Crime and justice methodology

Links to guidance, methodology and information documents for crime statistics in England and Wales.

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1 . User guides

- Guide to finding crime statistics
- User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales - March 2025
- User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: measuring crime during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
- User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales - tables 2023
- User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales - Measuring crime during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic - tables 2022
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- User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales - tables 2016
- User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales - tables 2015 (509.5 Kb, Excel sheet)
- 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (840.7Kb, PDF)
- 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (957.7Kb, PDF)
- 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (839.6Kb, PDF)
- 2014/15 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (1.12MB, PDF)
- 2015/16 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One
- 2016/17 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One
- 2017/18 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (941.2Kb, PDF)
- 2018/19 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (1.1MB, PDF)
- 2019/20 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (767.6KB, PDF)
- 2020/21 Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (656KB, PDF)
- 2020/21 Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume Two (12.8MB, PDF)
- 2021/22 Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (1000.0 KB pdf)
- 2021/22 Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume Two (20.0 MB pdf)

- CSEW Technical Note: year ending March 2022 (166.8 KB pdf)
- 2022/23 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (1.8 MB pdf)
- 2022/23 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume Two (14.7 MB pdf)
- 2023/24 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One (2.4 MB pdf)
- 2024/25 Crime Survey for England and Wales technical report - Volume One(1.4 MB pdf)

2 . Methodological notes

- Crime Survey for England and Wales data quality review: June 2024
- Measuring drug-related homicide methodology: February 2024
- Update to comparability between the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales and the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales
- Comparability between the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales and the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales
- Crime Survey for England and Wales and the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales - Sample comparability tables
- Methodology note on the possible order effect on responses to questions on anti-social behaviour from changes in the Crime Survey for England and Wales questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales transformation research on the ethics of online data collection relating to sensitive topics: October 2020
- Re-design of Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) Core questions for Online Collection
- Improving crime statistics for England and Wales – progress update July 2022
- Methodological note - CSEW Fraud and Cyber-crime development: Field trial - October 2015 (382.4 Kb Pdf)
- Methodological note - High frequency repeat victimisation in the crime survey for England and Wales - July 2015 (100.1 Kb Pdf)
- Assessment of the impact of a lower response rate for CSEW - July 2015 (542.9 Kb Pdf)
- Update - Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime (113.5 Kb Pdf)
- Methodological note: split sample for intimate personal violence 2013-14 (497 Kb Pdf)
- Split sample appendix table (258.5 Kb Excel sheet)
- Developing questions on fraud and cyber crime for the CSEW (793.1 Kb Pdf)
- Developing questions on fraud and cyber crime for the CSEW - Appendix A-D (1.04 Mb Pdf)
- Methodological note: Work to extend the Crime Survey for England and Wales to include fraud and cyber-crime (107.1 Kb Pdf)
- Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (176.2 Kb Pdf)

- Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales tables (151.5 Kb Excel sheet)
- Methodological note: Seasonality of Property Crime (72.7 Kb Pdf)
- Methodological note on the possible order effect on responses to questions on attitudes to the police and criminal justice system arising from changes in the CSEW questionnaire (167 Kb Pdf)
- Methodological note on the possible order effect on responses to questions on attitudes to the police and criminal justice system arising from changes in the CSEW questionnaire - tables (331 Kb Excel sheet)
- Methodological note: Analysis of variation in crime trends (175.4 Kb Pdf)
- Methodological note tables: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales (571 Kb Excel sheet)
- Methodological note: Changes to the police recorded crime classifications from April 2012 (179 Kb Pdf)
- Discussion paper on coverage of crime statistics (59.7 Kb Pdf)
- Methodological note: Why do the two data sources show differing trends?
- Research on transforming the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

3 . Questionnaires

- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2018 to 2019: Adult Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2018 to 2019: 10 to 15 Year Olds' Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019 to 2020: Adult Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019 to 2020: 10 to 15 Year Olds' Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2021 to 2022: Adult Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2022 to 2023: Adult Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023 to 2024: Adult Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2022 to 2023: 10 to 15 Year Olds' Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2023 to 2024: 10 to 15 Year Olds' Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2024 to 2025: Adult Questionnaire
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2025 to 2026: Adult Questionnaire (April 2025)
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2025 to 2026: Adult Questionnaire (October 2025)
- Crime Survey for England and Wales 2026 to 2027: Adult Questionnaire

4 . UK Statistics Authority Assessment

Following an assessment of ONS crime statistics by the UK Statistics Authority, the statistics based on police recorded crime data were 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 Crime Survey for England and Wales continue to be badged as National Statistics.

In their assessment report the UK Statistics Authority set out 16 requirements to be addressed. ONS have been working in collaboration with the Home Office Statistics Unit, the Police Service and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to address these requirements. A summary of progress is available on this web page.

Since the UK Statistics Authority's assessment was carried out, HMIC have completed and published findings from inspections of crime recording in police forces in England and Wales. HMIC concluded that the level of under-recording of reports of crime was "unacceptable" (estimating that 1 in 5 offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not) and made a number of recommendations to improve recording. In light of these findings ONS have decided to delay approaching the UK Statistics Authority to request a re-assessment of crime statistics until such time as we can provide further evidence of improvements in the quality of police recorded crime data. An exchange of letters earlier in 2015 between the National Statistician, and the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority provides further detail on this decision.

Since the Authority's assessment and the conclusion of HMIC inspections there is evidence that the police have taken steps to improve recording. It is likely that recent increases seen in the number of crimes recorded by the police reflect improvements in police compliance with recording standards, particularly in the categories of violence against the person and sexual offences where the level of under-recording observed by HMIC was most pronounced.

Further evidence of improvements in police recorded crime is provided through comparisons with the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Previous ONS analysis of variation in crime trends highlighted a growing gap between police recorded crime and the CSEW between 2007/08 and 2012/13. However, more recently the gap between the two data series has narrowed, and the latest release of crime statistics (for the year ending December 2014) shows a further narrowing (further information is available in section 4.2 of the User Guide to Crime Statistics in England and Wales).

ONS will continue to publish and provide commentary on police recorded crime data. Further information on the interpretation of recorded crime data is provided in the User Guide to Crime Statistics in England and Wales.

- Action plan to address requirements from UK Statistics Authority assessment - progress update, April 2014 (35.6 Kb Pdf)
- Action plan to address requirements from UK Statistics Authority assessment - progress update, July 2014 (49.8 Kb Pdf)
- Action plan to address requirements from UK Statistics Authority assessment - progress update, October 2014 (114.8 Kb Pdf)
- Action plan to address requirements from UK Statistics Authority assessment - progress update, January 2015 (242.5 Kb Word document)
- Action plan to address requirements from UK Statistics Authority assessment - progress update, April 2015 (243 Kb Word document)

5 . Other

- National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics: England and Wales, June 2011 (456.8 Kb PDF)
- Feedback form on Crime Severity Score
- Crime Survey for England and Wales consultation update: August 2025
- Safety During Childhood Survey Test Questionnaire