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Have we gone ASBO-olutely crazy about anti-social behaviour?



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1 HOW IT ALL BEGAN ...

Laws to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) were first introduced in 1998. Legally, the definition of ASB is acting "in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household".

This broad definition means that virtually any behaviour that somebody thinks is a nuisance can be legally defined as anti-social.

What a person considers anti-social depends upon his/her tolerance of different behaviours.

The Government has introduced a number of interventions and policies over the past decade to try to reduce ASB, such as the TOGETHER campaign and Respect Agenda.

3 OVER TO YOU

What do you think of when someone says the phrase 'anti-social behaviour'?
What makes you think that?

Do you regularly hear about ASB on the news or read about it in newspapers?

Overall, would you say that your perceptions of ASB come from your own direct experiences? If not, what else influences them?



4 THE RESEARCH

Identifying what influences people's perceptions of ASB will help us to understand why some people feel that it has a high prevalence within their community.

For instance, perceptions may be affected by:

- Actual experience of ASB victimisation
- Media influences
- The seriousness of the consequences of ASB
- Levels of confidence in the Police / Local Authority
- An awareness of local/national interventions

2 THE CURRENT SITUATION

ASB statistics are different to overall crime statistics.

Although the overall crime rate is falling, the number of people who perceive high levels of ASB in their area has remained relatively stable over time.

We know that ASB only affects a minority of people, but those it does affect often suffer badly.



5 THE END PRODUCT

Understanding factors that influence perceptions of ASB is crucial to the development of appropriate interventions and policies that are effective in reducing perceived high levels of ASB.

These could also be used:

- to reduce fear of crime
- to improve quality of life