

**CRIME STATISTICS
FOR
ENGLAND & WALES**

The Guardian

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Crime statistics for England & Wales: what's happening to each offence?

What's happening to crime across England and Wales?

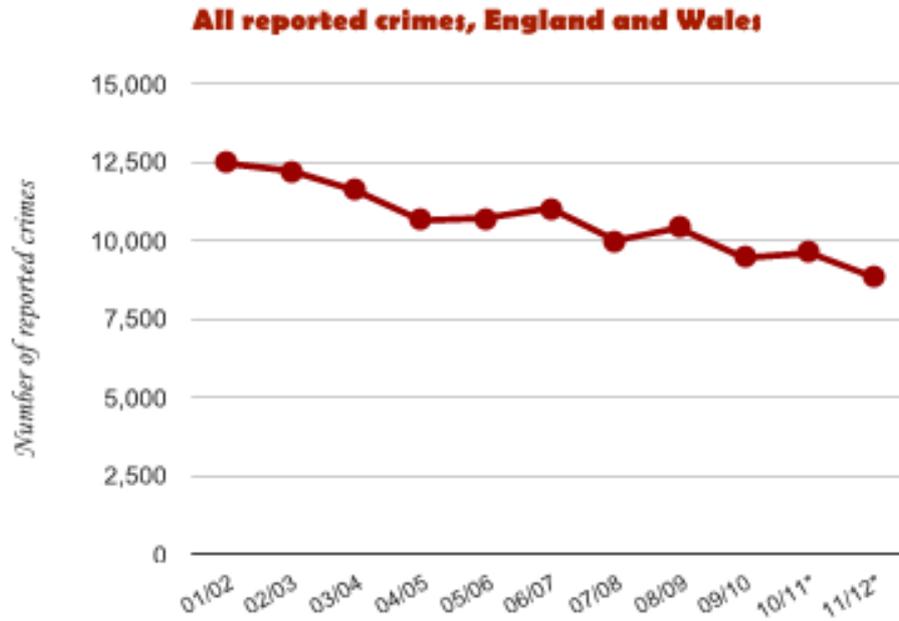
See what the latest figures say



The latest crime stats are out for England and Wales Photograph: Alamy

Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales fell by 8.4% between the years ending September 2011 and September 2012, according to the latest crime statistics.

8.9m crimes were reported in 2011/12, down from 9.6m the previous year, and 29% lower than ten years ago, according to figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).



**Figures are for Oct-Sep, all others are financial years*

Total numbers of crimes recorded for six of the eight main categories of offence fell compared to the previous year, with vandalism showing a fall of 14%.

Bicycle theft and 'other household theft' - that excluding burglary and vehicle-related theft - were the only two categories showing increases, and neither of these was found to be statistically significant at the 5% level.

A concurrent but separate ONS publication shows that the rate of police recorded crime has fallen more quickly than the rate of reported crime found in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

Alan Travis has more here, where he writes:

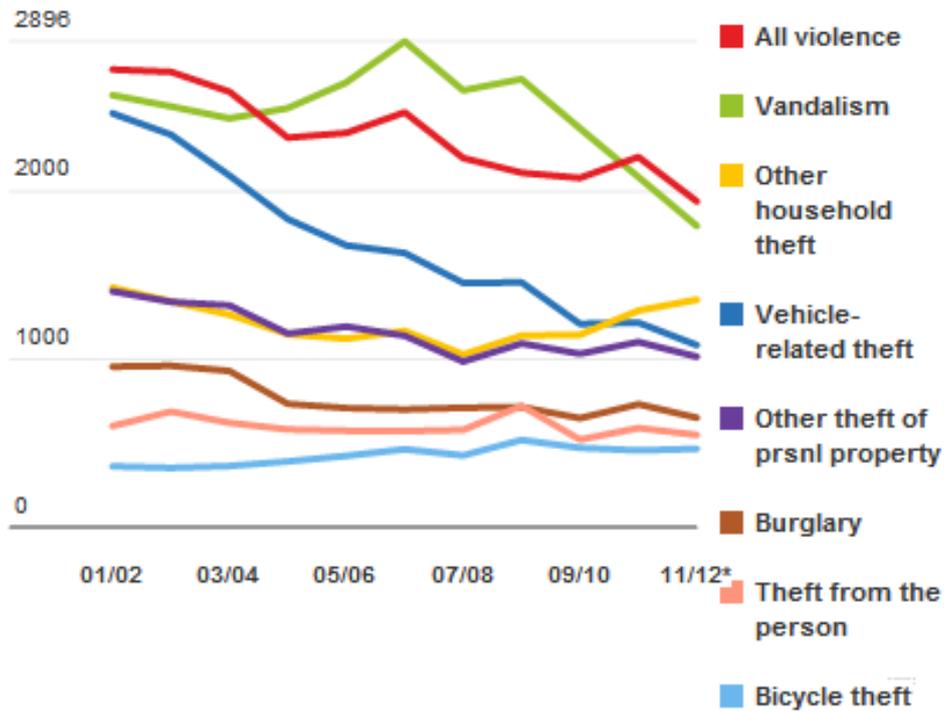
[The figures show] a 41% drop in crime between 2002-03 and 2011-12 for police recorded crime figures, compared with a 26% drop in the crime survey results over the same period.

Statisticians say one explanation for the difference may have been pressure on the police to downgrade incidents in the face of a targets culture. The study says the police figures may overstate the actual long-term fall in crime, especially since 2006-07.

There were 1.8m reported incidents of vandalism between July 2011 and June 2012, down from 2.1m the previous year. Reports of burglaries, violence and vehicle-related theft also fell by over 10% each.

Reported crime in England and Wales, by category

The rapid decline in vandalism incidents continued in the year ending September 2012, with all but two of the main categories of crime showing falls



*Figures are for Oct-Sep, all others are financial years

Below is a selection of other interesting statistics from the latest figures:

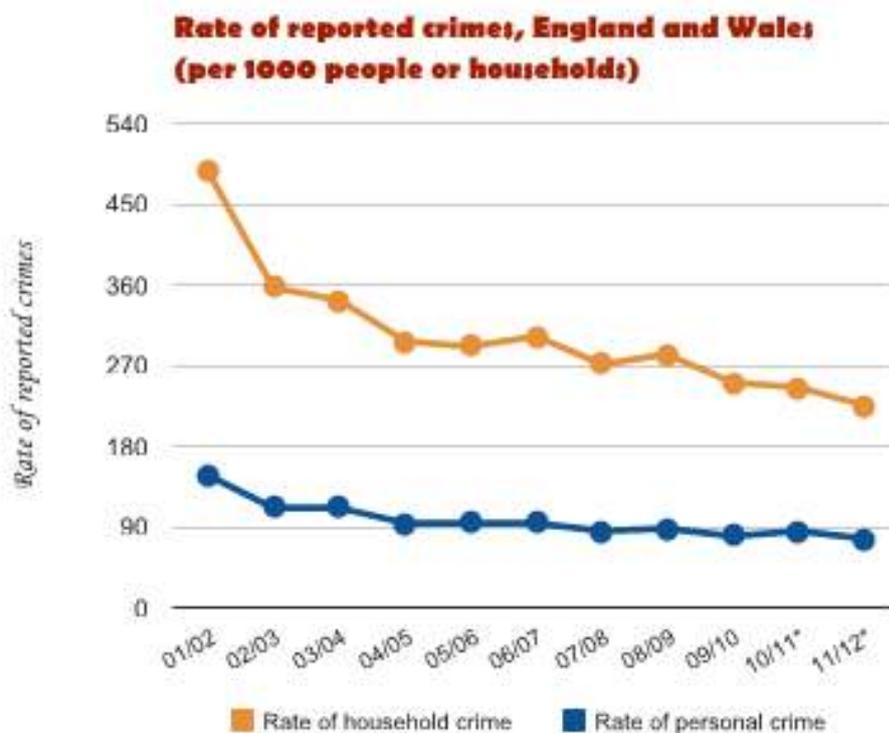
Homicides vs attempted murders



549 homicides (includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide) were reported in the year ending September 2012, a considerable drop on the previous year's total of 607. Homicides are now down to around half of the figure for 2001/2.

Attempted murders also fell, but by a smaller proportion, dropping by 2.7% in comparison to a fall of 9.6% in homicides.

Crime rates



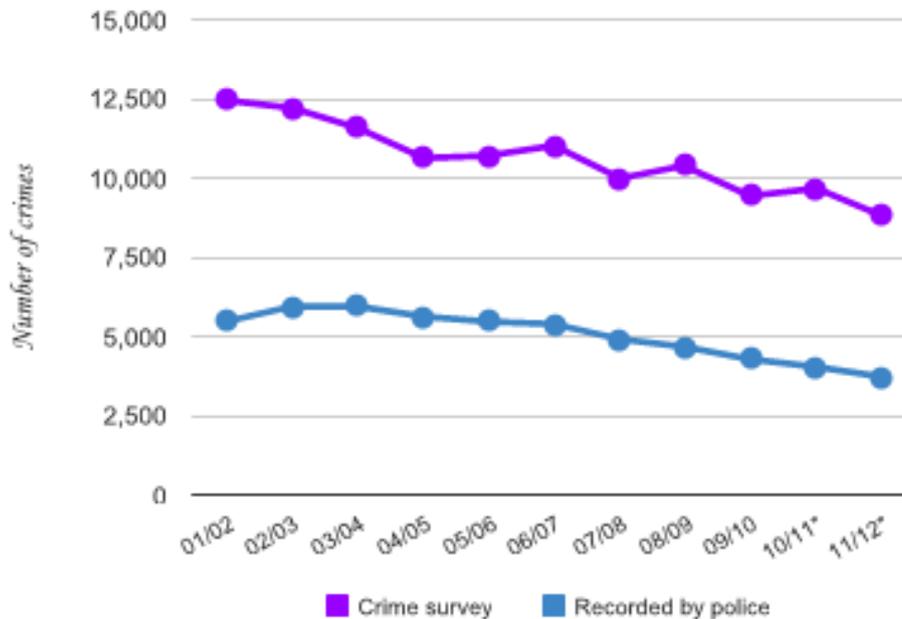
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Reports of crime against an individual in 2011/12 occurred at a rate of 78 per 1,000 people, down from 87 in 2010/11. Household crimes were reported at a rate of 226 per 1,000 households, down from 247.

Reported vs recorded

It's important to bear in mind that today's release focuses on police recorded crimes. These are provided to the Home Office by police authorities and forces, not all of whom collect data with the same precision according to a 2007 audit. This is problematic because it means that a higher number in a given area may indicate an improvement in reporting by police rather than a rise in criminality.

Crimes reported in survey; compared to police records, England and Wales



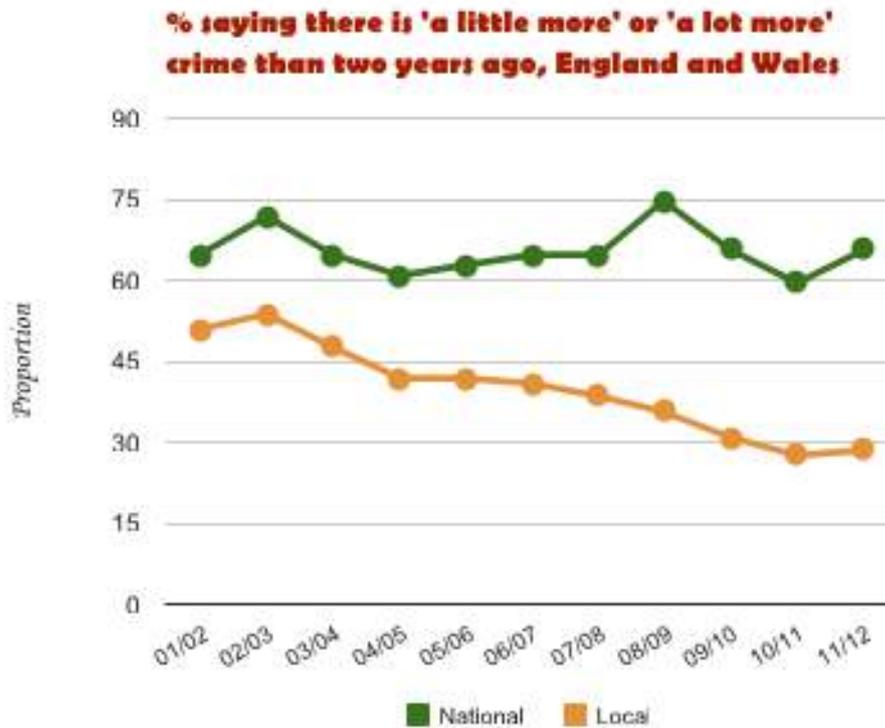
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What's more, crimes recorded by police are unlikely to represent the total number of crimes that take place. To understand this better, it's useful to also consider the CSEW which asks people face-to-face about their experiences of, attitudes about and perceptions of a range of crimes.

Though police-recorded crimes are down 8.4%, the number of crimes reported in the survey has fallen by 7.1%. 8.9 million crimes were reported in the survey in the year ending September 2012, while the police recorded 3.8 million crimes in this period.

The gap between police-recorded and survey-reported crime has always been significant, but the distance between the two has widened. In 2004/05, there was an effective recording rate of 52.8%, while in the latest statistical release, this figure has dropped to 42.4%.

Perception of crime



This data was part of a previous release, published in July 2012

Another of the more interesting figures is that of the perception of crime. The CSEW asks people whether they think crime is getting worse where they live and nationally. So, people think crime is getting worse - but not where they live. It's the gap between what we know is going on and what we think is going on.

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