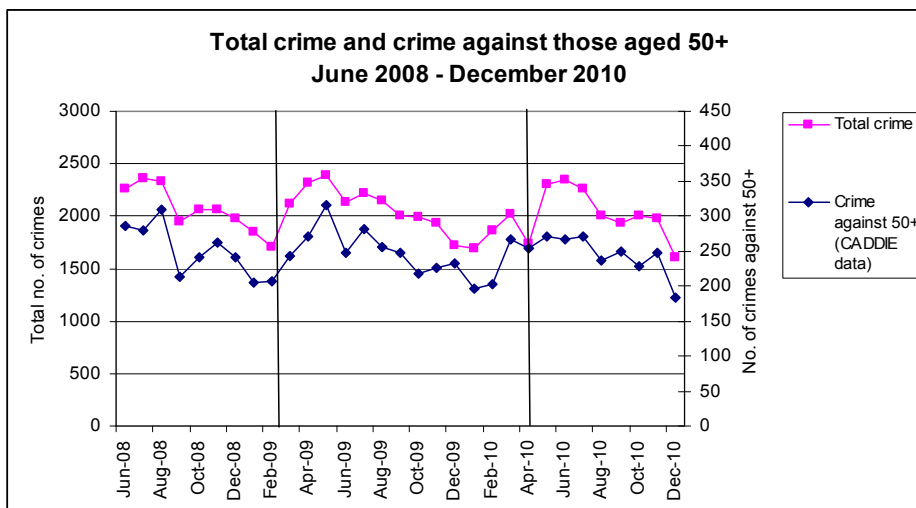
**Community Safety and Older People<sup>1</sup>**

**Summary:**

- Both Citizens Panel and police recorded crime data show that older people<sup>2</sup> are at less risk of victimisation for almost all crime types.
- Crimes against older people show similar seasonal patterns to total crime.
- For both male and females in older age groups, there is a pattern of declining victimisation with age. Men in all older age groups are more likely to be a victim of crime than women in older age groups.
- The highest proportion of offences committed against older people are theft other offences, followed by criminal damage offences.
- Domestic violence accounted for 3.8% of all crime against older people in 2010.

**Police recorded total crime against older people**

**Figure 1**



<sup>1</sup> Data used in this report is downloaded from the live system at Sussex Police each month. This data has not been audited or verified by statisticians at Police HQ, therefore it represents a reflection of crime and disorder in the area, rather than the authorised and fully verified 'performance data'.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this report, older people have been defined as those aged 50 and above, except for when using Citizens Panel data, where older people are those aged 55 and above.

# Safe in the city

Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership

Figure 1 shows total crime against all age groups (left hand axis) compared with crime against those aged 50+ (right hand axis). It shows that crimes against older people show very similar patterns to total crime in the city, with an evident seasonal pattern, and increase in offences over the summer months.

**Figure 2**

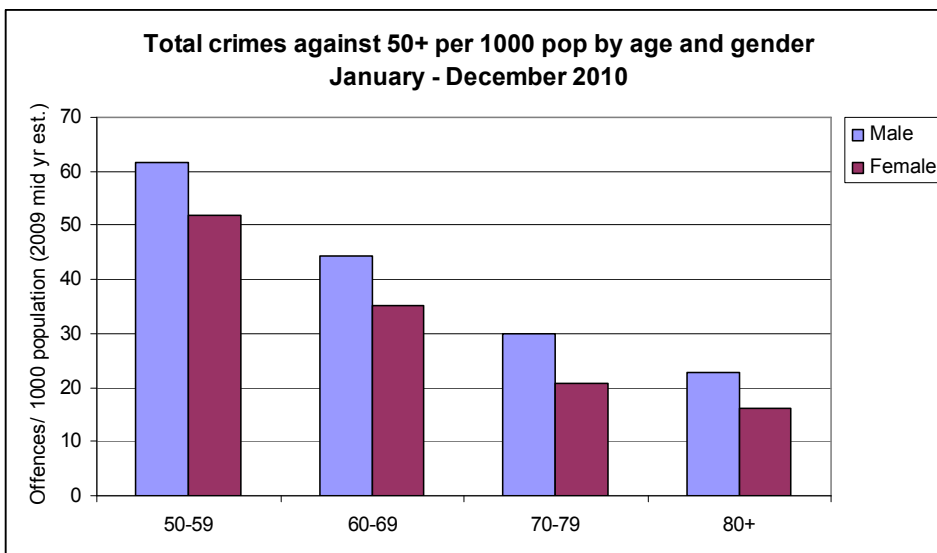
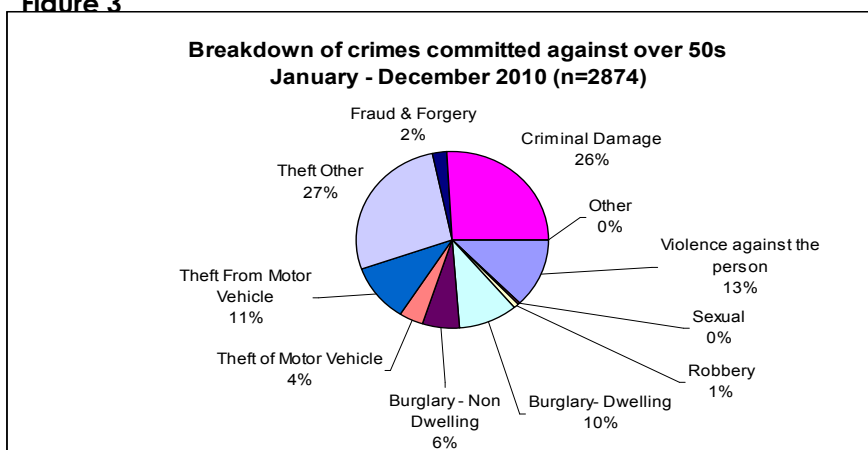


Figure 2 shows the total crime rate per 1,000 population for older people by age group and gender. For both men and women, there is a pattern of declining victimisation with age. Men in all age groups are more likely to be a victim of crime than women.

**Figure 3**



The highest proportion of crimes against older people are theft other offences (27%). Over half of these offences were theft offences where belongings had been left unattended. Criminal damage offences account for 26% of offences against older people. Over half of these offences were criminal damage to vehicle offences (53%).

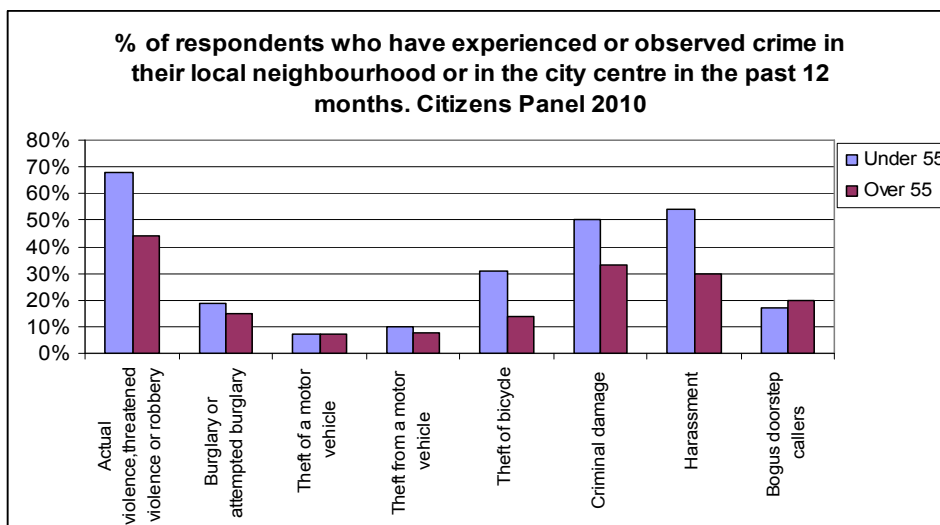
However, offence type breakdowns differ according to the age and gender of older victims. For example, violence against the person offences account for 7% of offences against those aged 65+, compared with 15% of those aged 55-65. Burglary dwelling offences, however, show the opposite effect, making up 8% of offences committed against 55-65 year olds, and 14% of offences against those aged over 65. A disproportionate number of women aged 80+ are victims of burglary, particularly distraction burglaries, as well as theft offences.

**Domestic violence**

Between January and December 2010, 3.8% of crimes against older people were flagged as domestic violence. 85% of suspects/ offenders of domestic violence perpetrated against older people were male, 15% were female. 71% of older victims of domestic violence were aged 50-59, and as with all crime against older people, there was a declining pattern of victimisation with age. Domestic violence offences against older people were predominantly violence against the person offences (82%).

**Citizens Panel survey**

Figure 4



## Safe in the city

Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership

Figure 4 shows the percentage of respondents in the Citizen Panel 2010 who reported that they had witnessed or experienced crime within the last 12 months, by those aged under, and over 55. In this survey, we can see that those aged 55+ have much lower levels for each type of crime than those aged under 55, except for experiences or observations of bogus doorstep callers. Actual violence, threatened violence or robbery features as the most common experienced or observed crime in this survey for older people, as well as those aged under 55, followed by criminal damage and harassment.