

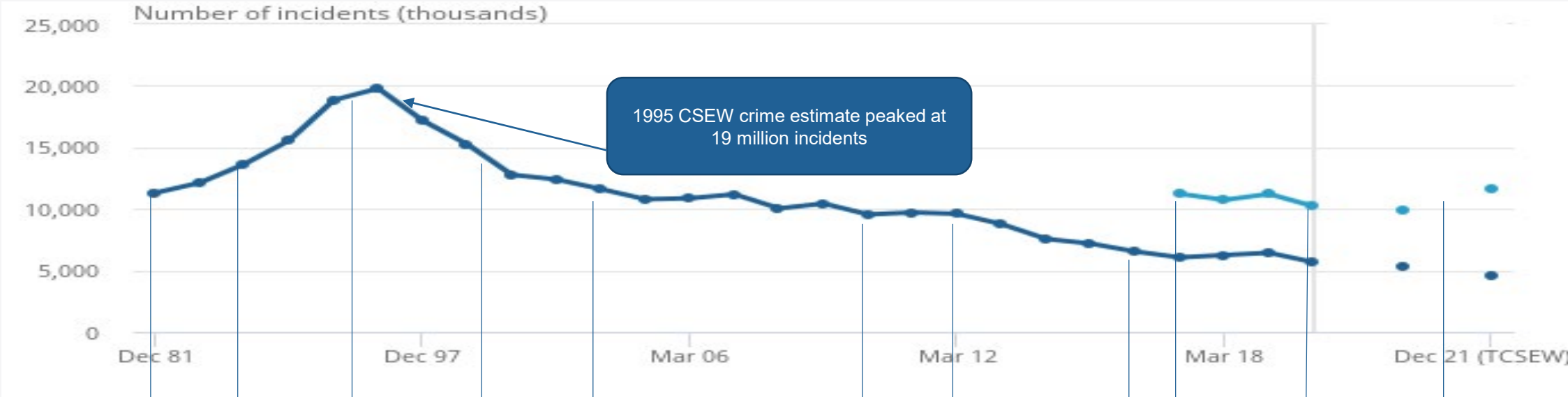
Transformation plans for the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

Feb 2024 User Group Conference





Timeline of major changes to the survey



First Crime Survey took place in 1981 and estimated 11.1 million crimes

1988 Crime Survey extended to include a boost sample of black and minority ethnic groups

1994 CAPI surveying introduced.

1994 Self-completion module on interpersonal violence

The survey operated on a continuous basis

2004/05 the survey sample increased to its maximum of 46,000

2009/10 The survey was expanded to include 10-015 year olds

Sample reduced to 36,000

2017 Survey extended to include fraud and computer misuse offences

2015/16 First abuse during childhood module

March 2019 Pandemic strikes Crime Survey moves to Telephone operation

October 2021 Face to Face interviewing resumed

October 2022 Telephone follow up interviews introduced

Drivers for change

- Post pandemic field operation
- Policy requirement
- Modern technologies



Drivers for change – Field operations

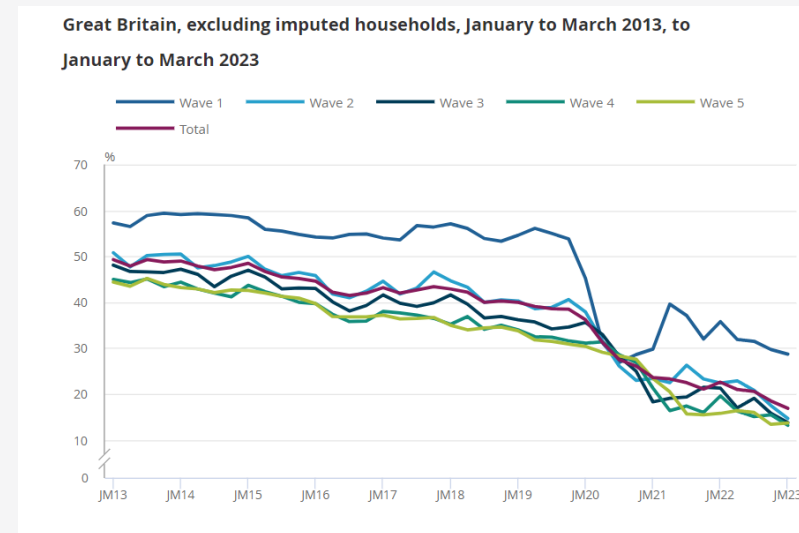
- Cost of face-to-face interviews have increased substantially in recent years and particularly post pandemic
- Interviewer panels were not maintained through the pandemic – leading to a shortage of interviewers and a greater number of inexperienced interviewers
- Societal factors leading to less willingness to take part on part of respondents

Leading to a major impact on response rates

CSEW response rate Year to March 2019 – 69%

CSEW response rate year to March 2023 - 42%

Wave specific response rate Labour Force Survey

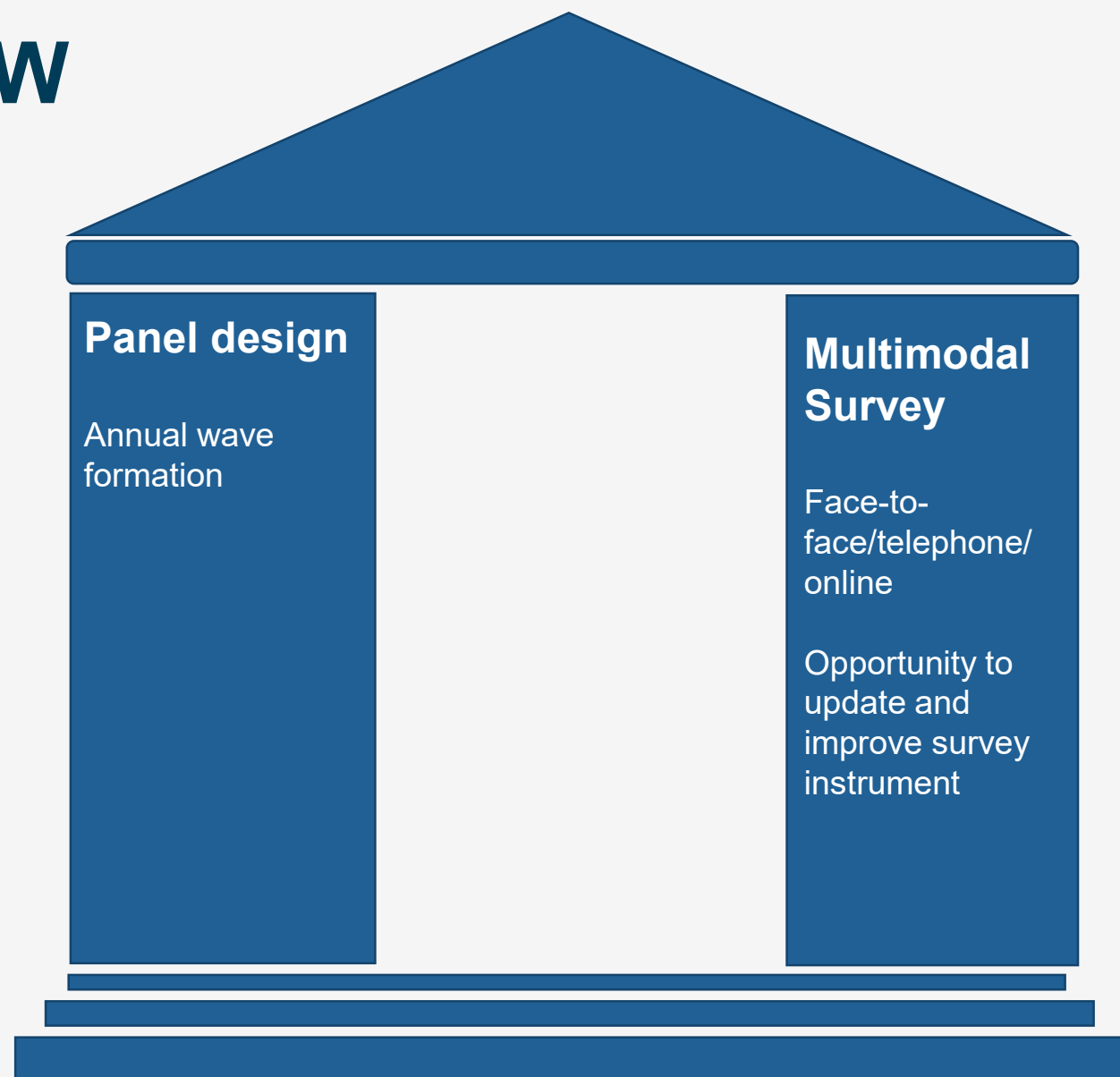


Drivers for change – Policy initiatives

- Policy need for greater regional granularity – UK Levelling Up agenda – Targeted policy in high crime areas
- Violence against Women and Girls – Targeted policy at sub populations
- Use of administrative data that led to an alternative to social survey data has not impacted on victimisation surveys in the same way – Still a policy need to measure crimes not reported to or recorded by the police.
- **Leading to a need for larger sample sizes at minimal cost**

Twin Pillars of the CSEW Transformation Programme

- Increasing sample size – move to panel design
- Survey instrument redesign to enable multi-modal completion – face to face, telephone, online. Improving quality of crime statistics
 - Development of screeners and victimisation modules to better capture all types of crime covered by the survey
 - Development of improved measures for estimates of Domestic Abuse and other measures of violence against women and girls
 - Development of the children's survey to better meet user needs on children's vulnerability to, and experience of, victimisation and other harm

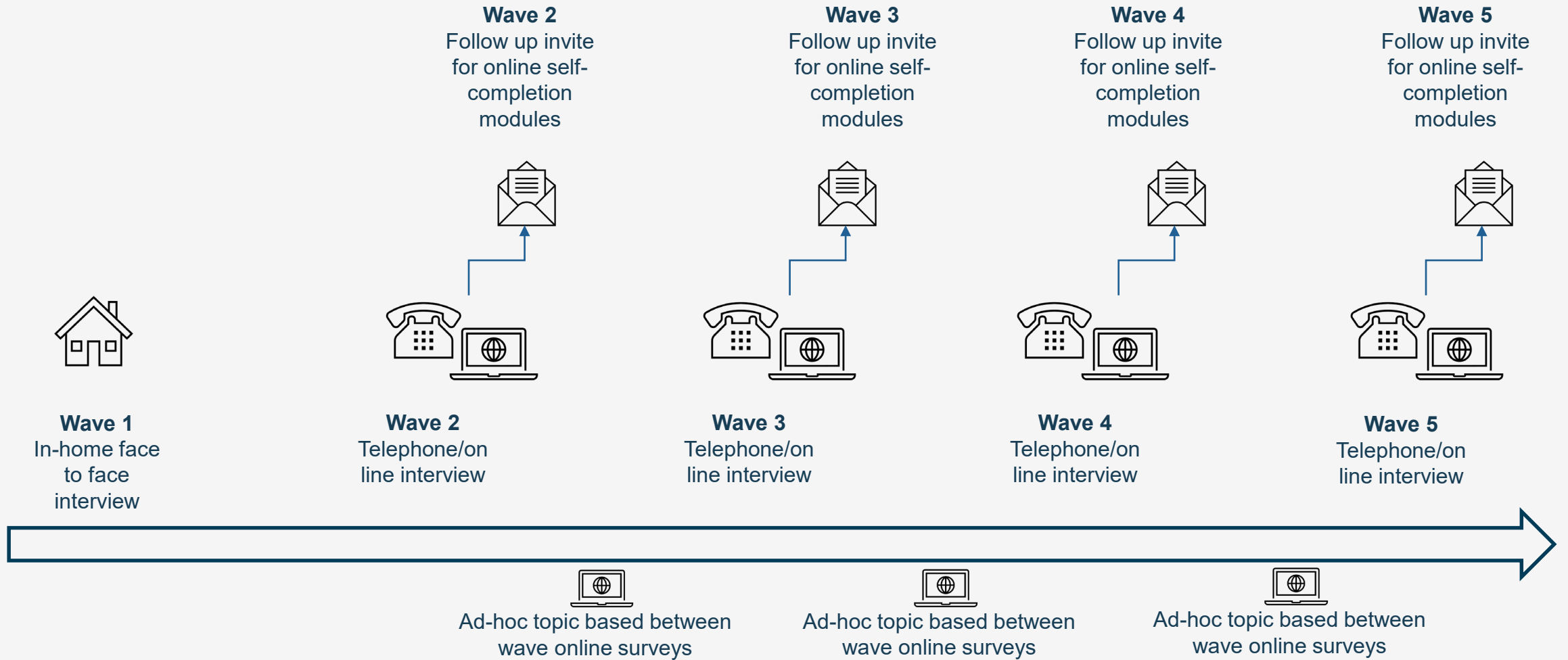


Survey operation – Wave 1 and subsequent interviews

- Wave 1 will continue to operate as a face-to-face survey. Consistency with previous years is important.
- Following the first interview (wave 1) subsequent interviews will take place at intervals of one year for a further two to five years (Waves 2, 3, 4 and 5).
 - Further work to be undertaken to assess feasibility of participation over multiple years.



Longitudinal design



Progress –Panel Design

Wave 2 Live in October 2022

First 12 months data processed

- Modal effects
- Bias
- Improve agreement to recall and attrition
- Assess data quality and effects before main estimates are produced using all waves of data.

Progress – Multimodal Survey

Already several iterations of work:

- [Re-design of the Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\) Core Questions for Online collection](#)
- [Further research on Transforming the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)
- [ONS Discovery Report \(Questionnaire Data Collection Methodology\)](#)

Continue to develop a fully multimodal survey for the main estimates of crime, including prevalence and incident rates.

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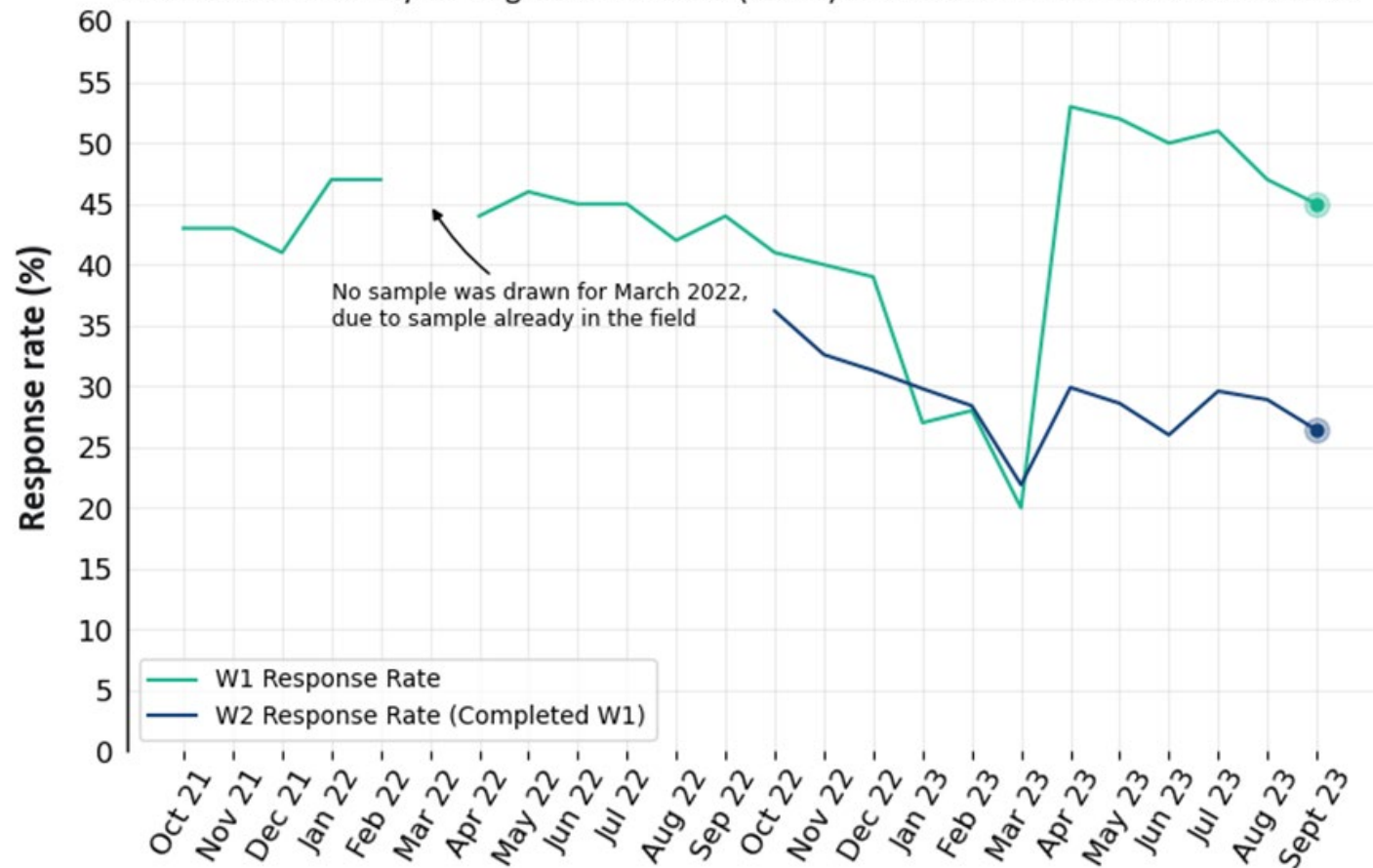
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Wave 2 Response Rates

Figure 1: Response Rates

Wave 1 and Wave 2 monthly interview response rates

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

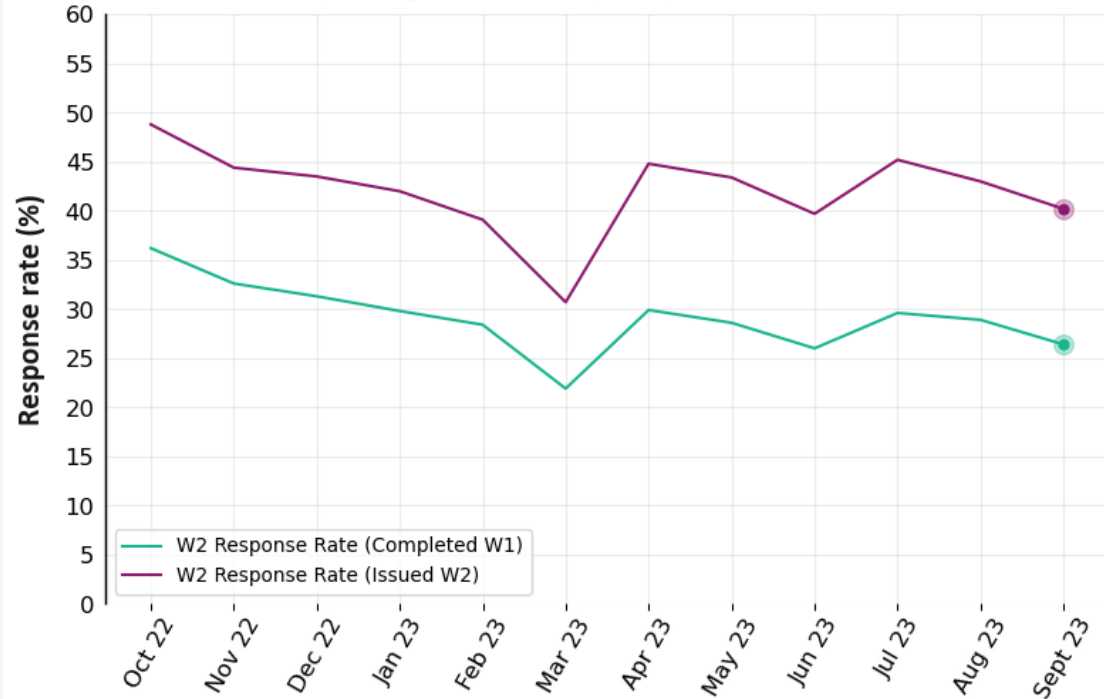


Wave 2 Response Rates

Figure 2: Comparison of Wave 2 Response Rate Measures

Wave 2 (Completed W1) and Wave 2 (Issued W2) monthly interview response rates

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



Any questions?

