

Statistical bulletin

# Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending September 2014

Crime against households and adults, also including data on crime experienced by children, and crimes against businesses and society.



Contact:  
John Flatley  
crimestatistics@ons.gov.uk  
+44 (0)20 7592 8695

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# 1 . Correction

After identifying an error in published tables a minor revision has been made to this release. The error related to data on the proportion of people who have been victims of plastic card fraud for the last two years in the time series (Oct-12 to Sep-13 and Oct-13 to Sep-14). Revisions have been made to figure 14 in the statistical bulletin (also contained in reference table 01. Bulletin Tables - Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending September 2014) and to the short story: A stocktake of crime statistics in England and Wales.

23 April 2015 at 11:00 am

## 2 . Key points

- Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) show that, for the offences it covers, there were an estimated 7.0 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales. This represents an 11% decrease compared with the previous year's survey, and is the lowest estimate since the CSEW began in 1981
- The CSEW covers a broad range of victim based crimes and includes crimes which do not come to the attention of the police. Decreases were evident for almost all crime types compared with the previous year; including vehicle-related theft and criminal damage (both falling by 15%) and other household theft (down 9%)
- In contrast, police recorded crime shows no overall change from the previous year, with 3.7 million offences recorded in the year ending September 2014
- The renewed focus on the quality of crime recording is likely to have prompted improved compliance with national standards, leading to more crimes being recorded than previously. This is thought to have particularly affected the police recorded figures for violence against the person (up 16%), public order offences (up 10%) and sexual offences (up 22%)
- The numbers of rapes (24,043) and other sexual offences (48,934) are the highest recorded by the police since 2002/03. As well as improvements in recording, this is thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes
- There was an increase in the volume of fraud recorded (5% year on year), though it is difficult to judge to what extent this was affected by the transfer in responsibility of recording fraud offences from individual police forces to Action Fraud, or reflected an increase in public reports or a rise in actual criminality. It is thought that levels of fraud are substantially under-reported and thus these figures simply provide a measure of such offences brought to the attention of the authorities

## 3 . Understanding crime statistics

This quarterly release presents the most recent crime statistics from two main sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW; previously known as the British Crime Survey), and police recorded crime. Neither of these sources can provide a picture of total crime.

## Crime survey for England and Wales

The CSEW is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a selected number of offences in the 12 months prior to the interview. It covers both children aged 10-15 and adults aged 16 and over, but does not cover those living in group residences (such as care homes, student halls of residence and prisons), or crimes against commercial or public sector bodies. For the population and offence types it covers, the CSEW is a valuable source for providing robust estimates on a consistent basis over time.

It is able to capture all offences experienced by those interviewed, not just those that have been reported to, and recorded by, the police. It covers a broad range of victim-based crimes experienced by the resident household population. However, there are some serious but relatively low volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, that are not included in its main estimates. The survey also currently excludes fraud and cyber crime though there is ongoing development work to address this gap – see the methodological note '[Work to extend the Crime Survey for England and Wales to include fraud and cyber crime](#)'. This [infographic](#) sets out what is and is not covered by the CSEW.

## Police recorded crime

Police recorded crime figures cover selected offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police. They are supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police, via the Home Office, to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The coverage of police recorded crime is defined by the Notifiable Offence List (NOL)<sup>1</sup>, which includes a broad range of offences, from murder to minor criminal damage, theft and public order offences. The NOL excludes less serious offences that are dealt with exclusively at magistrates' courts.

Police recorded crime is the primary source of sub-national crime statistics and for relatively serious, but low volume, crimes that are not well measured by a sample survey. It covers victims (including, for example, residents of institutions and tourists) and sectors (for example commercial bodies) excluded from the CSEW sample. While the police recorded crime series covers a wider population and a broader set of offences than the CSEW, it does not include crimes which do not come to the attention of the police or that are not recorded by them.

Statistics based on police recorded crime data do not currently meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics (see **Recent assessments of crime statistics and accuracy** later on in this section).

This bulletin also draws on data from other sources to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime and disorder, including incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police and other transgressions of the law that are dealt with by the courts but not covered in the recorded crime collection.

Further information on the datasets is available in the Data sources – coverage and coherence section of this Statistical Bulletin and the [CSEW Technical report \(839.6 Kb Pdf\)](#).

The [User Guide](#) to Crime Statistics for England and Wales provides information for those wanting to obtain more detail on crime statistics. This includes information on the datasets used to compile the statistics and is a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding updates, issues and classifications.

For the expert user, the [Quality and Methodology report](#) sets out information about the quality of crime statistics and the roles and responsibilities of the different departments involved in the production and publication of crime statistics.

A [more interactive guide](#) is available to provide new users with information on crime statistics.

## Recent assessments of crime statistics and accuracy

Following an assessment of ONS crime statistics by the UK Statistics Authority, published in January 2014, the statistics based on police recorded crime data have been found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#). Data from the CSEW continue to be badged as National Statistics.

In their assessment report the UK Statistics Authority set out 16 requirements to be addressed in order for the statistics to meet National Statistics standards. ONS are working in collaboration with the Home Office Statistics Unit and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to address these requirements. A summary of progress so far is available on the [Crime statistics methodology](#) page.

In November 2014 ONS launched a user engagement exercise to help expand our knowledge of users' needs in light of concerns raised about the quality of police recorded crime. The exercise has now closed and responses are currently being analysed and will be published in due course.

As part of the [inquiry by the Public Administration Select Committee \(PASC\)](#) into crime statistics, allegations of under-recording of crime by the police were made. During 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out a national inspection of crime data integrity. The final report on findings from the HMIC inspections, '[Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)', was published on 18 November 2014.

Based on an audit of a large sample of records, HMIC concluded that, across England and Wales as a whole an estimated one in five offences (19%) that should have been recorded as crimes were not. The greatest levels of under-recording were seen for violence against the person offences (33%) and sexual offences (26%), however there was considerable variation in the level of under-recording across the different offence types investigated (for example, burglary; 11%) and these are reported on further in the relevant sections.

The audit sample was not large enough to produce force level compliance rates. However, the HMIC inspected the crime recording process in each force and have reported on their findings in separate [crime data integrity force reports](#).

Further information on the accuracy of the statistics is also available in the **Accuracy of the statistics** section of this Statistical Bulletin.

## Time periods covered

The latest CSEW figures presented in this release are based on interviews conducted between October 2013 and September 2014, measuring experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. It therefore covers a rolling reference period with, for example, respondents interviewed in October 2013 reporting on crimes experienced between October 2012 and September 2013 and those interviewed in September 2014 reporting on crimes taking place between September 2013 and August 2014. For that reason, the CSEW tends to lag short-term trends.

Recorded crime figures relate to crimes recorded by the police during the year ending September 2014<sup>2</sup> and therefore are not subject to the time lag experienced by the CSEW. Recorded crime figures presented in this release are those notified to the Home Office and that were recorded in the Home Office database on 1 December 2014.

Nine months of the data reported here overlap with the data contained in the previous bulletin and as a result the estimates in successive bulletins are not from independent samples. Therefore, year on year comparisons are made with the previous year; that is, the 12 months period ending September 2013 (rather than those published last quarter). To put the latest dataset in context, data are also shown for the year ending March 2009 (around five years ago) and the year ending March 2004 (around ten years ago). Additionally, for the CSEW estimates, data for the year ending December 1995, which was when crime peaked in the CSEW (when the survey was conducted on a calendar year basis), are also included.

## Changes following survey re-weighting

Revised survey weights and a back-series have been produced for the CSEW following the release of the new-2011 Census-based population estimates. The programme of work to produce the revised weights and key estimates for all survey years back to 2001/02 is now complete and both CSEW and police recorded crime use post 2011 Census population figures. Micro datasets for the entire affected back-series are planned for release in Spring 2015. Further information can be found in the methodological note '[Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)'.

## Notes for Understanding crime statistics:

1. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way offences (offences which could be tried at a crown court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by magistrates' courts). For information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police, see Appendix 1 of the [User Guide](#).
2. Police recorded crime statistics are based on the year in which the offence was recorded rather than the year in which it was committed. However, such data for any given period will include some historic offences that occurred in a previous year to the one in which it is reported to the police.

## 4 . Summary

### Latest headline figures from the CSEW and police recorded crime

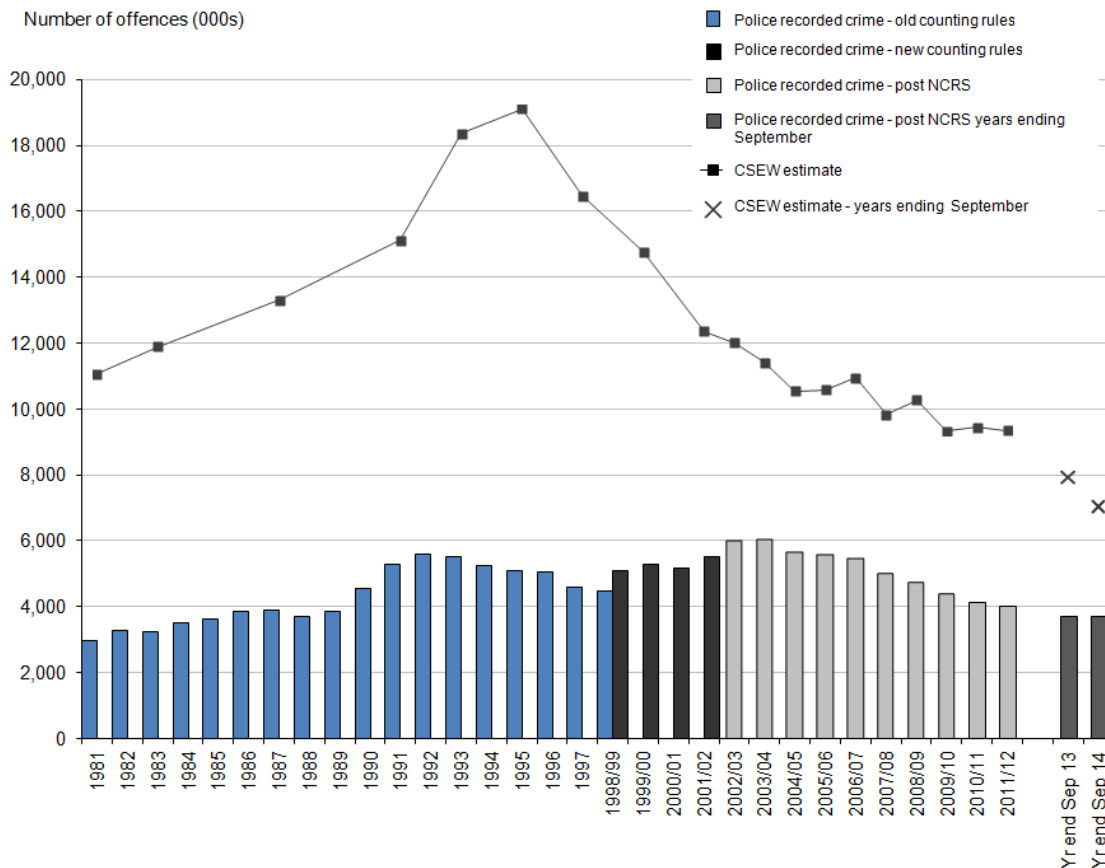
The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) covers a broad range of victim-based crimes experienced by the resident household population although there are some serious but relatively low volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, that are not included in its headline estimates. The survey also currently excludes fraud and cyber crime though there is ongoing development work to address this gap – see the methodological note '[Work to extend the Crime Survey for England and Wales to include fraud and cyber crime](#)'. For more information on what is and is not included, see [this infographic](#).

Latest figures from the **CSEW** show there were an estimated 7.0 million incidents of crime against **households and resident adults** (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending September 2014 (Table 1). This represents an 11% decrease from 7.9 million incidents compared with the previous year's survey and continues the long downward trend seen since the mid-1990s. The latest estimate is the lowest since the survey began in 1981. The total number of CSEW incidents is estimated to be 32% lower than the 2008/09 survey, and 63% lower than its peak level in 1995.

Crime covered by the CSEW rose steadily from 1981, before peaking in 1995. After peaking, the CSEW showed marked falls up until the 2004/05 survey year. Since then, the underlying trend has continued downwards, but with some fluctuation from year to year (Figure 1).

An [animated version](#) of Figure 1 is also available.

**Figure 1: Trends in police recorded crime and CSEW, 1981 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics / Police recorded crime, Home Office

**Notes:**

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics
2. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March); and c) the last two data points relate to interviews carried out in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available two years (October to September)
3. Some forces have revised their data and police recorded crime totals may not therefore agree with those previously published

The CSEW time series shown in Figure 1 does not include crimes committed against children aged 10 to 15. The survey was only extended to include such children from January 2009 and data from this module of the survey is not directly comparable with the main survey. The CSEW estimated that 721,000 crimes<sup>1</sup> were experienced by **children aged 10 to 15** in the year ending September 2014. Of this number, 52% were categorised as violent crimes<sup>2</sup> (375,000), while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property (304,000; 42%). Incidents of criminal damage to personal property experienced by children were less common (42,000; 6% of all crimes). The proportions of violent, personal property theft and criminal damage crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 are similar to the previous year (54%, 39% and 7% respectively).

Police recorded crime is restricted to offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police and thus does not provide a total count of all crimes that take place. The police recorded 3.7 million offences in the year ending September 2014, a similar number to that recorded in the previous year (Table 2)<sup>3</sup>. This is a change from the downward trend seen since 2003/04 in **police recorded crime** figures. Although the rate of reduction has slowed over the last three years, the latest figures are 21% lower than in 2008/09 and 38% lower than the peak in 2003/04.

Like CSEW crime, police recorded crime also increased during most of the 1980s, reaching a peak in 1992, and then fell each year until 1998/99. Expanded coverage of offences in the recorded crime collection, following changes to the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) in 1998, and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002, saw increases in the number of crimes recorded by the police while the CSEW count fell. Following the bedding in of these changes, trends from the two series tracked each other well from 2002/03 until 2006/07. While both series continued to show a downward trend between 2007/08 and 2012/13, the gap between the two series widened with police recorded crime showing a faster rate of reduction (32% compared with 19% for the CSEW for a comparable basket of crimes)<sup>4</sup>. However, for the most recent year this pattern has changed with the recorded crime series showing no percentage change while the survey estimates have continued to fall.

A likely factor behind the changing trend in recorded crime is the recent renewed focus on the quality of recording by the police in the light of the inspections of forces by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), the [Public Administration Select Committee \(PASC\) inquiry](#) into crime statistics, and the [UK Statistics Authority's decision](#) to remove the National Statistics designation from recorded crime. This renewed focus is thought to have led to improved compliance with the NCRS leading to a greater proportion of crimes reported to the police being recorded than previously.

**Victim-based crime**<sup>5</sup> accounted for 84% of all police recorded crime and fell by 1% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, with 3.1 million offences recorded. Within victim-based crime, there were decreases across most of the police recorded crime categories. The notable exceptions to this were violence against the person, which was up by 16% (an additional 96,000 offences), sexual offences up by 22% (13,000 offences) and shoplifting up by 3% (9,000 offences).

**Other crimes against society**<sup>6</sup> accounted for 11% of all police recorded crime (with 399,469 offences recorded) and showed an increase of 1% compared with the previous year. Trends in such offences often reflect changes in police workload and activity rather than levels of criminality. Within this crime type, offences involving possession of weapons rose by 4%, public order offences rose by 10% and miscellaneous crimes against society rose by 12%. Drug offences decreased by 7% to 186,657 offences. Public order offences account for the largest volume rise and anecdotal evidence from forces suggests that this is being driven by a tightening of recording practices.

The remaining 6% of recorded crimes were **fraud** offences. There were 212,699 fraud offences recorded by the police and **Action Fraud** in the year ending September 2014 (an increase of 5% on the previous year). However, trends in fraud should be interpreted with caution. It is unclear to what extent there has been a genuine increase in such crimes or whether the move to the centralised recording of such offences has led to improved reporting and recording of fraud offences; see the 'Total fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud' section for further details.

In addition, fraud data are also collected from industry bodies by the **National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)**. In the year ending September 2014, there were 391,221 reports of fraud to the NFIB from industry bodies, the vast majority of which were related to banking and credit industry fraud. For more information on these data sources, see the 'Fraud' section of this bulletin.

## Overall level of crime – Other sources of crime statistics

Around 2.0 million incidents of **anti-social behaviour (ASB)** were recorded by the police for the year ending September 2014. These are incidents which were not judged to require recording as a notifiable offence within the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime. The number of ASB incidents in the year ending September 2014 decreased by 10% compared with the previous year. However, it should be noted that a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary ([HMIC, 2012](#)) found that there was a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of ASB. As a result, ASB incident data should be interpreted with caution.

In the year ending June 2014 (the latest period for which data are available) there were 957,000 convictions in magistrates' courts for **non-notifiable offences** (down 5% from the year ending June 2013), which are not covered in police recorded crime or the CSEW (for example: being drunk and disorderly; committing a speeding offence). There were 31,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in relation to non-notifiable offences<sup>7</sup>.



The CSEW does not cover crimes against businesses and police recorded crime can only provide a partial picture (as not all offences come to the attention of the police). The [2012](#) and [2013](#) Commercial Victimisation Surveys, respectively, estimated that there were 9.2 million and 6.8 million incidents of **crime against businesses** <sup>8</sup> in England and Wales in the four sectors covered by each of the two surveys. The sectors covered in the two surveys differed ('Wholesale and retail', 'Accommodation and food', 'Manufacturing' and 'Transportation and storage' in 2012; 'Wholesale and retail', 'Accommodation and food', 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' and 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' in 2013); thus the two estimates are not directly comparable.

## Trends in victim-based crime – CSEW

The CSEW provides coverage of most victim-based crimes, although there are necessary exclusions from its main estimates, such as homicide and sexual offences. For more information on what is and is not included, see [this infographic](#).

Estimates of **violent crime** from the CSEW have shown large falls between 1995 and the 2004/05 survey. In recent years the rate of reduction has slowed and while the latest estimate is 11% lower compared with the previous year, it was not statistically significant.

CSEW **domestic burglary** follows a similar pattern to that seen for overall crime, peaking in the mid-1990s survey and then falling steeply until the 2004/05 CSEW. The underlying trend in domestic burglary remained fairly flat between the 2004/05 and 2010/11 surveys. Since then estimates have fallen and incidents of domestic burglary for the year ending September 2014 are 40% lower than those in the 2003/04 survey. The apparent year on year fall of 8% was not statistically significant.

Levels of **vehicle-related theft** estimated by the CSEW show a 15% fall compared with the previous year, and follow a consistent downward trend since the mid-1990s, explained in-part by improvements in vehicle security. The latest estimates indicate that a vehicle-owning household was around five times less likely to become a victim of such crime than in 1995.

There was a 9% decrease in CSEW **other household theft** compared with the previous year. This decrease sees estimated levels of other household theft return to levels similar to that seen in the 2007/08 survey, following a period of year on year increases between the 2007/08 and 2011/12 surveys. Peak levels of other household theft were recorded in the mid-1990s and the latest estimate is half the level seen in 1995.

The CSEW estimates that there were around 848,000 incidents of **other theft of personal property** in the survey year ending September 2014. The apparent 9% decrease, was not statistically significant. The underlying trend has been fairly flat since 2004/05 following marked declines from the mid-1990s; the current estimate is under half the level seen in 1995.

Latest CSEW findings for **bicycle theft** show little change in the level of incidents in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (the apparent 1% increase was not statistically significant). Over the long term, incidents of bicycle theft are now 40% lower than in 1995.

**Criminal damage** estimated by the CSEW decreased by 15% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, continuing the downward trend seen since 2008/09.

CSEW estimates for **robbery** and **theft from the person** were not significantly different from the previous year (the apparent respective 27% and 9% decreases were not statistically significant). However these must be treated with caution and interpreted alongside police recorded crime as short term trends in these CSEW crimes are typically prone to fluctuation due to a small number of victims interviewed in any one year. Further information on these crimes is provided in the relevant sections of this bulletin.

**Table 1: Number of CSEW incidents for year ending September 2014 and percentage change [1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

Offence group <sup>2</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>3</sup>	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:							
		Jan-95 to Dec-95		Apr-03 to Mar-04		Apr-08 to Mar-09		Oct-12 to Sep-13	
Number of incidents (thousands), percentage change and significance <sup>4</sup>									
Violence	1,312	-66	*	-41	*	-26	*	-11	
with injury	611	-73	*	-49	*	-36	*	-26	*
without injury	702	-55	*	-30	*	-14		7	
Robbery	127	-62	*	-53	*	-52	*	-27	
Theft offences	4,195	-64	*	-36	*	-25	*	-9	*
Theft from the person	504	-26	*	-17	*	-28	*	-9	
Other theft of personal property	848	-59	*	-34	*	-21	*	-9	
Unweighted base - number of adults	34,554	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic burglary	789	-67	*	-40	*	-20	*	-8	
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	560	-68	*	-40	*	-22	*	-11	
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	229	-65	*	-39	*	-17	*	0	
Other household theft	777	-50	*	-13	*	-10	*	-9	*
Vehicle-related theft	878	-79	*	-57	*	-39	*	-15	*
Bicycle theft	398	-40	*	10		-23	*	1	
Criminal damage	1,393	-58	*	-42	*	-48	*	-15	*
Unweighted base - number of households	34,513								
All CSEW crime	7,027	-63	*	-38	*	-32	*	-11	*

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

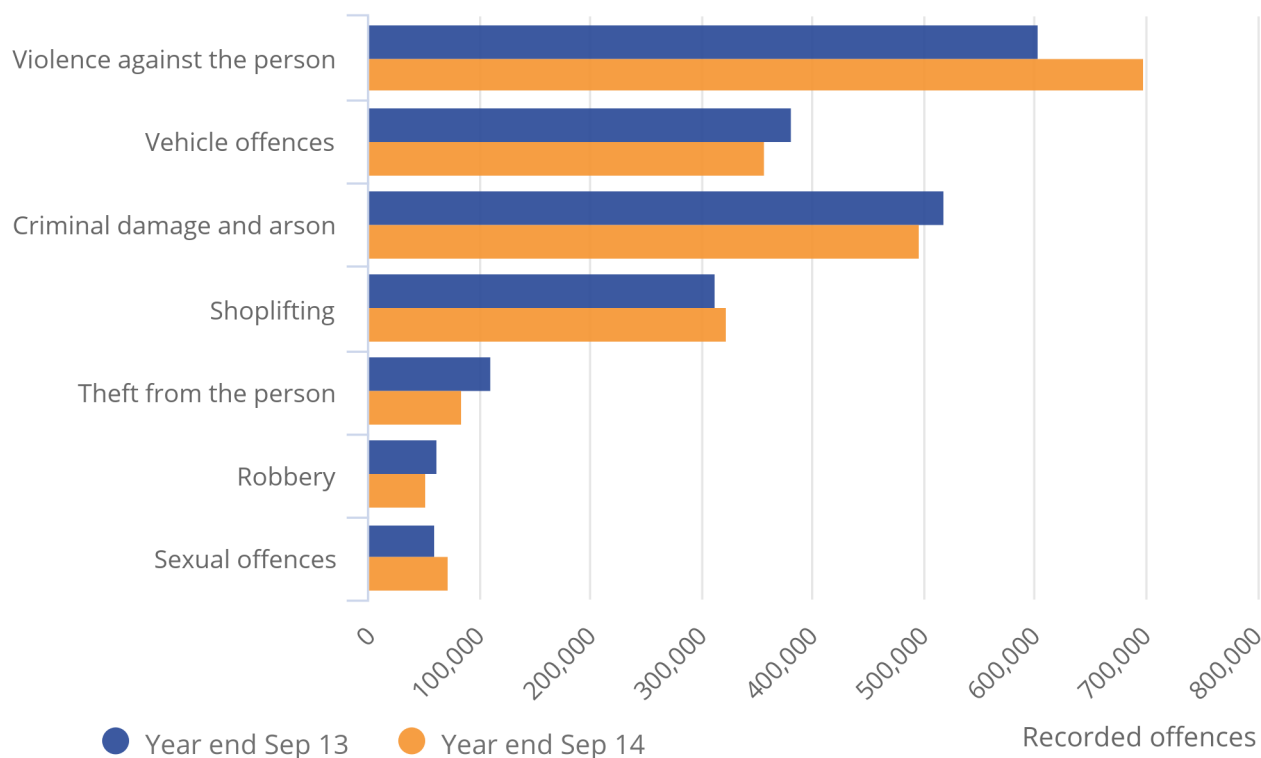
1. More detail on further years can be found in Appendix Table A1.
2. For more information about the crime types included in this table, see Section 5 of the User Guide.
3. Base sizes for data since year ending September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.
4. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.

## Trends in victim-based crime – Police recorded crime

Figure 2 shows selected police recorded crime offences and focuses on those categories with notable changes in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year.

**Figure 2: Selected victim-based police recorded crime offences: volume changes between year ending September 2013 and year ending September 2014**

Figure 2: Selected victim-based police recorded crime offences: volume changes between year ending September 2013 and year ending September 2014



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics

There was a 1% decrease in **victim-based crimes** in the year ending September 2014 to 3.1 million offences. To put this volume into context, this is equivalent to 55 recorded offences per 1,000 population (though this should not be read as a victimisation rate as multiple offences could be reported by the same victim) – see Table 3. There were decreases in **theft from the person** (down 24%), **vehicle offences** (down 6%), **criminal damage and arson** (down 4%) and **robbery** (down 14%). There were increases in **violence against the person** (up 16%), **sexual offences** (up 22%) and **shoplifting** (up 3%).

The 16% increase in **violence against the person** offences recorded by the police is likely to be driven by improved compliance with the NCRS; the CSEW, for example, showed an 11% decrease over the same period. The volume of crimes (699,832 offences) equates to approximately 12 offences recorded per 1,000 population in the year ending September 2014. The increase in total **violence against the person** offences was largest in the subcategory **violence without injury**, which showed an increase of 20% compared with the previous year. The **violence with injury** subcategory showed a smaller increase of 12% over the same period.

In the year ending September 2014 the police recorded 507 **homicides**, 47 fewer than in the previous year<sup>9</sup>. This latest annual count of homicides is at its lowest since 1977 (482 offences). The number of homicides increased from around 300 per year in the early 1960s to over 800 per year in the early years of this century, which was at a faster rate than population growth over that period<sup>10</sup>. Over the past decade however, the volume of homicides has decreased while the population of England and Wales has continued to grow.

**Offences involving firearms** have fallen 7% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, continuing the falls seen since their peak in 2005/06. The number of offences that involved a **knife or sharp instrument** fell by 2% over the same period<sup>11</sup>.

**Robberies** fell 14% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, from 61,843 offences to 53,080 offences. This is equivalent to around 1 offence recorded per 1,000 population and is the lowest level since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03 (when 110,271 offences were recorded). With the exception of a notable rise in the number of robberies in 2005/06 and 2006/07, there has been a general downward trend in robbery offences since 2002/03. The overall decrease has been driven by falls in most of the large metropolitan force areas, where robbery offences tend to be concentrated (nearly half of all robbery offences were recorded in London alone). In volume-terms, the most notable drop in robbery offences over the last year was in the Metropolitan Police force area (25%; 8,116 offences).

**Sexual offences** recorded by the police increased by 22% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, to a total of 72,977 across England and Wales, the highest level since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03. Within this, the number of offences of rape increased by 31% and the number of other sexual offences increased by 19%. These increases are likely to be due to an improvement in crime recording by the police for these offences and an increase in the willingness of victims to come forward and report these crimes to the police; see the 'Sexual offences' section for more information.

While previous releases have showed that the rise in sexual offences was being largely driven by a rise in the number of historical offences, additional analysis of data supplied by around half the forces show recent offences now account for the majority of the increase (78% of the increase was due to offences committed within the last 12 months<sup>12</sup>).

Total **theft offences** recorded by the police in the year ending September 2014 showed a 5% decrease compared with the previous year, continuing the year on year decrease seen since 2002/03. The majority of the categories in this offence group ('Burglary', 'Vehicle offences', 'Theft from the person', 'Bicycle theft' and 'All other theft offences') showed decreases compared with the previous year. The only exception to this was **shoplifting**, which increased by 3% compared with the previous year (from 313,700 offences to 322,904).

**Theft from the person** offences recorded by the police in the year ending September 2014 showed a 24% decrease compared with the previous year. This is a reversal of recent trends, which showed year-on-year increases between 2008/09 and 2012/13. This decrease is driven by a large drop in offences from December 2013 onwards, thought to be associated with improved mobile phone security features; see the 'Theft offences - Other theft of property' section for more information.

## Fraud offences

Responsibility for recording fraud offences has transferred from individual police forces to Action Fraud. This transfer occurred between April 2011 and March 2013. In the year ending September 2014, there were 212,699 fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud in England and Wales<sup>13</sup>. This represents a volume increase of 5% compared with the previous year and an increase of 194% compared with 2008/09. These reported increases over the past 12 months should be seen in the context of the recent move to centralised recording of fraud. During the transition to Action Fraud, level of recorded fraud showed steady increases. It should be noted that since all forces completed the transfer of recording to Action Fraud (April 2013), the levels of fraud have remained fairly steady (see [Table QT1 \(227.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).

In addition, there were 391,221 reports of fraud to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau from industry bodies. For more information, see the 'Fraud' section.

CSEW data on plastic card fraud show that, for the year ending September 2014 survey, 5.0% of plastic card owners were victims of card fraud in the last year, no change on 4.8% in the year ending September 2013. Before that, there had been small reductions in levels of plastic card fraud over the last few years, following a rise between the 2005/06 and 2008/09 surveys.



**Table 2: Number of police recorded crimes for year ending September 2014 and percentage change [1,2,3,4]**

Offence group	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Oct-13 to Sep-14	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Victim-based crime	3,108,828	-43	-24	-1
Violence against the person offences	699,832	-12	-1	16
Homicide	507	-44	-24	-8
Violence with injury <sup>4</sup>	347,879	-24	-17	12
Violence without injury <sup>5</sup>	351,446	3	22	20
Sexual offences	72,977	21	45	22
Rape	24,043	81	84	31
Other sexual offences	48,934	4	32	19
Robbery offences	53,080	-49	-34	-14
Robbery of business property	5,778	-43	-38	-4
Robbery of personal property	47,302	-49	-33	-15
Theft offences	1,785,473	-45	-23	-5
Burglary	426,323	-48	-27	-6
Domestic burglary	204,136	-49	-28	-8
Non-domestic burglary	222,187	-47	-25	-4
Vehicle offences	357,774	-64	-40	-6
Theft of a motor vehicle	74,588	-74	-49	-3
Theft from a vehicle	255,976	-58	-36	-10
Interfering with a motor vehicle	27,210	-70	-43	27
Theft from the person	84,365	-38	-6	-24
Bicycle theft	94,446	-10	-9	-3
Shoplifting	322,904	6	1	3
All other theft offences <sup>6</sup>	499,661	-44	-21	-6
Criminal damage and arson	497,466	-59	-47	-4
Other crimes against society	399,469	-5	-26	1
Drug offences	186,657	30	-23	-7
Trafficking of drugs	29,016	18	-3	-1
Possession of drugs	157,641	33	-26	-8
Possession of weapons offences	20,942	-46	-41	4
Public order offences	143,768	-9	-30	10
Miscellaneous crimes against society	48,102	-40	-14	12
Total fraud offences <sup>7</sup>	212,699	25	194	5
Total recorded crime - All offences including fraud <sup>7</sup>	3,720,996	-38	-21	-0



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office Notes: 1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics. 2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police). 3. More detail on further years can be found in Appendix Table A4. 4. Includes attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving /careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking and less serious wounding offences. 5. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury). 6. All other theft offences now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since 2002/03. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for 2013/14, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series. 7. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. The process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. Due to this change, caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. New offences were introduced under the Fraud Act 2006, which came into force on 15 January 2007.

**Table 3: Total police recorded crime - rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Rate per 1,000 population			
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Total recorded crime - all offences including fraud	114	86	66	65
Victim-based crime <sup>4</sup>	103	75	55	55
Other crimes against society	8	10	7	7
Total fraud offences	3	1	4	4

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Victim-based crime now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since 2002/03. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for 2013/14, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.

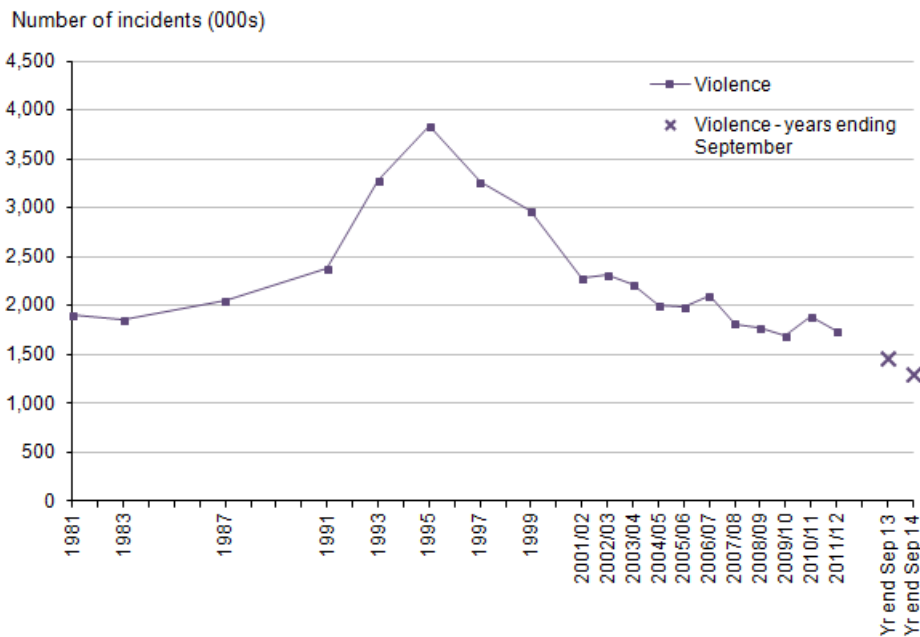
## Notes for Summary

1. The survey of children aged 10 to 15 only covers personal level crime (so excludes household level crime) and, as with the adult survey, does not include sexual offences.
2. The majority (75%) of violent crimes experienced in the year ending September 2014 resulted in minor or no injury, so in most cases the violence is low level.
3. Police recorded crimes are notifiable offences which are all crimes that could possibly be tried by a jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with in this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury.
4. See the '[Analysis of Variation in Crime trends](#)' methodological note and Section 4.2 of the [User Guide](#) for more details.
5. Victim-based crimes are those offences with a specific identifiable victim. These cover the police recorded crime categories of violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, and criminal damage and arson.
6. 'Other crimes against society' cover offences without a direct victim, and includes drug offences, possession of weapon offences, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society.
7. Non-notifiable offences are offences dealt with exclusively by magistrates' courts or by the police issuing of a Penalty Notice for Disorder or a Fixed Penalty Notice. Along with non-notifiable offences dealt with by the police (such as speeding), these include many offences that may be dealt with by other agencies – for example: prosecutions by TV Licensing; or by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for vehicle registration offences.
8. This is a premises based survey in which respondents were asked if the business at their current premises had experienced any of a range of crime types in the 12 months prior to interview and, if so, how many incidents of crime had been experienced.
9. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide. Figures from the Homicide Index for the time period April 2012 to March 2013, which take account of further police investigations and court outcomes, were published in the '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)' release on 13 February 2014. Data for the period April 2013 to March 2014 will be published in the 2013/14 version due to be released on 12 February 2015.
10. Figures from the Homicide Index are less likely to be affected by changes in police recording practices made in 1998 and 2002 so it is possible to examine longer-term trends.
11. Only selected violent offences can be broken down by whether a knife or sharp instrument was used. These are: homicide; attempted murder; threats to kill; assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm; robbery; rape; and sexual assault.
12. The standard recorded crime collection does not provide information on the date when the offence occurred and this analysis is based on just over half of the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales that provided additional information on sexual offences to the Home Office Data Hub.
13. Action Fraud had taken over the recording of all fraud offences from police forces by the end of 2012/13, but showed a -6 count of fraud offences in the year ending September 2014. This is a consequence of the transition process, and these cases have subsequently been removed from the police recorded data and transferred to Action Fraud.

## 5 . Violent crime

Violent crime in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is referred to as “Violence”, and includes wounding and assault. There are additional breakdowns for violence with and without injury, as well as on the offender-victim relationship. Violent crime in police recorded data is referred to as “Violence against the person” and includes homicide, violence with injury, and violence without injury. Violent offences that have no identifiable victim are classified as other offences, such as public disorder. The underlying trend from the survey clearly indicates that violent crime is falling, although, as with the 11% decrease in the year ending September 2014, year on year decreases have not always been statistically significant (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Trends in CSEW violence, 1981 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

### Notes:

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March); and c) the last two data points relate to interviews carried out in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available two years (October to September).
2. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

Latest CSEW estimates show there were 1.3 million violent incidents in England and Wales (Figure 3). Violent incidents comprised 19% of all CSEW crime, making them an important driver of overall trends.

With regard to the latest estimate, the number of violent incidents has decreased 66% from the peak of violent crime in 1995 (Table 4b). To put these figures in context, around 2 in every 100 adults were a victim of violent crime in the last year based on the year ending September 2014 survey, compared with around 5 in 100 adults in the 1995 survey (Table 4a). However, it is important to note that victimisation rates vary considerably across the population and by geographic area. Such variations in victimisation rates are further explored in ONS thematic reports, which are published annually<sup>1</sup>.

The longer term reduction in violent crime as shown by the CSEW is supported by evidence from several health data sources, for example, research conducted by the Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University ([Sivarajasingam et al., 2014](#)). Findings from their annual survey, covering a sample of hospital emergency departments and walk-in centres in England and Wales, showed an overall decrease of 12% in serious violence-related attendances in 2013 compared with 2012. In addition, the most recent provisional National Health Service (NHS) data on assault admissions to hospitals in England show that for the 12 months to the end of March 2014 there were 31,243 hospital admissions for assault, a reduction of 5% compared with figures for the preceding 12 months<sup>2</sup>.

The CSEW violence offences can be broken down further into 'Violence with injury' and 'Violence without injury'. The subcategory of 'Violence with injury' shows a substantial decrease of 26% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year, driving the overall decrease in all violence; it is the lowest estimate since the survey began. The apparent increase of 7% in 'Violence without injury' was not statistically significant.

**Table 4a: CSEW violence - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1]**

England and Wales

	Adults aged 16 and over				
	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13 <sup>2</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>2</sup>
Number of incidents					
Violence	3,837	2,213	1,774	1,474	1,312
with injury	2,270	1,204	959	820	611
without injury	1,567	1,009	815	654	702
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults					
Violence	94	53	41	33	29
with injury	56	29	22	18	13
without injury	39	24	19	15	15
Percentage of adults who were victims once or more					
Violence	4.8	3.4	2.7	2.0	1.8
with injury	3.0	2.0	1.5	1.2	0.9
without injury	2.1	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.0
Unweighted base - number of adults	16,337	37,891	46,220	35,829	33,559

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Base sizes for data since the years ending September 2013 and September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.

**Table 4b: CSEW violence - percentage change and statistical significance [1]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Number of incidents	Percentage change and significance <sup>2</sup>			
Violence	-66 *	-41 *	-26 *	-11
with injury	-73 *	-49 *	-36 *	-26 *
without injury	-55 *	-30 *	-14	7
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults	Percentage point change and significance <sup>2, 3</sup>			
Violence	-69 *	-46 *	-29 *	-12
with injury	-76 *	-54 *	-39 *	-26 *
without injury	-60 *	-37 *	-18	6
Percentage of adults who were victims once or more	Percentage point change and significance <sup>2, 3</sup>			
Violence	-3 *	-1.6 *	-0.9 *	-0.2
with injury	-2.1 *	-1.1 *	-0.7 *	-0.3 *
without injury	-1.2 *	-0.6 *	-0.3 *	0

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
3. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

Estimates of violence against 10 to 15 year olds as measured by the CSEW can be found in the section 'Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15'.

The overall level of **violence against the person** recorded by the police in the year ending September 2014 showed a 16% increase compared with the previous year (Tables 5a and 5b), with 40 of the 43 forces reporting rises. The largest volume increase was reported by the Metropolitan Police Service (an additional 23,218 offences).

It is known that violent offences are more prone to subjective judgement about whether to record a crime. The '[Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)' report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that violence against the person offences had the highest under-recording rates across police forces in England and Wales. Nationally, an estimated one of three (33%) violent offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not. Therefore, action taken by police forces to generally improve their compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) given the renewed focus on the accuracy of crime recording by the police – over the period December 2013 to August 2014 when the inspections took place – is likely to have resulted in the increase in the number of offences recorded in contrast with the comparator year (October 2012 to September 2013). Evidence from the Metropolitan Police Service<sup>3</sup> supports this point, which shows an increase in the number of reports of violence being recorded as crimes. See the 'Accuracy of the statistics' section for more information.

Another factor behind the rise is the increase in the reporting of domestic abuse and subsequent recording of these offences by the police. An [HMIC inspection](#) expressed concerns about the police response to domestic abuse but noted the majority of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) were now showing a strong commitment to tackling it. The report noted just under half of PCCs had made a commitment to increase the reporting of this type of offence. It is thought that this renewed focus may have led to more victims coming forward and allegations treated more sensitively.

The latest rise in violence against the person recorded by the police is in contrast to the falls shown by the Crime Survey and figures on attendances at Accident and Emergency departments due to violent assaults, cited previously. This supports the view that the apparent rise in violence against the person offences recorded by the police reflects changes in recording practices, rather than levels of crime.

Compared with 2008/09, the volume of violence against the person offences recorded by the police has fallen by 1%. The rates for violence against the person have dropped from 13 recorded offences per 1,000 population in 2008/09 to 12 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending September 2014 (Table 5a).

In contrast to other violent crime, there is unlikely to be under-recording of homicides by the police. In the year ending September 2014 the police recorded 507 homicides, 47 fewer homicides than in the previous year (Table 5a)<sup>4</sup>. This latest annual count of homicides is at its lowest since 1977 (482 offences). Historically, the number of homicides increased from around 300 per year in the early 1960s to over 800 per year in the early years of this century<sup>5</sup>, and this had increased at a faster rate than population growth. Since then however, the number of homicides recorded each year has continued to fall to the current level, while the population of England and Wales has continued to grow. In 2003/04, there were 17 homicides per million population<sup>6</sup>; since then homicide rates have reduced by almost half, with 9 homicides per million population recorded during the year to September 2014.

As with homicide, the other two categories of police recorded offences for violence against the person have also declined over the past decade. However, in the latest data 'Violence with injury' showed a 12% rise, compared with the previous year, and 'Violence without injury' increased by 20% over the same period. Within violence with injury, the police recorded a rise in the category of causing death by dangerous driving; this rose from 236 in the year ending September 2013 to 319 offences in the current year. For more detailed information on trends and the circumstances of violence against the person, see '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)'; the 2013/14 release is due to be published on 12 February 2015.

Harassment is included within the violence against the person category and in the year ending September 2014 the police recorded 69,404 such offences. From 1st April 2014, stalking, which previously would generally have been recorded within harassment, was separated into its own crime classification following the introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. In the year ending September 2014, for the six months that stalking has been a separate offence category, the police recorded 1,682 such offences. As this newly separated stalking offence only contains two quarter's worth of data (offences recorded between 1st April and 30th September 2014) it is likely that there will be rises in future releases as more quarters are included. Because these offences would have previously been recorded within (but not separately identifiable in) the harassment category, this should be borne in mind when looking at trends in harassment ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).

**Table 5a: Police recorded violence against the person - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Violence against the person offences	799,247	709,008	604,123	699,832
Homicide <sup>4</sup>	904	664	554	507
Violence against the person - with injury <sup>5</sup>	457,731	420,643	311,700	347,879
Violence against the person - without injury <sup>6</sup>	340,612	287,701	291,869	351,446
Violence against the person rate per 1,000 population	15	13	11	12

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
5. Includes attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving /careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, assault with injury, assault with intent to cause serious harm and less serious wounding offences.
6. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

**Table 5b: Police recorded violence against the person - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Violence against the person offences	-12	-1	16
Homicide <sup>4</sup>	-44	-24	-8
Violence against the person - with injury <sup>5</sup>	-24	-17	12
Violence against the person - without injury <sup>6</sup>	3	22	20

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
5. Includes attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving /careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, assault with injury, assault with intent to cause serious harm and less serious wounding offences.
6. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

## Notes for Violent crime

1. For more information on violent crime see '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)'; the 2013/14 version is due to be released on 12 February 2015.
2. Based on the latest National Health Service (NHS) [Hospital Episode Statistics](#) and [hospital admissions due to assault](#) (dated 15 July 2014). These do not include figures for Wales and relate to activity in English NHS hospitals.
3. In evidence given by the Metropolitan Police Service to the [London Assembly Police and Crime Committee](#) on 13 November 2014 it was reported that the proportion of incidents of violence that were converted into recorded crimes rose from 40% to 75% between 2012 and 2014.
4. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
5. Figures from the Homicide Index are less likely to be affected by changes to in police recording practice made in 1998 and 2002 so it is possible to examine longer-term trends.
6. While most rates of recorded crime are given per 1,000 population, due to the relatively low number of offences recorded, and to aid interpretation, homicide rates are given per million population.



## 6 . Robbery

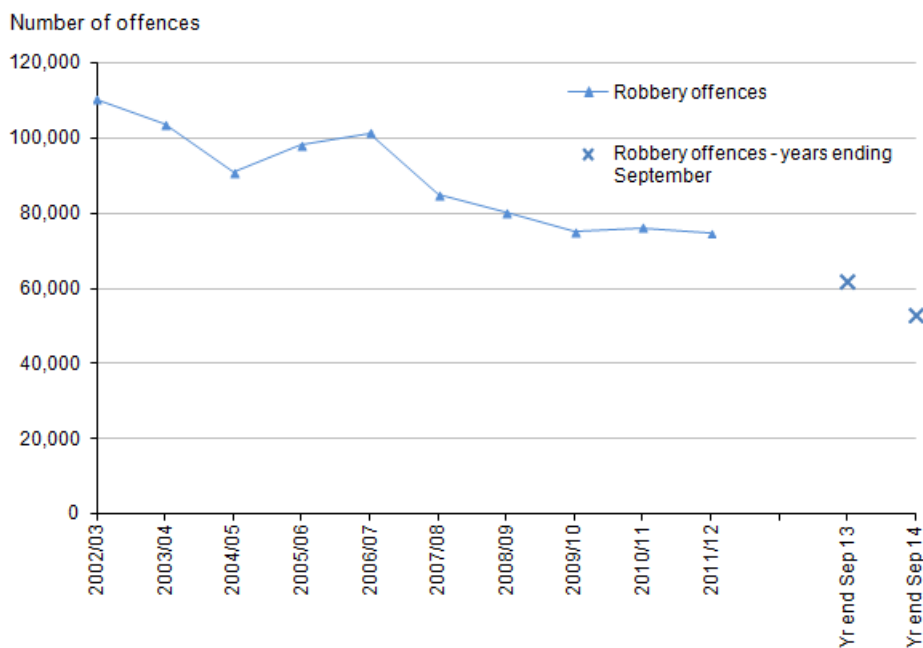
Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft.

The '[Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)' report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that nationally, an estimated 14% of robbery offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not; this level of under-recording is below the national average of 19%. See the 'Accuracy of the statistics' section for more information.

Although not all robberies will be reported to the police, owing to the small number of robbery victims interviewed in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), the number of robberies recorded by the police provides a more robust indication of trends.

Robbery is a relatively low volume offence accounting for less than 2% of all police recorded crime in the year ending September 2014. These offences are concentrated in a small number of metropolitan forces with nearly half (45%) of all offences recorded in London, and a further 20% in the Greater Manchester, West Midlands and West Yorkshire police force areas combined ( [Table P1 \(155 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).

**Figure 4: Trends in police recorded robberies, 2002/03 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

**Notes:**

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

The latest figures show police recorded robberies decreased by 14% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (Tables 6a and 6b). With the exception of a notable rise in the number of robberies in 2005/06 and 2006/07 there has been a general downward trend since 2002/03 in England and Wales. The latest figure shows the number of robbery offences falling to 53,080, the lowest level since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03 (Figure 4).

In the year ending September 2014, 89% of robberies recorded by the police were of personal property. The police recorded 47,302 of these offences, down 15% compared with the previous year. Robbery of business property (which makes up the remaining 11% of total robbery offences) fell by 4% compared with the previous year continuing the recent downward trend. In the year ending September 2014, around one in five robberies (20%) recorded by the police involved a knife or other sharp instrument, the same level as recorded in the previous year (Table 9b).

**Table 6a: Police recorded robbery - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales				
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Robbery offences	103,736	80,130	61,843	53,080
Robbery of business property	10,110	9,350	6,019	5,778
Robbery of personal property	93,626	70,780	55,824	47,302
Robbery rate per 1,000 population	2	1	1	1

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

**Table 6b: Police recorded robbery - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales			
	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Robbery offences	-49	-34	-14
Robbery of business property	-43	-38	-4
Robbery of personal property	-49	-33	-15

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

The geographic concentration of robbery offences means that trends across England and Wales tend to reflect what is happening in a small number of metropolitan areas where robbery offences are concentrated, in particular the Metropolitan Police force area. The latest figures for the Metropolitan Police force area show that the number of robberies for the year ending September 2014 was 23,876, a decrease of 25% from the previous year ( [Tables P1-P2 \(155 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). This continues the downward trend first identified in the year ending March 2013 (11% fall), following increases in the three preceding years. Falls in robbery offences were also seen in other large metropolitan police force areas ( [Table P2 \(155 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ), most notably West Yorkshire (down by 10% to 1,756 offences), as well as a smaller fall in the West Midlands (down by 5% to 5,132 offences).

The small number of robbery victims interviewed in any one year means that CSEW estimates have large confidence intervals and are prone to fluctuation. Thus, while the level of incidents in the year ending September 2014 survey appeared to be 27% lower compared with the previous year, this reduction was not statistically significant. However, the current volume is less than half (62% lower) that of the level seen in the 1995 overall crime peak (Tables 7a and 7b).

**Table 7a: CSEW robbery - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2]**

England and Wales

	Adults aged 16 and over				
	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13 <sup>3</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>3</sup>
	Thousands				
Number of robbery incidents	339	271	262	174	127
Robbery incidence rate per 1,000 adults	8	7	6	4	3
	Percentage				
Percentage of adults that were victims of robbery once or more	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2
Unweighted base - number of adults	16,337	37,891	46,220	35,829	33,559

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Figures are based on analysis of a small number of victims and should be interpreted with caution.
3. Base sizes for data since the years ending September 2013 and September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.

**Table 7b: CSEW robbery - percentage change and statistical significance [1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
	Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>			
Number of robbery incidents	-62 *	-53 *	-52 *	-27
Robbery incidence rate per 1,000 adults	-66 *	-57 *	-54 *	-27
	Percentage point change and significance <sup>3, 4</sup>			
Percentage of adults that were victims of robbery once or more	-0.4 *	-0.3 *	-0.3 *	-0.1

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Figures are based on analysis of a small number of victims and should be interpreted with caution.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
4. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

## 7 . Sexual offences

It is difficult to obtain reliable information on the volume of sexual offences as it is known <sup>1</sup> that a high proportion of offences are not reported to the police and changes in recorded figures may reflect changes in reporting or recording rates rather than actual victimisation. For these reasons, caution should be used when interpreting trends in these offences (for more information see '[An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales](#)' or '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)').

Police recorded crime figures showed an increase of 22% in all sexual offences for the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (up from 59,608 to 72,977; Table 8a). This is the highest ever level recorded since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. Increases in offences against both adults and children have contributed to this rise. The largest percentage increases by force area were experienced in Durham<sup>2</sup> and South Yorkshire (both up by 72%; Table P2).

Police recorded rape increased by 31% (to 24,043 offences) compared with the previous year following previous increases over the past five years, and is now also at the highest level since the NCRS was introduced in 2002 /03; other sexual offences increased by 19% (48,934 offences). The latest rises in total sexual offences, rape and other sexual offences are the largest year on year increases since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03.

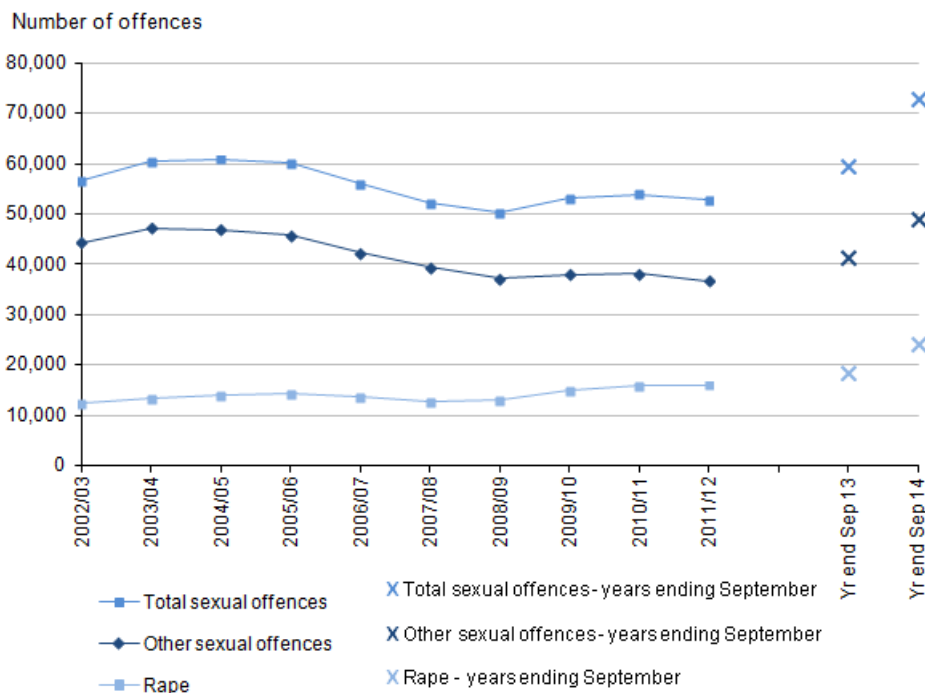
There are likely to be two main factors in the rise in police recorded rape and sexual offences; an improvement in crime recording by the police for these offences and an increase in the willingness of victims to come forward and report these crimes to the police.

The rises in the volume of sexual offences recorded by the police should be seen in the context of a number of high-profile reports and inquiries, including:

- The investigation by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPPI)<sup>3</sup> in 2012, which highlighted the need to improve the recording and investigation of sexual offences.
- There have been concerns about the recording of sexual offences, for example in evidence presented to the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) inquiry<sup>4</sup> and arising from other high profile cases. This is likely to have resulted in police forces reviewing and improving their recording processes.
- The creation of the ‘Independent Panel Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse’, which was set up to consider whether, and the extent to which, public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales.
- The [Crime-recording: making the victim count](#) report published by HMIC found that sexual offences had been substantially under-recorded by police forces in England and Wales. Nationally, an estimated one of four (26%) sexual offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not. Therefore, action taken by police forces to generally improve their compliance with the NCRS given the renewed focus on the accuracy of crime recording, is likely to have resulted in an increase in the number of offences recorded. See the ‘Accuracy of the statistics’ section for more information.

The increase in people coming forward to report sexual offences is likely to be due to a wider ‘Operation Yewtree’ effect, where victims of sexual offences that are not directly connected to Yewtree are now reporting these offences to the police. Further insight into the wider ‘Yewtree effect’ can be provided by looking at the Home Office Data Hub, a record level dataset of police recorded offences<sup>5</sup>. Previous releases have shown historical offences were a large contributor to the increase in sexual offences. However, historical offences are now making a substantially smaller contribution to the overall rise, while the contribution made by recent or ‘current’ offences has increased<sup>6</sup>. The forces for which data are available show that the majority of the increase in sexual offences was due to an increase in offences that occurred within the previous 12 months (78%).

**Figure 5: Trends in police recorded sexual offences, 2002/03 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences

**Table 8a: Police recorded sexual offences - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Sexual offences	60,412	50,185	59,608	72,977
Rape	13,272	13,096	18,360	24,043
Other sexual offences	47,140	37,089	41,248	48,934
Sexual offences rate per 1,000 population	1	1	1	1

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

**Table 8b: Police recorded sexual offences - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Sexual offences	21	45	22
Rape	81	84	31
Other sexual offences	4	32	19

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

## Crime survey for England and Wales

Due to the small number of sexual offences identified in the main Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) crime count, estimates of the volume of incidents are too unreliable to report. Since 2004/05, the CSEW has included a self-completion questionnaire module on intimate violence which does provide a measure of the proportion of people who have been victims of sexual offences and supplements the information presented here<sup>7</sup>. Detailed findings from this module for 2012/13 are available in '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)', with analysis for 2013/14 due to be published on 12 February 2015.

## Notes for Sexual offences

1. As frequently indicated in the findings from the CSEW self-completion module on intimate violence, for example, presented in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#).
2. This rise is acknowledged to be due to the recording of large numbers of historical offences, particularly in relation to the Medomsley Detention Centre. It is believed over 200 inmates were physically or sexually abused during their time at the detention centre, between the late 1960s and mid-1980s. See [Durham Constabulary](#) for further information.
3. See [HMIC and HMCPSI, 2012](#) for further information.
4. See the [Commission of an independent review into rape investigation](#) and the transcript for the [Public Administration Select Committee](#) hearing on Crime Statistics, 19 November 2013.
5. The Home Office Data Hub includes additional information provided by police forces, such as when an offence took place, as well as when it was recorded by the police.
6. Based on analysis of just over half of the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales.
7. See Chapter 5 of the [User Guide](#) for more information regarding intimate violence.

## 8 . Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

Some of the more serious types of offence in the recorded crime data (violent, robbery and sexual offences) can be broken down by whether or not a knife or sharp instrument was involved <sup>1,2</sup>.

In the year ending September 2014, the police recorded 25,721 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, 2% fewer than in the previous year (26,236, Table 9a). Of the offence groups where data are collected, there were increases in most offence groups, in particular assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm (up 7%). These increases, however, were offset by a reduction in robbery offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument (down 14% compared with the previous year <sup>3</sup>).

The relatively low number of certain offences, such as rape and sexual assault, that involve the use of a knife or sharp instrument means the volume of these offences are subject to apparent large percentage changes, and should be interpreted with caution. The number of rapes involving knives or sharp instruments recorded by the police increased by 18% (to 273 offences in the year ending September 2014 from 231 in the previous year) and the number of sexual assaults increased by 37% (to 122 offences in the year ending September 2014 from 89 in the previous year).

Between 2010/11 (the earliest period for which data are directly comparable) and 2012/13, across all offence groups where it is possible to identify whether a knife or sharp instrument was used, the numbers of offences recorded by the police have shown reductions. Following on from 2012/13, to the year ending September 2014, with the exceptions of homicide and robbery offences, there have been increases in the numbers of offences where it is possible to identify whether a knife or sharp instrument was used recorded by the police. However, for the latest time period, due to the large decrease in numbers of robbery offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police in comparison to other offence groups, the total number of offences has fallen by 2%.

**Table 9a: Number and percentage change of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument						% change year ending Sep-13 to year ending Sep-14
	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Apr-13 to Mar-14	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14	
Attempted murder	240	246	198	248	225	243	8
Threats to kill	1,462	1,183	1,188	1,317	1,267	1,558	23
Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm <sup>5</sup>	14,144	12,774	11,491	11,911	11,626	12,483	7
Robbery	16,454	16,427	13,201	11,928	12,604	10,858	-14
Rape	259	237	190	267	231	273	18
Sexual assault <sup>6</sup>	94	72	90	101	89	122	37
Total selected offences	32,653	30,939	26,358	25,772	26,042	25,537	-2
Homicide <sup>7</sup>	237	211	195	202	194	184	-5
Total selected offences including homicide	32,890	31,150	26,553	25,974	26,236	25,721	-2

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
4. Surrey police force includes unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection however it is not thought that offences of this kind constitute a large enough number to impact on the national figure.
5. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm is not directly comparable with previous years. See Appendix table A4 for more details.
6. Sexual assault includes indecent assault on a male/female and sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).
7. Homicide offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 1st September 2014 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. They include the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and, as of 2012/13, corporate manslaughter. These figures are taken from the detailed record level Homicide Index (rather than the main police collection for which forces are only required to provide an overall count of homicides, used in Table A4). There may therefore be differences in the total homicides figure used to calculate these proportions and the homicide figure presented in Table A4.



**Table 9b: Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Selected offence type	Proportion of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument					
	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Apr-13 to Mar-14	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Attempted murder	46	51	49	50	48	48
Threats to kill	15	15	16	15	16	15
Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm <sup>5</sup>	4	4	4	4	4	4
Robbery	22	22	20	21	20	20
Rape	2	1	1	1	1	1
Sexual assault <sup>6</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total selected offences	7	7	6	6	6	6
Homicide <sup>7</sup>	37	39	35	38	35	39
Total selected offences including homicide	7	7	6	6	6	6

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
4. Surrey police force includes unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection however it is not thought that offences of this kind constitute a large enough number to impact on the national figure.
5. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm is not directly comparable with previous years. See Appendix table A4 for more details.
6. Sexual assault includes indecent assault on a male/female and sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).
7. Homicide offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 1st September 2014 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. They include the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and, as of 2012/13, corporate manslaughter. These figures are taken from the detailed record level Homicide Index (rather than the main police collection for which forces are only required to provide an overall count of homicides, used in Table A4). There may therefore be differences in the total homicides figure used to calculate these proportions and the homicide figure presented in Table A4.

Of the selected violent offences covered in Table 9b, around 6% involved a knife or sharp instrument in the year ending September 2014; this was the same proportion as that seen in the previous year. Over a third of homicides (39%) and just under a half of attempted murders (48%) involved a knife or sharp instrument, similar to twelve months ago (35% and 48% respectively).

Between 2010/11 and the year ending September 2014, the proportion of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police has remained relatively flat across all offence groups.

Further analysis on offences involving knives and sharp instruments recorded in 2012/13 has been published in '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)', with analysis for 2013/14 due to be published on 12 February 2015.

An additional source of information about incidents involving knives and sharp instruments is provided by provisional National Health Service (NHS) hospital admission statistics<sup>4</sup>. Admissions for assault with a sharp instrument peaked at 5,720 in 2006/07. Admissions have declined since that year, and in the year ending March 2014 there were 3,654 admissions, a 5% decrease on the previous year. Admissions for assault with a sharp instrument in 2013/14 were the lowest since 2002/03<sup>5</sup>.

## Notes for offences involving knives and sharp instruments

1. A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), for example a broken bottle.
2. Until April 2010, West Midlands Police force included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their statistics, but now exclude these offences in line with other forces.
3. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the individual categories of actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm are not directly comparable over the time period. However, these changes are not expected to affect the totals of actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm offences involving a knife or sharp instrument. See [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) for more details.
4. It should be noted that while it is a requirement to record every hospital admission, completing the field for external cause is not always done. They also do not include any figures from Wales.
5. Based on the latest National Health Service (NHS) [Hospital Episode Statistics](#) and [hospital admissions due to assault](#) (dated 15 July 2014). These do not include figures for Wales and relate to activity in English NHS hospitals. A graph based on financial years is available in the latest '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences](#)' release.

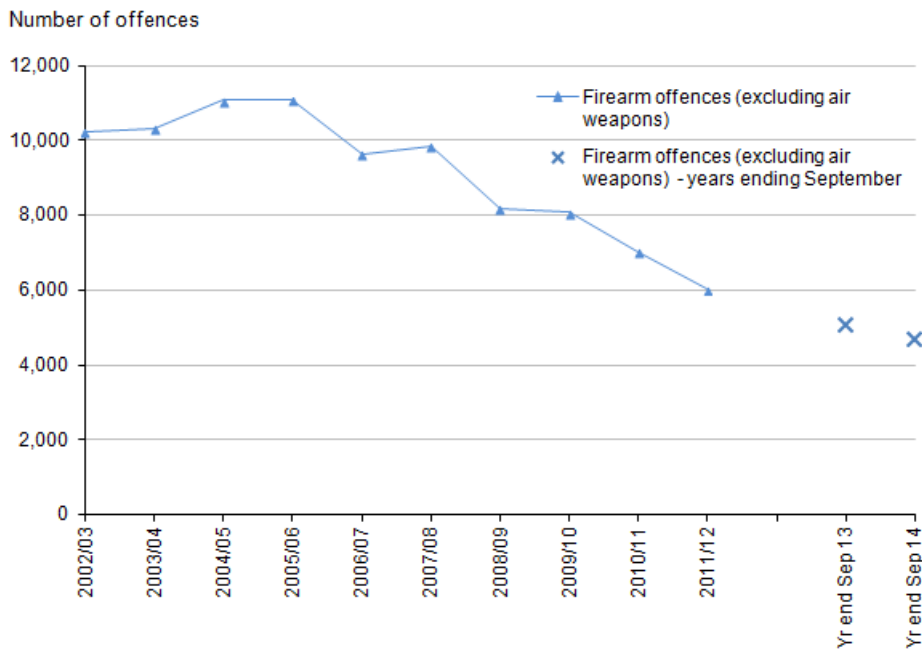
## 9 . Offences involving firearms

Similar to the breakdown of offences involving knives or sharp instruments, statistics for the year ending September 2014 are available for police recorded crimes involving the use of firearms other than air weapons. Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat. For detailed information on trends and the circumstances of offences involving firearms, including air weapons, recorded in 2012/13 see '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)', with analysis for 2013/14 due to be published on 12 February 2015.

Figures for the year ending September 2014 show 4,740 offences involving firearms were recorded in England and Wales, a 7% decrease compared with the previous year (5,102, Tables 10a and 10b).

Figure 6 shows the trend from 2002/03 and demonstrates that since 2005/06 there has been a substantial decrease in the number of offences involving firearms recorded by the police. The volume of such offences has fallen by 42% since 2008/09 (Table 10b). This reduction in offences involving firearms is, in percentage terms, a larger reduction than that seen in overall violent crime.

**Figure 6: Trends in police recorded crimes involving the use of firearms other than air weapons, 2002/03 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

**Table 10a: Police recorded offences involving firearms - number of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Firearm offences	10,338	8,199	5,102	4,740

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 43 forces in England and Wales (excluding the British Transport Police)
3. Firearms data are provisional. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat

**Table 10b: Police recorded offences involving firearms - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Firearm offences	-54	-42	-7

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 43 forces in England and Wales (excluding the British Transport Police).
3. Firearms data are provisional. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

## 10 . Theft offences

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime both measure various theft offences. Both series cover the headline categories of domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, theft from the person, and bicycle theft. Theft of property from outside people's homes (for example, garden furniture and tools) and theft of unattended property as measured by the CSEW are incorporated within the police recorded crime category 'Other theft'. Additionally, shoplifting offences, which are not included in the CSEW, are recorded by the police<sup>1</sup>.

There are substantial overlaps between theft offences in the two data series; however, the CSEW shows a larger volume as it includes incidents not reported to the police. Police recorded theft is broader, covering a wider variety of offences and victims; for example, police recorded theft includes theft against commercial victims and offences of handling stolen goods whereas the survey does not. Theft offences recorded by the police and the CSEW do not include robbery as these are presented as a separate offence (see the 'Robbery' section).

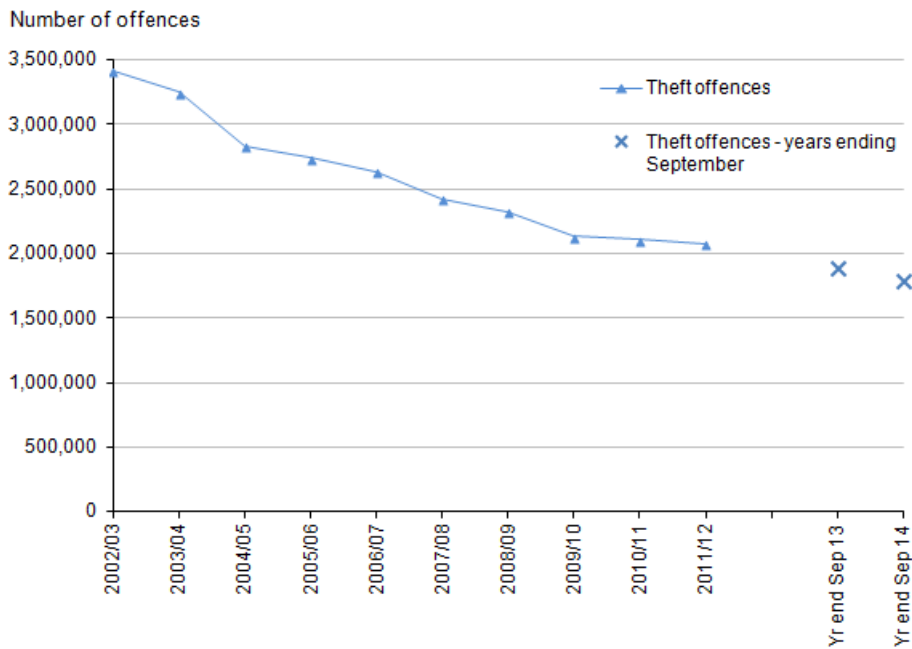
Incidents of theft experienced by 10 to 15 year olds can be found in the 'Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15' section of this bulletin.

Total theft offences (acquisitive crime) accounted for 60% of all incidents estimated by the CSEW (an estimated 4.2 million incidents) and almost half (48%) of all police recorded crime (1.8 million offences) in the year ending September 2014.

The long-term trend in CSEW theft reflects the long-term trend in total CSEW crime. Latest estimates point to a further decline, with total theft offences decreasing by 9% from the previous year (from 4.6 million to 4.2 million incidents, which is the lowest number recorded since the survey began in 1981) ( [Appendix table A1 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).

Since 2002/03, the number of police recorded theft offences has shown year on year decreases and is 45% lower in the year ending September 2014 than in 2003/04 (Figure 7). The latest figures show a 5% decrease compared with the previous year ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). As theft offences make up almost half of all police recorded crime, it is an important driver of the overall trend. However, this decrease has been offset by increases in other offences which have resulted in no change in overall police recorded crime compared with the previous year.

**Figure 7: Trends in police recorded theft offences, 2002/03 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

**Notes:**

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics

Further analysis on theft offences, based on the 2013/14 CSEW, was published on 27 November 2014 as part of ' [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#)'. More detail regarding possible hypotheses for the fall in property crimes can be found in ' [Trends in Crime: a Short Story, 2011/12](#)' published on 19 July 2012.

The next few sections discuss the different types of theft offences in more detail: burglary, vehicle-related thefts and other theft of property.

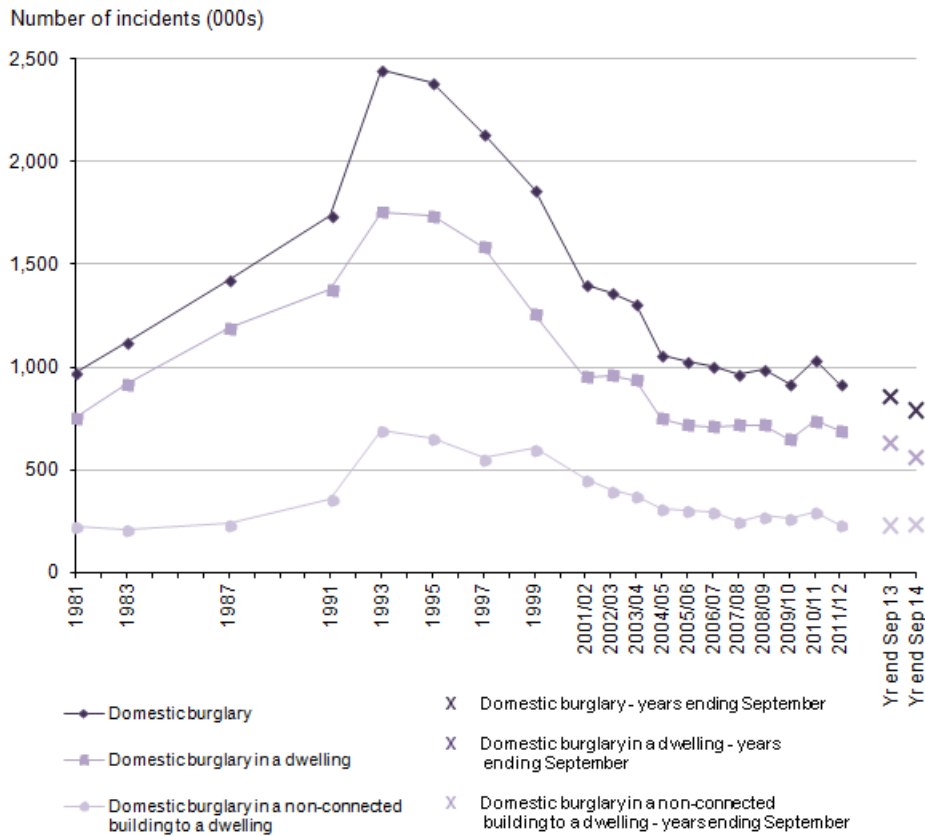
**Notes for theft offences**

1. For more information see Section 5.2 of the [User Guide](#).

**11 . Theft offences – burglary**

The CSEW for the year ending September 2014 estimated 789,000 incidents of domestic burglary, little change compared with the previous year, as the apparent 8% decrease was not statistically significant (Tables 11a and 11b). CSEW domestic burglary follows a similar pattern to that seen for overall crime, and despite some fluctuations the trend has remained fairly flat between 2004/05 and 2010/11 (Figure 8). Estimates for the year ending September 2014 are 40% lower than those in 2003/04 and 67% lower than those in the 1995 survey.

**Figure 8: Trends in CSEW domestic burglary, 1981 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March); and c) the last two data points relate to interviews carried out in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available two years (October to September).
2. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

The reduction is reflected in the percentage of households that had been victims of domestic burglary in the last year, with around 3 in 100 households being victims in the year ending September 2014 survey compared with around 9 in 100 households in the 1995 survey. Therefore, households are now around three times less likely to be a victim of burglary than in 1995 (Tables 11a and 11b). It is widely accepted that improvements to home security has been an important factor in the reduction seen in domestic burglary offences; other potential factors are discussed in the 'Existing theories on why property crime has fallen' section of the [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#).

Over time, the sub-categories of CSEW 'Domestic burglary in a dwelling' and 'Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling' have followed similar patterns to that of domestic burglary overall. Latest figures show no change in 'Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling' in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year. The apparent 11% decrease in 'Domestic burglary in a dwelling' over the same period was not statistically significant.

**Table 11a: CSEW burglary - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1]**

England and Wales

	Households				
	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13 <sup>2</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>2</sup>
Number of incidents					Thousands
Domestic burglary	2,389	1,307	991	856	789
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	1,735	935	717	628	560
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	654	372	275	228	229
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults					
Domestic burglary	115	59	43	36	33
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	84	42	31	26	23
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	31	17	12	10	10
Percentage of households that were victims once or more					%
Domestic burglary	8.7	4.5	3.4	2.8	2.7
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	6.4	3.2	2.5	2.1	1.9
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	2.6	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.8
Unweighted base - number of households	16,310	37,890	46,254	35,791	33,515

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics Notes: 1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3. 2. Base sizes for data since the years ending September 2013 and September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.

**Table 11b: CSEW burglary - percentage change and statistical significance [1]**

England and Wales

	Households			
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Number of incidents				Percentage change and significance <sup>2,3</sup>
Domestic burglary	-67 *	-40 *	-20 *	-8
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	-68 *	-40 *	-22 *	-11
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	-65 *	-39 *	-17 *	0
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults				
Domestic burglary	-71 *	-45 *	-24 *	-9
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	-72 *	-45 *	-26 *	-12
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	-70 *	-44 *	-21 *	-1
Percentage of households that were victims once or more				Percentage change and significance <sup>2,3</sup>
Domestic burglary	-6.0 *	-1.8 *	-0.7 *	-0.2
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	-4.5 *	-1.3 *	-0.6 *	-0.2
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	-1.8 *	-0.6 *	-0.2 *	0.0

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
3. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

The '[Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)' report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that nationally, an estimated 11% of burglary offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not; this level of under-recording is below the national average of 19%. See the 'Accuracy of the statistics' section for more information.

The police recorded crime statistics measure both domestic burglaries (for example those against inhabited dwellings) and non-domestic burglaries (for example, those against businesses) <sup>1</sup>. When compared with the previous year, domestic burglary decreased by 8% (from 222,299 to 204,136 offences) while non-domestic burglary decreased by 4% (from 231,156 to 222,187 offences) in the year ending September 2014 (Tables 12a and 12b). The latest level of burglary recorded by the police is around half the level recorded in 2003/04 (48% lower).



**Table 12a: Police recorded burglary - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Burglary offences	820,013	581,584	453,455	426,323
Domestic burglary	402,345	284,431	222,299	204,136
Non-domestic burglary	417,668	297,153	231,156	222,187
Burglary rate per 1,000 population	16	11	8	7

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police)
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4

**Table 12b: Police recorded burglary - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Burglary offences	-48	-27	-6
Domestic burglary	-49	-28	-8
Non-domestic burglary	-47	-25	-4

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police)
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4

**Notes for theft offences – burglary**

1. Non-domestic burglary covers burglary in a building other than a dwelling, and includes burglaries of sheds and outhouses which do not have an entrance to the home. See Section 5.2 of the [User Guide](#) for more details regarding this crime type.

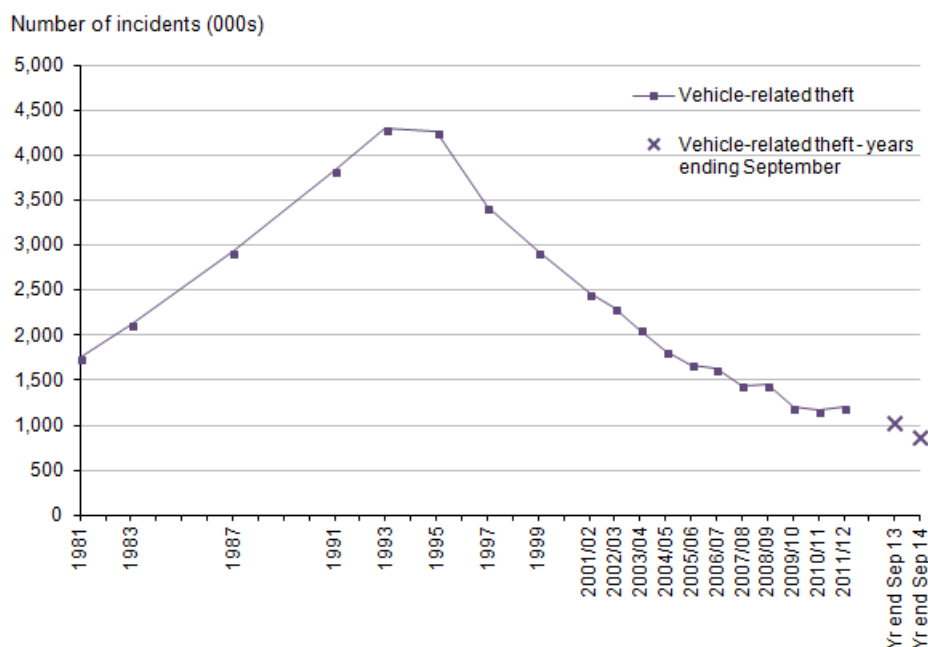
## 12 . Theft offences – vehicle

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) covers offences against vehicles owned by any member of the household interviewed (including company cars). Estimates of CSEW vehicle-related theft for the year ending September 2014 fell by 15% compared with the previous year (Table 13a and 13b) <sup>1</sup>.

Over the longer term, the CSEW indicates a consistent downward trend in levels of vehicle-related theft, with the latest estimates being 79% lower than in 1995. As shown in Figure 9, the rate of reduction in vehicle offences since the mid-1990s has been striking. It is widely accepted that improvements to vehicle security has been an important factor in the reduction seen in vehicle offences; other potential factors are discussed in the 'Existing theories on why property crime has fallen' section of the [Focus on: Property Crime. 2013/14](#).

The latest estimates indicate that a vehicle-owning household was around five times less likely to become a victim of vehicle-related theft in the year ending September 2014 survey than in 1995, with around 4 in 100 vehicle-owning households being victims in the year ending September 2014 survey compared with around 20 in 100 households in the 1995 survey (Table 13a). There were an estimated 878,000 vehicle-related thefts in the year ending September 2014, which is the lowest number recorded since the survey began in 1981.

**Figure 9: Trends in CSEW vehicle-related theft, 1981 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March); and c) the last two data points relate to interviews carried out in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available two years (October to September).
2. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

**Table 13a: CSEW vehicle offences - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1]**

England and Wales

	Vehicle-owning households				
	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13 <sup>2</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>2</sup>
	Thousands				
Number of vehicle-related theft incidents	4,266	2,063	1,447	1,035	878
Vehicle-related theft incidence rate per 1,000 vehicle-owning households	280	123	80	56	48
	%				
Percentage of vehicle-owning households that were victims of vehicle-related theft once or more	19.7	9.6	6.4	4.6	4.0
Unweighted base - vehicle owners	11,721	29,457	36,882	28,191	26,332

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics Notes: 1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3. 2. Base sizes for data since the years ending September 2013 and September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.

**Table 13b: CSEW vehicle offences - percentage change and statistical significance [1]**

England and Wales

	Vehicle-owning households			
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Percentage change and significance <sup>2</sup>				
Number of vehicle-related theft incidents	-79 *	-57 *	-39 *	-15 *
Vehicle-related theft incidence rate per 1,000 vehicle-owning households	-83 *	-61 *	-41 *	-15 *
Percentage point change and significance <sup>2,3</sup>				
Percentage of vehicle-owning households that were victims of vehicle-related theft once or more	-15.7 *	-5.6 *	-2.4 *	-0.6 *

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
3. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

The police recorded crime category of vehicle offences covers both private and commercial vehicles and shows a fall of 6% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (Tables 14a and 14b). This follows substantial decreases in this offence group, with a fall of 64% compared with 2003/04, similar to the trend found in the CSEW. The most recent data show that two of the three categories of police recorded vehicle offences have continued to fall, including theft of a motor vehicle, which fell by 3% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (Table 14b).

The reductions in vehicle-related theft indicated by the CSEW and police recorded crime are in contrast to the number of motor vehicles licensed in Great Britain, which has increased by 38%, from 25.4 million at the end of 1995 to 35.0 million at the end of 2013 ([Vehicle Licensing Statistics, 2013](#))<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 14a: Police recorded vehicle offences - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Vehicle offences <sup>4</sup>	985,006	591,853	382,444	357,774
Theft of a motor vehicle	291,858	147,238	76,804	74,588
Theft from a vehicle	603,256	396,976	284,174	255,976
Vehicle interference	89,892	47,639	21,466	27,210
Vehicle offences rate per 1,000 population	19	11	7	6

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Includes theft of motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

**Table 14b: Police recorded vehicle offences - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Vehicle offences <sup>5</sup>	-64	-40	-6
Theft of a motor vehicle	-74	-49	-3
Theft from a vehicle	-58	-36	-10
Vehicle interference	-70	-43	27

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. Includes theft of motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

## Notes for theft offences – vehicle

1. See Section 5.2 of the [User Guide](#) for more details regarding this crime type.
2. Based on the total number of licensed vehicles (including both private and commercial vehicles) in England, Scotland and Wales taken from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) database.

## 13 . Theft offences – other theft of property

In addition to burglary and vehicle-related thefts, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime both measure other theft of property, although they cover slightly different offences. In the CSEW this comprises: theft from the person; other theft of personal property; bicycle theft; and other household theft. In police recorded crime there are categories for: theft from the person; bicycle theft; shoplifting; and all other theft offences. The coverage of these offences are described in the sections below. There are further offence breakdowns available for all other theft offences listed in [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) .

### Theft from the person – CSEW and police recorded crime

Theft from the person involves offences where there is theft of property, while the property is being carried by, or on the person of, the victim. These include snatch thefts (where an element of force may be used to snatch the property away) and stealth thefts (where the victim is unaware of the offence being committed, for example, pick-pocketing). Unlike robbery, these offences do not involve violence or threats to the victim.

In the CSEW, the majority of incidents of theft from the person are made up of stealth thefts (260,000 out of all 504,000 (52%) theft from the person offences in the year ending September 2014, for more information see [Appendix table A1 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). Numbers of snatch thefts are much smaller, accounting for 13% of all theft from the person offences, while attempted snatch and stealth thefts make up the remaining 36%.

The apparent 9% decrease in theft from the person based on interviews in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year was not statistically significant (Tables 15a and 15b). Estimates of the volume of theft from the person offences are low and subject to fluctuations from year to year in the survey. The CSEW shows an unusually high estimate measured by the 2008/09 survey when there was a significant increase, followed by a significant decrease in 2009/10 (Figure 10). Other than this, CSEW estimates of theft from the person have remained fairly flat.

The police recorded crime category theft from the person accounts for around 2% of overall police recorded crime. Latest figures showed a 24% decrease in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b). This is in contrast to recent trends, where these offences have been increasing in each of the last three years, thought to be driven by theft of smartphones. The latest decrease is driven by a large fall in theft from the person offences in the latter three quarters – January to September 2014. This may in part be explained by improvements to mobile security and theft prevention<sup>1</sup>.

Further analysis of theft from the person figures by police force area shows a mixed picture, with some forces continuing to show increases while most show decreases. However, as with robbery, theft from the person offences are concentrated in the metropolitan areas, with 40% occurring in the Metropolitan Police force area alone in the year ending September 2014. The previous overall increases were largely driven by what was happening in London, where theft of smartphones and other portable devices were thought to be behind some of this rise<sup>2</sup>. The latest figures for the Metropolitan Police force area show a decrease of 32% compared with the previous year ( [Table P2 \(155 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). In addition, the British Transport Police, who cover crimes that occur on railways and on railway platforms and stations, account for 7% of the total thefts from the person offences in the year ending September 2014, and show a 36% decrease compared with the previous year.

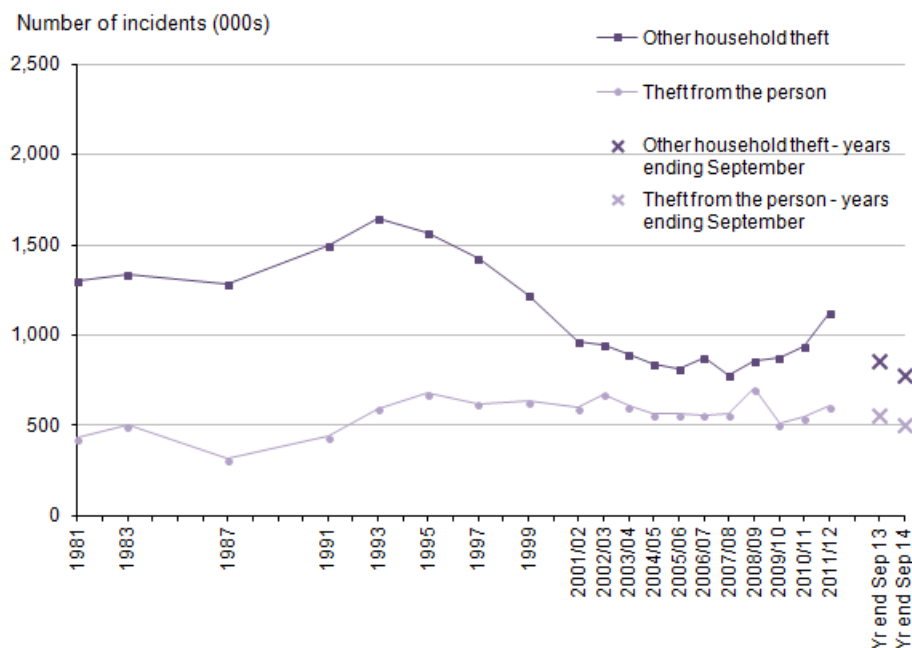
## Other household theft – CSEW

This offence group consists of items stolen from outside the victim's home, and thefts in the victim's dwelling by someone entitled to be there, for example a tradesperson<sup>3</sup>. Overall, the year ending September 2014 survey estimated that there were 777,000 incidents of other household theft (Tables 15a and 15b), making up 11% of all CSEW crime.

The CSEW showed a 9% fall in other household theft based on interviews in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year. This statistically significant decrease sees estimated levels of other household theft at similar levels to those seen in the 2007/08 survey following a period of year on year increases between 2007/08 and 2011/12. The current decrease, combined with decreases seen between 1995 and 2007/08, means that the latest figure is now 50% lower than in the 1995 survey (Figure 10).

The large majority of other household thefts are accounted for by theft from outside a dwelling (92%). Generally these incidents involve theft of garden furniture or household items/furniture taken from outside people's homes<sup>4</sup>, and are largely opportunistic in nature. Theft from a dwelling has seen a much greater fall, compared with the previous year, than theft from outside a dwelling (29% and 7% respectively), although neither of these decreases are statistically significant. The latest estimate for theft from a dwelling is 70% lower than the 1995 survey estimate ( [Appendix table A1 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).

**Figure 10: Trends in CSEW other household theft and theft from the person, 1981 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March); and c) the last two data points relate to interviews carried out in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available two years (October to September).
2. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

## Other theft of personal property – CSEW

Other theft of personal property offences are those which involve items stolen from victims while away from the home but not being carried on the person (such as theft of unattended property in pubs, restaurants, entertainment venues or workplaces). The CSEW estimates that there were around 848,000 incidents of other theft of personal property in the survey year ending September 2014. The apparent 9% decrease compared with the previous survey year was not statistically significant (Table 15b). The underlying trend has been fairly flat in recent years – between 2004/05 and 2013/14 estimates have fluctuated slightly but generally stayed around 1.0 million offences. Looking at the longer term trend, other theft of personal property saw marked declines from the mid-1990s and the current estimate is under half the level seen in the 1995 survey (59% lower).

## Bicycle theft – CSEW and police recorded crime

There was no change in the level of bicycle theft with the apparent 1% increase not being statistically significant (Tables 15a and 15b). This is one of the lower volume CSEW offence groups and can show large fluctuations from year to year. [Appendix table A1 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) shows that, like other household theft, these incidents showed a marked decline between 1995 and the 1999 survey, with both small increases and decreases thereafter. The variability means that emerging trends have to be interpreted with caution. The year ending September 2014 CSEW indicates that around 3% of bicycle owning households were victims of bicycle theft in the previous 12 months, down from 6% in the 1995 survey.

Bicycle thefts recorded by the police showed a small decrease of 3% in the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b), remaining at a similar level seen since 2011/12, following the large increase seen in this year compared with 2010/11. The current level (94,446 offences) is the lowest since the NCRS was first introduced in 2002/03.

## Shoplifting – police recorded crime

Shoplifting accounted for 9% of all police recorded crime in the year ending September 2014. The police recorded 322,904 shoplifting offences in this period, a 3% increase compared with the previous year. The volume of shoplifting recorded was the highest since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) in 2002/03. The longer term trend in shoplifting recorded by the police is different from that seen for other theft offences. While most theft offences saw steady declines over much of the last decade, levels of recorded shoplifting showed comparatively little change over this time.

Across England and Wales there were 9,204 more shoplifting offences in the year ending September 2014 when compared with the previous year. Twenty-three of the 43 territorial police force areas reported an increase in shoplifting in the year ending September 2014 ( [Table P2 \(155 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). Several forces recorded large percentage increases, including Durham (24%) and Derbyshire (18%). The Metropolitan Police force area recorded a comparatively small percentage increase of 6%.

The low rate of reporting to the police presents challenges in interpreting trends in police recorded shoplifting. There are a number of factors that should be considered, including:

- A real increase in the number of shoplifting offences being committed<sup>5</sup>. Findings from the recent surveys of the retail sector have been mixed. The 2013 CVS showed no statistically significant change in the estimated level of shoplifting compared with the 2012 survey, while a [British Retail Consortium \(BRC\)](#) survey indicated that their members were experiencing higher levels of shoplifting.
- An increase in reporting, whereby retailers may adopt new strategies or approaches to deal with shoplifters (such as one announced by the Cooperative supermarket chain<sup>6</sup>), which in turn means the police record more shoplifting offences.
- Changes to police recording practices - while there is no specific evidence to suggest there has been a recent change in the recording of shoplifting offences, it is not possible to rule this out. Shoplifting is less likely than other types of offence to be affected by changes in police recording practices.

The 2013 [Commercial Victimisation Survey](#) (CVS) provides a measure of shoplifting (referred to in the survey as 'theft by customers') which includes crimes not reported to the police. The 2013 survey estimated that there were 3.3 million incidents of theft by customers in the wholesale and retail sector; this is over ten times the number of shoplifting offences recorded by the police. This reflects the fact that most incidents of shoplifting do not come to the attention of the police. As such, recorded crime figures for this type of offence are highly dependent on whether the businesses report the incidents to the police.

## All other theft offences – police recorded crime

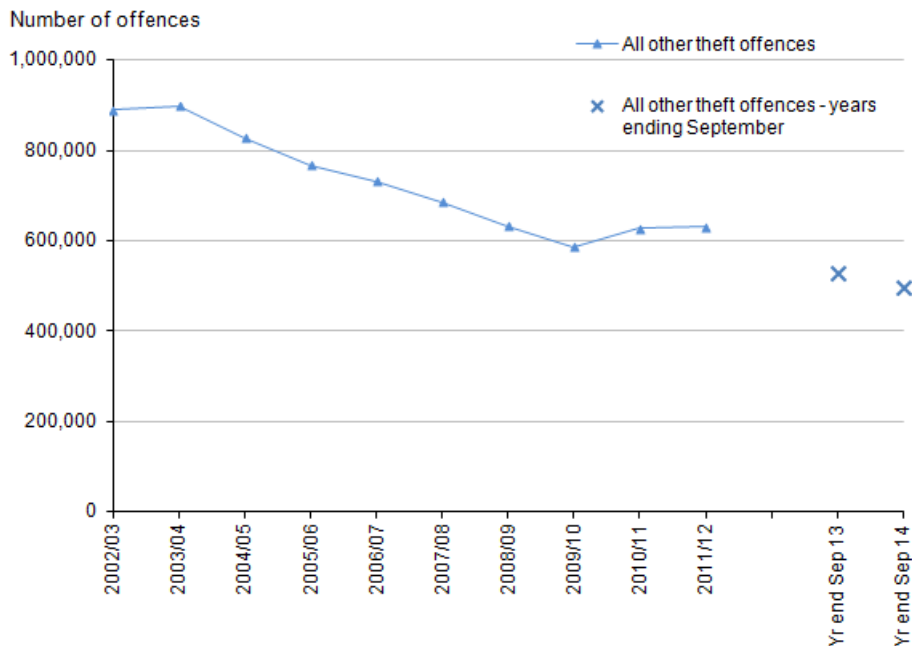
The remainder of police recorded theft offences fall into the category 'All other theft offences', which include offences such as blackmail, theft by an employee, and 'Making off without payment' (for example, driving away from a petrol station without paying). Within this overall category, there is also an 'Other theft' offence sub-category, which comprises mostly of the theft of unattended items (including both personal property such as wallets or phones, and property from outside peoples' homes, such as garden furniture). 'Other theft' accounts for three-quarters (74%) of the overall 'All other theft offences' category ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).



The most recent police recorded data showed a 6% decrease in all other theft offences, with 499,661 offences in the year ending September 2014 compared with 529,298 offences in the previous year. This decrease is in contrast with a recent upward trend in all other theft offences between 2009/10 and 2011/12 ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ), following a longer downward trend between 2003/04 and 2009/10 (Figure 11).

In the year ending September 2014 the police recorded 56,958 making off without payment offences, which was a 13% increase compared with the previous year. Previously there had been a steep decline in this particular offence, with the latest numbers 57% lower than those in 2003/04 (132,624 offences) ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ).

**Figure 11: Trends in police recorded all other theft offences, 2002/03 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime are not designated as National Statistics.

As well as theft of unattended items, the police recorded 'Other theft' subcategory also includes crimes against organisations which are not covered by the CSEW, such as theft of metal or industrial equipment from strategic infrastructure. 'Other theft' offences saw a 9% decrease for the year ending September 2014 compared with the previous year ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). This follows a 13% increase between 2009/10 and 2011/12. This is likely to have been caused in part by a surge in metal theft over this period, which corresponds with a spike in metal prices. Evidence suggests that such offences are decreasing and should be seen in the context of [new metal theft legislation](#). The legislation came into force in May 2013, which increased fines for existing offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, and introduced a new offence for dealers of paying for scrap metal in cash. For further information on metal theft, see the Home Office publication [Metal theft, England and Wales, financial year ending March 2013](#) and Chapter 2 of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#).

**Table 15a: CSEW other theft of property - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13 <sup>2</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>2</sup>
Number of incidents					Thousands
Theft from the person	680	607	705	557	504
Other theft of personal property	2,069	1,276	1,069	936	848
Other household theft	1,570	897	862	857	777
Bicycle theft	660	362	515	393	398
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults/households					
Theft from the person	17	15	16	12	11
Other theft of personal property	51	31	25	21	19
Other household theft	76	41	38	36	32
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	71	39	51	32	32
Percentage of adults/households who were victims once or more					Percentage
Theft from the person	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.0
Other theft of personal property	4.1	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.6
Unweighted base - number of adults	16,337	37,891	46,220	35,829	33,559
Other household theft	5.1	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6
Unweighted base - number of households	16,310	37,890	46,254	35,791	33,515
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	6.1	3.4	4.4	2.9	2.7
Unweighted base - bicycle owners	6,863	16,070	20,636	17,127	15,898

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.

2. Base sizes for data since the years ending September 2013 and September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.

**Table 15b: CSEW other theft of property - percentage change and statistical significance [1]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Number of incidents				Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>
Theft from the person	-26 *	-17 *	-28 *	-9
Other theft of personal property	-59 *	-34 *	-21 *	-9
Other household theft	-50 *	-13 *	-10 *	-9 *
Bicycle theft	-40 *	10	-23 *	1
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults/households				
Theft from the person	-34 *	-24 *	-32 *	-10
Other theft of personal property	-63 *	-39 *	-24 *	-10
Other household theft	-57 *	-21 *	-14 *	-10 *
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	-55 *	-18 *	-38 *	0
Percentage of adults/households who were victims once or more				Percentage point change and significance <sup>2,3</sup>
Theft from the person	-0.6 *	-0.3 *	-0.4 *	-0.1
Other theft of personal property	-2.5 *	-1.0 *	-0.5 *	-0.2
Other household theft	-2.5 *	-0.4 *	-0.2	-0.3 *
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	-3.4 *	-0.7 *	-1.7 *	-0.1

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.

**Table 16a: Police recorded other theft - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Theft from the person	137,154	89,652	110,365	84,365
Bicycle theft	105,467	104,169	97,541	94,446
Shoplifting	303,235	320,739	313,700	322,904
All other theft offences <sup>4,5</sup>	898,772	633,583	529,298	499,661
Rate per 1,000 population				
Theft from the person	3	2	2	1
Bicycle theft	2	2	2	2
Shoplifting	6	6	6	6
All other theft offences <sup>4,5</sup>	17	12	9	9

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. All other theft offences now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since 2002/03. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for 2013/14, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.
5. For full range of offences included in all other theft see Appendix table A4.

**Table 16b: Police recorded other theft - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Theft from the person	-38	-6	-24
Bicycle theft	-10	-9	-3
Shoplifting	6	1	3
All other theft offences <sup>4,5</sup>	-44	-21	-6

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.
4. All other theft offences now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since 2002/03. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for 2013/14, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.
5. For full range of offences included in all other theft see Appendix table A4.

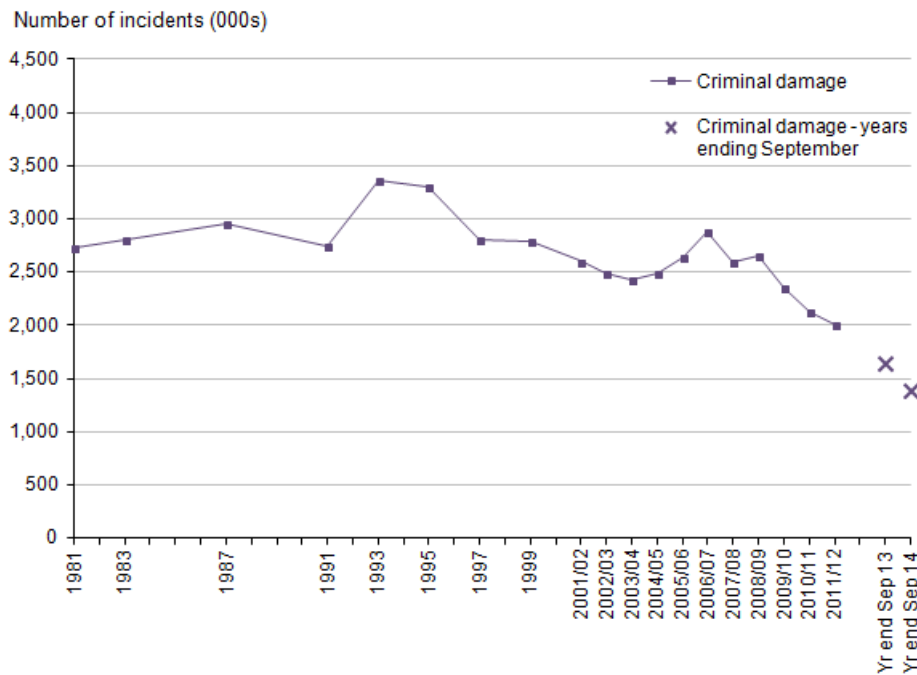
## Notes for theft offences – other theft of property

1. For more information, see the Home Office report '[Reducing mobile phone theft and improving security](#)'
2. Based on figures provided by the Metropolitan Police in relation to a freedom of information (FOI) request reported by [London Evening Standard – 4 April 2013](#)
3. For more details on the offences that constitute CSEW other household theft see Section 5.2 and Appendix 2 of the [User Guide](#)
4. For more details, see the Nature of Crime tables in '[Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#)'
5. For example, as reported in [The Guardian](#), 23th January 2014
6. As reported in the [Nottingham Post](#), 18th December 2013

## 14 . Criminal damage

Based on Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) interviews in the year ending September 2014, there were around 1.4 million incidents of criminal damage of personal and household property; this was a decrease of 15% from the previous year (Tables 17a and 17b). Figure 12 shows the long-term trend for criminal damage, which has followed a slightly different pattern compared with most other CSEW crime groups. Criminal damage peaked in 1993 with 3.4 million incidents followed by a series of modest falls (when compared with other CSEW offence types) until the 2003/04 survey (2.4 million offences). There was then a short upward trend until the 2006 /07 CSEW (2.9 million offences), after which there were falls to its current level, the lowest since the survey began.

**Figure 12: Trends in CSEW criminal damage, 1981 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. The data on this chart refer to different time periods: a) 1981 to 1999 refer to crimes experienced in the calendar year (January to December); b) from 2001/02 onwards the estimates relate to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March); and c) the last two data points relate to interviews carried out in the rolling 12 month periods for the latest available two years (October to September).
2. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

Tables 17a and 17b highlight the recent downward trend in this offence group. There are statistically significant decreases when comparing the current figure with those from one, five and ten years ago. This trend is also reflected in the decline in percentage of households victimised. Around 4 in every 100 households were victims of criminal damage in the year ending September 2014 compared with around 10 in every 100 households in 1995.

**Table 17a: CSEW criminal damage - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1]**

England and Wales

	Households				
	Interviews from:				
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13 <sup>2</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>2</sup>
Number of incidents	Thousands				
Criminal damage	3,300	2,421	2,656	1,639	1,393
Criminal damage to a vehicle	1,790	1,403	1,766	1,106	965
Arson and other criminal damage	1,510	1,018	890	533	428
Incidence rate per 1,000 households					
Criminal damage	159	110	116	69	58
Criminal damage to a vehicle	86	64	77	47	40
Arson and other criminal damage	73	46	39	22	18
Percentage of households that were victims once or more	Percentage				
Criminal damage	10.1	7.1	7.6	4.8	3.9
Criminal damage to a vehicle	6.2	4.5	5.4	3.4	2.8
Arson and other criminal damage	4.3	2.8	2.5	1.5	1.2
Unweighted base - number of households	16,310	37,890	46,254	35,791	33,515

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.

2. Base sizes for data since the years ending September 2013 and September 2014 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced in April 2012.

**Table 17b: CSEW criminal damage - percentage change and statistical significance [1]**

England and Wales

Households

	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:			
	Jan-95 to Dec-95	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Number of incidents	Percentage change and significance <sup>2</sup>			
Criminal damage	-58 *	-42 *	-48 *	-15 *
Criminal damage to a vehicle	-46 *	-31 *	-45 *	-13 *
Arson and other criminal damage	-72 *	-58 *	-52 *	-20 *
Incidence rate per 1,000 households	Percentage point change and significance <sup>2,3</sup>			
Criminal damage	-63 *	-47 *	-50 *	-16 *
Criminal damage to a vehicle	-53 *	-37 *	-48 *	-14 *
Arson and other criminal damage	-75 *	-61 *	-54 *	-21 *
Percentage of households that were victims once or more	Percentage point change and significance <sup>2,3</sup>			
Criminal damage	-6.2 *	-3.2 *	-3.7 *	-0.9 *
Criminal damage to a vehicle	-3.4 *	-1.7 *	-2.6 *	-0.6 *
Arson and other criminal damage	-3.2 *	-1.6 *	-1.4 *	-0.3 *

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix tables A1, A2, A3.
2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
3. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

The '[Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)' report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that nationally, an estimated 14% of criminal damage and arson offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not; this level of under-recording is below the national average of 19%. See the 'Accuracy of the statistics' section for more information.

Police recorded crime also shows reductions in the similar offence group of criminal damage and arson (although this also includes victims beyond the household population, like businesses). In the year ending September 2014 there were 497,466 offences recorded, a fall of 4% from the previous year (Tables 18a and 18b). Reductions were seen across all types of criminal damage recorded by the police ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). Criminal damage and arson offences have seen a marked fall since 2006/07 whereas previously the pattern had been fairly flat since 2002/03; this follows a similar trend to the CSEW.



**Table 18a: Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Criminal damage and arson	1,209,912	930,327	518,368	497,466
Arson	57,546	34,827	19,398	18,373
Criminal damage	1,152,366	895,500	498,970	479,093
Criminal damage and arson rate per 1,000 population	23	17	9	9

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

**Table 18b: Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Criminal damage and arson	-59	-47	-4
Arson	-68	-47	-5
Criminal damage	-58	-46	-4

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

## 15 . Other crimes against society

Other crimes against society are offences recorded by the police which do not generally have a specific identifiable victim. They make up around 11% of all police recorded crime. Trends in such offences tend to reflect changes in police workload and activity rather than in levels of criminality.

The group of offences is made of the following categories:

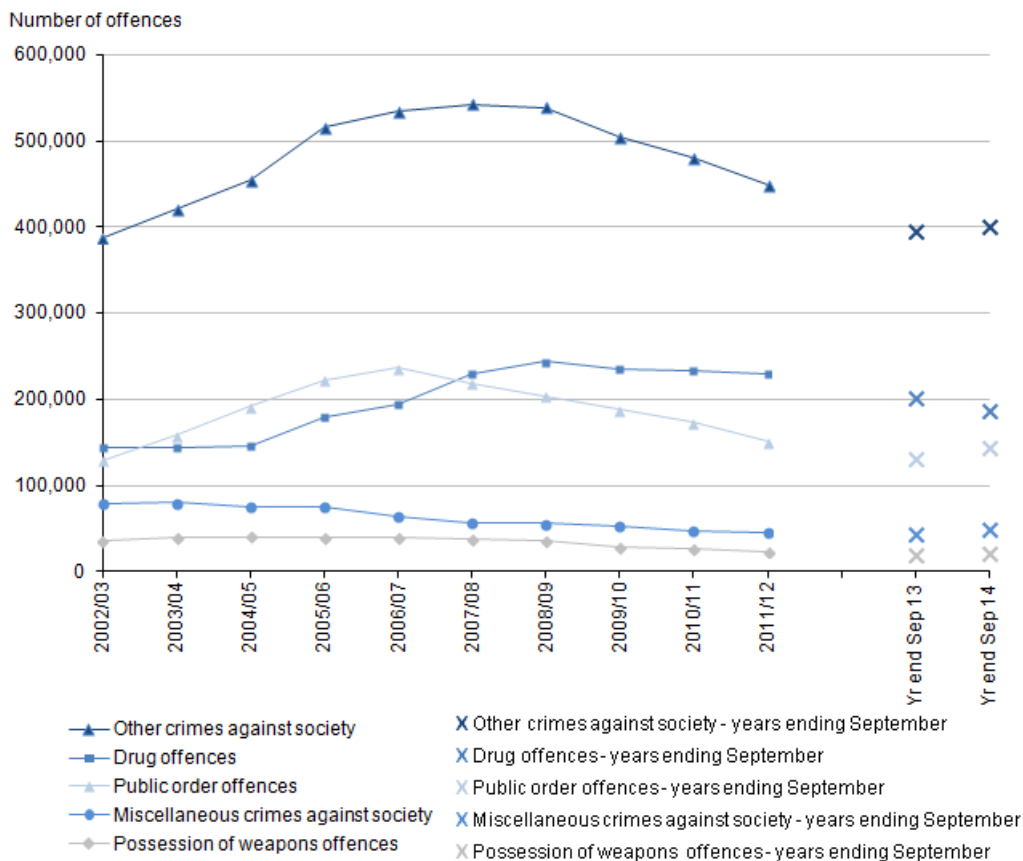
- Drug offences;
- Possession of weapons offences;
- Public order offences; and
- Miscellaneous crimes against society.

Other crimes against society showed an increase of 1% compared with the previous year, with 399,469 offences recorded in the year ending September 2014 (Tables 19a and 19b). Figure 13 shows the trend over time and how each separate offence category contributes to the overall total.

Since 2003/04, the number of other crimes against society increased year on year until it peaked in 2007/08 (542,656 offences). The marked increases in the recording of these offences between 2004/05 and 2007/08 coincide with the priority placed on increasing the numbers of offences brought to justice associated with the previous Government’s 2005-2008 Public Service Agreement targets. This is particularly reflected in the trend for drug offences and public order offences (see relevant sections below for further details).

Between 2007/08 and 2012/13, the number of offences against society recorded decreased year on year, mainly driven by reductions in public order offences.

**Figure 13: Trends in police recorded other crimes against society, 2002/03 to year ending September 2014**



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

**Notes:**

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

## Drug offences

The police recorded 186,657 drug offences in the year ending September 2014, a decrease of 7% compared with the previous year. Figure 13 shows the trend over time for drug offences, where the number of drug offences steadily rose from 2004/05 until 2008/09 (peaking at 243,536 offences). They remained fairly consistent at around 230,000 each year until 2011/12, after which they began to fall. Despite recent decreases, the number of drug offences recorded in the year ending September 2014 remains 30% higher than the number recorded in 2003/04 (Table 19b).

The number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities and changes over time may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime rather than real changes in its incidence. The increases in the recording of drug offences between 2004/05 and 2008/09 coincide with the priority placed Public Service Agreement targets. For example, in the past decade the police have been granted powers to:

- issue warnings on the street (rather than at a police station) for possession of cannabis offences (April 2004); and
- issue penalty notices for disorder for possession of cannabis (January 2009).

In the year ending September 2014, possession of cannabis offences accounted for 66% of all police recorded drug offences; this proportion has remained broadly similar since 2005/06 (between 66% and 70%).

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) can also be used to investigate trends in drug use. Relevant figures from the survey are compiled and published in an annual report by the Home Office: '[Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2013 to 2014 Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)'. The general trends from the 2013/14 report show that overall illicit drug use in the last year among 16 to 59 year olds has increased in comparison to the previous year, but is back to the same level as in 2011/12. For further information from the CSEW on drug use see the '[Drug Misuse](#)' publication.

## Public order offences

Public order offences cover circumstances where an offender is behaving in a way that causes, or would be likely to cause, alarm, distress or disorder. If there is an identifiable victim against who physical violence is used (or attempted) then this will be recorded as a violent offence, though public order offences may include some offences where injury is threatened. The offences in this category include public fear, alarm or distress, which has been moved from the violence offence group. Affray is also included in this offence group, a person is guilty of affray if he/she uses or threatens unlawful violence towards another and his/her conduct is such as would cause a "person of reasonable firmness" present at the scene to fear for his/her personal safety.

The latest figures (143,768 offences) show a 10% increase in public order offences compared with the previous year (Table 19b). The majority of this category (59% in the year ending September 2014) was made up of public fear, alarm or distress offences, which showed an 8% increase compared with the previous year; a rise that is likely to reflect improvements in recording practices. Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress offences also increased (by 12%) in the year ending September 2014, and other offences against the State or public order have increased by 13% on the previous year. Public order offences rose from 2002/03 and peaked in 2006/07 (236,661 offences) and have since shown year on year decreases until this year ( [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). Like drug offences, the slight increase shown for this offence may reflect increased police activity and reporting, rather than increasing levels of criminality. Furthermore, as with violence crime, public order offences are more prone to changes in police recording practices.

## Possession of weapons offences

This offence category covers only weapons possession offences, where there is no direct victim. Any circumstances in which a weapon has been used against a victim would be covered by other relevant victim-based offences. Information regarding offences where firearms or knives and sharp instruments have been used can be found in the 'Offences involving firearms' and 'Offences involving knives and sharp instruments' sections of this release.

The police recorded 20,942 possession of weapon offences in the year ending September 2014, a 4% increase compared with the previous year (20,160, Table 19a and 19b). The number of possession of weapons offences rose from 2002/03 and peaked in 2004/05 (40,605 offences) and has since shown year on year decreases until 2013/14. The latest increase has been driven by a rise in the possession of knives and other sharp instruments (up 9%) and is consistent with a rise of 7% seen in assault with injury offences involving a knife or other sharp instrument (Table 9a).

## Miscellaneous crimes against society

'Miscellaneous crimes against society' comprises a variety of offences (see [Appendix table A4 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) for a full list). The largest volume offences include: handling stolen goods, threat to commit criminal damage and perverting the course of justice. This bulletin includes a new category of 'Wildlife crime', which was previously included in other notifiable offences, but since the [Crime Statistics, year ending June 2014](#) release has been separated into its own category. 'Wildlife crime' is a low volume offence, because the vast majority of wildlife offences are non-notifiable (that is, not recorded by the police) and dealt with at magistrates' courts by other agencies, such as the National Crime Agency and the Border Force.

The police recorded 48,102 offences in the year ending September 2014, an increase of 12% compared with the previous year (Table 19b). The number of miscellaneous crimes against society offences has shown year on year decreases since 2003/04 until the increase observed in 2013/14.

The latest increase is in part driven by a large rise in the number of obscene publications and protected sexual material offences, which has increased by 36% to 5,401 offences in the year ending September 2014 when compared with the previous year (3,972 offences). This is largely due to an increase in offences related to the making and distribution of indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs (including those of children) via the internet or through mobile technology. It is an offence for a person to take or distribute such indecent photographs. The police service is reporting that they are giving more attention to child sexual exploitation and this is likely to have led to more of these offences being identified.

There was also a rise in threats to commit criminal damage (which includes possession of articles with the intent to commit criminal damage, such as spray paint) which increased by 40% from 5,133 offences in the year ending September 2013 to 7,161 offences in the year ending September 2014 ([Appendix table A4](#)).

**Table 19a: Police recorded other crimes against society - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Other crimes against society	420,595	539,153	395,181	399,469
Drug offences	143,511	243,536	201,188	186,657
Trafficking of drugs	24,628	29,885	29,184	29,016
Possession of drugs	118,883	213,651	172,004	157,641
Possession of weapons offences	39,021	35,662	20,160	20,942
Public order offences	158,178	204,289	130,876	143,768
Miscellaneous crimes against society	79,885	55,666	42,957	48,102
Rate per 1,000 population				
Other crimes against society	8	10	7	7
Drug offences	3	4	4	3
Possession of weapons offences	1	1	0	0
Public order offences	3	4	2	3
Miscellaneous crimes against society	2	1	1	1

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

**Table 19b: Police recorded other crimes against society - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Other crimes against society	-5	-26	1
Drug offences	30	-23	-7
Trafficking of drugs	18	-3	-1
Possession of drugs	33	-26	-8
Possession of weapons offences	-46	-41	4
Public order offences	-9	-30	10
Miscellaneous crimes against society	-40	-14	12

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. For detailed footnotes and further years see Appendix table A4.

## 16 . Fraud

The extent of fraud is difficult to measure because it is a deceptive crime, often targeted at organisations rather than individuals. Some victims of fraud may be unaware they have been a victim of crime, or that any fraudulent activity has occurred. Others may be reluctant to report the offence to the authorities feeling embarrassed that they have fallen victim. Fraud is an offence not currently included in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) headline estimates and the level of fraud reported via administrative sources is thought to significantly understate the true level of such crime.

The [National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) identified fraud as one of the more important gaps in crime statistics and recommended that data from additional sources should be provided alongside existing available data in quarterly crime statistics publications. This section draws on a range of sources including police recorded crime, Action Fraud, the CSEW and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). No individual source provides a good measure of the overall extend of fraud offences, but together they help to provide a fuller picture. For more information on the different sources of fraud data, see Section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#).

### Recent changes to measuring police recorded fraud

There have been a number of changes to the presentation of fraud which were first introduced in the quarterly bulletin released in July 2013. Since that time, to reflect changes in operational arrangements for reporting and recording of fraud, data presented in the police recorded crime series include offences recorded by Action Fraud, a public facing national reporting centre that records incidents reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. Data from Action Fraud are collated by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), a government funded initiative run by the City of London police who lead national policing on fraud.

Since 1 April 2013, Action Fraud has taken responsibility for the central recording of fraud offences previously recorded by individual police forces<sup>1</sup>. To allow for piloting and development of the Action Fraud service this transfer had a phased introduction between April 2011 and March 2013. For example, by the end of December 2012, 24 police force areas had transferred responsibility with the remaining transferring by the end of March 2013<sup>2</sup>.

From 1 April 2014, all fraud figures included within overall police recorded crime have been sourced from Action Fraud<sup>3</sup>. However, the comparator year (year ending September 2013) encompasses a mixture of data collections with two quarters of the data collected by the police and Action Fraud and two quarters solely by Action Fraud. As the proportion of fraud offences recorded by individual forces has diminished (and that by Action Fraud has grown), it is not possible to make like for like comparisons between fraud offences recorded during the year ending September 2014 and those in previous years.

Although Action Fraud receives reports of fraud from victims across the UK, data presented in this bulletin cover fraud offences where the victim resides in England or Wales only, based on the victim's postcode. Currently, Action Fraud data are not included in sub-national tables.

Users of police force area level data should refer to Table 5c in the [User Guide](#) for details of when each local force transferred responsibility for recording to Action Fraud. This will allow users to interpret trends in fraud and total recorded crime over time. To provide users with a comparable time series at sub-national level our reference tables include a figure for all police recorded crime excluding fraud<sup>4</sup>.

## Total fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud

In the year ending September 2014, 212,699 fraud offences were recorded in England and Wales (Table 20a), equivalent to 4 offences recorded per 1,000 population. This represents a volume increase of 5% compared with the previous year (Table 20b). However, the move to centralised recording of fraud makes comparisons over time problematic. There are a number of factors that may have contributed to this increase including:

- the centralisation of recording fraud and a possible improvement in recording practices resulting from having a specialist team dealing with fraud
- a possible increased proportion of victims reporting fraud following publicity around the launch of Action Fraud
- availability of online reporting tools to facilitate reporting of fraud offences to Action Fraud
- a possible increase in the volume of fraud

It is not possible to separate out or quantify the scale of each possible factor. A clearer picture will emerge over the next one to two years once the new recording arrangements have matured. Quarterly analysis of fraud offences shows that during the transition to Action Fraud the level of recorded fraud showed steady increases ( [Table QT1 \(227.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) ). However, since the point by which all forces had transferred to Action Fraud (April 2013) levels have remained fairly steady (with the exception of one lower quarter – October to December 2013). It will only be in the year ending March 2015 (due to be published in July 2015) that all effects of the transition will no longer be a factor when considering the year on year changes.

[Appendix table A5 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) shows a more detailed breakdown of the fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud in the year ending September 2014, and indicates that the largest share of offences (43%) were accounted for by non-investment frauds (91,257 offences), almost half of which specifically relates to frauds involving online shopping and auctions (42,380 offences). There were only 14,941 offences involving cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts, which is likely to reflect the fact that many individuals who had experienced such crime will not report to Action Fraud if their financial services provider reimburses their losses. In contrast, reports from industry sources to NFIB show there were over 250,000 frauds involving cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts (Table 21). It is known that this significantly understates the level of such fraud as 'Card not present' fraud, for example use of the card online, over the phone or by mail order, is not included within such industry reports.

For more information on the types of offences within each of the Action Fraud categories see Section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#) and [Appendix table A5 \(515 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) .

**Table 20a: Fraud offences recorded by the police and Action Fraud - number and rate of offences [1,2]**

England and Wales

	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Apr-12 to Mar-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14
Fraud offences recorded by the police and Action Fraud 3,4,5,6	72,314	202,249	212,699
Fraud rate per 1,000 population	1	4	4

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office and Action Fraud, National Fraud Authority

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime and Action Fraud data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on all data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. The offences in this table therefore include those recorded by either the police or Action Fraud individually, or both, depending on the time period specified.
4. Due to the change in recording of fraud offences being taken over by Action Fraud, caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the User Guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
5. From 2012-13, forgery offences have been reclassified under miscellaneous crimes against society.
6. 'Making off without payment' was previously included in fraud. Since April 2013, it is included in all other theft offences.



**Table 20b: Fraud offences recorded by the police and Action Fraud - percentage change [1,2]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change	
	October 2013 to September 2014 compared with:	
	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13
Fraud offences recorded by the police and Action Fraud 3,4,5,6	194	5

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office and Action Fraud, National Fraud Authority

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime and Action Fraud data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Police recorded crime statistics based on all data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
3. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. The offences in this table therefore include those recorded by either the police or Action Fraud individually, or both, depending on the time period specified.
4. Due to the change in recording of fraud offences being taken over by Action Fraud, caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. See the User Guide for more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
5. From 2012-13, forgery offences have been reclassified under miscellaneous crimes against society.
6. 'Making off without payment' was previously included in fraud. Since April 2013, it is included in all other theft offences.

## Fraud offences reported by industry bodies

In line with recommendations from the National Statistician's review of crime statistics this bulletin draws on additional sources to provide further context. In addition to the fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud, which are included in the police recorded crime series shown above, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) also collect data on fraud direct from industry bodies (Table 21).

The NFIB currently receive data from two industry bodies:

- **CIFAS** is a UK-wide fraud prevention service representing around 300 organisations from the public and private sectors. These organisations mainly share data on confirmed cases of fraud, particularly application, identity and first party frauds, via the CIFAS National Fraud Database. Data supplied by CIFAS to the NFIB are recorded in line with the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) for recorded crime.
- **Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK)** is the name under which the financial services industry co-ordinates its activity on fraud prevention. FFA UK works in partnership with The UK Cards Association, and collates information from the card payments industry in the UK on fraud relating to cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts, via their central Fraud Intelligence Sharing System (FISS) database. The data supplied by FFA UK also conforms to HOCR, however FISS is an intelligence tool rather than a fraud reporting tool, and its main purpose is to share intelligence about the criminals or entities relating to fraud offences rather than count the number of victims of fraud.

Both sets of industry data relate only to those organisations that are part of the respective membership networks ([CIFAS](#), [UK Cards Association](#)), therefore coverage can also change as new members join or previous members withdraw. These data are subject to continuing development and ONS is giving consideration as to whether these can be designated as [Official Statistics](#) in the future.

In addition, users should also be aware that the NFIB data sourced from industry bodies cover the United Kingdom as a whole, while all other data in this bulletin refer to England and Wales.

In addition to the offences recorded by Action Fraud, the NFIB received 391,221 reports of fraud in the UK in the year ending September 2014 from industry bodies CIFAS and FFA UK (Table 21).

Of the fraud offences reported by those bodies, 80% were in the category of 'banking and credit industry fraud' (314,683). This category includes fraud involving plastic cards, cheques and online bank accounts which accounted for the majority of the offences recorded in the year ending September 2014. The category also covers payment-related frauds under the subcategory 'Application Fraud' which includes offences that occurred outside of the banking sector; for example, fraudulent applications made in relation to hire purchase agreements, as well as to insurance, telecommunications or retail companies, or public sector organisations.

Types of plastic card fraud recorded by the National Fraud Database include fraudulent applications for plastic cards (including ID fraud), fraudulent misuse of plastic card accounts, and takeover of plastic card accounts (for example changing the address and getting new cards issued). CIFAS do not currently collect data on 'card not present' fraud, where the cardholder and card are not present at the point of sale, for example, use of the card online, over the phone or by mail order. In addition they do not include data on fraud relating to lost or stolen cards and ATM fraud. This means that a high proportion of plastic card fraud is not included in the NFIB figures from industry bodies.

FFA UK data contain intelligence for Mail Not Received (MNR) fraud, Card ID fraud (includes Account Takeover and Application Fraud), Payment fraud (includes fraud relating to telephone banking and online banking), Cheque fraud (includes forged, altered and counterfeit) and Mule accounts (accounts used for laundering the proceeds of fraud). Like CIFAS, FFA UK do not currently feed through to the NFIB data on 'card not present' fraud, lost or stolen cards and ATM fraud<sup>5</sup>. This is thought to represent a significant volume of all plastic card fraud and thus the figures here understate the level of fraud known by industry bodies. However, information relating to plastic card fraud in terms of levels of financial fraud losses on UK cards is published annually by the [FFA UK](#) on behalf of the UK Cards Association<sup>6</sup>.

CIFAS and FFA UK provide separate feeds to NFIB via their individual databases, however a proportion of organisations are members of both industry bodies ([CIFAS](#), [UK Cards Association](#)).

It is possible that there may be some double or triple counting between both these sources and the offences recorded via direct reports from victims to Action Fraud. For example, if police are called to a bank and apprehend an offender for a fraud offence, the police may record this crime with Action Fraud and the bank report the same crime to CIFAS and/or FFA UK as part of their processes. Experts believe this duplication to be so small as to have an insignificant effect on crime trends, but there is no simple cross-referencing method within NFIB to detect the scale of it.

**Table 21: Fraud offences, reported by industry bodies to NFIB, year ending September 2014 [1,2,3]**

United Kingdom

Fraud Type <sup>3</sup>	Numbers		
	CIFAS	FFA UK	Total
Banking and credit industry fraud	191,177	123,506	314,683
Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP) <sup>4</sup>	127,680	123,506	251,186
Application Fraud (excluding Mortgages)	59,215	0	59,215
Mortgage Related Fraud	4,282	0	4,282
Insurance Related Fraud	8,583	0	8,583
Telecom Industry Fraud (Misuse of Contracts) <sup>5</sup>	67,781	0	67,781
Business Trading Fraud	134	0	134
Fraudulent Applications for Grants from Charities	40	0	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,715</b>	<b>123,506</b>	<b>391,221</b>

Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

Notes:

1. Fraud data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. From 2012/13, this table presents fraud data collated by NFIB from CIFAS and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK) only and does not include fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud, which are now represented alongside police recorded crime. Data presented here are therefore not comparable with past published NFIB figures.
3. For an explanation and examples of fraud offences within each category, see Section 5.4 of the User Guide.
4. A PSP is a payment service provider (for example Paypal, World Pay) that is not a bank, dealing in electronic money transfers. Fraud offences perpetrated using PSPs fall under 'Online shopping and auctions' (not collected by industry bodies).
5. The CIFAS Telecom Industry Fraud figure is substantially higher than that seen in the year ending September 2013 bulletin. This is due to a correction of an error that was caused by the NFIB system not correctly picking up certain CIFAS fraud types.
6. For more information on the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau see <http://www.nfib.police.uk/>.

## Measuring fraud using the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

As described above, fraud is not currently included in the headline CSEW crime estimates. However, the CSEW includes supplementary modules of questions on victimisation across a range of fraud and cyber-crime offences, including plastic card and bank/building society fraud. These are currently reported separately from the headline estimates.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is currently conducting some work exploring extending the main victimisation module in the CSEW to cover elements of fraud and cyber-crime. For more information, see the methodological note '[Work to extend the Crime Survey for England and Wales to include fraud and cyber crime](#)' and Section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#).

Once the new questions are added to the survey it will lead to an increase in the volume of crime measured by it. To give an indication of the scale of including such crimes in the future, a separate piece of analysis was conducted of existing questions from the 2012/13 CSEW. However, this was based on some simple assumptions given the current absence of data on key elements, such as the number of times respondents fell victim within the crime reference period. The analysis showed that together, plastic card fraud and bank and building society fraud could contribute between 3.6 and 3.8 million incidents of crime to the total number of CSEW crimes in that year.

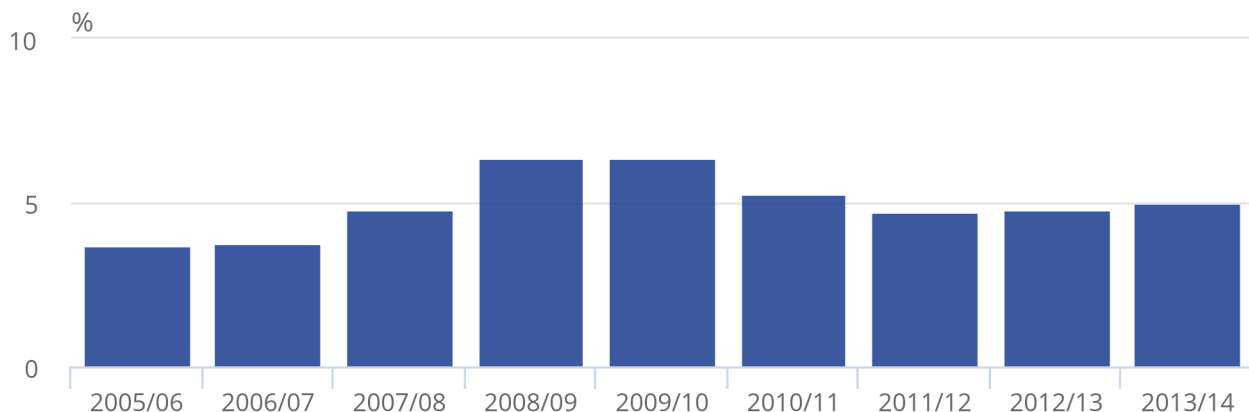
## Plastic card fraud

As mentioned, the CSEW main crime estimates does not include plastic card fraud. However, elements of banking and payment related fraud are the focus of a module of questions in the CSEW, which asks respondents about their experience of plastic card fraud and can be reported on separately.

The year ending September 2014 CSEW showed that 5.0% of plastic card owners were victims of card fraud in the last year, no change from the 4.8% estimated in the year ending September 2013. Before that, there had been small reductions in levels of plastic card fraud over the last few years, following a rise between 2005/06 and 2009/10 surveys (Figure 14). The current increased level of victimisation remains higher than more established offences such as theft from the person and other theft of personal property (1.0% and 1.6% respectively, Table 15). Further analysis, based on the 2011/12 CSEW, was published on 9 May 2013 as part of '[Focus on: Property Crime, 2011/12: Chapter 3 – Plastic card fraud](#)'.

**Figure 14: Proportion of CSEW plastic card users who had been a victim of plastic card fraud in the last year, 2005/06 to year ending September 2014**

Figure 14: Proportion of CSEW plastic card users who had been a victim of plastic card fraud in the last year, 2005/06 to year ending September 2014



Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Separate figures are available from Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK) who report on levels of financial fraud losses on UK cards. This totalled £450 million in 2013, a 16% increase compared with 2012 (£388m). Despite this increase, significant decreases in recent years prior to this mean that card fraud losses in 2013 were 26% lower than in 2008 (£610m) when losses were at their peak<sup>7</sup>.

The industry suggests that a combination of the use of fraud screening detection tools by retailers, banks and the cards industry, the introduction of chip and pin technology, enhanced user and industry awareness and improved prevention and detection initiatives have led to the previous decreases in plastic card fraud. More detailed information including a breakdown of plastic card fraud by type in the UK and abroad, is available from the [UK Cards Association](#).

## Notes for fraud

1. Police forces continue to record forgery offences, which fall under 'Other crimes against society' and are not included under 'Fraud offences'. See Section 5.4 of the [User Guide](#) for more information.
2. For more information regarding the date when each police force transferred responsibility to Action Fraud see Section 5.4: Fraud of the [User Guide](#).
3. The completion of the transition to Action Fraud happened by the end of 2012/13. However, a small number of fraud offences were mistakenly recorded by police forces in early 2013/14. These were corrected in subsequent quarters, leading to the negative number of fraud offences seen in the latest year to June 2014.
4. Changes to the way in which police record crimes of fraud following the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 mean that fraud figures from 2007/08 onwards are not directly comparable with figures for earlier years.
5. These frauds are reported separately to FFA UK via a fraud reporting mechanism which does not feed through to NFIB, and so do not appear in the figures we publish.
6. Fraud losses on UK-issued cards between 2003 and 2013 are reported in the '[Fraud The Facts 2014](#)' publication.

## 17 . Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15

Since January 2009, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has asked children aged 10 to 15 resident in households in England and Wales about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months. Question changes during development of the questionnaire in the first three years of the survey should be considered when interpreting the figures. While data presented since the 2011/12 survey year should be comparable, it is difficult to discern a trend as the total number of incidents has shown small fluctuations across the available time series. For this reason no percentage change or statistical significance is presented for any year. Methodological differences also mean that direct comparisons cannot be made between the adult and child data ([Millard and Flatley](#)).

### Overall level of crime

Based on CSEW interviews in the year ending September 2014, there were an estimated 721,000 crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 using the preferred measure<sup>1</sup>; of these 52% were categorised as violent crimes<sup>2</sup> (375,000) while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property (304,000; 42%) (Tables 22 to 24). Incidents of criminal damage to personal property experienced by children aged 10 to 15 were less common (42,000; 6% of all crimes experienced by this age group).

An estimated 11% of children aged 10 to 15 were victims of crimes covered by the CSEW in the past year. Of these, this includes 6% who have been a victim of a violent crime and 6% who had been a victim of personal theft. While there were more violent incidents than theft offences, violent incidents affected a similar proportion of 10 to 15 year olds as seen for theft offences. This is because they were more likely to have been repeated against the same victim.

**Table 22: CSEW offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Preferred measure [1,2]**

England and Wales

	Children aged 10 to 15				
	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 <sup>3</sup>	Apr-13 to Mar-14 <sup>3</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>3</sup>
					Thousands
Number of incidents	918	1,066	817	810	721
					%
Percentage who were victims once or more	11.6	15.1	12.2	12.1	11.0
Unweighted base	3,849	3,930	2,879	2,933	2,578

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Some estimates are based on a small number of children, hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6, UG7 and UG8 for the margin of error around the estimates.
2. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children.
3. Base sizes for data from year ending March 2012 onwards are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced.

## Violent offences

The CSEW estimates that there were 375,000 violent offences against children aged 10 to 15 in the year ending September 2014 with just over two thirds (69%) of these resulting in injury to the victim. This equates to 6% of children aged 10 to 15 having had experienced violent crime in the last year; and 4% having had experienced violence with injury (Table 23). One per cent of children aged 10 to 15 were victims of robbery in the last year.

**Table 23: CSEW violent offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Preferred measure [1,2]**

England and Wales

	Children aged 10 to 15				
	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 <sup>3</sup>	Apr-13 to Mar-14 <sup>3</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>3</sup>
	Number of incidents (thousands)				
Violence	602	591	479	445	375
Wounding	90	58	92	64	44
Assault with minor injury	337	307	212	218	199
Assault without injury	118	139	107	110	82
Robbery	58	87	68	53	50
Violence with injury <sup>4</sup>	461	403	339	300	260
Violence without injury <sup>4</sup>	141	188	140	145	116
	Percentage who were victims once or more				
Violence	6.8	7.7	6.1	6.5	5.6
Wounding	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9
Assault with minor injury	3.7	3.6	2.9	3.3	2.9
Assault without injury	1.7	2.2	1.4	1.7	1.4
Robbery	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.9
Violence with injury <sup>4</sup>	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.5	3.9
Violence without injury <sup>4</sup>	2.1	3.1	2.1	2.2	2.0
Unweighted base	3,849	3,930	2,879	2,933	2,578

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Some estimates are based on a small number of children, hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6, UG7 and UG8 for the margin of error around the estimates.
2. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children.
3. Base sizes for data from year ending March 2012 onwards are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced.
4. 'Violence with injury' includes wounding, assault with minor injury and robbery where injury was sustained. 'Violence without injury' includes assault without injury and robbery where no injury was sustained.

## Property offences

There were an estimated 304,000 incidents of theft and 42,000 incidents of damage of personal property experienced by children aged 10 to 15 in the year ending September 2014 according to the CSEW. Around 64% of the thefts were classified as other theft of personal property (194,000 incidents) which includes thefts of property left unattended.

Six per cent of children aged 10 to 15 had experienced an incident of personal theft in the last year, with other theft of personal property most commonly experienced (4%). Theft from the person (for example, pick-pocketing) was not as common, with 1% of children reporting being victimised. One per cent of children had experienced criminal damage to personal property.



**Table 24: CSEW property offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15 - Preferred measure [1,2]**

England and Wales

	Children aged 10 to 15				
	Apr-10 to Mar-11	Apr-11 to Mar-12	Apr-12 to Mar-13 <sup>3</sup>	Apr-13 to Mar-14 <sup>3</sup>	Oct-13 to Sep-14 <sup>3</sup>
	Number of incidents (thousands)				
Personal theft	288	435	304	322	304
Theft from the person	35	55	42	49	60
Snatch theft	19	27	12	35	33
Stealth theft	16	28	30	13	28
Other theft of personal property	171	263	208	225	194
Theft from the dwelling/outside the dwelling <sup>4</sup>	25	40	22	18	26
Bicycle theft <sup>4</sup>	58	77	32	30	24
Criminal damage to personal property <sup>4</sup>	28	40	34	43	42
	Percentage who were victims once or more				
Personal theft	5.4	8.1	6.5	6.2	5.8
Theft from the person	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.9
Snatch theft	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5
Stealth theft	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.5
Other theft of personal property	3.1	4.9	4.4	4.4	3.9
Theft from the dwelling/outside the dwelling <sup>4</sup>	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5
Bicycle theft <sup>4</sup>	1.2	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.5
Criminal damage to personal property <sup>4</sup>	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Unweighted base	3,849	3,930	2,879	2,933	2,578

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Some estimates are based on a small number of children, hence caution should be applied; see User Guide tables UG6, UG7 and UG8 for the margin of error around the estimates.
2. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children.
3. Base sizes for data from year ending March 2012 onwards are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced.
4. These offences are designated as 'household' offences for adults on the CSEW (respondents reply on behalf of the household) but are presented here as 'personal' offences when the property stolen or damaged solely belonged to the child respondent. This broadens the scope of personal victimisation but may also result in double-counting of offences on the adult survey; the extent to which this happens will be evaluated in the future.

**Notes for crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15**

1. More information about the preferred and broad measures of crime against children can be found in the [User Guide](#). Tables for the broad measure of crime are available in the bulletin table spreadsheet, Tables 22-24
2. The survey of children aged 10 to 15 only covers personal level crime (so excludes household level crime); the majority (75%) of violent crimes experienced in the year ending September 2014 resulted in minor or no injury, so in most cases the violence is low level

## 18 . Anti-social behaviour

### Incidents recorded by the police

Figures recorded by the police relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) can be considered alongside police recorded (notifiable) crime to provide a more comprehensive view of the crime and disorder that comes to the attention of the police. Any incident of ASB which results in a notifiable offence will be included in police recorded crime figures and as such the two sets of data do not overlap.

The police record ASB incidents in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR); for further details, see Section 5.7 of the [User Guide](#). These figures are not currently accredited National Statistics. In particular, a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary ([HMIC in 2012](#)) found significant variation in the recording of ASB incidents across police forces. It is also known that occasionally police forces may be duplicating some occurrences of a singular ASB incident where multiple reports by different callers have been made.

Following the HMIC review in 2012, it was additionally found that there was a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of ASB<sup>1</sup>. HMIC found instances of:

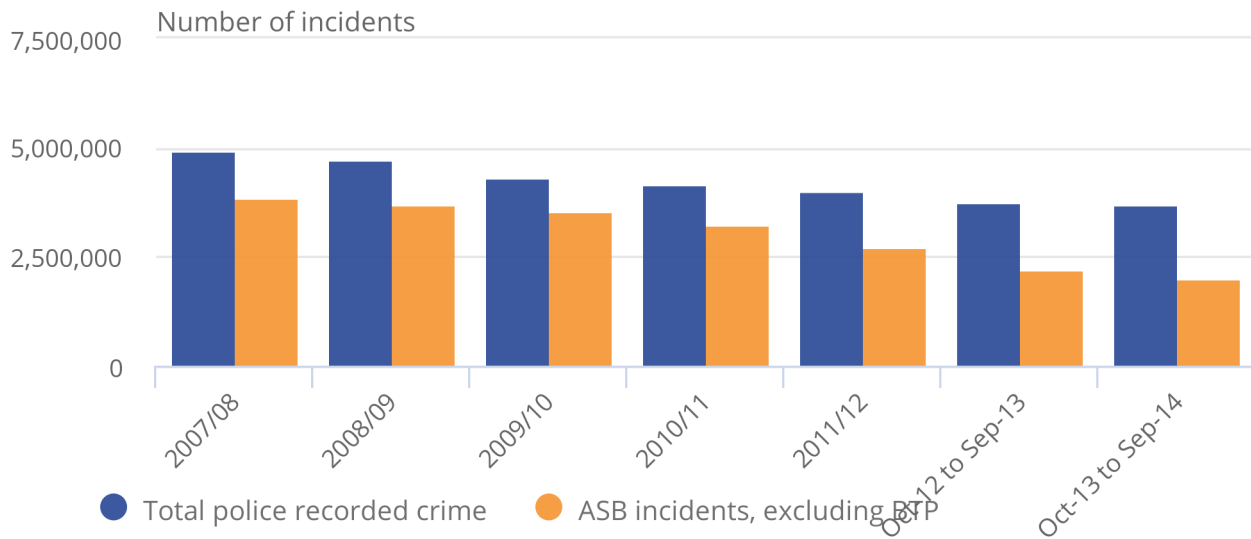
- forces failing to identify crimes, instead wrongly recording them as ASB;
- reported ASB not being recorded on force systems, for instance if the victim had reported it directly to the neighbourhood team or via email (as opposed to by telephone);
- reported ASB being recorded as something else, such as suspicious behaviour; and
- incidents that were not ASB being recorded as ASB.

Furthermore, data on ASB incidents before and after 2011/12 are not directly comparable, owing to a change in the classification used for ASB incidents. From April 2012, ASB incidents also include data from the British Transport Police so direct comparisons can only be made from 2012/13 onwards. The police recorded 2.0 million incidents of ASB in the year ending September 2014. This compares to the 3.7 million notifiable crimes recorded by the police over the same period (Figure 15). The number of ASB incidents recorded by the police and the British Transport Police in the year ending September 2014 decreased by 10% compared with the previous year.

Figures for the period 2007/08 to 2011/12 also show declines in the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police consistent with recent trends in total police recorded crime.

**Figure 15: Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents, 2007/08 to year ending September 2014**

Figure 15: Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents, 2007/08 to year ending September 2014



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office / ASB incidents: 2007/08 - 2009/10 - National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA); 2010/11 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC); 2011/12 onwards - Home Office

**Notes:**

1. Police recorded crime and ASB incident data are not designated as National Statistics
2. Following a different approach to recording ASB incidents data, figures from 2011/12 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years; see Chapter 5 of the User Guide for more information
3. Figures include British Transport Police (BTP); figures are not available prior to April 2012

From 2011/12, a new set of three simplified categories for ASB was introduced (for further details, see Chapter 5 of the [User Guide](#)):

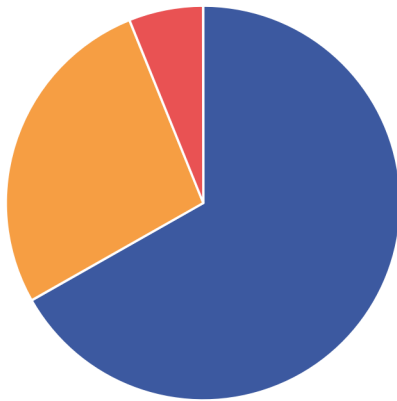
- 'Nuisance' – captures incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, irritation, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims;
- 'Personal' – captures incidents that are perceived as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group, or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large; and
- 'Environmental' – captures incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings, including natural, built and social environments.

All forces adopted these new definitions, though in the [HMIC report](#) it was found that 35% of all incidents reviewed were incorrectly categorised; this should be taken into account when considering ASB incident figures.

In the year ending September 2014, 67% of the ASB incidents categorised by the police were identified as 'Nuisance'; 27% as 'Personal'; and 6% as 'Environmental' (Figure 16). This distribution may reflect propensity of reporting rather than the actual distribution of ASB by type.

**Figure 16: Categories of anti-social behaviour incidents, year ending September 2014**

Figure 16: Categories of anti-social behaviour incidents, year ending September 2014



**Source: Police recorded incidents, Home Office**

**Notes:**

1. ASB incident data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Figures include British Transport Police.

## **CSEW measures of anti-social behaviour**

Questions about respondents' actual experiences of ASB in their local area were added to the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to expand on existing questions about perceived ASB. These questions asked whether the respondent had personally experienced or witnessed ASB in their local area and, if so, what types.

Twenty-eight per cent of adults in the year ending September 2014 indicated that they had personally experienced or witnessed at least one of the ASB problems asked about in their local area in the previous year (Table 25), which has not changed from the previous year. This included 10% of adults who experienced or witnessed drink related anti-social behaviour and 8% who witnessed or experienced groups hanging around on the streets.

**Table 25: CSEW experiences of anti-social behaviour, years ending September 2013 and September 2014**

England and Wales

	Adults aged 16 and over		
	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14	Statistically significant change, Oct-12 to Sep-13 to Oct-13 to Sep-14
	Percentages		
Personally experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in local area	28.3	28.0	
Types of anti-social behaviour experienced /witnessed <sup>2</sup>			
Drink related behaviour	9.7	9.6	
Groups hanging around on the streets	9.4	8.4	*
Inconsiderate behaviour <sup>3</sup>	5.6	5.4	
Loud music or other noise	5.1	5.1	
Litter, rubbish or dog-fouling	4.1	4.2	
Vandalism, criminal damage or graffiti	3.8	3.8	
People being intimidated, verbally abused or harassed	3.4	3.2	
People using or dealing drugs	2.9	3.3	*
Vehicle related behaviour <sup>4</sup>	3.1	3.4	
Nuisance neighbours	2.8	2.7	
Begging, vagrancy or homeless people	0.9	0.9	
Out of control or dangerous dogs	0.6	0.7	
People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public	0.2	0.2	
Other anti-social behaviour	2.0	1.7	
Unweighted base	35,807	33,535	

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Respondents can experience more than one type of anti-social behaviour, so percentages will not sum to the total that experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area.

2. Includes repeated/inappropriate use of fireworks; youths kicking/throwing balls in inappropriate areas; cycling /skateboarding in pedestrian areas or obstructing pavements; people throwing stones/bottles/eggs, etc.

3. Includes inconvenient/illegal parking; abandoned vehicles; speeding cars/motorcycles; car revving; joyriding, etc.

The CSEW also contains a separate set of questions asking respondents about perceptions of problems with different types of ASB in their local area. Seven of these questions are used to provide an overall index of perceived ASB. In the year ending September 2014 CSEW, 11% of adults perceived there to be a high level of ASB in their local area, a decrease of one percentage point since the previous year (Table 26).

Since 2003/04 the CSEW has consistently estimated that around a quarter of adults perceive a problem in their local area with 'People using or dealing drugs' and almost a third believe 'Rubbish or litter lying around' as a problem in the local area. Other anti-social behaviour indicators have tended to show declines over this time period, with the most pronounced decline for the 'Abandoned or burnt-out cars' category, which peaked at 24% in 2002/03 and has subsequently fallen each year down to 2% in the year ending September 2014.

**Table 26: CSEW trends in the anti-social behaviour indicators, 1996 to year ending September 2014 [1]**

England and Wales

						Adults aged 16 and over
	Jan-96 to Dec-96	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Oct-12 to Sep-13	Oct-13 to Sep-14	Statistically significant change, to Oct-12 to Sep-13 to Oct-13 to Sep-14
						Percentages
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour <sup>2</sup>	:	16.3	16.5	12.4	11.0	*
Percentage saying there is a very/fairly big problem in their area						
Rubbish or litter lying around	26.0	29.0	30.3	28.1	28.6	*
People using or dealing drugs	20.9	25.1	27.5	25.7	23.7	*
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	23.5	27.2	30.2	20.5	18.3	*
People being drunk or rowdy in public places <sup>2</sup>	:	19.1	26.2	20.1	18.3	*
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	24.3	28.1	26.8	17.0	16.0	
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	7.7	8.8	10.4	10.7	11.0	
Abandoned or burnt-out cars <sup>2</sup>	:	15.2	5.8	2.6	2.4	
Unweighted base <sup>3,4</sup>	7,625	36,116	44,010	8,589	8,338	

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. For further years data see Annual trend and demographic table D9.
2. The question on abandoned or burn-out cars was introduced in 2000 and the question on people being drunk or rowdy in public places was introduced in 2001.
3. Unweighted bases refer to the question relating to people using or dealing drugs. Other bases will be similar.
4. From April 2011 the number of respondents asked questions about their perceptions of problems in the local area was reduced (from a full sample) to a half sample and from April 2012 was reduced to a quarter sample.

It is difficult to directly compare the two CSEW measures (perceptions of and experiences of ASB) since the list of ASB categories used in the experience-based questions is more expansive than those asked of respondents in relation to their perceptions. In addition, they are measuring different things; actual experiences and perceptions. It is likely someone can experience an ASB incident without necessarily believing that it is part of a problem in their local area, if for example, it was a one-off or isolated occurrence. The frequency or number of incidents experienced coupled with the perceived extent and seriousness of a problem will also vary from person to person.

More detailed analysis on ASB as measured by the CSEW has been published in the '[Short Story on Anti-Social Behaviour, 2011/12](#)' release.

## Notes for Anti-social behaviour

1. See the HMIC report: '[A step in the right direction: The policing of anti-social behaviour](#)' for further details.

## 19 . Other non-notifiable crimes

The police recorded crime series is restricted to offences which are, or can be, tried at a Crown Court and a few additional closely related summary offences<sup>1</sup>. A range of non-notifiable offences may be dealt with by the police issuing an out of court disposal or by prosecution at a magistrates' court. Offences dealt with at magistrates courts may also include some offences that have been identified by other agencies – for example, prosecutions by TV Licensing or by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for vehicle registration offences.

Data on these offences provide counts of offences where action has been brought against an offender and guilt has either been ascertained in court, or the offender has admitted culpability through acceptance of a penalty notice. These offences generally only come to light through the relevant authorities actively looking to identify offending behaviour. These figures help fill a gap in the coverage of the main Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime statistics.

The most recent data available on non-notifiable crimes are for the year ending June 2014. Key findings include the following:

- Cases brought to magistrates' courts in the year ending June 2014 resulted in close to 1.0 million convicted non-notifiable offences, down 5% from the year ending June 2013 and continuing the downward trend since 2002/03 (Tables 27a and 27b)<sup>2</sup>; and
- 31,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder were issued for non-notifiable offences in the year ending June 2014 (Table 27a); around four in five of these were for being drunk and disorderly<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 27a: Non-notifiable crimes dealt with by the courts/Penalty Notices for Disorder - number and rate**

England and Wales

	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Jul-12 to Jun-13	Jul-13 to Jun-14
Non-notifiable convictions (thousands) <sup>1</sup>	1,840	1,223	1,007	957
Incidence rate (per 1,000 population) <sup>2,3</sup>	35	22	18	17
Non-notifiable Penalty Notices for Disorder (thousands) <sup>4,5,6</sup>	:	59	38	31
Incidence rate (per 1,000 population) <sup>2,3</sup>	:	1	1	1

Source: Ministry of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to June 2014 (Tables 2.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Notes:

1. Figures for non-notifiable convictions apply to offenders aged 10 and over.
2. The year to June 2014 incidence rate is calculated using ONS mid-2012 census based population estimates. Other figures are also calculated using mid-year population estimates from previous years.
3. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential offenders.
4. Penalty Notices for Disorder, both higher and lower tier offences, issued to offenders aged 16 and over.
5. Piloted in 2002 and introduced nationally in 2004.
6. Includes British Transport Police from 2011.

**Table 27b: Non-notifiable crimes dealt with by the courts/Penalty Notices for Disorder - percentage change**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	July 2013 to June 2014 compared with:		
	Apr-03 to Mar-04	Apr-08 to Mar-09	Jul-12 to Jun-13
Non-notifiable convictions <sup>1</sup>	-48	-22	-5
Incidence rate <sup>2,3</sup>	-52	-25	-6
Non-notifiable Penalty Notices for Disorder <sup>4,5,6</sup>	:	-47	-19
Incidence rate <sup>2,3</sup>	:	-50	-19

Source: Ministry of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to June 2014 (Tables 2.1, 6.2, 6.3)

Notes:

1. Figures for non-notifiable convictions apply to offenders aged 10 and over.
2. The year to June 2014 incidence rate is calculated using ONS mid-2012 census based population estimates. Other figures are also calculated using mid-year population estimates from previous years.
3. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential offenders.
4. Penalty Notices for Disorder, both higher and lower tier offences, issued to offenders aged 16 and over.
5. Piloted in 2002 and introduced nationally in 2004.
6. Includes British Transport Police from 2011.



The police and, increasingly, local authorities, have powers to issue penalty notices for a range of traffic offences; the police issued 1.3 million Fixed Penalty Notices (over half of which related to speeding) in 2012<sup>4</sup>.

## Notes for other non-notifiable crimes

1. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way offences (that is, offences which could be tried at a Crown Court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by a magistrates' court). For information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police, see Appendix 1 of the [User Guide](#)
2. The latest figures available from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) relate to all offences for the year ending June 2014 and thus lag the CSEW and police recorded series by three months but are included to give a fuller picture
3. Figures from the MoJ's [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to June 2014](#) (Tables 2.1, 6.2, 6.3)
4. Figures from the [Home Office's Police Powers and Procedures 2012/13](#) publication

## 20 . Commercial Victimisation Survey

In order to address the significant gap in crime statistics that existed for crimes against businesses, the [National Statistician's review of crime statistics](#) (National Statistician, 2011), recommended the Home Office continue to implement its plans for a telephone survey of businesses.

The 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) provided information on the volume and type of crime committed against businesses in England and Wales across four sectors: 'Manufacturing'; 'Wholesale and retail'; 'Transportation and storage'; and 'Accommodation and food'. For more information, see the Home Office's '[Headline findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#)' and '[Detailed findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#)'.

The 2013 CVS covered a slightly different set of business sectors; it continued to include the 'Accommodation and food', and 'Wholesale and retail' sectors, but the 'Manufacturing' and 'Transportation and storage' sectors were replaced by the 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' and the 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' sectors. For more information, see the Home Office's '[Headline findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#)' and '[Detailed findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#)'.

The CVS is annual, not continuous. Headline figures for the number of crimes against businesses are included in this bulletin.

In the 2013 CVS there were an estimated total of 5,915,000 crimes experienced by business premises in the wholesale and retail sector, 23% lower than the estimated total of 7,708,000 crimes experienced by business premises in the wholesale and retail sector in the 2012 CVS, although this decrease was not statistically significant.

In the 2013 CVS there were an estimated total of 575,000 crimes experienced by business premises in the accommodation and food sector, down 42% from the estimated total of 985,000 crimes experienced by business premises in the accommodation and food sector in the 2012 CVS.

Victimisation was most prominent in 'Wholesale and retail' premises (53% of premises experienced crime in the 2012 CVS and 45% in the 2013 CVS) and least prominent in 'Manufacturing' (2012 CVS) and 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' (2013 CVS) premises (30% of both types of premises had experienced crime in the year prior to interview).

**Table 28: Crime experienced by businesses, by industry sector, 2012 and 2013 CVS**

England and Wales

	All CVS crime <sup>1</sup> (numbers of incidents, 000s)	All CVS crime (rate per 1,000 premises)	All CVS crime (% of premises that experienced crime)
2012			
Wholesale and retail	7,708	19,701	53
Accommodation and food	985	7,361	43
Transportation and storage	324	5,824	40
Manufacturing	164	1,500	30
2013			
Wholesale and retail	5,915	17,261	45
Accommodation and food	575	4,565	42
Arts, entertainment and recreation	196	4,660	45
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	133	1,475	30

Source: 2012 and 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey, Home Office

Notes:

1. Data may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

## 21 . Data sources – coverage and coherence

### Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a face-to-face survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to the interview. It covers both children aged 10-15 and adults aged 16 and over, but does not cover those living in group residences (such as care homes, student halls of residence and prisons), or crimes against commercial or public sector bodies. Respondents are interviewed in their own homes by trained interviewers using a structured questionnaire that is administered on a laptop computer using specialist survey software. The questions asked do not use technical terms or legal definitions but are phrased in plain English language.

The information collected during the interview is then reviewed later by a team of specialist coders employed by the survey contractors (currently TNS-BMRB) who determine whether or not what was reported amounts to a crime in law and, if so, what offence has been experienced. This 'offence coding' aims to reflect the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime which govern how the police record offences reported to them. The CSEW is able to capture all offences experienced by those interviewed, not just those that have been reported to, and recorded by, the police. It covers a broad range of victim-based crimes experienced by the resident household population. However, there are some serious but relatively low volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, that are not included in its main estimates. The survey also currently excludes fraud and cyber crime though there is ongoing development work to address this gap – see the methodological note '[Work to extend the Crime Survey for England and Wales to include fraud and cyber crime](#)'. This [infographic](#) sets out what is and is not covered by the CSEW.

Since it began, the CSEW has been conducted by an independent (from government or the police) survey research organisation using trained interviewers to collect data from sampled respondents. The interviewers have no vested interest in the results of the survey. For the crime types and population groups it covers, the CSEW has a consistent methodology and is unaffected by changes in levels of public reporting to the police, recording practice or police activity. As such, the survey is widely seen to operate as an independent reality-check of the police figures. The independence of the survey has been further strengthened by the transfer of responsibility from the Home Office to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in April 2012.

The CSEW has a higher number of reported volumes than police recorded crime as the survey is able to capture all offences by those interviewed, not just those that have been reported to the police and then recorded. However, it does cover a narrower range of offences than the recorded crime collection.

The CSEW has necessary exclusions from its main count of crime (for example, homicide, crimes against businesses and other organisations, and drug possession). The survey also excludes sexual offences from its main crime count given the sensitivities around reporting this in the context of a face-to-face interview. However, at the end of the main interview there is a self-completion element (also via a computer) where adults aged 16 to 59 are asked about their experience of domestic and sexual violence and these results are reported separately <sup>1</sup>.

Since the survey started in 1982 (covering crime experienced in 1981) a core module of victimisation questions has asked about a range of offences experienced either by the household (such as burglary) or by the individual respondent (such as robbery). The offences covered by this core module have remained unchanged since the survey started.

The offence of fraud, whether committed in traditional or newer ways (such as over the internet), is not part of this core module. Other offences which are committed via cyberspace (such as harassment) are also not covered by the existing questions. However, supplementary modules of questions are included in the survey in an attempt to better understand the nature of these newer types of crime. In addition, methodological work is ongoing to explore the feasibility of adding questions to the core module to cover newer types of crime <sup>2</sup>.

The survey is based on a sample of the population, and therefore estimates have a margin of quantifiable (and non quantifiable) error associated with them. The latter includes: when respondents have recalled crimes in the reference period that actually occurred outside that period ('telescoping'); and crimes that did occur in the reference period that were not mentioned at all (either because respondents failed to recall a fairly trivial incident or, conversely, because they did not want to disclose an incident, such as a domestic assault). Some may have said they reported a crime to the police when they did not (a 'socially desirable' response); and, some incidents reported during the interview could be miscoded ('interviewer/coder error').

In 2009, the CSEW was extended to cover children aged 10 to 15, and this release also incorporates results from this element of the survey. The main analysis and commentary however is restricted to adults and households due to the long time series for which comparable data are available.

The CSEW has a nationally representative sample of around 35,000 adults and 3,000 children (aged 10 to 15 years) per year. The response rates for the survey in 2013/14 were 75% and 68% respectively. The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and to ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. For more details of the methodology see the [CSEW technical report](#).

## Police recorded crime and other sources of crime statistics

Police recorded crime figures are supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police, via the Home Office, to ONS. The coverage of police recorded crime is defined by the Notifiable Offence List<sup>3</sup>, which includes a broad range of offences, from murder to minor criminal damage, theft and public order offences. However, there are some, mainly less serious offences, that are excluded from the recorded crime collection. These 'non-notifiable' crimes include many incidents that might generally be considered to be anti-social behaviour but that may also be crimes in law (including by-laws) such as littering, begging and drunkenness. Other non-notifiable offences include driving under the influence of alcohol, parking offences and TV licence evasion. These offences are not covered in either of the main two series and are separately reported on in this release to provide additional context.

Police recorded crime is the primary source of sub-national crime statistics and for relatively serious, but low volume, crimes that are not well measured by a sample survey. It covers victims (including, for example, residents of institutions and tourists as well as the resident population) and sectors (for example commercial bodies) excluded from the CSEW sample. Recorded crime has a wider coverage of offences, for example covering homicide, sexual offences, and crimes without a specific, identifiable victim (referred to as 'Other crimes against society') not included in the main CSEW crime count. Police recorded crime also provides good measures of well-reported crimes but does not cover any crimes that are not reported to or discovered by the police. It is also affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. Like any administrative data, police recorded crime will be affected by the rules governing the recording of data, by the systems in place, and by operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources.

As well as the main police recorded crime series, there are additional collections providing detail on offences involving the use of knives and firearms, which are too low in volume to be measured reliably by the CSEW.

This quarterly statistical bulletin also draws on data from other sources to provide a more comprehensive picture. These include incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police (which fall outside the coverage of notifiable offences), non-notifiable crimes dealt with by the courts (again outside the coverage of recorded crime or the CSEW), crime reports from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and the results of the 2012 and 2013 Commercial Victimization Surveys (based on a nationally representative sample of business premises in four industrial sectors in each of the two years).

More details of these sources can be found in the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#). Information on UK and international comparisons can be found in the International and UK comparisons section.

# Strengths and limitations of the CSEW and police recorded crime

## Strengths and limitations of the CSEW and police recorded crime

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### Crime Survey for England and Wales

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**Strengths** Large nationally representative sample survey which provides a good measure of long-term trends for the crime types and the population it covers (that is, those resident in households)

Consistent methodology over time

Covers crimes not reported to the police and is not affected by changes in police recording practice; is therefore a better measure of long term trends

Coverage of survey extended in 2009 to include children aged 10 to 15 resident in households

Independent collection of crime figures

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**Limitations** Survey is subject to error associated with sampling and respondents recalling past events

Excludes crimes against businesses and those not resident in households (e.g. residents of institutions and visitors)

Headline estimates exclude offences that are difficult to estimate robustly (such as sexual offences) or that have no victim who can be interviewed (e.g. homicides, and drug offences)

Excludes fraud and cyber crime

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### Police recorded crime

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**Strengths** Has wider offence coverage and population coverage than the CSEW

Good measure of offences that are well-reported to the police

Is the primary source of local crime statistics and for lower-volume crimes (e.g. homicide)

Provides whole counts (rather than estimates that are subject to sampling variation)

Time lag between occurrence of crime and reporting results tends to be short, providing an indication of emerging trends

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**Limitations** Excludes offences that are not reported to, or not recorded by, the police and does not include less serious offences dealt with by magistrates' courts (e.g. motoring offences)

Trends can be influenced by changes in recording practices or police activity

Not possible to make long-term comparisons due to fundamental changes in recording practice introduced in 1998 and 2002/03<sup>4</sup>

There are concerns about the quality of recording – crimes may not be recorded consistently across police forces and so the true level of recorded crime may be understated

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## Notes for data sources – coverage and coherence

1. For more detailed information, see '[Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)'.
2. For more information, see '[Discussion paper on the coverage of crime statistics](#)'
3. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way offences (offences which could be tried at a crown court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by magistrates' courts). For information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police, see Appendix 1 of the [User Guide](#).
4. See Section 3.3 of the User Guide.

## 22 . Accuracy of the statistics

Being based on a sample survey, Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates are subject to a margin of error. Unless stated otherwise, all changes in CSEW estimates described in the main text are statistically significant at the 5% level. Since the CSEW estimates are based upon a sample survey, it is good practice to publish confidence intervals alongside them; these provide a measure of the reliability of the estimates. Details of where these are published, including further information on statistical significance can be found in Chapter 8 of the [User Guide](#).

Police recorded crime figures are a by-product of a live administrative system which is continually being updated as incidents are logged as crimes and subsequently investigated. Some incidents initially recorded as crime may on further investigation be found not to be a crime (described as being 'no crimed'). Other justifications for a previously recorded crime being 'no crimed' include, among others, an incident being recorded in error, or transferred to another force. Some offences may change category, for example from theft to robbery (for further details of the process involved from recording a crime to production of statistics see Section 3.2 of the [User Guide](#) ). The police return provisional figures to the Home Office on a monthly basis and each month they may supply revised totals for months that have previously been supplied. The Home Office Statistics Unit undertake a series of validation checks on receipt of the data and query outliers with forces who may then re-submit data. Details of these validation checks are given in Section 3.3 of the [User Guide](#) and the differences in data published between the current and preceding publications can be found in [Table QT1a \(227.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) .

Police recording practice is governed by the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). The HOCR have existed in one form or another since the 1920s with some substantial changes in 1998.

The NCRS was introduced in April 2002 following a critical report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2000 (Povey, 2000) which showed there was a problem with differing interpretation of the HOCR that resulted in inconsistent recording practices across forces.

The Audit Commission carried out regular independent audits of police data quality between 2003/04 and 2006 /07. In their final assessment published in September 2007 ( [Audit Commission](#), 2007) they commented that "The police have continued to make significant improvements in crime recording performance and now have better quality crime data than ever before".

However, both the UK Statistics Authority (2010) and the National Statistician ( [2011](#)) have highlighted concerns about the absence of such periodic audits. A HMIC quality review in 2009 into the way in which police forces record most serious violence (which at the time was part of a central Government target) found some variation in recording which they partly attributed to the lack of independent monitoring of crime records. In line with a recommendation by the National Statistician, HMIC carried out a review of police crime and incident reports in all forces in England and Wales during 2011 ( [HMIC, 2012](#)) and a full national inspection of crime data integrity was undertaken during 2014 ( [HMIC, 2014](#)).

Analysis published by ONS in [January 2013 \(175.4 Kb Pdf\)](#) used a 'comparable' sub-set of offences covered by both the CSEW and police recorded crime in order to compare the relationship between the two series. This analysis showed that between 2002/03 and 2006/07 the reduction in the volume of crime measured by the two series was similar, but between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the gap between the two series widened with the police recorded crime series showing a faster rate of reduction. One possible explanation for this is a gradual erosion of compliance with the NCRS, such that a growing number of crimes reported to the police are not being captured in crime recording systems. For more details see the '[Analysis of Variation in Crime trends](#)' methodological note.

Statistics based on police recorded crime data do not currently meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics.

Additionally, as part of the [inquiry by the Public Administration Select Committee \(PASC\)](#) into crime statistics allegations of under-recording of crime by the police have been made. In the PASC inquiry referenced above the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Tom Winsor, outlined how HMIC would be undertaking an inspection of the integrity of police recorded crime during 2014. Findings from the inspections of crime recording processes and practices have helped provide further information on the level of compliance across England and Wales.

HMIC's inspection methodology involved audits of a sample of reports of crime received either through incidents reported by the public, crimes directly reported to a police crime bureau, and those reports referred by other agencies directly to specialist departments within a force. HMIC's aim was to check whether correct crime recording decisions were made in each case. Inspections were carried out between December 2013 and August 14; a total of 10,267 reports of crime recorded between November 2012 and October 2013 across all 43 police forces in England and Wales were reviewed.

The final report on findings from the HMIC inspections, '[Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)', was published on 18 November 2014 and separate [crime data integrity force reports](#) for each of the 43 police forces in England and Wales were published on 27 November 2014.

Based on an audit of a large sample of records, HMIC concluded that, across England and Wales as a whole, an estimated one in five offences (19%) that should have been recorded as crimes were not. The greatest levels of under-recording were seen for violence against the person offences (33%) and sexual offences (26%), however there was considerable variation in the level of under-recording across the different offence types investigated. For other crime types: an estimated 14% of criminal damage and arson offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not; 14% of robbery offences; 11% of burglary offences; and 17% of other offences (excluding fraud).

The [report](#) outlines several recommendations to strengthen recording practices in forces including improved training for those involved in crime recording, better auditing and tightening of recording processes. More detail can be found in the [User Guide](#).

Potential future increases in police recorded crime data are likely to be seen due to the implementation of the aforementioned HMIC recommendations rather than a genuine increase in the levels of crime, so trends should be interpreted with caution.

Further evidence suggesting that there has been a recent improvement in compliance with the NCRS can be seen from updated analysis comparing trends in the CSEW and police recorded crime (see section 4.2 of the [User Guide](#)). This shows that the gap between the two series is narrowing; suggesting that improvements to recording practices may be partly responsible for increases in recorded crime.

#### Interpreting data on police recorded crime

The renewed focus on the quality of crime recording means that caution is needed when interpreting statistics on police recorded crime. While we know that it is likely that improvements in compliance with the NCRS have led to increases in the number of crimes recorded by the police it is not possible to quantify the scale of this or assess how this effect varied between different police forces. While police recorded crime for England and Wales as a whole has remained at a similar level when compared with the previous year, some crime types have shown increases and 24 police forces have recorded overall increases in levels of crime.

Apparent increases in police force area data may reflect a number of factors including tightening of recording practice, increases in reporting by victims and also genuine increases in the levels of crime<sup>1</sup>.

It is thought that incidents of violence are more open to subjective judgements about recording and thus more prone to changes in police practice. A number of forces have also shown large increases in sexual offences which are likely to be due to the Yewtree effect, although improved compliance with recording standards for sexual offences may also have been a factor. In contrast, anecdotal evidence suggests that increases in shoplifting are more likely to represent a genuine rise in that type of offence. [Ministry of Justice](#) statistics also show a recent rise in the number of offenders being prosecuted for shoplifting at Magistrates' courts.

## Notes for accuracy of the statistics

1. For further information on possible explanations of increasing police recorded crime levels see Chapter 3 of the [User Guide](#).

## 23 . Users of crime statistics

There is significant interest in crime statistics and a diverse range of users. These include elected national and local representatives (such as MPs, Police and Crime Commissioners and local councillors), police forces, those delivering support or services to victims of crime, lobby groups, journalists, academic researchers, teachers and students.

These statistics are used by central and local government and the police service for planning and monitoring service delivery and for resource allocation. The statistics are also used to inform public debate about crime and the public policy response to it. Further information about the uses of crime statistics is available in the [Crime Statistics Quality and Methodology Information report](#).

## 24 . International and UK comparisons

There are currently no recognised international standards for crime recording and international comparisons are limited due to the differing legal systems which underpin crime statistics and processes for collecting and recording crimes.

### Crimes recorded by the police

The system for recording crime in England and Wales by the police is widely recognised by international standards to be one of the best in the world. Few other jurisdictions have attempted to develop such a standardised approach to crime recording and some of those that have base their approach on the England and Wales model (for example, Australia, Northern Ireland). Thus, it is difficult to make international comparisons of levels of recorded crime given the lack of consistency in definitions, legal systems and police/criminal justice recording practices.

The legal system in Northern Ireland is based on that of England and Wales and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) has the same notifiable offence list for recorded crime as used in England and Wales. In addition, the PSNI has adopted the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime that applies in England and Wales. Thus there is broad comparability between the recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland and England and Wales.

However, recorded crime statistics for England and Wales are not directly comparable with those in Scotland. The recorded crime statistics for Scotland are collected on the basis of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard, which was introduced in 2004. Like its counterpart in England and Wales, it aims to give consistency in crime recording. The main principles of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard itself are similar to the National Crime Recording Standard for England and Wales with regard to when a crime should be recorded.



However, there are differences between the respective counting rules. For example, the 'Principal Crime Rule' in England and Wales states that if a sequence of crimes in an incident, or alternatively a complex crime, contains more than one crime type, then the most serious crime should be counted. For example, an incident where an intruder breaks into a home and assaults the sole occupant would be recorded as two crimes in Scotland, while in England and Wales it would be recorded as one crime.

Differences in legislation and common law have also to be taken into account when comparing the crime statistics for England/Wales and Scotland.

## **Victimisation surveys**

A number of countries run their own national victimisation surveys and they all broadly follow a similar model to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in attempting to obtain information from a representative sample of the population resident in households about their experience of criminal victimisation. The US National Crime and Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the longest running, being established in 1973 and there are similar surveys in other countries including Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand. However, while these surveys have a similar objective they are not conducted using a standard methodology. Sampling (frames and of households/individuals) and modes of interview (for example face to face interviewing, telephone interviewing, self-completion via the web) differ, as do the crime reference periods (last five years, last 12 months, last calendar year) over which respondents are asked about their victimisation experience. Similarly, there is a lack of standardisation in question wording and order. Response rates vary considerably across the world, as do methods to adjust for any resulting possible non-response bias; therefore, it becomes extremely difficult to make valid comparisons between the surveys.

There have been attempts in the past to run international surveys on a standard basis and the International Crime and Victimization Survey (ICVS) was initiated by a group of European criminologists with expertise in national crime surveys. The survey aimed to produce estimates of victimisation that could be used for international comparisons. The first survey was run in 1989 and was repeated in 1992, 1996 and 2004/5. All surveys were based upon a 2,000 sample of the population, and in most countries, surveys were carried out with computer-assisted telephone interviewing. A pilot ICVS-2, intended to test alternative and cheaper modes of data collection including self-completion via the web, was carried out in a limited number of countries in 2010.

However, despite the attempt to obtain a standardised and comparable approach to all of the surveys, this was never successfully achieved. While a standard questionnaire was employed in all countries, alongside a standard mode of interviewing, important differences remained in the approach to sampling, translation of questions into different national languages, interview lengths and response rates which make comparisons problematic.

Both Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own separate victimisation surveys that, like the CSEW, complement their recorded crime figures.

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) closely mirrors the format and content of the CSEW employing a very similar methodology with continuous interviewing, a face to face interview with nationally representative sample of adults (16 years and over) using a similar set of questions. Thus results from the two surveys are broadly comparable.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) also follows a similar format to the CSEW, having a shared antecedence in the British Crime Survey (whose sample during some rounds of the survey in the 1980s covered Scotland, south of the Caledonian Canal). There are differences in the crimes/offence classifications to reflect the differing legal systems but the results from the surveys are broadly comparable.

## 25 . List of products

Release tables published alongside this commentary include a set of bulletin tables containing the data tables and numbers appearing behind graphs in this publication, and more detailed estimates and counts of crime levels as set out in the table below.

The following are URL links associated with the production of Crime Statistics.

1. [Crime statistics publications on the Home Office website](#)
2. [Historic police recorded crime](#)
3. [National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics](#)
4. [Previous quarterly publication](#)
5. [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#)
6. [Guide to Finding Crime Statistics](#)
7. [The 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales Technical Report Volume 1](#)
8. [Analysis of Variation in Crime Trends](#) (methodological note)
9. [Future Dissemination Strategy – Summary of Responses](#)
10. [Methodological note: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales](#)
11. [Methodological note: Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)
12. [Work to extend the Crime Survey for England and Wales to include fraud and cyber crime](#) (methodological note)
13. [“Focus on Public Perceptions of Policing, 2011/12”](#) (published 29 November 2012)
14. [‘Short story on Anti-Social Behaviour, 2011/12’](#) (published 11 April 2013)
15. [‘An overview of hate crime in England and Wales’](#) (published 17 December 2013)
16. [‘Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13’](#) (published 13 February 2014)
17. [‘Focus on: Victimisation and Public Perceptions, 2012/13’](#) (published 30 May 2014)
18. [‘Focus on Property Crime, 2013/14’](#) (published 27 November 2014)

Anonymised datasets from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (in SPSS format) currently are available on:

- the [UK Data Service](#) through the [Economic and Social Data Service \(ESDS\)](#); and
- ONS Virtual Micro data Laboratory (VML).

In addition to these National Statistics releases, provisional police recorded crime data drawn from local management information systems sit behind, street level figures released each month, via:

[Police recorded crime, street level mapping tool](#).

Crime Statistics for Scotland are available from the [Scottish Government](#).

Crime Statistics for Northern Ireland are available from the [Police Service of Northern Ireland](#).

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## 27. Background notes

1. The Crime in England and Wales quarterly releases are produced in partnership with the Home Office who collate and quality assure the police recorded crime data presented in the bulletins. Home Office colleagues also quality assurance the overall content of the bulletin.

2. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

3. Next quarterly publication - 23rd April 2015

Future thematic report due to be published: Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14 - 12th February 2015

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**Media contact:** Tel: Luke Croydon 0845 6041858 Emergency on-call 07867 906553 Email: [media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html) or from the Media Relations Office email: [media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.