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## Crime statistics for England & Wales: violent crime and sexual offences

2.1m violent incidents were recorded in 2011/12 by the Crime Survey for England and Wales. See what the latest figures say

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2.1m violent incidents were recorded in 2010/11 by the Crime Survey for England and Wales. Photograph: RTimages / Alamy/Alamy

There were 2.1m violent incidents in England and Wales in 2011/12, with 3% of adults victimised, according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) published today.

The release shows that the number of violent incidents has halved from its peak in 1995, when the survey estimated over 4.2m violent incidents. The CSEW asks people face-to-face about their experiences of, attitudes about and perceptions of a range of crimes. Last month we reported on the police recorded crimes and wrote about they can differ from the CSEW statistics:

Though police-recorded crimes are down 8.4%, the number of crimes reported in the survey has fallen by 7.1%. 8.9 million crimes were reported in the survey in the year ending September 2012, while the police recorded 3.8 million crimes in this period.

The statistics published today on violent crime and sexual offences cover a range of offence types. The CSEW state that "violence spans minor assaults, such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm through to serious assault and murder. Sexual assault covers offences from indecent exposure to rape."

So what are the key findings from the release?

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## Homicide

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540 homicides were recorded for 2011/12 – this is the lowest since 1989 and down 15% on 2010/11. Homicide covers murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

The number of homicides recorded by the police increased from 1961 to 2002/03 but has seen a generally downward trend since. The peak includes 172 homicides committed by Harold Shipman, which although were committed over a long period of time, were recorded by police in 2002/03 as a result of Dame Janet Smith's inquiry.

The chart below shows the number of homicide offences recorded by the police in England and Wales from 1961 to 2011/12. It's important to note however, that the figures are based on the year in which offences are recorded by police rather than the year of the incident.

Two thirds of homicide victims in 2011/12 were men. Homicides against men were also more likely to be committed by a friend or acquaintance whereas for women it was most likely to be committed by a partner or ex-partner.

There were 9.7 recorded homicide offences per million people in 2011/12. Children under the age of one were the group most likely to be a victim at 21 homicides per million population. This is followed by those aged 16 to 29 with a homicide rate at 15 per

million population.

To remind us how rare homicides are in England and Wales, the CSEW has helpfully provided some other numbers on causes of death for comparison:

Figures for 2011 show that more people were killed as a result of falls (3,885), intentional self-harm (3,644), and transport accidents (1,815), but fewer were killed by exposure to smoke fire and flames (242) or accidental drowning or submersion (175)

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## **Weapons**

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Knives and sharp instruments continue to be the most common method of killing according to the report with 209 such homicides recorded in 2011/12 – this is down on 234 recorded for 2010/11.

In the last year almost a quarter of male homicide victims were killed by hitting or kicking without a weapon and 26% of female victims were strangled or asphyxiated. 39 homicide victims were killed by shooting in 2011/12, down on the previous year which included 12 victims of the Cumbria shooting. The number of homicide victims killed by shooting however is at the lowest number since 1989.

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## **Sexual and intimate violence**

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Women were more likely than men to have experienced domestic or sexual violence - 3% of women had experienced some form of sexual assault (including attempts) in the past year, compared with 0.3% of men according to the CSEW 2011/12.

The difference between women and men was narrower when looking at victims of domestic abuse, which includes sexual and non-sexual abuse. 7.3% of women (1.2m) and 5% of men (800,000) reported having experienced domestic abuse in the last year.

Because questions in this category are particularly prone to under-reporting, the survey also includes a self-completion module which has a large impact on results. Of all respondents who stated they were a victim of ~~domestic violence~~ in the past year in the self-completion module, only 5% had reported this in face-to-face interviews.

Intimate violence includes experience of emotional, financial and physical abuse by partners or family members, as well as sexual assaults and stalking by any person. The most common form of intimate violence for both men and women was non-sexual partner abuse. When asked if they had experienced this type of abuse since the age of 16, 24% of women and 13% of men said yes.

Just as with other crimes and offences in the survey, the prevalence of intimate violence

varies according to the victim's characteristics. For women, those aged 16-19 or 20-24 were more likely to be victims of domestic abuse or stalking. Sexual assault was most likely to occur to women aged 16-19. The highest risk group for domestic abuse amongst women were those that were separated, who made up 1 in 5 victims.

As well as asking about experience of intimate violence, respondents were asked questions to indicate their attitude towards it. 8% of people stated that if the victim was under the influence of drugs then they were 'completely' or 'mostly' responsible for someone sexually assaulting or raping. 7% stated flirting heavily with an abuser beforehand made a victim responsible, and 6% thought this true if the victim was drunk.

## Victims of violence

The CSEW provides some interesting data into the characteristics associated with being a victim of violence. Young men are most likely to be victims of violence according to the report.

Men were nearly twice as likely as women (3.8% compared with 2.1%) to have experienced one or more violent crimes in the year prior to interview. The figures also showed that single people had the highest chance of being a victim (6.6%).

The CSEW states that although the profile of those most likely to be victims remains similar across all types of violence, this differs for domestic and sexual violence offences where women are more likely than men to be victims.

The table below shows the number of incidents by crime type recorded by the CSEW. The downloadable spreadsheet includes the data since 1981 and all the data behind the charts. What can you do with this data?

## Data summary

### Trends in CSEW incidents of crime from 1981 to 2011/12 (number of incidents, 000s)

Click heading to sort

Crime type	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	% change (2010/11 to 2011/12)
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>2,604</b>	<b>2,671</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>-6</b>
Vehicle vandalism	1,834	1,680	1,778	1,551	1,451	1,358	-6
Other vandalism	1,062	923	893	826	707	666	-6
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>-6</b>

With entry	411	423	436	388	452	417	-8
Attempts	291	289	281	263	293	284	-3
With loss	300	311	305	272	298	287	-4
No loss (including attempts)	403	401	412	379	446	414	-7
<b>Vehicle-related theft</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>1,213</b>	1,189	1,217	<b>2</b>
Theft from vehicles	1,092	968	1,021	839	858	894	4
Theft of vehicles	171	157	144	113	94	94	0
Attempts of and from	372	333	294	261	237	229	-3
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>474</b>	525	448	<b>-15</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,148</b>	1,245	1,371	<b>10</b>
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>11</b>
Snatch theft from person	72	80	103	64	73	83	15
Stealth theft from person	502	501	621	460	491	542	10
<b>Other theft of personal property</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>All violence</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>-7</b>
Wounding	579	477	465	500	520	498	-4
Assault with minor injury	572	492	533	427	594	441	-26
Assault without injury	1,003	917	843	821	844	857	2
Robbery	320	315	272	334	248	254	3
Violence with injury	1,271	1,063	1,116	1,063	1,215	1,035	-15
Violence without injury	1,202	1,137	997	1,019	991	1,016	3
Domestic violence	407	343	293	289	391	308	-21
Acquaintance	845	776	691	678	682	731	7
Stranger	894	766	852	782	885	753	-15
Mugging (robbery + snatch theft)	392	394	374	397	321	338	5
<b>All acquisitive crime</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>5,933</b>	<b>5,378</b>	<b>5,507</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>4</b>
Household acquisitive crime	3,975	3,629	3,842	3,486	3,703	3,737	1
Personal acquisitive crime	2,036	1,883	2,091	1,891	1,804	1,969	9
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>6,233</b>	<b>6,514</b>	<b>5,863</b>	<b>5,861</b>	<b>5,761</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME</b>	<b>4,189</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>3,932</b>	<b>3,640</b>	<b>3,762</b>	<b>3,766</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ALL CSEW CRIME</b>	<b>11,060</b>	<b>10,002</b>	<b>10,446</b>	<b>9,503</b>	<b>9,623</b>	<b>9,527</b>	<b>-1</b>

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## Download the data

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- [DATA: download the full spreadsheet](#)

• [SOURCE: CSEW, ONS](#)

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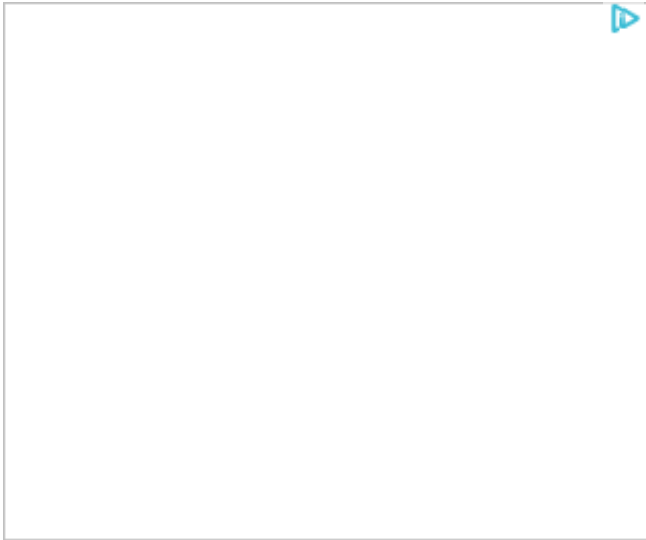
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