

Should you accept 40% more risk in social housing?

Research and recommendations on
the scale of crime and ASB
victimisation on Social Renters



Should you accept 40% more risk in social housing?

Social renting households experience the highest levels of crime victimisation by housing tenure types according to our research based on national crime statistics, the Crime Survey for England and Wales. At a period of sustained reduction in crime it is imperative to recognise and seek solutions for groups who have not benefited from this drop.

Nottingham Trent University's Quantitative and Spatial Criminology Research group has done in depth research in this area. This pamphlet will highlight research and recommendations related to Social Renters with a particular focus on:

- Household Crime
- Personal Crime
- Witnessing or Experiencing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Household crime

Our analysis of crime survey data (from 1990s through to 2014) highlights that social renters experienced between double and 10 times the national average household crimes depending on their area of residenceⁱ, and specifically:

- 70% more household thefts;
- 40% more criminal damageⁱⁱⁱ;
- 50% more burglaries (including attempts);^{iv} and
- roughly 40% more burglaries and household thefts than owner occupiers.

Crucially social renters' relative burglary risk has **tripled** compared to owner occupiers over the period^v.

Recommendations

Our research and testing in Nottingham shows that deploying the WIDE combination of household security has the biggest impact. Further research shows it is also the most cost effective & environmentally friendly system to reduce household crime.^{vi} We recommend that social renter providers deploy the **WIDE** principles across their housing stock.



Window locks, **I**nternal lights, **D**oor double or dead locks, **E**xternal lights.

Personal crime

Social renters experience 40% more personal crimes within their neighborhood than owner occupiers regardless of where they live ^{vii} and specifically:

- an increased predicted number of theft from person and robbery victimisations ^{viii};
- 85% higher odds of assault in the night-time economy ^{ix}; and
- nearly double the incidents of acquaintance violence than owner occupiers which has increased over time^x.

Recommendations

This research highlights the increased risk faced by social renters. Our research has informed engagement and awareness campaigns and we are happy to talk further about this work. Our research has nudged the Office for National Statistics to provide the online individual victimisation predictor tool ^{vii}. We can help you understand your area risk profile and target messaging to support clients.^{xi}

Our research should be used to lobby government and local policy makers to ensure resources are allocated to this pressing issue. Talk to us about our policy work.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Social renters have higher odds of experiencing or witnessing ASB ^{xii} by roughly:

- 30% with regards to criminal ASB (this includes criminal damage/ graffiti, harassment/ intimidation, others using/ dealing drugs, dangerous dogs, and indecent sexual acts);
- 20% with regards to inconsiderate social ASB (this includes inconsiderate behaviour, loud music/ noise, litter/dog fouling, nuisance neighbours, and begging/ vagrancy/ homeless);
- 40% with regards to vehicle related ASB; and
- 20% with regards to ASB from groups hanging about.

Recommendations

These figures have highlighted a real need to further understand this issue. Our team are currently undertaking further research on ASB. If you wish to be kept informed of this research please contact us to be added to our stakeholder list.

What can we do with this evidence?

We are aware that you may be dealing with these issues on a day to day basis and we hope our research helps as justification and evidence to stakeholders and partners. We hope it is used to help tackle traditional volume crimes and ASB by directing scarce crime prevention resources towards target hardening social renting households and their physical environments.

The Quantitative and Spatial Criminology Research Group at Nottingham Trent University is continuing to develop research in this area. We are keen to work with you to make society a safer place and to develop collaborative work that supports this aim.

Further research is being developed on:

- the impact of the local physical environment as to provide more detailed analysis on which types of developments and housing mixes impact on crime and fear of crime;
- the impact of moving house on movers' and their neighbours' experiences of crime and ASB; and
- community cohesion effects on crime and perceived risk.

Academic References

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http://www.ntu.ac.uk/apps/research/groups/4/home.aspx/project/178965/overview/burglary_security).
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http://www.ntu.ac.uk/apps/research/groups/4/home.aspx/project/178996/overview/violence_trends).
- ^{xi} Hunter, J. (2017) "Helping police forces to engage with their local communities: A bespoke Community Engagement Area Classification at the LSOA level across the East Midlands." Report to the College of Policing.
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Quantitative and Spatial Criminology Research Group

The Quantitative & Spatial Criminology (QSC) research group at NTU has vast expertise in producing internationally leading research often in collaboration with crime prevention agencies that informs public protection policies.

Our aim is to develop a better understanding of the factors that shape victimisation across different crime types in order to inform crime reduction and public reassurance initiatives.

The group has extensive expertise in Public Protection informing research, in particular identifying population groups and areas vulnerable to crime, effective and efficient crime prevention initiatives and their evaluation.

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Burglary Research Summary <http://bit.ly/1XbZNb2>

Violence Trends Research Summary <http://bit.ly/28Z6TNx>