

# Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending June 2015



Coverage: **England and Wales**

Date: **15 October 2015**

Geographical Area: **Country**

Theme: **Crime and Justice**

## Main points

- Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that, for the offences it covers, there were an estimated 6.5 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over). This is a 8% decrease compared with the previous year's survey, and the lowest estimate since the CSEW began in 1981. The largest volume reduction in CSEW estimates was for the all theft offences category (which was down 8%).
- There was a 5% increase in police recorded crime compared with the previous year, with 4.3 million offences recorded in the year ending June 2015. A large part of this rise is thought to be due to improved compliance with national recording standards by police forces in the last year.
- The CSEW estimate for violent crime showed no significant change compared with the previous year's survey. There was a rise in violence against the person offences recorded by the police (up by 25%, or an additional 163,398 offences). This was driven by increases within the violence without injury sub-group which was up by 108,701 offences (a 33% increase). Such offences are thought to be prone to changes in recording practice.
- However, there were also increases in the more serious categories of police recorded violence including a 16% rise in violence with injury (up by 54,653 offences). Possession of a knife or sharp instrument increased by 9% (to 10,154 offences) whilst other selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments increased by 4%. The latter offences are generally not as prone to changes in recording practice. This rise may represent a real change in the downward trend seen in recent years and a more proactive police response to it though it is possible that improvements in recording of violent offences is also contributing.
- Sexual offences recorded by the police continued to rise with the latest figures up 41% on the previous year; equivalent to an additional 27,602 offences. The numbers of rapes (31,621) and other sexual offences (63,861) being at the highest level since the introduction of the National

Crime Recording Standard in 2002/03. As well as improvements in recording, this is also thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes.

- There was an increase of 9% in the volume of fraud offences referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) at the City of London Police. Nearly 600,000 offences were referred to NFIB, including 237,494 offences reported by victims to Action Fraud (the UK's national fraud reporting centre), 266,701 referrals from Cifas (a UK-wide fraud prevention service) and 95,489 cases from FFA UK (that represents the UK payments industry).

## Overview

This release provides the latest statistics on crime from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime.

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The [full assessment report](#) can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website. Alongside this release, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have published a [progress update on actions taken](#) in addressing the requirements set out by the Authority. Data from the CSEW continue to be badged as National Statistics.

Further information on the datasets is available in the 'Data sources – coverage and coherence' section and the [CSEW technical report \(839.6 Kb Pdf\)](#).

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

The [quality and methodology report](#) sets out detailed information about the quality of crime statistics and the roles and responsibilities of the different departments involved in the production and publication of crime statistics.

Last year, revised survey weights and a back-series were produced for the CSEW following the release of the new-2011 Census-based population estimates. [Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) has more information.

An [interactive guide](#) provides a general overview of crime statistics.

## Understanding Crime Statistics

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

## Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a selected number of offences in the 12 months prior to the interview. It covers adults aged 16 and over, and a separate survey is used to cover children aged 10 to 15, but neither cover those living in group residences (such as care homes, student halls of residence and prisons), or crimes against commercial or public sector bodies. For the population and offence types it covers, the CSEW is a valuable source for providing robust estimates on a consistent basis over time.

It is able to capture offences experienced by those interviewed, not just those that have been reported to, and recorded by, the police. It covers a broad range of victim-based crimes experienced by the resident household population. However, there are some serious but relatively low volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, which are not included in its main estimates. The survey also currently excludes fraud and cyber crime though there is ongoing development work to address this gap. This includes a recent field trial of newly developed questions. The paper [CSEW fraud and cyber-crime development: Field trial \(367.1 Kb Pdf\)](#) has more information.

Recent research has questioned the "capping" of counts of repeat victimisation in the production of CSEW estimates. A separate methodological note '[High frequency repeat victimisation in the Crime Survey for England and Wales' \(100.1 Kb Pdf\)](#) sets out background information on the use of capping and outlines work ONS is doing to review the use of it.

An [infographic looking at the people and crimes covered by the CSEW](#) was published in October 2014.

## Police recorded crime

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

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

Statistics based on police recorded crime data don't currently meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics (this is explained in the 'Recent assessments of crime statistics and accuracy' section).

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

### **Recent assessments of crime statistics and accuracy**

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

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

In light of concerns raised about the quality of police recorded crime data, in November 2014 we launched a user engagement exercise to help expand our knowledge of users' needs. The exercise has now closed and a [summary of responses to the survey of users of police recorded crime statistics](#) was published in May 2015. A short summary of the main themes raised by respondents is given in the 'Users of Crime Statistics' section.

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

Based on an audit of a large sample of records, HMIC concluded that, across England and Wales as a whole, an estimated 1 in 5 offences (19%) that should have been recorded as crimes were not. The greatest levels of under-recording were seen for violence against the person offences (33%) and sexual offences (26%), however there was considerable variation in the level of under-recording across the different offence types investigated (for example, burglary; 11%) and these are reported on further in the relevant sections.

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

Further information on the accuracy of the statistics is also available in the 'Accuracy of the statistics' section.

### **Time periods covered**

The latest CSEW figures presented in this release are based on interviews conducted between July 2014 and June 2015, measuring experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. Therefore, it covers a rolling reference period with, for example, respondents interviewed in July 2014 reporting on crimes experienced between July 2013 and June 2014, and those interviewed in

June 2015 reporting on crimes taking place between July 2014 and June 2015. For that reason, the CSEW tends to lag short-term trends.

Recorded crime figures relate to crimes recorded by the police during the year ending June 2015<sup>2</sup> and, therefore, are not subject to the time lag experienced by the CSEW. Recorded crime figures presented in this release are those notified to the Home Office and that were recorded in the Home Office database on 3 September 2015.

There is a 9 month overlap of the data reported here with the data contained in the previous bulletin; as a result the estimates in successive bulletins are not from independent samples. Therefore, year-on-year comparisons are made with the previous year; that is, the 12 month period ending June 2014 (rather than those published last quarter). To put the latest dataset in context, data are also shown for the year ending March 2010 (around 5 years ago) and the year ending March 2005 (around 10 years ago). Additionally, for the CSEW estimates, data for the year ending December 1995, which was when crime peaked in the CSEW (when the survey was conducted on a calendar year basis), are also included.

Users should be aware that improvements in police recording practices following the recent PASC enquiry that took place during late 2013 and HMIC audits of individual police forces which continued until August 2014 are known to have impacted on recorded crime figures. The scale of the effect on both the 2013 to 2014 data and the 2014 to 2015 data is likely to differ between police forces and be particularly driven by the timing of individual forces' HMIC audit and the timetable by which they introduced any changes.

## Notes for Understanding Crime Statistics

1. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way-offences (offences which could be tried at a crown court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by magistrates' courts). Appendix 1 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police.
2. Police recorded crime statistics are based on the year in which the offence was recorded, rather than the year in which it was committed. However, such data for any given period will include some historic offences that occurred in a previous year to the one in which it is reported to the police.

## Summary

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

Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) show there were an estimated 6.5 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending June 2015 (Table 1). This is an 8% decrease from 7.1 million incidents estimated in the previous year's survey and continues the long term downward trend seen since the mid-1990s. The latest estimate is the lowest since the survey began in 1981. The total

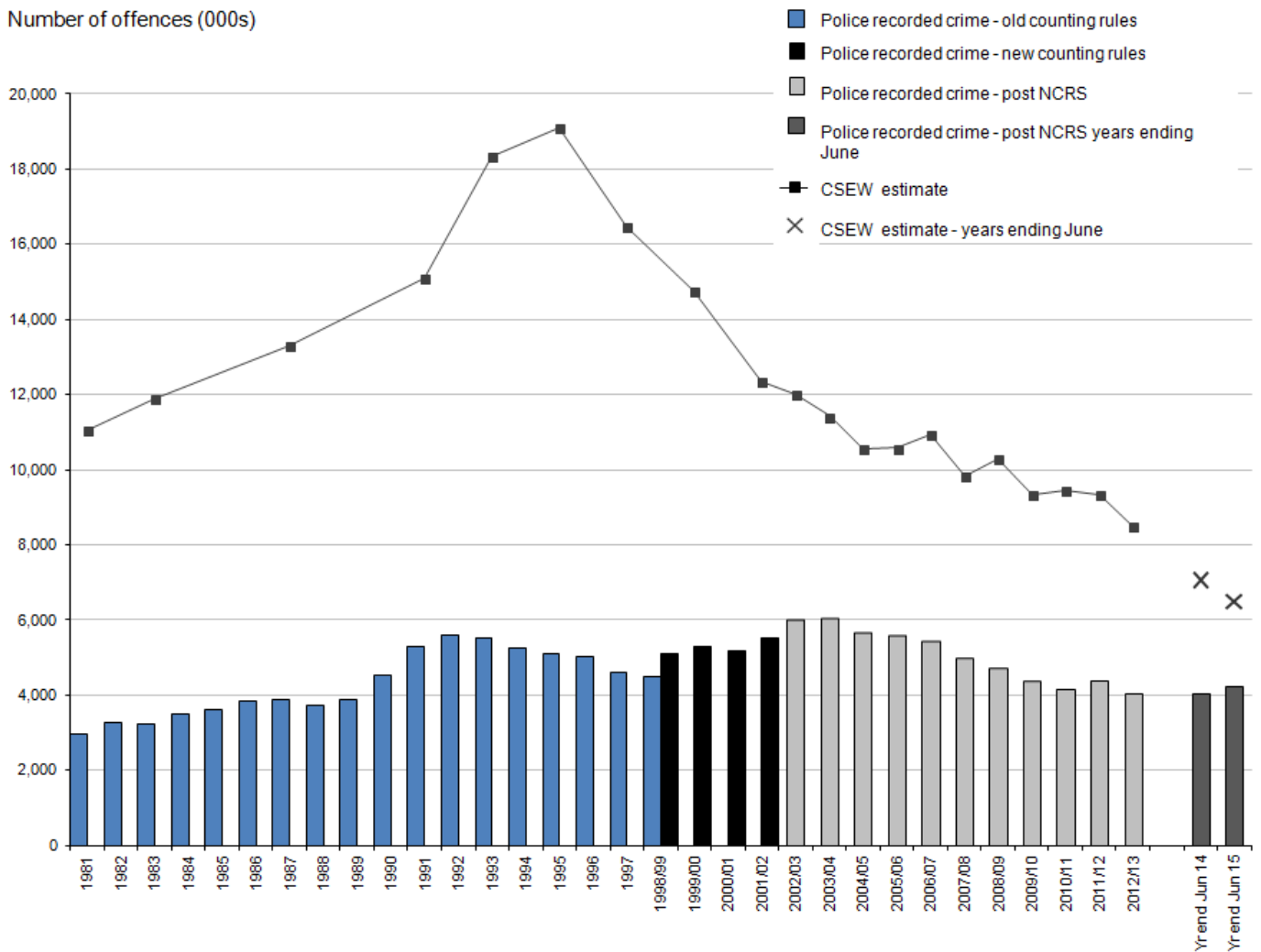
number of CSEW incidents is 30% lower than the 2009/10 survey estimate and 66% lower than its peak level in 1995.

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

The CSEW covers a broad range of, but not all, victim-based crimes experienced by the resident household population, including those which were not reported to the police. However, there are some serious but relatively low volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, which are not included in its headline estimates. The survey also currently excludes fraud and cyber crime from its headline estimates although there is ongoing development work to address this gap. Published alongside this bulletin is a supplementary publication [Improving crime statistics in England and Wales: Fraud](#) which discusses the relative merits of existing fraud data used in crime statistics, together with evidence from the recent [CSEW field trial \(367.1 Kb Pdf\)](#) aimed at improving this information.



**Figure 1: Trends in police recorded crime for England and Wales and Crime Survey for England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Sources: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics / Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Prior to the year ending March 2002, 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, respondents' experience of crime relates to the full 12 months prior to interview (i.e. a moving reference period). Year-labels for year ending March 2002 identify the CSEW year of interview.
4. CSEW data relate to households/adults aged 16 and over.
5. Some forces have revised their data and police recorded crime totals may not agree with those previously published.
6. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).
7. Please click on the image to view a larger version.

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The CSEW time series shown in Figure 1 doesn't include crimes committed against children aged 10 to 15. The survey was extended to include such children from January 2009: data from this module of the survey are not directly comparable with the main survey of adults. The CSEW estimated that 711,000 crimes<sup>1</sup> were experienced by children aged 10 to 15 in the year ending June 2015. Of this number, 44% were categorised as violent crimes<sup>2</sup> (316,000), while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property (266,000; 37%). Incidents of criminal damage to personal property (89,000; 13% of all crimes) and robbery (40,000; 6%) experienced by children were less common. The proportions of violent crime, personal property theft and robberies experienced by children aged 10 to 15 were similar to the previous year (49%, 38%, 6% respectively). Criminal damage made up a larger proportion of all crimes against children aged 10 to 15 than the previous year (6%).

Police recorded crime is restricted to offences that have been reported to and recorded by the police, and so doesn't provide a total count of all crimes that take place. The police recorded 4.3 million offences in the year ending June 2015, an increase of 5% compared with the previous year (Table 2)<sup>3</sup>. Of the 44 forces (including the British Transport Police), 34 showed an annual increase in total recorded crime which was largely driven by rises in the volume of violence against the person offences. This increase in police recorded crime needs to be seen in the context of the renewed focus on the quality of crime recording.

Like CSEW crime, police recorded crime also increased during most of the 1980s and then fell each year from 1992 to 1998/99. Expanded coverage of offences in the police recorded crime collection, following changes to the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) in 1998, and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002, saw increases in the number of crimes recorded by the police while the CSEW count fell. Following these changes, trends from both series tracked each other well from 2002/03 until 2006/07. While both series continued to show a downward trend between 2007/08 and 2012/13, the gap between them widened with police recorded crime showing a faster rate of reduction (32% compared with 19% for the CSEW, for a comparable basket of crimes)<sup>4</sup>.

More recently this pattern for the comparable basket of crimes has changed, with overall police recorded crime now showing an increase over the past year, while CSEW estimates have continued to fall, albeit at a slower rate. However, the changes in overall crime seen in both sources mask different trends for individual types of crime; for example the increases in violence, sexual offences and fraud in police recorded crime and the flattening out of the previous downward trend in violence estimated by the CSEW.

A likely factor behind the changing trend in police recorded crime is the renewed focus on the quality of recording by the police, in light of the inspections of forces by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), the [Public Administration Select Committee \(PASC\) inquiry](#) into crime statistics, and the [UK Statistics Authority's decision to remove the National Statistics designation](#).



This renewed focus is thought to have led to improved compliance with the NCRS, leading to a greater proportion of crimes reported to the police now being recorded than previously.

Police recorded crime data is presented here within a number of broad groupings: victim-based crime; other crimes against society, and fraud. **Victim-based crime**<sup>5</sup> accounted for 76% of all police recorded crime, with 3.3 million offences recorded in the year ending June 2015. This was an increase of 5% compared with the previous year. While there were decreases across many of the police recorded crime categories, these were offset by large increases in both violence against the person offences, which was up by 25% (an additional 163,398 offences), and sexual offences, up by 41% (an additional 27,602 offences).

**Other crimes against society**<sup>6</sup> accounted for 10% of all police recorded crime, with 410,248 offences recorded in the year ending June 2015 (an increase of 3% compared with the previous year). Trends in such offences often reflect changes in police activity and workload, rather than levels of criminality. However, anecdotal evidence from forces suggests that some increases in this grouping, such as those seen in public order offences, are being driven by a tightening of recording practices. Public order offences accounted for the largest volume rise and increased by 24% (up by 33,263), miscellaneous crimes against society increased by 18% (up by 8,480), offences involving possession of weapons by 7% (up by 1,528), but drug offences decreased by 17% (down by 32,532).

The remaining 14% of recorded crimes were **fraud offences**. There were 599,689 fraud offences that were referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, based at the City of London Police in the year ending June 2015 (an increase of 9% on the previous year). This is the first time that the police recorded crime figures published by ONS include referrals to the NFIB from Cifas (266,701 cases) and FFA UK (95,489 cases). A limited time series for these new sources is available back to 2011/12 and the latest figures represent a 17% year on year increase in referrals from Cifas, but a 14% reduction from FFA UK. The vast majority of referrals from these 2 industry bodies were related to banking and credit industry fraud. However, it should be noted that cases are only referred to the NFIB where it is judged there is good investigative leads and the FFA UK have supplied ONS with data which shows their members recorded a total of 1.3 million cases of confirmed fraud on UK-issued cards. The 'Fraud' section has more information on these data sources.

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

Around 2 million incidents of **anti-social behaviour (ASB)** were recorded by the police for the year ending June 2015. These are incidents that were not judged to require recording as a notifiable offence within the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime. The number of ASB incidents in the year ending June 2015 decreased by 9% compared with the previous year. However, it should be noted that a [review by HMIC](#) in 2012 found that there was a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of ASB. As a result, ASB incident data should be interpreted with caution.

In the year ending March 2015 (the latest period for which data are available) there were over 1 million convictions for **non-notifiable offences** (up 2% from the year ending March 2014), that are not covered in police recorded crime or the CSEW (for example: being drunk and disorderly;

committing a speeding offence). There were 27,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in relation to non-notifiable offences<sup>7</sup>.

The CSEW does not cover crimes against businesses and police recorded crime can only provide a partial picture (as not all offences come to the attention of the police). The [2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#) and [2014 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#), respectively, estimated that there were 6.6 million and 4.8 million incidents of crime against business premises<sup>8</sup> in England and Wales in the three comparable sectors covered by each survey ("Wholesale and retail", "Accommodation and food" and "Agriculture, forestry and fishing").

### Trends in victim-based crime – CSEW

The CSEW provides coverage of a broad range of victim-based crimes, although there are necessary exclusions from its main estimates, such as homicide and sexual offences. This [infographic looking at the people and crimes covered by the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\)](#) has more information on the coverage of the survey.

Estimates of **violent crime** from the CSEW have shown large falls between the 1995 and the 2004/05 survey. Since then the survey shows a general downward trend in violent crime, albeit with some fluctuations (notably in 2010/11). The apparent 4% fall in the latest year was not statistically significantly lower than the previous year's estimate.

CSEW **domestic burglary** follows a similar pattern to that seen for all CSEW crime, peaking in the 1993 survey and then falling steeply until the 2004/05 CSEW. The underlying trend in domestic burglary remained fairly flat between the 2004/05 and 2010/11 surveys before further falls in 2012/13 and 2013/14. As a result estimates of domestic burglary for the year ending June 2015 are 29% lower than those in the 2004/05 survey. However, there has been no change in levels of domestic burglary between the year ending June 2014 and year ending June 2015 surveys (the apparent year-on-year decrease of 3% was not statistically significant).

The CSEW category of **vehicle-related theft** has shown a consistent downward trend since the mid-1990s. However, as with domestic burglary, there was no change in the level of vehicle-related theft in the last year (the apparent decrease of 3% was not statistically significant). The latest estimates indicate that a vehicle-owning household was around 5-times less likely to become a victim of such crime than in 1995.

The apparent 9% decrease in CSEW **other household theft** compared with the previous year was also not statistically significant. The latest estimates show levels of other household theft slightly lower than those seen in the 2007/08 survey, following a period of year-on-year increases between the 2007/08 and 2011/12 surveys. Peak levels of other household theft were recorded in the mid-1990s and the latest estimate is around half the level seen in 1995.

The CSEW estimates that there were around 711,000 incidents of **other theft of personal property** in the survey year ending June 2015, these are offences which occur while the victim is away from the home, but the items stolen are not being carried on the person (such as theft of unattended property in pubs or restaurants). The underlying trend was fairly flat between 2004/05 and 2011/12 following marked declines from the mid-1990s; since 2011/12 estimates have decreased with the

latest estimate 20% lower compared with the previous year. While this fall continues the general decline of other theft of personal property recorded by the survey it is possible that the extent of the decrease shown in the current estimate may have been exaggerated due to sampling variability rather than an acceleration of the downward trend.

Latest CSEW findings for **bicycle theft** show no change in the level of incidents in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (the apparent 7% increase was not statistically significant). Over the long term, incidents of bicycle theft showed a marked decline between 1995 and the 1999 survey, with both small increases and decreases thereafter. Estimates for the year ending June 2015 are now 39% lower than in 1995 but remain similar to the level seen in 1999.

The number of incidents of **criminal damage** estimated by the CSEW showed no change in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (the apparent 7% decrease was not statistically significant). The longer term trend shows a period of increasing incidents of criminal damage between 2003/04 and 2006/07 followed by a marked decline from 2008/09 onwards.

CSEW estimates for **robbery** decreased significantly from the previous year (37%). This estimate must be treated with caution and interpreted alongside police recorded crime as short term trends in these crimes are likely to fluctuate when measured by the CSEW due to the small number of victims interviewed in any one year. CSEW estimates for **theft from the person** showed no change in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (the apparent 15% decrease was not statistically significant). In the year ending June 2015 police recorded robberies and thefts from the person also decreased (by 11% and 13% respectively); smaller amounts than the CSEW. Further information on these crimes is provided in the relevant sections of this bulletin.

**Table 1: Number of CSEW incidents for year ending June 2015 and percentage change[1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

Offence group <sup>3</sup>	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:								
	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14				
Number of incidents (thousands), percentage change and significance <sup>4</sup>									
Violence	<b>1,247</b>	-68	*	-38	*	-26	*	-4	
with injury	<b>657</b>	-71	*	-44	*	-26	*	7	
without injury	<b>590</b>	-62	*	-30	*	-26	*	-14	
Robbery	<b>97</b>	-72	*	-61	*	-70	*	-37	*
Theft offences	<b>3,894</b>	-67	*	-33	*	-22	*	-8	*
Theft from the person	<b>442</b>	-35	*	-22	*	-14		-15	
Other theft of personal property	<b>711</b>	-66	*	-36	*	-29	*	-20	*
Unweighted base - number of adults	33,362								
Domestic burglary	<b>750</b>	-69	*	-29	*	-18	*	-3	
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	<b>520</b>	-70	*	-31	*	-20	*	-8	
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building	<b>230</b>	-65	*	-26	*	-14		10	

Offence group <sup>3</sup>	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:								
	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14				
to a dwelling									
Other household theft	716	-54	*	-15	*	-18	*	-9	
Vehicle-related theft	872	-80	*	-52	*	-27	*	-3	
Bicycle theft	403	-39	*	3		-14	*	7	
Criminal damage	1,267	-62	*	-49	*	-46	*	-7	
Unweighted base - number of households	33,315								
ALL CSEW CRIME	6,505	-66	*	-38	*	-30	*	-8	*

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. More detail on further years can be found in Appendix Table A1.
3. Section 5 of the User Guide provides more information about the crime types included in this table.
4. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.

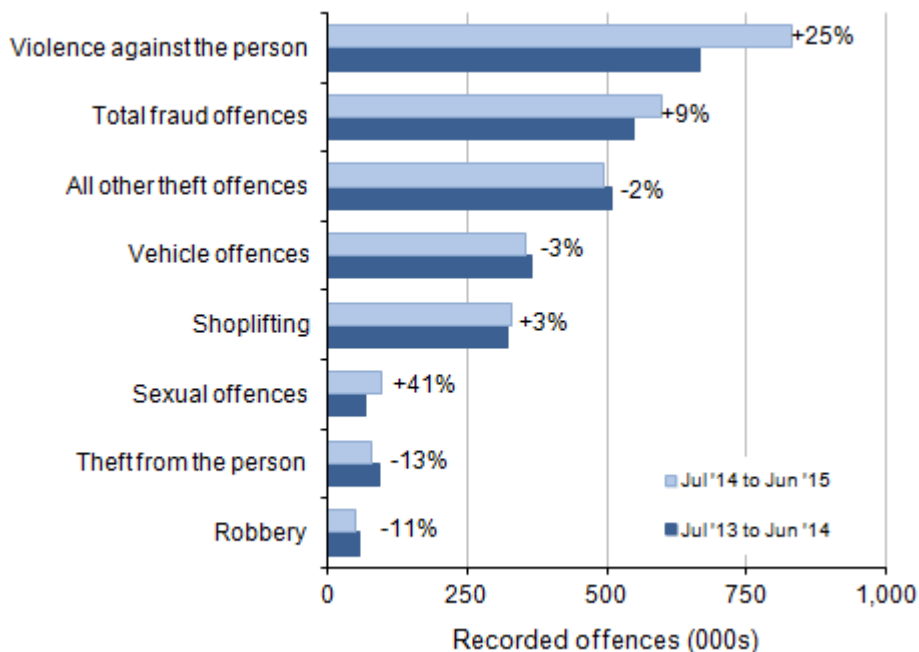
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**Trends in victim-based crime – police recorded crime**

Figure 2 focuses on selected police recorded crime offences with notable changes in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year.

**Figure 2: Selected victim-based police recorded crime offences in England and Wales: volumes and percentage change between year ending June 2014 and year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. 'All other theft' includes: theft of unattended items, blackmail, theft by an employee, and making off without payment.

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There was a 5% increase in **victim-based crimes** in the year ending June 2015 to 3.3 million offences. The total of 3.3 million offences is equivalent to 57 recorded offences per 1,000 resident population in England and Wales (though this shouldn't be read as a victimisation rate as multiple offences could be reported by the same victim) – shown in Table 3.

The 25% increase in **violence against the person** offences recorded by the police is likely to be driven by improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) as the CSEW showed no significant change in estimated levels of violence in the year ending June 2015. The volume of recorded violence against the person crimes (830,289 offences) equates to approximately 14 offences recorded per 1,000 population in the year ending June 2015. The largest increase in total **violence against the person** offences was in the **violence without injury** subcategory, which showed an increase of 33% compared with the previous year. The **violence with injury** subcategory showed a smaller increase (16%) over the same period.

In the year ending June 2015 the police recorded 569 **homicides**, 44 more than the previous year<sup>9</sup>. This increase includes 2 months where the number of recorded homicides were relatively high. In



June 2015, the police recorded 73 homicides and in November 2014, 59 homicides; compared with an average of 46 homicides per month over the last 2 years. The number of homicides recorded by the police fluctuates from year to year. Previous analysis<sup>10</sup> has shown that many of the short-term fluctuations seen in the number of homicide incidents appear to arise as natural statistical variation in the data. The latest rise appears to be within the bounds of such natural variation in this series. Historically, the number of homicides increased from around 300 per year in the early 1960s to over 800 per year in the early years of this century, which was at a faster rate than population growth over that period<sup>11</sup>. However, over the past decade the volume of homicides has generally decreased while the population of England and Wales has continued to grow.

**Offences involving firearms** (excluding air weapons) have fallen 2% in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year. There has been a downward trend in this series, and the latest figures are over 50% less than it was at its peak in 2005/06. However, the number of offences that involved a **knife or sharp instrument** showed an increase (4%) over the past 12 months when compared with the previous year<sup>12</sup> and contrasts with the previous general downward trend. Within the offence groups covered (Table 9a) larger rises were recorded in the offence categories of "assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm" (up 15%). The latter offences are not as prone to changes in recording practice and thus this rise is thought to represent a real change in the downward trend seen in recent years and a more proactive police response to it. However, some forces also suggest that the general drive to improve recording may also be having an impact on some of these categories. Not all offences involving a knife or sharp instrument increased with robberies falling 11% in the year to June 2015. Possession of a knife or sharp instrument also increased by 9% to 10,154 offences.

Police recorded **robberies** also fell 11% in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year, from 56,189 offences to 50,239 offences. This is equivalent to around 1 offence recorded per 1,000 population and is the lowest level since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03 (when 110,271 offences were recorded). With the exception of a notable rise in the number of robberies in 2005/06 and 2006/07, there has been a general downward trend in robbery offences since 2002/03. The overall decrease has been driven by a fall in the number of offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police Force (which decreased by 18% to 21,883 offences). As robbery offences tended to be concentrated in large urban areas (44% were recorded in London).

**Sexual offences** recorded by the police increased by 41% compared with the previous year, to a total of 95,482 across England and Wales. Within this, the number of offences of rape increased by 43% and other sexual offences by 40%. These rises are the largest year-on-year increases since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03. These rises are likely to be due to an improvement in crime recording by the police and an increase in the willingness of victims to come forward and report to the police.

Previous increases in the number of sexual offences reported to the police were shown to have been related in part to a rise in the reporting of historical offences<sup>13</sup> following 'Operation Yewtree', which began in 2012. Feedback from forces indicates that both current and historical offences (those that took place over 12 months before being reported) continued to rise in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year. However, the major volume contribution to this increase is believed to have come from current offences.

Total **theft offences** recorded by the police in the year ending June 2015 showed a 3% decrease compared with the previous year, continuing the year-on-year decrease seen since 2002/03. The majority of the categories in this offence group (burglary, vehicle offences, theft from the person, bicycle theft and 'all other theft offences') showed decreases compared with the previous year. One exception to this was **shoplifting**, which increased by 3% compared with the previous year (from 321,862 offences to 330,214), the highest level since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03. However, the rate of increase has slowed from the 7% seen in 2013/14. **Vehicle interference** increased by 71% (from 23,675 to 40,567) in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year. A change in the guidance within Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) in April 2014 is likely to have led to offences that previously might have been recorded as attempted theft of, or from, a vehicle or criminal damage to a vehicle now being recorded as vehicle interference when the motive of the offender was not clear. **Theft of a motor vehicle** increased by 3% in the year ending June 2015 (from 75,177 to 77,220). This is the second consecutive quarter where figures have increased in this offence. Anecdotal evidence from forces suggests that the increase is largely due to thefts of motor cycles, scooters and mopeds, rather than 4-wheeled vehicles. **Theft from the person** offences recorded by the police in the year ending June 2015 showed a 13% decrease compared with the previous year. This is a reversal of recent trends, which showed year-on-year increases between 2008/09 and 2012/13. This latest decrease is thought to be associated with improved mobile phone security features<sup>14</sup>. The 'Theft offences - Other theft of property' section has more information.

## Fraud offences

Alongside Action Fraud data, the police recorded crime series now includes England and Wales level estimates from 2 industry bodies, Cifas and FFA UK. Combined totals from these sources show that in the year ending June 2015, 599,689 fraud offences were recorded in England and Wales, a volume increase of 9% from the previous year. This is equivalent to 10 offences recorded per 1,000 population.

Action Fraud recorded 237,494 fraud offences reported to them by victims in England and Wales in the year ending June 2015. This represents a volume increase of 13% compared with the previous year. Due to the phased transition in responsibility for recording fraud offences from individual police forces to Action Fraud between April 2011 and March 2013, comparable data has only been available on a year on year basis for the year ending March 2015 ([Appendix Table A5 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). The latest figures from Action Fraud suggest that while other acquisitive crimes continue to fall the level of fraud has increased.

Cifas also showed a 17% increase in referrals to NFIB (from 227,857 offences to 266,701 offences), while fraud offences referred by FFA UK decreased 14% (from 110,793 offences to 95,489 offences). FFA UK also collates data on the volume of fraud on UK-issued bank cards and other modes of payment, including cases that do not come to the attention of the NFIB. In the year ending June 2015, they reported 1.3 million cases of such fraud; the 'Fraud' section has further information.

It is, however, difficult to judge whether or not administrative data reflects changes in actual crime levels or increased reporting to the police. The CSEW data on plastic card fraud shows that, for the year ending June 2015 survey, 4.6% of plastic card owners were victims of card fraud in the last year, a decrease from the year earlier (when 5.2% of card owners were victims). This is consistent

with the broader range of bank account and plastic card fraud data collected by FFA UK, which shows a 5% fall over the last year.

ONS is currently conducting work to extend the main victimisation module in the CSEW to cover elements of fraud and cyber-crime. There is more information in the recently published methodological note [Update – Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime](#) and in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#). Results from a large-scale field trial of the new victimisation module questions are now available. For further information, please see [Improving crime statistics in England and Wales: Fraud](#) and the methodological note [CSEW fraud and cyber-crime development: Field trial \(367.1 Kb Pdf\)](#).

**Table 2: Number of police recorded crimes for year ending June 2015 and percentage change[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Offence group	Number and percentage change			
	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:			
	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>VICTIM-BASED CRIME</b>	<b>3,250,302</b>	-35	-14	5
<b>Violence against the person offences</b>	<b>830,289</b>	-2	19	25
Homicide	<b>569</b>	-34	-8	8
Violence with injury <sup>5</sup>	<b>390,538</b>	-24	-3	16
Violence without injury <sup>6</sup>	<b>439,182</b>	33	48	33
<b>Sexual offences</b>	<b>95,482</b>	57	80	41
Rape	<b>31,621</b>	126	110	43
Other sexual offences	<b>63,861</b>	36	68	40
<b>Robbery offences</b>	<b>50,239</b>	-45	-33	-11
Robbery of business property	<b>5,349</b>	-33	-35	-6
Robbery of personal property	<b>44,890</b>	-46	-33	-11
<b>Theft offences</b>	<b>1,760,747</b>	-38	-17	-3

## July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:

Offence group	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
Burglary	<b>408,088</b>	-40	-25	-6
Domestic burglary	<b>195,816</b>	-39	-27	-6
Non-domestic burglary	<b>212,272</b>	-41	-22	-7
Vehicle offences	<b>355,090</b>	-57	-28	-3
Theft of a motor vehicle	<b>77,220</b>	-68	-34	3
Theft from a vehicle	<b>237,303</b>	-53	-30	-11
Interfering with a motor vehicle	<b>40,567</b>	-47	7	71
Theft from the person	<b>79,873</b>	-35	-13	-13
Bicycle theft	<b>92,897</b>	-12	-15	-4
Shoplifting	<b>330,214</b>	17	7	3
All other theft offences <sup>7</sup>	<b>494,585</b>	-40	-16	-2
<b>Criminal damage and arson</b>	<b>513,545</b>	-57	-36	3
<b>OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>	<b>410,248</b>	-10	-19	3
<b>Drug offences</b>	<b>160,876</b>	10	-32	-17
Trafficking of drugs	26,690	10	-20	-8
Possession of drugs	134,186	10	-34	-18
<b>Possession of weapons offences</b>	<b>22,492</b>	-45	-22	7
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>171,547</b>	-11	-9	24

**July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:**

<b>Offence group</b>	<b>Jul '14 to Jun '15</b>	<b>Apr '04 to Mar '05</b>	<b>Apr '09 to Mar '10</b>	<b>Jul '13 to Jun '14</b>
<b>Miscellaneous crimes against society</b>	<b>55,333</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>TOTAL FRAUD OFFENCES<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>599,689</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME - ALL OFFENCES INCLUDING FRAUD<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>4,260,239</b>	<b>-24</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Appendix table A4 provides detailed footnotes and further years.
5. Includes attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/ careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking and less serious wounding offences.
6. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no s threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury)).
7. All other theft offences now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since year ending March 2003. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for year ending March 2014, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.
8. Total fraud offences cover crimes recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau via Action Fraud, Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. Percentage changes compared with earlier years are not presented, as fraud figures for year ending 2005 and year ending 2010 covered only those crimes recorded by individual police forces. Given the addition of new data sources, it is not possible to make direct comparison's with earlier years.

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(153 Kb)

**Table 3: Total police recorded crime - rate of offences[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Rate per 1,000 population</b>				
<b>Total recorded crime - all offences including fraud</b>	107	79	71	74
Victim-based crime <sup>5</sup>	95	69	55	57
Other crimes against society	9	9	7	7
Total fraud offences	3	1	10	10

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Appendix table A4 provides detailed footnotes and further years.
5. Victim-based crime now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since the year ending March 2003. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for the year ending March 2014, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.

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**Notes for Summary**

1. The survey of children aged 10 to 15 only covers personal level crime (so excludes household level crime) and, as with the main survey, does not include sexual offences.



2. The majority (79%) of violent crimes experienced in the year ending June 2015 resulted in minor or no injury, so in most cases the violence is low level.
3. Police recorded crimes are notifiable offences which are all crimes that could possibly be tried by a jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with in this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury.
4. The methodological note [Analysis of variation in crime trends](#) and Section 4.2 of the [User Guide](#) have more details.
5. Victim-based crimes are those offences with a specific identifiable victim. These cover the police recorded crime categories of violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, and criminal damage and arson.
6. "Other crimes against society" cover offences without a direct victim, and includes drug offences, possession of weapon offences, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society.
7. Non-notifiable offences are offences dealt with exclusively by magistrates' courts or by the police issuing of a Penalty Notice for Disorder or a Fixed Penalty Notice. Along with non-notifiable offences dealt with by the police (such as speeding), these include many offences that may be dealt with by other agencies – for example: prosecutions by TV Licensing; or the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for vehicle registration offences.
8. This is a premises based survey: respondents were asked if the business at their current premises had experienced any of a range of crime types in the 12 months prior to interview and, if so, how many incidents of crime had been experienced.
9. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide. Figures from the Homicide Index for the time period April 2013 to March 2014, which take account of further police investigations and court outcomes, were published in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#) on 12 February 2015.
10. See section 1.6 of [Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11, published by the Home Office](#), has more details.
11. These figures, taken from the Homicide Index, are less likely to be affected by changes in police recording practices made in 1998 and 2002, so it is possible to examine longer-term trends.
12. Only selected violent offences can be broken down by whether a knife or sharp instrument was used. These are: homicide; attempted murder; threats to kill; assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm; robbery; rape; and sexual assault.
13. More information can be found in [Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending September 2013](#).

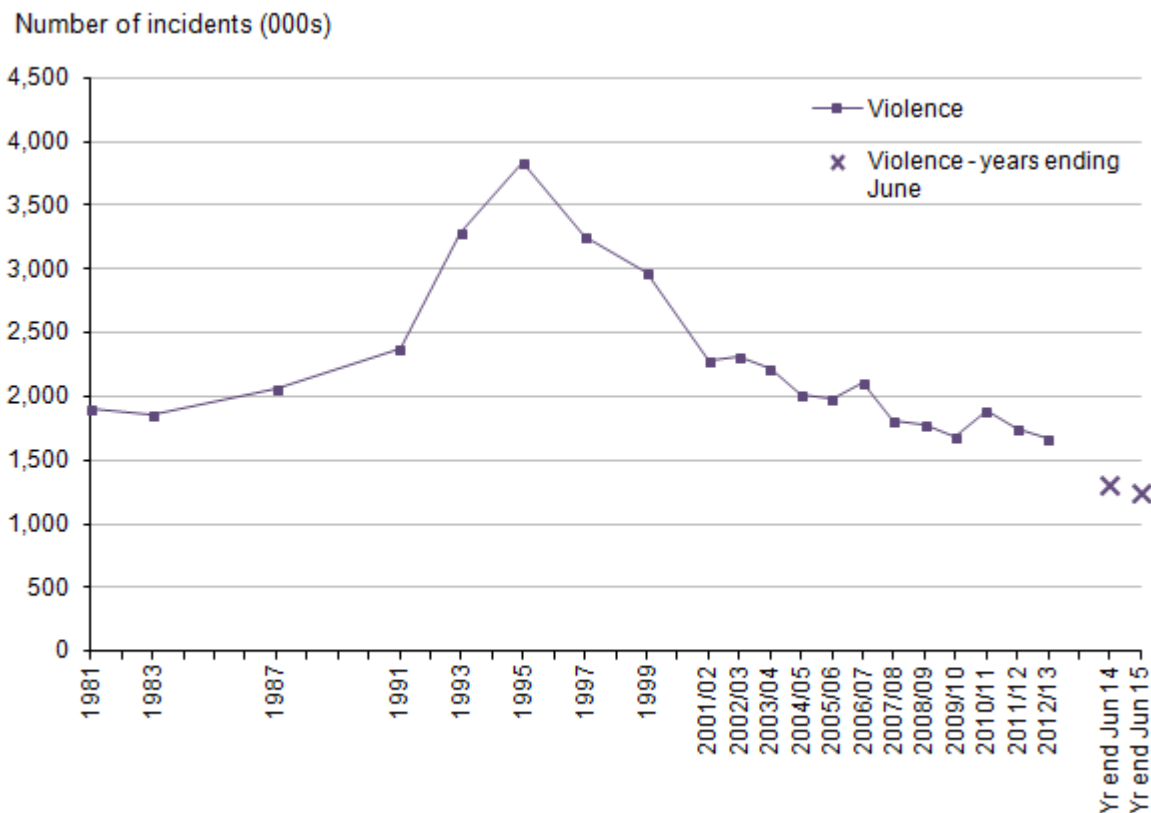
14. The Home Office report [Reducing mobile phone theft and improving security](#) published in September 2014 has more information.

## Violent crime

Violent crime in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is referred to as “violence”, and includes wounding and assault (for both completed and attempted incidents). There is also an additional breakdown of violence with, or without injury. Violent offences in police recorded data are referred to as “violence against the person” and include homicide, violence with injury, and violence without injury. As with the CSEW, attempted assaults are counted alongside completed ones. There are some closely related offences in the police recorded crime series, such as public disorder, that have no identifiable victim and are classified as other offences.

Latest CSEW estimates show there were 1.2 million violent incidents in England and Wales. This shows no significant change (down 4%) compared with last year’s survey, and continues the general downward trend of year on year decreases, which are not always statistically significant (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales violence, year ending December 1981 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Prior to the year ending March 2002, 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, respondents' experience of crime relates to the full 12 months prior to interview (that is, a moving reference period). Year-labels for year ending March 2002 identify the CSEW year of interview.

3. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

### Download chart

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The CSEW subcategories of "violence with injury" and "violence without injury" also showed no change with the apparent changes (with injury up 7% and without injury down 14%) not being statistically significant.

Violent incidents decreased by 68% from a peak in 1995 (Table 4b). Around 2 in every 100 adults were a victim of violent crime in the last year, based on the year ending June 2015 survey, compared with around 5 in 100 adults in the 1995 survey (Table 4a). However, it is important to note that victimisation rates vary considerably across the population and by geographic area. Such variations in victimisation rates are further explored in both our thematic reports (which are published annually)<sup>1</sup>, as well as the [Annual Trend and Demographic tables \(381.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#), which were published alongside the bulletin covering the year ending March 2015.

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

The longer term reduction in violent crime, as shown by the CSEW, is supported by evidence from several health data sources. Research conducted by the Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University ([Sivarajasingam et al., 2015](#)) shows a downward trend, with findings from their annual survey, covering a sample of hospital emergency departments and walk-in centres in England and Wales, showing an overall decrease of 10% in serious violence-related attendances in 2014 compared with 2013 (down to 211,514 attendances in 2014). In addition, the most recent provisional National Health Service (NHS) data available on assault admissions to hospitals in England show that, for the 12 months to the end of April 2015, there were 28,992 hospital admissions for assault, a reduction of 8% compared with figures for the preceding 12 months<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 4a: CSEW violence - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	Interviews from:				
	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Number of incidents</b>	Thousands				
Violence	3,837	2,010	1,687	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1,247</b>
with injury	2,270	1,167	892	<b>617</b>	<b>657</b>
without injury	1,567	844	795	<b>682</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 adults</b>					
Violence	94	48	39	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>
with injury	56	28	20	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
without injury	39	20	18	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Percentage of adults who were victims once or more</b>	Percentage				
Violence	4.8	2.9	2.4	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>
with injury	3.0	1.8	1.4	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>
without injury	2.1	1.3	1.2	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Unweighted base - number of adults	16,337	45,118	44,559	34,554	33,362

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.

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**Table 4b: CSEW violence - percentage change and statistical significance [1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:						
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Number of incidents</b>	Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>						
Violence	-68	*	-38	*	-26	*	<b>-4</b>
with injury	-71	*	-44	*	-26	*	<b>7</b>
without injury	-62	*	-30	*	-26	*	<b>-14</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 adults</b>	Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>						
Violence	-71	*	-43	*	-29	*	<b>-5</b>
with injury	-74	*	-49	*	-30	*	<b>6</b>
without injury	-67	*	-36	*	-29	*	<b>-14</b>
<b>Percentage of adults who were victims once or more</b>	Percentage point change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>						
Violence	-2.9	*	-1.1	*	-0.6	*	<b>0.1</b>
with injury	-2.0	*	-0.8	*	-0.4	*	<b>0.1</b>
without injury	-1.2	*	-0.4	*	-0.3	*	<b>0.0</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.

4. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the 2 percentages due to rounding.

### Download table

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The number of violence against the person offences recorded by the police in the year ending June 2015 showed a 25% increase compared with the previous year (up from 666,891 to 830,289, Tables 5a and 5b). This includes much larger increases in the category of “violence without injury” (up 33%), compared with those within “violence with injury” (up 16%). The former is thought to be much more likely to be affected by changes in recording practice.

All but one police force recorded a rise in violence in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year<sup>3</sup>, although the forces with the largest percentage increases may not necessarily have had the largest impact on the national figures, since the areas police forces serve can differ greatly in size. The largest volume increase was reported by the Metropolitan Police Service, which recorded an additional 32,065 offences compared with the previous year (an increase of 24%). Other large volume increases included Greater Manchester Police (up 12,497 offences, an increase of 39%), Hampshire Police (up 12,006, 55%), and West Yorkshire (up 7,106, 45%). West Mercia Police and Hampshire Police both had the largest percentage change increase, up 55%, followed by Northamptonshire Police (up 53% to 12,303) and Merseyside Police (up 48% to 20,478).

It is known that violent offences are more prone, than some other offences, to subjective judgement about whether or not to record a crime. The [Crime-recording: making the victim count](#) report published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that violence against the person offences had the highest under-recording rates across police forces in England and Wales. Nationally, an estimated 1 in 3 (33%) violent offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not. The ‘Accuracy of the statistics’ section has more information.

Action taken by police forces to improve their compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) is likely to have resulted in the increase in the number of offences recorded<sup>4</sup>. It is thought that recording improvements are more likely to affect relatively less serious violent offences and explains the larger increase in the sub-category “violence without injury” compared with “violence with injury”. Evidence provided by the [National Police Chief’s Council \(NPCC\)](#) states that, whilst police recorded violence against the person increased by 23%, in 2014/15 the number of “calls for service” relating to violent crime rose by 1%. Calls for service refer to emergency and non-emergency calls from members of the public and referrals from partner agencies (such as education, health, and social services) for police to attend an incident or investigate a case. This, along with the evidence from the CSEW, suggests the rise in recorded violence against the person is largely due to process improvements rather than a genuine rise in violent crime.

As well as changes in recording practices, another possible factor behind the rise is an increase in the reporting of domestic abuse and subsequent recording of these offences by the police. An [HMIC inspection](#) expressed concerns about the police response to domestic abuse, but noted the majority of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) were now showing a strong commitment to tackling

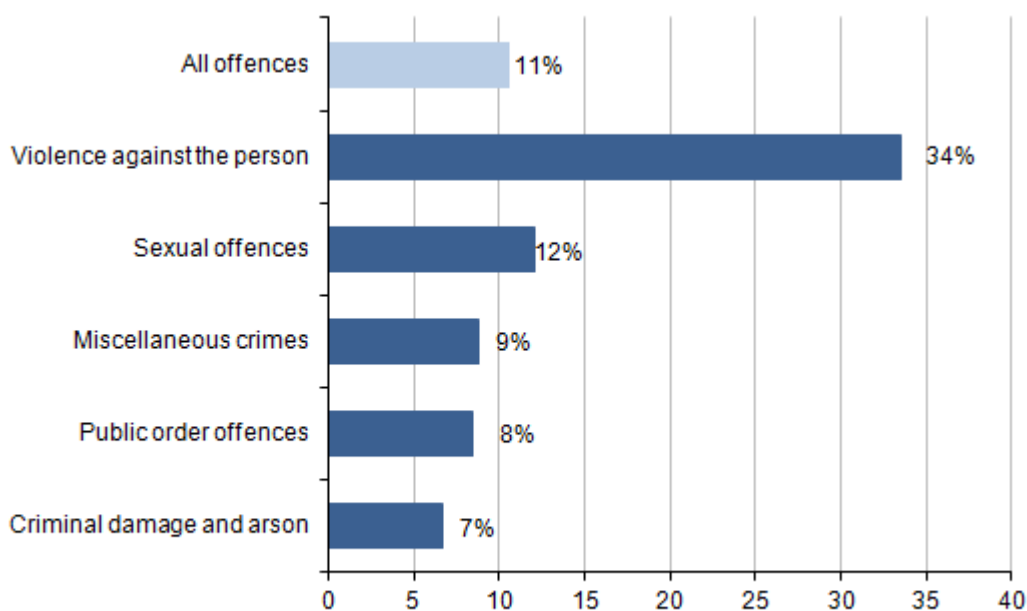


this crime. The report noted that just under half of PCCs had made a commitment to increase the reporting of this type of offence. It is thought that this renewed focus may have led to more victims coming forward to report crimes and allegations being treated more sensitively.

The Home Office has been collecting information from the police, since April 2015, on whether recorded offences are domestic abuse related. Crimes are "flagged" as being "domestic abuse related" by the police if the offence meets the governmental definition of domestic violence<sup>5</sup>.

Provisional data<sup>6</sup> from the police for the months of April, May and June 2015 show that 11% of offences recorded by the police were flagged as domestic abuse related. Violence against the person offences were the most likely to be flagged (Figure 4). In these 3 months, around a third (34%) of violence offences were flagged as domestic abuse. The next offence group with the highest proportion of offences being domestic abuse related were sexual offences (12%).

**Figure 4: Proportion of offences recorded by the police in England and Wales which were flagged as domestic abuse related, selected offence groups, April to June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. All forces have returned data to the Home Office for the first 3 months of the financial year (April, May and June 2015). These data have not been reconciled with police forces.

**Download chart**

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(143.5 Kb)

Recent changes in recording practice makes comparisons of trends in violence against the person offences difficult. While the latest figures have risen, the volume of violence against the person offences recorded by the police is 2% below that recorded in the year ending March 2005 (Table

5b). The rates for violence against the person have dropped from 16 recorded offences per 1,000 population in year ending March 2005 to 14 recorded offences per 1,000 population in the year ending June 2015 (Table 5a).

Homicides are not prone to changes in recording practice by the police. In the year ending June 2015, the police recorded 569 homicides, 44 more than in the previous year, which represents an increase of 8% (Table 5a and Table 5b)<sup>7</sup>. This increase includes 2 months where the number of recorded homicides were relatively high. In June 2015 the police recorded 73 homicides and in November 2014, 59 homicides; compared with an average of 46 homicides per month over the last 2 years. The number of homicides recorded by the police fluctuates from year to year. Previous analysis<sup>8</sup> has shown that many of the short-term fluctuations seen in the number of homicide incidents appear to arise as natural statistical variation in the data. The latest rise appears to be within the bounds of such natural variation in this series. Historically the number of homicides increased from around 300 per year in the early 1960s to over 800 per year in the early years of this century<sup>9</sup>, a faster rate of increase than the growth in population. Since then, the number of homicides recorded per year has been on a downward trend, while the population of England and Wales has continued to grow. The rate of homicide has fallen by almost half between the year ending March 2004 and June 2015, from 17 homicides per million population<sup>10</sup> to 10 homicides per million population.

From 1 April 2014 stalking became a specific legal offence following the introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Prior to this it would have been included within other offences, largely harassment. In the year ending June 2015, the police recorded 3,179 stalking offences. This change in the law should be borne in mind when looking at trends in harassment ([Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). Despite the removal of stalking, the number of harassment offences increased 44% to 93,423 in the year ending June 2015. It is thought that this is largely due to increased reporting and recording of domestic abuse offences in general, many of which involve some level of harassment.

There is more detailed information on trends and the circumstances of violence against the person in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#).

**Table 5a: Police recorded violence against the person - number and rate of offences[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Violence against the person offences</b>	845,673	699,011	666,891	830,289
Homicide <sup>5</sup>	868	620	525	569
Violence against the person - with injury <sup>6</sup>	515,119	401,244	335,885	390,538
Violence against the person - without injury <sup>7</sup>	329,686	297,147	330,481	439,182
<b>Violence against the person rate per 1,000 population</b>	16	13	12	14

**Table notes:**

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

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**Table 5b: Police recorded violence against the person - percentage change[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Percentage change

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Violence against the person offences</b>	-2	19	<b>25</b>
Homicide <sup>5</sup>	-34	-8	<b>8</b>
Violence against the person - with injury <sup>6</sup>	-24	-3	<b>16</b>
Violence against the person - without injury <sup>7</sup>	33	48	<b>33</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Appendix table A4 provides detailed footnotes and further years.
5. Includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
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7. Includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

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Neither the CSEW nor police recorded crime are good data sources for some “high harm” crimes, where there has been recent increased focus, such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and modern slavery.

Offences of FGM that come to the attention of the police will be contained within the police recorded crime category of assault with injury. However, it is known that much FGM remains hidden and unreported to the police. The Health and Social Care Information Center (HSCIC) have published new experimental statistics on [Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)<sup>11</sup>. These data are collected monthly from hospitals in England and are being collected to gain a better picture of the prevalence of FGM<sup>12</sup>. For the period April to June 2015, there were 1,036 newly identified<sup>13</sup> cases of FGM reported nationally. Of course, these are only cases that have come to light as a result of a victim receiving medical treatment and will understate the true volume of such offences.

Modern slavery takes a number of forms, including sexual exploitation forced labour and domestic servitude. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 legislated to define it as a criminal offence in its own right and came into force on 31 July 2015. The Act makes provision "about slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and about human trafficking, including provision for the protection of victims; to make provision for an Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner; and for connected purposes<sup>14</sup>".

Modern slavery was previously not classified as an individual offence, but recorded under trafficking for sexual exploitation, immigration offences, and other indictable or triable-either-way offences. As of 1 April 2015 a separately identifiable offence of modern slavery was introduced. Since the Act only came into force on the 31 July, for the period April to June 2015 the 110 offences classified as modern slavery includes those offences that were previously recorded under their original offence type.

Hate crime is defined as "any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic". This common definition was agreed in 2007 by the police, Crown Prosecution Service, Prison Service (now the National Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the criminal justice system. There are 5 centrally monitored strands of hate crime: race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability, and transgender identity. Hate crimes are a subset of notifiable crimes that are recorded by the police (as reported on in this publication) and make up around 1% of all crimes.

The majority of hate crimes recorded by the police (59%) were public order offences, with the vast majority of these (98%) being public fear, alarm or distress. Of the remainder 30% were violence against the person offences, of which 30% were violence with injury and the remaining 70% violence without injury offences.

The Home Office publication '[Hate Crime, England and Wales 2014/15](#)' published on the 13 October 2015 provides more information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police and the estimated number of hate crimes reported by respondents to the combined 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 Crime Surveys for England and Wales (CSEW).

## Notes for Violent crime

1. There is more information on violent crime in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#).
2. Based on the latest National Health Service (NHS) [Hospital Episode Statistics](#) and [hospital admissions due to assault \(dated 24 July 2015\)](#). These don't include figures for Wales and relate to activity in English NHS hospitals.
3. The exception was Leicestershire Police, which reported a 1% decrease.
4. The inspections took place over the period December 2013 to August 2014, this falls within the time period covered by this release. The current year covers the period July 2014 to June 2015 and the comparator year covers the period July 2013 to June 2014.

5. Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.
6. These data have not been reconciled with police forces.
7. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
8. See section 1.6 of [Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11](#), published by the Home Office has more details.
9. These figures, taken from the Homicide Index, are less likely to be affected by changes to in police recording practice made in 1998 and 2002, so it is possible to examine longer-term trends.
10. While most rates of recorded crime are given per 1,000 population, due to the relatively low number of offences recorded, and to aid interpretation, homicide rates are given per million population.
11. Figures from the Health and Social Care Information Center on Female Genital Mutilation do not include figures for Wales and relate to activity in English foundation and non-foundation trusts including A&E departments.
12. Clinical staff must record in patient healthcare records when it is identified that a patient has undergone FGM. This applies to all NHS clinicians and healthcare professionals across the NHS. However, the requirement to submit the FGM Prevalence Dataset is only mandatory for Foundation and non-Foundation trusts, including Accident and Emergency departments. Other organisations (which may include GPs) may wish to provide an FGM Prevalence Dataset centrally, the [FGM Data Quality Note](#) contains further information.
13. Patients first identified during the reporting period as having undergone FGM at any stage in their life.
14. See [Modern Slavery Bill](#) for further information.

## Robbery

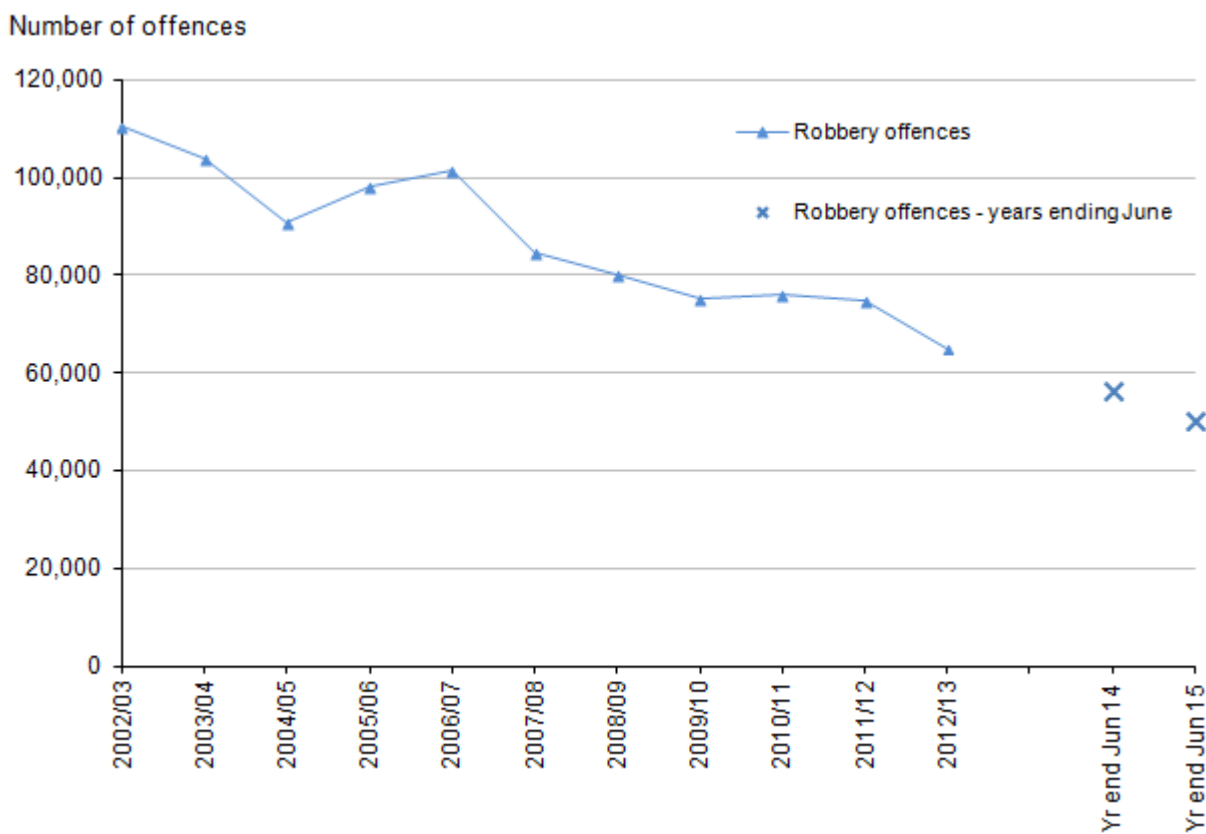
Robbery is an offence in which force, or the threat of force, is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft.

Robbery is a relatively low volume offence, accounting for just over 1% of all police recorded crime in the year ending June 2015. The latest figures show police recorded robberies decreased by 11% in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (Tables 6a and 6b). With the exception of a notable rise in the number of robberies in 2005/06 and 2006/07, there has been a general downward trend since 2002/03 in England and Wales. The latest figure shows the number of robbery offences falling to 50,239 (Figure 5).

The [Crime-recording: making the victim count](#) report, published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that nationally, an estimated 19% of all offences that should have been recorded as a crime were not. This compares to 14% for robbery offences.

Not all robberies will be reported to the police<sup>1</sup>, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated there were 97,000 robbery offences in the year ending June 2015. However, it should be noted that owing to the small number of robbery victims interviewed, CSEW estimates have large confidence intervals and are prone to fluctuation. The number of robberies recorded by the police provides a more robust indication of trends.

**Figure 5: Trends in police recorded robberies in England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

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In the year ending June 2015, 89% of robberies recorded by the police were of personal property. There were 44,890 of these offences, down 11% compared with the previous year. Robbery of

business property (which makes up the remaining 11% of total robbery offences) fell by 6% in the year ending June 2015 to those recorded in the previous year. In the year ending June 2015, 1 in 5 robberies (20%) recorded by the police involved a knife or other sharp instrument, the same level as that recorded in the previous year (Table 9b).

**Table 6a: Police recorded robbery - number and rate of offences[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Robbery offences</b>	91,010	75,105	<b>56,189</b>	<b>50,239</b>
Robbery of business property	7,934	8,182	<b>5,687</b>	<b>5,349</b>
Robbery of personal property	83,076	66,923	<b>50,502</b>	<b>44,890</b>
<b>Robbery rate per 1,000 population</b>	2	1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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**Table 6b: Police recorded robbery - percentage change[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change		
	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Robbery offences</b>	-45	-33	<b>-11</b>
Robbery of business property	-33	-35	<b>-6</b>
Robbery of personal property	-46	-33	<b>-11</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office



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

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These offences are concentrated in a small number of metropolitan forces with nearly half (44%) of all offences recorded in London, and a further 20% in the Greater Manchester, West Midlands and West Yorkshire police force areas combined ([Table P1 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). The geographic concentration of robbery offences means that trends across England and Wales tend to reflect what is happening in these areas, in particular the Metropolitan Police force area. The latest figures for the Metropolitan Police force area show that the number of robberies for the year ending June 2015 was 21,883, a decrease of 18% from the previous year ([Tables P1 to P2 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). This continues the downward trend that began in the year ending March 2013, following a period of increases between 2009 and 2012. The fall in the number of robbery offences in the Metropolitan Police force area in the year ending June 2015 accounts for 78% of the total fall in robbery in England and Wales. The Greater Manchester and West Midlands forces account for a further 14%.

The small number of robbery victims interviewed in any single year means that Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates are prone to fluctuation. The CSEW estimate of 97,000 robbery offences in the year ending June 2015 is a decrease (37%) from the 153,000 offences estimated for the previous year and follows several years of falling estimates. The current estimate is 72% lower than the level seen in the 1995 when crime peaked on the survey ([Tables 7a and 7b](#)).

**Table 7a: CSEW robbery - number, rate and percentage of incidents[1,2,3]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	Interviews from:					
	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	
						Thousands
Number of robbery incidents	339	247	320	153	97	
Robbery incidence rate per 1,000 adults	8	6	7	3	2	
						Percentage
Percentage of adults that were victims of robbery once or more	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	
Unweighted base - number of adults	16,337	45,118	44,559	34,554	33,362	

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Figures are based on analysis of a small number of victims and should be interpreted with caution.

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**Table 7b: CSEW robbery - percentage change and statistical significance[1,2,3]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:								
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14	
	Percentage change and significance <sup>4</sup>							
Number of robbery incidents	-72	*	-61	*	-70	*	<b>-37</b>	*
Robbery incidence rate per 1,000 adults	-75	*	-64	*	-71	*	<b>-38</b>	*
	Percentage point change and significance <sup>4,5</sup>							
Percentage of adults that were victims of robbery once or more	-0.5	*	-0.3	*	-0.4	*	<b>-0.1</b>	

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Figures are based on analysis of a small number of victims and should be interpreted with caution.
4. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk..
5. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the 2 percentages due to rounding.

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**Notes for Robbery**

1. In the 2014/15 survey, analysis showed that 51% of CSEW robbery offences were reported to the police. Further information can be found in Table D8 in Annual trend and demographic tables, 2014/15.

## Sexual offences

It is difficult to obtain reliable information on the volume of sexual offences as it is known that reporting rates for these type of offences are relatively low compared with other types of offence<sup>1</sup>. Although the changes in police recorded crime figures may indicate an increased willingness of victims to report sexual offences, they may also reflect changes in recording rather than actual victimisation. For these reasons, caution should be used when interpreting trends in these offences.

Police recorded crime figures showed an increase of 41% in all sexual offences for the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (up from 67,880 to 95,482; Table 8a). This is the highest level recorded, and the largest annual percentage increase, since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. Increases in recorded offences against both adults and children have contributed to this rise. Increases were seen in all but one territorial police force areas; [Table P2 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).

The rises in the volume of sexual offences recorded by the police should be seen in the context of a number of high-profile reports and inquiries which is thought to have resulted in police forces reviewing and improving their recording processes. These include:

- the investigation by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI)<sup>2</sup> in 2012, which highlighted the need to improve the recording and investigation of sexual offences
- concerns about the recording of sexual offences, for example in evidence presented to the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) inquiry into crime statistics<sup>3</sup> and arising from other high profile cases
- the creation of the 'Independent Panel Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse', which was set up to consider whether, and the extent to which, public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales

HMIC's inspection of crime recording, published in late 2014, found that sexual offences had been substantially under-recorded by police forces in England and Wales. HMIC reported that the national rate of under-recording of sexual offences was 26%. The inspection also found that some police forces had poor processes for crime recording in specialist units responsible for investigations of rape and other sexual offences or those more generally protecting vulnerable people, including children, mentally ill and infirm people. In some forces, such units were found to have standalone case management systems or mailboxes that were often used for referrals between specialist departments and partner organisations (such as health or social services). HMIC found records of crimes on these systems which had not made it onto the force's main crime recording system. Those that had not been recorded on the force's crime recording system would therefore not have fed through into official statistics. As forces have taken steps to improve their systems and recording processes, it is likely that proportionately more referrals are appearing in the official statistics.

More information on interpreting trends in these offences can be found in [An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales](#) and [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#).

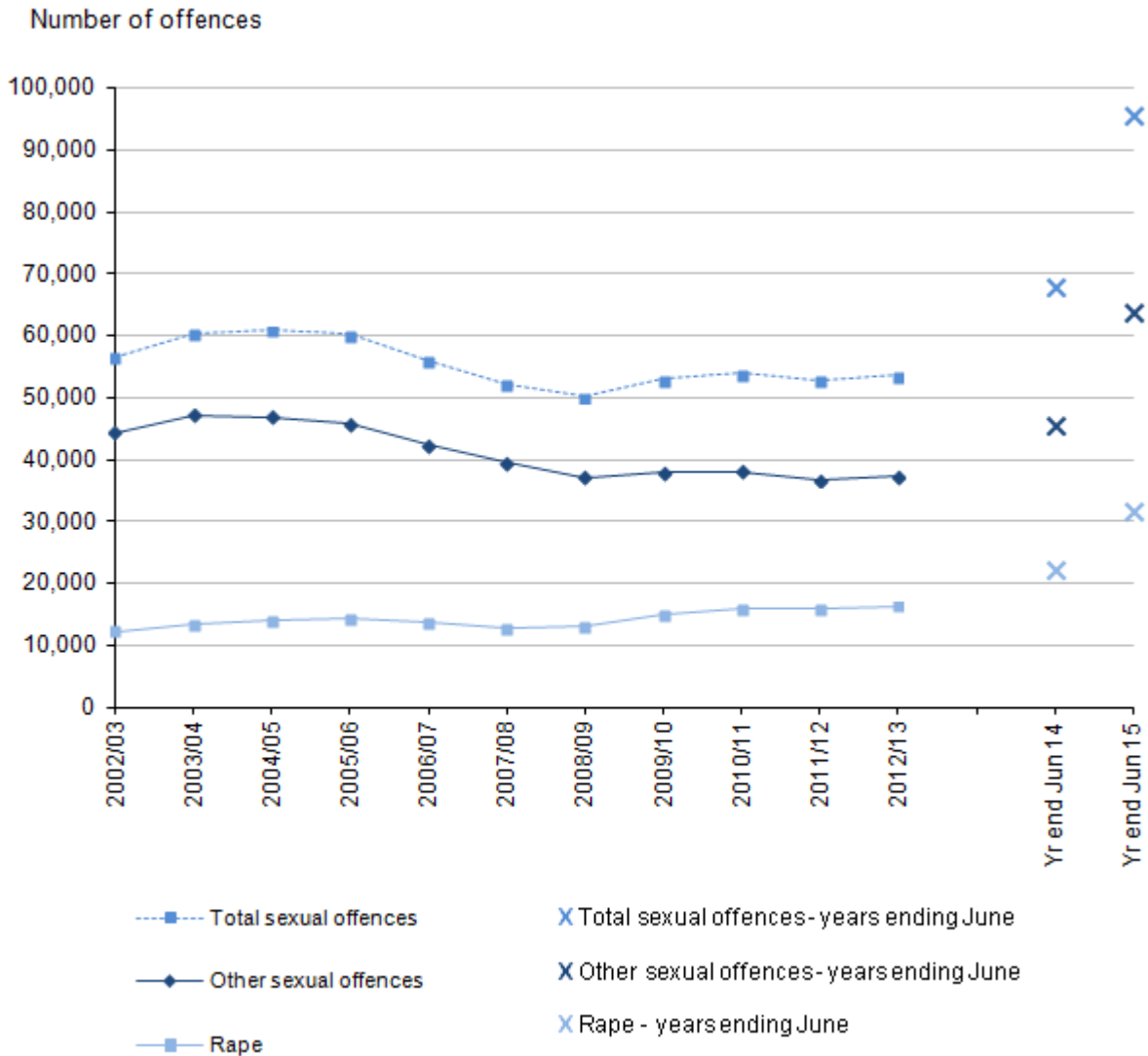
Police recorded rape increased by 43% (to 31,621 offences) compared with the previous year, following previous increases every year since 2007/08. Other sexual offences increased by 40% (to

63,861 offences). Both rape and other sexual offences are at the highest level since the NCRS was introduced in 2002/03. The latest rises in total sexual offences, and the component categories of rape and other sexual offences, are the largest year-on-year increases since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03.

The number of sexual offences per head of population ([Table P3 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)) does not vary significantly across the country, accounting for around 2 to 3% of total police recorded crime in most police force areas. All but one territorial police force areas have recorded an increase in sexual offences in the year ending June 2015, ranging from 8% in South Wales to 97% in Hampshire ([Table P2 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) - excluding City of London where only a relatively small number of offences were recorded). Intelligence information from police forces suggests that these increases can be partly explained by improvements in police recording practices following HMIC audits. However, overall the scale of any effect on 2014 to 2015 data is likely to differ between police force areas and be particularly driven by the timing of their audit and the timetable by which forces introduced local changes.

Previous increases in the number of sexual offences reported to the police were also shown to relate to a rise in the reporting of historical offences<sup>4</sup> following 'Operation Yewtree', which began in 2012. Feedback from forces indicates that both current and historical offences (those that took place over 12 months before being reported) continued to rise in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year. However, data from the Home Office Data Hub suggests that the major contribution to this increase is believed to have come from current offences.

**Figure 6: Trends in police recorded sexual offences in England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
4. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

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**Table 8a: Police recorded sexual offences - number and rate of offences[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Sexual offences</b>	60,924	53,006	<b>67,880</b>	<b>95,482</b>
Rape	14,013	15,074	<b>22,138</b>	<b>31,621</b>
Other sexual offences	46,911	37,932	<b>45,742</b>	<b>63,861</b>
<b>Sexual offences rate per 1,000 population</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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**Table 8b: Police recorded sexual offences - percentage change[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Percentage change

<b>July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:</b>			
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Sexual offences</b>	57	80	<b>41</b>
Rape	126	110	<b>43</b>
Other sexual offences	36	68	<b>40</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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## Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

Due to the small number of sexual offences identified in the main CSEW crime measure (based on face to face interviews), estimates of the volume of incidents are too unreliable to report. Since 2004/05, the CSEW has included a self-completion questionnaire module on intimate violence, for persons aged 16 to 59 only, which provides an improved measure of the proportion of people who have been victims of sexual offences in this age group.

Most recent headline estimates from this self-completion section of the CSEW for the year ending March 2015 released as part of the [supplementary tables \(970 Kb Excel sheet\)](#), showed that the proportion of people who had been victims of sexual assaults in the last year (including attempted offences) had not significantly changed between the year ending March 2015 (1.7%) and the previous year (1.5%). These figures have remained fairly stable over the last 10 years. Estimates of the proportion of people who were victims of rape or attempted rape were unchanged from the previous year (0.3%), with similar levels having been estimated throughout the last 10 years. This provides further evidence that changes in the willingness of victims to report and in the police response are likely to be responsible for the increase in police recorded sexual offences rather than an increase in levels of victimisation.

Detailed findings from the self-completion module for the 2013/14 CSEW are available in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#) with more detailed results from the 2014/15 survey due to be released in February 2016.

## Notes for Sexual offences

1. As frequently indicated in the findings from the CSEW self-completion module on intimate violence, for example, presented in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#).
2. [Forging the links: Rape investigation and prosecution](#) (HMIC and HMCPSP, 2012) has further information.
3. The [Commission of an independent review into rape investigation](#) and the transcript for the [Public Administration Select Committee](#) hearing on Crime Statistics (19 November 2013) have more information.
4. More information can be found in [Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending September 2013](#).

## Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

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



In the year ending June 2015, the police recorded 26,535 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, a 4% increase compared with the previous year (25,625, Table 9a). Most of the offence groups for which data are collected recorded increases, particularly the single category of "assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm"<sup>3</sup> (up 15%, from 11,825 to 13,613). This category is not as prone to changes in recording practice and thus the rise is thought to represent a real change in the downward trend seen in recent years and a more proactive police response to it. However, some forces also suggest that the general drive to improve recording may also be having an impact on some of these categories. While there were increases in many categories, there was a 11% decrease in robbery offences over the same period (down from 11,519 to 10,245).

Possession of a knife or sharp instrument also rose by 9% to 10,154 offences, in the year to June 2015. This figure can often be influenced by increases in targeted police action in relation to knife crime.

Between 2010/11 and 2012/13, across all offence groups where it is possible to identify whether a knife or sharp instrument was used, the numbers of offences recorded by the police saw reductions. From 2012/13 to the year ending June 2015, with the exceptions of homicide and robbery offences, there have been increases in the numbers of offences where a knife or sharp instrument was used. The low levels of change recorded in the overall number of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument since 2012/13 therefore masks larger rises in some offence groups and falls in others.

For some offence types, such as rape and sexual assault, the relatively low number of offences, that involve the use of a knife or sharp instrument means the volume of these offences are subject to apparent large percentage changes, and should be interpreted with caution. For example, in the year ending June 2015, the number of sexual assaults involving a knife or sharp instrument increased by 11% (an additional 11 offences compared to the 104 recorded in the previous year) and the number of rapes involving knife or sharp instrument increased by 10% (an additional 28 offences compared to the 285 recorded in the previous year).

**Table 9a: Number and percentage change of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police[1,2,3,4,5,6]**

England and Wales

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument					% change year ending Jun '14 to year ending Jun '15
	Apr '10 to Mar '11	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	
Attempted murder	240	246	198	264	289	9
Threats to kill	1,462	1,183	1,188	1,428	1,770	24
Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm <sup>7</sup>	13,941	12,621	11,343	11,825	13,613	15
Robbery	16,438	16,417	13,194	11,519	10,245	-11
Rape	258	237	190	285	313	10
Sexual assault <sup>8</sup>	93	72	88	104	115	11
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>32,432</b>	<b>30,776</b>	<b>26,201</b>	<b>25,425</b>	<b>26,345</b>	<b>4</b>
Homicide <sup>9</sup>	237	211	195	200	190	-5
<b>Total selected</b>	<b>32,669</b>	<b>30,987</b>	<b>26,396</b>	<b>25,625</b>	<b>26,535</b>	<b>4</b>

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument					% change year ending Jun '14 to year ending Jun '15
	Apr '10 to Mar '11	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	
<b>offences including homicide</b>						

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
5. Surrey police force includes unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection however it is not thought that offences of this kind constitute a large enough number to impact on the national figure.
6. Numbers differ from those previously published due to Sussex police revising their figures to exclude unbroken bottles.
7. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm is not directly comparable with previous years. Appendix table A4 contains more details.
8. Sexual assault includes indecent assault on a male/female and sexual assault on a male/female (all ages)
9. Homicide offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 01/09/15 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. They include the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and, as of year ending March 2013, corporate manslaughter. These figures are taken from the detailed record level Homicide Index (rather than the main police collection for which forces are only required to provide an overall count of homicides, used in Table A4). There may therefore be differences in the total homicides figure used to calculate these proportions and the homicide figure presented in Table A4.

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**Table 9b: Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police[1,2,3,4,5,6]**

England and Wales

Selected offence type	Proportion of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument				
	Apr '10 to Mar '11	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
Attempted murder	46	51	49	50	50
Threats to kill	15	15	16	19	12
Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm <sup>7</sup>	4	4	4	4	4
Robbery	22	22	20	20	20
Rape	2	1	1	1	1
Sexual assault <sup>8</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total selected offences</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
Homicide <sup>9</sup>	37	39	35	38	36
<b>Total selected offences including homicide</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.
5. Surrey police force includes unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection however it is not thought that offences of this kind constitute a large enough number to impact on the national figure.
6. Numbers differ from those previously published due to Sussex police revising their figures to exclude unbroken bottles.
7. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm is not directly comparable with previous years. Appendix table A4 contains more details.
8. Sexual assault includes indecent assault on a male/female and sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).
9. Homicide offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 01/09/15 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. They include the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and, as of year ending March 2013, corporate manslaughter. These figures are taken from the detailed record level Homicide Index (rather than the main police collection for which forces are only required to provide an overall count of homicides, used in Table A4). There may therefore be differences in the total homicides figure used to calculate these proportions and the homicide figure presented in Table A4.

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Of the selected violent offences covered in Table 9b, around 5% involved a knife or sharp instrument in the year ending June 2015; this was a similar proportion than that seen in the previous year (6%).

Between 2010/11 and the year ending June 2015, the proportion of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police has remained relatively consistent across all offence groups.

Further analysis on offences involving knives and sharp instruments has been published in [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#).

An additional source of information about incidents involving knives and sharp instruments is provided by provisional National Health Service (NHS) hospital admission statistics<sup>4</sup>. Admissions for assault with a sharp instrument peaked at 5,720 in 2006/07. Admissions have changed little over the past year following declines in previous years. For the year ending April 2015 there were 3,614 admissions for assault with a sharp instrument<sup>5</sup>.

### Notes for Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

1. A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), for example a broken bottle.

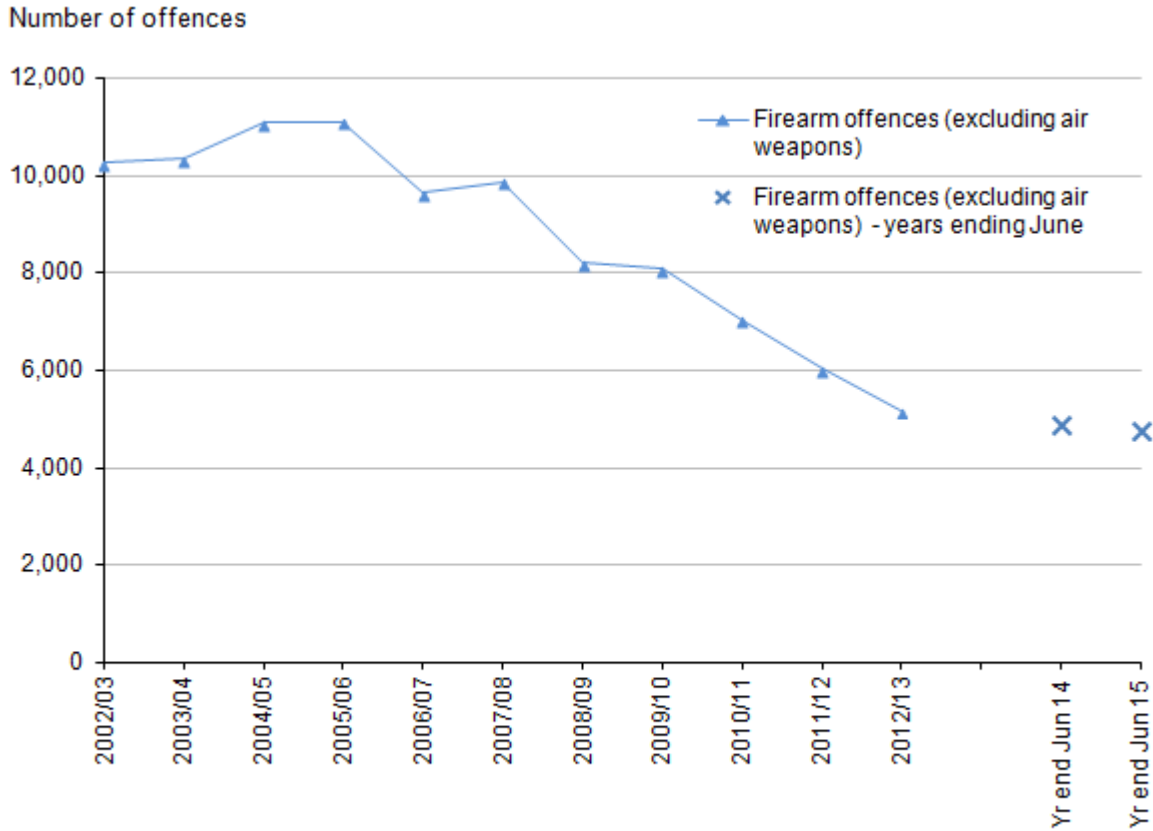
2. Until April 2010, West Midlands Police force included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their statistics, but now exclude these offences in line with other forces.
3. Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the category of assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm are not directly comparable with previous years. [Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) contains more details.
4. While it is a requirement to record every hospital admission, completing the field for external cause is not always done.
5. Based on the latest National Health Service (NHS) [Hospital Episode Statistics](#) and [hospital admissions due to assault](#) (dated 24 July 2015). These do not include figures for Wales and relate to activity in English NHS hospitals. A graph based on financial years is available in the latest [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences release](#).

## Offences involving firearms

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

Figures for the year ending June 2015 show 4,777 offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) were recorded in England and Wales, a 2% decrease compared with the previous year (4,876, Tables 10a and 10b). Figure 7 shows the trend from 2002/03 and demonstrates that the number of offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) recorded by the police peaked in 2005/06 before decreasing substantially (by 57%) to its lowest level in the year ending June 2015. This is in contrast to the 19% increase seen in overall violent crime since 2009/10. Offences involving firearms are less likely to have been affected by changes in recording practices due to their serious nature compared with some other crime types.

**Figure 7: Trends in police recorded crimes in England and Wales involving the use of firearms other than air weapons, year ending March 2003 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

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**Table 10a: Police recorded offences involving firearms - number of offences[1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Firearm offences</b>	11,069	8,082	4,876	<b>4,777</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

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

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**Table 10b: Police recorded offences involving firearms - percentage change<sup>[1,2,3,4]</sup>**

England and Wales

Percentage change

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Firearm offences</b>	-57	-41	-2

**Table notes:**

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

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**Theft offences**

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

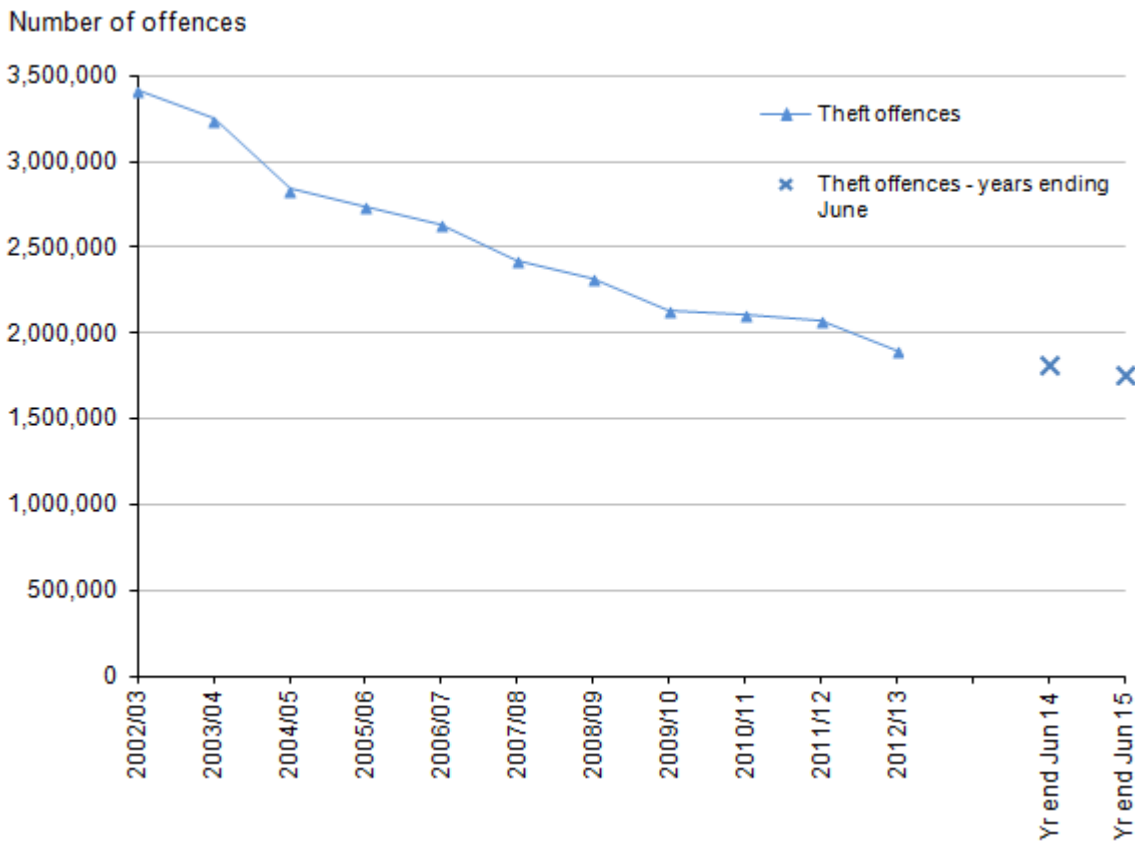
Over the longer term, the CSEW indicates a clear downward trend in levels of vehicle-related theft, with the latest estimates being 80% lower than in 1995. As shown in Figure 10, the rate of reduction in vehicle offences since the mid-1990s has been striking, although the rate of reduction in the past decade has slowed in comparison to the years preceding it. It is widely accepted that improvements



to vehicle security has been an important factor in the reduction seen in vehicle offences. More recently research ([The heroin epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s and its effect on crime trends - then and now](#)) has mapped the growth and decline in vehicle crime during the 1980s and 1990s with heroin and crack cocaine misuse, which follows a similar pattern and may have also been a contributory factor. Other potential factors are discussed in the 'Existing theories on why property crime has fallen' section of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#). In contrast to this overall decrease in vehicle-related theft, the number of theft of vehicles offences saw a 5% increase in the year ending June 2015 ([Appendix table A1 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). This is the first time that theft of vehicles has increased since 1993, and there is strong anecdotal evidence from police forces that the theft of 2 wheel motor vehicles is largely responsible for the increase

Despite the rise in the number of theft of vehicles offences the estimated 872,000 vehicle-related thefts in the year ending June 2015 survey was the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1981. Vehicle-owning households were around 5 times less likely to become a victim of vehicle-related theft in the year ending June 2015 than in 1995. In the year ending June 2015 CSEW, 4 in 100 vehicle-owning households were victims of vehicle related theft compared with around 20 in 100 households in the 1995 CSEW (Table 13a).

**Figure 8: Trends in police recorded theft offences in England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

## Download chart

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Further analysis on theft offences, based on the 2013/14 CSEW, was published on 27 November 2014 as part of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#).

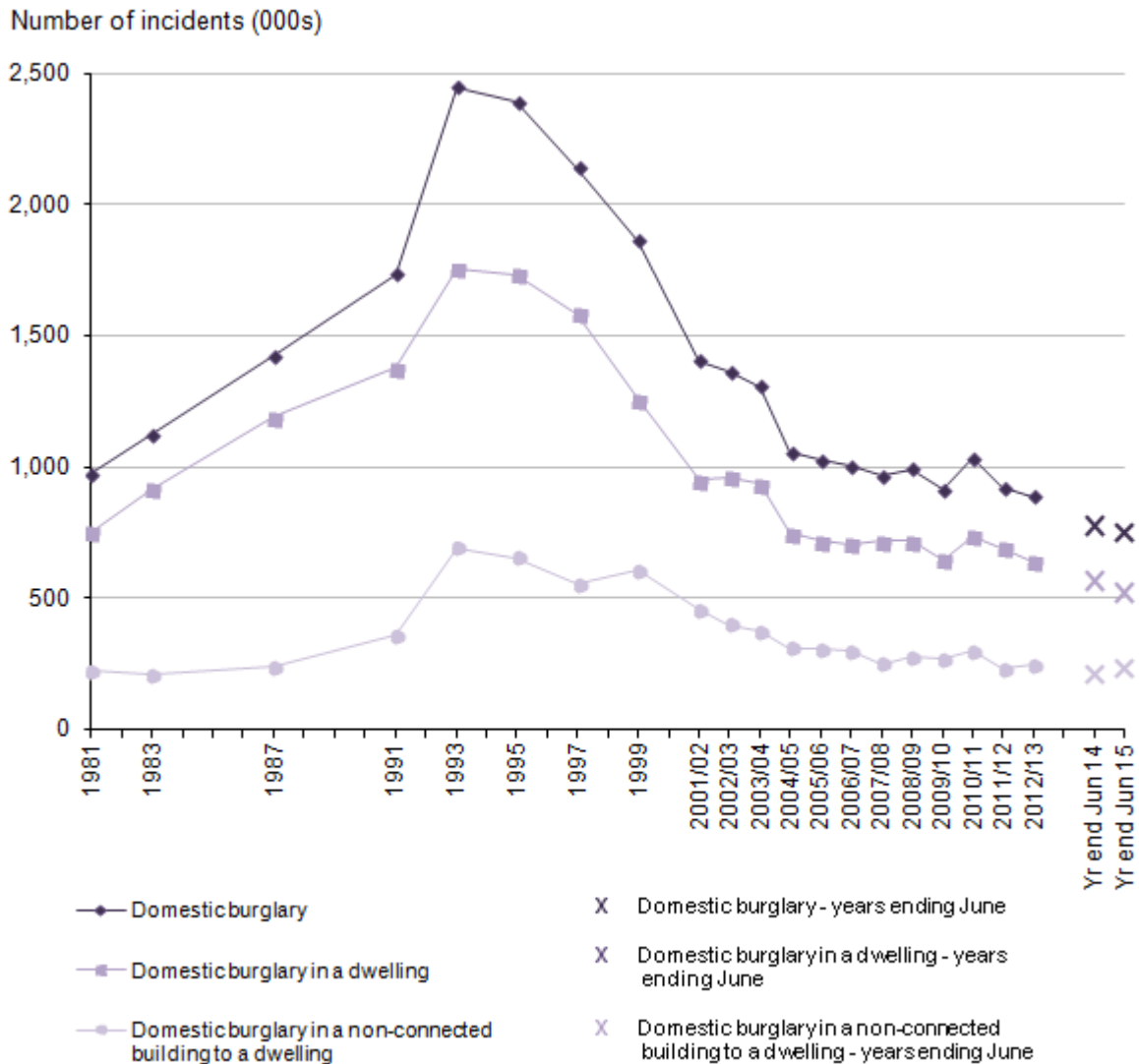
## Notes for Theft offences

1. Section 5.2 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more information.

## Theft offences – Burglary

The year ending June 2015 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated 750,000 incidents of domestic burglary. The level of domestic burglary was at a similar level to the previous year with the apparent 3% decrease not statistically significant (Tables 11a and 11b). Over the longer term the CSEW indicates that incidents of burglary have fallen. From the mid-1990s to the 2004/05 survey estimates fell sharply followed by a period of gradual decline with some fluctuations (such as the increase seen in 2010/11). Over the longer term, CSEW estimates for the year ending June 2015 remain 29% lower than those in the 2004/05 survey and 69% lower than those in the 1995 survey.

**Figure 9: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales domestic burglary, year ending December 1981 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Prior to the year ending March 2002, 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, respondents' experience of crime relates to the full 12 months prior to interview (i.e. a moving reference period). Year-labels for year ending March 2002 identify the CSEW year of interview.
3. The number of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

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Around 3 in 100 households were victims of domestic burglary in the year ending June 2015 CSEW. This compares with around 9 in 100 households in the 1995 survey, meaning that households are around 3 times less likely to be a victim of burglary than in 1995 (Tables 11a and 11b). It is widely accepted that improvements to home security have been an important factor in the reduction seen in domestic burglary offences. More recently research ([Morgan, 2014](#)) has mapped the growth and decline in domestic burglary during the 1980s and 1990s with heroin and crack cocaine misuse, which follows a similar pattern and may have also been a contributory factor. Other potential factors are discussed in the 'Existing theories on why property crime has fallen' section of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#).

Over time, the sub-categories of CSEW "domestic burglary in a dwelling" and "domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling" have followed similar patterns to that of domestic burglary overall. In the year ending June 2015 there was an apparent 8% decrease in "domestic burglary in a dwelling" and an apparent 10% increase in "domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling" compared with the previous year, though these were not statistically significant.

**Table 11a: CSEW burglary - number, rate and percentage of incidents[1,2]**

England and Wales

Households

	Interviews from:				
	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Number of incidents</b>					Thousands
Domestic burglary	2,389	1,057	915	<b>775</b>	<b>750</b>
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	1,735	748	648	<b>565</b>	<b>520</b>
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	654	309	266	<b>210</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 adults</b>					
Domestic burglary	115	48	40	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	84	34	28	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	31	14	12	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Percentage of households that were</b>					Percentage

<b>Interviews from:</b>					
	<b>Jan '95 to Dec '95</b>	<b>Apr '04 to Mar '05</b>	<b>Apr '09 to Mar '10</b>	<b>Jul '13 to Jun '14</b>	<b>Jul '14 to Jun '15</b>
<b>victims once or more</b>					
Domestic burglary	8.7	3.8	3.2	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	6.4	2.7	2.2	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	2.6	1.2	1.0	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Unweighted base - number of households	16,310	45,081	44,611	34,513	33,315

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.

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**Table 11b: CSEW burglary - percentage change and statistical significance [1,2]**

England and Wales

Households


July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:							
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Number of incidents</b>	Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>						
Domestic burglary	-69	*	-29	*	-18	*	<b>-3</b>
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	-70	*	-31	*	-20	*	<b>-8</b>
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	-65	*	-26	*	-14		<b>10</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 adults</b>	Percentage change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>						
Domestic burglary	-73	*	-35	*	-21	*	<b>-4</b>
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	-74	*	-36	*	-23	*	<b>-9</b>
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	-70	*	-31	*	-17	*	<b>9</b>
<b>Percentage of households that were</b>	Percentage change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>						

July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:							
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>victims once or more</b>							
Domestic burglary	-6.2	*	-1.3	*	-0.7	*	<b>-0.2</b>
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	-4.6	*	-1.0	*	-0.5	*	<b>-0.3</b> *
Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling	-1.8	*	-0.3	*	-0.1		<b>0.1</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
4. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

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The [Crime-recording: making the victim count report](#), published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found that, an estimated 11% of burglary offences that should have been recorded as a crime were not. This level of under-recording was better than for all offences on average (19%).

The police recorded crime statistics measure both domestic burglaries (for example, those against inhabited dwellings) and non-domestic burglaries (for example, those against businesses)<sup>1</sup>. When compared with the previous year, domestic burglary decreased by 6% (from 207,978 offences to 195,816 offences) and non-domestic burglary decreased by 7% (from 227,035 to 212,272 offences) in the year ending June 2015 (Tables 12a and 12b). This continues the downward trend seen over many years and the latest level is around 61% of that recorded by the police in 2004/05.



**Table 12a: Police recorded burglary - number and rate of offences [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Burglary offences</b>	680,358	540,645	<b>435,013</b>	<b>408,088</b>
Domestic burglary	321,507	268,606	<b>207,978</b>	<b>195,816</b>
Non-domestic burglary	358,851	272,039	<b>227,035</b>	<b>212,272</b>
<b>Burglary rate per 1,000 population</b>	13	10	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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**Table 12b: Police recorded burglary - percentage change [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Percentage change

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Burglary offences</b>	-40	-25	<b>-6</b>
Domestic burglary	-39	-27	<b>-6</b>
Non-domestic burglary	-41	-22	<b>-7</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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## Notes for Theft offences – Burglary

1. Non-domestic burglary covers burglary in a building other than a dwelling, and includes burglaries of sheds and outhouses that do not have an entrance to the home. Section 5.2 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more details regarding this crime type.

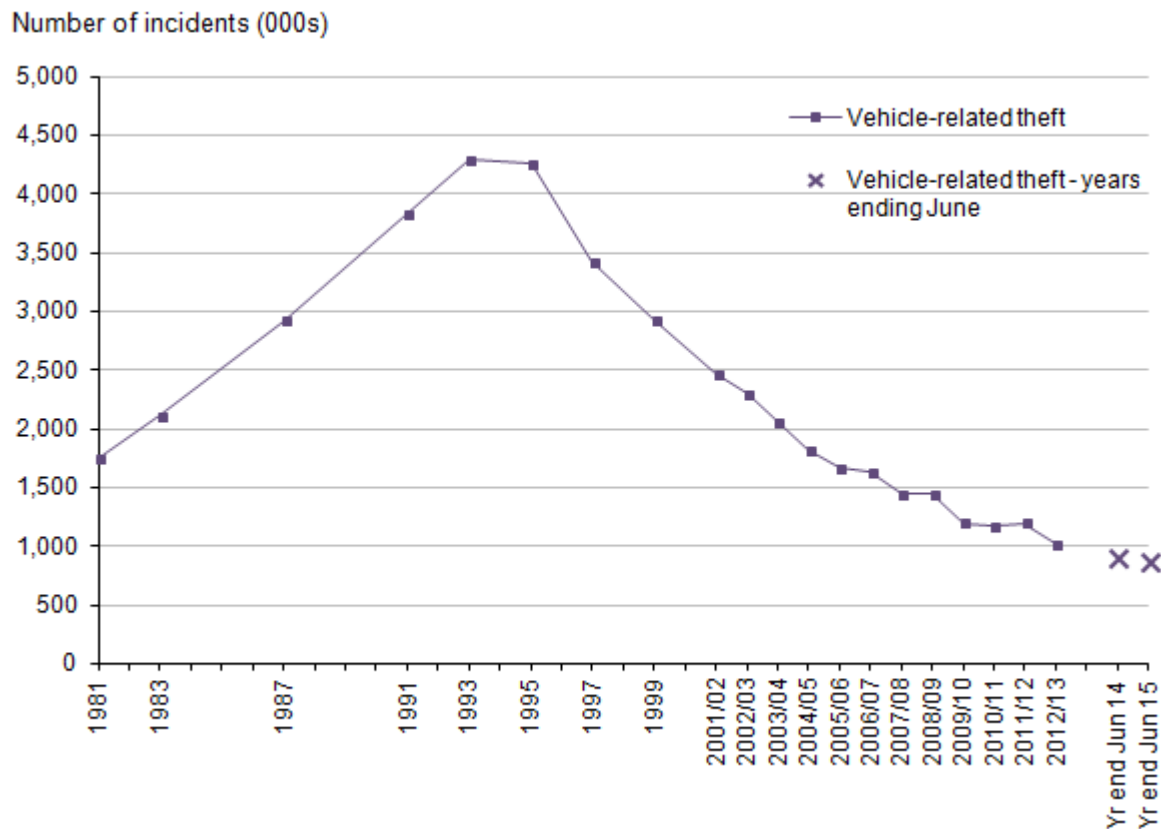
## Theft offences – Vehicle

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) covers offences against vehicles owned by any member of the household interviewed (including company cars). Estimates of CSEW vehicle-related theft for the year ending June 2015 was similar to that for the previous year, with the apparent 3% decrease not statistically significant (Table 13a and 13b)<sup>1</sup>.

Over the longer term, the CSEW indicates a consistent downward trend in levels of vehicle-related theft, with the latest estimates being 80% lower than in 1995. As shown in Figure 10, the rate of reduction in vehicle offences since the mid-1990s has been striking. It is widely accepted that improvements to vehicle security has been an important factor in the reduction seen in vehicle offences. More recently research ([The heroin epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s and its effect on crime trends - then and now](#)) has mapped the growth and decline in vehicle crime during the 1980s and 1990s with heroin and crack cocaine misuse, which follows a similar pattern and may have also been a contributory factor. Other potential factors are discussed in the 'Existing theories on why property crime has fallen' section of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#). In contrast to the overall decrease in vehicle-related theft, number of theft of vehicles offences estimated by the survey increased by 5% in the year ending June 2015. Although this figure is not statistically significant this is the first time that the survey has recorded an increase in theft of vehicles since 1993 and may be indicative that long term downward trend is slowing or changing direction.

There were an estimated 872,000 vehicle-related thefts in the year ending June 2015 survey, the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1981. Vehicle-owning households were around 5 times less likely to become a victim of vehicle-related theft in the year ending June 2015 than in 1995. In the year ending June 2015 CSEW 4 in 100 vehicle-owning households were victims compared with around 20 in 100 households in the 1995 CSEW (Table 13a).

**Figure 10: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales vehicle-related theft, year ending December 1981 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Prior to the year ending March 2002, 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, respondents' experience of crime relates to the full 12 months prior to interview (i.e. a moving reference period). Year-labels for year ending March 2002 identify the CSEW year of interview.
3. The numbers of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

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**Table 13a: CSEW vehicle offences - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2]**

England and Wales

Vehicle-owning households

	Interviews from:				
	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
					Thousands
Number of vehicle-related theft incidents	4,266	1,828	1,198	<b>902</b>	<b>872</b>
Vehicle-related theft incidence rate per 1,000 vehicle-owning households	280	107	67	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>
					Percentage
Percentage of vehicle-owning households that were victims of vehicle-related theft once or more	19.7	8.2	5.6	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Unweighted base - vehicle owners	11,721	35,458	35,618	27,125	26,434

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.

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**Table 13b: CSEW vehicle offences - percentage change and statistical significance [1,2]**

England and Wales

Vehicle-owning households

July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:							
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14
	Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>						
Number of vehicle-related theft incidents	-80	*	-52	*	-27	*	<b>-3</b>
Vehicle-related theft incidence rate per 1,000 vehicle-owning households	-83	*	-56	*	-30	*	<b>-5</b>
	Percentage point change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>						
Percentage of vehicle-owning households that were victims of vehicle-related theft once or more	-15.8	*	-4.3	*	-1.6	*	<b>-0.2</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
4. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

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The police recorded crime category of vehicle offences covers both private and commercial vehicles and shows a fall of 3% in the year ending June 2015, compared with the previous year (Tables 14a and 14b). This follows substantial decreases in this offence group, with a fall of 57% compared with 2004/05, similar to the trend found in the CSEW.

Theft from a vehicle represented about two-thirds of vehicle offences recorded by the police in the year ending June 2015 and was the only category of vehicle offences to record a fall (down 11% to 237,303 offences) compared with the previous year (Tables 14a and 14b). Theft of a motor vehicle increased by 3% in the year ending June 2015 (from 75,177 to 77,220). This is the second consecutive quarter where figures have increased in this offence since the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced in 2002/03, where there were previously year on year decreases from 318,507 offences (2002/03) to 75,308 offences (2013/14). Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increase may in part be caused by a recent increase in 2 wheel vehicle thefts including the recent 'Operation Venice' by both the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and City of London Police. The operation included mass checks on parked up mopeds, high visibility patrols in key hot spots, and raids on individuals suspected of stealing PTWs (powered two wheelers) or using them to commit crimes such as robbery.

Vehicle interference has increased by 71% (from 23,675 to 40,567) in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year. This increase is likely to be the result of a change in the guidance in April 2014 within the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) with respect to interpreting the motive of the offender in the case of vehicle interference. This change was designed to reduce the burden involved in determining which crime category to record the incident within. This is likely to have led to offences that previously might have been recorded as attempted theft of, or from, a vehicle or criminal damage to a vehicle now being recorded as vehicle interference where the motive of the offender was not clear.

The long term reductions in vehicle-related theft indicated by the CSEW and police recorded crime are in contrast to the number of motor vehicles licensed in Great Britain, which has increased by 41%, from 25.4 million at the end of 1995 to 35.8 million at the end of March 2015 ([Vehicle Licensing Statistics, January to March 2015](#))<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 14a: Police recorded vehicle offences - number and rate of offences [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Vehicle offences<sup>5</sup></b>	820,096	494,873	<b>365,010</b>	<b>355,090</b>
Theft of a motor vehicle	242,732	117,684	<b>75,177</b>	<b>77,220</b>
Theft from a vehicle	500,360	339,170	<b>266,158</b>	<b>237,303</b>
Vehicle interference	77,004	38,019	<b>23,675</b>	<b>40,567</b>
<b>Vehicle offences rate per 1,000 population</b>	16	9	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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**Table 14b: Police recorded vehicle offences - percentage change [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Vehicle offences<sup>5</sup></b>	-57	-28	<b>-3</b>
Theft of a motor vehicle	-68	-34	<b>3</b>
Theft from a vehicle	-53	-30	<b>-11</b>
Vehicle interference	-47	7	<b>71</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

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

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## Notes for Theft offences – Vehicle

1. Section 5.2 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more details regarding this crime type.
2. Based on the total number of licensed vehicles (including both private and commercial vehicles) in England, Scotland and Wales taken from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) database.

## Theft offences – Other theft of property

In addition to burglary and vehicle-related thefts, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime both measure other theft of property, although they cover slightly different offences. In the CSEW this comprises: theft from the person, other theft of personal property, bicycle theft and other household theft. In police recorded crime there are categories for: theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting and all other theft offences. There are further offence breakdowns available for all other theft offences listed in [Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).

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

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

In the year ending June 2015 CSEW, of all 442,000 theft from the person offences, 47% (206,000) were stealth thefts; there is more information in [Appendix table A1 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#). Numbers of snatch thefts were much smaller, accounting for 11% of all theft from the person offences, while attempted snatch and stealth thefts made up the remaining 42%.

CSEW theft from the person decreased by 15% in the year ending June 2015, but this was not a statistically significant change (Tables 15a and 15b). Estimates of the volume of theft from the person offences have shown a slight downward trend over the period from the late 1990s, but are subject to some fluctuation due to the small numbers of victims interviewed in any one year (Figure 11). However, the current decrease is consistent with the change seen in police recorded crime



for this offence type and similar to decreases seen in other theft categories such as other theft of personal property.

The police recorded crime category theft from the person accounts for around 2% of overall police recorded crime. Latest figures showed a 13% decrease in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b), a similar pattern to that recorded by the CSEW. This is in contrast to recent increases in these offences recorded by the police between 2008/09 and 2012/13, a trend thought to have been driven by theft of smartphones. The latest decrease may, in part, be explained by improvements to mobile phone security and theft prevention<sup>1</sup>, as previously there was evidence that theft of smartphones was driving the upward trend in street crime, especially in London<sup>2</sup>.

Further analysis of theft from the person figures by police force area shows a mixed picture, with a small number of forces continuing to show increases while most show decreases. However, as with robbery, theft from the person offences are concentrated in the metropolitan areas, with 42% occurring in the Metropolitan Police force area alone in the year ending June 2015 ([Table P1 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). The latest figures for the Metropolitan Police force area show a decrease of 14% compared with the previous year ([Table P2 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). In addition, the British Transport Police (BTP), who cover crimes that occur on railways and on railway platforms and stations, accounted for 7% of the total thefts from the person offences in the year ending June 2015. BTP showed a 16% decrease in theft from the person offences compared with the previous year.

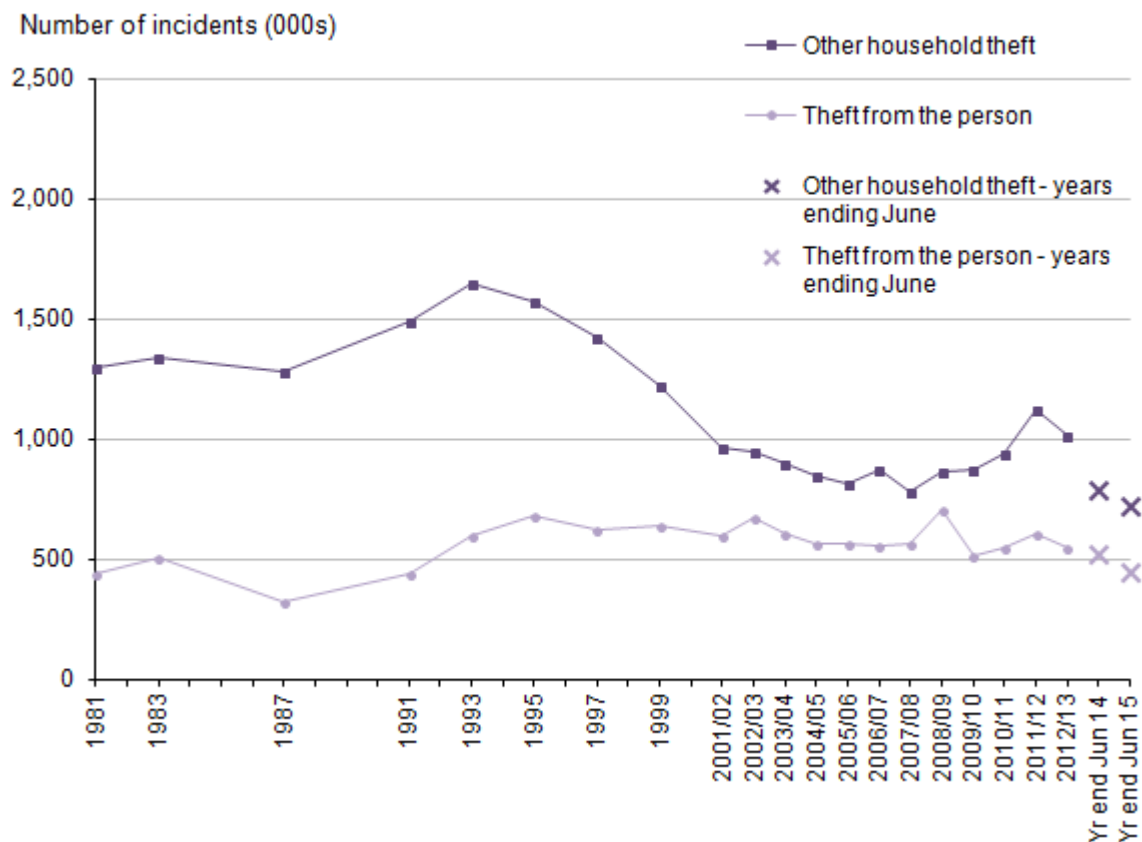
### **Other household theft – CSEW**

This offence group consists of items stolen from outside the victim's home, and thefts in the victim's dwelling by someone entitled to be there, for example a tradesperson<sup>3</sup>. Overall, the year ending June 2015 survey estimated that there were 716,000 incidents of other household theft (Tables 15a and 15b), making up 11% of all CSEW crime.

There was no change in the level of other household theft based on interviews in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (the apparent 9% decrease was not statistically significant). The latest estimates show levels of other household theft are now under two-thirds of the level recorded in 2011/12, when figures peaked following a period of year-on-year increases starting in 2007/08, and about half of the level seen in the 1995 survey (Figure 10).

The large majority of other household thefts are accounted for by theft from outside a dwelling (89%). Generally these incidents are opportunistic in nature involving theft of garden furniture or household items or furniture taken from outside people's homes<sup>4</sup>. The latest estimate for theft from outside a dwelling is 53% lower than the 1995 survey estimate ([Appendix table A1 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

**Figure 11: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales other household theft and theft from the person, year ending December 1981 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Prior to the year ending March 2002, 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, respondents' experience of crime relates to the full 12 months prior to interview (that is, a moving reference period). Year-labels for year ending March 2002 identify the CSEW year of interview.
3. The number of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

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**Other theft of personal property – CSEW**

Other theft of personal property offences are those which involve items stolen from victims while away from the home, but not being carried on the person (such as theft of unattended property in pubs, restaurants, entertainment venues or workplaces). The CSEW estimates that there were around 711,000 incidents of other theft of personal property in the survey year ending June 2015, a statistically significant decrease of 20% compared with the previous year (Tables 15a and 15b).

Looking at the longer term trend, other theft of personal property saw marked declines between the mid-1990s and the 2004/05 survey after which estimates fluctuated slightly but generally stayed around 1.0 million offences per year. The latest estimate of 711,000 offences is the lowest recorded by the survey since it began in 1981 and is around a third of the level seen in the 1995 survey.

### **Bicycle theft – CSEW and police recorded crime**

The apparent 7% increase in CSEW bicycle theft, compared with the previous survey year, was not statistically significant (Tables 15a and 15b). The year ending June 2015 CSEW indicates that around 3% of bicycle owning households were victims of bicycle theft in the previous 12 months, down from 6% in the 1995 survey but unchanged from the previous year. This is one of the lower volume CSEW offence groups and can show large fluctuations from year-to-year. [Appendix table A1 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) shows that, like other household theft, these incidents showed a marked decline between 1995 and the 1999 survey, with both small increases and decreases thereafter. The variability means that short term trends have to be interpreted with caution.

Bicycle thefts recorded by the police showed a small decrease of 4% in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (Tables 16a and 16b), remaining at a similar level seen from 2012/13 onwards, and slightly lower than levels seen in the years prior to this. The current level (92,897 offences) is the lowest since the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was first introduced in 2002/03.

### **Shoplifting – police recorded crime**

Shoplifting accounted for 8% of all police recorded crime in the year ending June 2015. The police recorded 330,214 shoplifting offences in this period, a 3% increase compared with the previous year and the highest volume since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03. The longer term trend in shoplifting recorded by the police is different from that seen for other theft offences. While most theft offences saw steady declines over much of the last decade, levels of recorded shoplifting have shown comparatively little change over this time.

Across England and Wales there were 8,352 more shoplifting offences in the year ending June 2015 when compared with the previous year. There were reported increases in 24 of the 43 territorial police force areas in the year ending June 2015, with the Metropolitan Police force recording a 12% increase in these offences ([Table P2 \(187.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

The [2014 Commercial Victimization Survey](#) provides an alternative measure of shoplifting (referred to in the survey as "theft by customers") which includes crimes not reported to the police as well as those that have been. Results from the 2014 survey, which relate to an earlier time period than the latest police recorded crime figures, provided evidence to suggest that the rise in shoplifting recorded by the police (in the year to March 2014 the police were recording a 7% increase in shoplifting) may not have reflected an increase in the actual level of such crimes. Compared with the previous year, the 2014 CVS showed no change in the level of theft by customers (the apparent 29% reduction was not statistically significant<sup>5</sup>, being based on a relatively small sample of between 1,000 and 2,000 premises in the wholesale and retail sector). However, the latest estimates provided by the CVS were significantly down (36%) compared with the 2012 survey.

The apparent inconsistency between trends in shoplifting recorded by the police and the CVS may reflect an increase in reporting rates by businesses. While the changes were not statistically significant, the estimated proportion of shoplifting incidents that were reported to the police was 44% in 2014 compared with 42% in 2013 and 41% in 2012. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) have also reported<sup>6</sup> that some retailers are adopting new policies (like those used by the Cooperative supermarket chain<sup>7</sup>) leading to a greater proportion of shoplifting offences being reported.

Additionally, increased reporting is consistent with findings from a separate [BRC survey](#) which showed that while their members had experienced decreased levels of shoplifting in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13, the average value of losses experienced had risen. While it is still possible that there have been some genuine rises in the incidence of shoplifting the balance of evidence suggests that the increase in offences recorded by the police could reflect a change in reporting behaviour.

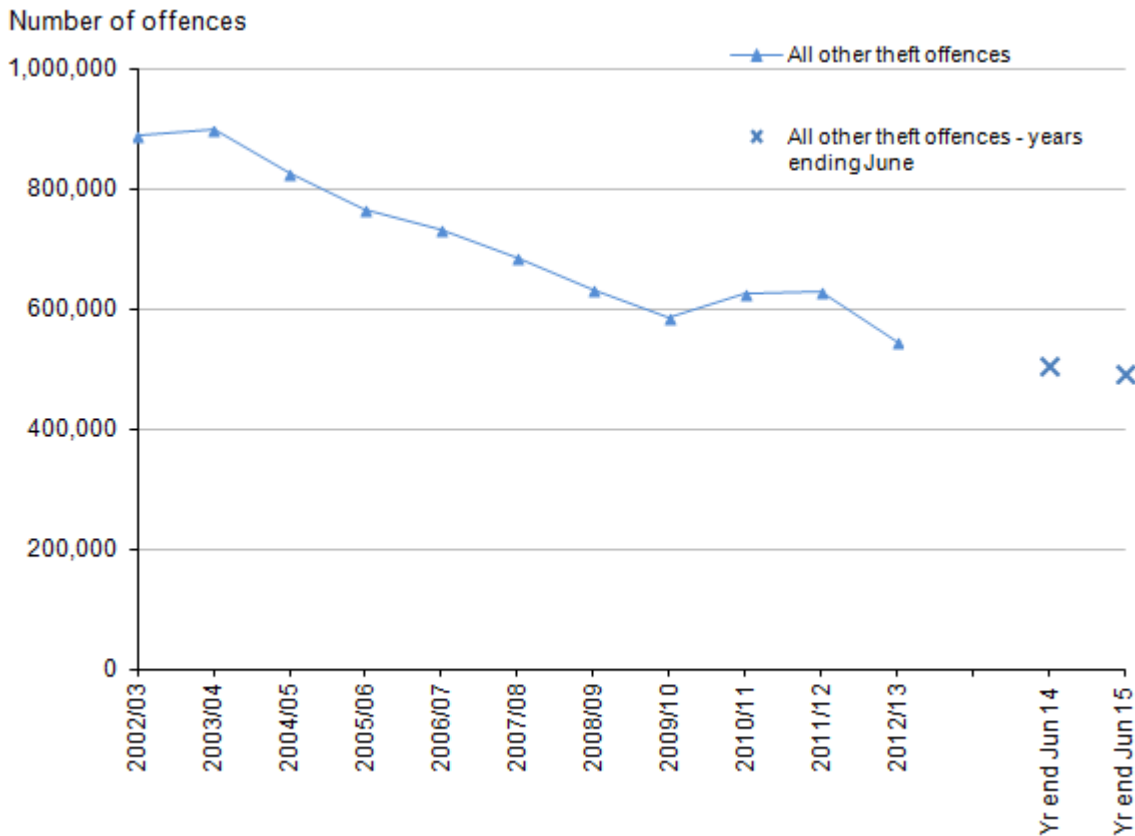
### **All other theft offences – police recorded crime**

The remainder of police recorded theft offences fall into the category 'All other theft offences', which include offences such as blackmail, theft by an employee, and making off without payment (for example, driving away from a petrol station without paying). Within this overall category, there is also an "other theft" offence sub-category, which comprises mostly of the theft of unattended items (including both personal property such as wallets or phones, and property from outside peoples' homes, such as garden furniture, as well as metal theft). "Other theft" accounts for 72% of the overall "all other theft offences" category ([Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

The most recent police recorded data showed a 2% decrease in all other theft offences, with 494,585 offences in the year ending June 2015 compared with 506,914 offences in the previous year. This decrease continues the downward trend recorded since 2003/04, with the exception of 2009/10 and 2011/12 which saw a brief period of increasing numbers of all other theft offences (Figure 12).

In the year ending June 2015 the police recorded 61,475 making off without payment offences, which was a 14% increase compared with the previous year. Previously there had been steep declines in this particular offence – despite this increase the latest figures remain around 13% lower than the 70,397 offences recorded in 2009/10 ([Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

**Figure 12: Trends in police recorded all other theft offences in England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

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As well as theft of unattended items, the police recorded "other theft" subcategory also includes crimes against organisations that are not covered by the CSEW, such as theft of metal or industrial equipment from strategic infrastructure. "Other theft" offences saw a 6% decrease for the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year ([Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). This follows a 13% increase between 2009/10 and 2011/12, which was likely to have been caused, in part, by a surge in metal theft (corresponding to a spike in metal prices) over this period. Evidence suggests that such offences are decreasing, a trend that can be linked to the [new metal theft legislation](#). The legislation came into force in May 2013 and increased fines for offences under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 as well as introducing a new offence for dealers of paying for scrap metal in cash. The Home Office publication [Metal theft, England and Wales, financial year ending March 2013](#) and Chapter 2 of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#) have further information on metal theft.

**Table 15a: CSEW other theft of property - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

	Interviews from:					Thousands
	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	
<b>Number of incidents</b>						
Theft from the person	680	567	514	<b>518</b>	<b>442</b>	
Other theft of personal property	2,069	1,120	1,008	<b>884</b>	<b>711</b>	
Other household theft	1,570	843	875	<b>785</b>	<b>716</b>	
Bicycle theft	660	390	468	<b>374</b>	<b>403</b>	
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 adults/households</b>						
Theft from the person	17	14	12	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	
Other theft of personal property	51	27	23	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	
Other household theft	76	38	38	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	71	41	45	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	
<b>Percentage of adults/households who were</b>						Percentage

<b>Interviews from:</b>					
	<b>Jan '95 to Dec '95</b>	<b>Apr '04 to Mar '05</b>	<b>Apr '09 to Mar '10</b>	<b>Jul '13 to Jun '14</b>	<b>Jul '14 to Jun '15</b>
<b>victims once or more</b>					
Theft from the person	1.6	1.2	1.1	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Other theft of personal property	4.1	2.3	2.0	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Unweighted base - number of adults	16,337	45,118	44,559	34,554	33,362
Other household theft	5.1	2.8	2.9	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Unweighted base - number of households	16,310	45,081	44,611	34,513	33,315
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	6.1	3.6	3.9	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Unweighted base - bicycle owners	6,863	19,378	20,129	16,430	15,905

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Appendix table A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.

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**Table 15b: CSEW other theft of property - percentage change and statistical significance [1,2]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over/households

		July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:							
		Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14				
Number of incidents		Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>							
Theft from the person		-35	*	-22	*	-14		<b>-15</b>	
Other theft of personal property		-66	*	-36	*	-29	*	<b>-20</b>	*
Other household theft		-54	*	-15	*	-18	*	<b>-9</b>	
Bicycle theft		-39	*	3		-14	*	<b>7</b>	
Incidence rate per 1,000 adults/households									
Theft from the person		-42	*	-29	*	-18	*	<b>-15</b>	
Other theft of personal property		-69	*	-42	*	-32	*	<b>-20</b>	*
Other household theft		-61	*	-22	*	-22	*	<b>-10</b>	
Bicycle theft: bicycle-		-55	*	-22	*	-28	*	<b>10</b>	



July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:								
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14	
owning households								
<b>Percentage of adults/ households who were victims once or more</b>	Percentage point change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>							
Theft from the person	-0.7	*	-0.4	*	-0.2	*	<b>-0.2</b>	*
Other theft of personal property	-2.7	*	-0.9	*	-0.6	*	<b>-0.3</b>	*
Other household theft	-2.8	*	-0.4	*	-0.5	*	<b>-0.3</b>	*
Bicycle theft: bicycle-owning households	-3.2	*	-0.7	*	-1.1	*	<b>0.3</b>	

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Appendix table A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
4. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the 2 percentages due to rounding.

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**Table 16a: Police recorded other theft - number and rate of offences [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
Theft from the person	122,081	92,247	<b>91,800</b>	<b>79,873</b>
Bicycle theft	105,953	109,847	<b>97,212</b>	<b>92,897</b>
Shoplifting	281,127	307,823	<b>321,862</b>	<b>330,214</b>
All other theft offences <sup>5,6</sup>	828,247	587,185	<b>506,914</b>	<b>494,585</b>
<b>Rate per 1,000 population</b>				
Theft from the person	2	2	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Bicycle theft	2	2	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Shoplifting	5	6	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
All other theft offences <sup>5,6</sup>	16	11	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Appendix table A4 provides detailed footnotes and further years.
5. All other theft offences now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since the year ending March 2003. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for the year ending March 2014, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.
6. For full range of offences included in all other theft see Appendix table A4.

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**Table 16b: Police recorded other theft - percentage change [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Percentage change

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
Theft from the person	-35	-13	<b>-13</b>
Bicycle theft	-12	-15	<b>-4</b>
Shoplifting	17	7	<b>3</b>
All other theft offences <sup>5,6</sup>	-40	-16	<b>-2</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Appendix table A4 provides detailed footnotes and further years.
5. All other theft offences now includes all 'making off without payment' offences recorded since the year ending March 2003. Making off without payment was previously included within the fraud offence group, but following a change in the classification for the year ending March 2014, this change has been applied to previous years of data to give a consistent time series.
6. For full range of offences included in all other theft see Appendix table A4.

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**Notes for Theft offences – Other theft of property**

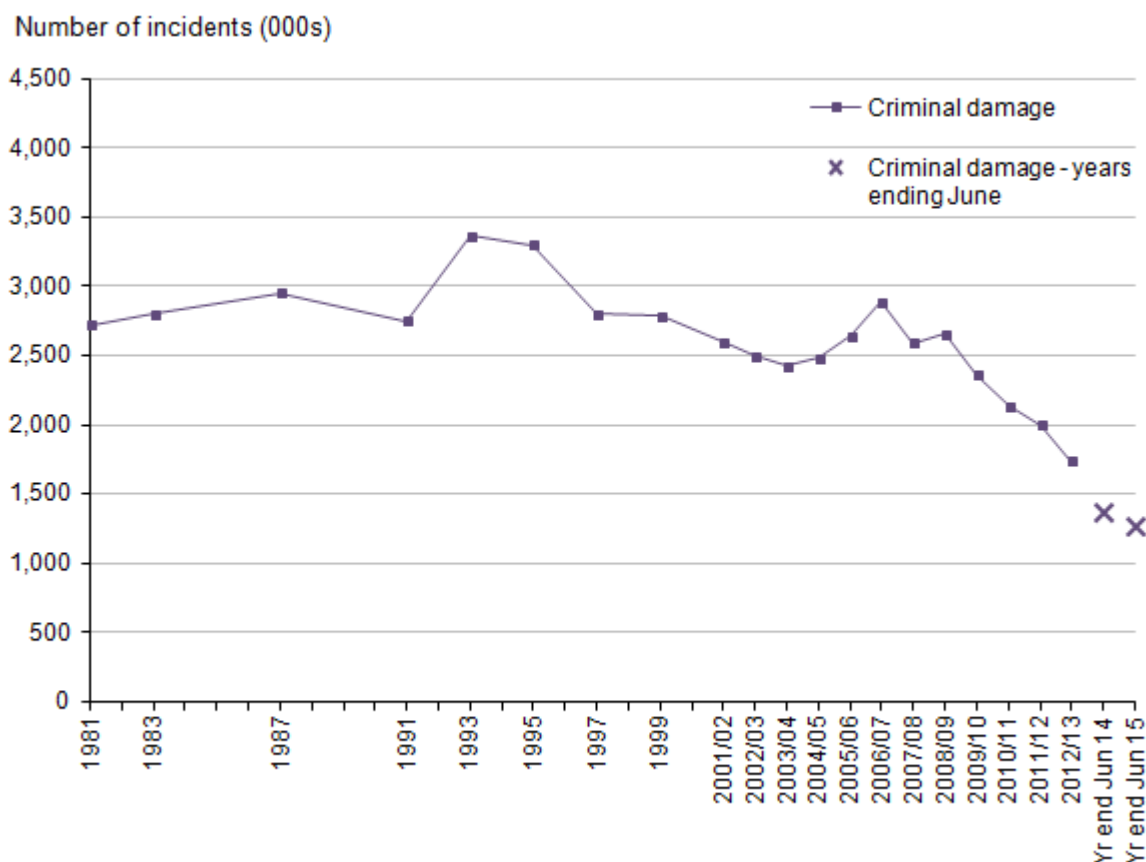
1. The Home Office report [Reducing mobile phone theft and improving security](#) published in September 2014 has more information.
2. Based on figures provided by the Metropolitan Police in relation to a freedom of information (FOI) request reported by [London Evening Standard – 4 April 2013](#).
3. Section 5.2 and Appendix 2 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) have more details on the offences that constitute CSEW other household theft.
4. The Nature of Crime tables in [Focus on: Property Crime, 2013/14](#) have more details.
5. Percentage changes have been calculated based on rates of "theft by customers" per 1,000 wholesale and retail premises.

6. Referred to on page 19 of the [British Retail Consortium Retail Crime Survey 2014](#).
7. As reported in the [Nottingham Post](#), 18 December 2013.

## Criminal damage

Based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in the year ending June 2015, there were around 1.3 million incidents of criminal damage of personal and household property. The apparent 7% decrease compared with the previous survey year was not statistically significant but follows a long downward trend (Tables 17a and 17b). Figure 13 shows the trend for criminal damage has followed a slightly different pattern compared with most other CSEW crime groups. Criminal damage peaked in the 1993 survey with 3.4 million incidents followed by a series of modest falls (when compared with other CSEW offence types) until the 2003/04 survey (2.4 million offences). There was then a short upward trend until the 2006/07 CSEW (2.9 million offences), after which there were falls to its current level, the lowest since the survey began.

**Figure 13: Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales criminal damage, year ending December 1981 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Prior to the year ending March 2002, 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, respondents' experience of crime relates to the full 12 months prior to interview (that is, a moving reference period). Year-labels for year ending March 2002 identify the CSEW year of interview.

3. The number of incidents are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the population estimates for England and Wales.

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Tables 17a and 17b show the downward trend in this offence group. There were statistically significant decreases when comparing the current figure with those from 5 and 10 years ago. This trend is also reflected in the decline in percentage of households victimised; around 4 in every 100 households were victims of criminal damage in the year ending June 2015, compared with around 10 in every 100 households in 1995.

In the latest year, there was a statistically significant decrease in criminal damage to a vehicle (down 11%). There was no change in arson and other criminal damage compared to the previous year.

**Table 17a: CSEW criminal damage - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2]**

England and Wales

Households

	Interviews from:				
	Jan '95 to Dec '95	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Number of incidents</b>					Thousands
Criminal damage	3,300	2,487	2,359	<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,267</b>
Criminal damage to a vehicle	1,790	1,517	1,537	<b>943</b>	<b>843</b>
Arson and other criminal damage	1,510	970	822	<b>425</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 households</b>					
Criminal damage	159	112	102	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>
Criminal damage to a vehicle	86	68	67	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
Arson and other criminal damage	73	44	36	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Percentage of households that were</b>					Percentage

<b>Interviews from:</b>					
	<b>Jan '95 to Dec '95</b>	<b>Apr '04 to Mar '05</b>	<b>Apr '09 to Mar '10</b>	<b>Jul '13 to Jun '14</b>	<b>Jul '14 to Jun '15</b>
<b>victims once or more</b>					
Criminal damage	10.1	7.1	6.7	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Criminal damage to a vehicle	6.2	4.8	4.7	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Arson and other criminal damage	4.3	2.7	2.3	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Unweighted base - number of households	16,310	45,081	44,611	34,513	33,315

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.

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**Table 17b: CSEW criminal damage - percentage change and statistical significance [1,2]**

England and Wales

Households

July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:							
	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>Number of incidents</b>	Percentage change and significance <sup>3</sup>						
Criminal damage	-62	*	-49	*	-46	*	<b>-7</b>
Criminal damage to a vehicle	-53	*	-44	*	-45	*	<b>-11</b>
Arson and other criminal damage	-72	*	-56	*	-48	*	<b>0</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 households</b>	Percentage point change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>						
Criminal damage	-67	*	-53	*	-49	*	<b>-8</b>
Criminal damage to a vehicle	-59	*	-49	*	-47	*	<b>-12</b> *
Arson and other criminal damage	-76	*	-60	*	-51	*	<b>-1</b>
<b>Percentage of households that were victims</b>	Percentage point change and significance <sup>3,4</sup>						



## July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:

	Jan '95 to Dec '95		Apr '04 to Mar '05		Apr '09 to Mar '10		Jul '13 to Jun '14
<b>once or more</b>							
Criminal damage	-6.4	*	-3.4	*	-3.0	*	<b>-0.2</b>
Criminal damage to a vehicle	-3.6	*	-2.1	*	-2.1	*	<b>-0.2</b>
Arson and other criminal damage	-3.1	*	-1.5	*	-1.1	*	<b>0.0</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Appendix tables A1, A2, A3 provide detailed footnotes and data for further years.
3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk.
4. The percentage point change presented in the tables may differ from subtraction of the two percentages due to rounding.

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The police recorded crime criminal damage and arson category is a similar offence group (although this also includes victims beyond the household population, like businesses)<sup>1</sup>. The [Crime-recording: making the victim count](#) report, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), found that nationally, an estimated 14% of criminal damage and arson offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not; this level of under-recording is better than the national average of 19%. The 'Accuracy of the statistics' section has more information.

In the year to June 2015, there were 513,545 offences of criminal damage and arson recorded by the police, an increase of 3% since the previous year. (Tables 18a and 18b). Whilst arson increased by 12% to 20,576 offences, criminal damage saw a smaller increase of 2% to 492,969 offences. In the long term trends, criminal damage and arson offences was fairly flat from 2002/03 to 2006/07, with marked falls since; this follows a similar trend to the CSEW.

**Table 18a: Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences- number and rate of offences [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
Criminal damage and arson	1,187,477	800,645	500,367	513,545
Arson	48,368	32,580	18,370	20,576
Criminal damage	1,139,109	768,065	481,997	492,969
Criminal damage and arson rate per 1,000 population	22	15	9	9

**Table notes:**

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

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**Table 18b: Police recorded criminal damage and arson offences - percentage change [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Percentage change

	July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:		
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
Criminal damage and arson	-57	-36	3
Arson	-57	-37	12
Criminal damage	-57	-36	2

**Table notes:**

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

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## Notes for Criminal damage

1. Section 5.3 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more details regarding this crime type.

## Other crimes against society

Other crimes against society are offences recorded by the police which do not generally have a specific identifiable victim. They make up around 10% of all police recorded crime. Trends in such offences tend to reflect changes in police workload and activity rather than in levels of criminality.

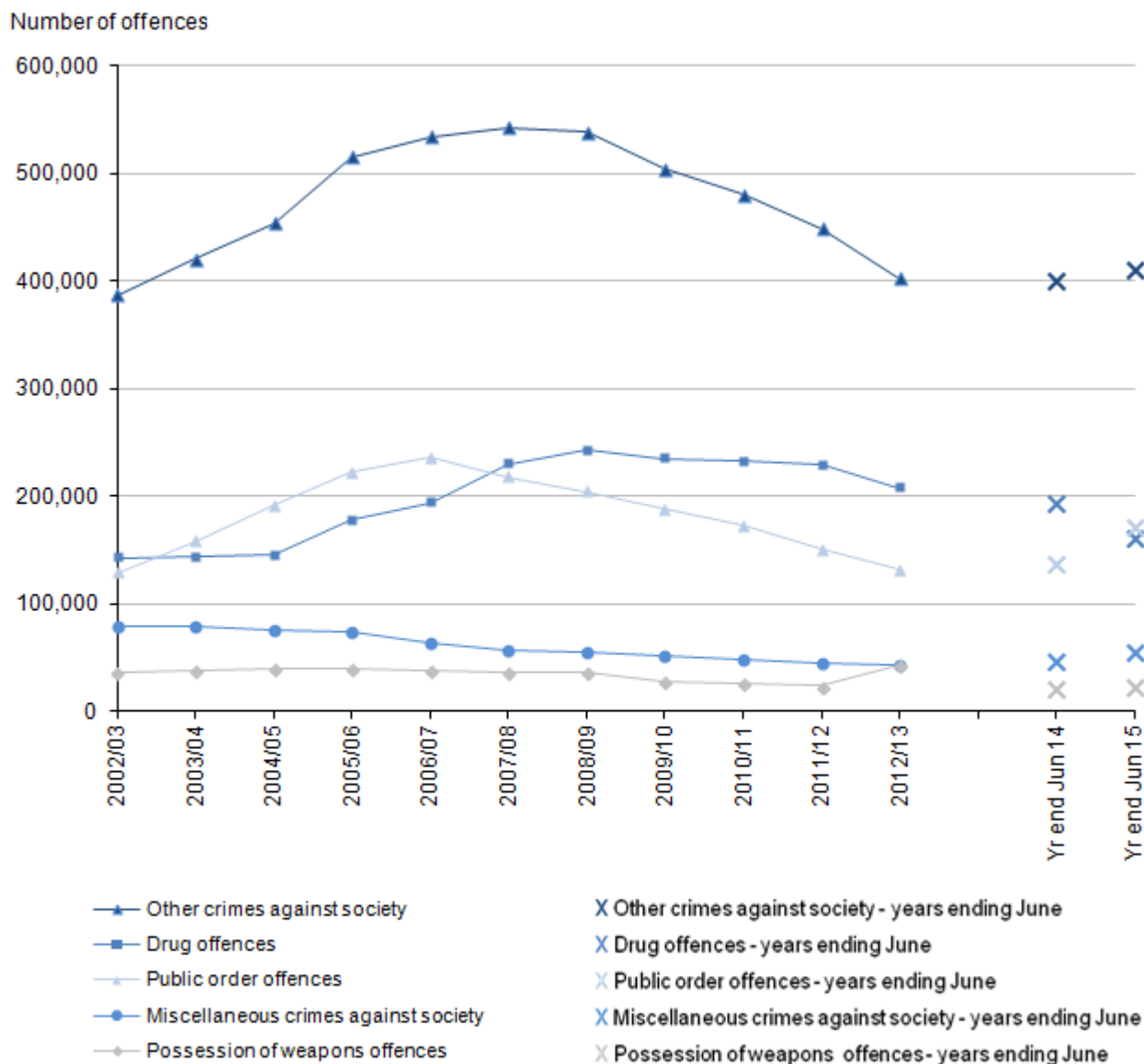
The group of offences is made of the following categories:

- drug offences
- possession of weapons offences
- public order offences
- miscellaneous crimes against society

Other crimes against society showed an increase of 3% compared with the previous year, with 410,248 offences recorded in the year ending June 2015 (Tables 19a and 19b). Figure 14 shows the trend over time and how each separate offence category contributes to the overall total.

Other crimes against society category peaked in the year ending March 2008 (542,656 offences) and since then has been on a downward trend until the year ending March 2015. The marked increases in the recording of these offences between the year ending March 2005 and the year ending March 2008 coincide with the priority placed on increasing the numbers of offences brought to justice associated with a previous government's 2005 to 2008 Public Service Agreement targets. This is particularly reflected in the trend for drug offences and public order offences (the relevant sections have further details). Between the year ending March 2008 and the year ending March 2014, the number of offences against society recorded decreased year-on-year, mainly driven by reductions in public order offences. However, as described below, the latest figures have shown a change in trends.

**Figure 14: Trends in police recorded other crimes against society in England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

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**Drug offences**

The police recorded 160,876 drug offences in the year ending June 2015, a decrease of 17% compared with the previous year. Figure 14 shows the trend over time for drug offences, where

the number of drug offences steadily rose from the year ending March 2005 until the year ending March 2009 (peaking at 243,536 offences). They remained fairly consistent at around 230,000 each year until the year ending March 2012, after which they began to fall. Despite recent decreases, the number of drug offences recorded in the year ending June 2015 remains 12% higher than the number recorded in the year ending March 2003.

The number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities; changes over time may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime, rather than real changes in its incidence. The increases in the recording of drug offences between the year ending March 2005 and the year ending March 2009 coincide with the priority placed Public Service Agreement targets. For example, in the past decade the police have been granted powers to issue:

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

In the year ending June 2015, possession of cannabis offences accounted for 64% of all police recorded drug offences. Previously this proportion has remained broadly similar (between 65% and 70%), making this the lowest proportion since the year ending March 2005.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) can also be used to investigate trends in drug use. Relevant figures from the CSEW are compiled and published in an annual report by the Home Office: [Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2014 to 2015 Crime Survey for England and Wales](#). The year ending March 2015 report showed that 8.6% of 16 to 59 year olds had taken an illicit drug in the last year, a similar level to the previous year.

## Public order offences

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

The latest figures (171,547 offences) show a 24% increase in public order offences compared with the previous year (Table 19b). The majority of this category (62%) was made up of public fear, alarm or distress offences, which showed an 30% increase in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year; a rise that is likely to reflect improvements in recording practices. Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress offences also increased (by 23%) in the year ending June 2015, and other offences against the State or public order have increased by 11% on the previous year. Public order offences rose from the year ending March 2003 and peaked in the year ending March 2007 (236,661 offences) and have since shown year-on-year decreases until the year ending March 2013 ([Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). The latest 2 years have both seen increases reported. Like drug offences, increases in this offence can reflect more police activity

and reporting, rather than actual changes in the levels of criminality. Furthermore, as with violent crime, public order offences are more prone to changes in police recording practices and anecdotal evidence from forces suggests a greater proportion of such incidents are being recorded as crimes.

### **Possession of weapons offences**

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

The police recorded 22,492 possession of weapon offences in the year ending June 2015, a 7% increase compared with the previous year (20,964, Table 19a and 19b). The number of possession of weapons offences peaked in the year ending March 2005 (40,605 offences), before showing year-on-year decreases until the year ending March 2013 when, similar to public order offences, the numbers have begun rising again. The latest increase has been driven by a rise in the possession of knives and other sharp instruments<sup>1</sup> (up 9%) and possession of firearms with intent (up 17%). Both these offences are now at their highest level since the year ending March 2011.

### **Miscellaneous crimes against society**

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

The police recorded 55,333 miscellaneous crimes against society offences in the year ending June 2015, an increase of 18% compared with the previous year (Table 19b). The number of offences has increased in the last 2 years, after previously showing year-on-year decreases since 2003/04.

The latest increase is, in part, driven by a large rise in the number of obscene publications and protected sexual material offences, which has increased by 79% to 9,326 offences in the year ending June 2015, when compared with the previous year (5,220 offences). This is largely due to an increase in offences related to the making and distribution of indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs (including those of children) via the internet or through mobile technology. It is an offence for a person to take or distribute such indecent photographs. The police service is reporting that they are giving more attention to child sexual exploitation and this is likely to have led to more of these offences being identified. People, including children taking indecent photographs of themselves, which are then passed on is included in this offence category. In addition, due to the introduction of fly tipping in this category as of April 2014, there was also a large rise in the number of other indictable or triable either way offences (increase of 58% to 5,263). It will take another year

before there is a full comparator year for this offence category (when flytipping has been included for both the previous and current year).

There was also a large rise in threats to commit criminal damage (which includes possession of articles with the intent to commit criminal damage, such as spray paint) which increased by 60% from 6,319 offences in the year ending June 2014 to 10,115 offences in the year ending June 2015 ([Appendix table A4 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

**Table 19a: Police recorded other crimes against society - number and rate of offences [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	453,825	504,649	399,509	410,248
Drug offences	145,837	235,584	193,408	160,876
Trafficking of drugs	24,190	33,223	28,999	26,690
Possession of drugs	121,647	202,361	164,409	134,186
Possession of weapons offences	40,605	28,758	20,964	22,492
Public order offences	191,872	188,254	138,284	171,547
Miscellaneous crimes against society	75,511	52,053	46,853	55,333
Rate per 1,000 population				
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	9	9	7	7
Drug offences	3	4	3	3
Possession of weapons offences	1	1	0	0
Public order offences	4	3	2	3
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1	1	1	1

**Table notes:**

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



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**Table 19b: Police recorded other crimes against society - percentage change [1,2,3,4]**

England and Wales

Percentage change

July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:			
	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	-10	-19	3
Drug offences	10	-32	-17
Trafficking of drugs	10	-20	-8
Possession of drugs	10	-34	-18
Possession of weapons offences	-45	-22	7
Public order offences	-11	-9	24
Miscellaneous crimes against society	-27	6	18

**Table notes:**

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

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**Notes for Other crimes against society**

1. Recorded under 10D possession of an article with blade or point.

**Fraud**

The extent of fraud is difficult to measure because it is a deceptive crime, often targeted indiscriminately at organisations as well as individuals. Some victims of fraud may be unaware they have been a victim of crime, or that any fraudulent activity has occurred. Others may be reluctant to

report the offence to the authorities, feeling embarrassed that they have fallen victim. The level of fraud reported via administrative sources is thought to significantly understate the true level of such crime.

This section draws on a range of sources, including administrative data on fraud and data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). No individual source provides a complete measure of the overall extent of fraud offences, but together they help to provide a fuller picture.

Fraud is an offence not currently included in the CSEW headline estimates. We are currently conducting work to extend the main victimisation module in the CSEW to cover elements of fraud and cyber-crime. There is more information in the methodological note, [Update – Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime \(113.5 Kb Pdf\)](#), including findings from recent field trial of newly developed survey questions.

[Improving crime statistics in England and Wales: Fraud](#) has also been published alongside this release which provides more information on what we know about the extent and nature of fraud in England and Wales and where there are gaps in our knowledge. There is also more information on the different sources of fraud data in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).

### **Recent changes to reporting and recording of fraud statistics**

To reflect changes in operational arrangements for reporting and recording of fraud, data presented in the police recorded crime series include offences recorded by Action Fraud, a public facing national reporting centre that records incidents reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. For the first time in this quarterly publication, the police recorded crime series also incorporates fraud data from 2 industry bodies; Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK)<sup>1</sup>. Both routinely refer cases of fraud to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), a government funded initiative run by the City of London Police, who lead national policing on fraud.

Cifas is a UK-wide fraud and financial crime prevention service working with around 350 organisations from the public and private sectors. These organisations mainly share data on confirmed cases of fraud, particularly application, identity and first party frauds, via the Cifas National Fraud Database. Data supplied by Cifas to the NFIB are recorded in line with the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) for recorded crime.

FFA UK is responsible for coordinating activities on fraud prevention in the UK payments industry. FFA UK collates information relating to cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts via its Fraud Intelligence Sharing System (FISS) database, and this is in turn provided to NFIB. Data supplied by FFA UK to the NFIB are recorded in line with the HOCR for recorded crime. FISS was designed as an intelligence tool, rather than a fraud reporting tool, and its main purpose is to share actionable intelligence about the criminals or entities relating to fraud offences rather than count the total numbers of fraud. Such cases form a relatively small subset of the total number reported to FFA UK by its members which is provided in the section on 'Card and bank account fraud not reported to the police'.

Although Action Fraud, Cifas and FFA UK all receive reports of fraud from victims across the UK, data presented in this bulletin cover fraud in England or Wales only<sup>2</sup>. Data on fraud are not currently included in sub-national tables as the data we currently receive is not further disaggregated.

The data from the 2 industry bodies relate only to those organisations that are part of the respective membership networks (the Cifas and FFA UK websites have details of membership). Coverage can therefore change as new members join or previous members withdraw, and while this could have an impact on trends in fraud, there have been few substantial changes in membership over recent years.

There is further information on the types of fraud covered by Cifas and FFA UK and on how the data for England and Wales are derived in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).

### **Total recorded fraud offences - overall picture**

In the year ending June 2015, a total of 599,689 fraud offences were recorded in England and Wales (Table 20a), equivalent to 10 offences per 1,000 population. This represents a volume increase of 9% compared with the previous year (Table 20b).

Broken down by reporting body, fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud rose by 13% from the previous year, from 209,361 to 237,494 offences. The NFIB also received 362,190 reports of fraud from the 2 industry bodies combined. Separately, fraud offences referred to the NFIB by Cifas showed a 17% increase in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year (from 227,857 offences to 266,701 offences); whereas those referred by FFA UK decreased by 14% (from 110,793 offences to 95,489 offences).

**Table 20a: Fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, by reporting body - number and rate of offences [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Apr '13 to Mar '14	Apr '14 to Mar '15	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15
<b>Fraud offences reported to NFIB via the police and Action Fraud<sup>4,5,6,7</sup></b>	119,426	179,891	211,228	230,406	<b>209,321</b>	<b>237,499</b>
<b>Fraud offences referred to NFIB by Cifas</b>	235,499	217,369	214,156	257,762	<b>227,857</b>	<b>266,701</b>
<b>Fraud offences referred to NFIB by Financial Fraud Action UK</b>	121,478	113,143	96,534	104,982	<b>110,793</b>	<b>95,489</b>
<b>Total fraud offences</b>	476,403	510,403	521,918	593,150	<b>547,971</b>	<b>599,689</b>
<b>Fraud rate per 1,000 population</b>	9	9	9	10	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office and Action Fraud, National Fraud Authority.
2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
4. Action Fraud have taken over the recording of fraud offences on behalf of individual police forces. This process began in April 2011 and was rolled out to all police forces by March 2013. The offences in this table therefore include those recorded by either the police or Action Fraud individually, or both, depending on the time period specified.
5. Due to the change in recording of fraud offences being taken over by Action Fraud, caution should be applied when comparing data over this transitional period and with earlier years. The User Guide provides more details including information on transfer date to Action Fraud for each force.
6. From Year ending March 2013, forgery offences have been reclassified under miscellaneous crimes against society.

7. 'Making off without payment' was previously included in fraud. Since April 2013, it is included in all other theft offences.

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**Table 20b: Fraud offences recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, by reporting body - percentage change [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

	Percentage change			
<b>July 2014 to June 2015 compared with:</b>				
	<b>Apr '11 to Mar '12</b>	<b>Apr '12 to Mar '13</b>	<b>Apr '13 to Mar '14</b>	<b>Jul '13 to Jun '14</b>
<b>Fraud offences reported to NFIB via the police and Action Fraud<sup>4,5,6,7</sup></b>	99	32	12	<b>13</b>
<b>Fraud offences referred to NFIB by Cifas</b>	13	23	25	<b>17</b>
<b>Fraud offences referred to NFIB by Financial Fraud Action UK</b>	-21	-16	-1	<b>-14</b>
<b>Total fraud offences</b>	26	17	15	<b>9</b>

**Table notes:**

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

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## Types of fraud

Table 21 shows a more detailed breakdown of the types of fraud offences referred to the NFIB by Action Fraud<sup>3</sup>, Cifas and FFA UK in the year ending June 2015. A full breakdown is presented in [Appendix table A5 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).

**Table 21: Fraud offences recorded by the NFIB by fraud type: volumes and percentage change between year ending June 2014 and year ending June 2015 [1,2]**

England and Wales

Fraud type <sup>3</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Percentage change
		Numbers	
<b>Banking and credit industry fraud</b>	<b>300,242</b>	<b>328,656</b>	<b>9</b>
Cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts (not PSP) <sup>4</sup>	240,556	260,253	8
Application fraud (excluding mortgages)	52,799	60,451	14
Mortgage related fraud	4,177	3,866	-7
Mandate fraud	2,559	3,911	53
Dishonestly retaining a wrongful credit	151	175	16
<b>Business trading fraud</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Insurance fraud</b>	<b>8,335</b>	<b>9,417</b>	<b>13</b>
Insurance related fraud	8,144	9,221	13
Insurance broker fraud	191	196	3
<b>Telecom industry fraud (misuse of contracts)</b>	<b>53,245</b>	<b>52,430</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>All charity fraud</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>8</b>
Charity fraud	544	576	6
Fraudulent applications for grants from charities or lottery fund organisations	64	78	22

<b>Fraud type<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Jul '13 to Jun '14</b>	<b>Jul '14 to Jun '15</b>	<b>Percentage change</b>
<b>Advance fee payments</b>	<b>38,844</b>	<b>43,199</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Financial investments</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>5,571</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Non-investment fraud</b>	<b>87,450</b>	<b>101,639</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Corporate fraud</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Pension fraud</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Computer misuse crime</b>	<b>18,199</b>	<b>15,189</b>	<b>-17</b>
<b>False accounting</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>-14</b>
<b>Bankruptcy and insolvency</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-25</b>
<b>Passport application fraud</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>554</b>
<b>Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) fraud</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-30</b>
<b>Fraudulent applications for grants from government funded organisations</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) fraud</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Other regulatory fraud</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>Fraud by failing to disclose information</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Fraud by abuse of position</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>14</b>



Fraud type <sup>3</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Percentage change
DVLA Driving Licence Application Fraud	..	17	..
Other fraud (not covered elsewhere) <sup>5</sup>	30,942	36,038	16
<b>Total Fraud Offences recorded</b>	<b>548,011</b>	<b>599,684</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Action Fraud, Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK, National Fraud Intelligence Bureau
2. Fraud data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Section 5.4 of the User Guide provides an explanation and examples of fraud offences within each category.
4. A PSP is a payment service provider (for example Paypal, World Pay) that is not a bank, dealing in electronic money transfers. Fraud offences perpetrated using PSPs are recorded under 'Online shopping and auctions'.
5. Other fraud includes fraud that cannot be classified elsewhere.
6. For more information on the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau see <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/advice-and-support/fraud-and-economic-crime/nfib/Pages/default.aspx>.

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Increases were seen across almost all categories of fraud recorded by the NFIB, with the largest volume increases in "banking and credit industry fraud" (up 9%, from 300,242 to 328,656 offences), "non-investment fraud" (up 16%, from 87,450 to 101,639 offences), and "advance fee payments" (up 11%, from 38,844 to 43,199 offences).

Concerning the increase "banking and credit industry fraud", most of this rise was in the volume of offences reported to the NFIB via Cifas (up from 168,350 to 206,970). This rise was seen principally in the sub-category of frauds relating to "cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts" and is thought to have resulted from an increase in the volume of reported identity frauds in account applications (for example, applying to open a plastic card account using a false identity).

The number of "banking and credit industry fraud" offences referred to the NFIB by FFA UK fell in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year, though this is thought to reflect earlier improvements to data collection which resulted in a considerable increase in the number of incidents reported to the NFIB during 2014. FISS loading into the NFIB has reduced reflecting the changing fraud landscape. The result of a reduction in cheque fraud and the increase in social engineering

leading to more scams means less third party fraud being reported to banks and the corresponding identification of complicit mules.

The volume of "banking and credit industry fraud" reported to Action Fraud (26,197 offences) was less than 10% of the volume of such frauds referred to NFIB by Cifas and FFA UK. This reflects the fact that many individuals who have experienced such crime will not report the incident to Action Fraud, especially if their financial services provider reimburses their losses<sup>4</sup>. Members of the public who report banking and credit card fraud to Action Fraud will not be included in the Action Fraud figures if their financial service provider reimburses their losses. Thus, the extent of double counting between Action Fraud and the industry sources is thought to be negligible.

Referrals within the category of "non-investment frauds" and "advance fee payments" came solely from reports to Action Fraud (neither Cifas nor FFA UK collect information on this form of fraud).

"Non-investment frauds"<sup>5</sup> made up 43% of all offences recorded by Action Fraud in the year ending June 2015 and increased by 16% from the year ending June 2014 (to 101,639 offences). Just under half of non-investment frauds specifically related to frauds involving online shopping and auctions (42,398). However much of the latest increase was in this category of fraud was in "computer software service fraud" (up from 12,842 to 24,107 offences) ([Appendix table A5 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). This involves the victim receiving a cold call from the fraudster who falsely claims that the victim has a problem with their computer and asks for payment to fix the problem.

Increases in the volume of "Advance fee payments"<sup>6</sup> recorded by Action Fraud were seen across a range of sub-categories, including lottery scams (where the victim is told they have won a lottery prize, and needs to pay a fee to release the winnings), dating scams (where the victim is befriended on the internet under false pretences and convinced to send money to the fraudster) and rental fraud (where prospective tenants are tricked into paying advanced fees or rent for premises which are not for rent).

It is important to note that while Cifas and FFA UK provide separate feeds to NFIB via their individual databases, a proportion of organisations are members of both industry bodies (including most of the large high street banks; there is more information on the [Cifas](#) and [FFA UK](#) websites).

It is also possible that there may be some double or triple counting between both these sources and the offences recorded via direct reports from victims to Action Fraud. For example, if police are called to a bank and apprehend an offender for a fraud offence, the police may report this crime to Action Fraud in addition to the bank reporting the same crime to Cifas and/or FFA UK as part of their processes. Experts believe this duplication to be small, but there is no simple cross-referencing method within NFIB to detect the scale of it. ONS and the Home Office will be working with data providers to gain a better understanding of the scale of double counting.

### **Card and bank account fraud not reported to the police**

Data referred to the NFIB by Cifas and FFA UK are known to exclude a significant volume of card and bank account fraud. For example, Cifas do not currently refer to NFIB cases of plastic card fraud where the cardholder and card are not present at the point of sale, such as use of the card online, over the phone or by mail order (this is known as "card not present" fraud). Neither do they refer cases of fraud resulting from cards being lost or stolen, or ATM fraud. In addition, FFA UK

only refers crimes to the NFIB in cases where there is intelligence value for the police to aid in investigating and detecting fraud.

FFA UK does however collect information from its members on a broader range of bank account and plastic card frauds than those referred to the NFIB using a system referred to as CAMIS, and data from this source are shown in Table 22<sup>7</sup>. While these figures are at UK level only, they offer a broader picture of the scale of bank account and plastic card fraud. It is important to note that these data also include those cases referred by FFA UK to the NFIB (presented in table 20).

**Table 22: The number of offences recorded by FFA UK's CAMIS system**

UK

	Apr '10 to Mar '11	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Apr '13 to Mar '14	Apr '14 to Mar '15	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Number	Percentage change with previous year
FFA UK FRAUD ESTIMATES (CAMIS)									
Plastic Card Fraud	976,112	866,488	1,048,151	1,129,705	1,260,803	1,322,300	1,260,324		-5
Lost and Stolen	105,494	104,144	116,992	141,549	130,614	139,919	132,729		-5
Card not Received	7,150	8,477	8,841	9,350	9,511	9,213	10,071		9
Counterfeit Card	89,807	79,796	105,749	96,744	97,926	97,380	92,487		-5
Telephone, internet and mail order fraud (remote purchase fraud)	755,173	657,690	790,723	1,017,092	995,367	1,046,136	994,662		-5
Account	18,488	16,381	25,846	31,970	27,385	29,652	30,375		2

	Apr '10 to Mar '11	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13	Apr '13 to Mar '14	Apr '14 to Mar '15	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	
Take Over								
Cheque Fraud	12,288	16,372	14,180	9,759	7,392	9,971	6,231	-38
Remote Banking Fraud (Internet and Telephone Banking)	52,500	35,072	21,639	19,266	23,526	20,736	24,411	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,040,900</b>	<b>917,932</b>	<b>1,083,970</b>	<b>1,325,730</b>	<b>1,291,721</b>	<b>1,353,007</b>	<b>1,290,966</b>	<b>-5</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Financial Fraud Action UK
2. All offences are classed under HOCR as NFIB5A, cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts (non PSP). The Categories they have been split into are FFA UK's break downs.
3. The total number of offences here is including all offences that are also included in the FISS dataset.

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In the year ending June 2015, FFA UK reported 1.3 million cases of frauds on UK-issued cards<sup>8</sup>, a decrease of 5% from the previous year. Over 1 million (79%) of these cases were "card not present" frauds, making it by far the largest category, followed by cases of fraud using lost and stolen cards which accounted for 11% of plastic card fraud (132,729 offences). Given the large volume of incidents "card not present" frauds have been important in driving overall trends in plastic card fraud, which showed substantial increases in volumes in 2012/13 and 2013/14. Levels seen in the other (lower volume) categories of plastic card fraud have tended to fluctuate, though the underlying trend shows that levels are higher now than 5 years ago. The trend is different for other payment types, as might be expect there have been year on year falls in volumes of cheque fraud, and (although there was a rise in the latest year) volumes of remote banking fraud were down by half compared with 2010/11.

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

Fraud is not currently included in the headline CSEW crime estimates. However, for a number of years, the survey has included supplementary modules of questions on victimisation across a range

of fraud and cyber-crime offences, including plastic card and bank or building society fraud. These are currently reported separately from the headline estimates.

ONS is currently conducting work to extend the main victimisation module in the CSEW to cover elements of fraud and cyber-crime. There is more information in the published methodological note [Update – Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime \(113.5 Kb Pdf\)](#) and in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).

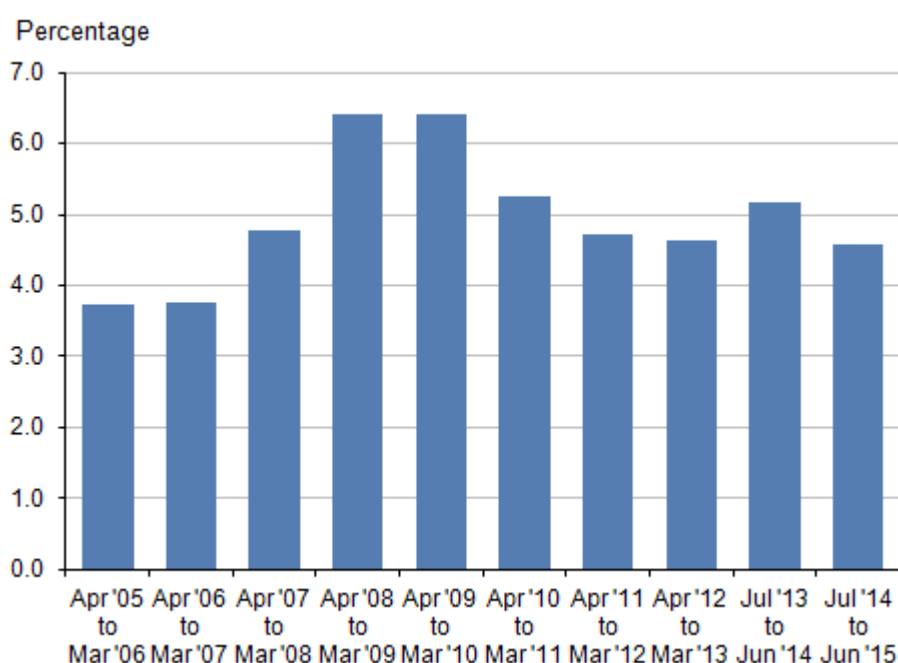
Once the new questions are added to the survey it will lead to an increase in the volume of crime measured by it. Results from a large-scale field trial of the new victimisation module questions are now available. There is further information in [Improving crime statistics in England and Wales: Fraud and the methodological note CSEW fraud and cyber-crime development: Field trial. \(367.1 Kb Pdf\)](#)

### Plastic card fraud

The latest CSEW results showed that 4.6% of plastic card owners were victims of card fraud in the last year, a statistically significant decrease from the 5.2% estimated in the year ending June 2014. There have been small reductions in levels of plastic card fraud over the last few years, following a rise between the 2005/06 and 2009/10 surveys (Figure 15). In general, the CSEW trend in plastic card fraud has been consistent with those shown by FFA UK figures in Table 22.

The current level of victimisation remains higher than more established offences, for example theft from the person and other theft of personal property (0.9% and 1.4% respectively, Table 15). Further analysis, based on the 2011/12 CSEW, was published on 9 May 2013 as part of [Focus on: Property Crime, 2011/12: Chapter 3 – Plastic card fraud](#).

**Figure 15: Proportion of plastic card users who had been a victim of plastic card fraud in the last year, year ending March 2006 to year ending June 2015 Crime Survey for England and Wales**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics.
2. Unless otherwise stated the data on this chart refer to crimes experienced in the 12 months before interview, based on interviews carried out in that financial year (April to March).

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**Notes for Fraud**

1. In previous quarterly bulletins figures for Cifas and FFA UK have been presented separately from the police recorded crime series at the UK level only. Data in this bulletin from all 3 bodies cover England and Wales. Both Action Fraud and Cifas were able to disaggregate data at an England and Wales level. An adjustment was made to FFA's UK figures to produce an estimate for England and Wales. There is more information in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).
2. In previous bulletin data for Cifas and FFA UK have been at the UK level only. Data in this bulletin cover England and Wales. In order to produce these figures an adjustment was made to the UK figures for FFA UK. This was done through calculating a weighting factor based on the breakdown of Cifas data to England and Wales level geography. There is more information in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).
3. There is more information on the types of offences within each of the fraud categories in Section 5.4 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) and [Appendix table A5 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).
4. Where the bank reimburses the loss they may report the crime to an industry body such as CIFAS or FFA UK.
5. Examples of non-investment frauds include online shopping and auction, computer software service and ticket fraud.
6. Examples of advance fee payment fraud are lottery scams, dating scams and rental fraud.
7. FFA UK publish 6-monthly data on the volume of incidents of frauds on all payment types (including 'card not present'), alongside data on financial fraud losses by the value of losses to customers. Fraud case volumes (2008 to 2014) and fraud losses (2004 to 2014) on UK-issued cards are reported in the "[Fraud The Facts 2015](#)" publication.
8. It is important to note that number of cases relates to the number of accounts defrauded, rather than the number of victims.

## Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15

Since January 2009, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has asked children aged 10 to 15 resident in households in England and Wales about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months. The children's survey differs from the main survey of adults in a number of ways and findings should be interpreted with greater care. Reasons for this include:

- changes to the design of the children's questionnaire during the first 3 years of the survey mean the estimates prior to the year ending March 2012 are not comparable with later years
- the number of child interviews that take place in any year (around 3,000) is much smaller than for the main survey (approximately 35,000). This means estimates of crimes against children can fluctuate more than adult estimates due to the much smaller sample size
- as [Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15](#) notes, children are often involved in low-level incidents which may involve an offence in law but may not be viewed by participants, or others, as serious enough to amount to a crime. Two methods for classifying incidents recorded in the survey have been used – "preferred" and "broad". The "broad" measure counts all incidents which are legally defined as crimes, which may include very low-level incidents between children. The "preferred" measure takes into account factors which determine the severity of an incident (such as the level of injury, value of items stolen and relationship with the perpetrator). The analysis provided in this chapter uses the "preferred" measure; tables for the broad measure of crime are available in the Appendix tables<sup>1</sup>.

### Overall level of crime

Based on CSEW interviews in the year ending June 2015, there were an estimated 711,000 crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 using the preferred measure. This showed no change from the previous 12 months, with the 8% decrease not being statistically significant ([Appendix table A7 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)). The number of crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 has decreased by a third since 2011/12, the first year that is directly comparable with the current year. This appears to be part of a general trend of decreasing crime against children recorded by the survey, and is in-line with recent movements found among adults (which was down 30% over the same period).

In the year ending June 2015, the survey estimated 12% of children aged 10 to 15 were victims of crime. This is the third consecutive year in which the survey has shown that 12% of children aged 10 to 15 were victims of crime.



**Table 23: CSEW offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15, preferred measure - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Interviews from:					
	Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '10 to Mar '11 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '14 to Jun '15 <sup>5</sup>
Number of incidents (thousands)	1,056	918	1,066	817	<b>770</b>	<b>711</b>
Incidence rate per 1,000 children aged 10 to 15	266	233	274	213	<b>205</b>	<b>191</b>
Percentage who were victims once or more	14.6	11.6	15.1	12.2	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Unweighted base - number of children aged 10 to 15	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879	<b>2,786</b>	<b>2,399</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Some estimates are based on a small number of children, hence caution should be applied; User Guide tables UG7, UG8 and UG9 provide the margins of error around the estimates.
3. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children.
4. Question changes during development of the children's questionnaire in the first two years should be considered when interpreting the figures. Comparisons before the year ending March 2012 should be interpreted with caution.
5. Base sizes for data from April 2012 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced.

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**Violent crime**

There have been changes to the way in which 10 to 15 CSEW violence is presented in this bulletin. Violence in the 10 to 15 year old module of the CSEW has previously differed from the main survey as robbery has until now been included within this category. Robbery was included in the main

CSEW count of violence until the year ending March 2014 bulletin when it was separated out into its own and became consistent with the police recorded crime offence categories. Robbery is now presented as a stand-alone category in the 10 to 15 CSEW statistics, to be consistent with the main survey.

The CSEW estimates that there were around 316,000 incidents of violence against children aged 10 to 15 in the year ending June 2015 (Table 24). While the apparent 17% decrease compared with the previous survey year, was not statistically significant the longer trend is downward; the current estimate is 37% lower than the estimate for the year ending March 2012, which was statistically significant ([Appendix table A7 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Although not directly comparable, the decrease seen in the children's survey was higher than found amongst adults (which recorded a statistically significant decrease of 28% since the year ending March 2012).

While the estimated 17% decrease in violent crime against 10 to 15 year olds over the past 12 months is not statistically significant, the decrease does fit with other sources of information. The Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University have found the number of 11 to 17 year olds being admitted to hospitals for treatment following violence declined 18%, from 25,108 in 2013 to 20,553 in 2014<sup>2</sup> ([Sivarajasingam et al. 2015](#)).

**Table 24: CSEW violence and robbery experienced by children aged 10 to 15, preferred measure - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Interviews from:					
	Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '10 to Mar '11 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '14 to Jun '15 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Number of incidents (thousands)</b>						
Violence <sup>6</sup>	567	544	504	412	<b>380</b>	<b>316</b>
with injury	399	425	365	303	<b>277</b>	<b>230</b>
without injury	168	119	139	108	<b>103</b>	<b>87</b>
Robbery <sup>6</sup>	76	58	87	68	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 children aged 10 to 15</b>						
Violence <sup>6</sup>	143	138	129	107	<b>101</b>	<b>85</b>
with injury	101	108	94	79	<b>74</b>	<b>62</b>
without injury	42	30	36	28	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>
Robbery <sup>6</sup>	19	15	22	18	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Percentage who were victims once or more</b>						
Violence <sup>6</sup>	7.4	6.2	6.4	5.2	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>
with injury	5.3	4.7	4.5	3.9	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>
without injury	2.4	1.7	2.2	1.5	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Robbery <sup>6</sup>	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.0	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>

	Interviews from:					
	Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '10 to Mar '11 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '14 to Jun '15 <sup>5</sup>
Unweighted base - number of children aged 10 to 15	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879	2,786	2,399

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Some estimates are based on a small number of children, hence caution should be applied; User Guide tables UG7, UG8 and UG9 provide the margins of error around the estimates.
3. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children.
4. Question changes during development of the children's questionnaire in the first two years should be considered when interpreting the figures. Comparisons before the year ending March 2012 should be interpreted with caution.
5. Base sizes for data from April 2012 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced.
6. To be consistent with the presentation of the adults aged 16 and over CSEW data, 'Robbery' has been removed from 'Violence' and included as a separate category.

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**Robbery**

For the year ending June 2015 the CSEW estimated 40,000 incidents of robbery experienced by children aged 10 to 15 (Table 24). The apparent 16% decrease compared with the previous survey year was not statistically significant but follows a long downward trend; the current estimate is 55% lower than the estimate for the year ending March 2012, which was statistically significant ([Appendix table A7 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

**Property offences**

For the children's survey, property offences are restricted to personal crimes only. Any household theft or criminal damage to the house or vehicle will be recorded when the adult respondent from the household completes the survey themselves.

Three offences from the children's data – theft from or outside the dwelling, bicycle theft, and criminal damage – are all designated as household offences for adults on the CSEW. These are restricted to occasions where the property stolen or damaged belonged solely to the child respondent. This methodology is designed to restrict the possibility of double counting within the estimates, however some may still remain.

In the survey for the year ending June 2015, there were 266,000 incidents of theft, and 89,000 incidents of criminal damage to personal property experienced by children aged 10 to 15 (Table 25). In all, 6% of children were victims of theft at least once, with the largest theft category being other theft of personal property (4% of children were victims); 2% experienced criminal damage to personal property ([Appendix table A9 \(648 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)).

Unlike violent offences, property offences experienced by children show no consistent increasing or decreasing trend over the past few years. For many offences, this is similar to what is reported amongst adults – for example, since the year ending March 2010 (when the children survey was first introduced), instances of personal theft offences (theft from the person and other personal theft) both surveys peaked in the year ending March 2012. Evidence from Focus On Property Crime publications suggest this was related to a reported increase in the theft of items such as mobile phones<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 25: CSEW theft and criminal damage offences experienced by children aged 10 to 15, preferred measure - number, rate and percentage of incidents [1,2,3]**

England and Wales

Children aged 10 to 15

	Interviews from:					
	Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '10 to Mar '11 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '14 to Jun '15 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Number of incidents (thousands)</b>						
Theft offences	364	288	435	304	<b>296</b>	<b>266</b>
Theft from the person	61	35	55	42	<b>69</b>	<b>48</b>
Other theft of personal property	209	171	263	208	<b>182</b>	<b>171</b>
Theft from the dwelling/outside the dwelling <sup>6</sup>	20	25	40	22	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>
Bicycle theft <sup>6</sup>	73	58	77	32	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>
Criminal damage to personal property <sup>6</sup>	49	28	40	34	<b>47</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Incidence rate per 1,000 children aged 10 to 15</b>						
Theft offences	92	73	112	79	<b>79</b>	<b>72</b>
Theft from the person	15	9	14	11	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>
Other theft of personal property	53	43	67	54	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>
Theft from the dwelling/outside the dwelling <sup>6</sup>	5	6	10	6	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Bicycle theft <sup>6</sup>	18	15	20	8	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

	Interviews from:					
	Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '10 to Mar '11 <sup>4</sup>	Apr '11 to Mar '12	Apr '12 to Mar '13 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '13 to Jun '14 <sup>5</sup>	Jul '14 to Jun '15 <sup>5</sup>
Criminal damage to personal property <sup>6</sup>	12	7	10	9	13	24
<b>Percentage who were victims once or more</b>						
Theft offences	7.4	5.4	8.1	6.5	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Theft from the person	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.9	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Other theft of personal property	4.4	3.1	4.9	4.4	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Theft from the dwelling/outside the dwelling <sup>6</sup>	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Bicycle theft <sup>6</sup>	1.6	1.2	1.5	0.8	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Criminal damage to personal property <sup>6</sup>	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.8	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Unweighted base - number of children aged 10 to 15	3,762	3,849	3,930	2,879	<b>2,786</b>	<b>2,399</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Some estimates are based on a small number of children, hence caution should be applied; User Guide tables UG7, UG8 and UG9 provide the margins of error around the estimates.
3. The 'Preferred measure' takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the 'Broad measure' counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between children.
4. Question changes during development of the children's questionnaire in the first two years should be considered when interpreting the figures. Comparisons before the year ending March 2012 should be interpreted with caution.
5. Base sizes for data from April 2012 are smaller than previous years, due to sample size reductions introduced.
6. These offences are designated as 'household offences for adults on the CSEW (respondents reply on behalf of the household) but are presented here as 'personal' offences when the property stolen or damaged solely belonged to the child respondent. This broadens the scope of personal victimisation but may also result in double-counting of offences on the adult survey.

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## Notes for Crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15

1. More information about the preferred and broad measures of crime against children can be found in the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).
2. Calendar years are used in this analysis.
3. See for instance, the chapter on mobile phone theft in [Focus On Property Crime 2011/12](#), and the overview chapter of [Focus On Property Crime 2013/14](#).

## Anti-social behaviour

### Incidents recorded by the police

Figures recorded by the police relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) can be considered alongside police recorded (notifiable) crime to provide a more comprehensive view of the crime and disorder that comes to the attention of the police. It is important to note that any incident of ASB which results in a notifiable offence will be included in police recorded crime figures (and excluded from the ASB counts). This is to ensure there are no overlaps between the 2 series.

The police record ASB incidents in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR); Section 5.7 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has further details. These figures are not currently accredited National Statistics. A review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary ([A step in the right Direction](#)) in 2012 found significant variation in the recording of ASB incidents across police forces. It is also known that occasionally police forces may be duplicating some occurrences of a singular ASB incident where multiple reports by different callers have been made.

Following the HMIC review in 2012, it was also found that there was a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of ASB . HMIC found instances of:

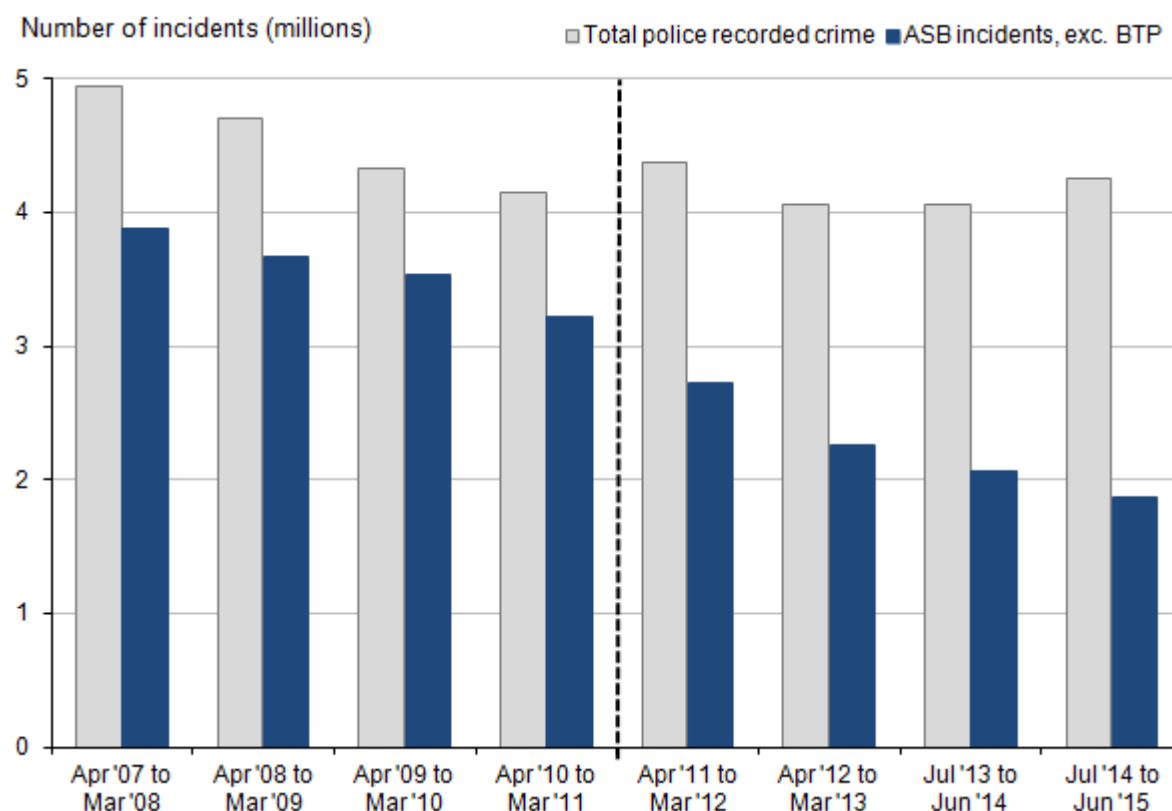
- forces failing to identify crimes, instead wrongly recording them as ASB
- reported ASB not being recorded on force systems, for instance if the victim had reported it directly to the neighbourhood team or via email (as opposed to by telephone)
- reported ASB being recorded as something else, such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

Furthermore, data on ASB incidents before and after the year ending March 2012 are not directly comparable, owing to a change in the classification used for ASB incidents. From April 2012, ASB incidents also include data from the British Transport Police, so direct comparisons can only be made from 2012/13 onwards. The police recorded 1.9 million incidents of ASB in the year ending June 2015. This compares with the 4.3 million notifiable crimes recorded by the police over the



same period (Figure 16). The number of ASB incidents recorded by the police in the year ending June 2015 decreased by 9% compared with the previous year, continuing a downward trend.

**Figure 16: Police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in England and Wales, year ending March 2008 to year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Sources: Police recorded crime, Home Office / ASB incidents: years ending March 2008 to 2010 - National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA); year ending 2011 - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC); from year ending March 2012 onwards - Home Office.
2. Police recorded crime and ASB incident data are not designated as National Statistics.
3. Following a different approach to recording ASB incidents data, figures from year ending March 2012 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years; Chapter 5 of the User Guide has more information.
4. ASB incidents exclude British Transport Police.
5. Unless otherwise stated, the data on this chart refer to crimes recorded in the financial year (April to March).

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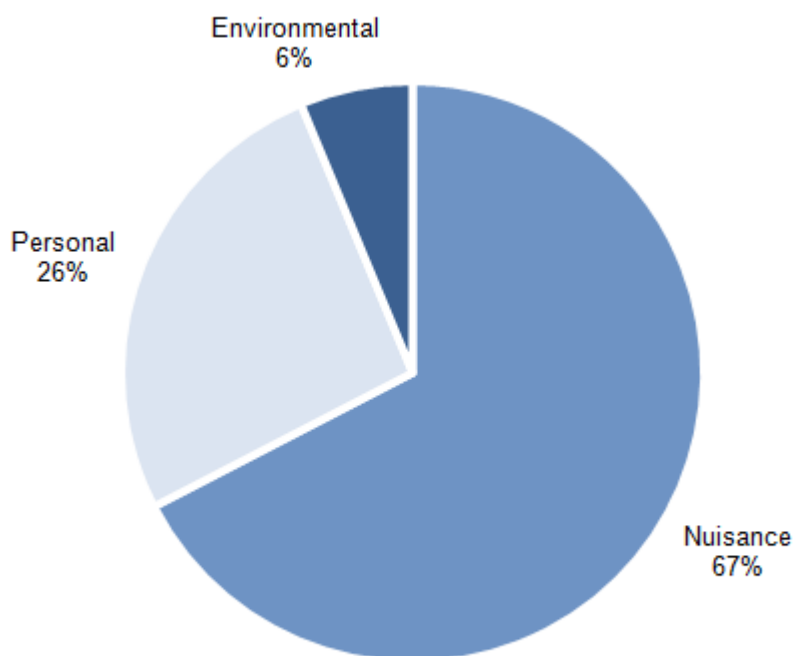
From the year ending March 2012, a new set of 3 simplified categories for ASB was introduced (further details are available in Chapter 5 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#)):

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

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

In the year ending June 2015, 67% of the ASB incidents categorised by the police were identified as nuisance; 26% as personal; and 6% as environmental (Figure 17). This distribution may reflect propensity of reporting rather than the actual distribution of ASB by type.

**Figure 17: Categories of anti-social behaviour incidents in England and Wales, year ending June 2015**



**Notes:**

1. Source: Police recorded incidents, Home Office.
2. ASB incidents data are not accredited National Statistics.
3. Figures include British Transport Police.

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**CSEW measures of anti-social behaviour**

Questions about respondents' actual experiences of ASB in their local area were added to the year ending March 2012 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to expand on existing questions about perceived ASB. These questions asked whether the respondent had personally experienced or witnessed ASB in their local area and, if so, what types.

In the year ending June 2015, 28% of adults indicated that they had personally experienced or witnessed at least one of the ASB problems asked about in their local area in the previous year (Table 26), which has not changed from the previous year. This included 10% of adults who experienced or witnessed drink related anti-social behaviour and 9% who witnessed or experienced groups hanging around on the streets.

**Table 26: CSEW experiences of anti-social behaviour, years ending June 2014 and June 2015[1]**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Jul 2014 to Jun 2015 compared with:
		Percentages	Statistically significant difference
Personally experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in local area	28.0	28.3	
<b>Types of anti-social behaviour experienced/witnessed<sup>2</sup></b>			
Drink related behaviour	9.4	9.9	
Groups hanging around on the streets	8.3	8.6	
Loud music or other noise	5.0	5.5	
Inconsiderate behaviour <sup>3</sup>	5.2	5.3	
Litter, rubbish or dog-fouling	4.1	5.0	*
Vandalism, criminal damage or graffiti	3.7	4.1	*
Vehicle related behaviour <sup>4</sup>	3.1	4.0	*
People using or dealing drugs	2.9	4.0	*
People being intimidated, verbally abused or harassed	3.1	3.6	*
Nuisance neighbours	2.7	3.1	*

	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Jul 2014 to Jun 2015 compared with: Jul '13 to Jun '14
Begging, vagrancy or homeless people	0.8	1.1	*
Out of control or dangerous dogs	0.6	0.8	
People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public	0.2	0.3	*
Other anti-social behaviour	1.7	2.0	
Unweighted base-number of adults	34,531	33,343	

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics
2. Respondents can experience more than one type of anti-social behaviour, so percentages will not sum to the total that experienced/witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area.
3. Includes repeated/inappropriate use of fireworks; youths kicking/throwing balls in inappropriate areas; cycling/skateboarding in pedestrian areas or obstructing pavements; people throwing stones/bottles/eggs, etc.
4. Includes inconvenient/illegal parking; abandoned vehicles; speeding cars/motorcycles; car revving; joyriding, etc.

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The CSEW also contains a separate set of questions asking respondents about perceptions of problems with different types of ASB in their local area; 7 of these are used to provide an overall index of perceived ASB. In the year ending June 2015 CSEW, 11% of adults perceived there to be a high level of ASB in their local area (Table 27), which was no change on the previous year.

Since the year ending March 2005 the CSEW has consistently estimated that around a quarter of adults perceive a problem in their local area with “people using or dealing drugs” and almost a third perceive “rubbish or litter lying around” as a problem in their local area. Other anti-social behaviour indicators have tended to show declines over this time period, with the most pronounced decline for the “abandoned or burnt-out cars” category, which peaked at 24% in 2002/03 ([Table D9 \(381.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#)) and has subsequently fallen each year down to 2% of adults in the year ending June 2015.

**Table 27: CSEW trends in the anti-social behaviour indicators, years ending December 1996 to June 2015<sup>1,2</sup>**

England and Wales

Adults aged 16 and over

	Jan '96 to Dec '96	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Jul 2014 to Jun 2015 compared with:  Jul '13 to Jun '14
	Percentages					Statistically significant difference
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour <sup>3</sup>	:	17.0	14.4	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.2</b>	
Percentage saying there is a very/fairly big problem in their area						
Rubbish or litter lying around	26	30	28	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
People using or dealing drugs	21	26	26	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	
People being drunk or rowdy in public places <sup>3</sup>	:	31	27	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	24	22	24	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate	24	28	23	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	

	Jan '96 to Dec '96	Apr '04 to Mar '05	Apr '09 to Mar '10	Jul '13 to Jun '14	Jul '14 to Jun '15	Jul 2014 to Jun 2015 compared with:  Jul '13 to Jun '14
damage to property						
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	8	9	11	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	
Abandoned or burnt-out cars <sup>3</sup>	:	12	5	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
Unweighted base- number of adults <sup>4,5</sup>	7,625	42,937	42,390	<b>8,569</b>	<b>8,210</b>	

**Table notes:**

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

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It is difficult to directly compare the 2 CSEW measures (perceptions of and experiences of ASB) since the list of ASB categories used in the experience-based questions is more expansive than those asked of respondents in relation to their perceptions. They also measure different things: actual experiences and perceptions. It is likely someone can experience an ASB incident without necessarily believing that it is part of a problem in their local area, if it was an isolated occurrence, for example. The frequency or number of incidents experienced, coupled with the perceived extent and seriousness of a problem, will also vary from person to person.

## Other non-notifiable crimes

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

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

The most recent data available on non-notifiable crimes are for the year ending March 2015. Main findings include:

- cases brought to court in the year ending March 2015 resulted in over 1.0 million convictions for non-notifiable offences, an increase of 2% from the previous year (Tables 28a and 28b)<sup>2</sup>
- around 27,000 Penalty Notices for Disorder were issued for non-notifiable offences in the year ending March 2015 a decrease of 18% from the previous year<sup>3</sup>



**Table 28a: Non-notifiable crimes dealt with by the courts/Penalty Notices for Disorder[1] - number and rate**

England and Wales

	Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>2</sup>	Apr '13 to Mar '14	Apr '14 to Mar '15
<b>Non-notifiable convictions (thousands)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1,005</b>
Incidence rate (per 1,000 population) <sup>4,5</sup>	23	17	18
<b>Non-notifiable Penalty Notices for Disorder (thousands)<sup>6,7</sup></b>	<b>54</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>
Incidence rate (per 1,000 population) <sup>4,5</sup>	1	1	0

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Ministry of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to Mar 2015 (Tables 1.2, 2.1, 3.4)
2. Comparisons are made against the year ending March 2010. This is the latest published figure for this year.
3. Figures for non-notifiable convictions apply to offenders aged 10 and over.
4. The year to March 2015 incidence rate is calculated using ONS mid-2013 census based population estimates. Other figures are also calculated using mid-year population estimates from previous years.
5. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential offenders.
6. Penalty Notices for Disorder, both higher and lower tier offences, issued to offenders aged 18 and over. Prior to 8 April 2013 data are for offenders aged 16 and over.
7. Includes British Transport Police from 2011.

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**Table 28b: Non-notifiable crimes dealt with by the courts/Penalty Notices for Disorder[1] - percentage change**


England and Wales

	Percentage change	
	Apr '14 to Mar '15 compared with Apr '09 to Mar '10 <sup>2</sup>	Apr '13 to Mar '14
<b>Non-notifiable convictions<sup>3</sup></b>	-19	<b>2</b>
Incidence rate <sup>4,5</sup>	-22	<b>1</b>
<b>Non-notifiable Penalty Notices for Disorder<sup>6,7</sup></b>	-50	<b>-18</b>
Incidence rate <sup>4,5</sup>	-52	<b>-19</b>

**Table notes:**

1. Source: Ministry of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to Mar 2015 (Tables 1.2, 2.1, 3.4)
2. Comparisons are made against the year ending March 2010. This is the latest published figure for this year.
3. Figures for non-notifiable convictions apply to offenders aged 10 and over.
4. The year to March 2015 incidence rate is calculated using ONS mid-2013 census based population estimates. Other figures are also calculated using mid-year population estimates from previous years.
5. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential offenders.
6. Penalty Notices for Disorder, both higher and lower tier offences, issued to offenders aged 18 and over. Prior to 8 April 2013 data are for offenders aged 16 and over.
7. Includes British Transport Police from 2011.

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The police and, increasingly, local authorities, have powers to issue penalty notices for a range of traffic offences; the police issued 1.15 million Fixed Penalty Notices (over 60% of which related to speeding) in 2013<sup>4</sup>.

**Notes for Other non-notifiable crimes**

1. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way offences (that is, offences which could be tried at a Crown Court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by magistrates' courts). Appendix 1 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police.

2. The latest figures available from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) relate to all offences for the year ending March 2015 and thus lag the CSEW and police recorded series by 3 months but are included to give a fuller picture.
3. Figures from the MoJ's [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to March 2015](#) (Tables 1.2, 2.1, 3.4).
4. Figures from the Home Office's [Police Powers and Procedures 2013/14](#) publication.

## Commercial Victimization Survey

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

The 2014 Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS)<sup>1</sup> provided information on the volume and type of crime committed against business premises in England and Wales across 3 sectors: "Wholesale and retail"; "Accommodation and food"; and "Agriculture, forestry and fishing". Between them, these 3 sectors accounted for just under a third of all business premises in England and Wales in 2014.

The 2013 and 2012 CVS's covered a slightly different set of business sectors. For 2013<sup>2</sup> the same sectors as 2014 were covered with the addition of "Arts, entertainment and recreation". The 2012<sup>3</sup> CVS also included "Wholesale and retail"; "Accommodation and food"; and additionally "Manufacturing"; and "Transportation and storage".

Headline figures for the number of crimes against businesses premises in the sectors covered by the CVS are included in this bulletin.

In the 2014 CVS there were an estimated total of 4,123,000 crimes experienced by business premises in the wholesale and retail sector. The apparent decrease of 30% compared with the 2013 CVS (5,915,000 crimes) was not statistically significant. However, comparing the 2014 CVS with the 2012 CVS there was a 47% statistically significant decrease. Between the 2012 and 2014 surveys estimated levels of shoplifting and burglary showed statistically significant decreases.

In the accommodation and food sector, the 2014 CVS estimated a total of 565,000 crimes against premises. The apparent 2% fall compared with the 2013 CVS (575,000 crimes) was not statistically significant. However, comparing the 2014 CVS with the 2012 CVS (985,000 crimes) there was a 43% statistically significant decrease over this time period. Between the 2012 and 2014 surveys estimated levels of theft and burglary showed statistically significant decreases.

In the 2014 CVS there were an estimated total of 95,000 crimes experienced by business premises in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. The apparent decrease of 29% compared with the 2013 CVS (133,000 crimes) was not statistically significant. This sector was not included in the 2012 CVS.

Of the 3 sectors surveyed in 2014, the highest levels of victimisation were seen for "Wholesale and retail" premises (41% of premises experienced crime) and victimisation was least prevalent in "Agriculture, forestry and fishing" premises (26% of premises experienced crime in the 2014 CVS).

**Table 29: Crime experienced by businesses, by industry sector, 2012, 2013 and 2014 CVS [1]**

England and Wales

	All CVS crime <sup>2</sup> (numbers of incidents, 000s)	All CVS crime (rate per 1,000 premises)	All CVS crime (% of premises that experienced crime)
<b>2012</b>			
Wholesale and retail	7,708	19,701	53
Accommodation and food	985	7,361	43
Transportation and storage	324	5,824	40
Manufacturing	164	1,500	30
<b>2013</b>			
Wholesale and retail	5,915	17,261	45
Accommodation and food	575	4,565	42
Arts, entertainment and recreation	196	4,660	45
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	133	1,475	30
<b>2014</b>			
Wholesale and retail	4,123	13,070	41
Accommodation and food	565	4,677	37
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	95	1,131	26

**Table notes:**

1. Source: 2012, 2013 and 2014 Commercial Victimisation Survey, Home Office
2. Data may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

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(146.5 Kb)

## Notes for Commercial Victimisation Survey

1. The Home Office's 2014 findings: [Crimes against businesses: Findings from the 2014 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#).
2. The Home Office's 2013 findings: [Headline findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#) and [Detailed findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#).
3. The Home Office 2012 findings: [Headline findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#) and [Detailed findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimisation Survey](#).

## Data sources – coverage and coherence

### Crime Survey for England and Wales

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

The information collected during the interview is later reviewed by a team of specialist coders employed by the survey contractors (currently TNS-BMRB) who determine whether or not what was reported amounts to a crime in law and, if so, what offence has been experienced. This "offence coding" aims to reflect the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime that govern how the police record offences reported to them. The CSEW is able to capture all offences experienced by those interviewed, not just those that have been reported to, and recorded by, the police. It covers a broad range of victim-based crimes experienced by the resident household population. However, there are some serious, but relatively low volume offences, such as homicide and sexual offences, which are not included in its main estimates. The survey also currently excludes fraud and cyber crime, though there is ongoing development work to address this gap, as described in the recently published methodological note [Update – Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime \(113.5 Kb Pdf\)](#). This [infographic](#) sets out what is and is not covered by the CSEW.

Since it began, the CSEW has been conducted by an independent (from government or the police) survey research organisation using trained interviewers to collect data from sampled respondents. The interviewers have no vested interest in the results of the survey. For the crime types and population groups it covers, the CSEW has a consistent methodology and is unaffected by changes

in levels of public reporting to the police, recording practice or police activity. As such, the survey is widely seen to operate as an independent reality-check of the police figures. The independence of the survey has been further strengthened by the transfer of responsibility from the Home Office to ONS in April 2012.

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

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

Since the survey started in 1982 (covering crime experienced in 1981) a core module of victimisation questions has asked about a range of offences experienced either by the household (such as burglary) or by the individual respondent (such as robbery). The methodologies employed have remained unchanged since the survey started enabling a consistent measure of crimes committed against individuals to be created over the last 30 years. One such methodology involves the estimates only including the first 5 incidents in any series of repeat crimes (known as capping) in order to ensure that estimates are not affected by respondents who report an extremely high number of crimes which may be variable between years. With recent attention placed on where the cap currently sits<sup>2</sup> (with only the first 5 incidents included), we have initiated a programme of work to investigate the effect of capping on a range of crime types and whether increasing the cap (or removing it entirely) would improve the estimates. Further information on the programme of work being conducted by ONS in relation to capping is available in the methodological note '[High frequency repeat victimisation in the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(100.1 Kb Pdf\)](#)'.

Offences such as fraud, cyber attacks, and online harassment have not traditionally been part of the core modules on the CSEW. Recent development work by ONS has led to the inclusion of new questions on the survey from April 2015 which will in future publications enable the CSEW to measure and understand the nature of these newer types of crime. Further information and details of the timetable by which ONS plan to publish these estimates can be found in the methodological note '[Update – Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime](#)' (113.5 Kb Pdf).

Since the survey is based on a sample of the population, estimates have a margin of quantifiable error associated with them. Non-quantifiable includes:

- when respondents have recalled crimes in the reference period that actually occurred outside that period ("telescoping")
- crimes that did occur in the reference period that were not mentioned at all (either because respondents failed to recall a fairly trivial incident or, conversely, because they did not want to disclose an incident, such as a domestic assault)

- respondents saying they reported a crime to the police when they did not (a "socially desirable" response)
- some incidents reported during the interview being miscoded ("interviewer/coder error")

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

The CSEW has a nationally representative sample of around 35,000 adults and 3,000 children (aged 10 to 15 years) per year. The response rates for the survey in 2014/15 were 70% for adults and 60% for children. The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and to ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. The [CSEW technical report](#) has more details of the methodology.

### **Police recorded crime and other sources of crime statistics**

Police recorded crime figures are supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police, via the Home Office, to ONS. The coverage of police recorded crime is defined by the Notifiable Offence List<sup>3</sup>, which includes a broad range of offences, from murder to minor criminal damage, theft and public order offences. However, there are some, mainly less serious offences, that are excluded from the recorded crime collection. These 'non-notifiable' crimes include many incidents that might generally be considered to be anti-social behaviour, but that may also be crimes in law (including by-laws) such as littering, begging and drunkenness. Other non-notifiable offences include driving under the influence of alcohol, parking offences and TV licence evasion. These offences are not covered in either of the main 2 series and are separately reported on in this release to provide additional context.

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

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

This quarterly statistical bulletin also draws on data from other sources to provide a more comprehensive picture. These include incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police (which fall outside the coverage of notifiable offences), non-notifiable crimes dealt with by the courts

(also outside the coverage of recorded crime or the CSEW), crime reports from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and the results of the Commercial Victimization Surveys (based on a nationally representative sample of business premises in selected sectors each year).

More details of these sources can be found in the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#). Information on UK and international comparisons can be found in the 'International and UK comparisons' section of this bulletin.

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



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## Survey for England and Wales

### Strengths

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

Consistent methodology over time

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

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

Independent collection of crime figures

### Limitations

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

Excludes crimes against businesses and those not resident in households (for example, residents of institutions and visitors)

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

Excludes fraud and cyber crime

## Police recorded crime

### Strengths

Has wider offence coverage and population coverage than the CSEW

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

The primary source of local crime statistics and for lower-volume crimes (for example, homicide)

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

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

### Limitations

Excludes offences that are not reported to, or not recorded by, the police and does not include less serious offences dealt with by magistrates' courts (for example, motoring offences)

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

Not possible to make long-term comparisons due to fundamental changes in recording practice introduced in 1998 and the year ending March 2003<sup>4</sup>

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

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## Notes for Data sources – coverage and coherence

1. [Focus on: Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14](#) has more detailed information.
2. For example, the article '[Official Statistics Mask Extent of Domestic Violence in the UK](#)' authored by Professor Sylvia Walby, published on The Conversation, 15 June 2015.

3. The Notifiable Offence List includes all indictable and triable-either-way offences (offences that could be tried at a crown court) and a few additional closely related summary offences (which would be dealt with by magistrates' courts). Appendix 1 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more information on the classifications used for notifiable crimes recorded by the police.
4. Section 3.3 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has more information.

## Accuracy of the Statistics

Being based on a sample survey, Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates are subject to a margin of error. Unless stated otherwise, all changes in CSEW estimates described in the main text are statistically significant at the 5% level. Since the CSEW estimates are based on a sample survey, it is good practice to publish confidence intervals alongside them; these provide a measure of the reliability of the estimates. Details of where these are published, including further information on statistical significance can be found in Chapter 8 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).

Police recorded crime figures are a by-product of a live administrative system that is continually being updated as incidents are logged as crimes and subsequently investigated. Some incidents initially recorded as crime may, on further investigation, be found not to be a crime (described as being "no crimed"). Other justifications for a previously recorded crime being "no crimed" include, an incident being recorded in error, or transferred to another force. Some offences may change category, for example from theft to robbery (Section 3.2 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#) has further details of the process involved from recording a crime to the production of statistics). The police return provisional figures to the Home Office on a monthly basis and each month they may supply revised totals for previously supplied months. The Home Office Statistics Unit undertake a series of validation checks on receipt of the data and query outliers with forces who may then re-submit data. Details of these validation checks are given in Section 3.3 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#), and the differences in data published between the current and preceding publications can be found in [Table QT1a \(238 Kb Excel sheet\)](#).

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

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

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

However, both the UK Statistics Authority (2010) and the National Statistician ([2011](#)) have highlighted concerns about the absence of such periodic audits. A HMIC quality review in 2009 into the way in which police forces record the most serious violence (which at the time was part of a central government target) found some variation in recording, which they partly attributed to the

lack of independent monitoring of crime records. In line with a recommendation by the National Statistician, HMIC carried out a review of police crime and incident reports in all forces in England and Wales during 2011 ([HMIC, 2012 - The Crime scene: A review of police crime and incident reports](#)) and a full national inspection of crime data integrity was undertaken during 2014 ([HMIC, 2014 - Crime -recording: making the victim count](#)).

ONS analysis published in January 2013 used a "comparable" sub-set of offences covered by both the CSEW and police recorded crime in order to compare the relationship between the 2 series. This analysis showed that between the years ending March 2003 and 2007 the reduction in the volume of crime measured by the 2 series was similar, but between the years ending March 2007 and 2012 the gap between the 2 series widened, with the police recorded crime series showing a faster rate of reduction. A possible explanation for this is a gradual erosion of compliance with the NCRS, such that a growing number of crimes reported to the police were not being captured in crime recording systems. The [Analysis of Variation in Crime trends](#) methodological note has more details.

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

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

HMIC's inspection methodology involved audits of a sample of reports of crime received either through incidents reported by the public, crimes directly reported to a police crime bureau, and those reports referred by other agencies directly to specialist departments within a force. HMIC's aim was to check whether correct crime recording decisions were made in each case. Inspections were carried out between December 2013 and August 2014; a total of 10,267 reports of crime recorded between November 2012 and October 2013 across all 43 police forces in England and Wales were reviewed.

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

Based on an audit of a large sample of records, HMIC concluded that, across England and Wales as a whole, an estimated 1 in 5 offences (19%) that should have been recorded as crimes were not. The greatest levels of under-recording were seen for violence against the person offences (33%) and sexual offences (26%). However, there was considerable variation in the level of under-recording across the different offence types investigated. For other crime types: an estimated 14% of criminal damage and arson offences that should have been recorded as crimes were not; 14% of robbery offences; 11% of burglary offences; and 17% of other offences (excluding fraud).

The final [HMIC report - Crime -recording:making the victim count](#) outlines several recommendations to strengthen recording practices in forces including improved training for those involved in crime

recording, better auditing and tightening of recording processes. More detail can be found in the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#).

Current increases seen in both certain crime types in police recorded crime data, and across various police forces, are likely to be influenced by the implementation of the HMIC recommendations. As a result these trends should be interpreted with caution.

Further evidence suggesting that there has been a recent improvement in compliance with the NCRS can be seen from updated analysis comparing trends in the CSEW and police recorded crime (presented in Section 4.2 of the [User Guide \(1.36 Mb Pdf\)](#)). This shows that the gap between the 2 series is narrowing; suggesting that improvements to recording practices may be partly responsible for increases in recorded crime.

### **Interpreting data on police recorded crime**

The renewed focus on the quality of crime recording means that caution is needed when interpreting statistics on police recorded crime. While we know that it is likely that improvements in compliance with the NCRS have led to increases in the number of crimes recorded by the police it is not possible to quantify the scale of this, or assess how this effect varied between different police forces. Police recorded crime for England and Wales as a whole has increased by 5% when compared with the previous year, and 34 police forces have recorded overall increases in levels of crime.

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

It is thought that incidents of violence are more open to subjective judgements about recording and thus more prone to changes in police practice. A number of forces have also shown large increases in sexual offences, which are likely to be due to the "Yewtree effect", although improved compliance with recording standards for sexual offences is also likely to have been a factor.

### **Users of Crime Statistics**

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

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

From November 2014 to January 2015 we conducted a user engagement exercise to help assess the extent to which police recorded crime statistics meet users' needs in light of concerns over the quality of the data raised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in its recent report [Crime Recording: making the victim count](#). We asked users if the findings would affect how people

used the data, and how we might improve the statistics to better meet user needs. Feedback from users who took part indicated that:

- the majority will continue to use Police Recorded Crime Statistics, despite some concerns over their accuracy
- many said that it was now more important to continue to have clear commentary in statistical bulletins to highlight the limitations of the data
- many said they would use the data more cautiously in future and apply more caveats
- the majority used Police Recorded Crime data, because it is the best source available or the only data that fulfils their purpose
- the majority thought it was very important or fairly important to have an improved level of accuracy for them to continue using the statistics

A fuller report detailing [responses to the user engagement exercise](#) was published in May 2015.

## International and UK comparisons

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

### Crimes recorded by the police

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

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

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

However, there are differences between the respective counting rules. For example, the "Principal Crime Rule" in England and Wales states that if a sequence of crimes in an incident, or alternatively a complex crime, contains more than 1 crime type, then the most serious crime should be counted.

For example, an incident where an intruder breaks into a home and assaults the sole occupant would be recorded as 2 crimes in Scotland, while in England and Wales it would be recorded as 1 crime.

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

### **Victimisation surveys**

A number of countries run their own national victimisation surveys and they all broadly follow a similar model to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in attempting to obtain information from a representative sample of the population resident in households about their experience of criminal victimisation. The US National Crime and Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the longest running, established in 1973 and there are similar surveys in other countries including Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand. However, while these surveys have a similar objective they are not conducted using a standard methodology. Sampling (frames and of households or individuals) and modes of interview (for example face-to-face interviewing, telephone interviewing, self-completion via the web) differ, as do the crime reference periods (last 5 years, last 12 months, last calendar year) over which respondents are asked about their victimisation experience. Similarly, there is a lack of standardisation in question wording and order. Response rates vary considerably across the world, as do methods to adjust for any resulting possible non-response bias; therefore, it becomes extremely difficult to make valid comparisons between the surveys.

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

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

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

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) closely mirrors the format and content of the CSEW, using a very similar methodology with continuous interviewing and a face-to-face interview with a nationally representative sample of adults (16 years and over), using a similar set of questions. Therefore, results from the 2 surveys are broadly comparable.



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

## List of products

The following are associated with the production of crime statistics:

1. [Crime statistics publications on the Home Office website](#)
2. [Historic police recorded crime](#)
3. [National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics](#)
4. [Previous quarterly publication](#)
5. [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#)
6. [Guide to Finding Crime Statistics](#)
7. [2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales Technical Report Volume 1 \(839.6 Kb Pdf\)](#)
8. [Analysis of variation in crime trends \(methodological note\) \(175.4 Kb Pdf\)](#)
9. [Future Dissemination Strategy – Summary of Responses](#)
10. [Methodological note: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales \(103.7 Kb Pdf\)](#)
11. [Methodological note: Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(176.2 Kb Pdf\)](#)
12. [Update – Extending the CSEW to include fraud and cyber crime \(methodological note\) \(113.5 Kb Pdf\)](#)
13. [‘An overview of hate crime in England and Wales’](#) (published 17 December 2013)
14. [‘Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2013/14’](#) (published 12 February 2015)
15. [‘Focus on Public Perceptions of Crime and the Police, and the Personal Well-being of Victims, 2013 to 2014’](#) (published 26 March 2015)
16. [‘Focus on Property Crime, 2013/14’](#) (published 27 November 2014)

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

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

In addition to these National Statistics releases, provisional police recorded crime data drawn from local management information systems sit behind, street level figures released each month, via [Police recorded crime, street level mapping tool](#).

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

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

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## Background notes

1. The Crime in England and Wales quarterly releases are produced in partnership with the Home Office who collate and quality assure the police recorded crime data presented in the bulletins. Home Office colleagues also quality assurance the overall content of the bulletin.
2. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
3. Next quarterly publication - 21 January 2016

Future thematic report due to be published: Focus on Property Crime, 2014/15 – 26 November 2015.

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

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

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

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

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

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