

A photograph of a grey concrete wall. A white, three-dimensional zigzag line is mounted on the wall, creating a series of sharp angles. A metal handrail is visible on the right side of the image, running diagonally across the frame. The text "ECSO6002: Conformity & Deviance" is overlaid in a bright blue, sans-serif font.

ECSO6002: Conformity & Deviance

CRIME & DEVIANCE VERSUS
POWER & CONTROL

The Saints and the Roughnecks

Case Study: The Saints and the Roughnecks

1973 article explored the different views that

- townspeople held of two teenage gangs,
- The Saints
- The Roughnecks

Both gangs were violent, delinquent, and disruptive

Townspeople opinions differed for the two groups:

- The gang from the higher social class
 - was not as much trouble
- The gang from the lower social class

While objective observation concluded that both gangs were equally destructive

- the differing views revealed much about
- social preconceptions that were at work in the town

Link to paper:

- [The Saints and the Roughnecks: WJ Chambliss 1973](#)

(Chambliss, 1973).



Both the Saints and the Roughnecks enjoyed rowdy nights out on the town.

(Bellevue area, nd)

Social Control

- People generally follow social norms
 - and expect others to as well
 - because they have internalized the norms that they feel are useful and appropriate
- When a person has
 - not internalized a norm
 - society uses sanctions to motivate his or her conformity
- Sanctions can be
 - positive or negative
 - formal or informal
- Social control is necessary to ensure that a society functions smoothly.

(Hallinan, 2000).

Social Control

Proposition:

- Norms must be followed for a society to run smoothly

Social Norms are enforced through

- internalization
- and sanctions

Questions to Consider:

- How do social norms become internalized?
- What are the differences between positive and negative sanctions and between formal and informal sanctions?
- What is social control?
- (Heise & Manji, 2016).

Divide the number of murders 6.66

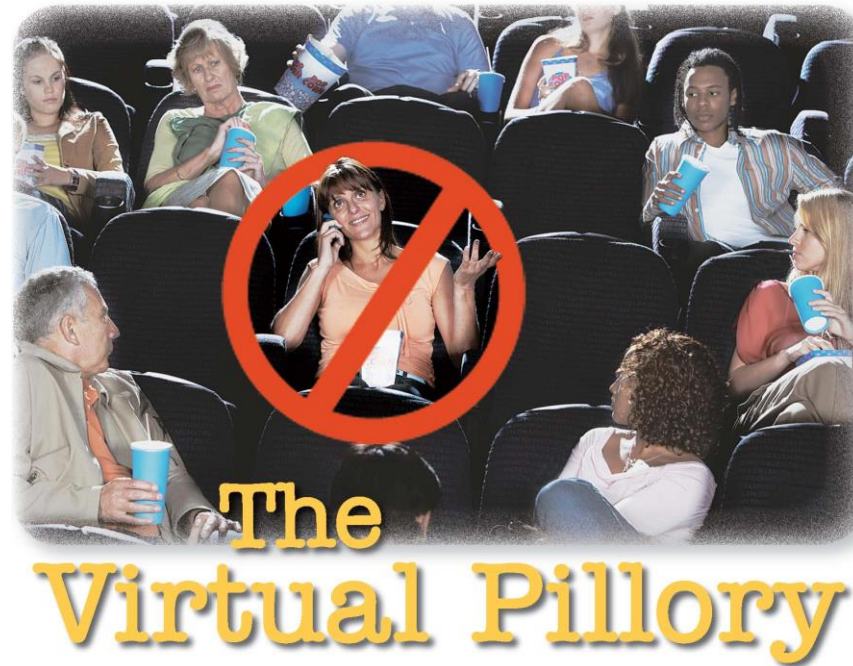
By the whole population **684,986.31**

Then times by 100

This will give you the percentage of deaths in the UK

.00097288%

What if your Every Misdeed were Posted on a Social Media Website?



Internalization of Norms



Proposition:

Every society has norms that must be upheld to run smoothly



Internalization

The process by which a norm becomes a part of an individual's personality

This conditions individuals to conform to society's expectations

◦ **Examples:**

- Sitting in a chair instead of on the floor
- Stopping at a red light

(Xenitidou & Edmonds, 2014)

Identify Supporting Details



What characteristics describe a norm that is likely to be internalized?



Answer:

Good

Useful

Socially appropriate/acceptable

(Xenitidou & Edmonds, 2014)

Sanctions

Positive sanctions

- **Positive sanction:**
 - An action that rewards a particular kind of behavior
- **Examples include:**
 - a teacher giving good grades, cheers from teammates

Formal sanctions

- **Formal sanction:**
 - A reward or punishment given by a formal organization or regulatory agency
- **Examples include:**
 - schools giving high or low grades, a business giving a raise or firing a worker

Negative sanctions

- **Negative sanction:**
 - A punishment or the threat of punishment used to enforce conformity.
- **Examples include:**
 - a parking ticket, ridicule

Informal sanctions

- **Informal sanction:**
 - A spontaneous expression of approval or disapproval given by an individual or group
- **Examples include:**
 - standing ovations, gossip

Sanctions: Purpose

**To Encourage
People**

to Follow

**SOCIAL
NORMS**

Observing Norms in Social Interactions

Most of us follow certain guidelines for social interactions without realising it!

Read the questions on the next slide

Now use this list to observe friends and family during conversations

Think about:

- What can you conclude about the norms that govern these behaviours?
- Were these norms followed, or did some people violate them?
- How did other people react to the violation?

Social Interactions

Social Distance:

- How close or far apart do people stand or sit when talking to one another?

Hand Gestures:

- Do some people use hand gestures when they speak?
- Do these gestures clarify or distract from their points?

Eye Contact:

- Do the individuals maintain eye contact?
- Is eye contact important?

Facial Expressions:

- What kind of facial expressions do individuals make during conversation?
- How does the other person react?

(Hechter & Opp, 2001).

Social Control

Social Control

Social control is enforcing norms through either:

- Internal
 - or
- External means.

Behavior that violates society's basic norms jeopardizes the social order

Primary means:

- self-control

Other agents use sanctions:

- Police
- Religious figures
- Family
- Peer group
- Public opinion

(Giddens & Sutton, 2017)

Social Control

Why is social control important to society?



So society functions smoothly



Increased social stability

Current Research in Sociology

Death Penalty:

- The Ultimate Sanction

Critics claim:

- the death penalty is immoral and ineffective and cannot be administered fairly

However,

- support for the death penalty remains strong

Death Penalty has been used since ancient times

- to punish murderers and other criminals

Its morality is debated today

Many nations have banned the death penalty

- although the United States still allows it

Opposition to the death penalty arose during the Enlightenment

- resulted in limiting its use
- Venezuela became the first country to ban the practice

By 2007

- two-thirds of nations had banned the practice

2012 EXECUTING COUNTRIES

CHINA	
IRAN	314+
IRAQ	129+
SAUDI ARABIA	79+
USA	43
YEMEN	28+
SUDAN	19+
AFGHANISTAN	14
GAMBIA	9
JAPAN	7
NORTH KOREA	6+
SOMALIA	6+
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (GAZA)	6
TAIWAN	6
SOUTH SUDAN	5+
BELARUS	3+
BOTSWANA	2
BANGLADESH	1
INDIA	1
PAKISTAN	1
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1

+ indicates that the figure Amnesty International has calculated is a minimum. Where + is not preceded by a number, it indicates that there were executions (at least more than one) but that it was not possible to specify a figure.

This map indicates the general locations of boundaries and jurisdictions and should not be interpreted as Amnesty International's view on disputed territories.

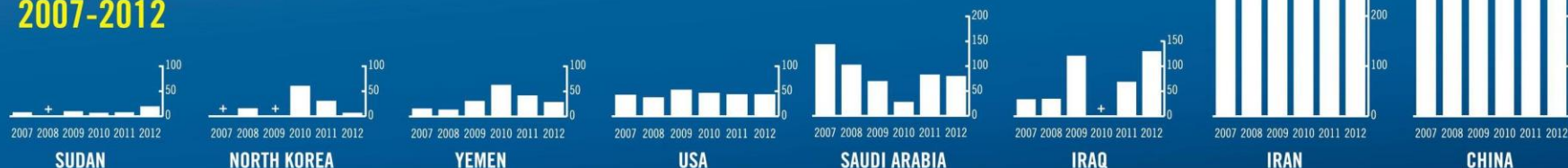
It cannot be excluded that executions did take place in Egypt and Syria, though none could be confirmed by Amnesty International.



THE EIGHT WORST OFFENDERS IN 2012



EIGHT PERSISTENT EXECUTIONERS 2007-2012



Deviance

Different Theories: Different Explanations of Deviance



Deviance is

Any behavior that
violates significant social
norms



Positive Function:

Clarifying norms
Unifying the group
Diffusing tension
Promoting social change
Providing jobs

Functionalists
Conflict Theorists
Interactionists

(Henry, 2009)

Deviance

Deviance:

- A behavior that violates social norms

But . . .

- serves a purpose in society

Sociologists have many theories to explain deviant behavior

- How do sociologists identify the nature of deviance?
- What are the social functions of deviance?
- How do the theories that have been proposed to explain deviance compare?

(Henry, 2009)

Retreating from Society

- Why would a teenage boy lock himself in his room and hide from society?



The Nature of Deviance

VIOLATING NORMS

- Behavior that violates significant social norms is called deviance
- Some norms deal with fairly insignificant behaviors
- Because there are so many norms, occasional violations are unavoidable
- Behaviors deemed deviant differ across times, cultures, and situations

THE LABEL OF DEVIANCE

- Individuals must be caught committing a deviant act and be stigmatized by society
- A stigma is a mark of social disgrace that sets the deviant apart from the rest of society
- Sociologists usually refer to the negative social reactions

Analyze

Question:

- How does behavior that is considered deviant change based on context?

Some Behaviors are Considered Deviant:

- in some situations
- and not others,
- or in one society
- and not another,
- or from time period to time period

Social Functions of Deviance

Deviance has some uses in society

- Helps to clarify norms, unify the group, diffuse tension, and promote social change
- Serves to define the boundaries of acceptable behavior
- Punishment of deviance can prevent others from same deviance
- Draws lines of society and “outsiders”
- Displays of minor deviance diffuse tensions
- Provides legitimate jobs such as lawyers and police

Deviance: As a Benefit to Society

It helps to

- clarify norms
- unify the group
- diffuse tension
- and promote social change

It can also

- create jobs
- defines the boundaries of acceptable behavior
- and draws the line between
 - conforming
 - and nonconforming members of society

Deviance: Start Here

Functionalist Perspective

The three sociological perspectives explain the causes and uses of deviance.

Strain theory:

- deviance is the natural outgrowth of the values, norms, and structure of society
- Pressure on individuals to meet standards that they can't meet

Anomie:

- the norms of society are unclear or no longer apply
- Results in confusion over rules for behavior

Five “modes of adaptation” or reactions to societal norms

- Conformity:
 - acceptance of goals and methods of reaching them

Innovation:

- acceptance of goals but not means of reaching them

Ritualism:

- abandon goals but maintain expected behaviors

Retreatism:

- reject both goals and means of reaching them

Rebellion:

- seek to substitute new goals and means for existing goals and means

(Merton, 1986)

Conflict versus Interactionist Perspective

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE

- Social life as
 - a struggle between the ruling classes and lower classes
- People commit deviant acts
 - to gain or maintain power
- Ruling class deems
 - any behavior that threatens its power
 - as deviant

INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE

- Three major explanations:
 - Control theory
 - Cultural transmission theory
 - Labeling theory
- Control theory considers that:
 - deviance is normal and studies why people conform
 - People conform when they have strong ties to the community

(Merton, 1986)

Cultural Transmission Theory

Deviance is/are:

- A learned behavior
- Socialized into deviant behavior instead of acceptable behavior
- Individuals will adopt the behavior and goals with whomever they are in contact

Differential Association:

- the relative closeness to deviant and non-deviant individuals

(Merton, 1986)

Labeling theory:

- focuses on how people come to be labeled “deviant”
- suggests there are two types of deviance

1) Primary deviance:

- occasional violation of norms
- neither self nor society labels person “deviant”

2) Secondary deviance:

- deviance as a lifestyle
- both self and society label person “deviant”

Labeling theory

Functionalist & Conflict Perspective

FUNCTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

Deviance is a natural part of society

It serves positive functions

- Clarifying positive social norms
- Clarifying negative social norms

Deviance

- Results from the strain of goals incompatible with the available means of achieving them

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE

Competition and social Inequity

People with power commit deviant acts but hold on to power

They also labels deviant behaviour that threatens them and their position

Those without power commit deviant acts to obtain economic rewards or to relieve their feelings of powerlessness

Interactionist Perspective

- Interaction among individuals influences deviance

Control Theory

- suggest that strong social bonds make people conform to norms and refrain from deviance

Cultural Transmission Theory

- proposes that deviance is a learned behaviour

Labelling Theory

- examines how individuals are identified as deviant

So . . .

How do the sociological perspectives view deviance differently?

Some focus on

- Why individuals perform deviant acts

Others focus on

- How individuals come to be identified as deviants

Crime

Crime

Crime affects everyone in the UK

- some as victims
- some as criminals
- some as observers

Crimes are grouped into five general categories:

- violent crime
- property crime
- victimless crime
- white-collar crime
- organized crime

(Hagan, 2010)

Crime

The UK criminal-justice system

- Investigates
- Prosecutes
- punishes criminals

What are crimes, and who commits them?

What are the principal types of crime in the UK?

How are crime statistics gathered and reported?

What are the characteristics of the criminal-justice system?

Crime and Criminals

A crime is

- any act
- that is labeled as such
- by those in authority
- and is prohibited by law

An act that is

- Immoral
- is not necessarily illegal

Criminals can be any

- Age
- Gender
- Race
- although people under 35 are more likely to be involved in crime

Crime Statistics UK

Number of Crimes in England & Wales:

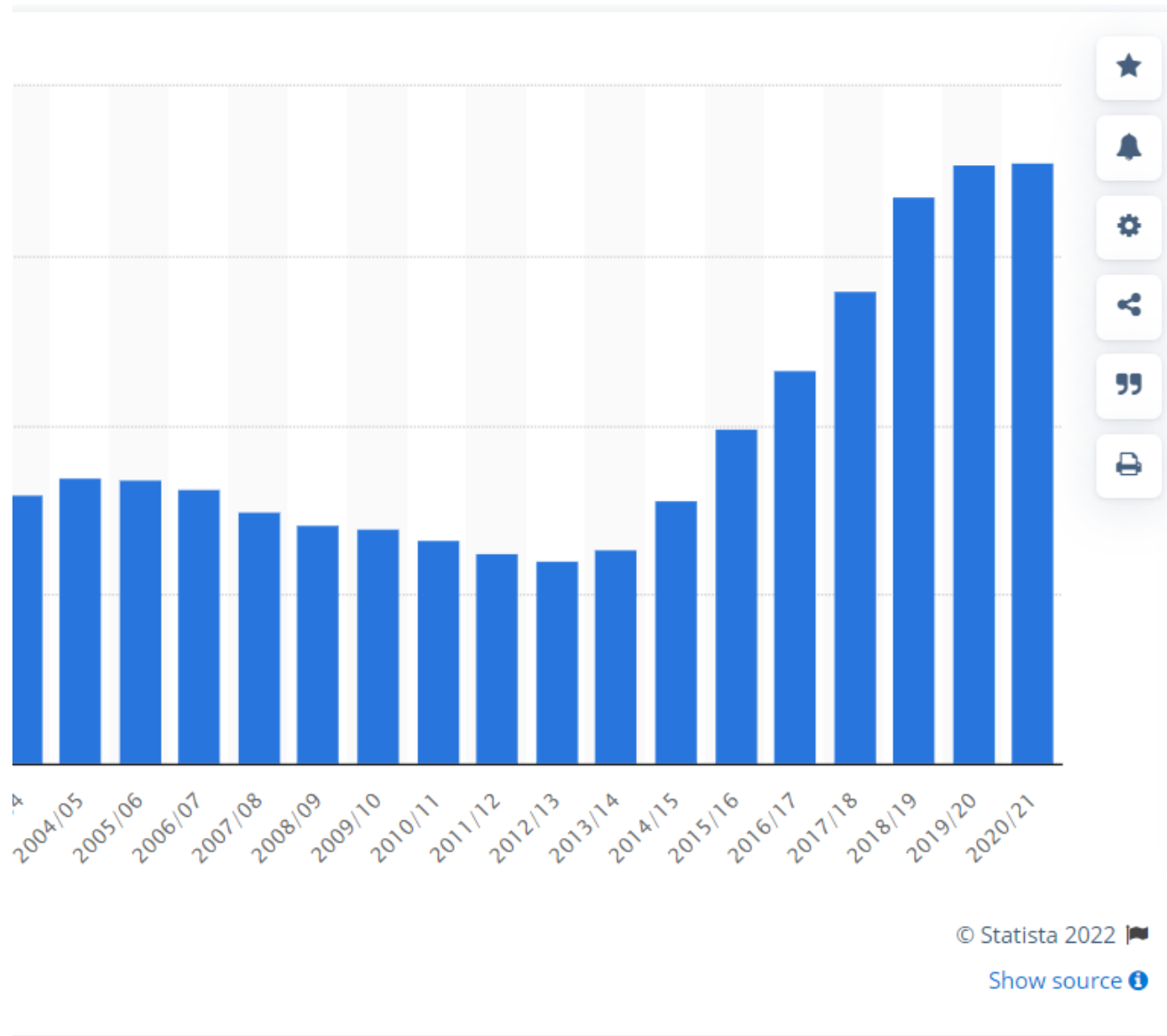
- 5.44 million

England and Wales Crime Rate (Per 1,000 Population)

- 77.6 crimes per 1,000 people

Number of Police Officers in the UK:

- 160,000

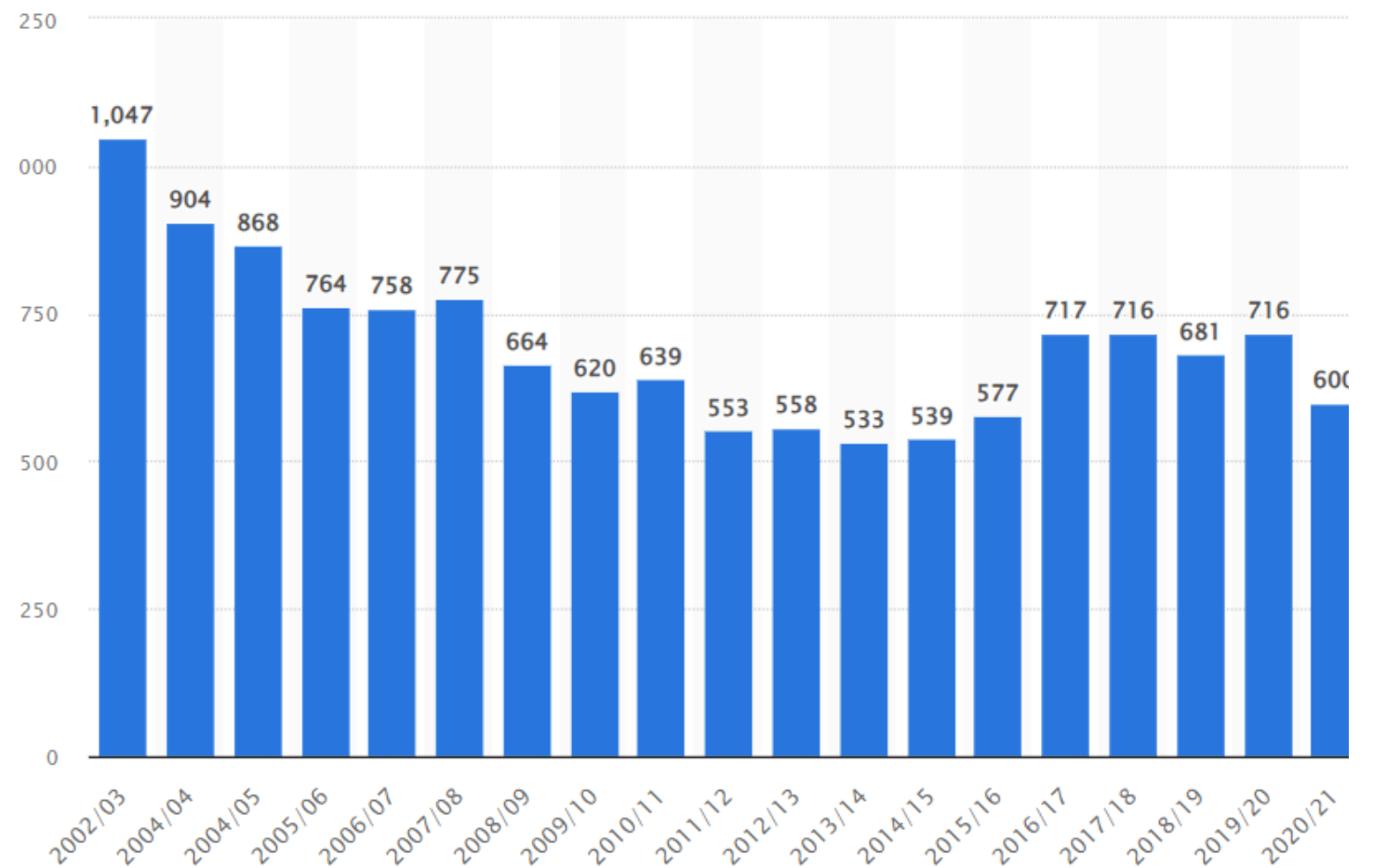


Number of police recorded violence against the person offences in England and Wales from 2002/03 to 2020/21

(STATISTA, 2021).

Number of police recorded homicide offences in England and Wales from 2002/03 to 2020/21

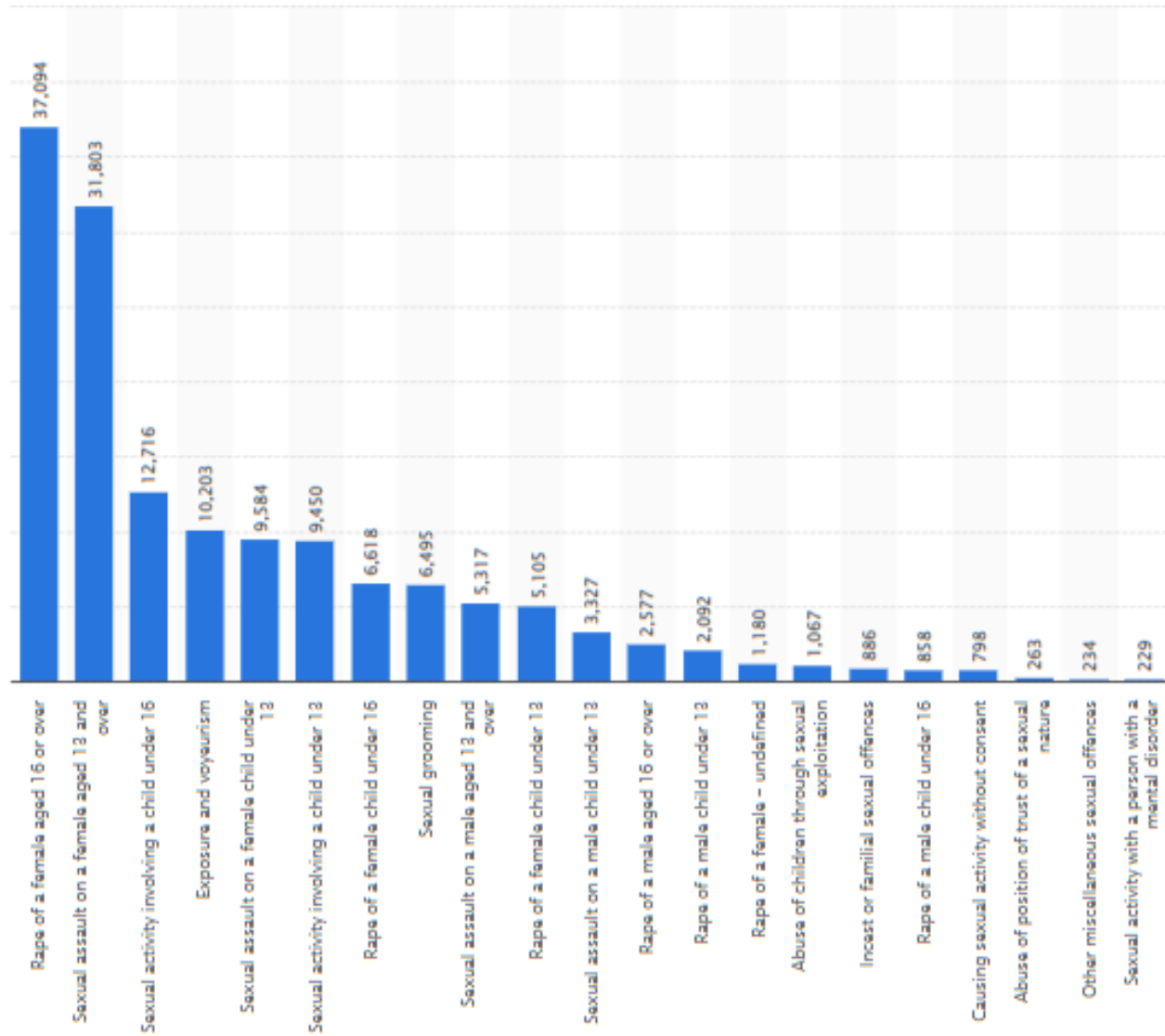
(Statista, 2021).



© Statist

[Additional Information](#)

[Show](#)



Number of police recorded sexual offences in England and Wales in 2020/21, by offence

UK Crime: Main Facts and Figures 2022

In the year ending March 2020

- 13% of people aged 16 and over said they had been the victim of a crime at least once in the last year
- this was down from 17% in the year ending March 2014

Over the 7 years covered

- the percentage of White people who said they were victims of crime
- went down from 17% to 13%

For the 3 years from April 2017 to March 2020

- men from Mixed ethnic backgrounds (21%) were more likely to be victims of crime
- than men from any other ethnic group Asian people aged 75 and over (11%) were more likely to be a victim of crime than White people aged 75 and over (6%)

(ONS, 2021)

Crime and Ethnicity: UK 2022

The year ending March 2020

- 13% of people aged 16 and over in England and Wales said
- they were a victim of a least one crime in the last year

This was down

- from 17% in the year ending March 2014

The percentage of people who said they were victims of crime ranged from

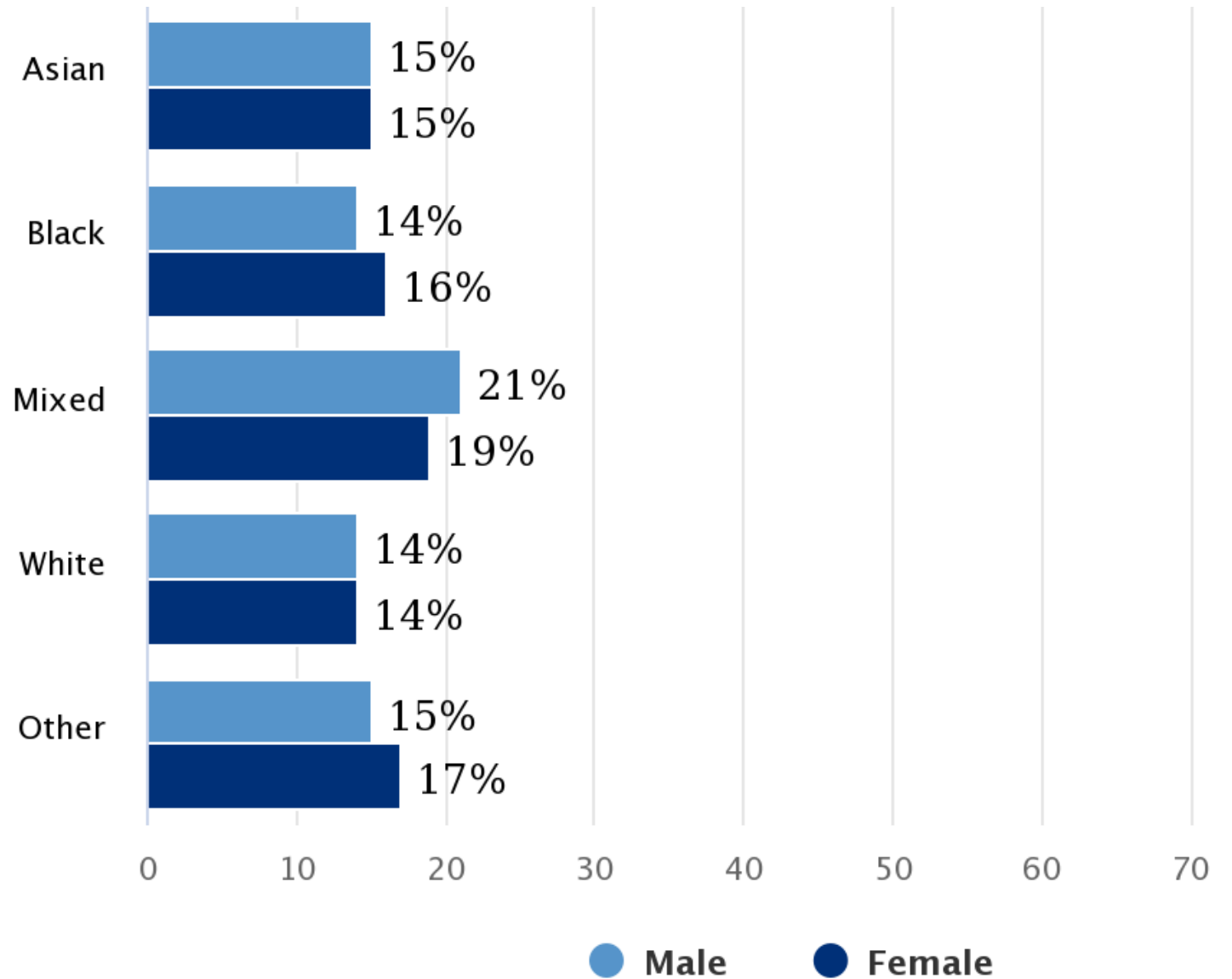
- 13% in the White ethnic group
- 20% in the Mixed ethnic group

Over the 7 years covered,

- the percentage of White people who said they were victims of crime
- went down from 17% to 13%

Percentage of People 16 and Over who Said they were Victims of Crime: By Ethnicity and Gender

(ONS, 2021)





Source: Home Office – Police recorded crime

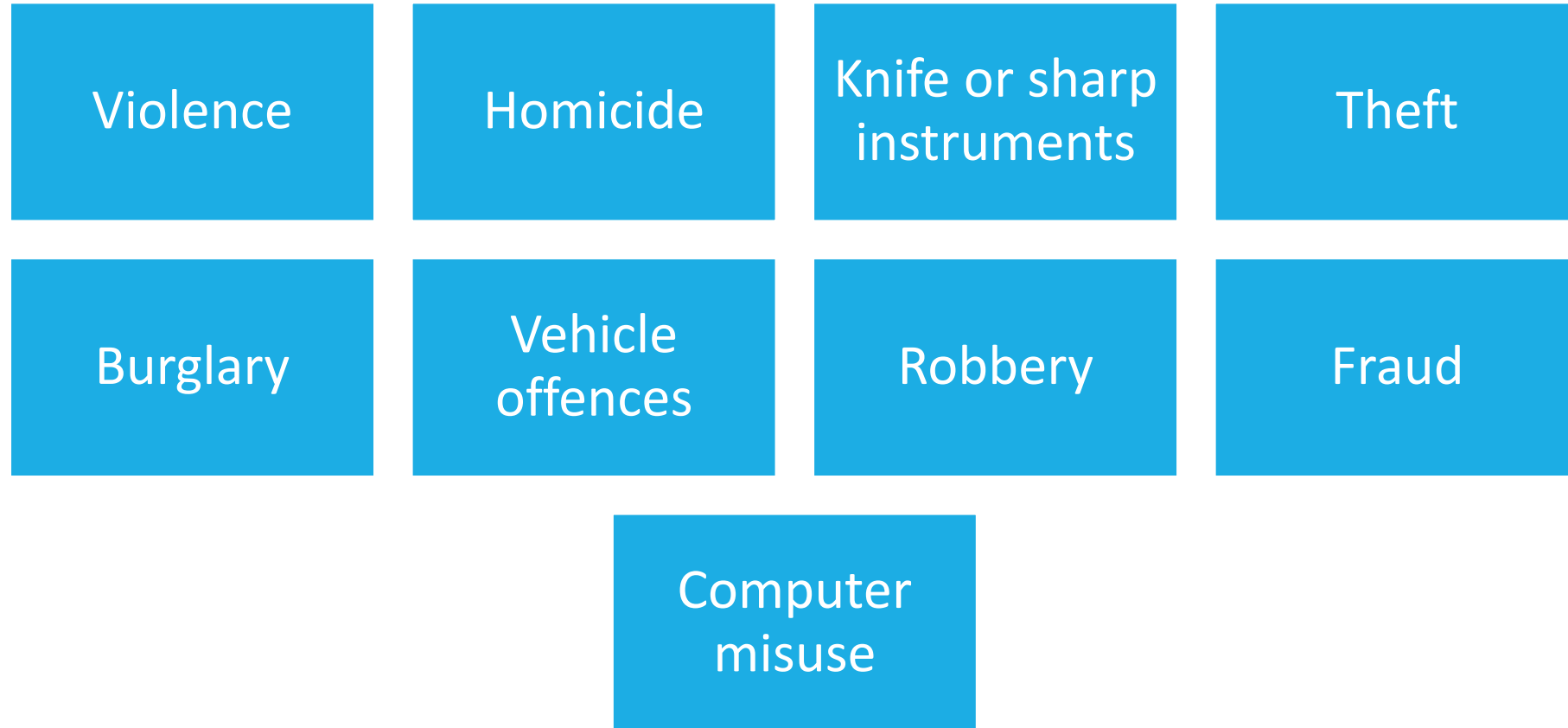
Offence Rates and Changes in
the Volume of Crimes
Involving Knives or Sharp
Instruments Vary by Police
Force Area
England and Wales: Year
Ending March 2020

Who or What is a Criminal?

What criteria are used to determine if an act is criminal?

- The act is labeled a crime by those in authority and is prohibited by law

Main Types of Crime UK



Impact of Crime

Victimless Crime

- Prostitution
- illegal gambling
- illegal drug use
- vagrancy

Although classified as “victimless”

- often have negative consequences for society

White-Collar Crime

- Fraud
- tax evasion
- Embezzlement
- price-fixing
- toxic pollution
- insider trading
- political corruption

Corporations can be charged with crimes

- not just individuals

Organized Crime

- Crime syndicate:
- a large-scale organization of professional criminals that controls some vice or legitimate business through violence
- Legitimate businesses can serve as
- “fronts” for illegal activities

(ONS, 2021)

Victimless Crimes: Or are they

Example Prostitution

- Potential of increased
 - spread of contagious diseases such as STDs
 - health care costs due to sexually transmitted diseases
 - drug use and violence on the streets

Offence Group	Sub Group of Offence
Violence against the person	Homicide
	Violence with Injury
	Violence without Injury
	Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving
	Stalking and harassment
Public Order	Violence with Injury
	Includes public fear , alarm or distress
Possession of Weapons	
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Includes bigamy,
	soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
	exploitation of prostitution
Sexual Offences	Rape
	Other sexual offences
Burglary	Burglary Residential
	Burglary Business and Community
Robbery	Theft from the person
Theft	Bicycle theft
	Other theft
	Shoplifting
Arson and criminal damage	Arson
	Criminal Damage
Drug offences	Trafficking of drugs
	Possession of drugs
Vehicle Offences	

Offence Classification Index UK Government

(Gov.UK, 2022a)

Crime Statistics

Crime and Justice

- Office for National Statistics
- Can be found at: [Crime and justice - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/crime-and-justice)

Reporting Crimes

- What circumstances may limit the filing of formal crime reports?

Individuals are less likely to report a crime

- if family or friends are involved
- Fear of retribution from those who commit crime

The police are more likely to

- file a formal report
- if the victim is in a higher social class

Criminal Courts: Magistrates' Courts

All criminal cases start in a magistrates' court.

- Cases are heard by either:
 - 2 or 3 magistrates
 - a district judge
- There is not a jury in a magistrates' court.

A magistrates' court normally handles cases known as

- 'summary offences', for example:
 - most motoring offences
 - minor criminal damage
 - common assault (not causing significant injury)

It can also deal with some of the more

- serious offences, such as:
 - burglary
 - drugs offences
- These are called 'either way' offences and can be heard either in a magistrates' court or a Crown Court.

Criminal Courts:

Crown Court

Being kept in custody or granted bail

- In some cases the magistrates' court will decide if you should be
 - kept in custody until your next court hearing,
 - or released on bail.
- This may happen if:
 - another court hearing is needed
 - the court needs more information before passing sentence
 - your case is passed to the Crown Court for trial or sentencing

If you're released on bail,

- you might have to follow strict conditions such as
 - keeping away from certain people or places,
 - staying indoors
 - or wearing a tag.

If you do not attend court after being granted bail,

- you can be put in prison.

Cases that magistrates pass to the Crown Court

- Magistrates' courts always pass
 - the most serious crimes to the Crown Court, for example:
 - murder
 - rape
 - robbery
- These are known as 'indictable offences'.

Criminal Courts: Sentences

Sentences a magistrates' court can give

- The court can give punishments including:
 - up to 6 months in prison
 - or up to 12 months in total for more than one offence
 - a fine
 - a community sentence, like doing unpaid work in the community
 - a ban, for example from driving or keeping an animal

Courts can also give a combination of punishments

- for example a fine and unpaid work in the community.

If the court decides your sentence should be for

- longer than 6 months,
- it can pass your case to the Crown Court for sentencing.

Appealing a sentence or conviction

- If you disagree with verdict of the magistrates' court,
- you may be able to appeal the conviction

Purpose of the Criminal Justice System

- What role does each component of the criminal-justice system serve?

Police

- decide whether to arrest those who commit a crime

Courts

- determine the guilt or innocence of the accused and assign a punishment

Prisons

- Carry out the punishment

Crime in the Modern World

Identity Theft

A criminal uses another person's name and financial standing

- to buy items
- or complete financial transactions

Victims of identity theft often

- lose their financial standings because of the crime

Identity thieves may

- rent an apartment
- get medical services
- make large purchases
- or use another's name while being arrested

Methods of theft include

- stealing wallets
- phishing

Prevention methods include

- shredding documents
- monitoring bank statements.

National Fraud Database figures reveal

- a surge of identity fraud with an
- 11% increase in the first six months of 2021

Patterns of fraudulent conduct similar to

- the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis
- are being repeated as the economy recovers from the pandemic

(Cifas, 2021).

Identity Theft UK 2021

Ethnography and Social Norms



Experiment



What role do norms play in your everyday life?

you will examine the norms you have internalized by choosing one to break



Ethnomethodology is the study of

how people do things



Ethnomethodologists

deliberately break norms in order to define them

Choosing a Norm

Identify a norm you can break

- resulting in unique
- but **HARMLESS** behavior that is atypical for you

Once you identify a norm,

- break it
- Observe the people around you

If possible

- repeat the experiment in different settings

Write notes about your experience

Ethnography and Social Norms

Record Your Observations

- Using your notes, write a report of your experiment that answers the following questions:

What norm did you choose?

What setting did you choose?

What kind of people witnessed your experiment?

How did people respond?

How did you feel while breaking the norm?

Ethnography and Social Norms

Discussion

- What did you learn from this experiment?
- Which norm breaking was most interesting?
- What emotions did you experience?
- Was your behavior seen by an authority figure?
- Did you experience any sanctions for your behavior?
- Did you think of yourself as deviant?

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ECSO6002: Conformity

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