

Crime Survey for England and Wales

Background

1. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (formerly British Crime Survey) asks people aged 16 and over living in households in England and Wales about their experiences of crime in the last 12 months. These experiences are used to estimate levels of crime in England and Wales. Until recently the survey did not cover crimes against those aged under 16, but since January 2009 it now includes children aged 10 to 15 years.
2. Respondents to the survey are asked about their attitudes to crime-related issues such as, the police, the criminal justice system, their perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. The results of the survey play an important role in informing government policy.
3. The survey provides a better reflection of the extent of household and personal crime than police recorded statistics because the survey includes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police. The survey is also a better indicator of long-term trends because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices.
4. It 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 that are not included in its main estimates.
5. The survey until very recently excluded fraud and cyber-crime however following the success of recent development work, new questions have been added to the survey from the beginning of October 2015 with initial estimates (based on three months data) beginning to appear in April 2016.
6. Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by the Home Office, who are responsible for the collation of recorded crime data supplied by police forces in England and Wales.

Latest Figures (July 14 to June 15)

1. 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 an 8% decrease compared with the previous year's survey, and the lowest estimate since the CSEW began in 1981.
2. This is in comparison to 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. This gives a crime rate of 74.2 crimes per 1000 population.
3. This shows that Stockton is lot lower than the national average with – 61 crimes per 1000 population despite 9% rise in crime.

4. The CSEW estimate for violent crime showed no significant change compared with the previous year's survey. This is in comparison to a rise in violence against the person offences recorded by the police (up by 25%). This was driven by increases within the violence without injury sub-group which was up 33% increase. Such offences are thought to be prone to changes in recording practice.
5. This percentage increase (25%) is a lot lower than that seen in Stockton – Violence against the person up by 37.2% and violence without injury up by 66%, or an additional 482 offences.
6. However, there were also increases in the more serious categories of police recorded violence including a 16% rise in violence with injury. This is a similar percentage increases to that experienced in Stockton (Up 16.9%)
7. Possession of weapon offences increased by 7% and is slightly below to that of Stockton (10.7%). 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.
8. Sexual offences recorded by the police continued to rise with the latest figures up 41% on the previous year. This figure is slightly higher than that seen in Stockton (up 33.9%) –
9. The numbers of rapes and other sexual offences are also at the highest level since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002/03 (rape up 43% and other sexual offences up 40%). As well as improvements in recording, this is also thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes.
10. Theft offences also reduced by 3% which compares to 4.2% in Stockton.
11. Stockton has also performed considerably better than nationally in relation to criminal damage which reduced by -5.7% compared to increase of 3%.
12. However when looking at domestic burglary, the national picture shows a reduction of 6% compared to rise of 24.1% seen in Stockton.
13. There were 1.9 million incidents of ASB recorded by the police, this equates to 33.1 incidents per 1000 population and nearly half of that of Stockton (61.6 incidents).
14. The table on the following page provides a comparison of the percentage changes since nationally compares to Stockton on Tees

APPENDIX – % CHANGE COMPARISON

July 14 to June 15			
Offence Group	England and Wales % change	Stockton % change	Above or below % change nationally
Violence against the person offences	25	37.2	Above
Homicide	8	n/a	
Violence with injury ⁵	16	16.9	Above
Violence without injury ⁶	33	66	Above
Sexual offences	41	33.9	Below
Rape	43	6.7	Below
Other sexual offences	40	53.1	Above
Robbery offences	-11	45.8	Above
Robbery of business property	-6	44.4	Above
Robbery of personal property	-11	46	Above
Theft offences	-3	4.2	Above
Domestic burglary	-6	24.1	Above
Non-domestic burglary	-7	1.3	Above
Vehicle offences	-3	7.8	Above
Theft from the person	-13	-19.1	Below
Bicycle theft	-4	-14.7	Below
Shoplifting	3	12.3	Above
All other theft offences ⁷	-2	-2.4	Below
Criminal damage and arson	3	-5.7	Below
VICTIM-BASED CRIME	5	8.8	Above
Drug offences	-17	-16.9	Above
Trafficking of drugs	-8	19.7	Above
Possession of drugs	-18	-22.5	Below
Possession of weapons offences	7	10.7	Above
Public order offences	24	10.5	Below
Miscellaneous crimes against society	18	70.4	Above
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME	5	9	Above

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