

## COVID-19 Crime Trends

<b>Domestic abuse</b>	According to the CSEW, there was no change in the proportion of adult victims of domestic abuse in the year ending March 2019 (6.3%).	14% of all crimes recorded by the police were flagged as domestic abuse related	<b>Increase</b>	The strain that COVID-19 could put on many families in terms of supply shortages, redundancy, loss of routine, isolation from other social contact could contribute to an increase in domestic abuse offences. The increased amount of time family members will be forced to spend together alone will likely increase the number of incidents. Alcohol, a significant driver of domestic abuse, will likely be consumed more frequently in the home rather than a public space. DA also appears to increase during Christmas and summer holidays, perhaps for these reasons. There is also some anecdotal information that the number of DA offences increased in China in the isolation phase. On the other hand victims are known to report DA when they are away from the home and DA can often be caused by jealousy created when a partner is socialising with others. This could potentially mean reductions in the number of incidents reported to the police
<b>Fraud</b>	17% increase in fraud offences estimated by the CSEW (to 3,809,000 offences).		<b>Increase</b>	As above, should social isolation force a greater proportion of the population to conduct day to day activities online such as shopping, we may see an increase in bank account and credit card fraud which forms the greatest proportion of all fraud offences. The media have also reported small number of 'door -to-door' scammers who are preying on the elderly. Vulnerability of elderly people is exacerbated by isolation.
<b>Homicide</b>		4% decrease in police recorded homicide offences (from 728 to 701 offences) year ending March 19.  The police recorded 617 homicides in England and Wales in the years ending September 2019, a 6% fall (from 654) compared with the previous year.	<b>No change</b>	The number of homicides is unlikely to change.

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<b>Public order offences</b>		16% increase in police recorded public order offences (to 447,896 offences).	<b>Decrease</b>	Restrictions on public gatherings and advice to avoid shared social environments, and thus reducing night time economy incidents, should theoretically reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour for as long as it continues, and this will likely outweigh any potential increases from the following: Should a situation arise where the public can no longer access necessary supplies or after extensive isolation, we could see isolated examples of incidents at supermarkets for example. Sustained school closures could also contribute to a small increase here as minors are left unoccupied/unsupervised. Incidents of hate crime, a large proportion of which are public order offences could also show a small increase here.
<b>Robbery</b>		11% increase in police recorded robbery offences (to 85,736 offences).	<b>Decrease</b>	As a largely opportunistic crime, the number of robberies is likely to fall as the public are advised against travelling to urban centres and other areas with a high proportion of these offences.

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<b>Sexual offences</b>	According to the CSEW, there was no change in the proportion of adults who experienced sexual assaults in the year ending March 2019 (2.9%).		<b>No change</b>	<p>Some reduction could be seen in sex offences associated with the night time economy, however these are likely to be balanced with more sex offences that may take place in private settings as the public are forced to remain at home.</p> <p>This could be balanced by an increase in online offences. Should children be absent from school for a considerable period we could potentially see an increase in sharing of self-generated indecent imagery and revenge porn as a consequence</p> <p>Given that CSA offences in general are underreported, and contact child sexual offences tend to happen in a familial environment, any increase in prevalence may not filter through to recorded crime. Police may also have less capacity to proactively target IIOC and online offending.</p>
<b>Theft offences</b>	No change in overall theft offences estimated by the CSEW (3,750,000 offences) in the latest year, but a 13% rise compared with two years ago.	<p>3% decrease in burglary offences recorded by the police (to 422,870 offences).</p> <p>2% increase in vehicle offences recorded by the police (to 468,315 offences)</p>	<b>Decrease</b>	<p>Domestic burglaries will likely decrease as a vast number of homes are no longer left unoccupied in the day. This will likely be mirrored in a reduction in vehicle theft offences, particularly in residential areas.</p> <p>Incidents of shoplifting are likely to increase in supermarkets and other 'essential' stores under the assumption that shops are likely to see more times of surge activity providing increased opportunity. However, several other retailers, particularly high value tech stores (Apple, Phone shops) have closed meaning opportunity is considerably reduced here.</p>