Oxford City Community Safety Plan

2024-25

Introduction

The **Oxford Safer Communities Partnership** (OSCP) was established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and is made up of representatives from the police, local authorities, Fire and Rescue Service, health and probation services (known as the Responsible Authorities). Other partners are the John Radcliffe Hospital, Brookes University, the University of Oxford, Turning Point, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Its purpose is to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Oxford, and fulfil the partnership's statutory duties as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and other relevant legislation. It is required to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area and must consider the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) priorities as set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2024-29.

The OSCP Executive Group oversees the delivery of these functions and has oversight of the partnership's plans and projects. To formulate these plans and strategies, the partnership must undertake a Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment of crime and community safety issues in Oxford.

OSCP Priorities 2024-25

Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) **r**elies on effective multi-agency working locally, regionally and nationally. In June 2024, OSCP Executive Board agreed the following priorities for 2024-25. These are:

CCTV

- Upgrade and expand CCTV within the city centre, East Oxford and neighbourhoods.
- Support the creation of an Oxfordshire CCTV hub.

Preventing extremism

- Support the Oxfordshire Prevent Strategy to deter people from extremist ideology.

- Review the Oxford Crowded Places Plan and incorporate the requirements of Martyn's Law in publicly accessible locations.

Neighbourhood crime

- Reduce cycle crime incorporating raising awareness of bike crime.
- Tackle burglary, car crime and other neighbourhood crimes.
- Tackle retail crime by supporting TVP's Operation Purchase.

Reduce Serious Violence

- Supporting the partnership Serious and Organised Crime meeting to tackle organised crime groups including county drug lines and knife-enabled crime.
- Through a partnership's Neighbourhood Problem Solving Framework, address drug dealing in open spaces.
- Work with partners and housing providers to identify, support and protect vulnerable people whose property has been taken over (cuckooing).
- Identify and seek to provide relevant engagement and diversionary activities for young people at risk of offending.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- Oversee the Oxford NightSafe programme to increase safety in Oxford's night-time economy areas.
- Support Oxford City Council's to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation (DAHA).
- Ensure partners are adhering to the safe accommodation requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act.
- Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews and implement recommendations

Modern slavery and exploitation

- Support the Oxfordshire Anti-Slavery Network to increase awareness and cooperation in prevention, communications and disruption activities.
- Identify trends in NRM and pathway referrals to identify emerging themes.

- Develop multi-agency plans to support victims and disrupt perpetrators of modern slavery and exploitation.
- Support the young people's Oxfordshire NRM pilot.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- Develop and implementation problem-solving plans for ASB hotspot areas.
- Undertake crime prevention survey and implementation recommendations in high ASB areas of Oxford.
- Oversee the Community Trigger Referrals

The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership

The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership (SOP) comprises representatives from the Oxfordshire District and City Council Community Safety Partnerships to coordinate activities that are best overseen at a county geographic level. The current SOP priorities are listed below. Each has a strategy or work programme and is complemented by local activities led by the Community Safety Partnerships.

- Serious Violence and knife crime
- Domestic abuse
- Modern slavery

PCC Police and Crime Plan 2024-29

The Police and Crime Plan sets the priorities for Thames Valley Police and how they will work with partners to achieve them. These priorities are:

- Crime Prevention
- Neighbourhood Policing
- Road Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Building Confidence
- Rape and Sexual Offences

- Serious Violence
- Abuse and Exploitation
- Residential Burglary
- Retail Crime
- Vehicle Crime
- Rural Crime

- Domestic Abuse
- Cybercrime and Fraud
- Night-Time Economy

OSCP has a significant role to play in the delivery of most PCC priorities. Although important issues, OSCP are not best placed to lead on the local delivery of building confidence in policing, road safety, rural crime, cybercrime, and fraud.

OSCP Achievements in 2023-24

The following provides an overview of activities to OSCP's priorities in 2023-24.

Address those issues affecting our communities:

- The Youth Justice Service received funding from Government to deliver the Turnaround intervention programme, with the aim to prevent young people going on to offend. 58 young people attended interventions including restorative justice, mentoring, music and entrepreneurship, sports, mental health and wellbeing activities.
- A multi-agency project tackled violence and anti-social behaviour in a local neighbourhood. Working with residents and the community association, the project challenged behaviour, offered support where needed, designed out unsafe areas and install relevant security measures. It provided the community with reassurance; engage with local people to understand the challenges and was the recipient of the Thames Valley Police Laycock Problem-Solving Award.
- The local Barton Youth Partnership worked together to develop and promote a series of youth activities in Barton throughout the summer period, working with the City Council's Youth Ambition Team, Barton Community Association Youth Worker and local organisations.
- During the student academic year, Oxford Brookes University commissioned patrols in East Oxford on a Wednesday nights to ensure increase student safety and challenge anti-social behaviour. The university also coordinates personal safety events throughout the academic year for students.
- The police dedicated two officers to focus on shoplifting and retail crime, under Operation Purchase. This operation includes crime prevention, engagement,

enforcement and target hardening. During the year, Oxford had successful outcomes with several court resolutions or formal action taken.

- CCTV is operated and managed in partnership by Thames Valley Police and Oxford City Council. Over the last two years, the Council has funded improvements to the system including camera upgrades. The suite in St Aldates Police Station responded to 6,701 incidents in the year.

- During 2023-24, Oxford City Council reintroduced two Public Spaces Protection Orders covering the whole of Oxford that addresses alcohol within public spaces and the control of dogs.

Activities to reduce Violence against Women and Girls:

- The successful rollout of NightSafe Oxford continued throughout 2023-24 addressing alcohol related crime and disorder as well as supporting those vulnerable people who are at risk. This program focuses on locations with a large concentration of late-night entertainment venues.

- Oxford City Angels and Street Pastors patrol the night-time economy locations on busy nights. These are volunteer groups and in 2023-34 the Oxford City Angels received the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Policing Volunteer Award 2023.

- One Domestic Homicide Review was commissioned in 2023-24. The reviews investigate any learning points and recommend actions to agencies.

Reduce serious violence and exploitation:

- Interventions developed by the Thames Valley Violence Prevention Partnership throughout 2023-24 that impacted on serious violence in Oxford include:
  - Custody Coaching Intervention for 18+ young people. The diversion project used football to engage young people.
  - The charity Project PT provided activities sessions for at-risk young people.
  - Operation Paramount was a collaboration between TVP, and the charity Children Heard and Seen. The project provides support for children where a parent has been incarcerated. The project drew quite a lot of attention

nationally, especially from the Centre for Social Justice on how this approach can be rolled out across the country.

- Throughout 2023-24 agencies came together to address exploitation in the care sector. Work is ongoing and is overseen by the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership.

- A youth engagement project was set up to reduce tensions between two youth groups. Taking a "4 P" approach (Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare), information was shared by partners that made effective partnership working. All partners, including social services, police and Youth Ambition engaged with several young people, schools and the community. There was a very successful outcome with all young people no longer displaying risky behaviour and all are engaged with schools, training or education and physical activities.

Crime in Oxford

[The Oxfordshire Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (OSNA) provides an assessment of crime and other community safety data in Oxfordshire. OSCP use this data to inform the partnerships priorities. The following pages contain extracts of the SNA which can be found on the Oxfordshire Insight website. The OSNA covers data spanning from Jan 2018 to Dec 2023, providing six years of trend analysis and comparison.

All crime in Oxfordshire

Table 1 below provides an overview of crime and population from the ONS census 2021. Oxford has the most valid crimes and valid crimes per capita in Oxfordshire.

Table 1	Valid crimes	Population	VC per capita
Oxford	96,209	162,100	0.59
Cherwell	64,923	161,837	0.40
South Oxfordshire	29,796	150,024	0.20
Vale of White Horse	47,386	139,487	0.34
West Oxfordshire	30,252	115,161	0.26
Oxfordshire	268,566	726,530	0.37
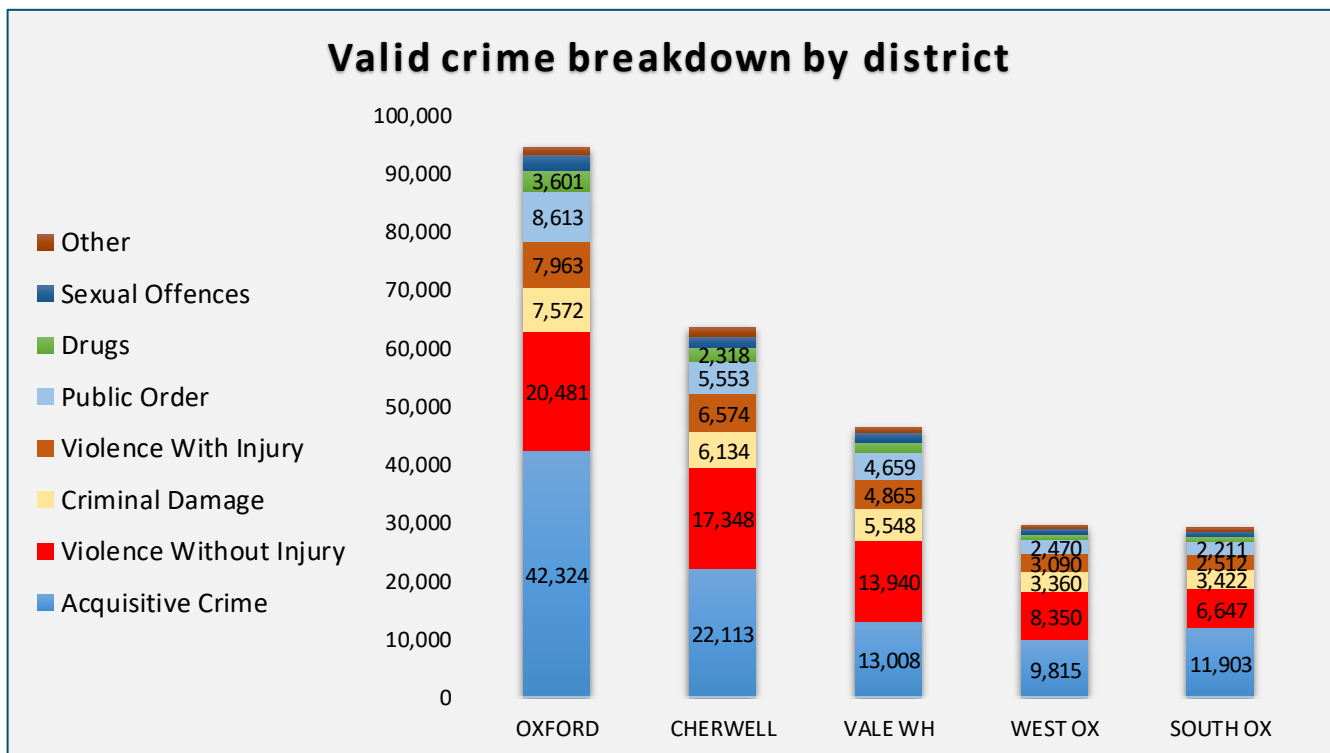
The chart above provides a breakdown of those valid crimes by district. For Oxford,

acquisitive crime recorded the highest number crimes with 42,324 across six years. Acquisitive crimes relate to theft, vehicle theft, shoplifting, burglary dwelling, burglary non dwelling and robbery.

The chart below provides a breakdown of acquisitive crime by district. Oxford exceeds all vehicle crime compared to the rest of the districts across Oxfordshire. Vehicle crime includes theft of a vehicle, theft from a vehicle and vehicle interference.
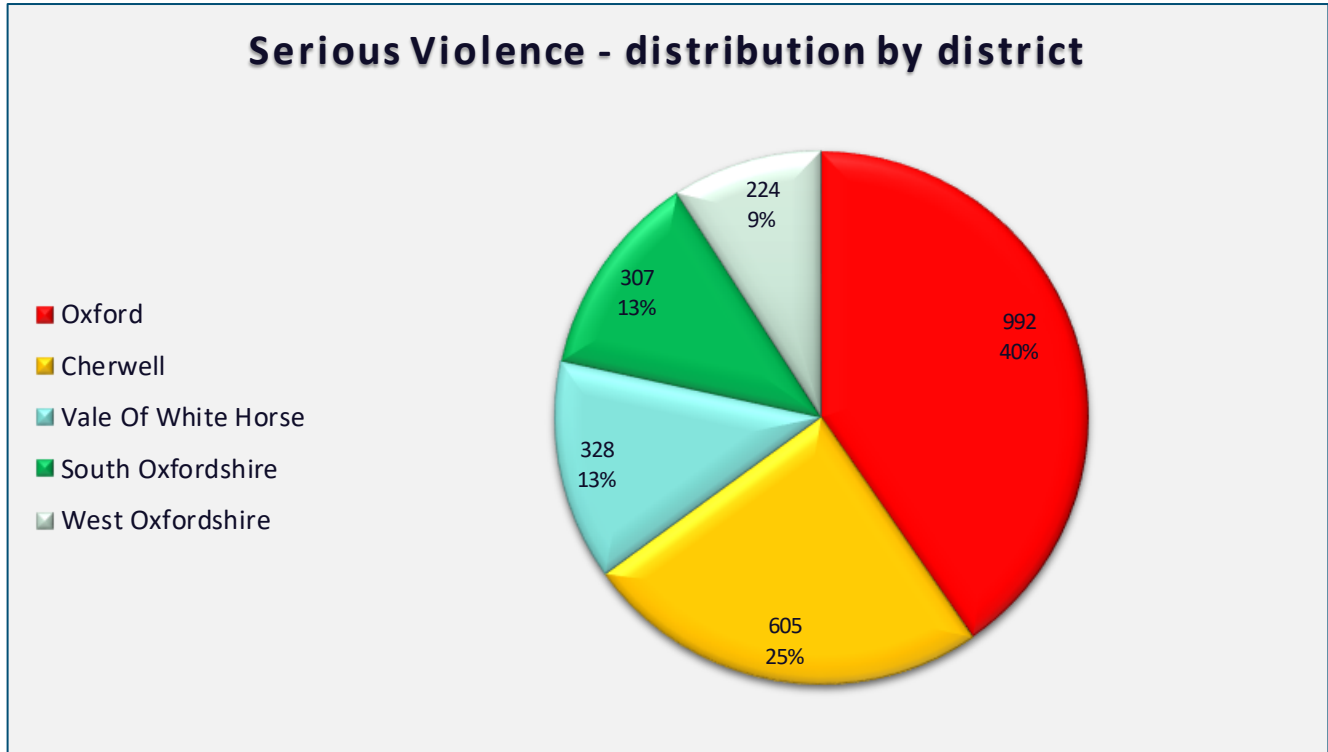
Acqusitive by district
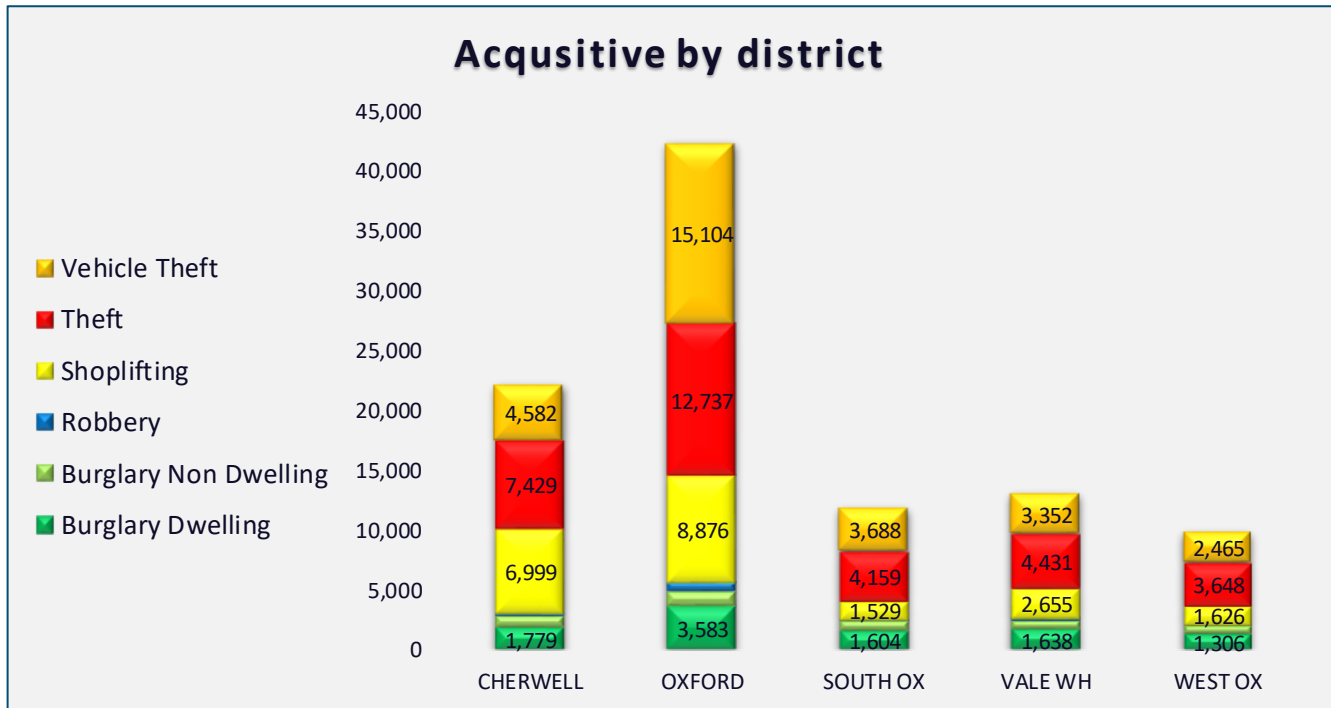
Serious violence

In July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty ("the Duty") on a range of specified authorities. This will ensure relevant services work together to share information and allow them to target their interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The definition of Serious Violence is:

"Serious Violence includes specific types of recorded crime, such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, incidents that involve a knife, and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing.

The chart below provides a breakdown of serious violence by district. Though Oxford has the highest number of serious violence crimes, many residents across Oxfordshire come to Oxford for the late-night entertainment areas.

Serious Violence - distribution by district

- Oxford — 992 / 40%
- Cherwell — 605 / 25%
- Vale Of White Horse — 328 / 13%
- South Oxfordshire — 307 / 13%
- West Oxfordshire — 224 / 9%

The chart below illustrates the 30% reduction in Oxford of serious violence since 2018.

Serious Violence - trend by district

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
West Oxfordshire	49	55	27	33	35	19
South Oxfordshire	52	43	75	49	31	41
Vale Of White Horse	56	44	61	54	58	49
Cherwell	121	101	114	94	83	71
Oxford	181	201	137	158	162	127
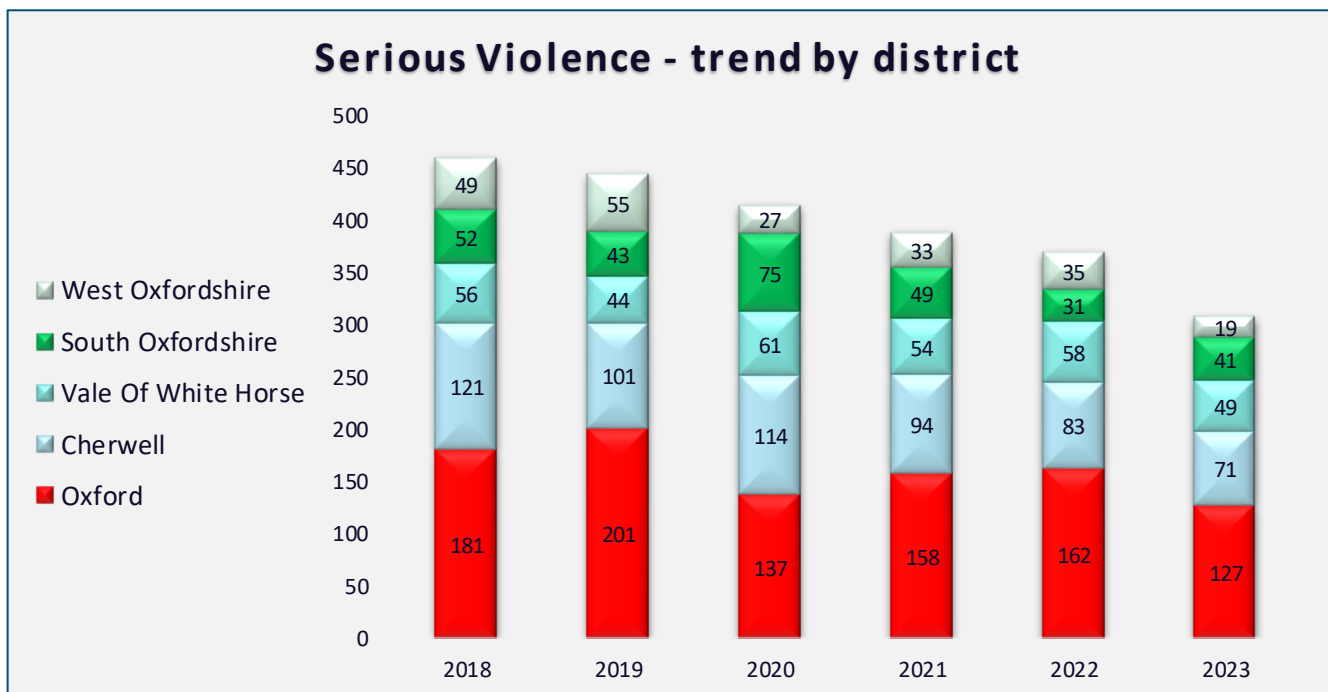
Anti-social Behaviour

Oxford City Council works in partnership with Thames Valley Police to address anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Council has two teams; Community Response Team that tackles environmental crime and domestic noise complaints. ASBIT address neighbourhood nuisance and serious safeguarding issues.

In 2023, the Community Response Team (CRT) investigated 1,892 cases of anti-social behaviour. Table 2 provides a monthly breakdown of those reports.

Table 2: CRT - ASB cases recorded from Jan to Dec 2023

Month	Cases
Jan	116
Feb	155
Mar	123
Apr	131
May	241
Jun	169
Jul	166
Aug	204
Sep	157
Oct	160
Nov	176
Dec	94
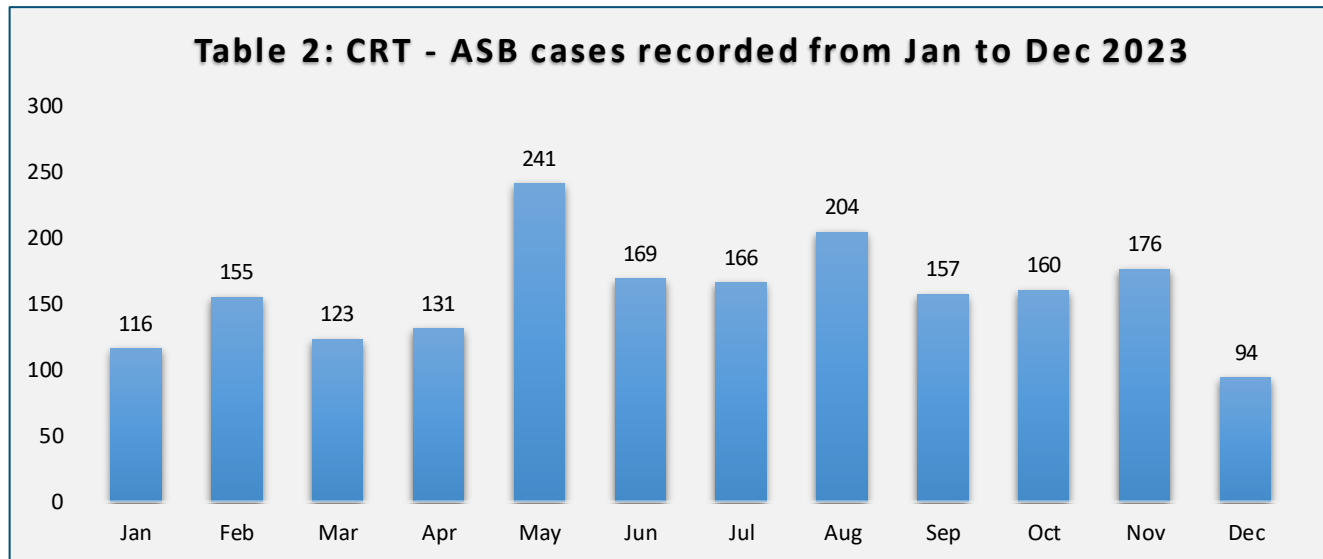
There were 422 cases investigated by ASBIT as illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3: ASBIT - ASB cases from Jan to Dec 2023

Month	Cases
Jan	29
Feb	39
Mar	32
Apr	27
May	40
Jun	36
Jul	37
Aug	64
Sep	38
Oct	31
Nov	35
Dec	14