

Crime Surveys User Conference 2021

Abstracts

Session 1: Survey updates

Chair: Sarah King-Hele

Crime Survey for England and Wales: Future plans

Joe Traynor, Office for National Statistics

The *Crime Survey for England and Wales* has, for a large part of its history, been delivered as a CAPI/CASI interview in people's homes. The future programme of work will look at all aspects of the survey, including new modes of delivery as well as the possibility of an online first approach. The presentation will give a brief overview of work conducted to date and the future programme.

Session 2: Research papers

Chair: Catherine Grant, Office for National Statistics

Does crime severity predict victim willingness to meet the offender?

Diana Batchelor, University of Oxford

Not available.

Inequalities in victimisation: The socioeconomic distribution of experiences of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour

Lucy Bryant (speaker), The Institute of Alcohol Studies, and Carly Lightowlers, University of Liverpool

Background and aims: Despite repeated identification of socioeconomic inequalities in alcohol's harms to others (e.g. the alcohol health harm paradox; alcohol-related violence falling disproportionately on lowest socioeconomic groups), the socioeconomic distribution of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour remains under-examined.

Methods: To examine this, data were drawn from the nationally representative victimisation survey, the Crime Survey for England and Wales, from years 2013/2014 to 2017/2018. Prevalence rates for alcohol-related ASB were created for different socioeconomic groups, and the percentage of alcohol-related ASB victims within each socioeconomic group who experienced this weekly or more often was calculated to assess repeat victimisation. Binomial logistic regression was used to test whether the likelihood of experiencing alcohol-related ASB and high frequency repeat victimisation differed by socioeconomic status, controlling for a range of pre-established risk factors associated with ASB victimisation.

Findings: Findings generally show no socioeconomic pattern in prevalence of alcohol-related ASB. However, in terms of repeat victimisation, around half of the alcohol-related ASB victims from the lowest socioeconomic groups experienced this every week or more often. Results of the binomial logistic regression analyses are forthcoming and will be presented at the Crime Surveys User Conference.

Conclusions: Repeat alcohol-related ASB victimisation appears clustered in the lowest socioeconomic groups. Structural drivers may be behind this imbalance, and policy solutions such as alcohol pricing and availability interventions should be investigated for their capacity to address this.

Results indicate that the type of cybercrime is relevant to the reporting decision, and that the likelihood of reporting increases when cybersecurity incidents generate negative impacts and when the company places high priority on cybersecurity. However, we find no association between having cybersecurity insurance and reporting. Finally, while having outsourced cybersecurity management is associated with reporting to anyone outside the organisation but not to public authorities, in-house cybersecurity teams seem more inclined to report to public authorities. The findings are discussed in relation to the role of businesses, the private cybersecurity sector and the criminal justice system in combatting cybercrime.

Cycles of violence in England and Wales: The contribution of childhood abuse to risk of violence revictimisation in adulthood

Nadia Butler (speaker) and Zara Quigg, Liverpool John Moore's University, and Mark A. Bellis, Bangor University and Public Health Wales

Interpersonal violence is a leading cause of death globally, and impacts individuals' health and wellbeing. A public health approach to violence prevention is crucial, and addressing risk factors is a key priority. Research has demonstrated that childhood adversity increases risk of a range of poor outcomes across the lifecourse. This study used data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, a nationally representative survey of household residents (adults aged 16 to 59 years; $n = 21,845$), to examine the impact of childhood abuse (physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and witnessing domestic violence) on risk of adulthood violence revictimisation (physical assault (PA), intimate partner violence (IPV), and sexual violence (SV)).

Most individual types of child abuse were significantly associated with each adulthood violence outcome, after controlling for sociodemographics and other abuse types. Compared to individuals who experienced no abuse in childhood, those who experienced one form of abuse were over twice as likely to experience PA in the past year and three times as likely to have experienced IPV and/or SV since age 16 years, whilst individuals who experienced multiple types were three, six, and seven times more likely to experience PA, IPV, and SV, respectively. After controlling for sociodemographics and multi-type childhood victimisation, the type or combination of types which remained significant differed by violence outcome; child psychological and physical abuse were significantly associated with IPV; psychological and sexual abuse with SV; and psychological abuse with PA.

Prevention of child abuse is an important goal, and evidence from the current study suggests such efforts will have a downstream effect on preventing interpersonal violence across the lifecourse. With adulthood victimisation likely to compound the already detrimental effects of childhood abuse, and given that many associated outcomes also represent adversities for the next generation, breaking the cycle of violence should be a public health priority.

Session 4: Research papers

Chair: Anna Saunders, Scottish Government

‘Unveiling the un-hidden’: Applying Western-style crime survey approach to Eastern Europe

Dainis Ignatans (speaker), University of Huddersfield and Daugavpils University, and Ludmila Aleksejeva, Daugavpils University

High quality big data is crucial if we want to understand the social world around us. In the field of criminology this is even more so paramount, as crime is a multifaceted phenomenon. Throughout the West, crime surveys are commonplace and constantly in a process of rigorous reviews, expansion and development. In much of Eastern Europe, criminology is in its early stages of development and is perceived as a subject of judicial-slash-investigative nature, rather than as a discipline of social sciences. In this project, funded by Daugavpils University Research Fund (Latvia), a comparison is being made between UK’s CSEW analyses and a three-year long survey carried out in Latvia on topics of:

1. unequal distribution of crime
2. victims’ economic circumstances and victimisation levels
3. victim attitudes to crime
4. attitude and cooperation with the police

The results show where the similarities and differences lie; suggest a need for socio-criminological data collection practices to be implemented in Latvia and across Eastern Europe; and demonstrate that crime surveys are invaluable for understanding the problem of crime. As it will be evidenced, with contextual adjustment Western-style surveys about crime and victimisation could well shed light on many criminological issues in Eastern Europe.

Testing the Association between Household Profile and Burglar Alarm Effectiveness

Danielle Robinson (speaker), and Andromachi Tseloni, Nottingham Trent University

Burglary is one of the most common crime types; between May 2020 and March 2021 the CSEW recorded 267,931 incidents of domestic burglary (ONS 2021). Due to the harmful consequences of burglary victimisation, it is no surprise that there is significant demand for security devices in the UK (Intel 2014). Several studies have examined security device effectiveness in preventing domestic burglary victimisation. Tseloni et al (2014,2017) discovered that particular combinations of devices were more effective than others; the most successful being window locks, internal lights on a timer, double lock/deadlocks on external doors and external lights on a sensor (WIDE) (Thompson et al 2018). An in-depth analysis of burglar alarm effectiveness was conducted by Tilley et al (2015) who found that burglar alarms appear to increase the likelihood of burglary victimisation. The research presented here provides a comprehensive exploration of Tilley et al’s (2015) finding by examining the profiles of households with and without burglar alarms. Bivariate statistical analysis of the 2014/15 to 2017/18 CSEW provides insight into burglar alarm uptake and protection from burglary across household profiles. Specific property and socio-economic attributes influenced the effectiveness of burglar alarm functionality, for example some population groups categorised by ethnicity, education level, accommodation type and household composition may experience differing burglary risk without a burglar alarm than with one (Tseloni et al 2021). Collectively, the findings provide a comprehensive account of whether

burglar alarms are effective against domestic burglary victimisation, and, if so, for who and in what context. They provide those with a responsibility to reduce crime with the knowledge to make informed choices about security uptake.

When do businesses report cybercrime? Findings from a UK study

Steven Kemp (speaker), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain, David Buil-Gil and Nicholas Lord, University of Manchester, and Fernando Miró-Llinares, Universidad Miguel Hernández, Spain

Although it is known that businesses report cybercrime to public authorities at a low rate, and this hinders prevention strategies, there is a lack of research on companies' decisions to report cyber victimisation. To begin to fill this gap, this paper analyses the UK Government Cyber Security Breaches Survey (CSBS) with the main aim of exploring the factors associated with cybercrime reporting by businesses.

Data on businesses that reported having suffered cyber security incidents were obtained from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 waves of the CSBS (n = 1965), a survey of UK organisations that records information about digital threats, cybersecurity strategies and the digital characteristics of organisations. The outcome variables of interest are the likelihood of cybercrime reporting to anyone outside the organisation, and the likelihood of cybercrime reporting to public authorities. The sample is weighted in order to adjust it to the actual population of UK businesses and, subsequently, we estimate four multiple binary logistic regression models for our outcome variables.

Results indicate that the type of cybercrime is relevant to the reporting decision, and that the likelihood of reporting increases when cybersecurity incidents generate negative impacts and when the company places high priority on cybersecurity. However, we find no association between having cybersecurity insurance and reporting. Finally, while having outsourced cybersecurity management is associated with reporting to anyone outside the organisation but not to public authorities, in-house cybersecurity teams seem more inclined to report to public authorities. The findings are discussed in relation to the role of businesses, the private cybersecurity sector and the criminal justice system in combatting cybercrime.