Guide to finding crime statistics

Crime statistics are produced by multiple departments across government. The aim of this guide is to collate the main sources of crime statistics, broken down by potential areas of interest, to provide a more efficient way to find the crime statistics needed.

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1. Introduction

Crime statistics for England and Wales are produced by multiple departments across government. The aim of this guide is to introduce the main sources of ONS crime statistics, broken down by potential areas of interest, to provide a more efficient way to find the crime statistics you might need.

We currently publish four quarterly bulletins, presenting the latest findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and other sources. We also publish topic-based articles and compendiums on specific crime types. The crime statistics we publish are for England and Wales only and are taken from several sources:

- the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) – includes crimes not reported to the police but does not include some offences (for example, possession of drugs, homicide) and some victims (for example, businesses, visitors and population resident in institutions, such as old people’s homes)

- Home Office (HO), police recorded crime – has a wider coverage of offences but does not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or less serious crimes dealt with by magistrates’ courts (for example, “summary offences” such as speeding)

- National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) – the NFIB collates fraud data from Action Fraud (the national fraud reporting centre that records incidents of fraud directly from the public and organisations), Cifas (a UK-wide fraud and financial crime prevention service) and UK Finance (which collects information on fraud from the card payments industry in the UK)

Information on further sources of crime statistics published by departments other than Office for National Statistics (ONS) can be found in section 8 of this guide.

2. Are you interested in specific crime types?

Violent crime, sexual offences and intimate personal violence and robbery

Statistics on these crime types can be found in the following publications:
Abuse during childhood

Statistics on abuse during childhood can be found in the following publications:

- **Child abuse in England and Wales: March 2020** — this release brings together our analysis and research on child abuse in England and Wales; the analysis includes a range of indicators from different data sources and organisations.

Definitions of abuse during childhood can be found in section 5.1 of the [User guide](#).

**Theft offences (including burglary, theft, vehicle-related thefts and bicycle theft) and criminal damage and arson**

Statistics on theft offences can be found in the following publications:
• **Nature of crime tables** covering burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, other household theft, personal and other theft, criminal damage and children aged 10 to 15 years theft.

• **Latest crime statistics quarterly bulletin** – contains the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime

• **Appendix tables** – contain trends of headline figures of crime (number of incidents, incidence rates, prevalence rates, percentages and percentage changes) broken down by crime type, for both police recorded and CSEW crime

• **Other related tables** – contain a more detailed look at the headline figures of crime, broken down by crime type, for both police recorded and CSEW crime

Definitions of theft offences can be found in section 5.2 of the [User guide](#).

Definitions of criminal damage and arson can be found in section 5.3 of the [User guide](#).

**Hate crime**

Statistics on hate crime can be found in the following publication:

- **Hate crime in England and Wales** – this publication, produced by statisticians in the Home Office and the Office for National Statistics provides information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales and the number of hate crimes reported by respondents in three combined years of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

Definitions of hate crime can be found in section 5.6 of the [User guide](#).

**Fraud**

Statistics on fraud and further information on how measures of fraud are being developed can be found in the following publications:

- **Nature of fraud and computer misuse in England and Wales** – summary of the various sources of data for fraud and computer misuse and what these tell us about victims, circumstances and long-term trends

- **Nature of fraud and computer misuse: Appendix tables** – data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB); data include numbers of incidents and characteristics of victims

- **Nature of crime: fraud and computer misuse tables** – annual data from the CSEW; data include the impact on the victim, contact with offenders, financial loss and experiences with computer viruses

**Anti-social behaviour**

Statistics on anti-social behaviour can be found in the following publications:
Other crimes against society

This high-level category separates out crimes that do not normally have a specific identifiable victim. “Other crimes against society” comprises categories of “drug offences”; “possession of weapons”; “public order”; and “miscellaneous crimes against society”.

Statistics on “other crimes against society” can be found in the following publications:

- Latest crime statistics quarterly bulletin – contains the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime
- Appendix tables – contain trends of headline figures of crime (number of incidents, incidence rates, prevalence rates, percentages and percentage changes) broken down by crime type, for both police recorded and CSEW crime
- Other related tables – contain a more detailed look at the headline figures of crime, broken down by crime type, for both police recorded and CSEW crime

Definitions of other crimes against society can be found in section 5.5 of the User guide.

3. Are you interested in crimes experienced by children?

Since January 2009, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has asked children aged 10 to 15 years resident in households in England and Wales about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

Statistics on crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15 years can be found in the following publications:
Latest crime statistics quarterly bulletin – contains the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime

Appendix tables – contain trends of headline figures of crime (number of incidents, incidence rates, prevalence rates, percentages and percentage changes) broken down by crime type, for both police recorded and CSEW crime

Other related tables – contain a more detailed look at the headline figures of crime, broken down by crime type, for both police recorded and CSEW crime

Annual trend and demographic tables – contains additional data tables on crimes experienced by children by personal and household characteristics

The nature of violent crime in England and Wales (includes Nature of crime tables, children aged 10 to 15 years violence)

Nature of crime tables: children aged 10 to 15 years theft

4 . Are you interested in long-term trends?

The following tables contain longer-term trends data and are published alongside each quarterly crime statistics bulletin, with the exception of the “Annual trend and demographic tables”, which are published annually alongside the year ending March quarterly bulletin and “Nature of crime tables”.

Latest crime statistics quarterly bulletin appendix tables – present full-time series data and offence type breakdowns. The data contained in these tables show: the incidence, prevalence and victimisation rates and percentage changes from the previous year for Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) crime, the number of crimes recorded by the police and percentage change from the previous year and incidents of fraud collated by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) from industry sources.

Quarterly data tables – these tables give the estimated number of CSEW crimes based on interviews conducted over the previous eight quarters measuring each respondent’s experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. The police recorded crime table shows the number of crimes recorded by the police in the particular quarter shown.

Annual trend and demographic tables – these tables are mainly based on CSEW data and show breakdowns of victimisation over time and by various demographic characteristics.

Nature of crime tables – these tables are based on findings from CSEW interviews and give a picture of the nature of burglary, theft, criminal damage, violence and crimes against children aged 10 to 15 years. Nature of crime tables include data on the timing and location of incidents, what was stolen or damaged and the associated costs, injuries sustained and weapons used in violent incidents, the emotional impact on the victim and information about contact with offenders. These tables include trends over time.

Historical crime data – historical crime data are published by the Home Office. These datasets give individual offence data from the year ending December 1898 to the year ending March 2015 and individual offence data by police force area from the year ending December 1990 to the year ending March 2015.
5. Are you interested in perceptions about crime, the police and the criminal justice system?

Questions in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) ask respondents about their perception of change in national and local crime as well as their perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary, vehicle crime or violent crime. Questions also ask respondents about their confidence in the police and the criminal justice system (CJS) and perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

Statistics on perceptions and worry about crime, perceptions of anti-social behaviour and confidence in the police and CJS can be found in the following publications.

Public perceptions of crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2016 – an article covering public perceptions of crime and worry about crime at both the national and local level, using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

Annual supplementary tables – Crime in England and Wales – tables explore adults’ overall ratings and confidence in the police, including measures of police visibility and victim satisfaction with the police. Tables also include information on perceptions of crime including adults’ opinions on the level of crime in local and national areas, worry about crime and perceived likelihood of being a victim of crime.

6. Are you interested in specific geographic breakdowns?

Police force area

Police recorded crime is available for each police force area. There are 44 police forces within England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).

Police force area data tables – a set of tables for the latest time period containing police recorded crime for main offence groups. Additional tables are published with the year ending March quarterly bulletin, for police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences and incidents of anti-social behaviour. Experiences of anti-social behaviour, taken from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), are also published with the year ending March quarterly bulletin.

Community Safety Partnership and local authority

Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area – a set of tables containing police recorded crime figures by Community Safety Partnership area; contains the number of offences for the current and previous year, percentage change between these two time periods and rates per 1,000 population for the current year.

Other breakdowns

CSEW open data tables – these comprise a set of six data tables, which include personal and household crime incidence and prevalence and perceptions broken down by region and other demographic characteristics.

Home Office police recorded crime open data tables – these tables, published by the Home Office, contain police recorded crime figures broken down by Community Safety Partnership, quarterly period and individual offence code.
Crime Severity Score

Crime Severity Score (CSS) data for police force areas and community safety partnerships. Includes a data tool to enable production of summary charts on trends and comparisons between areas.

CSS (Experimental Statistics) are released alongside each quarterly bulletin. The CSS has been developed as an additional measure to supplement existing ONS statistics on crime. This new measure weights different types of crime according to severity, with more serious crimes carrying a higher weight to better reflect the level of harm to society and demand on the police caused by crime.

7. Are you interested in specific demographic breakdowns?

Many of our tables contain data broken down by both personal and household characteristics. Personal characteristics include such characteristics as age, sex, ethnicity, marital status and employment. Household characteristics include such characteristics as household structure, tenure, household income and accommodation type.

The following datasets contain data with these specific demographic breakdowns.

Annual trend and demographic tables – these tables are mainly based on Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data and show breakdowns of victimisation over time and by various demographic characteristics.

Annual supplementary tables – crime in England and Wales – tables explore adults’ overall ratings and confidence in the police, including measures of police visibility and victim satisfaction with the police. Tables also include information on perceptions of crime including adults’ opinions on the level of crime in local and national areas, worry about crime and perceived likelihood of being a victim of crime. Several tables show breakdowns of these measures by various demographic characteristics.

8. Other sources of crime and justice statistics

Home Office (HO) – statistics on crime outcomes, arrests made by the police and other powers, number of police officers and other aspects of police personnel; HO also publish police recorded crime by Community Safety Partnership area within their police recorded crime open data tables.

Ministry of Justice – statistics for England and Wales on the courts, prison population, perpetrators and reoffending.

Police.UK – the police.uk website includes police recorded crime data in the Compare Your Area section of the site. This presents data in the form of charts which enable you to compare levels of crime in a local area with other areas (presented at Community Safety Partnership level). The Police.UK website also provides street level recorded crime counts presented using a crime mapping tool. This allows you to view crime maps for a specific area (for example, your own neighbourhood) and gives a count of crimes in that area as well as an indication of the street location where the crime occurred.

Crime statistics for Scotland are collected and published separately. The latest police recorded crime data for Scotland can be downloaded from Scotland.gov.uk.

Crime statistics for Northern Ireland are collected and published separately. The latest police recorded crime data for Northern Ireland can be downloaded from psni.police.uk.