



Crime in Lancashire 2022/23

Key findings for Lancashire-14



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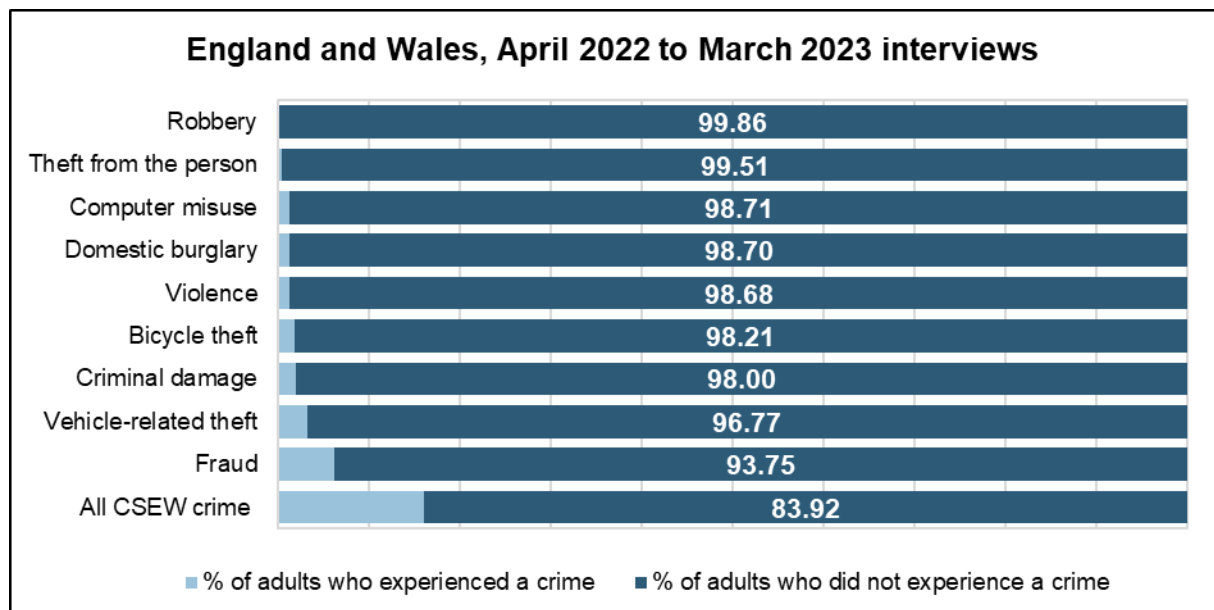
The National Picture

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for those interviewed in the year ending March 2023 showed that, compared with the year ending March 2020 (pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic), total crime decreased by 15%. However, Police recorded crime increased by 11% compared with the same year, March 2020. This overall increase was largely influenced by rises in the offence categories that are most subject to changes in reporting and recording practices. Therefore, the decrease shown by the CSEW is a better indicator of trends.

From data gathered by both the CSEW and police recorded crime to March 2023, post-pandemic trends are starting to emerge. Some crime types are returning to their pre-pandemic levels. There have been increases in the last year across many crime types, though they remain below pre-coronavirus pandemic levels, for example, robbery offences were 17% lower than the year ending March 2020 (pre-coronavirus pandemic), however, there was a 13% increase compared with the year ending March 2022.

According to CSEW estimates for the year ending March 2023, people aged 16 years and over experienced 8.7 million offences. This was a 15% decrease compared with the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic year ending March 2020 (10.2 million offences).

Chart 1: The likelihood of being a victim of crime varies by crime type



Notes:

1. Data from the CSEW for the year ending March 2023 are not designated as [National Statistics](#).
2. Percentages for violence, robbery, theft from the person, fraud and computer misuse are quoted for people aged 16 years and over. Percentages for domestic burglary and criminal damage are quoted for households. Percentages for vehicle-related theft and bicycle theft are quoted for vehicle or bicycle owning households.
3. For all CSEW crime, including fraud and computer misuse, this is the estimated percentage of people aged 16 years and over who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Source: Office for National Statistics – [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)



The Lancashire Picture

All Crime

Recorded crime is subject to variations due to activity, such as operations, campaigns or data quality improvements and recording changes and thus isn't as good an indicator of trends as survey data. However, survey data isn't available at local authority level, so recorded crime will be the primary focus in this report.

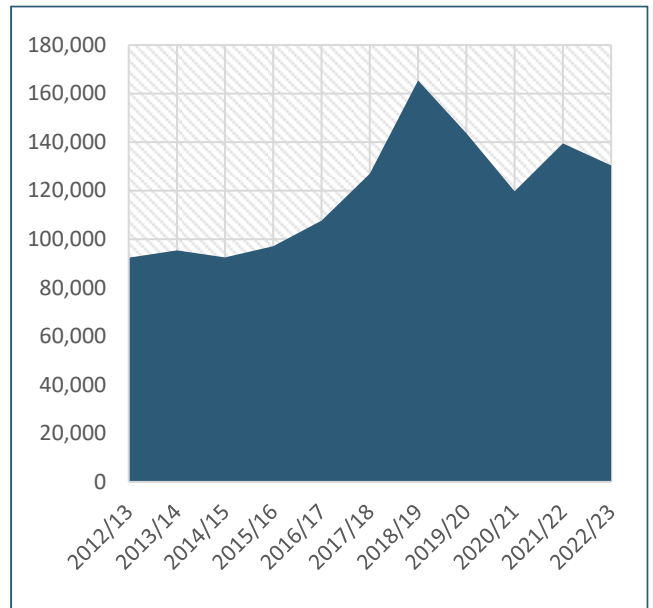
There were 130,378 recorded crimes (excluding fraud) in the Lancashire-14 area in 2022/23. This was a 6.1% decrease on the previous 12 months, 8,475 fewer crimes. When compared with pre-pandemic recorded crime (2019/20), there was a 9% decrease in recorded crime.

There were 90,195 recorded crimes (excluding fraud) in the Lancashire-12 area in the same period. This was a 6.4% decrease, 6,196 fewer crimes. When compared with pre-pandemic recorded crime (2019/20), there was a 10% decrease in recorded crime.

Lancashire's reduction in crime was lower than the England and Wales reduction of 15%, but better than England and Wales when compared with pre-pandemic crime levels. England and Wales have seen a pre-pandemic (2019/20) change of +5% in police recorded crime (excluding fraud).

Table 1: Recorded crime (excluding fraud) in the Lancashire-14 area

Year	Recorded crime (excluding fraud)	Percentage change on previous year
2012/13	92,357	-5.4%
2013/14	95,372	3.3%
2014/15	92,559	-2.9%
2015/16	97,112	4.9%
2016/17	107,610	10.8%
2017/18	127,028	18.0%
2018/19	165,368	30.2%
2019/20	143,736	-13.1%
2020/21	119,796	-16.7%
2021/22	138,853	16.4%
2022/23	130,378	-6.1%



Source: Office for National Statistics – [Crime in England & Wales 2022/23](#)

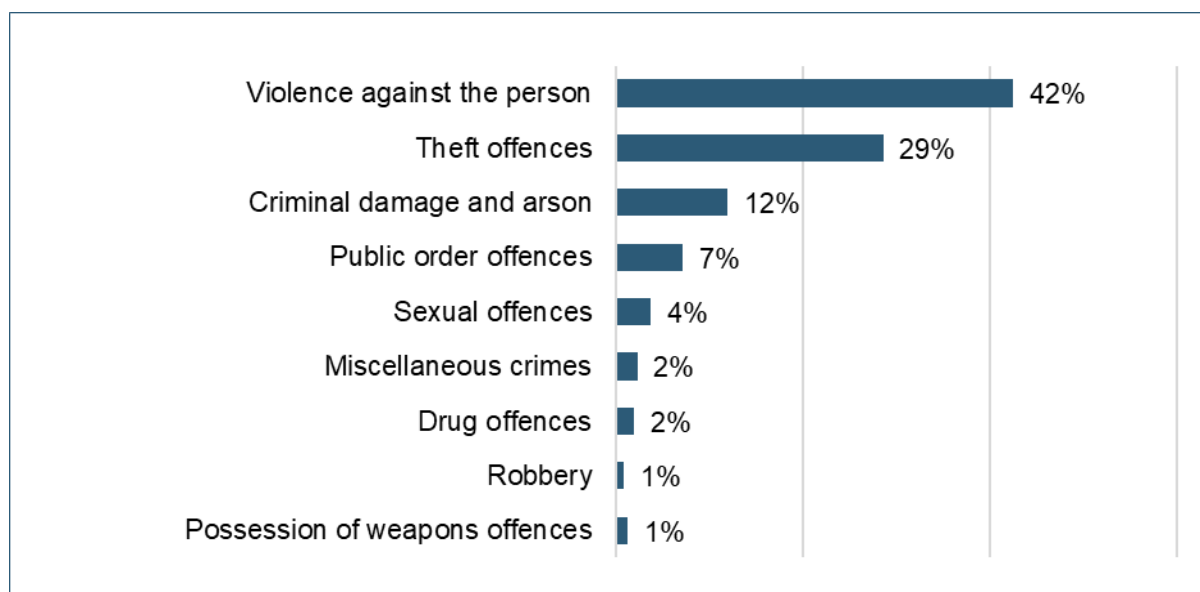
Crime in Lancashire-14 makes up 16.3% of crime in the North West and 2.3% of all recorded crimes in England and Wales. The Lancashire-14 rate is 85 offences per 1,000 population for 2022/23 (compared with 92 per thousand in 2021/22 and 79.4 per thousand in 2020/21). This is the third highest rate in the North West, below Greater Manchester (129.7) and Merseyside (119). The Lancashire-14 crime rate is below the England and Wales rate of 93.6 per 1,000 population.



Types of Offence

In 12 months ending March 2023, victim-based crime represented 87% of all recorded crime in Lancashire-14, with miscellaneous and other crimes against society at 13%. Violence against the person had the highest volume of 42%, followed by theft offences at just over 29% of the overall recorded crime in Lancashire.

Chart 2: Percentage of all recorded crime in Lancashire-14



Source: Office for National Statistics – [Crime in England & Wales 2022/23](#)

Change within offence Type

Table 2 below shows the percentage change compared with the previous 12 months.

Table 2: Percentage change 2022/23

PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2022/23		
Offence type	Lancashire-14	England and Wales
Possession of weapons offences	13%	17%
Drug offences	-7%	-1%
Robbery	1%	13%
Violence against the person	-9%	1%
Theft offences	4%	15%
Criminal damage and arson	-9%	-1%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	-14%	4%
Sexual offences	-8%	1%
Public order offences	-18%	-1%

Source: Office for National Statistics – [Crime in England & Wales 2022/23](#)



Table 3: Rate per 1,000 population

RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION 2022/23		
Offence type	Lancashire-14	England and Wales
Possession of weapons offences	1.1	1.0
Drug offences	1.6	3.0
Robbery	0.7	1.3
Violence against the person	36.1	35.4
Theft offences	24.3	28.9
Criminal damage and arson	10.1	8.9
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1.9	2.0
Sexual offences	3.2	3.3
Public order offences	6.1	9.9

Source: Office for National Statistics – [Crime in England & Wales 2022/23](#)

Possession of weapons offences had the highest percentage change increase of 13% but is still below the 17% increase recorded for England and Wales. Lancashire's rate per 1,000 population is in line with the England and Wales rate.

Public Order offences had the most significant decrease of 18% in Lancashire-14, compared with decreases shown for England and Wales and North West of only 1%. Lancashire's rate per 1,000 population (6.1) is lower than that seen in England and Wales (9.9).

Robbery: Lancashire-14 saw a small increase of 1% which was significantly below the 13% increase seen in England and Wales. The rate per 1,000 population of 0.7 is lower in Lancashire than in England and Wales, 1.3.

There was a 9% decrease (-5,573 crimes) in **violence against the person** crimes in the Lancashire-14 area, bringing it closer to the England and Wales rate. At 13.7 crimes per 1,000 people, violence with injury is the only component of violence against the person with a higher rate than England and Wales (9.6).

There were 14 **homicide** crimes recorded in Lancashire-14 in 2022/23, a decrease from the 16 recorded in 2021/22. England & Wales' number of homicides also decreased by 16% compared with the year ending March 2022. The rate per thousand population of homicides is 0.009 in Lancashire-14.

There were 266 **assault attendances** at Lancashire NHS Accident & Emergency departments and Critical Care (A&E) for the year ending March 2023, where the weapon was recorded as a sharp object, according to data supplied by Accident & Emergency departments. This is a fall of 9% when compared with the previous year, ending March 2022 (293).

Knife and sharp implement crimes decreased by 1% in 2022/23 compared with 2021/22 for the Lancashire-14 area (1,021). This increase was small in comparison to the North West which recorded an 11% decrease but better than England and Wales which had an overall increase of 5%. There were 127 **firearms offences** (excluding air weapons) in 2022/23.



Sexual offences showed an overall decrease of 8% (4,838) for Lancashire-14. However, there was a 1% increase for both England & Wales and the North West region, with Greater Manchester having a more significant increase of 5%. The rate of sexual offences per thousand population in Lancashire-14 is similar to that in England and Wales. High levels of non-reporting combined with changes in reporting trends can have a significant impact on sexual offences recorded by the police.

Theft Offences increased by 4% in Lancashire-14 (+1,545 crimes)⁸. This is lower than in the North West region overall, which had an increase of just over 6% but significantly less than the England & Wales overall percentage change of 15% increase. There were 24.3 theft offences per thousand population in Lancashire-14. Of this vehicle offences had a rate of 5.1, burglary 4.9 and shoplifting 5.6 offences per thousand population. The cost of living crisis may have had an impact on theft figures, with shoplifting showing a 13% increase on the previous year and bicycle thefts a 27% increase.

In the year ending March 2023, Lancashire recorded 834 crimes flagged as **child sexual abuse**, which is significantly less than the previous year. As a subset of these, 514 crimes were flagged as **child sexual exploitation** which is a 25% increase (388) when compared to the previous report year ending March 2022.

Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending March 2023 showed that 34% of people had experienced or witnessed some type of **anti-social behaviour (ASB)**. This was a 6% decrease compared with the pre-pandemic year ending March 2020. In Lancashire-14 there were 54,591 incidents of ASB for the period April 2022 to March 2023, this being a rate of 36 per 1,000 population. This is a decrease of 8 per 1,000 population when compared with the previous year. However, this is still significantly above the England and Wales rate of 17 and the North West rate of 19 for this financial year.

There were 6,888 **fraud and computer misuse offences** referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau for Lancashire-14, a 4% reduction on the previous 12 months. This is 4 per 1,000 population in Lancashire-14. The England and Wales rate was 6 for the same period, April 2022 to March 2023.

¹Attempted murder, threats to kill, actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm, robbery, rape, sexual assault. There are known under-recording issues with NHS weapon recording and as there is some variation between different hospital trusts on their completion rates for this indicator

Hate Crime 2022/23

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 five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

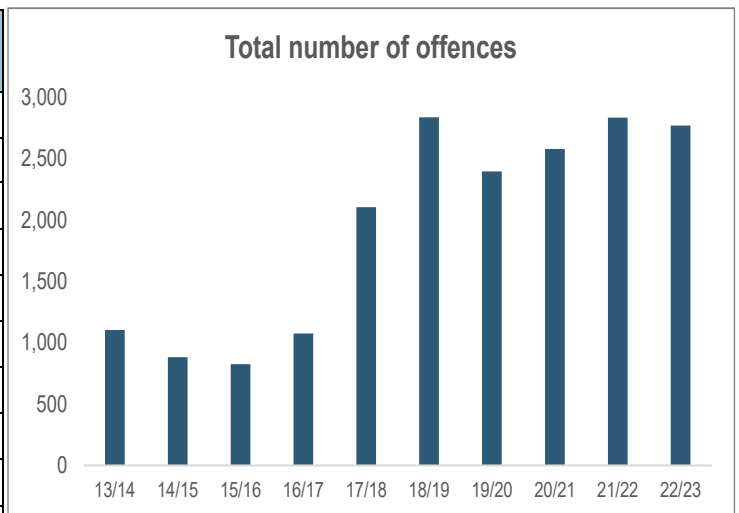
- race or ethnicity
- religion or beliefs
- sexual orientation
- disability
- transgender identity

Official data from 2022/23 shows that there has been a decrease in hate crime in Lancashire of 2%. This decrease is much lower than the 7% decrease seen in England and Wales as a whole.

The large rise in 2017/18 is ascribed to changes in recording practices following Lancashire's Crime Data Integrity inspection. Whereas previously some of these crimes would have been closed off as ASB incidents, the view is now that if the complainant was concerned enough to phone the police, then the threshold for criminality has been crossed so Lancashire are recording them as crime. Also, partnership working under the Lancashire wide Hate Crime Strategy and more understanding around the issue has increased confidence in reporting.

Table 4: Total number of offences and annual percentage change

Year	Number of offences	Annual percentage change
2013/14	1,103	
2014/15	881	-20.1%
2015/16	826	-6.2%
2016/17	1,076	30.3%
2017/18	2,105	95.6%
2018/19	2,836	34.7%
2019/20	2,395	-15.6%
2020/21	2,578	7.6%
2021/22	2,834	9.9%
2022/23	2,771	-2.2%



Source: [Home Office - Hate crime, England and Wales, 2022 to 2023](#)

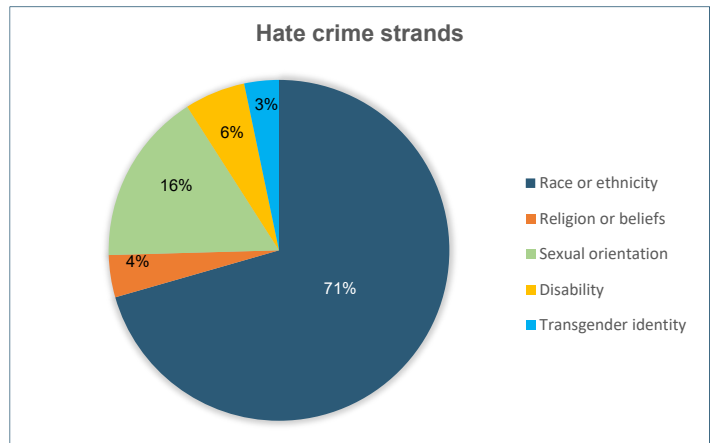


While variations in hate crime over the last five years have been mainly driven by changes in crime recording by the police, there has been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum, Ukraine and Israel wars and terrorist attacks¹.

Race related hate crimes make up 71% of the total.

Table 5: Monitored hate crimes, Lancashire-14 2022/23

Strand	Number
Race or ethnicity	1,955
Religion or beliefs	111
Sexual orientation	454
Disability	160
Transgender identity	91
Total number of motivating factors²	2,771



¹ Westminster attack March 2017; Manchester Arena bombing May 2017; London Bridge attack June 2017; Finsbury Park attack, June 2017, Parsons Green bombing, September 2017, London Bridge stabbing November 2019, Reading stabbings June 2020, MP Sir David Amess murder October 2021, Liverpool Women's Hospital bombing November 2021, Dover firebomb attack October 2022

² A crime could have more than one motivating factor.

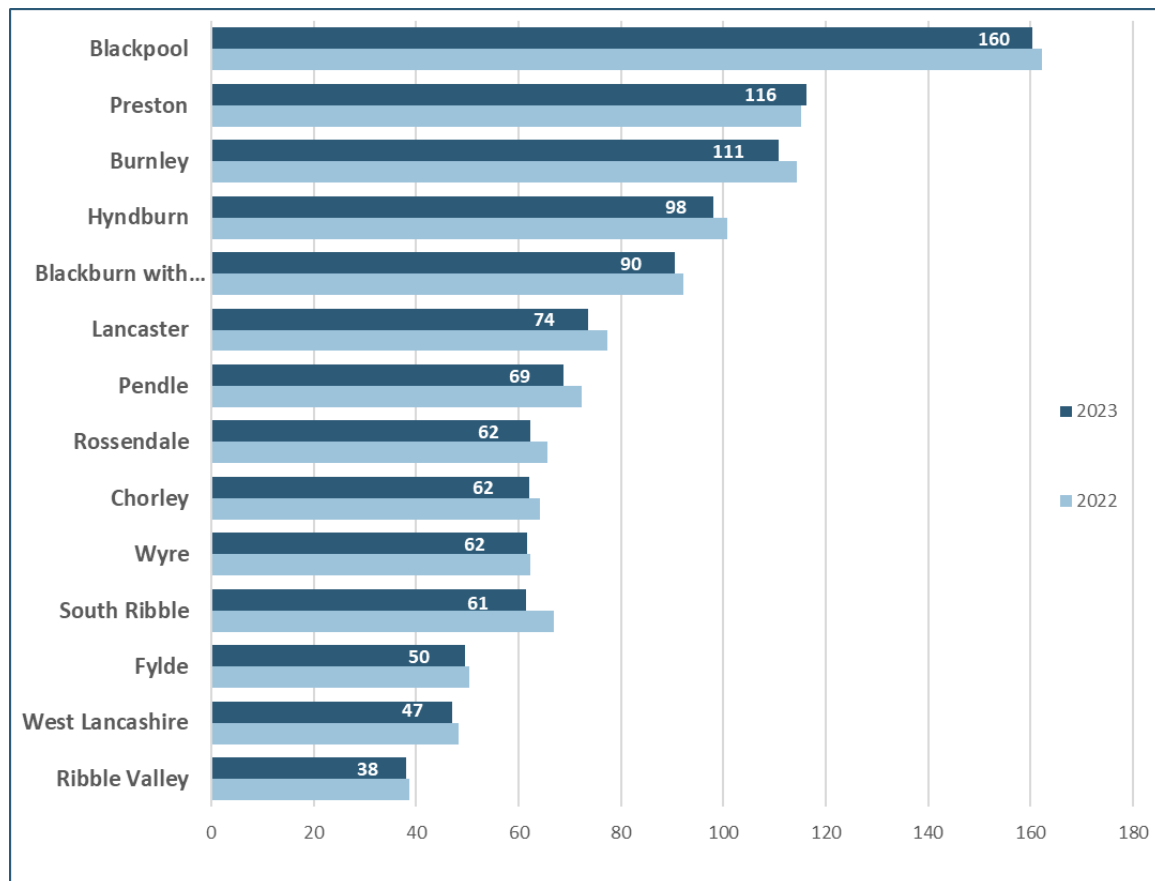


Geographic patterns

Recorded crime data has been published for “Community Safety Partnerships” (CSP), year ending March 2023. Recorded crime data, alongside that from the TCSEW/CSEW clearly indicates that crime is not evenly distributed across England and Wales and that geographic patterns and concentrations of offences also vary across crime types. Similar considerations also apply in Lancashire where a very diverse pattern of recorded crime distribution is apparent between community safety partnership areas.

From the chart below, you can see Preston was the only district to have an increase in recorded crime for the financial year 2022/23 (+11%, +1,644 crimes). Theft offences accounted for an additional 1,121 crimes. This may be due to Preston having a large student population, vibrant night-time economy and a central retail sector, when compared with the more rural and affluent areas such as West Lancashire and Ribble Valley. South Ribble has the most significant fall in recorded crime at -30% when compared with 2021/22 figures.

Chart 3: Recorded crime rate per 1,000 population/households for headline offences, by CSP area, year ending March 2023



Source: Community Safety Partnership, ONS

Blackpool had the highest recorded crime rate (160 per 1,000 population, 22,605 recorded crimes, -4% change on previous 12 months) in the Lancashire-14 area and 5th highest in England and Wales. Blackpool is ranked 2nd highest, behind Middlesbrough for Violence against the Person of all community safety partnerships (CSPs). The borough is the second most deprived local authority in England, with high visitor numbers and a vibrant night-time economy. Ribble Valley has the lowest total recorded crime rate of any CSP in England and Wales.



About the data

Lancashire-14 crime statistics are derived from an annual publication '[Crime in England and Wales](#)' that combines the reporting of police recorded crime and the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) includes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by the police, but is limited to crimes against people resident in households and does not cover all crime types. The CSEW is not available at local authority level.

Police recorded crime

The data represent a "snapshot" of the live recorded crime database taken on 13 June 2023 (for data up to the end of March 2023).

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, including 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. Police recorded crime excludes offences that are not reported to, or not recorded by, the police. Trends can be influenced by changes in recording practices, or police activity and 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 or over time.

For more information see ONS [Crime in England and Wales Quality and Methodology Information report](#).



Further Information

A separate research monitor, [prison populations](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-population-figures-2020), covers criminal justice <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-population-figures-2020>.

Fraud - <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud-statistics>

News article – " Which? response to latest ONS fraud figures" [Which? response to latest ONS fraud figures – Which? Press Office](#)

Hate crime - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hate-crime-statistics>

ONS article - [The impact of crime on victims and society: March 2022](#)

ONS statistical bulletin - [Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2023](#)

ONS related links - [Guide to finding crime statistics](#)

UK Parliament House of Commons Library research briefing - [Terrorism in Great Britain: the statistics](#) (published July 2022)

