

# CSEW

# Update, latest data and findings

Crime Surveys User Conference 2021

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# Overview

- General update
- Telephone-operated Crime Survey (TCSEW)
- Comparability with face-to-face estimates
- Return to face-to-face interviewing
- Microdata access

# General update

- Face-to-face fieldwork for the CSEW was **suspended** on 17 March 2020.
  - We interviewed 33,735 adults with a response rate of 64%. Overall the impact on the survey estimates for 2019/20 has therefore been **minimal**.
- The telephone operated survey (TCSEW) was launched on 20 May 2020 as an interim measure to provide headline crime estimates.
  - Sample formed from respondents who had **previously participated in the face-to-face CSEW** in the last two years and who had agreed to being re-contacted for research purposes.
  - Operates as **a panel survey**, re-interviewing respondents at three-monthly intervals.
  - The TCSEW has a sample size of **approximately 3,200 households** per month.
    - Wave 1 – crime previous 12 months
    - Wave 2 - crime since last interview
- We are currently on Wave 6 and expect to interview up to the end of March 2022

# Sample design

- Panel design to maximise the sample.
- Waves conducted at three monthly intervals.
- First wave ask about crimes in previous 12 months.
- Second and subsequent waves ask about crimes **since last interview**.
- Annual update for 2020-21 was published in July 2021.
- The TCSEW estimates for 2020-21 **cannot** be compared with the 2019-20 face-to-face survey due to overlapping reference periods.
- Notes on comparability
  - the population of study is restricted to those aged 18 years and over
  - overlapping data periods must not be used for the main estimates of crime
  - the threat/harassment screener question must be removed from both the current and comparator years for the main estimates of crime

Month	Interviews
May 2020	1,343
June 2020	5,189
July 2020	3,508
August 2020	2,374
September 2020	3,386
October 2020	3,652
November 2020	3,788
December 2020	3,255
January 2021	3,731
February 2021	3,214
March 2021	3,361
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,306</b>

# TCSEW questionnaire

- The TCSEW questionnaire was shorter than the face-to-face survey (25 mins compared with 50 mins).
- As a result, we were **unable to include many of the survey questions** that are included in the face-to-face questionnaire.
- The 10 to 15 year old survey was suspended. Due to relaunch in April 2022 on the face-to-face survey.

# Questionnaire

- Constructed a shortened CSEW questionnaire suitable for telephone interviewing. The questionnaire includes:
  - Household box (excluding relationship to others in household and non-resident children)
  - Screener module (excluding Sexattak, Threviol2 replaced by harassment wording)
  - Victim Forms – traditional and fraud and computer misuse (**using a redesigned, shorter version**)
  - New module covering concerns about crime in a Covid-19 context
  - Demographic module (includes changes in income during covid and use of food banks)
- The self-completion modules were not included in the telephone survey.

# Questionnaire – Harassment

Threat question was adapted to include harassment

*“And [apart from anything you have already mentioned], in that time, has anyone threatened, harassed or intimidated you in a way that was intended to cause you alarm or distress? Please include threats, harassment or intimidation by any means – for example in person, online, over the phone, or on social media.”*

- Consequences of changing the wording of the TCSEW threats screener question had a far greater effect than was envisaged.
- It increased the number of offences that were captured across a range of offence types - in particular, estimates of violence without injury.
- Both the comparator year (year ending March 2019) and the TCSEW survey year ending March 2021 would be more comparable if we **removed** all offences resulting from the original screener question (in the comparator year) and those from the new screener question in the TCSEW although they would underestimate the true level of crime.

# Using the TCSEW data

- Main measures of crime (numbers of incidents and prevalence rates in the previous 12 months) are broadly comparable provided the estimates are on the following basis:
  - the population of study is restricted to those aged 18 years and over
  - overlapping data periods must not be used for the main estimates of crime
  - the threat/harassment screener question must be removed from both the current and comparator years for the main estimates of crime
- TCSEW estimates are based on interviews rather than respondents (as in the CSEW).
  - As a result, standard errors on the TCSEW are higher than those on the CSEW since they are based on re-interviewing the same person rather than interviewing the person once.
  - In effect, the TCSEW sample design has a stronger cluster effect (and therefore larger standard error) once the original sample strata and primary sampling units are considered.
- Drawing a sample based on previous respondents means the sample is not unique and is in fact a subset of the households/individuals selected in the original sample.
  - The CSEW under normal circumstances is based on a unique sample of individuals which changes from year to year. This means one survey year on the CSEW can be compared with the next. This is not possible where the samples are not unique since the time periods over which incidents are captured by any two corresponding survey years overlap.



# The reference periods for Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2020 and the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) interviews conducted from May 2020 to March 2021



# Further information

- The year ending March 21 publication is available here:
  - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021#main-points>
- The comparability study is available at:
  - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/comparabilitybetweenthetelephoneoperatedcrimesurveyforenglandandwalesandthefacetofacecrimesurveyforenglandandwales>
- The latest quarterly publication is available here:
  - [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/crimeandjustice/crimeinenglandandwales)

# Latest results



# Latest results (year ending June 2021)

Estimates from the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) for the year ending June 2021 compared with the pre-COVID year ending June 2019 show:

- a 12% increase in total crime, driven by a 43% increase in fraud and computer misuse
- a 14% decrease in total crime excluding fraud and computer misuse, largely driven by an 18% decrease in theft offences
- little change in the total number of incidents of violence but a 27% decrease in the number of victims of violent crime, largely driven by falls in violence where the offender was a stranger<sup>2</sup>, in part reflecting the closure of the night-time economy for several months of the year

Fraud and computer misuse offences do not follow the lockdown-related pattern of reduced victimisation. Increases in these offences more than offset the reductions seen for other types of crime. Crime survey estimates for the year ending June 2021 compared with the year ending June 2019 show:

- a 32% increase in fraud incidents, largely driven by substantial increases in both “consumer and retail fraud” and “advance fee fraud”
- an 85% increase in computer misuse incidents, driven entirely by an increase in “unauthorised access to personal information, including hacking”

# CSEW datasets



# Datasets

- 2019/20 dataset now available
- We aim to deposit the 2020/21 data to the SRS and UKDA **by early 2022 (non-victim file only)**.
  - Victim files likely to be deposited later in the year
    - Limited analysis possible
- Remaining historic datasets for re-supply following the change in methodology for handling repeat victimisation to be supplied in January 2022.

# Any questions?

