

# Crime Survey for England and Wales

Update on latest data and findings

Crime Surveys User Conference 2024

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2024



# Overview

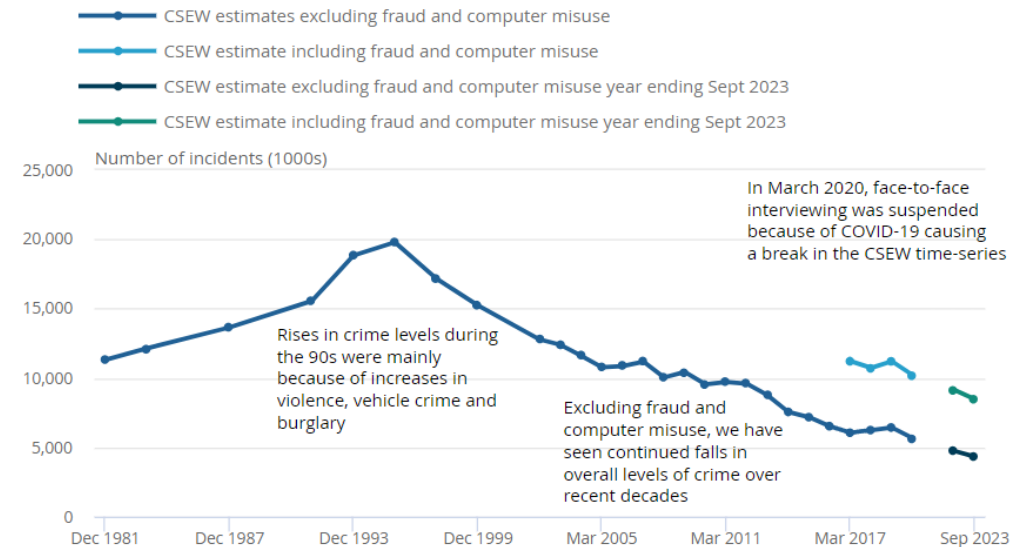
- Introduction
- Return to face-to-face
- CSEW results
- Availability of data

# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

- The CSEW has a long history of measuring the extent of crime in England and Wales
- Measures crime against adults ages 16+ living in private households
  - Additional interviews with children aged 10-15 within selected households
- Wide range of topic coverage including:
  - Incidence and prevalence of crime
  - Experience of domestic abuse
  - Fear of crime
  - Experience and perception of Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Crime prevention and security measures
  - Attitudes towards the police
  - Alcohol and drug misuse
  - Experience of domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse during childhood.

Figure 1: Crime estimates from the CSEW years ending December 1981 to September 2023

## England and Wales, annual estimates



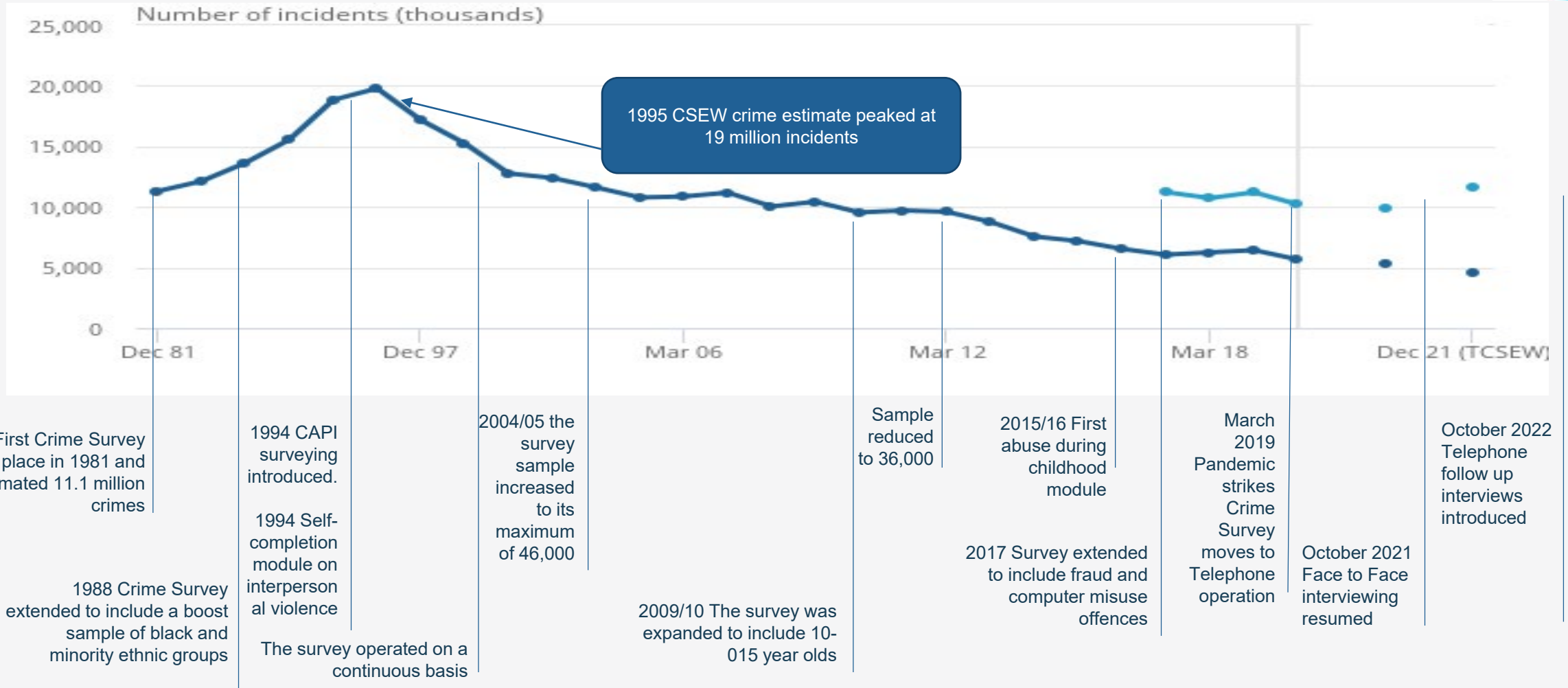
Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) from the Office for National Statistics

# Evolution

- The CSEW has been conducted via face-to-face interviews, using a continuous interviewing approach since 2001.
- However, the survey has evolved over that time.



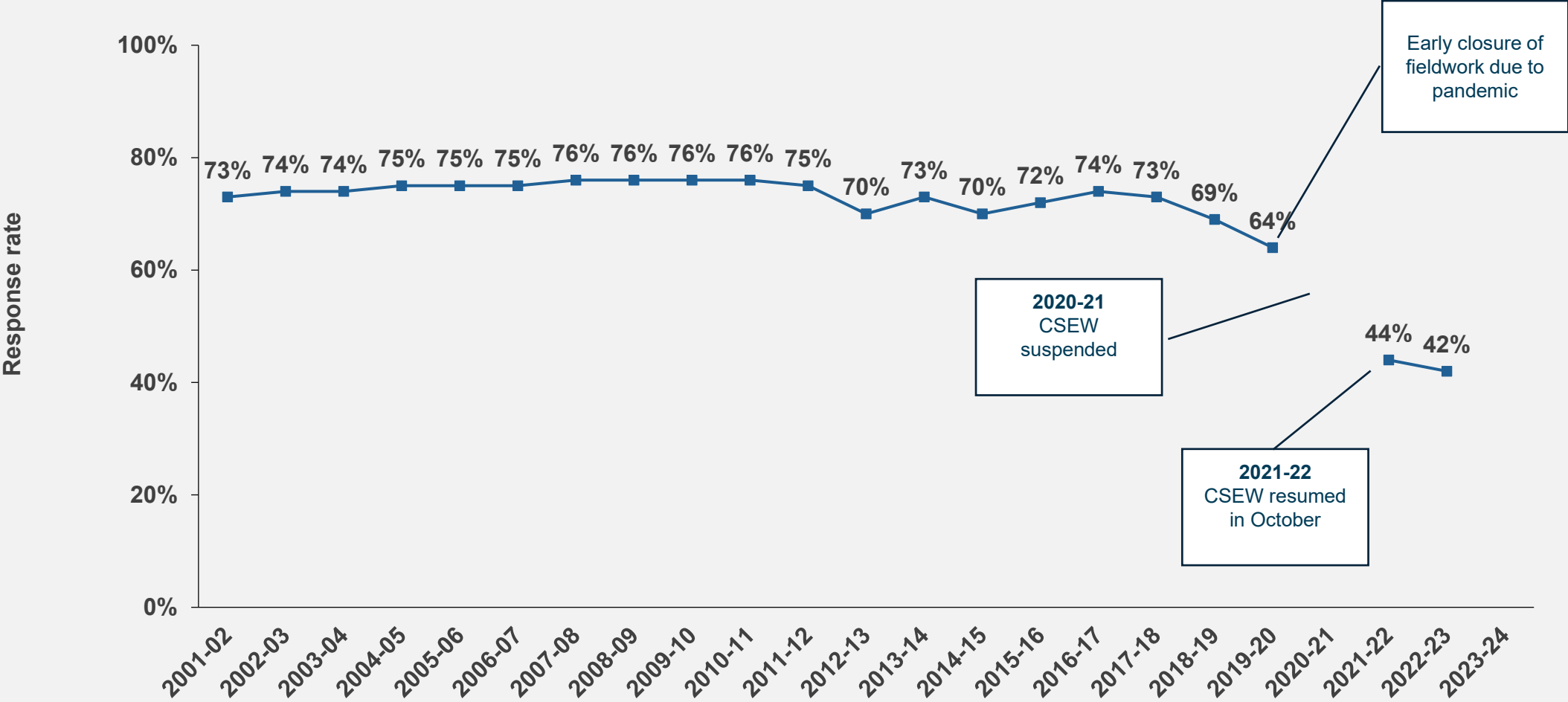
# Timeline of major changes to the survey



# Evolution

- Interviewing was suspended in March 2020
  - CSEW was temporarily replaced with the TCSEW.
- Face-to-face interviewing resumed in October 2021.
- Increasing costs for f2f interviews and falling response rates mean f2f is less sustainable in the long-term.

# CSEW response rate has dropped significantly since the pandemic



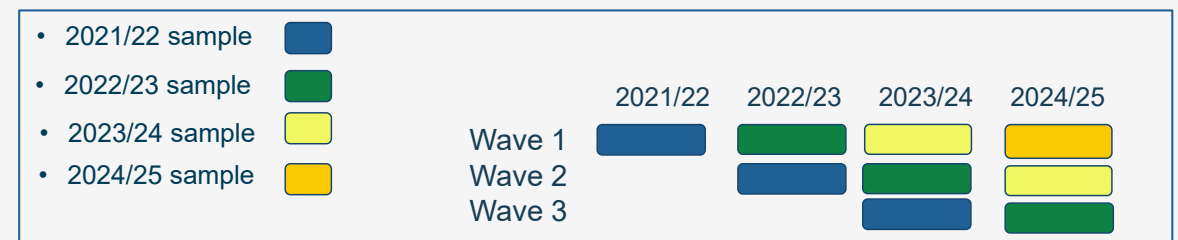
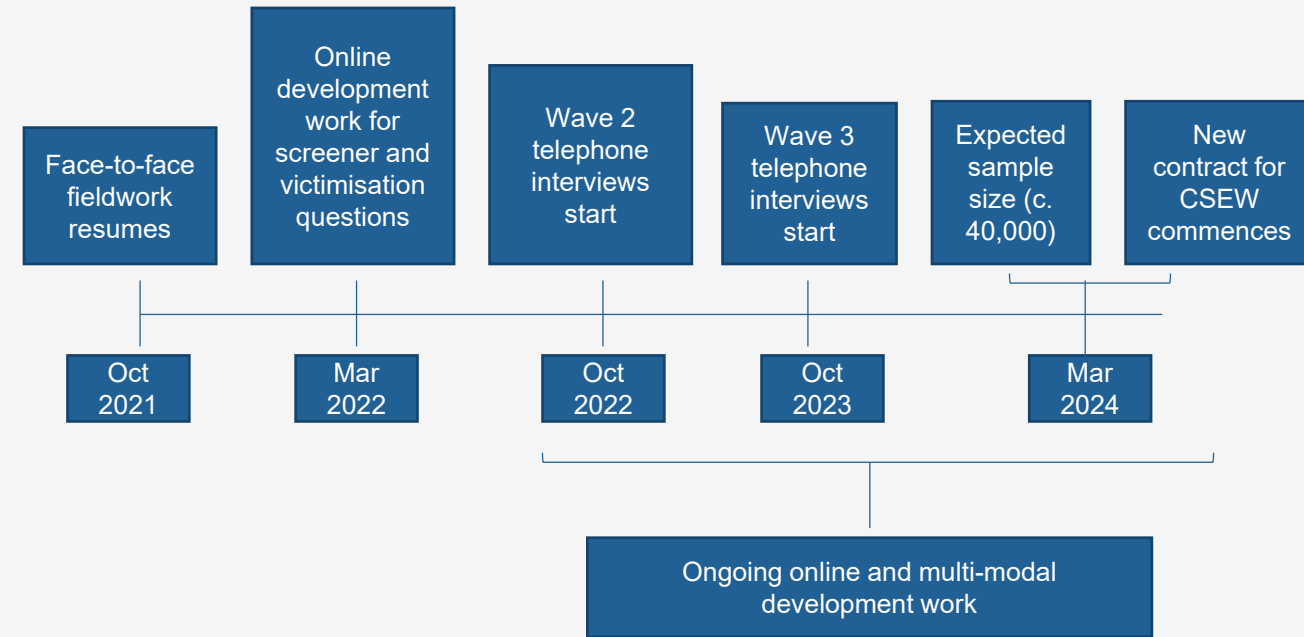
# CSEW transformation

## Objectives

- Improve sustainability of survey with reduced reliance on face-to-face interviews
- Increase precision and granularity of main estimates of crime by increasing sample size
- Modernise the survey with multi-modal approach

## Approach

- Longitudinal panel design
  - Boost face-to-face interviews and re-interview previous respondents to the survey
  - This approach will build on the method used successfully over the pandemic to complete the Telephone-operated CSEW
- Initial interview (wave 1) completed face-to-face with a follow up interview (wave 2) completed after 12 months by telephone, or online. Wave 3 completed after a further 12 months





## CSEW survey design (2022-23)

- Face-to-face sample design was adjusted to allow greater flexibility in target sample sizes
  - Moved to a simplified sample design
  - Minimum targets within Police Force Areas (PFA) were maintained
  - Total sample size (Wave 1 only) reduced to c. 30,000 interviews
- Introduction of new module on harassment added in April 2022 (article published Dec 23)
- An error in the survey script from Oct 2022 to Jan 2023 resulted in missing data for 10 key questions relating to partner abuse
  - As a result, estimates for the year ending March 2023 for domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking were based on eight months of interviews and exclude the affected survey months. Additional weights (c11indivwgt\_dv and c11hhdwgt\_dv) were added to the 2022-23 data file for use in analysing this data.

## CSEW survey design (2023-24)

- High-crime area boost sample was incorporated to increase the number of interviews achieved in high-crime areas
  - 6,000 of the 32,500 total interviews to be completed in high-crime areas
    - Defined as top 20% using the Crime Index from IMD
- Redesigned questions on domestic abuse added as a split sample experiment
  - These will be included on the survey until March 2025 (provisional date)
  - Expect to include findings from the trial in the next update scheduled for late 2024
- Experience of abuse in childhood module added to survey

# Implementation of Wave 2+

- Currently all published estimates based on Wave 1 data
- Wave 2+ designed to be implemented with no impact on Wave 1 time series
- Separate analysis to understand the quality of Wave 2+ data and how to combine with Wave 1

# Children's CSEW transformation

- CCSEW suspended between March 2020 and April 2022
- Precision and availability of data impacted by significant reduction in response rates post pandemic

## Transformation objective:

- Develop an efficient, sustainable and resilient survey which delivers high quality, timely and inclusive data on children and young people's experience of crime-related topics and provides greater insights into experiences of vulnerable subpopulations

## Approach:

- Programme of research (qualitative and quantitative) looking at the feasibility of moving data collection online
- Large scale online response rate test launching this month (issued sample of 7,000 children)
- Children sampled directly from administrative data sources (e.g., education, health data) as opposed to households who have responded to the CSEW
- Pilot results will inform a recommendation for the future of the children's CSEW, including recommendation to discontinue the face-to-face survey

# Latest results



# Latest results (year ending September 2023)

Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending September 2023 showed that compared with the year ending September 2022:

- fraud decreased by 13%, with notable reductions in advance fee fraud (33%) and other fraud (40%)
- computer misuse increased by 30%, mainly because of a 36% rise in unauthorised access to personal information
- criminal damage decreased by 21%, including a 30% fall in criminal damage to a vehicle

There was no change in CSEW estimates of violence (which does not include sexual offences) compared with year ending September 2022 but estimates were 28% lower than year ending March 2020.

# Recent publications

- [Quarterly update bulletin for year-ending September 2023](#)
- [Experiences of harassment in England and Wales: December 2023](#)
- [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2023](#)

# CSEW datasets





# Datasets

- TCSEW non-victim file datasets now available
- Historic datasets re-supplied following the change in methodology for handling repeat victimisation
  - Bolt on files supplied back to 2001
- We aim to deposit the 2022-23 CSEW data to the SRS and UKDA **by end of March 2024**

# Any questions?

