

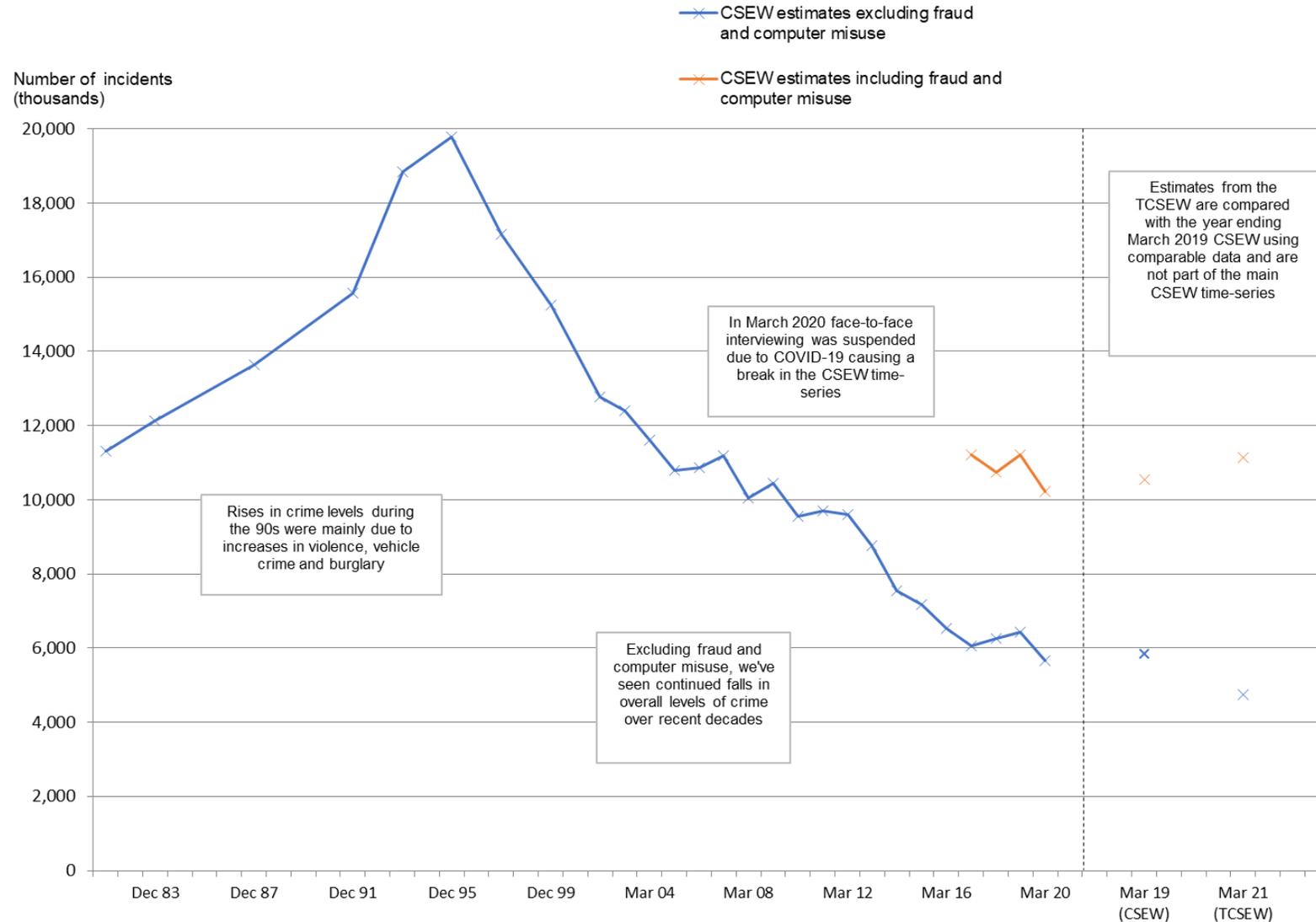


Office for  
National Statistics

# **Measuring crime during the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)**

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# Estimated incidents of total CSEW crime 1981-present



# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) – Sample considerations

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## Sample of households and single adult within each household

Postcode Address File (PAF)

ONS – Address Base

Telephone Directories

Random Digital Dialling

Sample of previous respondents to the crime survey who had agreed to be recontacted in last two years (Response Rate 70%)

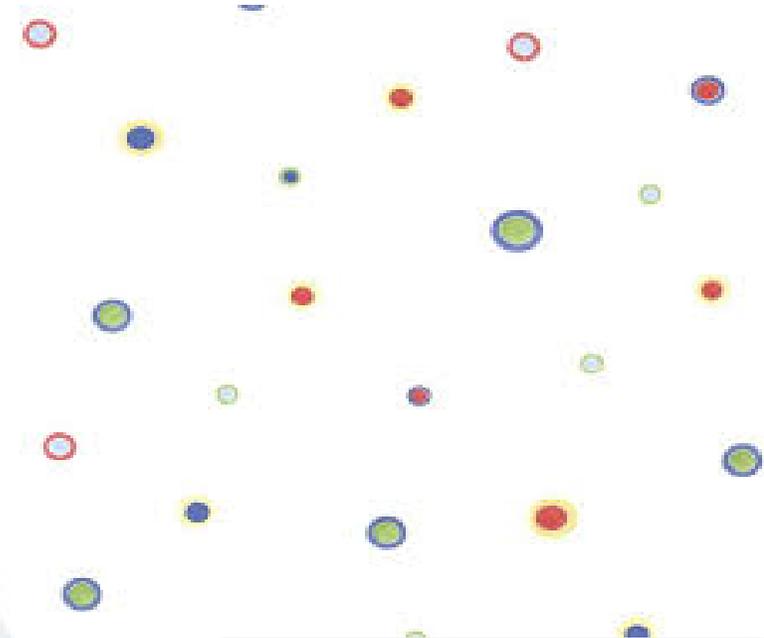
## Sampling Frame

PAF/ONS Address Base gave two options of how to conduct a survey:

- Address based Online Survey (ABOS)
- Online portal – collect contact details –follow up online/telephone survey

Sample of previous CSEW respondents

- Telephone survey



# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) – Sample decision

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## **ABOS**

Apart from some initial feasibility work conducted by KANTAR in terms of an online victimisation survey, little development work had been progressed. In addition, Kantar study raised issues over the questionnaire it designed for online use.

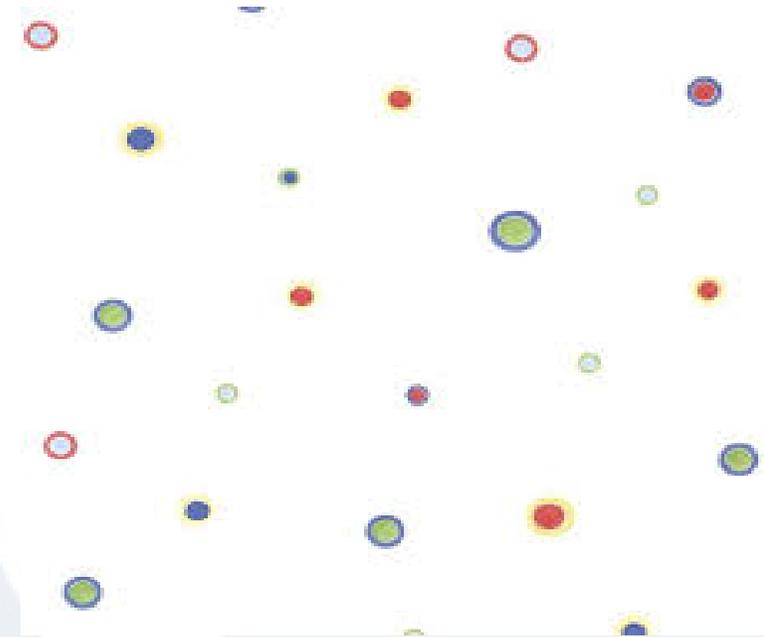
## **Online Portal**

Concern over response rates and non response bias  
Random selection of sole adult member gives an added complication

## **Sample from previous CSEW respondents**

Small sample of telephone numbers circa 40,000  
Non-response accumulation on top of 70%

Common to all modal differences



# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) –Questionnaire Modes

KANTAR research looking at feasibility of an online victimisation survey (2018)

Findings –

- For **Prevalence** rates the questionnaire appeared to work well although further development work would be required
- For **Incident rates** whilst the questionnaire worked well for victims of single incidents of crime, victims of multiple incidents became confused when attempting to record repeat/multiple incidents on the survey instrument.



Increasingly common research practice to now use mixed mode survey designs (for example conducting face-to-face interviews at baseline, with postal or telephone interviews at follow-up).

The main victimisation survey in the USA, The American National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found no significant mode effects for estimates of number of victims and prevalence rates when comparing their face-to-face and telephone survey interviews.



# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) –Final decisions

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## Sample CSEW respondents – Telephone Survey

- Difference between the bias on the original CSEW and the Telephone operated TCSEW could be partially mitigated against as the difference between the characteristics of the responders and non-responders would be know.
- The sample could be maintained by moving to a wave formation where responders were reinterviewed at three monthly intervals. This was initially designed over three waves to allow the sample to be maintained to March 2021.
- Relatively simple procedure to adapt face-to-face survey for telephone operation.

Felt at the time like a relatively straightforward decision to move to a telephone operated multi-wave survey sampled from previous survey respondents.

**Easiest to implement/faster/least risky option**

# Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) –Final decisions

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## Online portal – Telephone survey as back-up

- It was always understood the decision to run with the TCSEW and CSEW sample had its limitations and could not be sustained indefinitely. As a result we have been working in parallel in developing an online portal to provide contact details for individual household member to be surveyed by phone (initially)
- Portal went live in January 2021 with 20,000 addresses sampled
- Response rates to the portal were 39% although selection of one adult member for follow up telephone study reduced this figure further.

# Telephone operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) –Did it work?

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- Survey went live May 2020
- First estimates published August 2020
  - [Coronavirus and crime in England and Wales: August 2020](#)
- Annual dataset to March 2021 made up of 30,703 interviews
- Annual estimates published July 2021
  - [Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2021 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- Comparability report published alongside main estimates July 2021 indicating estimates were broadly comparable with the face-to-face survey
- [Comparability between the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales and the face-to-face Crime Survey for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
  
- Other reports
  - [Re-design of Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\) Core questions for Online Collection - Office for National Statistics](#)
  - [Examination of Data Collection Methods for the National Crime Victimization Survey, Final Report \(RTI International\) \(ojp.gov\)](#)

# 1 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) – Future online development

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- Explore how CSEW crime can be estimated through an online questionnaire
- A rapid evidence assessment of online surveying for estimating crime
- Further cognitive testing and live testing of the draft online questionnaire for measuring crime at scale
- Evaluation of the online approach and recommendations for full implementation of online self-complete as part of a multi-modal approach