

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:

- [Homicide in England and Wales](#)
- [Sexual offences in England and Wales](#)
- [Domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (including tables; [stalking](#); [findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#))
- [The nature of violent crime in England and Wales](#) (includes [Nature of crime tables, violence](#) and [Nature of crime tables, children aged 10 to 15 years violence](#)) – contains more detailed analysis taken from the year ending March data
- [Latest crime statistics quarterly bulletin](#) – contains the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 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
- [Sexual offending: victimisation and the path through the criminal justice system](#) – joint publication by statisticians in the Ministry of Justice, Home Office and the Office for National Statistics

Definitions of violent crime can be found in section 5.1 of the [User guide](#).

Definitions of sexual offences and intimate personal violence can be found in section 5.1 of the [User guide](#).

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

Abuse during childhood

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

- [Abuse during childhood: Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending March 2016](#) - contains analysis of questions, covering psychological, physical, and sexual abuse as a child
- [People who were abused as children are more likely to be abused as an adult](#) – additional analysis of the year ending 2016 CSEW module on experience of abuse as a child; the article looks at how individuals who were abused as a child are affected in later life, for example, looking at the likelihood of also experiencing domestic abuse as an adult, drug use, health and well-being

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, vandalism and children aged 10 to 15 years theft - contains more detailed analysis taken from the year ending March data.
- [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](#).

Anti-social behaviour

Statistics on anti-social behaviour 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
- [Year ending March Police Force area tables](#) – contains additional data tables containing trends over time and experiences of anti-social behaviour by personal and household characteristics

Definitions of anti-social behaviour can be found in section 5.7 of the [User guide](#).

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](#)) – contains more detailed analysis taken from the year ending March data
- [Nature of crime tables: children aged 10 to 15 years theft](#) – contains more detailed analysis taken from the year ending March data

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. There are a small number of tables based on police recorded crime offences involving firearms and knives. These tables are published annually alongside the year ending March quarterly bulletin or as appendix tables with the relevant “Focus on” publication.

[Nature of crime tables](#) – these tables are based on findings from CSEW interviews and give a picture of the nature of burglary, theft, vandalism, 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 2013 and individual offence data by police force area from the year ending December 1990 to the year ending March 2013.

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, year ending March 2017 – 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).

The following datasets, which are published alongside each crime statistics quarterly bulletin, contain data at this level.

[Recorded crime at police force area level from 2002 to 2003](#) – contains recorded crime for police force areas for the main crime types. The data are rolling 12-month totals, with data points shown at the end of each financial year between year ending March 2003 and year ending March 2007 and at the end of each quarter from June 2007. A version of this dataset is also available with a pivot table, which allows you to create your own tables.

[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 at Community Safety Partnership and local authority level from 2002 to 2003](#) – provides data for the main crime categories broken down according to Community Safety Partnership areas; Community Safety Partnership areas generally match to local authorities, though in some cases they are an amalgamation of a number of local authority areas.

[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

[Experimental Statistics on a newly developed Crime Severity Score \(CSS\)](#) are now 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. There are a small number of tables based on police recorded crime offences involving firearms and knives. These tables are published annually alongside the year ending March quarterly bulletin or as appendix tables with the relevant “Focus on” publication.

[Annual supplementary tables](#) – crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2015 – 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](#).