

# Statistical guidance on crime and policing statistics

For Police and Crime Commissioners

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## Foreword

Professor Stephen Shute

Chair of the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee

Appropriate use of crime and policing statistics is essential if public trust and confidence in those statistics and in the police service is to be maintained. As the Chair of the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee (CSAC), I welcome the publication of this guidance which aims to provide assistance to you on best practice of using crime and policing statistics in accordance with the principles outlined by the UK Statistics Authority. I also strongly support the commitment to ensure that crime statistics are accurate, clearly presented, comprehensive, transparent, and trustworthy, and endorse the work that is already underway on improving public trust in statistics. You can play an important role in ensuring that the good work continues and I hope you will find this guidance a useful and practical tool.

The guidance is divided into three main parts: an overview of the importance of statistics, advice for using data publicly and the main crime and policing outputs available; more detailed technical descriptions; and recommendations on management of data and guidelines for presenting data.

This guidance was developed with the support of the Committee and I would like to thank colleagues in the Home Office for leading on the production and development of this guidance. I am also grateful to colleagues in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the College of Policing for their contributions.

## Introduction

### Purpose of this guidance: Making statistics work for you

This document is designed to provide guidance on best practice for using crime and policing statistics to improve understanding and interpretation of the data, and to help build and maintain public trust in official information. The guidance presents recommended best practice in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority framework<sup>1</sup> and its Code of Practice<sup>2</sup>. Statistics on crime and policing are available from different sources; are produced in a number of different outputs; and have differing strengths and limitations so being able to ‘unlock’ and accurately interpret the data is vital. These statistics can help in holding your Chief Constable to account when:

- reviewing force performance management and setting priorities;
- communicating with the public and informing public debate;
- developing evidence based decisions.

The guidance brings together information on the collection, presentation and management of data as well as the sources of statistics available into a comprehensive toolkit for you. This is the first of three documents available and contains advice on using data publicly and the crime and policing outputs available. The second part of the series presents more detail on the sources of crime and policing statistics and technical descriptions to provide statistical guidance for your analysts, and the third gives a summary for communication teams on presenting data.

### Benefits of statistics

Statistical analysis can make an important contribution to the delivery of an effective and efficient police service and to how police and their partners tackle crime. It can be used to identify the nature of a crime problem, understand the most cost-effective ways of addressing the problem, and monitor and evaluate any initiatives implemented to address the problem. An analysis of the nature of a crime problem is usually a critical first step to ensure that community needs are being met, and there are wide ranges of statistics that can be used to help with this.

To monitor and assess force performance and to demonstrate to the public how forces are performing you will likely be using, interpreting and reporting on statistics generated nationally and locally. However, not all statistical evidence is robust and evidence of effectiveness in one context may not translate easily to another. There is growing interest in making greater use of statistics and data analysis within policing, and making good use of them can be hugely beneficial.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

## Importance of public trust in statistics

The Government, the UK Statistics Authority and CSAC<sup>3</sup> are committed to enhancing the integrity, both actual and perceived, of official statistics and place great importance in ensuring that the public have ready access to information and trust what they see. Therefore, statistics that have been compiled, quality assured and presented in a transparent way, will help to enhance the integrity of both the statistics and the producers of them.

In addition, the release of official reports into the public domain in an orderly manner, in accordance with the Authority's code, promotes public confidence and gives equal access to all, subject to relevant legislation. These recommendations serve to: ensure a trustworthy service to users; avoid the perception that the release of statistics have been delayed or withheld; and prevent exposure of producers to suggestions of misuse.

## Treating own statistics as official

As producers of information, in accordance with the requirements which Parliament has placed on Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) about the provision and publication of information to the public<sup>4</sup>, this guidance is based on the UK Statistics Authority framework for *official* statistics but we would encourage you to view it as a benchmark when producing and publishing any set of statistical information.

More details on the UK Statistics Authority, the Code of Practice and official statistics can be found in Annex A of this document.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-advisory-committees/crime-statistics-advisory-committee.html>

<sup>4</sup> The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (2011 No. 3050), as amended by The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2012 (2012 No. 2479)

## Using data publicly

Statistics are tools that can turn data into useful information that can then be used to raise awareness, influence behaviour and voters, and help to drive local accountability and transparency. Good and accurate use of statistics can help to establish credibility, increase influence and contribute over time to enhanced reputation. Poor use of statistics can lead to loss of trust and reduced authority. You, therefore, have a critical role in presenting data clearly to ensure that your communities and partners understand the data you make available to them.

The way statistical data are summarised or presented can lead to wrong conclusions being drawn even if the statistics are correct. It is important, therefore, to ensure that they are quoted accurately using reliable (published) sources that are properly referenced and caveated where necessary.

Statistics are a hugely important and influential resource, but if they are not understood then they are not doing as much good as they could, and run the risk of being misinterpreted.

### Six guidelines with examples

The following are some general tips to ensure the best presentation.

1. *Show the full picture*

When writing about statistics do not just pick out the successes, show a balance of results. Do not just say there was a change (e.g. a fall in crime), always also say either what it fell from or what it fell to.

2. *Don't claim too much*

Be cautious about saying that you can “prove” or “show” that policies have worked using statistics. It is often better to say that they “indicate” or “suggest”. For example:

*“There was a 27 per cent fall in knife homicides in areas piloting my knife crime initiatives, from 199 in 2011/12 to 145 in 2012/13, compared with a 13 per cent increase in areas where these initiatives have not yet been implemented (55 to 62, respectively). These data suggest that my initiatives may be contributing to a fall in knife-related deaths.”*

3. *Compare similar data*

It is usually best to compare changes year-on-year using identical time periods. For example:

*“Crime in September to December 2012 is down 40 per cent compared with the same period the year before.”*

This ensures seasonal factors are not mis-interpreted. It should be noted that it is not always appropriate to compare forces as they vary in terms of population and geographical size and composition.

4. *Be clear where the statistics are from*

State the data source(s) that the statistics come from. For example:

*“There was a fall of x% in police recorded crime...” or “According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales...”*

If applicable, include web links and table or chapter references to allow readers to see the underlying data for themselves.

5. *When numbers are small (e.g. less than 100) beware of percentages*

Small numbers are better quoted directly. For example:

*“There were 11 homicides recorded by Bassetshire Police in 2011/12, down from 19 the previous year.”*

If you must use percentages always include the actual numbers so that readers don't over-interpret accuracy. For example:

*“Homicides in Bassetshire were down 42 per cent (from 19 in 2010/11 to 11 in 2011/12)”.*

For small numbers, also consider using simple proportions. For example: *“Attempted murders recorded by Bassetshire Police were down by a fifth” – rather than “fell 20 per cent”.* But still quote exact numbers.

6. *Be clear about limitations or quality issues affecting the data*

Explain how big the survey or study sample sizes were, response rates, whether the results were nationally representative, whether there were changes to the way data were collected / recorded and (if appropriate) whether results are statistically significant. If these details are too technical, consider using footnotes or notes to editors.

## Examples of good and bad use of stats

### Example 1

**Good:** *“Police recorded crime fell by 5 per cent in the year to September 2012 compared with a year earlier.”*

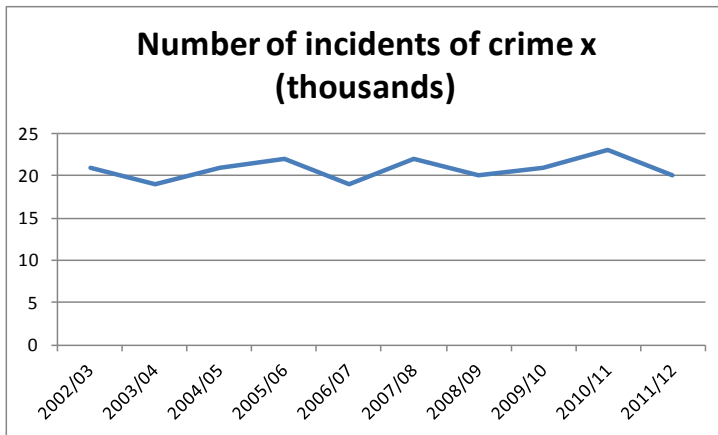
**Bad:** *“Crime is down by 5 per cent.”* – What is the source? Down 5 per cent compared to when?

### Example 2

**Good:** *“There was one homicide recorded by Bassetshire Police in 2011/12, compared with two recorded the previous year.”(Percentage changes are not appropriate when presenting small numbers).*

**Bad:** “There was a 50 per cent fall in homicides between 2010/11 and 2011/12.”

**Example 3**



**Good:** “According to the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales , crime x fell by 13 per cent in the last year, however the trend has been relatively flat since 2002/03.”

– i.e. don't just focus on the most recent quarter/year, put it into context.

**Bad:** “Crime x fell by 13 per cent in the year to 2011/12”



## Crime and policing statistics outputs

There are various sources of crime statistics that can be used to assess force progress. However, it is often unclear which is the most appropriate to use in different circumstances. This section provides a summary of the statistics produced on crime and policing and when it is appropriate to use them.

### Outline of outputs available

The two main sources of national crime statistics are police recorded crime (PRC) and the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

**Police recorded crime:** All recorded crime data comes from police force recording systems. Police crime recording practice is governed by the [National Crime Recording Standard \(NCRS\)](#). The NCRS was introduced in April 2002 to promote greater consistency and transparency of crime recording between forces. Crime data are collected from each police force for all crimes within the Notifiable Offence List and according to [Home Office Counting Rules](#) (HOCR). The guidance notes to the counting rules provide a good background as to how PRC figures are recorded and the circumstances under which crimes are included in or omitted from the figures.

PRC is the most appropriate data source for sub-regional analysis. It is the only available data source for certain crimes such as homicide and victimless crimes (e.g. drug possession offences).

**Crime Survey for England and Wales:** formerly known as the British Crime Survey (BCS), this is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people aged 16 and over resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes in the 12 months prior to the interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues, such as the police and the criminal justice system and their perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. Since January 2009, CSEW has also asked children aged 10 to 15 about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

CSEW is the most appropriate data source for looking at long term trends, especially if going back beyond 2002 (as this was when the NCRS was introduced therefore making PRC data from 2002/03 incomparable with pre-2002/03 PRC data). It is also appropriate for short-term trends (preferably used alongside the PRC data to give a full as picture as possible), although, given that these are based on a sample, small changes should be treated with caution as they may not represent a real underlying change.

More details on the main differences between these two sources and the limitations associated with them are presented in Annex B of this document.

## Crime recording standards

Crime statistics would become meaningless without integrity in recording of crime. NCRS was originally proposed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) after a highly critical review of forces' crime recording procedures by HMIC and was adopted in 2002. This standard has been very important in maintaining the credibility and comparability of crime recording. The general principle of NCRS is that where a victim makes a report of crime it *will be recorded where there is no credible evidence to the contrary*. For the public to have confidence in the police there is a minimum expectation that the police will accurately record crimes and it is important that victim reports are not discounted without good reason. There have been a number of reports and reviews on crime recording in recent years by both HMIC and the National Statistician (amongst others) and they have all concluded that NCRS remains relevant and fit for purpose.

Concerns have been expressed about the possible erosion of compliance by some forces with the NCRS leading to some crimes reported to the police not being recorded accurately.

The HOCR sets out that each police force should have a Force Crime Registrar (FCR) who acts as final arbiter for crime recording and detection decisions in line with the HOCR and NCRS. FCRs have an in-depth level of knowledge about NCRS and the HOCR and also act as the link between the force and the Home Office. He or she can advise on the processes that need to be followed to ensure that recording in a force has integrity and is comparable with other forces. The role of FCR is crucial in ensuring that the statistics eventually made available to the public and on which decision-making is based are both accurate and comparable.

## Anti-social behaviour recording standards

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents are recorded by the police in accordance with the National Standards for Incident Recording (NSIR) which sets out the same 'victim-focused' approach that applies to police recorded crime. NSIR was introduced in 2007 to provide standards and guidance to forces on the recording of all incidents reported to them that fall outside of notifiable crime. ASB figures are published by ONS, however they are not accredited National Statistics as opposed to the main recorded crime collection. ONS has also published findings on perceptions and experiences of ASB from the 2011/12 CSEW and experience of ASB reported by businesses from the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS). Data on Anti-social behaviour orders breached issued by courts are compiled by MOJ and published by the Home Office.

## Other policing outputs

**Police personnel:** Forces collect a variety of data relating to police personnel. These include police numbers in post; by force; by rank; by gender and ethnicity breakdowns. These are published by the Home Office and used widely by HMIC.

**Victim satisfaction:** There is also a requirement of the Home Office for police forces to conduct victim satisfaction surveys with specified victim groups and return data on a quarterly basis. The purpose of returning data from force surveys to the Home Office is to enable the calculation of victim satisfaction measures for dissemination via iQuanta and the HMIC Crime and Policing Comparator.

**Complaints against the police:** The Independent Police Complaints Commission ([IPCC](#)) produces statistics on complaints against the police and on deaths during or following police contact.

**Criminal justice:** Forces also collect and make available to the MoJ and the Home Office a range of crime outcome information, including: police cautions (reprimand or warnings for juveniles), Penalty Notice for Disorder (PNDs); cannabis warnings; and offences taken into consideration (TiCs). These are published regularly by the MoJ and Home Office. MoJ also collects and publishes data on court outcomes and sentencing; prison and probation data; proven re-offending; and criminal histories.

Further details of the crime statistics available in National Statistics, on police force area, local area and neighbourhood data can be found at Annex C.

## Who to contact for further guidance

The following may be contacted for guidance or support with statistical queries:

[crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

[crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex A: Background of the UK Statistics Authority

The UK Statistics Authority<sup>5</sup> was established in 2008 by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and is an independent body operating at arm's length from the government as a non-ministerial department, directly accountable to Parliament.

The Authority has two main functions:

- oversight of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) - its executive office
- independent scrutiny (monitoring and assessment) of all *official* statistics produced in the UK.

The Authority's statutory objective is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. It is also required to promote and protect the quality and comprehensiveness of official statistics, and ensure good practice in relation to official statistics.

### Official Statistics

An enormous amount of information about the UK is recorded through the medium of official statistics and produced largely by statisticians operating under the umbrella of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) within public bodies. The statistics provide valuable information fundamental to:

- both efficient management and the democratic process;
- promoting transparency and enabling the public to hold to account all organisations that spend public money; and
- internal management decisions and policy making.

A system for governing production and use of official statistics was created by the Authority. This was in order to enhance trust in the statistical system in terms of quality and impartiality by ensuring the right range of statistics is produced, high and consistent professional standards are maintained, and official statistics are well explained, leading to better decision-making in the public interest.

The National Statistician<sup>6</sup> issued guidance on the principles that government bodies should consider when deciding whether or not a particular set of data should be treated as official statistics.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> The National Statistician is a Crown appointment as the Statistics Authority's and the Government's principal adviser on official statistics, head of the Government Statistical Service, and is also the Authority's Chief Executive and Permanent Secretary.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-guidance/index.html>

## Code of Practice: Overview

The Code, produced and published by the UK Statistics Authority, provides a common standard for good practice to all bodies producing official statistics in the UK and by so doing, helps to ensure a coherent and trustworthy service to users.

The *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*<sup>8</sup> comprises eight high level principles: (see box below).

- Principle 1: Meeting user needs
- Principle 2: Impartiality and objectivity
- Principle 3: Integrity
- Principle 4: Sound methods and assured quality
- Principle 5: Confidentiality
- Principle 6: Proportionate burden
- Principle 7: Resources
- Principle 8: Frankness and accessibility

These principles are supplemented by 74 specific practices. In most cases these practices are not prescriptive, in recognition of the fact that there are often a number of different ways of complying with them, and that these will vary according to the specific context in which the statistics are produced.

In relation to the eight principles and supplementary practices the Code also contains three more detailed protocols (see box).

- Protocol 1: User engagement
- Protocol 2: Release practices
- Protocol 3: The use of administrative sources for statistical purposes

## Pre-release access - what it is

Pre-release access (PRA) is the practice of making official statistics, and the written commentary that accompanies them, available in advance of their publication to specified individuals only on a 'need to know' basis. PRA is restricted and legislated

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

by the [Pre-release access to Official Statistics Order 2008](#). Procedures and compliance are strict and are overseen in the UK by the UK Statistics Authority.

In England and Northern Ireland, PRA is granted for a period of 24 hours before the official time of release and differs from regulations in Wales and Scotland.

[Supplementary guidance](#) relating to PRA has also been issued to accompany the Code of Practice.

## Breaches and the consequences of them

A breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics occurs where one or more provisions of the Code are not followed. Breaches must be reported immediately to the body producing the statistics and the UK Statistics Authority may then carry out an investigation. Consequences of breaches include the following:

- may lead to organisations/persons involved in breaches being excluded from future pre-release access
- damages the reputation of the recipient organisation
- undermines public trust in statistics

A real life example of the Home Office coming under criticism for practices inconsistent with the Code, which made headline national news, involved a press release on knife crimes issued on 11 December 2008. This included early information on hospital admissions for knife related injuries against the advice of Department of Health statisticians. It resulted in an apology having to be made in the House of Commons for the premature use of a figure. Subsequently, the UK Statistics Authority, when it launched its Code of Practice on 6 January 2009, also referred to the same press release for its selective comparisons, lack of contextual information, and drawing of inappropriate conclusions (amongst other things). The report can be accessed [here](#).

Though a breach may undermine public trust in statistics, being open about the occurrence of breaches offers a level of public accountability of the statistical service. It enhances transparency, and therefore helps to build trust in it.



## Annex B: Differences between CSEW and PRC

	<i>CSEW (England and Wales only)</i>	<i>PRC (England and Wales only)</i>
Source of data	<p>Large, nationally representative, sample survey of households in England and Wales.</p> <p>However, estimates are subject to a degree of uncertainty associated with sampling (i.e. not possible to ask everybody about their crime experiences so a representative selection of people are asked and their responses are used to represent everybody) and respondents recalling past events.</p>	<p>Data from forces' crime systems - either the data comes via the Data Hub<sup>9</sup> or forces not yet on the Data Hub complete a monthly return (these forces will migrate onto the hub during 2013/14). This source provides whole counts rather than survey estimates.</p>
Coverage of crimes	<p>Includes some crimes that may not have been reported to, or recorded by, the police.</p>	<p>Only those crimes reported to, and recorded by, the police, therefore does not provide complete coverage. From April 2013, will no longer cover fraud as these incidences will be recorded by Action Fraud<sup>10</sup>. <a href="#">Home Office Counting Rules</a> may prevent some crimes being recorded e.g. in some cases only the 'principle' crime is recorded.</p>
Crime victims covered	<p>A survey of people resident in households therefore excludes crimes against businesses and those not resident in households.</p> <p>Coverage extended in 2009 to include children aged 10-15 resident in households.</p>	<p>Covers crimes against all types of victims, including both public and private sector organisations (e.g. shoplifting).</p> <p>The data also include crimes committed against people not resident in the UK (e.g. tourists) that CSEW does not cover.</p>
Crime types covered	<p>Survey is based on victim's experience of crimes and so does not include crimes that have no</p>	<p>Only notifiable crime types covered including 'victimless' crimes (e.g. drugs possession) and homicides (both of</p>

<sup>9</sup> The Data Hub is a data warehouse which holds data for individual offences. It is designed to align with management information systems used in many police forces, allowing for the creation of automated extracts from one system to the other without the need for the completion of aggregate data collection forms. This should deliver long-term cost reductions in data collection processes and offers new and improved ways of analysing data.

<sup>10</sup> During the latter half of 2012/13, the responsibility for recording fraud offences has been gradually transferring away from police forces such that, from April 2013, all fraud offences will be recorded by Action Fraud.

	<p>victim who can subsequently be interviewed, e.g. homicides and drug possession offences.</p> <p>Resulting headline figures also exclude offences difficult to estimate from a relatively small sample, e.g. sexual offences. Self-completion modules cover sexual and domestic violence and use of illicit drugs.</p>	<p>which the CSEW does not cover). The latter are well covered as nearly all homicides come to the attention of the police.</p>
Long term trend analysis	<p>Survey is designed to provide a reliable and consistent measure of trends/patterns of victimisation so is a good measure of long term crime trends as not affected by changes in police recording practices.</p>	<p>Subject to changes in recording practices<sup>11</sup> so not suitable for long term trend analysis. In the past, the UK Statistics Authority has criticised inappropriate comparisons made by politicians using this series. Most crime comparisons since 2002/03 can be made on a consistent basis.</p>
Sub-regional data	<p>Not appropriate to use for crime statistics in areas lower the police force due to low and/or non-representative samples at this level.</p>	<p>Is the primary source of local area crime statistics and for lower-volume crimes, e.g. homicides.</p>
Time period covered	<p>Respondents are asked about their experience of crimes in the 12 months preceding the interview. For example, the 2011/12 survey is based on interviews between April 2011 and March 2012 and so the reference period for estimates includes incidents experienced by respondents between April 2010 and February 2012. This results in a degree of time lag, and a smoothing of the estimates compared with PRC figures.</p>	<p>Based on the date that the crime is recorded by the police. For example, estimates for 'the year ending September 2012' will include all crimes recorded by the police between October 2011 and September 2012, i.e. regardless if the incident took place before this period. The Savile incidents highlight this – although some of these took place as far back as the 1960s, these incidents would actually show up in the PRC statistics in 2012 when they were recorded by the police.</p>
Limitations	<p>CSEW is not appropriate for sub-regional data due to low/non-representative sample sizes at these levels.</p>	<p>PRC statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area</p>

<sup>11</sup> E.g. with the introduction of National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002.



The CSEW is based on victim's experience of crimes and so does not include crimes that have no victim who can subsequently be interviewed, e.g. homicides and drug possession offences.

The CSEW only covers people living in private households and therefore excludes crimes against individuals living in institutions and businesses. A separate survey, the [Commercial Victimisation Survey](#), covers businesses.

Although the CSEW covers children aged 10 to 15, but the figures are not directly comparable with those from the adult survey and should not be combined.

could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. Some crime types are also more influenced by police activity than others (e.g. drug offences).

PRC is not suitable for long term analysis that go back beyond 2002 (pre NCRS) making data incomparable. It is however the most appropriate source for short term trends (preferably used alongside the CSEW data to give as full a picture as possible).

## Annex C: Police recorded crime data outputs

Where can you go to find...?	Type of data source	What data does it use?	What level of geographical detail does it show?	How often is it updated?	What crime classification system does it use?	Where can you access it/find out more?
1. Published official/national crime statistics	The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes comprehensive reports of police recorded crime (PRC) figures. These include a series of data tables for different crime types and different geographical levels.	Police forces submit recorded crime data that is subject to a rigorous quality assurance process. These are designated <b>National Statistics</b> <sup>1</sup> . Includes data for the British Transport Police (BTP).	Police force and local level <sup>2</sup>	Quarterly	10 main crime offence groups (but lower-level breakdowns available)	<a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales">http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales</a>
2. Detailed official/national crime statistics	The Home Office publishes PRC open data tables. These tables contain recorded crime figures broken down by offence type, geography and time period.	As 1, above	Police force and local level <sup>2</sup>	Quarterly	Complete breakdown of offence codes	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables</a>
3. Comparisons of data on recorded crime <sup>3</sup> between all police forces in England and Wales.	HMIC <sup>4</sup> Crime & Policing Comparator	Published ONS National Statistics (as 1, above), excluding BTP.	Police force level	Quarterly	17 main crime groupings (but lower-level breakdowns available)	<a href="http://www.hmic.gov.uk/crime-and-policing-comparator/">http://www.hmic.gov.uk/crime-and-policing-comparator/</a>
4. Local level data (in form of crime maps) Neighbourhood policing information	Police.uk	Police forces submit recorded crime data that is not subject to the same rigorous level of quality assurance process as ONS. Also includes geo-code data, police disposal data, criminal justice outcomes and ASB data.	Street level (minimum of 8 addresses), can be aggregated to higher levels	Monthly	14 main crime groupings (but lower-level breakdowns available)	<a href="http://www.police.uk/">http://www.police.uk/</a>
5. Local area level comparisons	Compare Your Area	Published ONS National Statistics (as 1, above), excluding BTP.	Local level <sup>2</sup>	Quarterly	11 crime groupings	<a href="http://www.police.uk/">http://www.police.uk/</a>
6. Police performance and community safety data	iQuanta	Provisional data before they are finalised and published as National statistics (1, above), excluding BTP.	Police force level, Local level <sup>2</sup> and local strategic partnership level (regional)	Monthly or Quarterly depending on data feed	HMIC crime tree 17 main crime groupings (as 2, above) and former iQuanta crime categories	Restricted to users in police forces and Community Safety Partnerships. For more information email <a href="mailto:iquanta@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk">iquanta@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk</a>

1. See the Code of Practice for Official Statistics for more information: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>
2. Local level data covers Community Safety Partnership (CSP) areas. There are currently 310 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in England and 22 in Wales, the majority of which correspond to local authority areas. They are made up of representatives from the police and police authority, the local council, and the fire, health and probation services. A list of Community Safety Partnerships and corresponding police force areas is given at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/116236/reccrime-geo-pfa.csv](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/116236/reccrime-geo-pfa.csv)
3. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.
4. As well as being able to compare recorded crime levels with any police force in England and Wales, the Crime and Policing Comparator also allows comparisons of crime levels in a particular force with a subset of forces with similar socio-economic and demographic characteristics (similar to what is available for local areas on Compare Your Area). It also provides data for anti-social behaviour, quality of service, finances and workforce numbers for all police forces in England and Wales.