

U3A Crime and Justice Study Group

- The Extent of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Menu – examine:

- The extent of crime
- The extent of anti-social behaviour

The extent of crime

- 'Lies, damned lies and statistics' (attributed to Lord Acton and Mark Twain).
- Two (or three) measures are always better than one – 'triangulation.'
- Crime is now usually measured by reference to two very different sets of figures.

Criminal Statistics for E&W

- Criminal statistics (relate only to 'indictable' offences and a limited range of summary and either/or offences; go back to 19th century; but...)
- Over-represented in crime statistics: men (rather than women); younger people (rather than older).
- Beware media representations of crime.

Recorded crime: Jan-Dec 2009 compared with Jan-Dec 2010

Offence type	2009	2010	% change
Violence against person	884,000	833,000	-6
Sexual offences	53,000	54,600	3
Robbery	76,200	75,100	-1
Burglary	557,700	519,400	-7
Vehicle related offences	516,100	456,400	-12
Other thefts	1,045,600	1,057,700	1
Fraud and forgery	151,000	148,300	-2
Criminal damage	858,000	714,700	-17
Total property crimes	3,128,400	2,896,500	-7
Drug and other crimes	305,500	300,000	-2
Total all crimes	4,447,500	4,159,500	-6

British Crime Survey

- 'Victim survey' collected from the early 1980's.
- Based on a large sample (40,000 people).
- Now surveyed every two years, but...

Crime as shown by the BCS data

Offence type	Jan 2009-Dec 2009	Jan 2010- Dec 2010	% change
Vandalism	2,421,000	2,289,000	-5
Burglary	644,000	734,000	14
Vehicle-related crime	1,293,000	1,183,000	-9
Other household crime	1,613,000	1,760,000	11
Total household crime	5,971,000	5,965,000	0
All personal theft	1,640,000	1,486,000	-10
All violent crime	2,140,000	2,035,000	-5
All BCS crime	9,751,000	9,485,000	-3

The extent of anti-social behaviour: % of those surveyed indicating that the issue is a big or fairly big problem in their area.

Question	Herefordshire 2010 %	All Cumbria 2010 %	South Lakes only 2010 %
1. Noisy neighbours and loud parties	10	9	7
2. Teenagers hanging around...	28	37	50
3. Rubbish/litter	31	32	48
4. Vandalism/graffiti	20	25	36
5. Using/dealing drugs	25	28	41
6. Abandoned/burnt out cars	2	4	3
7. Speeding cars	50	Not asked	Not asked
8. Drunk /unruly people	21	25	39

Latest figures from the BCS to September, 2011

Type of ASB	% fairly big/big problem
1. Noisy neighbours and loud parties	11
2. Teenagers hanging around...	25
3. Rubbish/litter	28
4. Vandalism/graffiti	21
5. Using/dealing drugs	26
6. Abandoned/burnt out cars	4
7. Speeding cars	-
8. Drunk /unruly people	24

Possible issues: the extent of crime

- Is property crime increasing, stable or decreasing?
- Are crimes against the person increasing, stable or decreasing?
- What gives the more accurate picture of crime, criminal statistics or British Crime Survey data?

Possible issues: the extent of anti-social behaviour

- What is ASB?
- What is really known about the extent of ASB?
- What trends, if any, are evident?