

User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales

January 2013

Office for National Statistics

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Contacts

This publication

For information about the content of this publication:

Email: crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Other customer enquiries

ONS Customer Contact Centre

Tel: 0845 601 3034

International: +44 (0)845 601 3034

Minicom: 01633 815044

Email: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747

Post: Room 1.101, Government Buildings,
Cardiff Road, Newport, South Wales NP10 8XG

www.ons.gov.uk

Media enquiries

Tel: 0845 604 1858

Email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent

to: info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk

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Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction.....	5
Chapter 2	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).....	6
	2.1 Description of the survey	6
	2.2 CSEW methodology	7
	2.3 CSEW interviewing	10
	2.4 Time periods covered	11
	2.5 CSEW measures of crime.....	12
Chapter 3	Police recorded crime	17
	3.1 Introduction to police recorded crime.....	17
	3.2 Recording practices	17
	3.3 Changes to recorded crime classifications	19
	3.4 'No crimes'	20
Chapter 4	Comparison of the CSEW and police recorded crime.....	21
	4.1 Comparable subset of crime	21
Chapter 5	Offence types.....	23
	5.1 Violent crime	23
	5.2 Acquisitive crime.....	30
	5.3 Vandalism and criminal damage.....	33
	5.4 Fraud and forgery	34
	5.5 Hate crime	37
	5.6 Drug offences	39
	5.7 Anti-social behaviour	39
Chapter 6	Perceptions.....	43
	6.1 Perceptions of crime levels.....	43
	6.2 Likelihood of victimisation and worry about crime.....	43
	6.3 Anti-social behaviour	43
	6.4 Confidence in the police and local council	44
	6.5 Ratings and perceptions of the local police	44
	6.6 Confidence in the criminal justice system	45

Chapter 7	Classifications.....	46
	7.1 Geographical	46
	7.2 Household.....	49
	7.3 Personal	50
Chapter 8	Statistical conventions and methods.....	52
	8.1 Confidence intervals and statistical significance.....	52
	8.2 Weighting data.....	53
	8.3 Population estimates	54
	8.4 Logistic regression.....	55
	8.5 Conventions used in figures and tables	57
Chapter 9	CSEW Open Data tables.....	59
	9.1 Introduction to Open Data tables	59
	9.2 Table format.....	59
	9.3 File naming	60
	9.4 Data table specification.....	60
	9.5 Reference data tables.....	64
	9.6 How to use Open Data tables.....	65
	9.7 Changes to the Open Data tables variables	66
Chapter 10	Other reference data.....	68
	10.1 Nature of crime	68
	10.2 Open Data tables (police recorded crime)	68
	10.3 UK Data Archive	68
Appendix 1	Recorded crime list.....	69
Appendix 2	CSEW offences	76
Bibliography	83

Chapter 1: Introduction

This user guide provides detailed information on the datasets used to compile crime statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are crucial to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

Following a recommendation of the National Statistician's review of crime statistics ([National Statistician](#), 2011), from April 2012 responsibility for the publication of crime statistics transferred to ONS from the Home Office. This user guide has been adapted from a previous version produced by the Home Office.

ONS publishes figures on the levels and trends of crime in England and Wales based on two sets of crime statistics: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime data. Each source has different strengths and limitations but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. These statistics inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

Currently, these crime statistics are published four times a year. Additionally, a number of supplementary volumes are produced, containing in-depth analysis of issues such as homicide, violent crime and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The dates of forthcoming crime statistics publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>.

Copies of ONS statistical bulletins on crime are available from the ONS website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>.

For further information about the CSEW and police recorded crime statistics, please email crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Crime Statistics and Analysis Division, Office for National Statistics, 2nd Floor, 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ.

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

- Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice>;
- Northern Ireland: http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm.

Chapter 2: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

2.1 Description of the survey

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), formerly known as the British Crime Survey (BCS), is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes in the 12 months prior to the interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues, such as the police and the criminal justice system and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Following crime statistics reviews ([Smith, 2006](#); [Statistics Commission, 2006](#)) and feasibility work ([Pickering et al., 2008](#)) the CSEW was extended to include 10 to 15 year olds¹ from January 2009. The first results for this age group were published in [Millard and Flatley, 2010](#) as experimental statistics. Estimates of victimisation against children are presented within the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales.

The key aim of the CSEW is to provide robust trends for the crime types and population it covers; the survey does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime and has notable exclusions. The CSEW excludes fraud (see below) and those crimes often termed as 'victimless' (e.g. possession of drugs). As a survey that asks people whether they have experienced victimisation, homicides cannot be included. The CSEW does not cover the population living in group residences (e.g. care homes or halls of residence) or other institutions, nor does it cover crime against commercial or public sector bodies. Following a recommendation of the National Statistician's review of crime statistics ([National Statistician, 2011](#)), the Home Office has commissioned a new survey of business crime which is scheduled to run in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Fieldwork on the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) began in August 2012 and first results have been published by the Home Office. These results have also been incorporated into the latest quarterly crime statistics release published by the Office for National Statistics.

For the crime types and population it covers, the CSEW provides a better reflection of the true extent of crime experienced by the population resident in households in England and Wales than police recorded statistics because the survey includes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police. The primary purpose of the CSEW is to provide national level estimates but some headline figures are available at regional and police force area level.

The CSEW is also a better indicator of long-term trends, for the crime types and population it covers, than police recorded crime because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices. The victimisation methodology and the crime types included in the main count of crime have remained comparable since the survey began in 1981. As a result, the CSEW does not capture relatively new crimes, such as plastic card fraud, in its main crime

¹ For a report on the extensive development and testing work carried out to extend the CSEW to children aged 10 to 15 see [Fitzpatrick et al., 2010](#).

count. However, additional questions have been added to the survey to investigate the extent and trends of such issues and these are reported separately to the main CSEW crime count.

CSEW estimates for 2011/12 are based on face-to-face interviews with 46,031 adults aged 16 and over; a further 3,930 children aged 10 to 15 took part in the children's survey. The CSEW has a relatively high response rate (75 per cent to the adult survey and 67 per cent of eligible children² within households participating in the adult survey responded in 2011/12). The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias to ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. Being based on a sample survey, CSEW estimates are subject to a margin of error. Unless otherwise specified, any changes in CSEW estimates over time that are described as differences in statistical bulletins are statistically significant ones (see Chapter 8).

Annual Technical Reports provide further detailed information on the survey design and methodology, including response rates (see [TNS-BMRB](#), 2012).

2.2 CSEW methodology

The CSEW was first conducted in 1982 (covering crime in 1981) and ran at mostly two-year intervals until 2001³, when it became a continuous survey. Although there have been changes to the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences have been held constant throughout the life of the CSEW. The core sample is designed to be representative of the population of households in England and Wales and people living in those households. As such, it is possible to use the small users' Postcode Address File (PAF), which is widely accepted as the best general population sampling frame in England and Wales⁴. As mentioned earlier, the CSEW does not cover the population living in group residences or other institutions, although excluding the minority of the population that lives in such establishments is thought to have little effect on CSEW estimates (see [Pickering et al.](#), 2008).

At each sampled address the interviewer is required to establish that the address is eligible; ineligible addresses include vacant properties, second homes, non-residential addresses and establishments where people are living in group residences, e.g. care homes or halls of residence. In the rare situations where one PAF address leads to two households, the interviewer randomly selects which household to approach.

Once the household is determined to be eligible, individuals aged 16 and over in the selected household are listed by alphabetical order of first name and then one is randomly selected for interview. No substitutes are permitted. Children aged 10 to 15 are interviewed in households that have taken part in the main survey; where an eligible child is identified (according to age), one is selected at random to take part⁵. Again, no substitutes are permitted.

² It is not possible to calculate the true composite response rate for children as it is not known what proportion of non-responding households contain children in the eligible age-range. If this was in the same proportion as in responding households, the child response rate would be around 50 per cent.

³ Prior to 2001, CSEWs were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. Scotland was also included in the survey prior to 1992.

⁴ The small users' PAF has been the sampling frame for the CSEW since 1992 – it lists all postal delivery points in England and Wales (almost all households have one delivery point or letterbox).

⁵ In households with only one 10 to 15 year old: in the 2009/10 CSEW the child was eligible to be interviewed in 87.5 per cent of cases and since the 2010/11 CSEW the child has been eligible for interview in all cases (see [TNS-BMRB](#), 2012).

Over the whole of 2011/12 the aim was to achieve 46,000 interviews with adults aged 16 and over as part of the 'core' sample. In addition, the survey aimed to interview a nationally representative sample of 4,000 children aged 10 to 15⁶.

In 2004/05, the sample was re-designed to achieve 1,000 interviews in each police force area (PFA), involving substantial over-sampling in less populous PFAs. The impact of changes in the CSEW sample design over time has been examined (see [Tipping et al.](#), 2010). This concluded that under all designs the survey has generated estimates of victimisation with low levels of variance and the changes in the sample design have not affected the ability of the survey to identify trends in victimisation.

As well as stratifying⁷ disproportionately by PFA, the sample is stratified by other socio-demographic variables in order to ensure a representative sample. The stratifiers used in 2011/12 (as for previous surveys) were PFA, population density, deprivation and household characteristics. For further details of sample stratification and clustering see [TNS-BMRB](#), 2012.

The main changes in the CSEW sample design since 1996 are summarised in Table 2a.

The overall sample size for the CSEW is gradually being reduced from April 2012. The sample size will decrease from an achieved sample of 46,000 households per year in the year ending March 2012 to 35,000 households in the year ending March 2013. The sample size reduction will take 12 months to implement and readers of the quarterly bulletin will see a gradual decrease in the unweighted bases referenced in tables as data based on the old sample of 46,000 households reduces to the new sample size of 35,000 households.

⁶ The current sample size is designed to be able to produce reliable estimates of crimes and crime-related attitudes and experiences at a national level on an annual basis; to provide more detailed breakdowns would require a large expansion of the sample at substantial cost (to expand the children's sample would require an even greater expansion of the core sample (less than 15 per cent of households have children in the eligible age range).

⁷ Stratification essentially means dividing the sampling frame into groups (strata) before sampling. The process reduces the risk of drawing an extreme sample, unrepresentative of the population, and hence improves the precision of survey estimates.

Table 2a: Main features of the CSEW core sample design since 1996

Year	Core target sample size	Achieved sample size	Main design features	Clusters
2011/12	46,000	46,031	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Unclustered in areas of high population density, highly clustered in rural areas
2010/11	46,000	46,754	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Unclustered in areas of high population density, highly clustered in rural areas
2009/10	46,000	44,638	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Unclustered in areas of high population density, highly clustered in rural areas
2008/09	46,000	46,289	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Unclustered in areas of high population density, highly clustered in rural areas
2007/08	46,000	46,983	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued addresses per primary sampling unit (PSU))
2006/07	46,000	47,023	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
2005/06	46,000	47,796	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
2004/05	46,000	45,120	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
2003/04	37,000	37,931	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 600 - 700 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
2002/03	37,000	39,249	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 600 - 700 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
2001/02	37,000	32,824	Moved to a continuous fieldwork period. Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 600 - 700 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
2000	20,000	19,411	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 300 per PFA	Quarter postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU)
1998	15,000	14,947	Inner city areas sampled at twice the rate of other areas	Quarter postcode sectors (36 issued in inner city areas, 32 in other areas)
1996	15,000	16,348	Inner city areas sampled at twice the rate of other areas	Quarter postcode sectors (30 issued in inner city areas, 27 in other areas)

2.3 CSEW interviewing

CSEW estimates are based on analysis of structured face-to-face interviews carried out using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) where interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on laptop computers. The mode of interview changed in the 1994 CSEW from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI. CAPI allows logic and consistency checks to be incorporated into the survey to improve data quality. For example, the interviewer is unable to move on to the next question until a discrepancy or inconsistency has been resolved.

The main CSEW questionnaire has a complex structure consisting of a core set of modules asked of the whole sample, a set of modules asked only of different sub-samples, and self-completion modules asked of all respondents aged 16 to 59. Modules include, for example: victimisation; performance of the criminal justice system (CJS); contact with and attitudes to the police and the CJS; mobile phone theft; anti-social behaviour; plastic card fraud; and demographic characteristics of the respondent and household.

The primary objective of extending the survey to children aged 10 to 15 was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation⁸. Like the adult survey, the children's survey also gathers information on a limited number of crime-related topics such as children's experiences of and attitudes to the police and personal safety. Some results from these supplementary topics were published in [Hoare et al.](#), 2011 and [Smith et al.](#), 2012.

Survey development is carried out on an annual basis to reflect emerging issues. While the wording of victimisation questions has not changed and these are included every year, the precise set of other modules asked in each survey year varies.

Self-completion modules are used in the CSEW to collect information on topic areas that respondents could feel uncomfortable talking about to an interviewer. The use of self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on sensitive issues due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey. Respondents can complete these modules on the interviewer's laptop by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) and, when finished, their answers are hidden. Children also have the option of Audio-CASI, which allows them to listen to questions via headphones and can help those with literacy problems (65 per cent did not use this option at all in the 2011/12 CSEW). The self-completion modules are at the end of the face-to-face interviews and, for adults, cover topics such as illicit drug use⁹, domestic violence and sexual assault. Child respondents are asked a limited set of questions by self-completion on issues such as bullying, truancy and use of alcohol or cannabis.

Self-completion modules were first included in the 1996 and 2001 CSEWs to improve estimates of domestic violence ([Mirrlees-Black](#), 1999; [Walby and Allen](#), 2004) and a similar module has been included since the 2004/05 CSEW. The self-completion module on illicit drug use was introduced in 1996 and comparable questions have been asked since then. These questions are not asked of children on the CSEW.

⁸ The question set for children aged 10 to 15 was specifically designed for this age range while retaining broad comparability with the adult questionnaire in terms of the classification of offences.

⁹ See Section 5.6 for further details.

Averaging over the moving reference period of the CSEW generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures to the end of the September six months earlier. For example, CSEW figures from the 2011/12 survey are most closely comparable with police recorded crime statistics for the 12 months to the end of September 2011.

The Home Office commissioned methodological work to consider the use of an alternative method of presenting the data based on crimes experienced in a particular year. [Tipping et al.](#), 2010, compared the trajectory of a range of crime types presenting the data based on the year the interview took place compared with the year the incident took place. There was no evidence that this different basis for reporting would have produced different findings over the period of 2001 to 2009. However, during this period a steady decline in crime was experienced. [Tipping et al.](#) also noted that moving to presenting data based on the year that the incident took place would mean that analysts would have to wait an additional year before a complete dataset would be available to them. No changes were made to the CSEW as a result of this study.

2.5 CSEW measures of crime

The CSEW provides estimates of the levels of household and personal crimes experienced by respondents. Household crimes are considered to be all vehicle and property-related crimes and respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. An example of a household crime would be criminal damage to a car (the owner of which could be anyone in the household). Personal crimes relate to all crimes against the individual and only relate to the respondent's own personal experience (not that of other people in the household). An example of a personal crime would be an assault. Published CSEW data for 'all personal crime' excludes sexual offences (except for 'wounding with a sexual motive') as the number of sexual offences picked up by the survey is too small to give reliable estimates. See Chapter 5 for a full definition of offence types.

Details of experiences of crime are recorded in a series of victim modules. The first three victim modules include detailed questions relating to each incident; the last three victim modules are shorter modules, designed to be much quicker to complete to avoid respondent fatigue during the interview. The order in which the victim modules are asked depends on the type of crime – less common crimes are prioritised in order to collect as much detailed information as possible. Respondents are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12-month reference period and up to six victim modules can be completed by each respondent.

Extending the CSEW to encompass children's experience of crimes raised some difficult issues with regard to classifying criminal incidents; e.g. minor incidents that are normal within the context of childhood behaviour and development can be categorised as criminal when existing legal definitions of offences are applied. [Millard and Flatley](#), 2010, proposed four methods for counting crime against children. Following a [National Statistics consultation](#) with users, these measures have been refined. Responses to the user consultation suggested there was some value in all approaches, but the majority favoured the 'Broad' and 'Preferred' based measures with regard to estimating levels of victimisation¹⁰.

¹⁰ Since 2010/11, while only two measures are being presented in crime statistics bulletins, data are still collected to enable the other measures to be derived; these will be made publicly available through the [Economic and Social Data Service](#).

Of the other two methods, there was least support during the consultation for the subjective approach which included only offences perceived to be a crime by the respondent ('Victim perceived') and some limited interest from users in the presentation of the 'All in law outside school' approach (includes all incidents reported by children that are in law a crime except those occurring in school).

The 'Broad measure' (previously known as the 'All in law' approach) is the widest-possible count but will include minor offences between children and family members that would not normally be treated as criminal matters. The 'Preferred measure' (previously known as the 'Norms-based' approach) is a more focused method which takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incident but will still include incidents of a serious nature even if they took place at school.

The 'Preferred measure' includes all offences where:

- the offender¹¹ was not known (e.g. stranger, tradesman, pupil from another school); or
- the offender¹¹ was known, but aged 16 or over and not a family member (e.g. neighbour, older friend, teacher)¹²; or
- the offender¹¹ was known and either a family member or aged under 16 (e.g. parent, sibling, school-friend) and there was visible injury or theft or damage involving a 'high value' item¹³; or
- a weapon¹⁴ was involved.

In 2009/10 and 2010/11 a lower level of detail was collected if:

- the incident happened at school; and
- the offender¹⁵ was a pupil at the respondent's school; and
- the offender did not use a weapon¹⁴; and
- the victim was not physically hurt in any way.

This was to reduce respondent burden and to reflect that some incidents reported by children may be considered relatively minor. Incidents which met these criteria had a limited amount of information collected to enable classification to a high-level crime category and so it was not possible to assign specific offence codes within the appropriate high-level classification according to standard CSEW procedures. As a result, these cases have been designated as 'unspecified' offences. Without an offence code it is not possible to tell which detailed crime type the offence would be classified as. For example, data on whether the stolen item was being carried by the respondent at the time of a theft were not collected, so it is not feasible to determine whether this would be 'Theft from the person' or 'Other theft of personal property'. However, because the

¹¹ If there was more than one offender, the incident was included if just one of the offenders matched this criteria.

¹² The inclusion of offences committed by a known non-family member irrespective of the nature of the offence represents a change to the approach used for the 'Norms-based' measure that was previously published in [Millard and Flatley](#), 2010. This recognises the importance of age in addition to relationship in classifying the severity of an incident.

¹³ This excludes items such as pens, stationery, food, toys, cards, cigarettes.

¹⁴ A 'weapon' constitutes any item that was considered to be a weapon by the victim; this includes knives, sticks, stones, bottles, etc.

¹⁵ Where there was more than one offender, detailed information was collected if any of the offenders were not pupils at the respondent's school.

respondent reported that there was intent to commit an offence, these incidents are still considered offences under law.

'Unspecified' offences do not fall within the scope of the 'Preferred measure' because the detailed information above was not collected.

In 2011/12 this was changed and full information was collected about all incidents of crime. This means that the 'unspecified' categories are not derivable and the data are not directly comparable over the three time periods. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 children aged 10 to 15 were asked detailed information about up to four crimes, from 2011/12 this was reduced to three.

Some methodological differences between the adult and children's survey mean that direct comparisons cannot be made between the adult and child victimisation data, although these estimates are presented in the same publication to provide a better understanding of victimisation experiences among adults and children resident in households.

Most incidents reported are one-off, single occurrences, but in a minority of cases respondents may have been victimised a number of times in succession. In these cases respondents are asked whether they consider these incidents to be a 'series'; that is "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people". Where incidents are determined to be in a series, the number of incidents is recorded, but with only one victim module being completed based on the most recent incident. CSEW estimates only include the first five incidents in this 'series' of victimisations in the count of crime.

Overall, each adult respondent can have a maximum of 30 incidents contained in the count of crime; a maximum of six victim modules with a maximum of five incidents on each victim module¹⁶. In practice, most adult respondents have far fewer than this. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 each child respondent could have a maximum of four victim modules, again with a maximum of five incidents on each. The maximum number of modules for children was reduced to three from 2011/12 with the re-structure of the victimisation module (in practice, very few child respondents to date had completed four victim modules). For details on victimisation data collection see [TNS-BMRB](#), 2012.

The restriction to the first five incidents in a series has been applied since the CSEW began in order to ensure that estimates are not affected by a very small number of respondents who report an extremely high number of incidents and which are highly variable between survey years. In the US National Violence Against Women Survey, which did not include a capping procedure, 24 respondents had been victims of rape in the preceding 12 months. One of these victims had been raped 24 times in this time period and when weighted to the population this victim accounted for 302,100 incidents estimated from the survey: 34 per cent of the total (Rand and Rennison, 2005). The inclusion of such victims could undermine the ability to measure trends consistently. This sort of capping is in line with other surveys of crime and other topics. Prevalence rates are not affected by this procedure (see [TNS-BMRB](#), 2012, for information on the measurement of series data).

¹⁶ A victim module is completed for every incident, or series of incidents, that the respondent or their household has been a victim of, and collects details of the offence such as the severity of injury sustained and the offender characteristics.

Based on information collected and processed from the adult and child victim modules, specially trained coders determine whether what has been reported constitutes a crime and if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime. The full list of CSEW offence codes is shown in Appendix 2. CSEW crime statistics are produced from these data and presented as incidence or prevalence rates, based on counts of incidents or victims.

Incidence rate

The number of crimes experienced per household or adult/child

The incidence rate takes account of the number of times respondents have been victimised. Aggregating these incidents and combining with household and personal data, produces a number of incidents that can be presented as a rate per 1,000 households (for household crimes) or as a rate per 1,000 adults/children (for personal crimes).

The overall **number of incidents** can be estimated for England and Wales based on the incidence rate and using population estimates for the household and adult populations. In 2011/12 incidence rates for household crimes were multiplied by 23,724,882 households and, for personal crimes, by 45,278,539 adults aged 16 and over or 3,753,871 children aged 10 to 15 to provide the number of incidents for each crime type¹⁷. Published estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 incidents.

Prevalence rate

The proportion of the population who were victims of an offence once or more

Unlike incidence rates, prevalence rates only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the reference period, not the number of times victimised. These figures are based on information from the victim module, where respondents and their households are designated either as victims or non-victims. The proportion that are victims provides the prevalence rate, often described as the risk of being a victim of crime – this describes only an average rate. Analysis of the CSEW shows that victimisation rates vary depending on factors associated with personal, area and household characteristics (see, for example, [Flatley et al.](#), 2010)

Since the CSEW also collects additional information from households, it is possible to determine prevalence rates for subgroups, such as vehicle or bicycle-owning households. Risk among these groups is higher than for the population in general, of course, as the household population includes those who do not own vehicles or bicycles.

Multiple and repeat victimisation

Multiple victimisation is defined as the experience of being a victim of more than one crime in the previous year. This includes those who have been victims of more than one crime of the same type within the last 12 months (repeat victimisation) and also those who have been victims of more than one CSEW crime of any type within the last 12 months. People who have experienced multiple

¹⁷ For the 2011/12 CSEW, population figures are mid-2010 based projections for the 2011 adult population from ONS (for England) and the Welsh Assembly Government (for Wales); household figures are mid-2008 based projections for 2011 from the Department for Communities and Local Government (for England) and the Welsh Assembly Government (for Wales).

victimisation include those who have been a victim of more than one personal crime, or have been resident in a household that was a victim of more than one household crime, or have been a victim of both types of crime.

Repeat victimisation (a subset of multiple victimisation) is defined as being a victim of the same type of crime (e.g. vandalism) more than once in the last 12 months. Levels of repeat victimisation account for differences between incidence and prevalence rates. For instance, high levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rates.

Chapter 3: Police recorded crime

3.1 Introduction to police recorded crime

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by the Home Office, who are responsible for the collation of recorded crime data supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are supplied to the Home Office on a monthly basis in an aggregated return for each crime within the notifiable offence list (see Appendix 1) and quality assured by the Home Office Statistics Unit on a quarterly basis before being supplied to ONS for final preparation and publication as National Statistics. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The Home Office Statistics Unit have been implementing a new data collection system that will collect disaggregate data on crime and police personnel. This will support the future collection of police recorded crime and also some new collections such as hate crime. The new 'Home Office Data Hub' is designed to align with management information systems used in many police forces, allowing for the creation of automated extracts from one system to the other without the need for the completion of aggregate data collection forms. This should deliver long-term cost reductions in data collection processes and offer new and improved ways of analysing data in the future.

Recorded crime figures are an important indicator of police workload. They can be used for local crime pattern analysis and provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes (in particular, homicide, which is not covered by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)). There are also some categories of crime (such as drug possession offences) where the volume of offences recorded are heavily influenced by police activities and priorities; in such cases recorded crime figures may not provide an accurate picture of the true extent of criminality.

Unlike the CSEW, recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or incidents that the police decide not to record. It was estimated in 2011/12 that around 43 per cent of CSEW comparable crime was reported to the police, although this proportion varied considerably for individual offence types.

3.2 Recording practices

Recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. To ensure consistency, police recording practice is governed by Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These rules provide a national standard for the recording and classifying of notifiable offences by police forces in England and Wales (see [Home Office](#), 2011).

There have been two major changes to the recording of crimes in recent years: in April 1998 the HOCR for recorded crime were expanded to include certain additional summary offences and counts became more victim-based (the number of victims was counted rather than the number of

offences); in April 2002, the NCRS was introduced across England and Wales, although some forces adopted key elements of the standard earlier and compliance with the standard continued to improve in the years following its formal introduction. The NCRS was devised by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in collaboration with Home Office statisticians. It was designed to ensure greater consistency between forces in recording crime and to take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording with the police being required to record any allegation of crime unless there was credible evidence to the contrary ([Simmons et al.](#), 2003).

Both these changes resulted in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. Certain offences, such as the more minor violent crimes, were more affected by these changes than others. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime. For these reasons, statistical bulletins present trends following the introduction of recording changes in police recorded crime from 2002/03.

Ongoing consultation on the formulation and development of the policy on crime recording is provided through working groups comprising members of the Home Office, ONS, police force regional representatives and representatives of ACPO, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Any significant changes proposed by these groups in recording will be considered by the independent [Crime Statistics Advisory Committee \(CSAC\)](#) – established following a recommendation in the [National Statistician's review of crime statistics](#) in 2011 – who will advise the Home Secretary and ONS before any final changes are made.

Police recorded crime statistics, like any administrative data, will be affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place, and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. Therefore, when examining trends in police recorded crime data presented in statistical bulletins it is important to pay attention to the commentary, which will explain any caveats associated with the data.

Crime recording was previously the subject of independent audit by the Audit Commission. In their assessment of police data quality 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”. Thirty-eight police authorities and forces (88 per cent of the 43 forces)¹⁸ were assessed as “good” or “excellent” for crime data quality, which demonstrates a substantial improvement from 12 in 2003/04 (28 per cent). The remaining five forces were judged “fair”. No police authorities or forces were assessed as having “poor” crime data quality in the 2005/06 or 2006/07 audits.

In line with a recommendation in the [National Statistician's review of crime statistics](#), HMIC have carried out a review of police crime and incident reports in all forces in England and Wales ([HMIC](#), 2012). The review looked at a small number of crimes and incident records (fewer than 6,000 across England and Wales) and found that:

¹⁸ Excludes British Transport Police.

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- Three-quarters of forces were judged to have made correct crime recording decisions 90 per cent or more of the time with an average of 92 per cent of incidents correctly finalised, indicating a good national standard;
 - While the majority of police forces performed well, there remained a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of crime (a range of between 86 and 100 per cent from the lowest to the highest performing force) which was a cause for concern.

Detailed figures for each police force are available in the [HMIC report](#) (see Annex B of the report for a force level data table). Although HMIC's review was based on a small number of crimes and incident reports, the rate at which a force was judged to be correctly recording incidents as crimes is a factor that should be borne in mind when comparing crime rates between forces.

Each force has a Force Crime Registrar (FCR) who monitors the application of the Counting Rules and has a final arbiter role with respect to crime recording decisions. A nationally agreed crime data quality audit manual (DQAM) has been developed for use by FCRs. This DQAM is subject to regular review. A national data quality working group meets regularly to consider specific issues, to advise HMIC on inspection activity and to support FCRs in the development of local risk based audits.

In addition to the measures described above, the Home Office carries out internal quality assurance of the recorded crime data. Automated monthly variation checks are carried out with error reports being returned to forces for correction, if appropriate. Prior to the publication of any crime statistics bulletin a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held on the Home Office database are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

3.3 Changes to recorded crime classifications

On occasion, the structure of the classifications used to compile recorded crime may change. There were no changes made that affected the classifications used to form recorded crime published for 2011-12. However, during 2011-12 the Home Office carried out a review of the crime classifications contained within the counting rules to consider to what extent they might be rationalised. This review was geared towards achieving reductions in burden on the police as well as seeking to simplify the classification structure to aid transparency and public understanding. A public consultation was conducted during the autumn of 2011 following which the CSAC considered the various proposals and made recommendations to the Home Secretary.

All of the CSAC papers and letters of advice resulting from that review are available on the [CSAC pages](#) of the UK Statistics Authority website.

As a result, from April 2012 the number of crime classifications is reduced from 148 to 126. Importantly however, the overall number of crimes was not reduced in any way. Rather, that the split of notifiable crime by classification was rationalised. This change has no impact on the format of crime statistics published in July 2012.

3.4 'No crimes'

Police forces record some crimes which are subsequently 'no crimed' where it is judged by the police that no crime actually took place. The HOCR set out circumstances under which a crime report may be 'no crimed'. These include situations where a crime is considered to have been recorded in error or where, having been recorded, additional verifiable information becomes available that determines that no crime was committed (for further information see the 'general rules' section of the HOCR). 'No crimes' relate to crimes already recorded and are therefore distinct from incident reports that are not recorded as crimes in the first place.

Crime reports that are 'no crimed' are removed from police crime data and thus from the police recorded crime statistics. The majority of 'no crime' decisions are made by police forces before data are submitted to the Home Office, and although some revisions are made to published crime statistics as a result of 'no crimes', these are typically small.

The Home Office routinely collects data from police forces on the number of incidents that have been recorded as crimes but have then been 'no crimed'. A table showing the numbers and percentages of 'no crimes' by offence group is available (in Table UG9 of the User Guide tables) from the [ONS website](#) and by police force area from the [Home Office website](#).

Great care is needed in interpreting 'no crime' data. The proportion of 'no crimes' does not in itself infer high or low compliance with the overall requirements of the HOCR. Levels of 'no criming' are particularly susceptible to local recording practice and the IT systems in use. A police force having a high level of 'no crimes' may be indicative of that force having a local recording process that captures all reports as crimes at the first point of contact and before any further investigation has taken place to consider the full facts. Equally a police force with a low level of 'no crimes' might be indicative of a recording practice by which reports are retained as incidents only until a fuller investigation has taken place.

In 2012, HMIC in their wider review of crime and incident recording examined force 'no crime' processes to determine if decisions to 'no crime' were made correctly. In [HMIC's review](#), which looked at a small number of 'no crime' decisions (less than 5,000 across England and Wales), they found that nationally the 'no crime' compliance rate was 87 per cent; this was 84 per cent for violent crime. The range for correct 'no crime' decisions was between 75 and 100 per cent across all police forces.

Chapter 4: Comparison of the CSEW and police recorded crime

4.1 Comparable subset of crime

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a measure of the level of crime committed against the population resident in households in England and Wales, whereas recorded crime is a measure of those crimes reported to the police (estimated to be only 43 per cent of CSEW comparable crime in 2011/12) and then recorded by them. The CSEW includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police, but is limited to crimes against people resident in households and also does not cover all crime types (see Chapter 2).

By adjusting each series, comparisons can be made between police recorded crime and the adult element of the CSEW (those aged 16 and over) allowing a better interpretation of overall crime trends. The need for this comparison has been particularly important during periods when various changes have been made to the police recording of crime.

In order to compare the crime rates measured by the CSEW and police recorded crime, a comparable subset of crimes has been created for a set of offences that are covered by both measures. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the CSEW but they are not adjusted to exclude victims of commercial offences and offences committed against those under 16. Over three-quarters of CSEW offences reported via interviews in recent years fall into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded by the police (Table 4a).

Table 4a: Comparable subset of crimes

CSEW category	Recorded crime offence included
Vehicle thefts	Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) Theft from a vehicle (45) Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48) Vehicle interference and tampering (126)
Burglary	Burglary in a dwelling (28A) Attempted burglary in a dwelling (28B) Distraction burglary in a dwelling (28C) Attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling (28D) Aggravated burglary in a dwelling (29)
Bicycle theft	Theft of unauthorised taking of pedal cycle (44)
Theft from the person	Theft from the person (39)
Vandalism	Arson (56) Arson endangering life (56A) Arson not endangering life (56B) Criminal damage to a dwelling (58A) Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (58B) Criminal damage to a vehicle (58C) Other criminal damage (58D) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling (58E)

	Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (58F) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle (58G) Racially/religiously aggravated other criminal damage (58H) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage (58J)
Assault without injury	Assault without injury on a constable (104) Assault without injury (105A) Racially/religiously aggravated assault without injury (105B)
Assault with minor injury and wounding	More serious wounding or other act endangering life (5) Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent (5A) Assault with intent to cause serious harm (5D) Less serious wounding (8A) Racially/religiously aggravated less serious wounding (8D) Inflicting GBH without intent (8F) Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury (8G) Racially/religiously aggravated inflicting of GBH without intent (8H) Racially/religiously aggravated ABH or other injury (8J) Poisoning or female genital mutilation (8K) Assault with injury (8N) Racially/religiously aggravated assault with injury (8P)
Robbery	Robbery of personal property (34B)

The mapping between CSEW categories and police recorded offence codes are approximate and categories will not be directly equivalent in all cases.

Crimes excluded from comparable subset

Recorded crimes:

The violent offences of: ‘Homicide’; ‘Attempted murder’; ‘Intentional destruction of an unborn child’; the five offences of ‘Causing death by driving’; ‘Endangering life’; ‘Endangering railway passengers’; ‘Endangering life at sea’; ‘Possession of weapons’; ‘Harassment’; ‘Cruelty to or neglect of children’; ‘Abandoning a child under the age of two years’; ‘Child abduction’; ‘Procuring illegal abortion’; all ‘Sexual offences’; ‘Robbery of business property’; ‘Non-domestic burglary’; ‘Proceeds of crime’; ‘Theft in a dwelling’; ‘Theft by an employee’; ‘Theft of mail’; ‘Dishonest use of electricity’; ‘Shoplifting’; ‘Theft from automatic machine or meter’; ‘Handling stolen goods’; ‘Other theft or unauthorised taking’; all ‘Fraud and forgery’; ‘Threat etc. to commit criminal damage’; all ‘Drug offences’ and all ‘Other’ offences.

CSEW:

‘Other household theft’ and ‘Other thefts of personal property’.

Reporting rates: findings from the CSEW

The CSEW asks whether incidents were reported, or otherwise came to the attention of the police. These findings reveal considerable differences in reporting rates between different types of offences and some variability in reporting rates over time. For analysis of reasons given for not reporting crime to the police see [Flatley et al.](#), 2010.

Discrepancies between the trends in the CSEW and police recorded crime may reflect trends in reporting rates. However, they may also reflect changes in police priorities and recording practices, variation within the CSEW sample and differences in the time period covered between the two sources.

Chapter 5: Offence types

5.1 Violent crime

Violent crime covers a range of offence types from minor assaults, such as pushing and shoving that results in no physical harm to murder. This includes offences where the victim was intentionally stabbed, punched, kicked, pushed, jostled, etc. as well as offences where the victim was threatened with violence whether or not there is any injury.

In published crime statistics, violent crime – both as measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and by police recorded crime – is grouped into two broad, high-level categories: ‘Violence with injury’ and ‘Violence without injury’. However, these categories are not directly comparable between the CSEW and police recorded crime: e.g. the CSEW violence categories include robbery, but the police recorded crime violence categories do not (recorded robbery figures are shown separately) and homicide offences are not covered by the CSEW as it is a victim-based survey.

Around half of all CSEW violent incidents and a little under half of all police recorded violence against the person, resulted in injury to the victim:

- **Violence with injury** includes all incidents of wounding, assault with injury and (CSEW only) robbery which resulted in injury. Homicide is only included for police recorded crime. Police recorded crime also includes attempts at inflicting injury, although the CSEW would not include these if no actual injury occurred.
- **Violence without injury** includes all incidents of assault without injury and (CSEW only) incidents of robbery which did not result in injury. Police recorded crime also includes possession of weapons offences and a number of public order offences, such as harassment.

Police recorded crime statistics for violence, especially less serious violence, are particularly affected by changes in recording practice over time; for the population and crime types it covers, the CSEW is the better measure for long-term national trends in violence. Police statistics are important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with and recorded by the police. They are an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems, at a lower geographical level than is possible using the CSEW. Police statistics also provide more reliable information on less common crimes, such as robbery, and are currently the only source of data on homicides and offences against those not resident in households.

CSEW violence

CSEW violent crime is categorised in two other ways: by offence type and according to the victim-offender relationship. CSEW offence types are as follows (estimates for wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery add up to overall violence):

- **Wounding:** the incident results in severe or less serious injury, e.g. cuts, severe bruising, chipped teeth, bruising or scratches requiring medical attention or any more serious injuries.
- **Assault with minor injury:** an incident where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled and the incident resulted in minor injury to the victim, e.g. scratches or bruises.

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- **Assault without injury:** an incident (or attempt) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but resulted in no injury.
 - **Robbery:** an incident in which force or threat of force is used in a theft or attempted theft.

The categories of CSEW violence according to the offender-victim relationship are as follows:

- **Domestic violence**¹⁹ comprises wounding and assaults which involve partners, ex-partners, other relatives or household members.
- **Stranger violence** includes wounding and assaults in which the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before.
- **Acquaintance violence** comprises wounding and assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. It does not include domestic violence.

Figures are also presented for **mugging**, which is a popular rather than a legal term and is the total number of robbery, attempted robbery and snatch theft incidents combined. Snatch theft is excluded from all CSEW violence since it includes no violence or minimal threat of force (e.g. just enough to pull a bag away from someone).

In the CSEW, the previously used **common assault** (or attempted assault) category, which had been inconsistent with the police recorded offence category, was replaced with assault with minor injury and assault without injury categories in 2006/07. This change was made to align CSEW categories more closely with those used by the police.

Police recorded violence against the person

Violence against the person offences contain the full spectrum of assaults, from pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the severity of violence varies considerably between incidents.

Long-term trends in police recorded violent crime can be difficult to interpret, as they are influenced by a number of factors. It is important to consider the following issues when interpreting trends.

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents. The proportion of violent crimes estimated to be reported to the police has increased from the first CSEW results in 1981, but has been reasonably stable since 2002/03. The latest published data on the percentages of CSEW incidents reported to the police are for 2011/12, available from Table D13 of the 'Quarterly First Release to March 2012' release.

Local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded violent crime. Where the police are proactive in addressing low-level violence and anti-social behaviour, this can lead to more of these crimes being brought to their attention and being recorded. For example, research by the Cardiff Violence Research Group showed an association between the introduction of CCTV surveillance and increased police detection of violence (Sivarajasingam et al., 2003).

¹⁹ Domestic violence figures that relate to incidents reported in face-to-face CSEW interviews should be treated with caution. Prevalence rates for domestic violence derived from the self-completion module are around five times higher for adults than those obtained from the face-to-face interviews (Walby and Allen, 2004). Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by the main CSEW, findings are published solely from the self-completion module.

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices. The 1998 changes to the Home Office Counting Rules had a very significant impact on the recording of violent and sexual crime; the number of violence against the person offences recorded by the police increased by 118 per cent as a result of the 1998 changes ([Povey and Prime, 1999](#)). Much of this increase resulted from a widening of the offence coverage to include assaults with little or no physical injury and offences of harassment (again with no injury).

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced in April 2002, again resulted in increased recording of violent and sexual crimes particularly for less serious offences, as well as for some other offences. There was an estimated NCRS effect of 23 per cent on violence against the person offences in the first 12 months of implementation, although it was recognised that this effect was unlikely to be complete within the first 12 months ([Simmons et al., 2003](#)).

Audits undertaken by the Audit Commission on behalf of the Home Office indicated substantial improvements in crime recording across forces in the two to three years following NCRS introduction, which would particularly impact on violence against the person and result in increases in recorded crimes for this category.

Incidents of violence against the person recorded by the police include the following categories as described below:

- **Homicide**²⁰ (murder, manslaughter and infanticide).
- **Death by driving** offences (includes death by dangerous driving, careless or inconsiderate driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and while being an unlicensed or uninsured driver).
- **Corporate manslaughter**²⁰ where an organisation is deemed responsible for a person's death.
- **Grievous bodily harm (GBH)** includes injury resulting in permanent disability, more than minor permanent disfigurement, broken bones, fractured skull, compound fractures, substantial loss of blood, lengthy treatment or serious psychiatric injury (based on expert evidence).
- **Actual Bodily Harm (ABH)** relates to any assault with injury which is not GBH (with or without intent) and includes internal injury and shock (when accompanied by expert psychological evidence).
- **Threats to kill** where an individual fears that the offender's threat is real and may be carried out.
- **Possession of weapons** offences include possession of firearms with intent, possession of other weapons and possession of article with blade or point. If a weapon is used, then the police will normally record a more serious notifiable offence. Possession of firearms with no intent offences are recorded under other miscellaneous offences.
- **Harassment offences** are those incidents where no other substantive notifiable offence exists, but when looked at as a course of conduct are likely to cause fear, alarm or distress.

²⁰ In the HOCR (Home Office Counting Rules), corporate manslaughter is also included in 'Homicide', although in current crime statistics releases, 'Homicide' does not include corporate manslaughter. This presentation of corporate manslaughter will be covered as part of a public consultation on the presentation of crime statistics due to take place later in 2012. The number of corporate manslaughter offences recorded by the police in each year since 2008/09 (the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force in April 2008) is small (fewer than three cases in each of the last four financial years) and therefore the effect on the overall 'Homicide' figures is minimal.

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- **Public fear, alarm or distress** offences are where a course of conduct is not present.
 - **Assault without injury** offences are those where at the most a feeling of touch or passing moment of pain is experienced by the victim.

The published figures do not separately identify individual homicide offences as, when a homicide is initially recorded by the police, the full circumstances of the incident may not be known. Furthermore, the precise nature of an offence may only become clear once a suspect has been apprehended and appears at court.

The Home Office receives two sources of information on homicide from the police forces of England and Wales (including the British Transport Police where the incident occurred within England and Wales). These are:

- the monthly aggregated recorded crime return (see Section 3.1).
- a more detailed statistical return for each recorded homicide containing additional information, including victim and suspect details and the circumstances of the offence. This is used to populate a Home Office database called the Homicide Index.

The Homicide Index contains details about homicides recorded in England and Wales since 1977. In contrast to the aggregated recorded crime return, the Homicide Index is continually being updated with revised information from the police as investigations continue and as cases are heard by the courts. As the Homicide Index is continually updated and provides more detailed information, the Index is viewed as a better source of data than the separate monthly aggregated recorded crime return. However, due to the time permitted for police forces to submit the individual returns (within 30 days of recording an incident as homicide) and the complexities in checking the data, it is not possible to use the Homicide Index figures in the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales. Instead, figures from the monthly aggregated recorded crime return are presented as a provisional homicide estimate, with full analysis published in a supplementary bulletin at the beginning of the following year. Care should therefore be taken when using the provisional figures for homicide as these are subject to change (though in recent years the changes between provisional and final figures have generally been small).

GBH with intent occurs when there is clear evidence of a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm regardless of level of injury sustained.

GBH without intent occurs when serious bodily harm results but there is no evidence of a deliberate intent to inflict such an injury. Prior to April 2008, GBH without intent was not separated out from a much broader category of less serious wounding that mostly consisted of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH).

The definition of **GBH with intent** rests upon whether “the actions of the offender clearly show a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm”. The clarification to the rules from April 2008 makes this clear and that “the gravity of the injury resulting is not necessarily the determining factor”. The rules were clarified as there had previously been some confusion as to whether the degree of injury sustained, rather than intent, should be the sole determining factor in the recording of these offences (see Chapter 3).

The other violent offences recorded by the police include attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, poisoning or female genital mutilation, cruelty or neglect to children, abandoning a child under two years and child abduction.

Police recorded crime statistics do not specifically identify offences of domestic violence since it is not a legal definition. Such offences would be recorded in accordance with the intent of the offence and any injuries sustained e.g. GBH with intent.

Police recorded crime figures for violence against the person quoted in the text and charts also include assault on a constable and racially or religiously aggravated assault, which are both separate categories within recorded crime. Such incidents are not treated separately in the CSEW and would fall within the CSEW assault with minor injury or without injury categories.

Offences involving weapons

The Home Office collects additional data from the police on offences involving the use of firearms and knives or sharp instruments. These additional collections reflect the serious nature of these offences.

Offences involving the use of firearms

The firearm offences collection covers offences recorded by the police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat. This collection covers those firearms covered by the Firearms Act 1968:

- Firearms that use a controlled explosion to fire a projectile. This category includes handguns, shotguns and rifles. These types of weapon are often used in the more serious offences, and tend to account for most of the fatalities and serious injuries from such offences.
- Imitation firearms. This category includes replica weapons, as well as very low-powered weapons which can fire small plastic pellets, such as BB guns and soft air weapons. While injuries can occur from offences involving these weapons, they are less common and tend to be less serious.
- Air weapons. The majority of offences which involve air weapons relate to criminal damage. While air weapons can cause injury (and sometimes fatalities), by their nature they are less likely to do so than firearms that use a controlled explosion.

It is not always possible for the police to categorise the type of firearm that has been used in an offence. For example, some imitation weapons are so realistic that they are indistinguishable from a real firearm. The police will record which type of weapon has been used given the evidence available, and may depend on descriptions of victims or witnesses, if the police do not have sufficient information about the type of firearm used in the offence or if the firearm was concealed.

Figures on the use of firearms in recorded offences are published provisionally in the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales, with finalised figures being published in the supplementary bulletin on violent crime released at the beginning of each year.

As with overall police recorded crime, offences involving the use of a firearm data were affected by the changes in recording practices in 1998 and 2002. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare figures across these changes in the series.

Firearm possession offences, where the firearm has not been used, are not included in this special collection. The latest published data are for the year ending June 2012; these are available from Table A4.

Offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument

The Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments since April 2007. Knives are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. In 2007/08 this group of offences consisted of attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery. In 2008/09, the offence coverage was expanded to include offences of threats to kill, actual bodily harm (ABH), sexual assault and rape. Due to the changes in coverage and issues relating to a clarification in the Counting Rules for GBH with intent²¹ comparable data for these offences are only available since 2008/09.

Due to recording practices, three forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their data returns which are outside the scope of this collection. These forces are: British Transport Police, Surrey and Sussex. As reported in [Chaplin et al.](#), 2011, West Midlands also included these offences in their data returns until April 2010. Due to this change it was not possible to compare data for West Midlands or national totals across this period and this was reflected in the presentation of these figures in previous crime bulletins. National data are now comparable for 2010/11 and 2011/12. The change had no effect on the main counts of violence against the person with injury.

Estimates suggest that the unbroken bottle and glass offences recorded by the three police forces named above account for around one per cent of the knife and sharp instrument offence data reported. This estimate was produced by collecting additional information from police forces and was based on analysis of the April to June 2009 period when five forces included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns. The overstatement is largely due to the inclusion of these offences within the ABH and GBH categories. The use or threat of an unbroken bottle or glass is less common for other offence types.

Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the categories of ABH and GBH are not directly comparable between 2011/12 and 2012/13. However, these changes are not expected to affect the totals – see Table A4 for more details.

Sexual offences

The police recorded crime category of **most serious sexual crime** encompasses rape, sexual assault and sexual activity with children. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of all three categories so comparisons before and after the introduction of this Act should be made with caution.

The group of **other sexual offences** recorded by the police covers unlawful sexual activity, mostly involving consenting adults, and is therefore particularly influenced by police activity in investigating such crime. It includes among other offences, exploitation of prostitution and soliciting, but not prostitution itself (which is not a notifiable offence). The Sexual Offences Act

²¹ See [Walker et al.](#), 2009 for more information.

2003 introduced certain offences such as sexual grooming, which is included in this group. Offences of **indecent exposure**^{22 23 24} have been retrospectively reclassified to sexual offences back to 2002/03 to aid comparisons over time.

Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive, which are included in the offence type of wounding).

CSEW respondents may not wish to disclose sensitive information face-to-face and so interviews since 2004/05 (and prior to this in 1996 and 2001) have included self-completion modules on intimate violence (see below). These figures have previously been published separately by the Home Office (see [Smith et al.](#), 2012) and will be published in future supplementary releases produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Intimate personal violence

Intimate personal violence is the collective term used to describe domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and the categories are defined as follows:

- **Any domestic abuse:** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.
- **Partner abuse (non-sexual):** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a current or former partner.
- **Family abuse (non-sexual):** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother or other relative).
- **Emotional or financial abuse:** includes being prevented from having a fair share of household money, stopped from seeing friends or relatives or repeatedly belittled.
- **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.
- **Minor force** is classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'pushed you, held you down or slapped you'.
- **Severe force** involves being kicked, hit, bitten, choked, strangled, threatened with a weapon, threats to kill, use of a weapon or some other kind of force.
- **Sexual assault:** indecent exposure, sexual threats and unwanted touching ('less serious'), rape or assault by penetration including attempts ('serious'), by any person including a partner or family member.
- **Rape** is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by a penis without consent.

²² The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

²³ 'Other miscellaneous sexual offences' consisted solely of the former offence of 'Indecent exposure' for years prior to 2004/05. This became the offence of 'Exposure' and was included within 'Other miscellaneous sexual offences' from May 2004.

²⁴ Prior to 2009/10, a small number of offences continued to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003. While these may have been legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error.

- **Assault by penetration** is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.
- **Stalking**: one or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of receiving obscene or threatening unwanted letters, e-mails, text messages or phone calls, having had obscene or threatening information about them placed on the internet, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, following or watching, or interfering with or damaging personal property by any person, including a partner or family member.²⁵

Robbery

A robbery is an incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. As with violence against the person, police recorded robberies cover a wide range of seriousness from armed bank robberies to muggings for mobile phones or small amounts of money. Recorded crime offences also distinguish between robbery of personal property (**personal robbery**) and business property (**business robbery**). Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) is also included as robbery.

The CSEW covers robberies against individuals resident in households; these are included in the violent crime count.

5.2 Acquisitive crime

CSEW acquisitive crime covers all household and personal crime where items are stolen, and can be split into household and personal acquisitive crimes.

Table 5a: Categorisation of CSEW acquisitive crime

Household acquisitive crime	Personal acquisitive crime
Burglary	Snatch theft ('Theft from the person')
Attempted burglary in a dwelling	Stealth theft ('Theft from the person')
Theft in a dwelling	Attempted theft from the person
Theft from outside a dwelling	Other theft of personal property and other attempted theft of personal property
Theft and attempted theft of and from vehicles	Robbery and attempted robbery
Theft of pedal cycle	

Although acquisitive crime includes robbery, due to the use of threat or force when depriving an individual of their property, robbery is considered to be a violent crime (see Section 5.1).

²⁵ Stalking is based on one or more incidents as opposed to two or more as previously described. The revised questions in the split sample experiment for 2012/13 base stalking on more than one incident.

Burglary

The CSEW covers **domestic burglary** only, which is an unauthorised entry into the victim's dwelling but does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g. impersonating an official).

CSEW domestic burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be in the dwelling at the time of the offence; this is called **theft in a dwelling** and includes thefts committed inside a home by someone who is entitled to be there e.g. party guests, workmen.

The police record an offence of **burglary** if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, GBH or unlawful damage. **Aggravated burglary** occurs when the burglar is carrying a firearm, imitation firearm, offensive weapon or explosive.

Police recorded crime figures are published separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and those which occur in commercial or other properties.

- **Domestic burglaries** include burglaries in all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (for example, by a connecting door).
- **Non-domestic burglaries** include burglaries to businesses (including hotels and similar accommodation) and also some burglaries of sheds and outhouses where these are not clearly connected to the inhabited property.

Using the CSEW it is possible to differentiate between burglaries with entry and attempted burglaries and also between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss (including attempts). Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary add up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus burglary with no loss (including attempts) also add up to total burglary. These are defined below.

An **attempted burglary** is recorded by the police and in the CSEW if there is clear evidence that the offender made an actual, physical attempt to gain entry to a building (e.g. damage to locks, or broken doors) but was unsuccessful.

Burglary with entry is a term used in the CSEW and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss is a term used in the CSEW and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered and something was stolen.

In the CSEW, **burglary with no loss** includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. In making comparisons with police recorded crime, CSEW burglary with no loss (including attempts) is used as a proxy for attempted burglary, though there will be some instances with no loss where entry has been gained.

Vehicle-related thefts

The CSEW includes offences against private households only but relates to vehicles owned by any member of the household (company cars are included). CSEW offences cover cars, vans, motorbikes, motor-scooters or mopeds used for non-commercial purposes published in three categories:

- **Theft of vehicles** where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered.
- **Theft from vehicles** refers to both theft of parts and accessories of motor vehicles and to theft of contents.
- **Attempted thefts of and from vehicles** – no distinction is made between attempted thefts of and attempted thefts from vehicles as it is often difficult to ascertain the offender’s intention.

If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft of a vehicle.

The police recorded crime category of offences against vehicles covers private and commercial vehicles (although does not distinguish between the two) and comprises:

- **Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle** where the vehicle is taken without the consent of the owner or other lawful authority; this includes incidents where there is intent to permanently deprive the owner or where intent is not evident, typically including ‘joyriding’ where the car is later recovered.
- **Aggravated vehicle taking** where a vehicle once taken is known to have been driven dangerously, damaged or caused an accident.
- **Theft from a vehicle** targeting property in or on the vehicle (this includes attempts).
- **Interfering with a motor vehicle** includes crimes where, while damage has been caused to the vehicle as part of an attempt to steal either the vehicle or its contents or take the vehicle without consent, the specific intent of the offender is not obvious. For example, a car door may be damaged, which shows an attempt was made to open it, but it cannot be determined if the intent was to steal the car or some contents within it.

Interfering with a motor vehicle offences as presented in the crime statistics bulletins are equivalent to offences formerly referred to as ‘vehicle interference and tampering’. The CSEW cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the CSEW it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) is included within the robbery offence group.

Theft

Theft from the person covers theft (including attempts) of a handbag, wallet, cash, etc. directly from the victim, but without the use of physical force against the victim, or the threat of it. The CSEW category breaks into two components:

- **Snatch theft** where there may be an element of force involved but this is just enough to snatch the property away; and
- **Stealth theft** where no force is used and the victim is unaware of the incident (pick-pocketing). Stealth theft makes up the majority share of **theft from the person** incidents.

For police recorded crime, **theft from the person** offences are those where there is no use of threat or force in the process of the theft. Stealth theft is included as part of this recorded crime category and cannot be separately identified from snatch theft.

CSEW other theft of personal property covers thefts away from the home where no force is used, there was no direct contact between the offender and victim and the victim was not holding or carrying the items when they were stolen (i.e. thefts of unattended property).

CSEW other household theft covers the following theft types: 'Theft in a dwelling' includes thefts that occurred in the victim's dwelling by someone who was entitled to be there; 'Theft from outside a dwelling' covers incidents where items are stolen from outside the victim's home and this theft category also includes burglaries to non-connected buildings (e.g. garden sheds).

The police recorded crime offence group of **other theft** offences covers thefts that are not covered by other acquisitive crime offence groups (i.e. thefts from vehicles is included in offences against vehicles). Offences included are theft from a person, thefts of pedal cycles, shoplifting and other theft or unauthorised taking (including metal theft). In recognition of the volume of metal theft crime and its impact on the economy and particular industries that are targeted, a new metal theft data collection is included in the 2012/13 Annual Data Requirement (ADR) for police forces.

Bicycle theft

The CSEW covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any other member of the household. Police recorded crime also includes offences where a pedal cycle is stolen or taken without authorisation, within the other theft offences category.

This category does not include every bicycle theft, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary) and are therefore classified as such by the police and in the CSEW:

- Burglary – if anything else was stolen or an attempt was made to steal something else, in addition to the bicycle, from the household's dwelling.
- Theft from a dwelling – when the bicycle is stolen from inside a house by someone who was not trespassing.
- Theft from a vehicle – if the bicycle is one of a number of things stolen.

5.3 Vandalism and criminal damage

In the CSEW, criminal damage is referred to as **vandalism** and is defined as the intentional and malicious damage to the home, other property or vehicles. Vandalism in the CSEW ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g. letting down car tyres) or where the damage is accidental are not included. Where vandalism occurs in combination with burglary or robbery, the burglary or robbery codes take precedence over the damage codes in offence coding.

The CSEW produces estimates both for vandalism to the home and other property and against vehicles. **Vandalism to the home and other property** involves intentional or malicious damage to doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs, for example. Vandalism to other property also includes arson where there is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household (including vehicles) caused by fire.

The CSEW defines **vandalism of vehicles** as any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle, such as scratching a coin down the side of a car or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and, therefore, included in vandalism to other property. The CSEW only covers vandalism against private

households; that is, vehicles owned by any member of the household (this includes company cars). Police recorded crime includes all vehicle vandalism under the offence classification of criminal damage to a motor vehicle.

Police recorded **criminal damage** results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Damage which is repairable without cost, or which is accidental, is not included in police recorded crime statistics. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage.

Arson is the act of deliberately setting fire to property, including buildings and vehicles. In the CSEW this is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household caused by fire, regardless of the type of property involved. The only exception is where the item that is set on fire was stolen first (this is coded as theft). Arson is included in vandalism to other property and includes arson to vehicles.

For vehicle crime, if a vehicle is stolen and later found deliberately burnt out by the same offender, one crime of theft of a vehicle is recorded by the police and in the CSEW. If there is evidence that someone unconnected with the theft committed the arson, then an offence of arson is recorded by the police in addition to the theft. For the CSEW, only an offence of theft of a vehicle would be recorded as in practice it would often not be possible to establish that the arson was committed by someone unconnected with the theft.

5.4 Fraud and forgery

The measurement of fraud is challenging as it is a deceptive crime which is difficult to detect accurately and is often targeted at organisations rather than individuals. It is known to be under-reported to the police and difficult to measure using a household survey. Fraud data from a range of sources are presented in the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales to provide a more complete picture. These include:

- Police recorded crime;
- National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB);
- CSEW plastic card fraud module; and
- UK Cards Association.

For further information on sources of fraud data and the nature, extent and economic impact of fraud in the UK see [Wilson et al.](#), 2006, [Flatley](#), 2007 and [Levi et al.](#), 2007.

Police recorded crime

Under the Fraud Act 2006 (introduced in January 2007²⁶), fraud is defined as dishonestly making a false representation to obtain property or money for themselves or another. Previously it was defined as dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or pecuniary advantage. Table 5b shows

²⁶ New offences that were introduced from 15 January 2007 were temporarily recorded as 'Other fraud' until the new offence codes came into being on 1 April 2007.

the police recorded fraud and forgery offences before and after the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006

Table 5b: Police recorded fraud and forgery offences

Police recorded fraud and forgery offences before the Fraud Act 2006	Current police recorded fraud and forgery offences under the Fraud Act 2006
Fraud by company director	Fraud by company director
False accounting	False accounting
Bankruptcy and insolvency offences	Bankruptcy and insolvency offences
Forgery or use of false drug prescription	Forgery or use of false drug prescription
Other frauds	Other frauds
Cheque and credit card fraud	Failing to disclose information
	Abuse of position
	Obtaining services dishonestly
	Making or supplying articles for use in fraud
	Possession of articles for use in fraud
	Other forgery and vehicle/driver document fraud

The introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 changed the recording of cheque and plastic card fraud from a 'per transaction' to a 'per account' basis. This means that if an account is defrauded, one offence is recorded rather than one offence per fraudulent transaction as previously. This change was introduced to reduce bureaucracy and to reflect that the financial loss from this type of fraudulent crime is generally borne by the account holding financial institution rather than the account holder or those involved in processing the transactions.

The changes resulting from the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 mean that police recorded fraud and forgery figures from 2007/08 onwards are not comparable with previous years.

National Fraud Authority and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

The Fraud Act 2006 and the Attorney General's Fraud Review resulted in the creation of a National Fraud Authority (NFA). One of their key objectives is to better support the reporting of fraudulent crimes and their subsequent investigation.

In 2009/10 the NFA opened Action Fraud, a national fraud reporting centre that records incidents of fraud directly from the public by phone or internet in addition to incidents reported to and recorded by the police. Action Fraud work with partners in law enforcement – the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), run by the City of London Police – to ensure a joined-up approach to policing and detecting fraud.

Action Fraud has begun to take over responsibility from the police for recording selected incidents of fraud; the police are advising victims to report fraud incidents directly to Action Fraud. Selected offences include:

- Advance fee fraud – victims are targeted to make advance payments for goods, services or financial gains that do not materialise.
- Banking and payment related fraud – plastic card, online bank account and mortgage fraud.
- Business trading fraud – businesses set up with the intention of defrauding customers.
- Charities and grants – fake charities.
- Computer misuse – hacking, viruses.
- Consumer phone fraud – agreeing a phone contract with no intention of paying.
- Corporate employee fraud – an employee making a fraudulent claim for travel or subsistence.
- Corporate procurement fraud – dishonestly obtaining an advantage during procurement process.
- Insurance related fraud – false claim made to an insurance company.
- Investment fraud – someone is encouraged to invest in a company for falsely high rates of return.
- Purchase fraud – payment for goods or services are made using fraudulent means.
- Telecommunications industry fraud – mobile phone fraud.

In 2011/12 five police forces began directing²⁷ fraud offences to Action Fraud at the following times:

- City of London – April 2011;
- Leicestershire – July 2011;
- Cumbria – November 2011;
- Kent – December 2011; and
- Greater Manchester – January 2012.

The remaining police forces in England and Wales will transfer responsibility for recording NFIB fraud offences to Action Fraud by 31 March 2013. Police forces will continue to record some forgery offences²⁸; offences which meet the ‘call for service’ criteria²⁹ and crimes passed to them by the NFIB for investigation.

A Government commissioned review of fraud in 2006 recognised that attempts to tackle fraud were being undermined by the lack of a joined-up approach to reporting, recording and analysing fraud. It therefore recommended the formation of a National Fraud Authority (NFA), to act as an umbrella government organisation to co-ordinate and oversee the fight against fraud. It also led to the City of London Police becoming the National Lead Force for fraud, giving them responsibility for setting up

²⁷ Where a victim contacts the police to report a fraud offence, they will be advised to report it to Action Fraud. Where a victim declines this facility, the police force will take full details and pass them to Action Fraud.

²⁸ These include ‘Forgery or use of false drug prescription’, ‘Other forgery’, ‘Possession of false documents’ and ‘Vehicle/driver document fraud’.

²⁹ Includes offences where offenders are arrested by police, where there has been a call for service and the offender is committing or has recently committed the offence, or where there is a known suspect.

a centre of excellence for fraud investigation across the UK. It also led to the creation of the National Fraud Reporting Centre (now branded as Action Fraud) and the NFIB.

The NFIB is a government-funded initiative run by the City of London Police, jointly established by the NFA and the police in 2009/10. The NFIB collates fraud data from Action Fraud, the UK fraud prevention service (CIFAS) and the UK Cards Association. In the future, the NFIB will be collecting data from other fraud prevention and financial institutions. The NFIB analyses the fraud offences they record to identify positive investigatory opportunities. Where there is a viable investigational lead, they will refer cases to police forces and other investigative agencies³⁰ to follow up.

Figures supplied by NFIB are not National Statistics as the dataset is still under development. As more police forces direct selected fraud offences to Action Fraud, and more information is gathered from additional sources, the dataset will continue to grow towards showing a more complete picture of fraud in the UK.

CIFAS

CIFAS is a UK-wide fraud prevention service. They are a not-for-profit membership association representing public and private sectors and operate the National Fraud database and Staff Fraud database. Their data are included in NFIB fraud figures.

UK Cards Association

The UK Cards Association is the leading trade association for the card payments industry in the UK. They collate data on credit card, debit card and online banking fraud and pass details of confirmed fraud with losses to the NFIB who include these data in their figures.

CSEW

Stolen plastic cards (i.e. credit, debit or bank cards) are included in the main CSEW crime count under the relevant offence, such as burglary or theft from the person. The CSEW included a separate module of questions on experience of plastic card fraud in 2005/06 and then from 2007/08 onwards.

5.5 Hate crime

Hate crime covers any notifiable offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, as having been motivated (entirely or partially) by a hostility or prejudice to a personal characteristic or perceived personal characteristic, such as ethnicity or religion.

In 2007, the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Prison Service (now the National Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the criminal justice system agreed a common definition of 'hate crime' and five 'strands' that would be monitored centrally³¹. Primarily, this was to ensure a consistent working definition to allow accurate recording and monitoring. The five monitored strands (http://cps.gov.uk/news/fact_sheets/hate_crime/index.html) are:

³⁰ For example: HM Revenue and Customs, Department for Work and Pensions and the Trading Standards Institute.

³¹ For the agreed definition of hate incidents / crime, see: http://www.report-it.org.uk/files/hate_crime_shared_definitions.pdf.

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- Disability;
 - Gender-identity;
 - Race;
 - Religion/faith; and
 - Sexual orientation.

Crimes based on hostility to age, gender, or appearance, for example, can also be hate crimes, although they are not centrally monitored.

Hate crime can take many forms including:

- physical attacks such as assault, grievous bodily harm and murder, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson;
- threat of attack including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate, and unfounded, malicious complaints; and
- verbal abuse, insults or harassment – taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace.

The police have been recording reported hate crimes since April 2008 for the five monitored strands listed above. Figures (covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 2009) were first published by The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2010, and figures for 2010 were published in September 2011³².

The government made a commitment for the Home Office to publish hate crime figures as part of [The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime](#) (2012). Figures recorded by the police for 2011/12 were published by the Home Office in September 2012 covering the five monitored strands of hate crime (each offence can be assigned more than one hate crime strand). ACPO will be publishing hate crime figures for 2011; however, data are not directly comparable as the time periods for the collections differ as does the recording methodology (forces record solely one form of monitored hate crime for each offence) and geographical coverage.

Hate crime data from the CSEW were published for the first time in [Smith et al.](#), 2012.

Racially or religiously motivated hate crime

The CSEW question on whether an incident was motivated by race was first introduced in 1988, and has been kept as a separate question since then. CSEW information on racially-motivated hate crime has been previously published in the Ministry of Justice's publication on '[Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System](#)'.

Religiously-motivated hate crime used to be asked about as a separate question (in the 2005/06 and 2006/07 CSEW) but was merged into the main CSEW question when further hate crime questions referring to sexual orientation, age and disability were introduced in 2007/08. In 2009/10, gender was added as a motivation, and transgender or gender identity was added as a motivation

³² <http://www.acpo.presscentre.com/Press-Releases/ACPO-publishes-hate-crime-data-for-2010-111.aspx>

to the 2011/12 survey. Figures on racially and religiously motivated crimes from the 2005/06 and 2006/07 CSEW were reported in [Jansson et al.](#), 2007.

Racially aggravated offences are also collated through police recorded crime data and are legally defined under Section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Section 39) added the religiously aggravated aspect. Racially and religiously aggravated offences are categorised together in police recorded crime and cannot be separately identified.

5.6 Drug offences

With effect from April 2004, ACPO issued guidance to forces over the recording of warnings for cannabis possession (these were termed 'formal warnings' for cannabis possession prior to January 2007). These were incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules (see Section 3.2 for more information). From January 2009 it has also been possible to issue a Penalty Notice for Disorder for cannabis possession (this detection method was not separated from cannabis warnings in statistics for the period to the end of March 2009).

In addition, the Home Office produces a separate National Statistics bulletin on '[Drug Misuse Declared](#)' for England and Wales, covering illicit drug use based on results from the CSEW.

5.7 Anti-social behaviour

The term 'anti-social behaviour' (ASB) was formalised in the late 1990s to describe a wide range of the nuisance, disorder and crime that affect people's daily lives.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defined anti-social behaviour in law as 'acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household'.

Police recorded ASB incidents

Anti-social behaviour incidents are recorded by the police in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR). In many cases these incidents may still be crimes in law, such as littering or dog fouling, but they are not of a level of severity that would result in the recording of a notifiable offence. Thus, they are not included in the main police recorded crime collection.

Figures relating to ASB, however, can be considered alongside those on police recorded (notifiable) crime to provide a more comprehensive view of the crime and disorder that comes to the attention of the police. The effects on a victim of ASB can be similar to that experienced by a victim of a crime; for example, anger, annoyance or fear. ASB incidents are presented on the national crime map service to inform the public of crime and disorder happening in their local area.

Figures should be interpreted as incidents recorded by the police. These figures do, however, provide an incomplete count of the extent of reported ASB as incidents are also reported to other agencies, such as local authorities or social landlords (e.g. problems with nuisance neighbours). Such reports will not generally be included in these police figures.

Prior to 2011/12, the police had been using 14 categories, defined by the NSIR, for recording ASB incidents that fall short of being notifiable crimes. While these categories provided a suitable dataset for recording ASB they did not encourage call-handlers to consider vulnerability issues and the risk involved for the caller, other individuals, the community as a whole or the environment if the ASB continued.

From 2011/12, a new set of simplified categories was introduced to change the emphasis from merely recording and responding to incidents to identifying those vulnerable individuals, communities and environments most at risk and therefore in need of a response before the problems escalate. There are now just three categories of ASB.

Personal

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.

It includes incidents that cause concern, stress, disquiet and/or irritation through to incidents that have a serious impact on people's quality of life.

At one extreme of the spectrum it includes minor annoyance; at the other end it could result in risk of harm, deterioration of health and disruption of mental or emotional well-being, resulting in an inability to conduct normal day to day activities through fear and intimidation.

Nuisance

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.

It includes incidents where behaviour goes beyond the conventional bounds of acceptability and interferes with public interests including health, safety and quality of life.

Just as individuals will have differing expectations and levels of tolerance, communities will have different ideas about what behaviour goes beyond being tolerable or acceptable.

Environmental

Deals with the interface between people and places.

It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings, including natural, built and social environments.

This category is about encouraging reasonable behaviour while managing and protecting the various environments so that people can enjoy their own private spaces as well as shared/public spaces.

Given the change in emphasis from merely categorising and recording incidents to risk assessing incidents and identifying individual, community and environmental vulnerability, the previous 14 ASB categories cannot simply be mapped to one of the three new categories. In addition, certain types of incident that previously would have been recorded as ASB, such as hoax calls, are now

recorded under other NSIR categories. For these reasons, figures for 2011/12 are not directly comparable with those from previous years.

Quality in recording of ASB incidents

While incidents are recorded under NSIR in accordance with the same ‘victim focused’ approach that applies for recorded crime, these figures are not accredited National Statistics and are not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the main recorded crime collection.

A recent report by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary ([HMIC](#), 2012) raised some concerns over the recording of ASB incidents. From the small number of ASB incidents reviewed (around 1,000 across England and Wales):

- some incidents recorded by the police as ASB should have instead been recorded as crimes – findings show that these varied in number between police forces; and
- there was poor identification of repeat, vulnerable and intimidated victims of ASB at the first point of contact.

It is known that a small number of police forces are erroneously duplicating some occurrences of a singular ASB incident where multiple calls have been made.

In addition, HMIC reviews found that there was greater variation in the recording of anti-social incidents across police forces than in recording notifiable offences. The variation in the type of anti-social behaviour incident recorded into the three new strands of ‘Personal’, ‘Nuisance’ and ‘Environmental’ (from 2011/12 onwards) across police forces suggests that there are some discrepancies in how police forces are categorising incidents.

Another [HMIC review](#) in 2012 looked at the police service’s approach to dealing with ASB and reported that while this has improved since 2010, there is still a large variation in victim satisfaction levels across England and Wales. More can be done to tackle this problem and to identify those at most risk of harm.

Perceptions and experience measured by the CSEW

The CSEW has long-standing questions asking respondents about perceptions of problems with different types of anti-social behaviour in their local area. High levels of perceived ASB are determined by responses received to seven individual questions relating to:

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars;
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties;
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places;
- People using or dealing drugs;
- Rubbish or litter lying around;
- Teenagers hanging around on the streets; and
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property.

Perceptions of ASB are measured using a scale based on answers to the seven questions as follows: ‘very big problem’ = 3, ‘fairly big problem’ = 2, ‘not a very big problem’ = 1 and ‘not a problem at all’ = 0. The maximum score for the seven questions is 21. Respondents with a score of

11 or more on this scale are classified as having a high level of perceived ASB. This scale can only be calculated for the 2001 CSEW onwards as the question on people being drunk or rowdy was only introduced in 2001.

Measures of perceptions of each of the seven types (or strands) of ASB (for example, perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour) are based on the proportion of CSEW respondents who perceive that particular strand to be a very or fairly big problem in their local area.

From April 2011 questions about perceptions of ASB have been asked of a reduced sample compared with previous years (questions will be asked of half of the sample instead of the full sample). National estimates for these questions are still available from 2011/12, but are no longer available at police force area (PFA) level.

New questions about actual experiences of ASB problems were added for the first time to the 2011/12 CSEW. Analysis is presented on the proportions of people who have experienced any of 13 specific types of ASB:

- Begging, vagrancy or homeless people;
- Drink related behaviour;
- Groups hanging around on the streets;
- Inconsiderate behaviour³³;
- Litter, rubbish or dog-fouling;
- Loud music or other noise;
- Nuisance neighbours;
- Out of control or dangerous dogs;
- People being intimidated, verbally abused or harassed;
- People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public;
- People using or dealing drugs;
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property; and
- Vehicle related behaviour³⁴.

³³ 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, etc.

³⁴ Includes inconvenient/illegal parking; abandoned vehicles; speeding cars/motorcycles; car revving; joyriding, etc.

Chapter 6: Perceptions

6.1 Perceptions of crime levels

Questions on the perception of change in national and local crime have been included in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) since 1996. Perceptions of local crime levels used to be asked of the whole sample that had lived at their address for three or more years, but since April 2008 the question has been asked of one quarter of the sample, irrespective of how long they have lived at their address. For trend comparisons respondents who have lived at their address for less than three years have been excluded from 2008/09 to 2011/12 figures.

6.2 Likelihood of victimisation and worry about crime

Respondents to the CSEW are asked about their perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary, vehicle crime or violent crime. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary is based on those who say they are very or fairly likely to have their home burgled in the next year. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of violent crime is a composite measure of anyone who thinks they are very or fairly likely to be either mugged/robbed or physically attacked by a stranger in the next year, or both. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of vehicle crime is a composite measure of vehicle owners who think they are very or fairly likely to have either a car/van stolen or something stolen from a car/van in the next year, or both. These questions are asked of all respondents, irrespective of whether they have been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months.

The worry about crime indicator on the CSEW has three components: worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime. The measure for worry about **burglary** is the percentage of respondents who say they are 'very worried' about having their home broken into and something stolen. The measure for worry about **car crime** is based on two questions on worry about 'having your car stolen' and 'having things stolen from your car'. It uses a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: 'very worried' = 2; 'fairly worried' = 1; 'not very worried' and 'not at all worried' = 0. Scores for individual respondents are calculated by summing the scores across each question, resulting in an overall score ranging from 0 to 4. The percentage for this component is based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a car and who score 3 or 4 on this scale.

The measure for worry about **violent crime** is based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. The same coding system for question responses is used as for the vehicle crime questions. Once results from the four questions are combined, the scale for the overall score ranges from 0 (i.e. all responses are either 'not very worried' or 'not at all worried') to 8 (i.e. all responses are 'very worried'). The percentage for this component is based on respondents who score four or more on this scale.

6.3 Anti-social behaviour

The CSEW measures high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour (ASB) based on responses to seven individual questions. These are then collated into a single variable measuring perceptions of

ASB, an approach that has been used for the 2001 CSEW onwards. These questions are asked of a half-sample of all respondents in the 2011/12 survey.

More details about these, and the new questions on experience of ASB asked for the first time in the 2011/12 CSEW, can be found in Section 5.7.

6.4 Confidence in the police and local council

A new set of questions relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local councils were added to the CSEW in October 2007, asking respondents to what extent they agree or disagree with a set of statements. The current question asks respondents for the extent to which they agree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their local area.

Further questions about how the police and local council seek people's views and keep people informed about action on anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area were removed in April 2011 as part of the annual questionnaire development process. It appears that changes to the questionnaire may have contributed to the step change between March and April 2011 in the proportion of people agreeing that the police and local council deal with local issues. This suggests that the increase may be a result of changes to the questionnaire rather than to a change in people's confidence in the police.

Figure 3 in '[Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly First Release to December 2011](#)' illustrates this by presenting all of the measures on confidence by police by quarter. It can be seen that the proportion of people who agreed that the police and local council were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area rose from 52 per cent in the period January to March 2011, to 60 per cent in the period April to June 2011 and then remained stable for the remainder of 2011. Further analysis of this effect will be presented alongside the next analysis of perceptions data.

6.5 Ratings and perceptions of the local police

The CSEW measures perceptions of the local police both in general terms and in specific aspects of their work. Since April 2003, the CSEW has measured the proportion of those who believe the local police are doing 'a good or excellent' job. In addition, people's perceptions of specific aspects of police work have been measured since October 2004. These questions ask how much people agree or disagree with the following statements:

- The police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them;
- The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason;
- The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are;
- The police in this area understand the issues that affect this community;
- The police in this area are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community; and
- Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area.

Crime maps

Since January 2009 every police force has made maps available on their website giving local crime statistics and details of neighbourhood policing teams in the local area. Questions were included in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 CSEW to find out more about the public's awareness and use of online crime maps. Results from the questions included in the 2009/10 CSEW are published in [Scribbins et al.](#), 2010, and results from 2010/11 are published in [Chaplin et al.](#), 2011.

The crime map questions were extended in April 2011, to ask about awareness of street level data (introduced in January 2011), and again in April 2012, to ask about awareness of information showing how crimes have been dealt with by the police and courts.

Police Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and other police initiatives

From November 2012, Police and Crime Commissioners will be elected by the public and will be responsible for overseeing police forces. A CSEW question introduced in April 2012 asks people whether they were aware of these plans. The survey also contains questions about awareness of other police initiatives, such as neighbourhood beat meetings, the single non-emergency number (101), and neighbourhood policing teams.

6.6 Confidence in the criminal justice system

Since October 2007, the CSEW has included a set of questions relating to the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS). Respondents are asked questions about their perception of the effectiveness of each aspect of the CJS and then asked:

- Thinking about all of the agencies within the criminal justice system: the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, prisons and the probation service, how confident are you that the criminal justice system as a whole is effective?

Questions are then asked about the way in which the CJS deals with people (whether victims, witnesses, the accused or the convicted) and respondents are then asked the following overall question:

- Thinking about all of the agencies within the criminal justice system: the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, prisons and the probation service, how confident are you that the criminal justice system as a whole is fair?

Chapter 7: Classifications

7.1 Geographical

ACORN

A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN) was developed by CACI Ltd.³⁵ and classifies households into one of 56 types according to demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The main five-group breakdowns are characterised as follows:

- Wealthy Achievers – wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families.
- Urban Prosperity – prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas.
- Comfortably Off – young couples, secure families, older couples living in the suburbs and pensioners.
- Moderate Means – Asian communities, post-industrial families and skilled manual workers.
- Hard Pressed – low-income families, residents in council areas, people living in high-rise and inner-city estates.

The ACORN classification is still available on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) dataset but the National Statistics Output Area Classification (see OAC below) is now used in standard demographic tables released as part of the National Statistics outputs.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the CSPs are, in nearly all cases, coterminous with local authority areas. They include representatives from the police, health, probation and other local agencies and provide strategies for reducing crime in the area. As at July 2012, there were 299 CSPs in England and Wales. In England they were previously termed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Recorded crime figures for seven key offences for each CSP are published on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website, together with equivalent figures for local authority areas.

Regions

Government Office Regions (GORs) were established across England in 1994. Reflecting a number of government departments they aimed to work in partnership with local people and organisations in order to maximise prosperity and the quality of life within their area. In 1996 the Government Office Regions became the primary classification for the presentation of regional statistics. There are currently nine regions in England: North East; North West; Yorkshire and the Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West. Wales is not subdivided but listed alongside the England regions in UK-wide statistical comparisons. Government Offices were closed on 31 March 2011 and from 1 April 2011, the areas covered by the former GORs are referred to as 'regions' for statistical purposes.

³⁵ See <http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn/> for more information.

Indices of Deprivation

Local area deprivation is measured in this report using the English Indices of Deprivation 2010. There are seven domains of deprivation: income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to housing and services; living environment; and crime. There are a number of indicators of deprivation in each of these domains, such as level of unemployment and incapacity benefit claimants, which are combined into a single deprivation score for each local area on that domain. The analysis in this report uses the employment deprivation indicator.

In order to examine the relationship between experiences of crime and deprivation, the local areas are ranked according to their scores on the employment deprivation domain. The 20 per cent of areas with the highest deprivation scores are identified as the most deprived areas on the employment deprivation domain and the 20 per cent of areas with the lowest deprivation scores are identified as the least deprived.

An Index of Multiple Deprivation is also available, which combines all seven separate domains into one index. The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 are the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government; further information is available at www.communities.gov.uk. Further information on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008 is available at www.wales.gov.uk.

Local Authority Areas

These areas are a combination of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs. As at 1 April 2010, there were 348 local authorities in England and Wales. These areas provide the basis for Community Safety Partnerships; although since their formation a number of partnerships have merged to cover multiple local authority areas (see also Community Safety Partnerships). In some cases figures are reported for local authority areas that applied in 2002/03 for the sake of continuity, even where there have been amalgamations.

Output Areas (OAs)

OAs are used across the UK as the base unit of census output. In 2001, they were introduced in England and Wales, based on postcodes at Census Day. The minimum OA size is 40 resident households and 100 resident persons but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households. In total there are 175,434 OAs; 165,665 in England and 9,769 in Wales.

Output Area Classification (OAC)

The 2001 Classification of OAs is used to group together geographic areas according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These groupings are called clusters and are derived using 2001 population census data. The OAC is a classification created in collaboration between ONS and the University of Leeds.

The classification is freely available from ONS and other sources for all to use and complements commercially available classifications.

Further information and details about OAC can be found on the ONS website at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/area-classifications/ns-area-classifications/index/overview/index.html>.

Physical disorder

This term is used in the CSEW to describe a measure based on the interviewer's assessment of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property; (b) rubbish and litter; and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. Using guidance, the interviewer has to make an assessment as to whether each of these problems is very common, fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The measurement of respondents' own perceptions of disorder in the local area is described under anti-social behaviour (see Section 5.7).

Rural and urban areas

The analysis of crime in rural and urban areas is based on the ONS recommended method for categorising the level of rurality. There are [two approaches](#): the ONS Rural/Urban Definition and the Local Authority (LA) Classification. Both were developed to produce a view of rural and urban areas from Government Statistics. Where data below the LA level is available the ONS Rural/Urban Definition must be used to produce rural and urban totals. Where LA level data is the lowest geographic data available then the LA Classification should be used. More detail is given below.

For CSEW analysis, the Rural/Urban Definition has been used, as CSEW data are collected below the Local Authority level. For police recorded crime analysis, the LA Classification has been used, as police recorded crime data are not collected below the LA level.

Rural/Urban Definition (England and Wales)

The Rural/Urban Definition, an official National Statistic, was introduced in 2004 and defines the rurality of Output Areas. Categories used to aggregate to rural or urban are as follows.

Rural areas are those classified as:

- Town and fringe – sparse.
- Village – sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – sparse.
- Town and fringe – less sparse.
- Village – less sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse.

Urban areas are those classified as:

- Urban – sparse.
- Urban – less sparse.

Rural/Urban Local Authority (LA) Classification (England)

The revised LA Classification introduced in 2009, differentiates between rural and urban for those statistics that are only available at LA level. The three-way classification at the similar Community Safety Partnership level and Police Force Area level has been applied. At the Community Safety Partnership level, the classification is as follows:

Predominantly Rural areas are those classified as:

- Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent but less than 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Significant Rural areas are those classified as districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Predominantly Urban areas are those classified as:

- Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.
- Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
- Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

A different methodology but with similar criteria is used to produce the three-way classification at the police force area level.

Super Output Areas (SOAs)

These are geographical areas introduced in 2004 which were designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They are used on the Neighbourhood Statistics website and it is intended that they will eventually have wider application across National Statistics. To support a range of potential requirements there are two layers of [SOA](#):

- Lower Layer – minimum population 1,000; mean 1,500. Built from groups of Output Areas (typically five) and constrained by the boundaries of the Standard Table (ST) wards used for 2001 Census outputs.
- Middle Layer – minimum population 5,000; mean 7,200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.

The original proposal included an Upper Layer; however, after consultation ONS decided that there was not enough interest to justify the creation of Upper Layer SOAs.

7.2 Household

Household accommodation type

The CSEW uses this definition of the household's accommodation, based on the [National Statistics harmonised classification](#):

- House or bungalow: detached, semi-detached and terraced.
- Flat or maisonette: includes purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.
- Other accommodation types: includes caravans and mobile homes.

Household reference person (HRP)

For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. Following the National Statistics harmonised classifications, the CSEW replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP) in 2001/02. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure

The classification of households in the CSEW is based on the number and combination of adults and children living within a household, divided into those where there is:

- one adult and one or more children (under 16) – this does not necessarily denote a lone parent family, as the adult may be a sibling or grandparent of the child;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16); and
- one or more adults with no children (under 16).

Household income

Total household income is the combined income of all members of the household. It includes income from all sources including earnings from employment and self-employment, pensions (both state and private), benefits and tax credits, interest from savings and investments, maintenance, student grants and rent payments received. Due to the nature of the question, over one fifth of respondents gave insufficient information to classify their household income or declined to answer the question. Those cases with insufficient information may include respondents who did not know the income of other household members.

Tenure

The following definition of tenure is used by the CSEW based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Owners: households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social-rented sector tenants: households renting from a council, housing association or other social-rented sector.
- Rented privately: households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

7.3 Personal

Black and minority ethnic groups/ethnicity

CSEW respondents are asked to make a choice from a card to identify their ethnic background using the standard [2001 Census classification](#). Due to small sample sizes, it is necessary to collapse this classification into either a five-fold classification, i.e. White, Black, Asian, Mixed and Chinese or Other or to a simpler two-fold White and Non-White classification, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification. Adopting the 2001 Census definition, however,

means analysis by ethnic group since 2001/02 is not directly comparable with results from earlier rounds of the CSEW which used a different classification. The standard demographic tables released annually provide breakdowns by ethnic background; the last topic based analysis from the CSEW focusing on the experiences of people from different ethnic minorities are reported in [Jansson et al.](#), 2007.

Marital status

The CSEW uses the following categories for marital status, which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Married – includes same sex civil partnerships;
- Cohabiting;
- Single;
- Separated – includes same sex civil partnerships;
- Divorced – includes legally dissolved same sex civil partnerships;
- Widowed – includes surviving civil partners.

Employment status

The CSEW uses the following categories for employment status, which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification but include further breakdowns for those in the 'economically inactive' category.

- In employment: includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government-supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed: actively seeking work or waiting to take up work.
- Economically inactive: those who are retired; going to school or college full-time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

Base sizes for the student categories of employment status differ from those in the occupational classification (see Occupation below). Economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active. Full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding.

Occupation (NS-SEC)

The [National Statistics Socio-economic Classification](#) (NS-SEC) is an occupationally based classification, but provides coverage of the whole adult population. The NS-SEC aims to differentiate positions within labour markets and production units in terms of their typical 'employment relations'.

CSEW analysis is based on the three analytic classes provided within NS-SEC, but also describes full-time students in a separate category (usually included within the 'Not classified' category). Base sizes for the student categories differ in NS-SEC from those in the economic classification (see Employment status above) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

Chapter 8: Statistical conventions and methods

8.1 Confidence intervals and statistical significance

The main Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates are based on a representative sample of the population of England and Wales aged 16 and over each year. A sample, as used in the CSEW, is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn (see Table UG1 of the User Guide tables for sample sizes within the CSEW).

Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. It is, however, possible to calculate a range of values around an estimate, known as the confidence interval (also referred to as margin of error) of the estimate. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that the confidence interval would contain the true population value 95 times out of 100. This can be thought of as a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate.

Because of this variation, changes in estimates between survey years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which adults were randomly selected for interview.

We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Only increases or decreases that are statistically significant at the five per cent level (and are therefore likely to be real) are described as changes within the main bulletin and in the tables and figures these are identified by asterisks.

Confidence intervals on the CSEW are based on complex standard errors (CSEs) around estimates, which reflect the stratified and semi-clustered design of the survey and are calculated using the SPSS Complex Sample Module (www.spss.com). Where standard errors are calculated without the complex element, a design effect of 1.2 is applied to the confidence interval and significance testing to allow for the fact that the survey design is not a simple random sample.

Statistical significance for change in CSEW estimates for overall crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other CSEW estimates. This is because there is an extra stage of sampling used in the personal crime rate (selecting the adult respondent for interview) compared with the household crime rate (where the respondent represents the whole household) so, technically, these are estimates from two different, though obviously highly related, surveys. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) methodology group has provided an approximation method to use to overcome this problem.

The approach involves producing population-weighted variances associated with two approximated estimates for overall crime. The first approximation is derived by apportioning household crime equally among adults within the household (in other words, converting households into adults) and

second by apportioning personal crimes to all household members (converting adults into households). The variances are calculated in the same way as for the standard household or personal crime rates (i.e. taking into account the complex sample design). An average is then taken of the two estimates of the population-weighted variances. The resulting approximated variance is then used in the calculation of confidence intervals for the estimate of all CSEW crime and in the calculation of the sampling error around changes in estimates of all CSEW crime to calculate whether such differences are statistically significant.

This method incorporates the effect of any covariance between household and personal crime. By taking an average of the two approximations, it also counteracts any possible effect on the estimates of differing response rates (and therefore calibration rates) by household size.

Tables UG2 to UG5 provide 95 per cent confidence intervals around estimates; Table UG2 shows main estimates of incidents of crime; Table UG3 shows main estimates of victimisation and key perception measures; Table UG4 shows main estimates of personal victimisation by respondent sex and age; and Table UG5 shows main estimates of household victimisation by household reference person age and tenure.

Tables UG6 to UG8 provide 95 per cent confidence intervals around estimates pertaining to 10 to 15 year olds; Table UG6 shows main estimates of crimes; Table UG7 shows main estimates of incidence rates for crimes; and Table UG8 shows main estimates of prevalence rates for crimes.

8.2 Weighting data

Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the CSEW sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas and the selection of multi-household addresses³⁶. Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response. All CSEW percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables in the 2011/12 crime statistics publication are based on weighted data. Table UG1 shows the unweighted base, which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

Calibration weighting

A review of the British Crime Survey (now known as the CSEW) by survey methodology experts at ONS and the National Centre for Social Research recommended that the calibration weighting method be adopted ([Lynn and Elliot, 2000](#)). The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different regions and different age by sex subgroups and also households with different age and sex composition. For example, a household containing a man aged 24 living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a man aged 24 living with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age/sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole and also matches the known distribution of the regional population.

³⁶ See [TNS-BMRB, 2012](#), for further details about how the weights are constructed to compensate for unequal selection probability.

The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. They are based on calibrating on population figures provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from ONS. Calibration weights were applied from the 1996 CSEW onwards using CALMAR (a SAS-based macro); since 2006/07 the CSEW has used g-Calib within a new SPSS-based data processing system (the weights produced by g-Calib are the same as those from CALMAR).

The effects of calibration weights are generally small for household crime, but are more important for estimates of personal crime, where young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average but also lower response rates to the survey. However, crime trends since the 1996 survey did not change to any great extent with the introduction of calibration weighting.

8.3 Population estimates

The CSEW uses population estimates for two purposes: in calibration weighting (see above) and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes (see Chapter 2).

Calibration weighting uses data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is weighted according to the latest population estimates issued by ONS.

For the calculation of estimates of numbers of CSEW incidence, rates for personal crimes are multiplied by estimates of the population aged 16 and over in England and Wales and for household crimes the number of households in England and Wales.

Mid-year population estimates (for personal crimes) have been used for all years up to and including 2010/11; mid-year household estimates (for household crimes) have been used for all years up to and including 2008/09 and (2008-based) projections for mid-2009 and mid-2010 household numbers have been used for 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively.

For 2011/12:

- Population figures are 2010-based projections for the mid-2011 population aged 16 and over³⁷;
 - [regional / England population](#) figures from ONS;
 - [Wales population](#) figures from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG);
- Household figures are 2008-based projections for mid-2011 household numbers;
 - [regional / England household](#) figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG);
 - [Wales household](#) figures from WAG.

For the 2011/12 publication, population and household figures have only been revised for 2010/11. CSEW estimates of numbers of crimes have therefore only been revised for 2010/11; data for earlier years remain unchanged. All population and household estimates and projections used in the CSEW are unrounded.

³⁷ At the time the ONS began production of CSEW statistics for the 'Quarterly First Release to March 2012' publication, mid-2011 population estimates were not available. (2010-based) population projections for the mid-2011 population were therefore used.

The calculation of estimates of CSEW incidence rates for personal crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 are multiplied by the estimates of the population aged between 10 and 15 in England and Wales in the same manner.

Some of the recorded crime tables use population figures to calculate the number of crimes per 1,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2010 population estimates³⁸ supplied by ONS and 2008-based projections for mid-2010 household numbers from CLG and WAG.

8.4 Logistic regression

Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable, from a set of independent variables (such as personal, household, area or behavioural characteristics associated with a CSEW respondent). The dependent variable must have only two possible outcomes; for example, logistic regression can model the risk of a person becoming a victim of a crime or not. The technique allows the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables in the model is taken into account.

The approach using CSEW data is based on an iterative process, which relies on a theoretical rationale of how the independent variables might affect the outcome. This process enables evaluation of the impact of certain types of variables on the outcome, for example, if the risk of being a victim of crime is due to personal characteristics rather than area-based factors.

Each of the iterations is based on logistic regressions using the 'Enter' method; the final model is also run using a 'Forward stepwise' regression to evaluate the strength of the contribution that each variable makes to that model. The '-2 log likelihood' statistic (minus two times the log of the likelihood, also known as the 'scaled deviance') of each model is presented as a measure indicating how much of the outcome remains unexplained by the independent variables. The fit of each model is compared using a likelihood-ratio test to see if the subsequent iteration predicts the outcome significantly better (this is the case when the difference of the '-2 log likelihoods' of both models exceeds a critical value).

The Nagelkerke R square statistic is presented as a measure indicating how much the independent variables predict the dependent variable. The model which has the highest value is the model that is considered to have the best fit. It can only be used to compare models predicting the same dependent variable in the same dataset.

The odds of an event (e.g. victimisation or taking illicit drugs) are calculated as the ratio of the probabilities of occurrence and non-occurrence of the event. Logistic regression describes the impact of independent variables by comparing the odds of a subgroup of interest with a fixed reference category set by the analyst; within a variable all other categories are compared with this reference category. The result is a measure describing the association between the two groups,

³⁸ Population projections at police force area level (sub-national population estimates) are published later than the population projections at national level; hence when the Home Office began producing year ending March 2012 police recorded crime statistics, the mid-2011 sub-national population projections were not available. To enable police force area population figures to sum to the national total, mid-2010 population estimates were used. For consistency purposes, (2008-based) mid-2010 household projections were used despite mid-2011 household projections having been published.

which is termed the 'odds ratio'. To explain further, when the reference category within the variable 'sex' is defined as 'women' and the odds ratio within the model predicting risk of violence victimisation is three, this means the odds for becoming a victim of violence are three times higher for men compared with women.

However, odds ratios can be hard to interpret as they do not give any indication of the actual probabilities of certain outcomes for separate groups. Therefore, it is sometimes useful to translate the odds that are provided by the logistic regression model into 'probabilities'. The probability of an event can then be compared between groups. Within CSEW analysis the ratio between two groups can be described as relative risk (e.g. risk of burglary victimisation), relative prevalence (e.g. prevalence of illicit drug use) or relative likelihood (e.g. likelihood of worry about crime).

Probabilities can be calculated from the β -coefficients in the tables using the following formula:

$$\text{Probability} = \text{EXP}(\beta_{\text{constant}} + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 \dots) / (1 + \text{EXP}(\beta_{\text{constant}} + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 \dots))$$

In this formula, β_{constant} is the β -coefficient of the constant, and $\beta_{1,2,3,\text{etc}}$ are the β -coefficients of individual characteristics. Where a reference category is chosen, it has a β -coefficient of 0 and therefore does not need to be included in the calculation. Where a model contains an interaction term, the values for the two characteristics in the interaction term are multiplied together to find the β -coefficient to add to the formula.

As an example, the relative risk of being a victim of violence between two individuals is expressed in Box 3.2 of [Flatley et al.](#), 2010. In this example, the characteristics that are varied are age, sex and marital status, while all other characteristics remain constant. The characteristics that remain constant are: white, no long-standing illness or disability, in employment, managerial and professional occupations, degree or diploma, household income of £30,000-£40,000, homeowner, detached house, urban, prospering suburbs, not high level of physical disorder, seven hours or longer out of the home on an average weekday, visited a bar less than once a week in the last month, did not visit a nightclub in the last month.

The risk of being a victim of violent crime for a 23 year old single man with all the above characteristics is:

$$\text{EXP}(-5.79+1.32+0.58+0.61+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) / 1+\text{EXP}(-5.79+1.32+0.58+0.61+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) = 5.4\%$$

The risk of being a victim of violent crime for a 55 year old married woman with all the above characteristics is:

$$\text{EXP}(-5.79-2.82+(0.21*5)+0.58+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) / 1+ \text{EXP}(-5.79-2.82+(0.21*5)+0.58+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) = 0.4\%$$

The relative risk³⁹ is:

$$\text{Risk for a 23 year old single man} / \text{Risk for a 55 year old married woman} = 12.3$$

³⁹ The relative risk presented here is calculated using unrounded figures.

8.5 Conventions used in figures and tables

The following conventions are used in the crime statistics publication and the user guide (where applicable).

Table abbreviations

'0' indicates greater than 0 per cent but less than 0.5 per cent (this does not apply when percentages are presented to one decimal point).

':' indicates that the CSEW question was not applicable or not asked in that particular year.

'-' indicates that for recorded crime percentage changes are not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50 and for the CSEW indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is less than 50.

'..' indicates for police recorded crime that data are not available.

'*' / '**' indicates for CSEW data that the change is statistically significant at the five per cent level.

'+' indicates that rate per 1,000 population data for City of London have been suppressed due to the small population size of the police force area.

Unweighted base

All CSEW percentages and rates presented in the tables are based on data weighted to compensate for differential non response. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of adults/households interviewed in the specified group.

Percentages

Perception measures are presented as integers; victimisation measures are presented to one decimal place.

Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Most CSEW tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of people/households who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100 per cent, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and, therefore, may differ from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

Year-labels on CSEW figures and tables

Prior to 2001/02, CSEW respondents were asked about their experience of crime in the previous calendar year, so year-labels identify the year in which the crime took place. Following the change to continuous interviewing in 2001/02, respondents' experience of crime relates to the 12 full months prior to interview (see Chapter 2) and year-labels identify the CSEW year of interview.

Other questions on the CSEW (e.g. attitudes to policing, confidence in the criminal justice system) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed (e.g. 1996, 2008/09).

‘No answers’ (missing values)

All CSEW analysis excludes don’t know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

Numbers of CSEW incidents

Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Chapter 9: CSEW Open Data tables

9.1 Introduction to Open Data tables

This chapter contains information on the content and use of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) Open Data tables. These tables contain CSEW estimates related to victimisation and perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system (CJS) broken down by demographic characteristics. These tables are released as part of an initiative to make government data more transparent and accessible to the public and external researchers.

These tables do not contain raw data from the CSEW or responses to individual questions from individual respondents. For users wanting to access full CSEW datasets, these are available from the [UK Data Archive](#).

It is recommended that prior to using these Open Data tables, users read Chapter 2, in particular, of this user guide to familiarise themselves with the context of the data and the scope and limitations of the CSEW as a whole.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is now producing editions of the Open Data tables, following the responsibility for the publication of crime statistics transferring to ONS from the Home Office in April 2012. At present there are no plans to produce a back series to cover earlier CSEW years.

9.2 Table format

The main release consists of six data tables, all with an identical layout. The files have been split by theme, but because all have the same layout they can all be combined into a single table after download.

Tables are laid out in rows and columns with the first row containing column headings. Each row consists of a single CSEW estimate, while each column contains information about the estimate. Estimates are principally broken down by respondent characteristics (identified by the **Sex**, **Age**, **HouseholdType**, and **Characteristic** columns). However, other columns provide further information on the estimate, such as the time period it relates to (identified by the **Period**, **LastQuarter** and **LastYear** columns) as well as technical details about the dataset that the estimate was taken from (such as the **LFSWeight** column). Further details can be found in the 'Data table specification' section of this chapter.

This layout is intended to provide CSEW estimates in the most transparent and versatile form for users and allow data to be linked with, for example, ONS population estimates for the calculation of numbers of crimes. Further details can be found in the 'How to use CSEW Open Data tables' section of this chapter.

All files are made available in CSV (comma separated values) format which arranges data in rows and columns as outlined above. This type of file can be opened in most data analysis programmes.

In addition to the six main tables, two additional reference tables have been included in this release. See the 'Reference data tables' section of this chapter for more information on these.

9.3 File naming

The six main tables are contained in files which use the following naming structure:

'[Measurement Type]-[Measurement Subcategory]-[Date].csv'

e.g. Household-Incidence-2012-Q2.csv

The [Measurement Type] and [Measurement Subcategory] sections of the filename are used to identify the content of the data file. There are three different values for [Measurement Type], each containing two values for [Measurement Subcategory]. An outline of what these values are and a description of what is contained in the files can be found in Table 9a.

The [Date] section of the filename identifies the CSEW dataset that the release was taken from. It follows the same convention as the **LastYear** and **LastQuarter** columns in the tables themselves (see the 'Data table specification' section of this chapter).

Table 9a: File naming

Measurement type	Measurement subcategory	Description	Example of data in file
Household	Incidence	Contains incidence rates for household crime	Number of incidents of burglary per 1,000 households in the 12 months prior to interview
	Prevalence	Contains prevalence rates for household crime	Percentage of households that have been victims of burglary in the 12 months prior to interview
Personal	Incidence	Contains incidence rates for personal crime	Number of incidents of violence per 1,000 adults in the 12 months prior to interview
	Prevalence	Contains prevalence rates for personal crime	Percentage of adults who have been victims of violence in the 12 months prior to interview
Perceptions	CJS	Contains perceptions of the police and the criminal justice system	Percentage of adults who think that their local police are doing a good or excellent job
	Other	Contains other perceptions of crime	Percentage of adults who perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area

9.4 Data table specification

Data tables are laid out in rows and columns. Each row contains a single CSEW estimate, which each column contains information about that estimate. Below is a description of the meaning behind the values in each column.

SOURCE

Possible values: CSEW

This column identifies the source of the estimate. For this release, this column contains only one value: 'CSEW'. This field is provided to allow future releases to include data from different sources.

PERIOD

Possible values: 12 months

This column identifies the period covered by the data used to generate the estimate. For this release, this column contains only one value: '12 months'. This indicates that the estimate is based on 12 months of CSEW interviews. This field is provided to allow future releases to include data from different period lengths.

LASTYEAR

Possible values: Various

Combined with the **Period** and **LastQuarter** columns, this column identifies the CSEW interview period that the estimate is based on. The combination of **LastYear** and **LastQuarter** identifies the *last* quarter of interviews that **Period** covers. For example, **Period** = '12 months', **LastYear** = '2012' and **LastQuarter** = '1' denotes that the estimate is based on CSEW interviews between April 2011 and March 2012 – i.e. the 12 months ending in quarter 1 of 2012.

LASTQUARTER

Possible values: Various

Combined with the **Period** and **LastYear** columns, this column identifies the CSEW interview period that the estimate is based on. The combination of **LastYear** and **LastQuarter** identifies the *last* quarter of interviews that **Period** covers. For example, **Period** = '12 months', **LastYear** = '2012' and **LastQuarter** = '1' denotes that the estimate is based on CSEW interviews between April 2011 and March 2012 – i.e. the 12 months ending in quarter 1 of 2012.

LFSWEIGHT

Possible values: Various

CSEW data are weighted to gross to the national population resident in households, calculated from weighted totals from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This process is known as 'calibration weighting'. LFS data are periodically re-weighted, and as such CSEW data are periodically re-weighted to reflect this. This column identifies the LFS weight that was used in the calibration weighting of the CSEW dataset that the estimate was taken from. For many users, this is technical detail that they will not use. However, future releases may revise estimates contained in this release to account for changes in calibration weighting. If this is the case, then new data tables will be released covering the same time period, but with slightly different estimates. A change in this column will signify that this is due to a change in LFS weighting.

MEASUREMENTVAR

Possible values: Various (see reference table)

This is the name of the variable that is being measured by the estimate. It could also be considered a dependent variable. In this release it is a crime incidence rate, a crime prevalence rate or a perception of crime. Future releases may contain a wider range of measurements. The variable name is a shorthand way of referring to the measurement in question, therefore the meaning of the values in this column may not be immediately obvious to users. A reference table has been provided with this release that contains more descriptive labels for each of the variable names in this column. For users who have access to the main CSEW dataset from the UK Data Archive, the names here match directly with the variable names on the main CSEW dataset.

GEOGRAPHY

Possible values: England and Wales

This column identifies the geographical area that the estimate relates to. For this release, only estimates for the whole of England and Wales are included. Future releases may provide regional breakdowns.

AGE

Possible values: 16+; 16-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65-74; 75+

This column identifies the age of the respondent at the time of interview. Respondents are arranged into banded age groups, with the category of '16+' covering respondents in all age groups combined. This column only contains values where **MeasurementLevel** is 'Person' (see reference table).

SEX

Possible values: All adults; Male; Female

The column identifies the sex of the respondent. The category of 'All adults' covers men and women combined. This column only contains values where **MeasurementLevel** is 'Person' (see reference table).

HOUSEHOLDTYPE

Possible values: All households; Vehicle-owning households; Bicycle-owning households

This column identifies the type of household that the estimate relates to, specifically whether the household owns a vehicle or bicycle. Most estimates relate to 'All households'. 'Vehicle-owning households' and 'Bicycle-owning households' provide an alternative measure for the prevalence of vehicle-related crime and bicycle theft respectively and as such only have a value for these measures. This column only contains values where **MeasurementLevel** is 'Household' (see reference table).

CHARACTERISTICVAR

Possible values: Various (see reference table), GOR, Total

This column identifies the variable that is used to provide the full breakdown of estimates by respondent characteristics in the **Characteristic** column. It could also be considered an independent variable. It is similar to the **MeasurementVar** column in that it contains variable names that match the variable names on the main CSEW dataset. More descriptive labels for the variable names in this column can be found in the reference table for this column.

The value 'GOR' identifies estimates for each of the English regions and for England and Wales separately. The value 'Total' in this column identifies an estimate that covers all respondents, regardless of individual characteristics. Users should be aware that some characteristics only exist at the personal level and some only exist at the household level (identified in the **MeasurementLevel** column – see reference table).

CHARACTERISTIC

Possible values: Various; Total

This column identifies respondent characteristics that the estimate relates to. Characteristics are grouped by **CharacteristicVar** such that each value of **CharacteristicVar** has a number of unique values for **Characteristic** associated with it. As well as those characteristics included on the main CSEW dataset within each **CharacteristicVar**, the Open Data tables also include some combined categories that are not included on the CSEW core variables. The value 'Total' in this column identifies an estimate that covers all respondents, regardless of individual characteristics and is the only **Characteristic** for the **CharacteristicVar** of 'Total'.

ESTIMATE

Possible values: Various

This column contains the estimate for **MeasurementVar** for respondents with the characteristics referred to at **Geography, Age, Sex, HouseholdType** and **Characteristic** from CSEW interviews conducted in the period identified by **Period, LastQuarter** and **LastYear**. When **MeasurementType** is 'Incidence rate' it is a rate per 1,000 adults/households; where **MeasurementType** is 'Prevalence rate' or 'Perception' it is a percentage (see reference table).

STANDARDERROR

Possible values: Various

This column contains the standard error of the value of **Estimate**. As the CSEW is a sample survey, all estimates are subject to a degree of error, reflected in the size of the standard error – see the 'How to use CSEW Open Data tables' section below for more information. More advanced users may also want to know that as the CSEW is based on a complex sample design, the standard errors included in these tables are complex standard errors that take the sample design

into account. This means that no further adjustments, such as design factors, need to be applied to calculations involving these standard errors.

UNWEIGHTEDCOUNT

Possible values: Various

Also referred to as the 'Unweighted base', this column shows the total number of respondents who contributed to the calculation of **Estimate**. Estimates based on a larger number of respondents are generally more reliable, and those based on a very small number of respondents should be treated with caution. It is recommended that users refrain from using estimates based on fewer than 50 respondents. They have been included here for reference and in the interests of completeness.

9.5 Reference data tables

There are two reference data tables included with this release; one each for the columns **MeasurementVar** and **CharacteristicVar**. These provide additional information on the variables included in these two columns in the main data tables. They can be used as lookups to include this additional data in combined tables. The data specification for these tables is below.

Measurement

MEASUREMENTVAR

Possible values: Various

This includes all the values in the MeasurementVar column of the main data tables.

MEASUREMENTLABEL

Possible values: Various

This column contains a text description of the measure that MeasurementVar relates to.

MEASUREMENTLEVEL

Possible values: Person; Household

This column identifies the level at which the measurement applies. For personal crimes and perception measures, this column has a value of 'Person' to indicate that the estimate applies to people (specifically adults aged 16 and over). For household crimes, this column has a value of 'Household' to indicate that the estimate applies to households in England and Wales.

MEASUREMENTTYPE

Possible values: Incidence rate; Prevalence rate; Perception

This column identifies the type of measurement. 'Incidence rate' means that the measurement shows the number of crimes per 1,000 adults or per 1,000 households (identified by the **MeasurementLevel** column) in the last 12 months. 'Prevalence rate' means that the measurement

shows the percentage of adults/households (identified by the **MeasurementLevel** column) who have been victims of crime in the last 12 months. 'Perception' means that the measurement shows the percentage of adults who have a particular perception about crime or the criminal justice system.

Characteristic

CHARACTERISTICVAR

Possible values: Various

This includes all the values in the **CharacteristicVar** column of the main data tables.

CHARACTERISTICLABEL

Possible values: Various

This column contains a text description of the measure that **MeasurementVar** relates to.

9.6 How to use Open Data tables

At the simplest level, CSEW Open Data tables can be used to find CSEW estimates for certain demographic groups. The CSV files can be imported into most data analysis programmes for this purpose. A full list of the measurements that are included in these tables can be found in the **MeasurementVar** reference table. A full list of demographic characteristics that these measurements can be analysed by using these tables can be found in the **CharacteristicVar** reference table.

The data specification table above should make clear to users that to find the estimate they are interested in requires filtering or searching data across different columns to identify the population group they are interested in. For example, overall national estimates for all adults aged 16 and over can be found by selecting '16+' from the **Age** column, 'All' from the **Sex** column, and 'Total' from the **Characteristic** column (for personal crime or perception estimates). At the other extreme level of detail, users could find estimates for 16-24 year old married women by selecting the appropriate categories from the **Age**, **Sex** and **Characteristic** columns. Other levels of detail can be found by selecting the appropriate values in these fields (or **HouseholdType** for household crime estimates).

When using these estimates, users should be aware of the fact that the CSEW is a sample survey and produces estimates with a margin of error around them. As such, ONS recommends that users do not use estimates based on fewer than 50 respondents (identified by the **UnweightedCount** column). This feature of the data should also be considered when comparing differences between groups. Standard statistical tests can be used to identify whether differences between demographic groups are 'statistically significant'. That is, whether the differences seen in the CSEW data are due to differences in the population of England and Wales as a whole, or whether they occurred by chance as a result of the random selection of respondents for the CSEW sample. Users should familiarise themselves with this concept before using these tables.

When comparing estimates, users should ensure that they are only comparing estimates from independent samples. Although the current set of tables only include data for a single time period, future releases may cover other time periods. When comparing data over time, users should consider the time periods that are being used to ensure that they are not overlapping. This can be identified by consideration of the **Period**, **LastYear**, and **LastQuarter** columns in the data tables.

Some users may want to combine data in these tables with data from other sources. One common use of this would be to produce counts of crime and numbers of victims by combining the CSEW Open Data tables with population data. Incidence rates in these tables show the number of crimes per 1,000 adults or 1,000 households. By multiplying the values in the CSEW Open Data tables by ONS estimates of the total number of adults/households in England and Wales divided by 1,000, it is possible to calculate the total number of crimes that took place over a 12 month period. Similarly, prevalence rates show the percentage of adults or households who were victims of crime in a 12 month period. If these percentages are multiplied by the total number of adults/households in England and Wales, it is possible to calculate the number of victims of crime. Users should bear in mind that when doing this, it is important to use a population estimate for the same subpopulation as that used in the CSEW Open Data tables. So, for example, an incidence rate for men aged 16-24 in England and Wales from the CSEW Open Data tables should be multiplied by a population estimate for men aged 16-24 in England and Wales to calculate the number of crimes against men aged 16-24 in England and Wales.

9.7 Changes to the Open Data tables variables

For the survey year 2012/13 (i.e. interviews from April 2012 onwards) changes were made to the demographic questions in the CSEW questionnaire. The changes have been made in accordance with harmonised standards set by ONS with the aim of providing consistent data series across government ([ONS Harmonisation](#)). As these questions were introduced into the survey in April 2012, any annual dataset produced over the coming 12 month period will necessarily include both the new and the old style questions. This will affect annual datasets for the reporting periods 'Year to June 2012', 'Year to September 2012' and 'Year to December 2012', as shown in Table 9b.

Table 9b: Overlapping CSEW questionnaire periods

	Release	Year to March 2012	Year to June 2012	Year to September 2012	Year to December 2012	Year to March 2013
Old	April to June 2011	✓				
	July to September 2011	✓	✓			
	October to December 2011	✓	✓	✓		
	January to March 2012	✓	✓	✓	✓	

New	April to June 2012		✓	✓	✓	✓
	July to September 2012			✓	✓	✓
	October to December 2012				✓	✓
	January to March 2013					✓

For some variables it has been possible to recode the old data in such a way that they are comparable with the new data; similarly it has been possible in other cases to code the new data so that they are comparable with the old data. For some variables the old and new versions are too different to be compared, so will be excluded from the open data tables until the 'Year to March 2013' releases. These changes will not affect other data in the publications, because these are not categorised by household or personal characteristics.

Further details are available from the 'CSEW Open Data tables instructions' file accompanying each of the published sets of Open Data tables.

Chapter 10: Other reference data

10.1 Nature of crime

Additional analysis is published from the year to March dataset of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) relating to the 'nature of crime'. For a number of crime types (for example: bicycle theft, burglary, vandalism, violence) tables are available detailing characteristics such as:

- Timing of when the incident occurred.
- Location of where the incident occurred, if appropriate.
- Cost of stolen items/damage incurred as a result of the incident, if appropriate.
- Level of injuries sustained and types of weapons used in the incident, if appropriate.
- Emotional impact of the incident on the respondent.
- Perceived seriousness of the incident to the respondent.
- Offenders involved in the incident, if known by the respondent.

The latest published figures are for 2010/11, available from the [Home Office website](#). Data relating to the 2011/12 CSEW are due for publication by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in early 2013.

10.2 Open Data tables (police recorded crime)

Data tables on police recorded crime broken down by police force / Community Safety Partnership (CSP), quarterly period and individual offence code are available from the [Home Office website](#).

10.3 UK Data Archive

Users can download CSEW datasets from the [CSEW section](#) of the [UK Data Archive](#).

Data from the self-completion modules and some low-level geographic variables have been removed from these datasets. Analysts who need to access these data for their research can currently request access under the procedures agreed between the Home Office and the [UK Data Archive](#) under the terms of the Special Licence. These requests are at present being handled by the Home Office.

At some point in the near future access arrangements to all CSEW data stored at the Data Archive will become the responsibility of ONS. It is envisaged that access to the victim and non-victim module data sets will change little. Access to self-completion modules and low-level geographic datasets will transfer from a Special Licence arrangement to the Approved Researcher method of access defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

Further information, including the latest available technical guides to accompany the datasets, is currently available from the [2010/11 landing page](#). Datasets and accompanying technical guides for the 2011/12 CSEW will be released in due course.

Appendix 1: Recorded crime list

The classifications defined in this appendix are those used for crime recorded by the police and notifiable to the Home Office. In general, attempting, conspiring, aiding, abetting, causing or permitting a crime is classified under the heading of the crime itself, though in certain cases it is shown separately.

Recorded crime covers all indictable and triable-either-way offences. Additionally, a few closely associated summary offences are included. Summary offences are identified in the listing, together with the reasons for their inclusion. The crimes on this list are termed notifiable offences and their listing is referred to as the notifiable offences list (NOL).

Most of the offences listed are defined in terms of legal offences (i.e. sections of Acts). A comprehensive list of these offences, together with key legal definitions and explanatory notes, appears on the Counting Rules for Recorded Crime pages on the Home Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/counting-rules/>.

Violence against the person

Violence against the person – with injury

1. Murder
- 4.1. Manslaughter
- 4.2. Infanticide
Applies to infants aged under 12 months killed by the mother while of disturbed mind.
- Homicide⁴⁰
Comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
2. Attempted murder
- 4.3. Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child
Applies to the unborn child 'capable of being born alive'.
- 4.4. Causing death by dangerous driving
- 4.6. Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
- 4.7. Causing or allowing death of a child or vulnerable person
- 4.8. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving
- 4.9. Causing death by driving: unlicensed drivers etc.
- 4.10. Corporate Manslaughter⁴⁰
- 5A. Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent
- 5B. Use of substance or object to endanger life
- 5C. Possession of items to endanger life

⁴⁰ In the HOCR (Home Office Counting Rules), corporate manslaughter is also included in 'Homicide', although in current crime statistics releases, 'Homicide' does not include corporate manslaughter. This presentation of corporate manslaughter will be covered as part of a public consultation on the presentation of crime statistics due to take place later in 2012. The number of corporate manslaughter offences recorded by the police in each year since 2008/09 (the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force in April 2008) is small (fewer than three cases in each of the last four financial years) and therefore the effect on the overall 'Homicide' figures is minimal.

- 5D. Assault with intent to cause serious harm
- 8F. Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent
- 8H. Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent
- 8G. Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury
- 8J. Racially or religiously aggravated actual bodily harm (ABH) or other injury
- 8K. Poisoning or female genital mutilation
- 8N. Assault with injury
- 8P. Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury
- 37.1. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

Violence against the person – without injury

- 3A. Conspiracy to murder
- 3B. Threats to kill
- 5E. Endangering life.
- 6. Endangering railway passengers
- 7. Endangering life at sea
- 10A. Possession of firearms with intent
- 10C. Possession of other weapons
- 10D. Possession of article with blade or point
- 8L. Harassment
- 9A. Public fear, alarm or distress
- 8M. Racially or religiously aggravated harassment
- 9B. Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress
- 11. Cruelty to and neglect of children
- 11A. Cruelty to children/young persons
- 12. Abandoning a child under the age of two years
- 13. Child abduction
- 14. Procuring illegal abortion
- 104. Assault without injury on a constable
Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see classification 8G).
- 105A. Assault without injury
*Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see classification 8G).
Includes, amongst other offences, common assault and battery (Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988). From 1 April 2002 only includes assaults involving no injury.*
- 105B. Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury (see classification 105A)

Sexual offences

Most serious sexual crime

- 17A. Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
- 17B. Sexual assault on a male child under 13
- 19C. Rape of a female aged 16 and over
- 19D. Rape of a female child under 16
- 19E. Rape of a female child under 13
- 19F. Rape of a male aged 16 and over
- 19G. Rape of a male child under 16

-
- 19H. Rape of a male child under 13
 - 20A. Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over
 - 20B. Sexual assault on a female child under 13
 - 21. Sexual activity involving a child under 13
 - 22A. Causing sexual activity without consent
 - 22B. Sexual activity involving a child under 16
 - 70. Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
 - 71. Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
 - 72. Trafficking for sexual exploitation

Other sexual offences

- 23. Incest or familial sexual offences
- 24. Exploitation of prostitution
- 25. Abduction of a female
- 27. Soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
- 73. Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature
- 88A. Sexual grooming
- 88C. Other miscellaneous sexual offences
- 88D. Unnatural sexual offences
- 88E. Exposure and voyeurism

Robbery

Key elements of the offence of robbery (Section 8 of the Theft Act 1968) are stealing and the use or threat of force immediately before doing so, and in order to do so. Any injuries resulting from this force are not recorded as additional offences of violence.

- 34A. Robbery of business property
- 34B. Robbery of personal property

Burglary

Key elements of police recorded burglaries (as defined by the Theft Act 1968) are entry (or attempted entry) to a building as a trespasser with intent to either (a) steal property from it (including stealing or attempting to steal), (b) inflict grievous bodily harm or (c) commit unlawful damage to property whilst inside. The offence group also includes aggravated burglary (Section 10 of the same Act), which is defined as a burglary where the burglar is in possession of a weapon at the time. The Home Office website (see above) contains details of the types of premises that constitute a dwelling.

- 28A. Burglary in a dwelling
- 28B. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
- 28C. Distraction burglary in a dwelling
- 28D. Attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling
- 29. Aggravated burglary in a dwelling
- 30A. Burglary in a building other than a dwelling
- 30B. Attempted burglary in a building other than a dwelling
- 31. Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling

Offences against vehicles

- 37.2. Aggravated vehicle taking
Part of Section 1 of the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992. Applies to offences of unauthorised vehicle taking (see classification 48 below) with additional aggravating factors of dangerous driving, or causing an accident involving injury or damage.
45. Theft from a vehicle
48. Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle
Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (part of Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968; also known as taking without consent or TWOC) is a summary offence. It is closely associated with theft of a motor vehicle because at the time of recording it may not be known whether the intention is to permanently deprive the owner.
126. Interfering with a motor vehicle
Summary offences, closely associated with theft of or from vehicles. The Home Office website (see above) contains detailed guidance for forces on distinguishing between these offences and criminal damage, where a vehicle is reported damaged.

Thefts of and from vehicles

Comprises aggravated vehicle taking, theft from a vehicle and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

Other theft offences

All the offences listed here, unless shown otherwise, form the legal offence of theft (Section 1 of the Theft Act 1968), which is defined as a person dishonestly appropriating property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.

38. Profiting from or concealing knowledge of the proceeds of crime
39. Theft from the person
Includes snatch theft, but if this involves the use or threat of force (e.g. if the victim resists), then it is recorded as robbery.
40. Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter
41. Theft by an employee
42. Theft of mail
43. Dishonest use of electricity
44. Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle
Includes taking a pedal cycle without consent (Section 12(5) of the Theft Act 1968).
46. Shoplifting
47. Theft from automatic machine or meter
49. Other theft or unauthorised taking
Includes, amongst other offences, unauthorised taking of conveyance other than a motor vehicle or pedal cycle.
54. Handling stolen goods
Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968. Dishonestly receiving etc. goods, knowing them to have been stolen.

Fraud and forgery

51. Fraud by company director

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- 52. False accounting
 - 53A. Cheque and credit card fraud (pre Fraud Act 2006)
 - 53B. Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)
 - 53C. Fraud by false representation: cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts
 - 53D. Fraud by false representation: other frauds
 - 53E. Fraud by failing to disclose information
 - 53F. Fraud by abuse of position
 - 53G. Obtaining services dishonestly
 - 53H. Making or supplying articles for use in fraud
 - 53J. Possession of articles for use in fraud
 - 55. Bankruptcy and insolvency offences
 - 60. Forgery or use of false drug prescription
 - 61. Other forgery
 - 61A. Possession of false documents
 - 814. Vehicle/driver document fraud
These records comprise driving licences, insurance certificates, registration and licensing documents, work records, operators' licences and test certificates.

Criminal damage

- 56A. Arson endangering life
- 56B. Arson not endangering life
Not all malicious fires that the police record are included here. If the owner of the property set alight is wounded, then a crime of violence is recorded. If a stolen vehicle is subsequently burnt out, it is recorded as a vehicle theft. An additional arson offence is recorded only if there is evidence that the arsonist is unconnected with the vehicle thief.
- 58A. Criminal damage to a dwelling
- 58B. Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
- 58C. Criminal damage to a vehicle
- 58D. Other criminal damage
- 58E. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling (see classification 58A)
- 58F. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (see classification 58B)
- 58G. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle (see classification 58C)
- 58H. Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage (see classification 58D)
- 58J. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage
- 59. Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage

Drug offences

- 92A. Trafficking in controlled drugs
- 92C. Other drug offences
Various offences, mostly under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes; failure to comply with notice requiring information relating to prescribing, supply etc. of drugs; supply of intoxicating substance; and supply etc. of articles for administering or preparing controlled drugs.
- 92D. Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)
- 92E. Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)

Other miscellaneous offences

- 10B. Possession of firearm
- 15. Concealing an infant death close to birth
- 26. Bigamy
- 33. Going equipped for stealing, etc.
- 35. Blackmail
- 36. Kidnapping
- 62. Treason
- 62A. Violent disorder
- 63. Treason felony
- 64. Riot
- 65. Violent disorder
- 66. Other offences against the State and public order
- 67. Perjury
- 68. Libel
- 69. Offender Management Act offences
- 75. Betting, gaming and lotteries
- 76. Aiding suicide
- 78. Immigration offences
- 79. Perverting the course of justice
- 80. Absconding from lawful custody
- 81. Other firearms offences
- 82. Customs and Revenue offences
- 83. Bail offences
- 84. Trade description offences
- 85. Health and Safety offences
- 86. Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material
- 87. Protection from eviction
- 89. Adulteration of food
- 90. Other knives offences
- 91. Public health offences
- 94. Planning laws
- 95. Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc.
- 99. Other indictable or triable-either-way offences
- 802. Dangerous driving

Selected National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) offences

Figures for selected fraud and forgery offences are provided by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). These are still under development and data are included as they become available. The list below shows the offences within the NFIB dataset and the date from which they were included.

1 April 2011

“419” Advance fee fraud
Advance fee fraud

Application fraud (excluding mortgages)
Business trading fraud
Charity fraud
Cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts (not PSP)
Computer software service fraud
Consumer phone fraud
Corporate employee fraud
Corporate procurement fraud
Counterfeit cashiers' cheques
Dating scams
Door to door sales and bogus tradesmen
Fraud recovery
Fraudulent applications for grants from charities
Inheritance fraud
Insurance broker fraud
Insurance related fraud
Lender loan fraud
Lottery scams
Mandate fraud
Mortgage related fraud
Online shopping and auctions
Other advance fee frauds
Other consumer non investment fraud
Other financial investment
Prime bank guarantees
Pyramid or Ponzi schemes
Rental fraud
Share sales or boiler room fraud
Telecom industry fraud (misuse of contracts)
Ticket fraud
Time shares and holiday club fraud

1 January 2012

Computer virus/malware/spyware
Denial of service attack
Denial of service attack extortion
Hacking extortion
Hacking – PBX/dial through
Hacking – personal
Hacking – server
Hacking – social media and email

1 April 2012

Fraudulent applications for grants from government funded organisations

Appendix 2: CSEW offences

Crime categories and the offence codes used in the CSEW

The list below gives a breakdown of which offence codes make up the different crime categories that are referred to in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Details of how offences reported in CSEW are placed into the offence codes used below can be found in Offence Coding Coders' Manual in the Technical Report ([TNS-BMRB](#), 2012). For household crimes the respondent is answering on behalf of the household and when an offence occurs the whole household is considered to have been victimised. For personal crimes, the respondent themselves have to be the victim of a personal crime for it to be inside the survey's coverage.

Due to the small numbers of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report and due to this are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence type of wounding).

Household crimes

All household offences

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-something taken
60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64. Theft of pedal cycle
65. Theft from outside dwelling (excl. theft of milk bottles)
71. Attempted theft of/from car/van,
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
80. Arson
81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Comparable household crime

- 51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
- 52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
- 53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
- 60. Theft of car/van
- 61. Theft from car/van
- 62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
- 63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
- 64. Theft of pedal cycle
- 71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
- 72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
- 80. Arson
- 81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
- 82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
- 83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
- 84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
- 85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
- 86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Acquisitive crime against household

- 50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
- 51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
- 52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
- 53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
- 55. Theft in a dwelling
- 56. Theft from a meter
- 57. Burglary from non-connected garage/outhouse (nothing taken)
- 58. Burglary from non-connected garage/outhouse (something taken)
- 60. Theft of car/van
- 61. Theft from car/van
- 62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
- 63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
- 64. Theft of pedal cycle
- 65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)
- 71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
- 72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped

Vandalism

- 80. Arson
- 81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
- 82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
- 83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
- 84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
- 85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
- 86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Vehicle vandalism

- 81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
- 82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)

Other vandalism

- 80. Arson
- 83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
- 84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
- 85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
- 86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

All vehicle thefts

- 60. Theft of car/van
- 61. Theft from car/van
- 62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
- 63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
- 71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
- 72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle

Theft from vehicle

- 61. Theft from car/van
- 63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped

Theft of a vehicle

- 60. Theft of car/van
- 62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped

Attempted theft of & from vehicle

- 71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
- 72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle

Burglary

- 51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
- 52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
- 53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Burglary with entry

- 51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
- 52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)

Burglary attempts

- 53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Burglary with loss

- 52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)

Burglary with no loss (including attempts)

- 51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
- 53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Theft from a dwelling

- 55. Theft in a dwelling

Bicycle theft

- 64. Theft of pedal cycle

Other household thefts

- 50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
- 55. Theft in a dwelling
- 56. Theft from a meter
- 57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-nothing taken
- 58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-something taken
- 65. Theft from outside dwelling (excl. theft of milk bottles)

Personal crimes

All personal (not including rape and indecent assault⁴¹)

- 11. Serious wounding
- 12. Other wounding
- 13. Common assault
- 21. Attempted assault
- 32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
- 33. Other wounding with sexual motive
- 41. Robbery
- 42. Attempted robbery
- 43. Snatch theft from the person
- 44. Other theft from the person
- 45. Attempted theft from the person
- 67. Other theft
- 73. Other attempted theft

Comparable personal

- 11. Serious wounding
- 12. Other wounding
- 32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
- 33. Other wounding with sexual motive
- 41. Robbery
- 42. Attempted robbery

⁴¹ Due to the small numbers of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence type of wounding).

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43. Snatch theft from the person
 44. Other theft from the person
 45. Attempted theft from the person

All CSEW violence

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive
41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery

Other violence categories exist beyond this list but largely depend on details of the offence such as the level of injury (e.g. violence with injury) and victim-offender relationship (e.g. domestic violence) that are not reflected in different offence codes. Chapter 5 contains more information on different crime categories as a result of these offence characteristics.

Comparable violence

13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive
41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery

Common assault

13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault

Wounding

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive

Robbery

41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery

Mugging

41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery

-
43. Snatch theft from the person

Mugging is the only CSEW violence offence code that includes snatch theft from the person.

Acquisitive crime against the individual

41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery
43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person
67. Other theft
73. Other attempted theft

Theft from the person

43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person

Stealth theft from person

44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person.

Snatch theft from person

43. Snatch theft from the person

Other theft of personal property

67. Other theft
73. Other attempted theft

Threats

91. Threat to kill/assault made against, but not necessarily to respondent
92. Sexual threat made against, but not necessarily to respondent
93. Other threat or intimidation made against, but not necessarily to respondent
94. Threats against others, made to the respondent

Total CSEW crime (not including rape and indecent assault⁴²)

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive

⁴² Due to the small numbers of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence type of wounding).

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41. Robbery
 42. Attempted robbery
 43. Snatch theft from the person
 44. Other theft from the person
 45. Attempted theft from the person
 50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
 51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
 52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
 53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
 55. Theft in a dwelling
 56. Theft from a meter
 57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-nothing taken
 58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-something taken
 60. Theft of car/van
 61. Theft from car/van
 62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
 63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
 64. Theft of pedal cycle
 65. Theft from outside dwelling (excl. theft of milk bottles)
 67. Other theft
 71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
 72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
 73. Other attempted theft
 80. Arson
 81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
 82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
 83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
 84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
 85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
 86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

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