

Statistical bulletin

Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2019

Crime against households and adults, also including data on crime experienced by children, and crimes against businesses and society.



Contact:
Meghan Elkin
crimestatistics@ons.gov.uk
+44 (0)20 7592 8695

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1 . Main points

Following a long-term reduction, levels of crime have remained broadly stable in recent years. While in the latest year there has been no change in overall levels of crime, this hides variation seen in individual crime types.

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) show continued rises in overall fraud, with a 9% increase in the year ending September 2019, driven by a rise in “bank and credit account fraud”. All other main crime types measured by the CSEW showed no change, including lower-harm violent offences (for example, violence without injury and assault with minor injury).

Police recorded crime data give more insight into the lower-volume but higher-harm violence that the survey either does not cover or does not capture well.

Police recorded crime data are not a National Statistic, however, they provide a good measure of the crime-related demand on the police but not a reliable measure of all crime. In addition, data for Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have not been included in this release because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems. Any total police recorded crime data refer to England and Wales excluding GMP. For further information see [Strengths and limitations](#).

For the year ending September 2019 in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police) these data show:

- a 6% decrease in the overall number of homicides following a period of increases
- no percentage change in the number of police recorded offences involving firearms
- a 7% increase in the number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments

Many of these lower-volume, higher-harm types of violence tend to be concentrated in metropolitan areas such as London, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

While the total number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments in England and Wales (excluding GMP) increased by 7%, there was a mixed picture across police forces. For example, there has been little change in London and a decrease in West Yorkshire. In addition, the number of homicides where a knife or sharp instrument was involved decreased by 20%. This decrease was mainly driven by falls in London.

Although the most recent estimate of theft offences measured by the CSEW showed no change in the latest year, there was an 8% increase when compared with the year ending March 2017. While the CSEW provides the better indication of overall trends in theft offences, police recorded crime data can help identify short-term changes in individual offences that are thought to be well-reported and relatively well-recorded by the police. In the latest year these data show a mixed picture with:

- a 4% increase in vehicle offences, which includes a 5% rise in the subcategory of “theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle”
- a 12% increase in robbery
- a 4% decrease in burglary

Statistician's comment

Commenting on today's figures, Helen Ross from the Office for National Statistics Centre for Crime and Justice said:

"In the last year there has been no change in overall levels of crime, however, this hides variations in different types of crime. For example, there have been continued rises in fraud, vehicle offences and robbery, and decreases in burglary and homicide.

"Although the number of offences involving a knife has continued to increase, there is a mixed picture across police forces and overall levels of violence remain steady. We have also seen the number of homicides where a knife or sharp instrument was used decrease by a fifth, driven by falls in London."

2 . Overall estimates of crime

Figure 1: Following long-term falls since the mid-1990s crime estimated by the survey has not changed in recent years

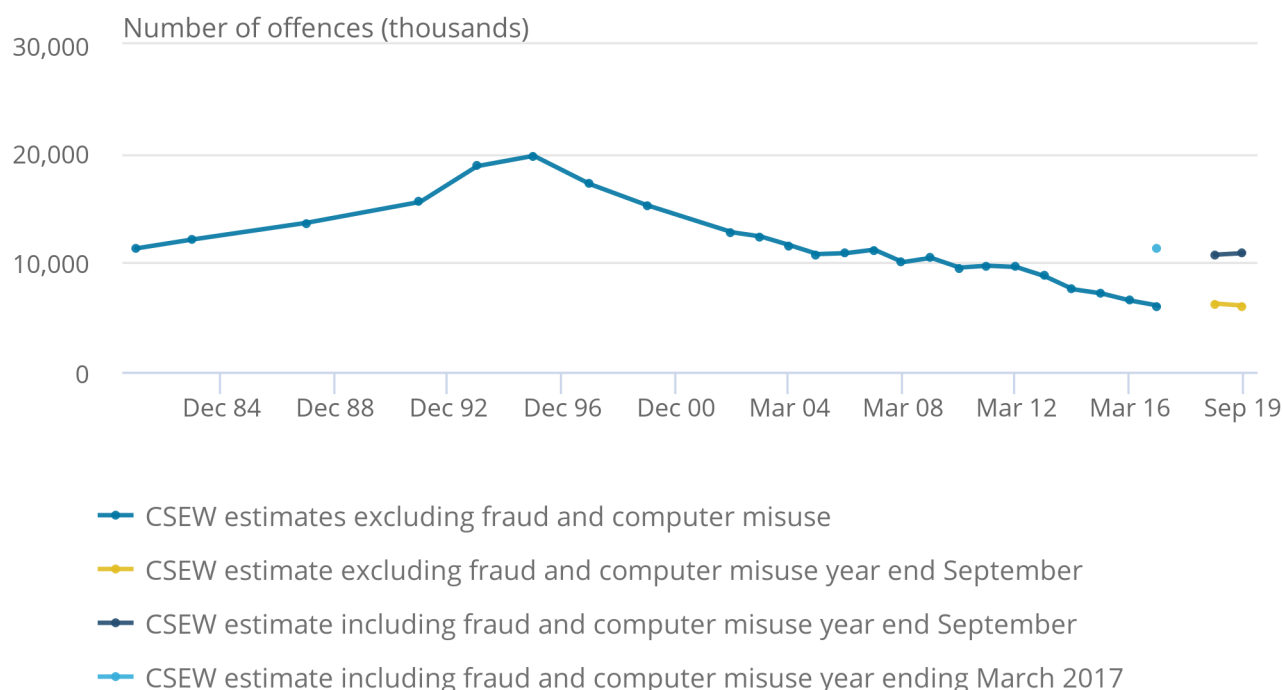
England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending September 2019

Figure 1: Following long-term falls since the mid-1990s crime estimated by the survey has not changed in recent years

Rises in crime levels during the 90s were mainly because of increases in violence, vehicle crime and burglary.

Estimates both including falls in excluding levels and come over recent years followed no significant change from the last year.

England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending September 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales

Notes:

1. CSEW data relate to adults aged 16 years and over.
2. New victimisation questions on fraud and computer misuse were added to the CSEW from October 2015. The questions were asked of half the survey sample initially and have been asked of the full sample since October 2017. These offences need to be excluded when looking at changes over the long-term to make figures comparable.

This bulletin reports on two main sources of crime data; the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime. For further information on these sources see [Measuring this data](#) and [Strengths and limitations](#).

The CSEW estimated that over 10.9 million offences¹ were experienced by adults aged 16 years and over in the year ending September 2019. The CSEW also measures the prevalence of crime, with the latest estimates showing that 8 in 10 adults did not experience any of the crimes asked about in the survey in the previous 12 months.²

There have been no statistically significant changes in total CSEW crime over the last two years. However, it is important to look at individual crime types as the relatively stable overall picture hides variation both within and across crime types.

Improvements to recording processes and practices by the police have made substantial contributions to rises in recorded crime over the last five years. This effect has been more pronounced for some crime types, and for many types of offence, these figures do not provide reliable trends in crime.

The police recorded 5.8 million crimes in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police)³ in the year ending September 2019. These data provide a good measure of the crime-related demand on the police but are not a measure of all crime and should not be used to measure changes in the level of crime. Rises seen over recent years indicate a different trend to the CSEW, and reflect a combination of factors, including continuing improvements to police recording processes and practices, more victims reporting crime, and genuine increases in some types of crime.

For the latest headline figures relating to CSEW and police recorded crime, and for detailed figures including time series see [Appendix tables](#).

For a more detailed commentary of both CSEW and police recorded crime see our annual [Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2019](#) bulletin.

Figure 2: Overview of the main crime types

England and Wales, year ending September 2019

Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales, Home Office - Police recorded crime

Notes:

1. Data on violence, theft, fraud and computer misuse are from the Crime Survey for England and Wales and relate to adults aged 16 years and over.
2. Data on homicide, knife or sharp instruments, burglary, vehicle offences and robbery are from police recorded crime.
3. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
4. Police recorded crime data for the year ending September 2019 exclude Greater Manchester Police (GMP).
5. Data on knife or sharp instrument offences exclude GMP for the whole timeseries back to the year ending March 2011.
6. No change indicates no significant change in the last year.

Notes for: Overall estimates of crime

1. For more details about what is covered in the CSEW, see [Strengths and limitations](#).
2. This figure excludes domestic abuse and sexual assault measured by the self-completion module of the survey. Any domestic violence reported in the face-to-face interview is included.
3. Police recorded crime data for Greater Manchester Police are not included in this release because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems.

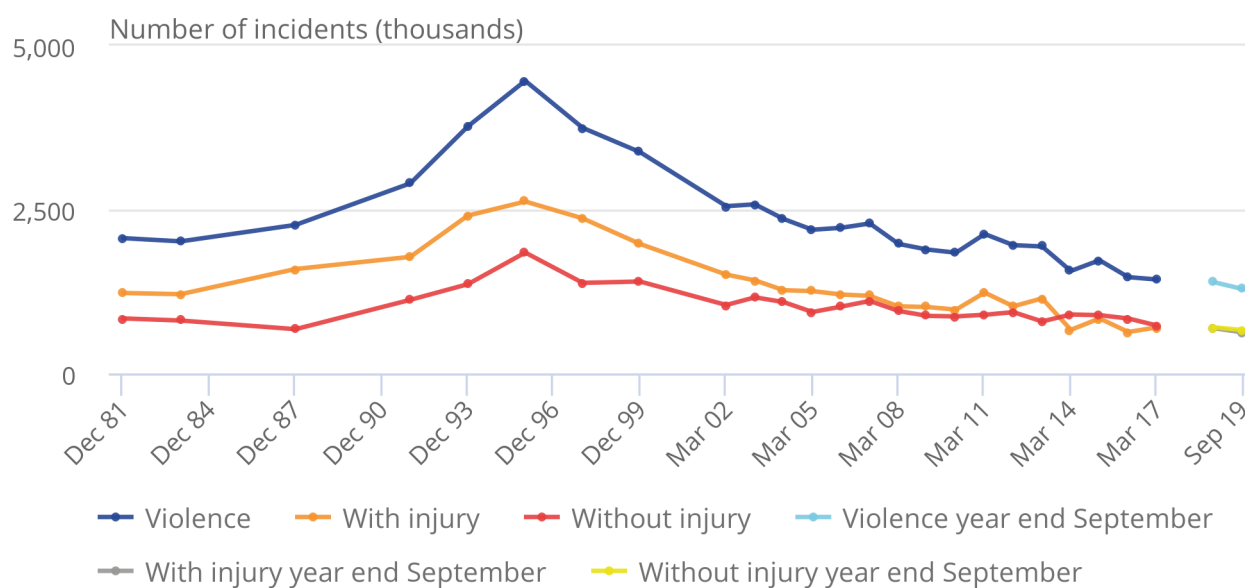
3 . Violent crime

Figure 3: Crime Survey for England and Wales shows long-term reductions in violent crime but little change in recent years

England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending September 2019

Figure 3: Crime Survey for England and Wales shows long-term reductions in violent crime but little change in recent years. After a long-term downward trend, compared with last year, in recent years there has been little change in the number of violent crime incidents. CSEW estimates for violent crime show a long-term downward trend, but little change in recent years.

England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending September 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales

Notes:

1. CSEW data relate to adults aged 16 years and over.

For the offences and population that it covers, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best measure of trends for overall violent crime; particularly for the more common but less harmful offences (for example, assault with minor injury).

There were 1.3 million incidents of violence estimated by the CSEW for the year ending September 2019. This figure has not changed significantly since the year ending March 2015, continuing the relatively stable trend seen in recent years.

The longer-term reductions in CSEW violent crime are reflected in research conducted by the [Violence Research Group at Cardiff University \(PDF, 652KB\)](#), and also in [admissions data for NHS hospitals](#)¹ in England.

For more detailed figures relating to violent crime including time series see [Appendix tables](#).

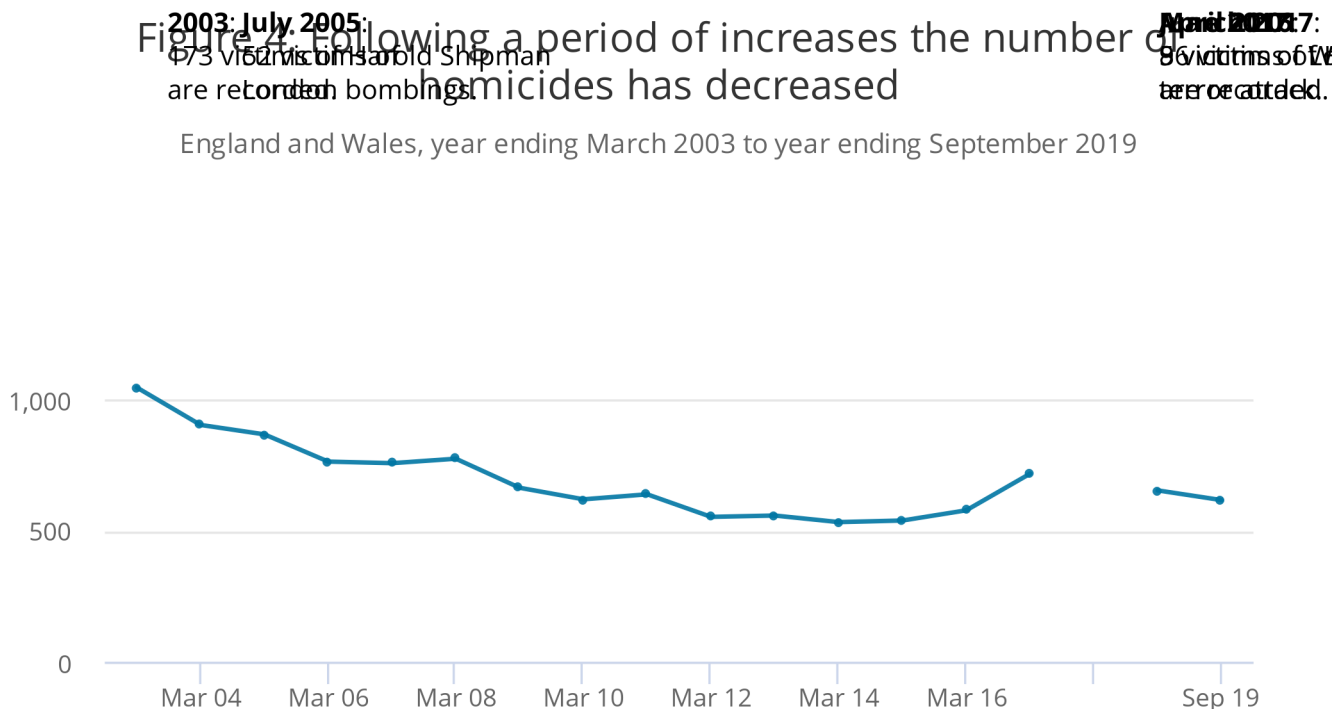
Notes for: Violent crime

1. Please see the “External causes” datasets within [Hospital Admitted Patient Care Activity 2018-19](#) for assault admissions.

4 . Homicide

Figure 4: Following a period of increases the number of homicides has decreased

England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending September 2019



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Some forces have revised their data and police recorded crime totals may not agree with those previously published.
3. The dates shown for the London terrorist attacks in 2005 and 2017 correspond to when the events occurred, rather than when the homicides were recorded by the police.
4. The time series does not include data for July to September 2017. Full data are available in [Appendix table A4](#).
5. Data from Greater Manchester Police are not included for the years ending September 2018 and September 2019.

The police recorded 617 homicides¹ in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police)² in the year ending September 2019, a 6% fall (from 654) compared with the previous year. This includes a 7% decrease (from 138 to 129) recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service in the latest year. The rate of homicide in the population remains very low, at 11 per 1 million people.

The number of homicides where a knife or sharp instrument was involved decreased by 20% in the year ending September 2019 (to 221 offences). Of all recorded homicides in the latest year, 40% involved a knife or sharp instrument, a similar proportion to the previous year. The recent reduction in such offences was driven by falls seen in London, where the Metropolitan Police Service recorded a 18% reduction to 71 homicides involving a knife or sharp instrument compared with the previous 12 months. This figure was down from 87 recorded in the previous year but was higher than the 56 recorded in the year ending March 2017.

For the latest headline figures relating to homicide and more detailed figures including time series see [Appendix tables](#) and [Other related tables](#). For Police Force Area breakdowns see [Police Force Area data tables](#).

Notes for: Homicide

1. Homicide includes the offences of murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter and infanticide.
2. Police recorded crime data for Greater Manchester Police are not included in this release because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems.

5 . Knife or sharp instrument offences

Police recorded crime provides the best measure of higher-harm but less common types of violence, such as those involving a knife or sharp instrument.

Figures for the year ending September 2019 showed a 7% rise in offences involving knives or sharp instruments recorded by the police (to 44,771 offences).¹ This is 46% higher than when comparable recording began (year ending March 2011) and the highest on record.

Figures for offences involving knives or sharp instruments continue to exclude Greater Manchester Police as recent improvements to address previous undercounting of these offences mean their data are not comparable with earlier figures.

The change in the number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments in the latest year varied by police force. For example, looking at the three areas with the highest rate per 100,000 population:

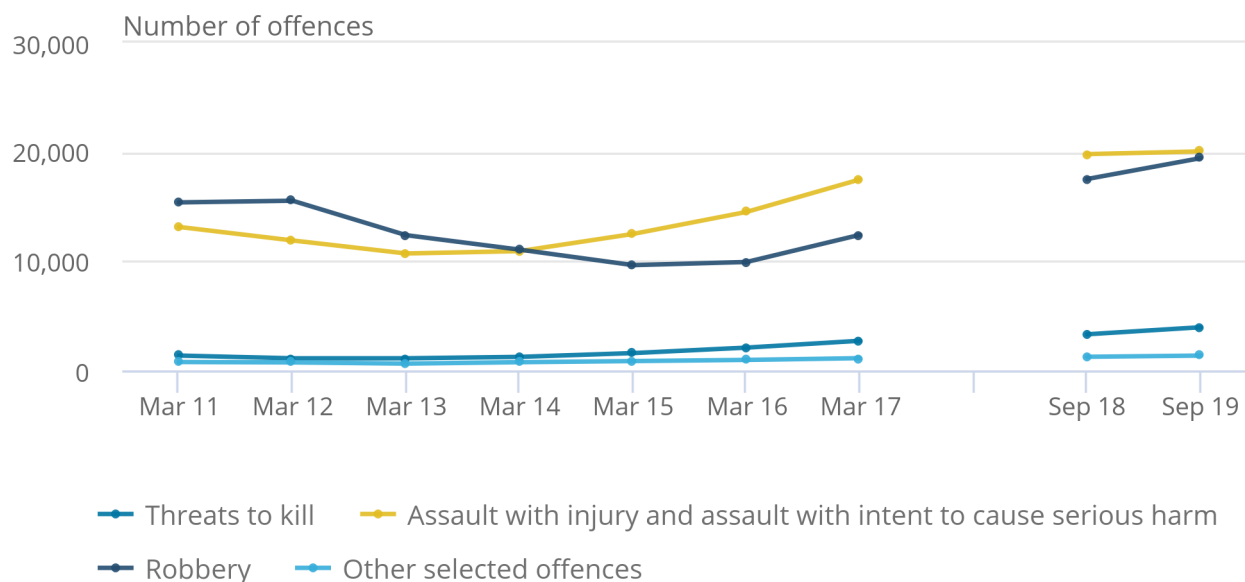
- London saw little change with a 2% increase (compared with a 7% rise in the previous year)
- West Yorkshire saw a decrease of 8%
- West Midlands saw an increase of 17%

Figure 5: Rising trend in crimes involving knives or sharp instruments driven by increase in robberies

England and Wales, year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2019

Figure 5: Rising trend in crimes involving knives or sharp instruments driven by increase in robberies

England and Wales, year ending March 2011 to year ending September 2019



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Data from Greater Manchester Police are excluded to allow for comparison over time. See [Strengths and limitations](#) for more details.
3. Police recorded knife or sharp instrument offences data are submitted via a special collection.
4. Other selected offences include rape, attempted murder, homicide and sexual assault.

In the latest year, the offence “assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm” accounted for almost half of all offences involving a knife or sharp instrument (45% or 20,044 offences). Robberies accounted for a further 43% (19,431 offences).

Knife or sharp instrument offences continue to be concentrated in metropolitan areas with around a third (34%) of all offences recorded by the police across England and Wales in London. The highest rate was seen in London (169 offences per 100,000 population), compared with an England and Wales average of 80 offences per 100,000 population.

Other sources of data can help to provide insight into offences involving knives or sharp instruments. For example, the latest available provisional [admissions data for NHS hospitals](#) in England reported 5,069 admissions for assault by a sharp object between April 2018 and March 2019. This is, an increase of 2% compared with the previous year.

Police recorded “possession of an article with a blade or point”² offences also rose by 17%, to 21,563 offences in the year ending September 2019. Trends in this offence can often be influenced by increases in targeted police action, such as increases in stop and searches, which are most likely to occur at times when rises in offences involving knives are seen. Data related to stop and searches can be found in the Home Office publication [Police powers and procedures](#).

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publish figures on [knife and offensive weapon sentencing](#) for England and Wales. The latest published figures show that the criminal justice system formally dealt with the highest number of knife and offensive weapon offences since 2009. While these figures are not directly comparable with those presented in this bulletin, they do reflect the increases seen in police figures.

For data relating to offences involving knives or sharp instruments see [Other related tables](#), for geographic breakdowns see [Police Force Area data tables](#) and for sharp instrument homicides see [Appendix tables: homicide in England and Wales](#).

Notes for: Knife or sharp instrument offences

1. Police recorded crime data for Greater Manchester Police are not included in this release because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems.
2. Offences of “possession of an article with a blade or point” are covered separately by a specific recorded crime category.

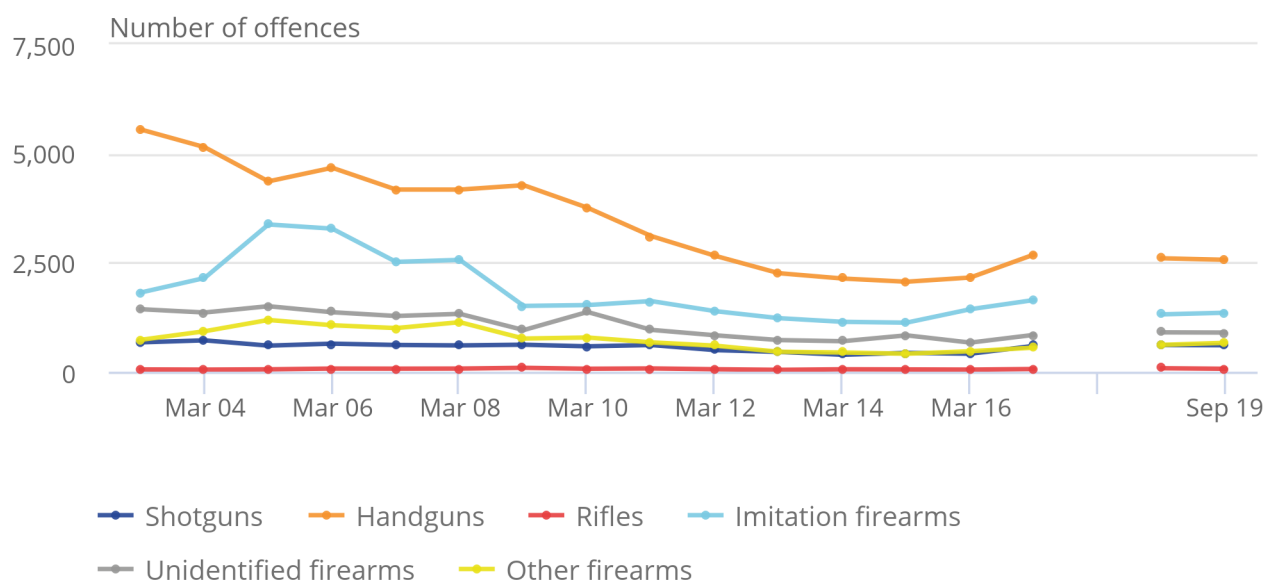
6 . Offences involving firearms

Figure 6: Following longer-term declines and more recent rises, crimes involving firearms show a similar picture to the previous year

England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending September 2019

Figure 6: Following longer-term declines and more recent rises, crimes involving firearms show a similar picture to the previous year

England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending September 2019



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Data are provisional and have not been reconciled with police forces.
3. Figures exclude conventional air weapons, such as air rifles.
4. Data from Greater Manchester Police are not included for the years ending September 2018 and September 2019.

There were 6,144 recorded offences involving firearms in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police)¹ in the year ending September 2019, a similar figure to the previous year (6,115 offences).

There were decreases seen in offences involving handguns and rifles (1% and 16% respectively). However, these decreases were balanced by increases in imitation firearms² and other firearms³ (3% and 8% respectively). For these less serious weapon types, it is likely that some of these increases reflect improvements in crime recording and that the police are now including these offences when previously they were being excluded.

Detailed data for the year ending March 2019 will be released in [Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#) in February 2020. For data relating to offences involving firearms see [Other related tables](#).

Notes for: Offences involving firearms

1. Police recorded crime data for Greater Manchester Police are not included in this release because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems.
2. Imitation firearms include replica weapons, as well as low-powered weapons which fire small plastic pellets, such as BB guns and soft air weapons.
3. Other firearms include CS gas or pepper spray, stun guns and other weapons.

7 . Other types of violence

For some types of crime, increases in the number of police recorded offences are largely because of recording improvements or more victims reporting, rather than a genuine rise in crime.

This effect is particularly pronounced for some types of violence; sexual offences, stalking and harassment, and offences flagged as domestic abuse-related.

Over the last seven years, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have published a range of inspections related to police forces' crime and incident recording practices. In 2014, [Crime recording: making the victim count](#) concluded that 33% of cases involving violence and 26% of sexual offences were not recorded by the police in England and Wales.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a better picture of the overall trend in violent crime and a more reliable measure of the long-term trends in sexual assault, stalking and harassment, and domestic abuse.

In the year ending March 2019, the CSEW, the latest data available, estimated that 2.1 million adults aged 16 to 59 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year (1.4 million women and 0.7 million men). There has been little change in the prevalence of domestic abuse in recent years. However, the cumulative effect of small year-on-year changes has resulted in a small, significantly lower prevalence for the year ending March 2019 (6.3%), compared with the year ending March 2005 (8.9%).

Estimates from the CSEW for the year ending March 2019 showed that 2.9% of adults aged 16 to 59 years had been victims of sexual assaults in the last year (including attempted offences). This estimate showed no significant change compared with the previous year (2.7%). Over the past five years, there has been a rise in the prevalence of sexual assault estimated by the survey, with the latest estimate returning to levels similar to those over a decade ago.

Sexual offences and domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police do not provide a reliable measure of trends in these types of crime. Improvements in police recording practices and increased reporting by victims are thought to have contributed to increases in recent years. The figures do, however, provide a good measure of the crime-related demand on the police.

In the year ending September 2019 in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police) ¹, there was an increase in the total number of domestic abuse-related offences (up 14% to 725,037) and the number of sexual offences recorded by the police (up 3% to 154,229) compared with the year ending September 2018. These increases are thought to reflect factors related to reporting and recording and do not provide a reliable indication of current trends.

Further information and data related to domestic abuse can be found in [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2019](#).

Data related to sexual offences can be found in [Sexual offending: victimisation and the path through the criminal justice system](#).

For more detailed figures relating to violent crime including a time series see [Appendix tables](#).

CSEW data on the prevalence of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking can be found Table S42 in [Annual supplementary tables](#).

For more information about HMICFRS and Inspections of police recorded crime and incident data quality see our [User guide](#).

Notes for: Other types of violence

1. Police recorded crime data for Greater Manchester Police are not included in this release because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems.

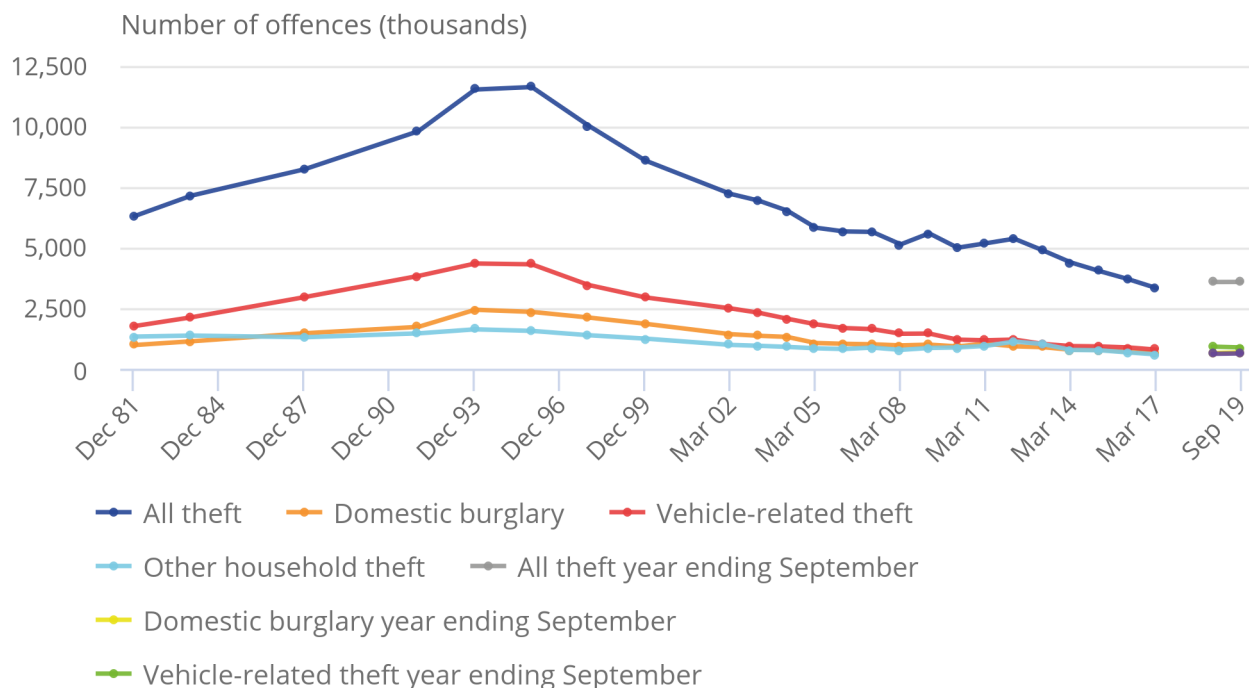
8 . Long-term trends in theft offences

Figure 7: No change in CSEW overall theft offences following long-term declines

England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending September 2019

Figure 7: No change in CSEW overall theft offences following long-term declines

England and Wales, year ending December 1981 to year ending September 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales

Notes:

1. CSEW data relate to adults aged 16 years and over and households.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is the most reliable indicator for long-term trends in the more common types of crime experienced by the general population, such as theft.

There were 3.6 million incidents of theft estimated by the CSEW for the survey year ending September 2019. Although there was no overall change in the number of theft offences compared with the previous year, there was an 8% increase in theft offences compared with the year ending March 2017 (3.3 million offences). It is too early to say whether this represents a change in the long-term downward trend.

For the latest headline figures relating to theft and for more detailed figures including time series see [Appendix tables](#). Additional demographic data from the CSEW related to theft can be found in [Property crime tables](#).

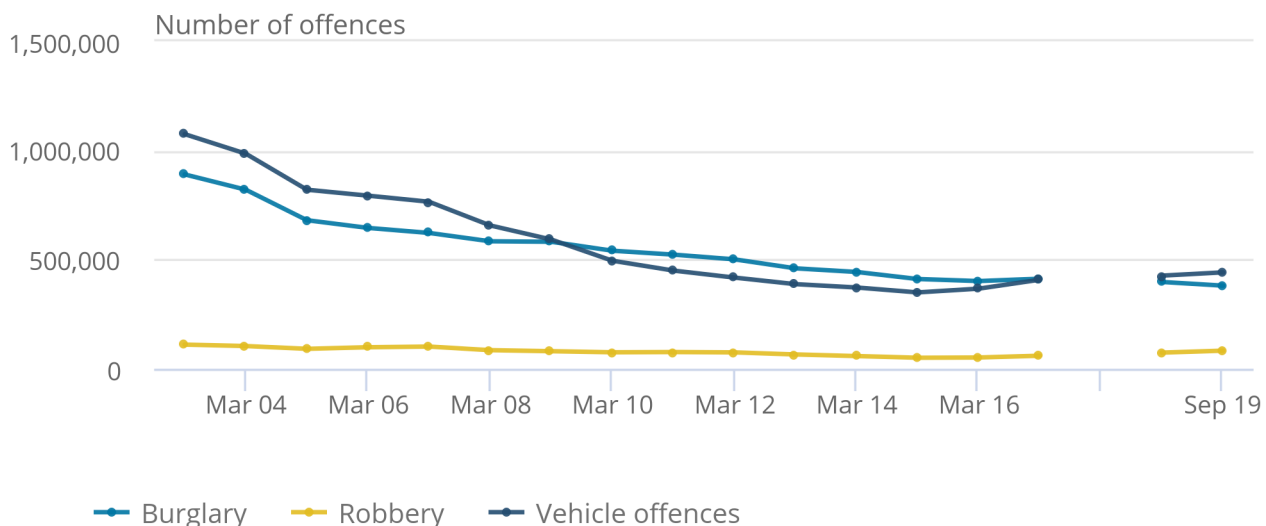
9 . Emerging trends in robbery and theft offences

Figure 8: Fall in police recorded burglary but rises in police recorded robbery and vehicle offences

England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending September 2019

Figure 8: Fall in police recorded burglary but rises in police recorded robbery and vehicle offences

England and Wales, year ending March 2003 to year ending September 2019



Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

Notes:

1. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.
2. Data from Greater Manchester Police are not included in the years ending September 2018 and September 2019.

Police recorded crime data can give reliable indications of trends in some offences involving theft. For example, domestic burglary and theft of a vehicle are less likely to be affected by the impact of recording improvements, as they are relatively well-reported to (and subsequently recorded by) the police.

Police recorded vehicle offences increased by 4% (to 441,351) in the year ending September 2019, continuing the rising trend seen over the last three years. The latest rise compares with an increase of 3% in the year ending September 2018 but is lower than seen in previous years.

Rises in police recorded robbery offences were evident for the fourth consecutive year, with an increase of 12% (to 82,542 offences) in the year ending September 2019 compared with the previous year. While recording improvements are likely to have contributed to the rise, some of the increase is likely to reflect a real change. Robbery is an acquisitive crime involving violence or the threat of violence that is more likely to be reported by the victim and recorded by the police than some other theft offences.

Figures for the year ending September 2019 show that the number of burglary offences recorded by the police decreased by 4% (to 380,567 offences). This is a larger decrease than the 1% decrease for the year ending September 2018. This contrasts with rises in police recorded burglary offences seen in recent years.

For the latest headline figures relating to burglary, robbery and vehicle theft and more detailed figures including time series see [Appendix tables](#).

10 . Criminal damage and arson

The overall volume of criminal damage in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has not changed over the last year (1 million offences). The subcategory “criminal damage to a vehicle” also shows no change following a period of decreases over the last 10 years. However, it is too early to say whether this is evidence of a change to the longer-term pattern. The latest figure (705,000 offences in the year ending September 2019) is less than half the volume it was in the year ending December 1995 (1.8 million offences).

Police recorded crime data show a 2% decrease in criminal damage and arson (to 531,662 offences) and a 7% fall in criminal damage to a vehicle (196,790 offences). The differences in criminal damage to a vehicle between the CSEW and police recorded crime could be partly explained by a relatively low reporting rate for this type of offence.

For the latest headline figures relating to criminal damage and more detailed figures including time series data see [Appendix tables](#).

Additional demographic data from the CSEW related to criminal damage can be found in [Property crime tables](#).

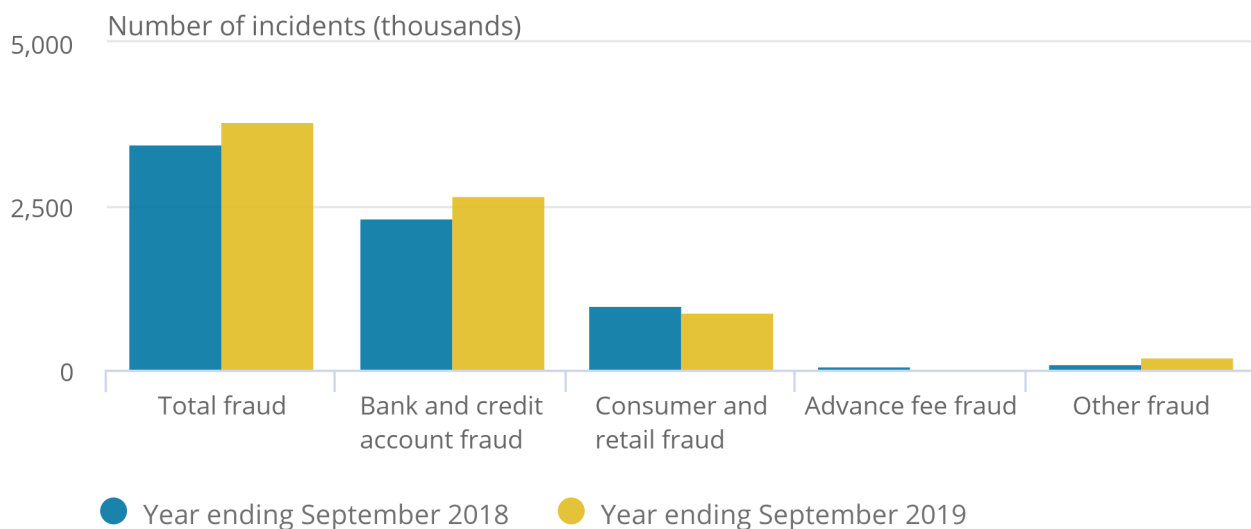
11 . Fraud

Figure 9: The latest increase in CSEW fraud is mainly driven by an increase in bank and credit account fraud

England and Wales, years ending September 2018 and 2019

Figure 9: The latest increase in CSEW fraud is mainly driven by an increase in bank and credit account fraud

England and Wales, years ending September 2018 and 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – Crime Survey for England and Wales

Notes:

1. CSEW data relate to adults aged 16 years and over

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best measure of fraud offences experienced by adults in England and Wales. In the year ending September 2019, the estimated number of fraud incidents increased by 9% (to 3.8 million offences) compared with the previous year. The latest increase was driven mainly by a 15% increase in “bank and credit account fraud” (to 2.7 million offences).

Fraud offences referred to the authorities make up a relatively small proportion of the overall volume of fraud. The CSEW captures a large volume of lower-harm cases that are less likely to have been reported to the authorities. Incidents of fraud referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) will include reports from businesses and other organisations, which are not included in the CSEW, and tend to mostly be focused on the more serious cases.

Reported fraud offences are recorded and collated by the NFIB from Action Fraud (the public-facing national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre) and two industry bodies, Cifas and UK Finance (who report instances of fraud where their member organisations have been a victim). Latest figures showed a 19% increase in the total number of fraud offences referred to the NFIB^{1,2} in the year ending September 2019 (743,413 offences) compared with the previous year (625,988 offences).

All three fraud reporting bodies: Action Fraud, Cifas, and UK Finance, reported increases in the latest year. Action Fraud reported a 14% rise (to 310,675 offences), Cifas reported a 19% rise (to 333,734 offences) and UK Finance reported a 32% rise (to 99,004 offences). These increases need to be interpreted in the context of differences in coverage and fraud types captured by each reporting body.

Additional fraud data collected by UK Finance provide a broader range of bank account and plastic card frauds than those referred for police investigation to the NFIB. In the latest year, UK Finance reported 2.8 million cases of frauds involving UK-issued payment cards, remote banking and cheques via CAMIS. This is an increase of 17% from the previous year, driven largely by a 17% rise in plastic card fraud and more specifically a 353,453 volume increase (19%) in the subcategory “remote purchase fraud”.

For the latest headline figures relating to fraud and for more detailed figures including time series data see [Appendix tables](#) and [Other related tables](#).

Notes for: Fraud

1. Cifas figures and any NFIB totals presented in this bulletin and accompanying data tables are based on provisional data provided by Cifas. For more information see footnote 4 in Table A5 of the [appendix tables](#).
2. The UK Finance figures and NFIB totals presented in this bulletin and accompanying data tables are supplemented by provisional data provided by UK Finance. For more information see footnote 9 in Table A5 of the [appendix tables](#).

12 . Computer misuse

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides the better indication of the volume of computer misuse offences experienced by the adult population as it captures incidents that go unreported to the police. This can be seen by the large difference in the volume of computer misuse offences between the two sources.

Just over a million offences were estimated by the CSEW in the year ending September 2019. This compares with 21,471 offences referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) by Action Fraud (the public-facing national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre). In addition, the two sources have different coverage, which means it is not possible to make meaningful comparisons between them.

In the year ending September 2019, the CSEW estimated that the volume of computer misuse offences did not change from the previous year. This is unlike previous years, which have shown a decline.

Variations within CSEW computer misuse are evident within the subcategories of “computer virus” and “unauthorised access to personal information (including hacking)”. However, the apparent increase in unauthorised access to personal information (22%, to 573,000 offences) and decrease in computer viruses (19%, to 433,000 offences) in the year ending September 2019 were not statistically significant.

All “computer misuse crime” referred to the NFIB by Action Fraud fell by 11% in the year ending September 2019 to 21,471 offences. This decrease follows consecutive rises in the previous two years, and the latest estimate remains 63% higher than in the year ending March 2016. The recent fall in computer misuse recorded by Action Fraud will, to some extent, have been affected by improvements to both internal case review processes and their online reporting tool. These changes took place in October 2018, resulting in some computer misuse offences now being more accurately classified as fraud offences.

For the latest headline figures relating to computer misuse and for more detailed figures see [Appendix tables](#) and [Other related tables](#).

13 . Crime data

[Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables](#)

Dataset | Released 23 January 2020

Trends in Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) crime experienced by adults and children aged 10 to 15 years and police recorded crime, by offence type. Also includes trends in offender relationship of CSEW violence.

[Crime in England and Wales: Other related tables](#)

Dataset | Released 23 January 2020

Data tables include those on firearms and knife and sharp instrument offences. The data contained in these tables are from four sources: Crime Survey for England and Wales, police recorded crime, fraud data from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and figures from the Ministry of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics.

[Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables](#)

Dataset | Released 23 January 2020

Data from police recorded crime. Shows the number of police recorded crimes, percentage change from previous year and rate per 1,000 population by offence group and knife and sharp instrument offences by Police Force Area.

[Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area](#)

Dataset | Released 23 January 2020

Recorded crime figures for Community Safety Partnership areas, which equate in the majority of instances to local authorities. Contains the number of offences for the last two years, percentage change between these two time periods and rates per 1,000 population for the latest year.

[Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables](#)

Dataset | Released 18 July 2019

Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) on perceptions of the police, criminal justice system, crime and anti-social behaviour. Also contains data on prevalence of intimate personal violence.

[Crime in England and Wales: Annual trend and demographic tables](#)

Dataset | Released 18 July 2019

Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showing breakdowns of victimisation over time and by various demographic characteristics.

14 . Glossary

Fraud

Fraud involves a person dishonestly and deliberately deceiving a victim for personal gain of property or money, or causing loss or risk of loss to another. The majority of incidents fall under the legal definition of “Fraud by false representation” – where a person makes a representation that they know to be untrue or misleading (for example, banking and payment card frauds and dating scams). The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates cover a broad range of fraud offences, including attempts involving a loss and incidents not reported to the authorities.

Knife and sharp instrument offences

An offence is recorded by the police as involving a knife or sharp instrument when the weapon is present during the offence or the threat is believed to be real. The weapon does not necessarily have to be used. These data are based on a special collection that includes the offences: homicide, attempted murder, threats to kill, assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm, robbery, rape, and sexual assault.

Offences involving firearms

Offences involving a firearm include those where a firearm is fired, used as a blunt instrument, or used as a threat. Firearms include: shotguns, handguns, rifles, imitation weapons such as BB guns or soft air weapons, other weapons such as CS gas, pepper spray and stun guns, and unidentified weapons. They exclude conventional air weapons, such as air rifles.

Overall theft offences

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) theft offences include all personal and household crime where items are stolen, including: theft from the person, other theft of personal property, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, and bicycle theft.

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. Mugging is an informal term for robbery. In this bulletin we use the term “robbery”.

Violent crime

Covers a range of offence types from minor assaults, such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. This includes offences where the victim was intentionally stabbed, punched, kicked, pushed or jostled, as well as offences where the victim was threatened with violence, regardless of injury.

More information and further definitions can be found in the “offence type” section of the [User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales](#).

15 . Measuring the data

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

The CSEW is a face-to-face victimisation survey, which asks people resident in households in England and Wales about their experiences of a selected range of offences in the 12 months prior to the interview.

Police recorded crime

Police recorded crime data are supplied to us by the Home Office, who are responsible for the collation of recorded crime data supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are supplied to the Home Office on a monthly basis in an aggregated return for each crime within the [notifiable offence list](#).

More information on both these sources can be found in the [User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales](#).

More quality and methodology information on strengths, limitations, appropriate uses, and how the data were created is available in the [Crime in England and Wales QMI](#).

16 . Strengths and limitations

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

The CSEW is a large nationally representative sample survey that has used a consistent methodology over time. The survey covers crimes not reported to the police and is not affected by changes in police recording practice; therefore, it is a reliable measure of long-term trends.

The CSEW does not cover 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). In addition, the survey is subject to error associated with sampling and respondents recalling past events. Potential time lag between occurrence of the crime and survey data collection means that the survey is not a good measure of emerging trends.

Police recorded crime

Police recorded crime has wider offence coverage and population coverage than the CSEW. It is the primary source of local crime statistics and is a good measure of offences that are well-reported to and well-recorded by the police, as well as lower volume crimes (for example, homicide). In addition, the time lag between occurrence of crime and reporting results tends to be short, providing an indication of emerging trends.

On the other hand, police recorded crime 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 as well as public reporting of crime, making it difficult to make long-term comparisons. There are also concerns about the quality of recording and that crime is not recorded consistently across police forces.

For some types of crime, because of ongoing changes in police recording practices, an increase in the number of offences recorded by the police is unlikely to indicate a real rise in these types of crime.

Police recorded crime data are not designated as [National Statistics](#). Details of concerns over the quality of these data are in the UK Statistics Authority [most recent assessment report](#).

Issues with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) recorded crime data

Following the implementation of a new IT system in July 2019, GMP have been unable to provide police recorded crime data for July, August and September 2019. This issue is ongoing and will also affect next quarter's data. In order to allow for accurate comparisons across the years, data for GMP have been excluded from all the police recorded crime data and tables presented in this bulletin for the years ending September 2019, March 2019, September 2018 and March 2018.

Data including GMP (excluding the months July, August and September 2019) are published by the Home Office in [Police recorded crime open data Police Force Area tables from year ending March 2013 onwards](#).

Data on offences involving knives or sharp instruments in England and Wales currently exclude GMP for the whole time series back to the year ending March 2011. In addition to the IT system implementation issue, which impacts data from July 2019 onwards, GMP data for previous time periods are affected by a separate technical issue. A review by GMP in December 2017 revealed an undercount of crimes involving a knife or sharp instrument. Following implementation of a subsequent methodological change in January 2018, data for GMP are not comparable over time.

17 . Related links

[Property crime tables](#)

Dataset | Released 23 January 2020

Annual data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and metal theft offences recorded by the police, including demographic and offence type breakdowns and time series data.

[Child abuse in England and Wales: January 2020](#)

Bulletin | Released 14 January 2020

Statistics and research on child abuse in England and Wales, bringing together a range of different data sources from across government and the voluntary sector.

[Sexual offending: victimisation and the path through the criminal justice system](#)

Article | Released 13 December 2018

An overview of sexual offending in England and Wales, using a range of National Statistics and official statistics from across the crime and criminal justice system.

[Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2019](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 November 2019

Figures on domestic abuse from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, police recorded crime and a number of different organisations.

[Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2018](#)

Article | Released 7 February 2019

Analyses of information held within the Home Office Homicide Index, which contains detailed record-level information about each homicide recorded by police in England and Wales.

[Offences involving the use of weapons: data tables](#)

Dataset | Released 7 February 2019

Data tables relating to offences involving weapons as recorded by police and hospital episode statistics for the year ending March 2018.

