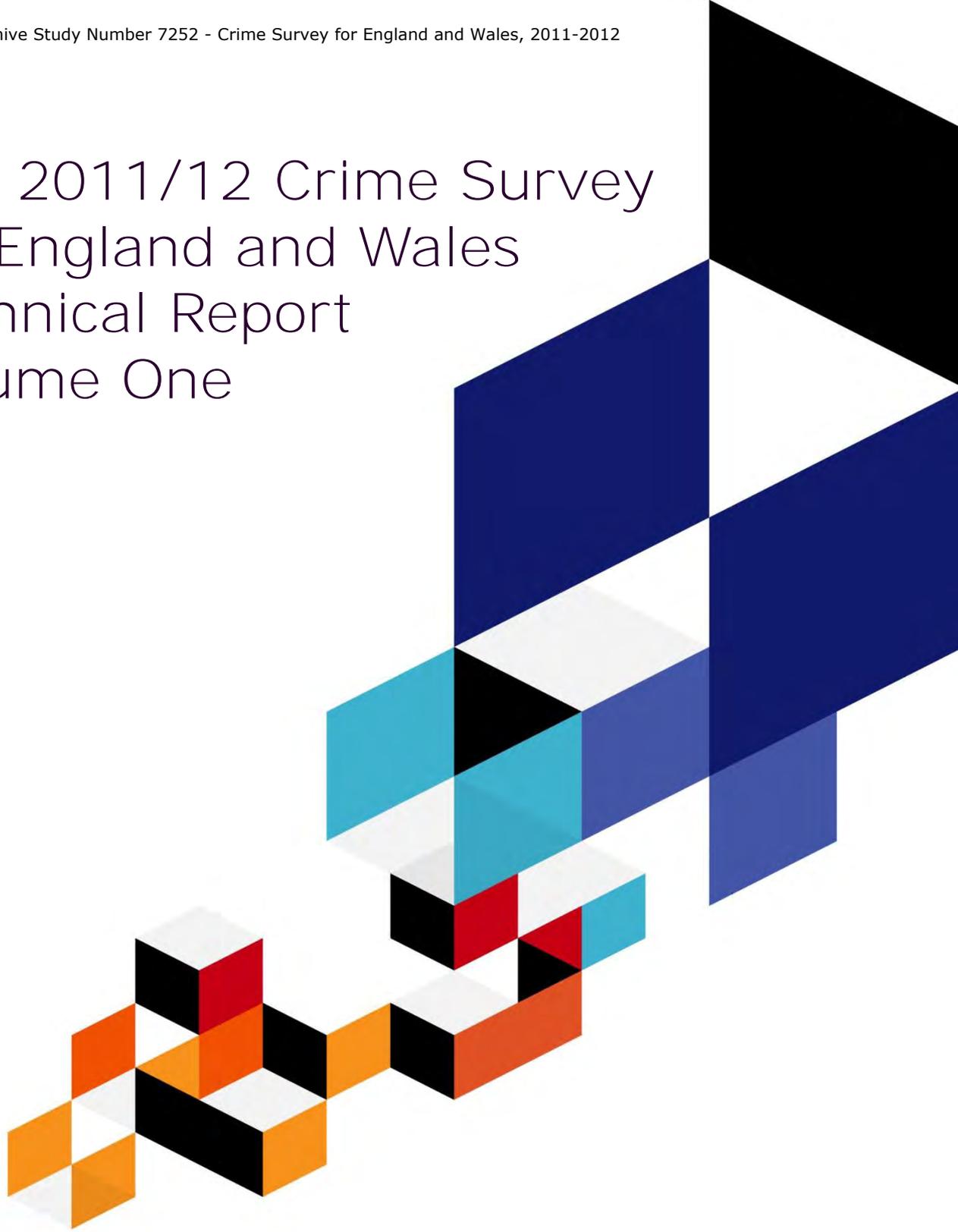


The 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales Technical Report Volume One



TNS BMRB

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JN 223826
Controlled document - Issue 5

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1. Background

1.1 A new name

From 1 April 2012, the British Crime Survey (BCS) became known as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and management of the survey transferred from the Home Office to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Results from the survey since that date are published by the Office for National Statistics (taking over from previous Home Office publications). Throughout this technical report **the survey is referred to by the current name 'Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)**, but 2011-12 survey was conducted under the former name, BCS.

1.2 Introduction to the Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales is a well-established study and one of the largest social research surveys conducted in England and Wales. The survey was first conducted in 1982 and ran at roughly two yearly intervals until 2001, when it became a continuous survey.¹ The survey is now carried out for the Office for National Statistics; previously it was conducted for the Home Office. A team in the host department develop each survey in collaboration with an external research organisation. Since 2001, TNS BMRB (previously BMRB Social Research) has been the sole contractor for the survey.

Since the survey became continuous in 2001 there have been few significant changes to the design of the survey. Where changes have been incorporated these have been described in detail in the relevant technical reports. The most significant changes to the design of the survey have been:

- Increase of the core sample size from 37,000 to 46,000 to allow a target of at least 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area (2004-05 technical report)

¹ Previous sweeps of the British Crime Surveys were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000.

- Changes to the clustering of sample for interview (2008-09 technical report)
- Removal of the requirement for an additional boost of 3,000 interviews with non-white respondents
- Removal of the requirement for an additional boost of 2,000 interviews with respondents aged 16 to 24
- Extension of the survey to cover young people aged 10 to 15 (2009-10 technical report)

In 2011-12, the total sample size was the same as the core sample in the previous year, with approximately 46,000 interviews conducted with adults across the year. The survey was designed to achieve a minimum of around 1,000 core interviews in each Police Force Area in England and Wales. In addition, the survey aimed to interview a nationally representative sample of around 4,000 children aged 10 to 15.

The CSEW is primarily a survey of **victimisation** in which respondents are asked about the experiences of **property crimes** of their household (e.g. burglary) and **personal crimes** (e.g. theft from a person) which they themselves have experienced. Since the move to continuous interviewing in 2001, the reference period for all interviews has related to the last 12 months before the date of interview. Although there have been changes to the design of the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences have been held constant throughout the period of the survey.

Respondents are asked directly about their experience of crime, irrespective of whether or not they reported these incidents to the police. As such the CSEW **provides a record of peoples' experiences** of crime which is unaffected by variations in reporting behaviour of victims or variations in police practices of recording crime. The CSEW and police recorded figures should be seen as a complementary series, which together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

Crime statistics (including the CSEW and police recorded crime statistics) have recently been subject to a number of reviews:

- [Crime Statistics: User Perspectives, Report No.30 Statistics Commission, September 2006](#)
- [Crime Statistics: An independent review, November 2006](#)
- [Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics: England and Wales, UK Statistics Authority, May 2010](#)
- [National Statistician's Review of Crime Statistics: England and Wales, June 2011](#)

Following crime statistics reviews and feasibility work (Pickering et al., 2008²), the CSEW was extended to include 10 to 15 year olds from January 2009. The first results for this age group were published in June 2010 (Millard and Flatley, 2010³) as experimental statistics. Estimates of victimisation against children from the 2011-2012 CSEW were presented within the 2011-12 annual crime statistics.⁴

The CSEW has become a definitive source of information about crime; the survey collects extensive information about the victims of crime, the circumstances in which incidents occur and the type of offenders who commit crimes. In this way, the survey provides information to inform crime reduction measures and to gauge their effectiveness.

1.3 Outputs from the CSEW

Following the move of the processing and publication of crime statistics to ONS from the Home Office the standard quarterly releases have been extended to include more long-term trends and other data sources. This removes the need for a large annual publication of the type published by the Home Office as much of the content is included in the new quarterly publication the first of which was published in July 2012. ONS will continue to develop the

² **Pickering, K., Smith, P., Bryson, C. and Farmer, C.** (2008) *British Crime Survey: options for extending the coverage to children and people living in communal establishments*. Home Office Research Report 06. London: Home Office.

³ **Millard, B. and Flatley, J.** (2010) *Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15: Findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/10.

⁴ **Chaplin, R. Flatley, J and Smith, K.** (2011) *Findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime (First Edition)* Crime in England and Wales 2010/11. London: Home Office.

quarterly publications over the next year including different ways of presenting crime data.

In addition to the regular quarterly publication ONS will publish at least three additional publications on a particular topic or theme.

These 'Focus On' publications will make use of the wide range of data gathered by the CSEW. Focus on publications planned for the coming months include:

- Focus On Public Perceptions of Policing – 29th November 2012
- Focus On Violent Crime - 7th February 2013
- Focus On Property Crime - March 2013

The references above are intended only to illustrate the types of reports and findings that are produced from the CSEW (or the BCS, in its previous incarnation). For more details on all ONS publications associated with the CSEW, see

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales>.

For previous Home Office publications relating to the BCS, see

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/>.

As well as through published reports, the CSEW/BCS data are made available through the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>). The Economic and Social Data Service (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/>) provides additional support to users of CSEW/BCS data.

Since considerable emphasis is given in the course of conducting the interview to assure respondents that the information they provide will be held in confidence, the data set does not identify the location of the sampled areas and this information is not released to ONS by TNS BMRB. Special Licence low-level geographic data for CSEW are also available.

The CSEW is a complex study with data organised at different levels (households, individuals, and incidents) and it includes numerous sub-samples that are asked specific questions. Accordingly, considerable effort and expertise is required to analyse the data and to interpret it in a valid manner. Some of the analysis routines that

play a key role in the published estimates are implemented after the data have been supplied to the Home Office, and are not documented in this report. Further information is available from the UK Data Archive or the Economic and Social Data Service (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/>).

The Office for National Statistics produces a user guide for those interested in understanding CSEW data which contains further detail on the content and structure of the data:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/user-guide-to-crime-statistics.pdf>.

1.4 Structure of the Technical Report

This report documents the technical aspects of the 2011-12 CSEW. The analysis in this report relates to the total sample that was issued in the financial year 2011-12, irrespective of when interviews actually took place. The distinction between issued sample and achieved sample is explained in more detail in [section 2.2](#) of the report.

The sample design is set out in [Chapter 2](#). Data collection is the major task for the organisation commissioned to conduct the CSEW and forms the central part of this report. [Chapter 3](#) covers the content and development of the questionnaire, while [Chapter 4](#) examines the fieldwork. [Chapter 5](#) gives details of the tasks that are involved in preparing the data for analysis, including the coding and offence classification and [Chapter 6](#) covers the preparation and delivery of the CSEW data files. [Chapter 7](#) outlines the weighting required for analysis of the data. [Chapter 8](#) provides the results of some checks on the profile of the CSEW achieved sample against estimates for the population that the CSEW aims to represent.

2. Sample design

2.1 Introduction

The core sample design of the Crime Survey for England and Wales has remained largely unchanged between 2010-11 and 2011-12. A revised sample design was previously introduced to the survey in 2008-09 and full details of the rationale for the revised design and the design itself are included in the 2008-09 technical report. The key features of the 2011-12 design were as follows:

- An achieved sample size of approximately 46,000 interviews per year with adults aged 16 and over resident in households in England and Wales;
- A minimum of around 1,000 interviews per year in each of the 42 Police Force Areas.⁵ This required a degree of over-sampling in less populous Police Force Areas;
- A partially clustered design with different levels of clustering being used in different population density strata in an effort to reduce PSU-level cluster effects;
- Fieldwork was conducted on a continuous basis with the sample being allocated to provide nationally representative estimates on a quarterly basis; and
- The sample was front loaded within each quarter to reduce the spill-over of cases which are issued in one quarter but are interviewed in the next.

2.2 Issued and achieved sample in Police Force Areas

A requirement of the core sample design was to achieve a minimum of around 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area. The design which meets this requirement at minimum cost is one which delivers

⁵ For sampling purposes the City of London Police are combined with the Metropolitan Police.

an equal achieved sample of 1,000 interviews in each of the 42 Police Force Areas, giving an overall national sample of 42,000 interviews per year. However, such a design would result in a large range of sampling fractions (and hence design weights) within PFAs, leading to a reduction in the precision of whole sample estimates. It was therefore decided to adopt a design that boosted the sample size in smaller PFAs but without reducing it in the larger PFAs compared to what it had been on previous surveys.

This broad approach to over sampling in less populous PFAs is the same one that was adopted on the CSEW from 2004-05 when the survey increased in size from 37,000 to 46,000 achieved interviews. In 2008-09, the process was made slightly more systematic by allocating issued sample to the larger Police Force Areas in proportion to their population and this approach was repeated in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. With this approach, the overall design effect was calculated at 1.17 using the standard formula that ignores between-strata differences in element variance.

Full details about the extent of over sampling within each PFA is contained in the 2008-09 Technical Report. The actual number of interviews achieved and the response rate for each PFA in 2011-12 is shown in Table 4.15.

2.3 A partially clustered sample

The partially clustered sample design involves different sampling plans for each of three population density strata in an effort to reduce PSU-level cluster effects. The sample plans are defined as follows:

- In the most densely populated areas of each PFA an unclustered sample of addresses is drawn (Stratum A);
- In areas of medium population density a two-stage design is employed, first sampling Medium Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) as the primary sampling units and then selecting 32 addresses within each PSU (Stratum B); and
- In areas of low population density a three-stage design is employed by first sampling Medium Layer Super Output Areas

(MSOAs), then selecting 2 Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within each sampled MSOA as the primary sampling units, and finally selecting 16 addresses within each PSU (Stratum C).

2.4 Sampling addresses

A different procedure for sampling addresses was adopted in each density stratum. All addresses were selected from the small-user Postcode Address File (PAF).

Sampling of addresses in the unclustered Stratum A

Within each Police Force Area, all the addresses allocated to unclustered stratum A were sorted using the ONS reference for the associated LSOA. Addresses were then sampled systematically using the PFA-level sampling fraction and a random start.

A geographic software system was then used to 'batch' together sampled addresses into efficient fieldwork assignments. In doing this certain parameters were set concerning the maximum geographic diameter of a batch area and the number of addresses per batch. The aim was to achieve assignments of a manageable geographical size that contained as close as possible to 32 addresses.

Census-derived and other government data were added to each batch using a weighted average of component LSOAs. This is best illustrated using an example. If a batch contained 8 addresses from LSOA 1, 16 from LSOA 2, and 9 from LSOA 3 and the crime index values for each LSOA were 20, 30, and 40 respectively, the batch level crime index value would be:

$$(20*(8/33)) + (30*(16/33)) + ((40*(9/33)) \text{ or } 30.3$$

These batch-level data allowed a representative sample of batches to be allocated to each fieldwork quarter using standard stratification methods.

Sampling addresses in mid-clustered Stratum B

Before sampling, MSOAs in mid-cluster stratum B areas were stratified in the master database to ensure a representative sample. In England, mid-cluster MSOAs in each PFA were sorted by the crime and disorder deprivation index and split into three equal-sized sub-

strata. In Wales, mid-cluster MSOAs in each PFA were sorted by population density and split into three equal-sized sub-strata.

These variables were selected after an analysis of CSEW data from 2008-10.

MSOAs were sampled with a probability proportionate to the number of PAF delivery points⁶, using a systematic method and a random start.

32 addresses were selected from each sampled MSOA. Addresses were sorted by postcode before a systematic 1 in n sample was drawn with a random start.

Sampling addresses in tightly clustered Stratum C

A sample of MSOAs was drawn in each tightly-clustered stratum C as described for the mid-clustered strata. However, instead of a sample of addresses being drawn within each sampled MSOA, a pair of LSOAs was first selected.

Within each sampled MSOA, the component LSOAs were sorted using the ONS reference number. Two LSOAs were sampled in each MSOA with a probability proportionate to the number of PAF delivery points, using a systematic method and a random start.

Sixteen addresses were selected from each sampled LSOA. Addresses were sorted by postcode before a systematic 1 in n sample was drawn with a random start.

2.5 Stratification

The selection of PSU-level stratification variables was refined after an analysis of CSEW data from April 2003 through to March 2006.

The same stratification was used in 2011-12 as was applied in 2010-11 and 2009-10. This required the sample to be stratified by:

- PFA (level 1)
- Density cluster type (level 2)
- **Three-band version of the 'crime and disorder' deprivation index** (level 3) – England only

⁶ In England and Wales, one delivery point equals one address in 97% of cases.

- Three-band version of population density (level 3) – Wales only

2.6 Allocation of sample to fieldwork quarters and months

Primary sampling units (mid- and tightly-clustered strata) and fieldwork batches (unclustered strata) were systematically allocated to each fieldwork quarter to ensure that each quarter was a representative sample of the whole.

The sampled PSUs/batches in each cluster stratum were sorted using **their original stratification values and tagged with a 'fieldwork quarter' label via the 'snaked' allocation system: Q1-Q2-Q3-Q4-Q4-Q3-Q2-Q1-Q1-Q2 etc. but with a random start (e.g. 'Q3')**.

A similar system was used to allocate sampled PSUs/batches to a specific issue month within the relevant quarter. In the first quarter of the year however (April to June), rather than allocating PSUs/batches equally between months within each quarter the sample was slightly frontloaded within each quarter. This was done to try and increase the proportion of interviews that are actually carried out during the quarter of issue, rather than being carried out in the quarter after issue. Thus, approximately 40% of the sample was allocated to April, 35% to May and 25% to June. In subsequent quarters batches were allocated equally between months.

2.7 Sampling adults

At each sampled address, in those rare cases where more than one is associated with a single address, interviewers were asked randomly to sample one dwelling unit. This was done by listing all eligible dwelling units in flat or room number order (e.g. Flat A, Flat B etc) or, if no numbering scheme were present, listing dwelling units from bottom to top of building, left to right, front to back and then selecting a dwelling unit by a random (Kish grid based) approach.

Once the dwelling unit was selected, interviewers were asked randomly to sample one normally-resident⁷ individual aged 16 or

⁷ An individual is 'normally resident' if this is his/her only residence or he/she spent more than six of the last twelve months living at this address.

over. This was done by listing all eligible people in the household in alphabetical order of first name and then selecting one for interview by a random (Kish grid based) approach. Once the selection of an individual had been made no substitutes were permitted.

2.8 Sampling 10 to 15 year olds

The 2009-10 survey was the first full year of the survey to include interviews with 10 to 15 year olds and the method for sampling 10-15 year olds has remained broadly the same since this part of the survey was introduced. The aim was to conduct around 4,000 interviews annually with children aged between 10 and 15 years old. Screening for 10 to 15 year olds was conducted at each sampled address and where possible a second interview was conducted at the address with a 10 to 15 year old.

2.8.1 10 to 15 year old sample

The 2011-12 survey had a target of 4,000 interviews with 10-15 year olds identified at the core sampled addresses. If more than one eligible child was identified, one child was selected at random to take part in the interview. In order to achieve the target number of interviews an interview was always attempted where only one eligible child was identified. This is the same as the approach taken in 2010-11 but differs from the approach in 2009-10 where, in households with only one 10 to 15 year old present, the child was only eligible to be interviewed in 87.5% of cases. Whilst adjusting the eligibility criteria in households where there was only one eligible child improved the precision of the estimates it was not possible to achieve the required number of interviews without raising this to 100% from 2010-11.

3. Questionnaire content and development

3.1 Structure and coverage of the questionnaire

The CSEW questionnaire for the adult survey has a complex structure, consisting of a set of core modules asked of the whole sample, a set of modules asked only of different sub-samples, and self-completion modules asked of all 16-59 year olds. Within some modules there is often further filtering so that some questions are only asked of even smaller sub-samples. With the exception of the victimisation module, the modules included in the survey may vary from year to year.

The 2011-12 CSEW questionnaire consisted of the following sections:

1. Household Grid
2. Perceptions of crime
3. Screener questionnaire
4. Victimisation Modules for incidents identified at the screeners (up to a maximum of six)
5. Performance of the Criminal Justice System
6. Experience of the Criminal Justice System
7. Mobile phone and bicycle crime
8. Experiences of the police (Module A)
9. Attitudes to the Criminal Justice System (Module B)
10. Crime prevention and security (Module C)
11. Ad-hoc crime topics (Module D)
12. Plastic card fraud
13. Mass-marketing fraud
14. Anti social behaviour
15. Demographics and media
16. Self-completion module on drug use and drinking
17. Self-report offending behaviour
18. Self-completion module on domestic violence, sexual victimisation and stalking

The basic structure of the core questionnaire is shown in Figure 3.1, while the sub-set of respondents who were asked each module of the questionnaire is shown in Table 3.1. The complete questionnaire is documented in Appendix D of Volume 2. This chapter outlines the content of each section or module of the questionnaire.

Figure 3.1 Flow Diagram of the 2011-12 CSEW Core Questionnaire

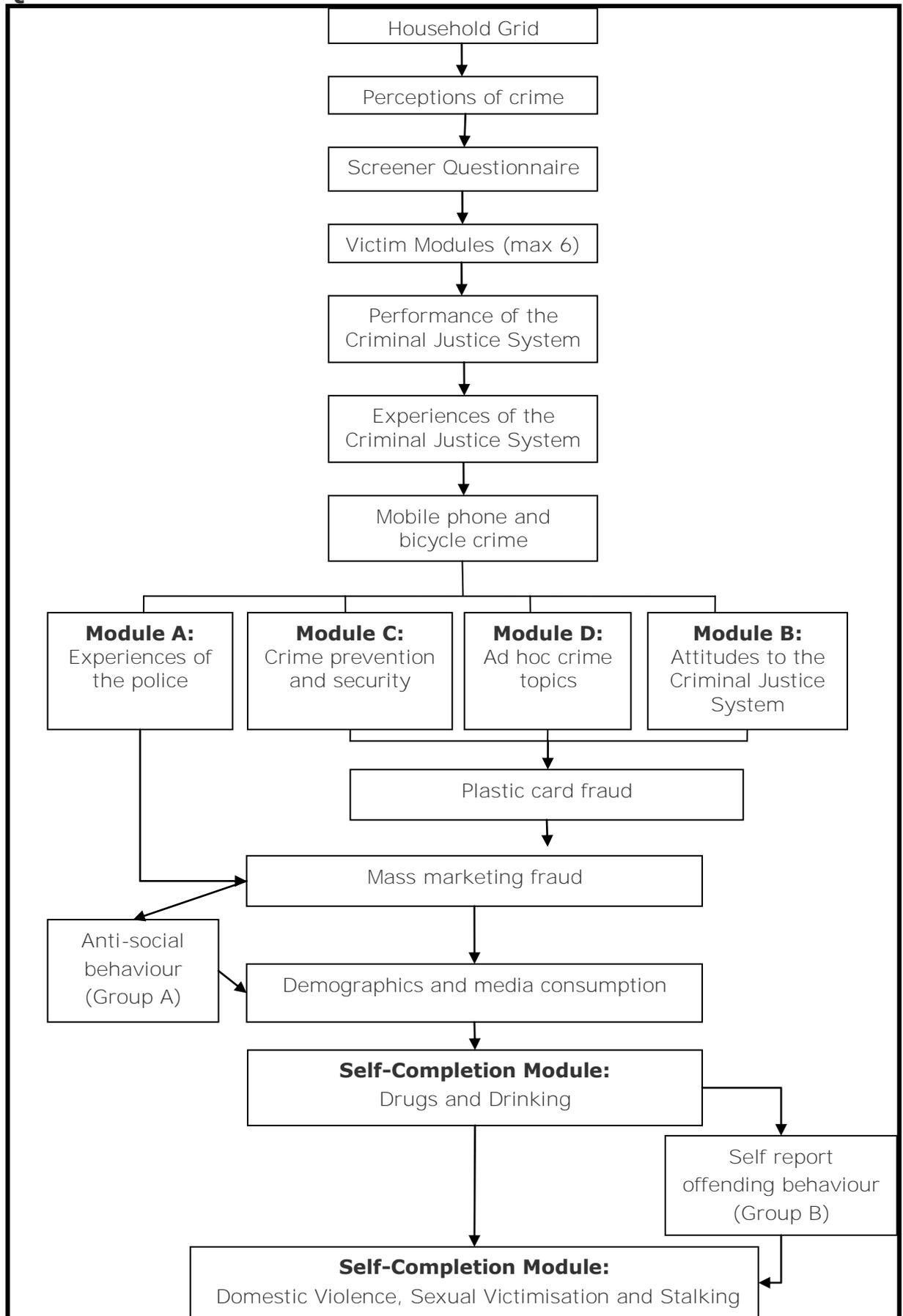


Table 3.1 Modules of the 2011-12 CSEW questionnaire and sub-set of respondents who were asked each module

Questionnaire module	Core sample
Household grid	All
Perceptions of crime	All
Screenener questionnaire	All
Victim modules	All victims
Performance of the Criminal Justice System	All
Experiences of the Criminal Justice System	All
Mobile phone and bicycle crime	All
Module A: Experiences of the police	Random 25% - Group A
Module B: Attitudes to the Criminal Justice System	Random 25% - Group B
Module C: Crime prevention and security	Random 25% - Group C
Module D: <i>Ad hoc</i> crime topics	Random 25% - Group D
Plastic card fraud	Random 75% (Groups B, C, D)
Mass marketing fraud	All
Anti-social behaviour	Random 25% - Group A
Demographics and media consumption	All
Self-completion module: Drugs and drinking	All aged 16-59
Self-report offending behaviour	Random 25% - Group B
Self-completion module: Domestic violence, sexual victimisation and stalking	All aged 16-59*

* Questions on stalking were put to a random 50% (Groups C and D); questions on *attitudes to* domestic violence were put to a random 25% (Group D).

3.1.1 Household grid

Basic socio-demographic details (age, sex, marital status, relationship to respondent, etc.) were collected in the Household Grid for every

adult in the household. Additionally, demographic details of all children under 16 years including their relationship with the respondent were collected.

The Household Grid was also used to establish the Household Reference Person (HRP)⁸ which is the standard classification used on all government surveys and is based on the following criteria:

1. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. In households with a sole householder that person is the HRP.
2. In households with joint householders the person with the highest income is taken as the HRP.
3. If both householders have exactly the same income, the older is taken as the HRP.

3.1.2 Perceptions of crime

The Household Grid was followed by a series of attitudinal questions which asked respondents their perceptions about particular aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour. This module of questions included both long-standing questions as well as questions first introduced on the 2009-10 survey.

Long-standing topics covered in this module included:

1. How long respondents had lived in their local area and at their current address;
2. What respondents felt were the main causes of crime (Module B respondents only);
3. How much crime and fear of crime affected respondents quality of life (Module D respondents only);
4. How safe respondents felt when walking in their local area and when at home;

⁸ Prior to 2001 all previous surveys collected details of the Head of Household.

5. How worried they were about being the victim of particular types of crime (Module C respondents only);
6. Perceptions of the crime rate in the local area (Module C respondents only)
7. How respondents thought crime rates across the country and in their local area had changed over time (Module A and B respondents only);
8. Perceptions of changes in different types of crime (Module A and D respondents only);
9. How much of a problem they perceived particular crimes and aspects of anti-social behaviour to be (Module C and D respondents only);
10. Trust in official statistics (Module C and D respondents only);
11. How often their home was left unoccupied and how often they went out; and
12. How often they visited a pub or bar.

The additional questions on trust in official statistics were added to the module in October 2009.

3.1.3 Screener questions

Following the questions on perceptions of crime, all respondents were asked whether they had experienced certain types of crimes or incidents within a specified reference period, namely the last 12 months. The 12 month reference period changed each month throughout the fieldwork year. For example interviews conducted in July 2011 **would refer to "since the 1st of July 2010"**. This means that in practice the 12 month reference period at the time of interview consists of the last 12 full calendar months, plus the current month (i.e. slightly more than 12 months).

Questions were designed to ensure that all incidents of crime within the scope of the CSEW, including relatively minor ones, were mentioned. The screener questions deliberately avoided using terms **such as 'burglary', 'robbery', or 'assault', all of which have a precise definition** that many respondents might not be expected to know. The wording of these questions has been kept consistent since the CSEW began to ensure comparability across years.

To try and encourage respondents to recall events accurately, a life event calendar was offered to all respondents to act as a visual prompt when answering the screener questions.

Depending upon individual circumstances, a maximum of 25 screener questions were asked which can be grouped into four main categories:

1. All respondents who lived in households with a vehicle or bicycle were asked about experience of vehicle-related crimes (e.g. theft of vehicle, theft from vehicle, damage to vehicle, bicycle theft);
2. All respondents were asked about experience of property-related crimes in their current residence;
3. All respondents who had moved in the reference period were asked about experience of property-related crimes in their previous residence(s) (e.g. whether anything was stolen, whether the property was broken into, whether any property was damaged); and
4. All respondents were asked about experience of personal crimes (e.g. whether any personal property was stolen, whether any personal property was damaged, whether they had been a victim of force or violence or threats).

The questions are designed to ensure that the respondent does not mention the same incident more than once. At the end of the screener questions, the interviewer is shown a list of all incidents recorded and is asked to check with the respondent that all incidents have been recorded and nothing has been counted twice. If this is not the case, the respondent has an opportunity to correct the information before proceeding.

Within the screener questions, there is a crucial distinction between **household** incidents and **personal** incidents.

All vehicle-related and property-related crimes are considered to be household incidents, and respondents are asked about whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. A typical example of a household incident is criminal damage to a car. It is assumed that the respondent will be able to recall these incidents and provide information even in cases where he/she was not the owner or user of the car. For respondents who have moved within the last 12 months, questions on household crimes are asked both in relation to the property they are now living in, as well as other places they have lived in the last 12 months.

Personal incidents refer to all crimes against the individual and only relate to things that have happened to the respondent personally, but not to other people in the household. An example of a personal incident would be a personal assault. An assault against other household members would not be recorded, unless the respondent was also assaulted in the course of the incident. In such cases, the offence would be coded according to the crime experienced by the respondent (which may not be the same as the experience of another household member).

3.1.4 Victimisation modules

All incidents identified at the screener questions are followed through in more detail in the Victimisation Module. Incidents are covered in a specific priority order which has been kept consistent since the start of the CSEW.

Identification and ordering of incidents for Victimisation Modules

In 2011-12, 77 per cent of core sample respondents did not report any victimisation over the reference period, meaning that no Victimisation Modules had to be completed as part of the interview. This is the same proportion of respondents who did not report any victimisation in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 surveys.

Where a respondent had experienced one or more incidents in the reference period, the CAPI programme automatically identified the order in which the Victimisation Modules were asked. This meant that the interviewer had no discretion about the selection or order of

the modules⁹. The priority ordering used by the computer was as follows:

- According to the type of crime. Victimization Modules were asked in reverse order to the screener questions. Broadly speaking this means that all personal incidents were asked before property-related incidents, which were asked before vehicle-related incidents:
- Chronologically within each type of crime. If a respondent reported more than one incident of the same type of crime, Victim Modules were asked about the most recent incident first and worked backwards chronologically.

If six or fewer incidents were identified at the screener questions then a Victim Module was completed for all of the incidents reported. The first three Victimization Modules contain all the detailed questions **relating to each incident ('long' modules)**. **The second three Victim Modules were 'short' modules, containing fewer questions to minimise respondent burden.**

If the respondent had experienced more than six incidents in the reference period, only six Victimization Modules were asked using the above priority ordering. The priority ordering means that the survey does not collect details or only collects limited details (through the short Victim Module) for the crimes or incidents that tend to be more common (e.g. criminal damage to vehicles).

In the 2011-12 survey, a total of 14,591 Victim Modules were completed on the core sample and 22.7 per cent of all respondents reported at least one incident (see Table 3.2).

⁹ In the case of the incidents of sexual victimisation or domestic violence, the interviewer had an option to suspend the Victimization Module, as this might embarrass or endanger the respondent in some situations. The interviewer would then attempt to arrange a revisit at a time that would be more convenient (in particular when other household members would not be present).

Table 3.2 Core sample respondents who completed Victimisation Modules, 2011-12 CSEW

	Core sample		
	N	% of all respondents	% of victims
Non victims	35,501	77.3	
Victims ¹	10,429	22.7	
No. of Victim Modules ²			
1	7,688	16.7	71.5
2	1,873	4.1	18.8
3	535	1.2	5.9
4	185	0.4	2.3
5	76	0.2	1.0
6	72	0.2	0.5
Bases:		45,930	10,429
<small>1 Victims refers to the number of respondents who completed at least one Victimisation Module 2 The number of Victimisation Modules is shown both as a percentage of all respondents who were victims of crime and as a percentage of all respondents.</small>			

Defining a series of incidents

Most incidents reported represent one-off crimes or single incidents. However, in a minority of cases a respondent may have been victimised a number of times in succession. At each screener question where a respondent reported an incident, they were asked how many incidents of the given type had occurred during the reference period. If more than one incident had been reported, the respondent was asked whether they thought that these incidents represented a 'series' or not. **A series was defined as "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people".** Where this was the case, only one Victimisation Module was completed in relation to the most recent incident in the series.

There are two practical advantages to this approach of only asking about the most recent incident where a series of similar incidents has occurred. First, since some (although not all) incidents classified as a series can be petty or minor incidents (e.g. vandalism) it avoids the

need to ask the same questions to a respondent several times over. Secondly, it avoids using up the limit of six Victimization Modules on incidents which may be less serious.

In 2011-12, 84% of all Victimization Modules related to single incidents and 16% related to a series of incidents. This split between single and series incidents was broadly the same as previous surveys.

In the rare cases where a respondent has experienced a mixture of single incidents and a series of incidents the interview program has a complex routine which handles the sequence of individual and series incidents and allows the priority ordering of the Victimization Modules to be decided.

In terms of estimating the victimisation rates, series incidents receive a weight corresponding to the number of incidents up to a maximum of five (see [section 7](#)).

Content of Victimization Module

The Victimization Module is the key to the estimate of victimisation and collects three vital pieces of information:

- The exact month(s) in which the incident or series of incidents occurred. In a few cases, respondents may have reported an incident which later turned out to have been outside the reference period. In such cases, the Victimization Module was simply by-passed by the computer. If respondents were unsure about the exact month in which something happened, they were asked to narrow it down to a specific quarter. For incidents that were part of a series, respondents were asked how many incidents occurred in each quarter and the month in which the most recent incident had occurred.
- An open-ended description of the incident where the respondent describes exactly what happened in their own words. The open-ended description is vital to the accurate coding of offences that takes place back in the office. Short, ambiguous or inconsistent descriptions can often make offence coding difficult. At the end of each Victimization Module, the original

open-ended description that the interviewer had entered at the start of the Victimization Module is re-capped, along with the answers to some of the key pre-coded questions. By presenting this information on a single screen, interviewers have the chance to confirm with respondents that the information was correct and consistent. If the respondent and/or interviewer wish to add or clarify any information they then have the opportunity to do this.

- A series of key questions used to establish important characteristics about the incident, such as where and when the incident took place; whether anything was stolen or damaged and, if so, what; the costs of things stolen or damaged; whether force or violence was used and, if so, the nature of the force used and any injuries sustained; and whether the police were informed or not.

The key questions within the Victimization Module have remained largely unchanged from previous years of the survey to ensure comparability over time.

3.1.5 Reference dates

In the questionnaire, program reference dates were automatically calculated based on the date of interview and appropriate text substitution was used to ensure that the questions always referred to the correct reference period.

Because the 12-month reference period changed each month throughout the fieldwork year, some date-related questions in the Victimization Module had different text each month to reflect this changing reference period. Thus, for example, any interviews **conducted in July 2011 would use the reference period “*since the first of July 2010*”**. This means that in practice the 12 month reference period consisted of the last 12 full calendar months, plus the current month (i.e. slightly more than 12 months). This is taken into account when the victimisation rates are estimated.

3.1.6 Performance of the Criminal Justice System

All respondents were asked a number of questions about the performance of both the Criminal Justice System (CJS) as a whole, as well as about the individual agencies that make up the CJS.

The first set of questions in this module relate to respondents' perceptions about the effectiveness and fairness of the CJS. Individual questions relating to the police, the courts, the CPS, the probation service and the prison service were asked, as well as questions about the CJS as a whole. These questions were added to the survey in October 2007 after being extensively tested.¹⁰

The second set of questions is about confidence in the local police. As well as a general question about perceptions of how good a job the local police are doing, there are also questions related to specific aspects of local policing.

Finally, the module includes a number of questions related to **respondents' confidence in the different local agencies involved in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.**

3.1.7 Experiences of the Criminal Justice System

All respondents were then asked a module of questions focusing on their experiences of the Criminal Justice System. These questions were split into two main sections:

- witnessing a crime; and
- experiences of court.

The questions on witnessing a crime covered whether the respondent had reported a crime to the police, reasons for not reporting to the police, satisfaction with the police, contact with other CJS agencies and any experience of harassment or intimidation linked to giving evidence in court.

¹⁰ [Maxwell C. et al. \(2008\) Fairness and effectiveness in the Criminal Justice System: development of questions for the BCS](#)

The set of questions on appearing in court covered the type of court, **the role of the respondent in court, the respondent's treatment by** court staff and how well the respondent was kept informed both before attending court and during the attendance at court.

3.1.8 Mobile phone and bicycle crime

Although mobile phones stolen from the respondent should be identified in the Victimisation Module, personal thefts from other members of the household are not covered. Consequently, in this module, all respondents were asked who in the household (if anyone) used a mobile phone, whether anyone in the household had had a mobile phone stolen in the last 12 months and, if so, from whom the phone had been stolen. Respondents were asked to include incidents where mobile phones stolen had been stolen from children in the household.

A similar set of questions – referring to bicycle theft from any members of the household – was added in 2009-10. These questions were added to enable cross checks across the adult and 10-15-year-old data to identify any double counting of incidents.

3.1.9 Part-sample Modules (A-D)

Respondents were randomly allocated to one of four modules ([see section 3.6](#) for how this was done) meaning that approximately 11,500 respondents were asked each module. The random allocation maintains a representative sub sample in each of the modules.

Module A: Experiences of the police

Module A included topics such as:

- whether or not respondents are serving police officers or had any contact with the police;
- whether they have seen police officers on foot patrol in the local area;
- whether they had contacted their local police force and, if so, how;
- awareness of the Neighbourhood Policing Team;
- volunteering as a Special Constable;

- whether the respondent had heard of local crime maps and whether s/he had looked at or used the maps.
- feeling informed about crime and anti-social behaviour issues affecting the local area;
- contact with police officers
- whether respondents had made a complaint about the police and, if so, how they felt their complaint had been dealt with;
- to what extent people in the local neighbourhood would do something about any crime or anti-social behaviour that they encountered.

Module B: Attitudes to the Criminal Justice System

Topics covered in this module included:

- perceived leniency or toughness of the CJS;
- awareness of alternatives to custody, community sentences, and restorative justice;
- awareness of Community Payback;
- attitudes to aspects of the Youth Justice System.
- how the respondent would react to seeing a street robbery or criminal damage; and
- participation in the criminal justice (other than as a defendant, victim or witness).

Module C: Crime prevention and security

Topics covered in this module vary from year to year. In 2011-12 the main focus was on home, personal and vehicle security measures.

Question topics included:

- Neighbourhood Watch;
- home security, such as the use of intruder alarms and other security measures in the home;
- personal security measures and actions taken to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime; and

- vehicle security, such as measures fitted to vehicles (e.g. alarm, immobiliser) and actions taken to reduce the likelihood of theft of an item from a vehicle.

Module D: ad hoc crime topics

This module contained questions on the following topics:

- perceptions of the level of crime;
- support for victims and witnesses;
- concerns about being the victim of certain crimes;
- E-crime – including use of the internet, security concerns when using the internet and experiences of e-crime.

3.1.10 Plastic card fraud

Respondents who had been asked part-sample Modules B, C or D were then routed to the set of questions on plastic card fraud. This type of crime is not covered in the Victimization modules (though the physical theft of any plastic card would be covered). The module has been on the survey since 2007 and covers:

- whether the respondent had a plastic card used without their permission;
- whether the respondent had money taken from a bank or building society account without their permission and details of the amount stolen;
- reporting of plastic card fraud; and
- measures taken to try to prevent card fraud.

3.1.11 Mass marketing fraud

This new module was introduced in the 2011-12 CSEW and was asked of all core survey respondents. The module covers a range of frauds and 'scams' targeted at large numbers of people, including:

- mass marketing fraud – where the respondent may have received communication (e.g. email, letters, text messages, phone messages) from strangers involving a request for money;
- lottery, prize draws, sweepstakes and competition winnings fraud – where the respondent may have received a

- communication relating to a lottery, prize draw, sweepstake or other competition win that she/he had not entered;
- investments with promised high yield returns – where the respondent may have received a communication about an investment with a guaranteed high return;
 - romance fraud – where the respondent may have received a communication from someone unknown to them who invited the respondent to get to know them with a view to a possible friendship or relationship.

For each of these potential types of fraud, respondents were asked:

- whether they had received such a communication
- whether the communication asked the respondent for many or personal financial details (e.g. bank account details)
- whether in the previous 12 months the respondent had responded to the communication by sending money (and if so, how much) or personal details;
- whether the respondent had received what was promised in the communication; and
- whether the respondent had told anyone about it if she/he had not received what was promised in the communication.

3.1.12 Anti-social behaviour

This module was asked of all core survey respondents who had been asked Module A (experiences of the police). The module included questions on levels of anti-social behaviour, anti-social behaviour **around licensed premise, the respondent's experiences of anti-social behaviour** and the police response to it.

3.1.13 Demographics and media consumption

This section collected additional information on the respondent and the Household Reference Person (where this was not the same as the respondent). Question topics included:

- health and disability;
- employment details;¹¹

¹¹ Where the respondent was not the Household Reference person occupation details were also collected about the HRP

- ethnicity and national identity
- educational attainment and qualifications; ethnicity;
- housing tenure; and
- household income.

This section also covered newspapers read by the respondent.

3.1.14 Self-completion modules

The self-completion modules were asked of respondents aged 16 to 59 years of age. These modules are all presented as computer assisted self-completion (CASI) modules to ensure respondent confidentiality in answering these questions.

The respondent was asked to follow the instructions on the screen of the laptop and enter their answers accordingly. Practice questions were included before the start of the self-completion module to give the interviewer an opportunity to show the respondent the different functions of the computer. If the respondent was unable or unwilling to complete the modules using the computer the interviewer could administer the self-completion; in these cases, respondents were only asked the modules on drug use and drinking (not the module on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking).

Interviewer assistance and the presence of others while completing these modules was recorded by the interviewer (see [Chapter 4](#)).

Self-completion module – illicit drug use and alcohol consumption

All core respondents were asked this series of questions on drug and alcohol use. The module covered a total of 19 drugs plus more general questions to capture use of any other substances. The drugs included were:

- Amphetamines
- Methamphetamine
- Cannabis
- Skunk
- Cocaine powder
- Crack cocaine
- Ecstasy

- Heroin
- LSD/Acid
- Magic Mushrooms
- Methadone or Physeptone
- Semeron
- Tranquillizers
- Amyl Nitrite
- Anabolic steroids
- Ketamine
- Any unprescribed and unknown pills or powders
- Any other smoked substances (excluding tobacco)
- Any other drug

Respondents were asked whether they had ever taken each drug and, if so, whether they had taken it in the last 12 months and in the last month, how often they had taken each named drug and the circumstances when they last took a drug. The list of drugs included a drug that did not exist (Semeron) to attempt to identify instances of over reporting.

Respondents were also asked about any taking of legal or formerly legal highs. In October 2009 questions were added to the survey to record whether the respondent had taken legal highs in the last 12 months. Changes in legislation meant that a number of drugs that were formerly legal highs became illegal and so the question wording was amended, where appropriate, to reflect this. A list of the legal highs and formerly legal highs asked about is shown below:

Legal highs included in the 2011/12 survey:

- Khat

Former legal highs included in the 2011/12 survey:

- Mephedrone
- Liquid E
- Legal E
- Spice

Respondents were finally asked about their alcohol consumption, including how often they had drunk alcohol in the past 12 months,

how often they had felt drunk and whether they thought they had driven a vehicle when they were over the legal alcohol limit.

Self-report offending behaviour

Respondents who had answered the split-sample Module B were routed to an additional self-completion module on self-report offending behaviour. The questions asked about:

- Theft;
- Criminal damage / vandalism; and
- Acts of violence.

Domestic violence, sexual victimisation and stalking

All core survey respondents were routed to the final self-completion module, covering domestic violence, sexual victimisation and stalking.

The module was largely based on that first developed in 2001 (and modified in 2004-05) to measure the prevalence of domestic violence, sexual victimisation, and stalking.

Following a review of the questions in the interpersonal module, the questions were re-developed to help improve usability. In 2010/11 a split sample experiment was begun to test the impact, if any, that the new question wording had on prevalence estimates.¹² The descriptions of types of abuse that respondents were asked about were kept as consistent as possible between the established and alternative sets of questions, and the order in which each type of abuse is asked about was also retained.

This experiment continued in the 2011-12 survey with respondents who had been through the split-sample modules A and B being routed to questions with one version of the wording and those who had been through modules C and D being routed to questions on the same topics using slightly different wording.

In general, in the question set used before 2010-11, respondents were presented with a list of behaviours that constitute abuse and

¹² [Hall, P and Smith, K. \(2011\) *Analysis of the 2010/11 British Crime Survey Intimate Personal Violence split- sample experiment*. London: Home Office](#)

asked to choose which, if any, they had experienced in the last year and since the age of 16. In the alternative question set, respondents were asked if they had experienced each of these behaviours in turn **and asked to respond 'yes' or 'no'**.

Both sets of the questions on inter-personal violence covered the following topics:

- experience of domestic violence by either a partner or by another family member since age 16 and in the last 12 months;
- experience of less serious sexual assault since age 16 and in the last 12 months;
- experience of serious sexual assault since age 16 and in the last 12 months; and
- experience of stalking since age 16 and in the last 12 months.

Those who had been subjected to serious sexual assault since the age of 16 were asked supplementary questions about the nature of the sexual assault. The questions covered:

- frequency of incidents;
- whether the police came to know or not;
- whether drugs or alcohol were involved;
- whether respondent suffered any injuries or sought any medical help; and
- whether respondent had to take any time off work.

Respondents from split-sample Module D were also asked a short series of questions on attitudes to domestic violence.

Finally, the module also included a question for all core respondents **on the respondent's** sexual orientation (this was not asked if the self-completion module was administered by the interviewer).

3.2 Structure and coverage of the 10-to-15 year-old survey

An extensive development and testing phase was undertaken prior to the launch of the 10-to-15 survey. The results of this phase were documented in the development report published in 2010.¹³

¹³ [Extending the British Crime Survey to children: a report on the methodological and development work](#)

The 2011-12 CSEW questionnaire for 10 to 15 year olds covered:

- Schooling and perceptions of crime
- Crime screener questions – personal incidents only
- Victimization module
- Perceptions of and attitudes towards the police
- Anti-social behaviour
- Crime prevention and security
- Self completion module
 - Use of the internet
 - Bullying
 - Street gangs
 - School Truancy
 - Personal security
 - Drinking behaviour
 - Cannabis use
 - Verification questions
- Demographics

3.2.1 Random allocation to sub-sample modules

There were three part-sample modules within the 10-to-15 year old survey to which respondents were randomly allocated using an algorithm in the CAPI script. This method of randomly allocating respondents to different modules ensures that the process is strictly controlled and that each part-sample remains representative of the survey population see table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3 Modules of the 2011-12 CSEW questionnaire for the 10-to-15 survey and sub-set of respondents who were asked each module

Questionnaire module	Proportion of sample	Module
Schooling and perceptions of crime	All	
Crime screener questionnaire	All	
Victimisation module	All victims	
Perceptions of and attitudes towards the police	Random 33%	A
Anti-social behaviour	Random 33%	B
Crime prevention and security	Random 33%	C
Use of the internet	Random 33%	B
Bullying	Random 33%	B
Street gangs	Random 33%	B
School truancy	All	
Personal security	All	
Drinking behaviour	All	
Cannabis use	All	
Verification questions	All	
Demographics	All	

3.2.2 Schooling and perceptions of crime

This module included questions about whether the respondent attended school and, if so, what school year they were in (school year is used later in the questionnaire to help respondents recall exactly when incidents of crime took place).

A small number of questions were included about the respondent's perception of crime in their local area and whether they believe the level of crime had changed in the last few years.

3.2.3 Crime screener questions

All respondents were asked whether they had experienced certain types of crimes or incidents within the last 12 months. The screener questions deliberately avoided using terms such as 'burglary', 'robbery', or 'assault', all of which have a precise definition that many respondents might not be expected to know.

Respondents in the 10-to-15 year-old questionnaire were not asked about household incidents as these would have been covered in the interview with the adult household member. The 10-to-15 year-olds were asked:

- Whether anything had been stolen from them
- Whether anyone had deliberately damaged their property
- Whether anyone had deliberately kicked, hit, pushed or been physically violent towards them in any other way
- Whether they had been hit or threatened with a weapon
- Whether they had been threatened in any other way

3.2.4 Victimization modules

All incidents identified at the screener questions were followed up in more detail in the victimisation module. Incidents were covered in specific priority order:

- according to the type of crime;
- chronologically within each type of crime – if a respondent reported more than one type of incident of the same crime type, victim modules were asked about the most recent incident first and worked backwards chronologically;
- up to six mini victim forms completed with a maximum of four full victim forms.

The 10-to-15 survey included a mini victim form – a short sub-set of questions used to identify low level incidents which were not subject to detailed questions. Respondents completed a mini victim form if the incident was **classified as a 'relatively minor' incident**. An incident would be classified as relatively minor if all of the following applied:

- incidents happened at school, where...
- the offender was a pupil at **the victim's school, and...**
- the offender did not use or threaten to use a weapon, and
- the victim was not physically hurt in any way, and...

- nothing was taken with the intention of taking it and not giving it back.

As with the core survey the victimisation module collected the key information required for classification of offences:

- the exact month in which the incident took place;
- an open-ended description of the incident;
- a series of key questions to establish important characteristics of the incident.

3.2.5 Module A: Perceptions of and attitudes towards the police

One third of respondents selected at random were asked their opinion of the police in their area and whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about the police in the area.

Questions were also asked about whether the respondent knew any police or police community support officers (PCSOs), whether they had had any contact with police or PCSOs, who initiated the contact, reasons for contact and how satisfied they were with the contact.

3.2.6 Module B: Anti-social behaviour

This module was also asked of a randomly-selected one third of respondents. It included questions about whether respondents felt teenagers hanging around on the streets were a problem in the area and whether they themselves hung around on the streets with friends.

3.2.7 Module C: Crime prevention and security

Respondents were asked about when they go out in evening, whether they travel on public transport and if so how often and at what time of day. Questions were also included about whether they owned a mobile phone, MP3 player, games console or bike, and if so what precautions they took to protect these items.

3.2.8 Self-completion modules

A number of modules contained potentially sensitive questions and were therefore included in the self-completion section so that respondents did not have to tell the interviewer their answers. As in

the core survey, practice questions were included so that the interviewer could explain to the respondent how to use the computer.

Use of the internet - respondents were asked whether they had used the internet in the last 12 months and if so what they used the internet for.

Bullying – This module asked whether the respondent had been bullied and, where this was the case, some follow up questions were asked about the nature and extent of the bullying.

Street gangs – This module included a definition of a street gang as; Groups of young people who hang around together and:

- have a specific area or territory;
- have a name, a colour or something else to identify the group;
- possibly have rules or a leader;
- who may commit crimes together.

Respondents were asked how much of a problem they believed street gangs to be in the country as a whole and in their local area. They were also asked whether they knew anyone who was a member of a street gang and whether they themselves were a member of a street gang.

School truancy – Three questions were asked covering whether the respondent had missed school without permission in the preceding 12 months, how many times they had missed school without permission and whether they had been suspended or excluded from school.

Personal security – these questions were only asked of respondents aged 13 or over and covered whether they carried a personal alarm with them, whether the respondent knew anyone who carried a knife, whether they themselves carried a knife and, if so, why.

Drinking behaviour – this section of questions asked whether the respondent had ever drunk alcohol, whether they had ever been drunk, and how often they had been drunk.

Cannabis use – Respondents were asked whether they had ever tried cannabis, how often they had tried it and whether they had felt stoned.

Verification questions – one of the crime screener questions was repeated in the self-completion section to explore whether respondents would give a different answer if they did not have to say the answer out loud. The screener question included for verification asked whether the respondent had been hit, kicked, pushed, assaulted or hit with a weapon.

3.2.9 Demographics module

The demographics module included questions regarding ethnicity, religion and whether the respondent had a disability or suffered from a long-term illness.

3.3 Life event calendar

To aid respondent recall, the CSEW makes use of a life event calendar. This calendar works by trying to place events or incidents in some sort of meaningful context for each respondent by building up a picture of events that have happened to them in the last year (e.g. birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, starting a new job, etc.) that are memorable to the respondent. Additionally, national dates such as Christmas, Easter, or Bank Holidays can be put on the calendar as common reference points. Further details about the thinking behind the life event calendar and its development can be found in the 2001 BCS Technical Report.

In relation to the CSEW, the life event calendar can be used for two purposes:

- first, to provide respondents with a visual aid throughout the screener questions; and
- second, to help respondents having difficulty recalling in which particular month an incident may have occurred.

Appendix F in Volume 2 has an example of the calendar used on the 2011-12 core survey and Appendix G has an example of the life events calendar used on the 2011-12 10-to-15 year-old survey.

3.4 Questionnaire development

Since most of the questions on the 2011-12 CSEW had been included in previous years of the survey, it was decided to concentrate piloting efforts primarily on new questions.

In January and February 2011 two rounds of pilot interviews were conducted. The first round was conducted in two central hall locations: Birmingham and London (Uxbridge). Round 2 of piloting also took place in two central hall locations: Manchester and London (Ealing). All interviews were conducted by members of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) research team. Respondents were recruited in street by experienced CSEW interviewers. A £5 voucher incentive was offered to respondents for taking part. Respondents were recruited to meet quotas based on age, sex and working status. A total of 35 interviews were conducted in round 1 and 49 interviews in round 2 of piloting.

All interviews were conducted using cognitive testing. The purpose of cognitive testing is to assess how well respondents deal with key questions and sections of an interview and to fine-tune questions where necessary. The primary advantage of cognitive testing over **standard piloting is that researchers can directly gauge respondents' reactions to a questionnaire rather than indirectly via feedback from an interviewer after an interview has been conducted.**

The main question areas covered in the 2011-12 piloting were as follows:

- Anti social behaviour – **these questions explored respondents' understanding of the term anti-social behaviour and whether they had experienced any anti-social behaviour.**
- Experience of the Criminal Justice System
- Awareness of alternatives to custody
- Mass marketing fraud
- Reactions to knowledge of intimate personal violence

Full details of the questions piloted and the findings are included in the pilot report included in Volume 2.

3.4.1 Questionnaire development for the 10-15 year olds survey

Questionnaire development for the 2011-12 10-15 year old questionnaire took place in February 2010. Interviews were held in a central hall location to cognitively test the questionnaire with young people. Piloting took place in London (Ealing) over one day and respondents were pre-recruited by TNS-BMRB's specialist qualitative field recruitment team. Piloting took place during the school half term holidays which allowed interviewing to take place throughout the day, rather than being restricted to after school or on the weekend.

The cognitive testing aimed to explore young people's experiences and views of key issues relating to crime and victimisation. Rather than piloting the whole questionnaire specific topic areas were covered where it was felt a **greater understanding of children's** perceptions was required. The questionnaire sought to explore the following topic areas:

- Young people's understanding of intention (in relation to criminal intent)
- Young people's experiences of contact with the police
- Young people's understanding of Street gangs

In total 11 interviews took place and an incentive of £10 per child was provided in the form of a high street voucher. Interviews took 30 minutes on average.

3.5 Final questionnaire and revisions

A paper questionnaire was produced from the Quanquest software that detailed the questions and routing instructions as specified in the Quanquest code. This was translated into a Word document to provide a more user-friendly questionnaire.

Once all changes had been approved, the questionnaire was thoroughly checked by TNS BMRB researchers and Home Office

research staff. The final questionnaire can be found in Appendix D of Volume 2 of this Technical Report.

3.6 Allocation of sample within CAPI

In the 2011-12 survey, the unique serial number entered by interviewers into the computer had to be capable of the following:

- to randomly allocate respondents to one of four part-sample modules (and within each module to further allocate respondents into a sub-sample)
- to distinguish between a core sample respondent and a 10 to 15 year old respondent

The unique serial number pre-printed on all core Address Contact Sheets and transferred by interviewers into the CAPI consisted of 6 digits. The first 4 digits (1000-9999) represented the area or sample point number and the last 2 digits (01-99) represented the address number. Additionally, the interviewers had to enter a screen number which denoted whether the interview was a core sample interview (screen number 0) or a 10-to-15 year-old interview (screen number 8). Various checks were incorporated into the questionnaire to minimise the chances of errors being made by interviewers when entering the serial and screen numbers.

Allocation of respondents to each part-sample module was done on the basis of the address number, using an algorithm based on division of the address number by 8 as shown in Table 3.4. The allocation to a particular Module was done automatically at the start of the interview by the CAPI programme when the interviewer entered the serial number.

Since each sample point contained approximately 32 addresses the above algorithm ensured that within each sample point a similar number of issued addresses were randomly allocated to each follow-up module.

Table 3.4 Allocation of interviews to modules

Address Numbers	Remainder divided by 8	Allocated module
01/09/17/25	1	A1
02/10/18/26	2	B1
03/11/19/27	3	C1
04/12/20/28	4	D1
05/13/21/29	5	A2
06/14/22/30	6	B2
07/15/23/31	7	C2
08/16/24/32	8	D2

This method of randomly allocating respondents to different sub-modules ensures that the process is strictly controlled, that each part-sample remains representative of the survey population and results in an even allocation across the year. Table 3.5 shows the actual proportion of respondents allocated in 2011-12 to the different sub-modules against the target.

Table 3.5 Achieved allocation of respondents to modules against target, 2011-12 CSEW

Module	Target allocation	Achieved allocation
A1	12.5%	12.4%
B1	12.5%	12.5%
C1	12.5%	12.7%
D1	12.5%	12.5%
A2	12.5%	12.7%
B2	12.5%	12.4%
C2	12.5%	12.7%
D2	12.5%	12.2%

3.7 Features of Quancept used in the CSEW

3.7.1 Don't Know and Refusal keys

In the Quancept script, Don't Know and Refused are special codes for questions where these are not defined explicitly as response categories. In these cases, rather than entering numeric codes for these options, interviewers enter DK and REF respectively.

As with previous years of the survey, almost every question had a **Don't Know and Refused option that the interviewer could use** but at most questions they did not appear on the screen to try to ensure that interviewers did not over-use these options.

In the paper questionnaire in Appendix D of Volume 2, Don't Know and Refused are only shown if they were designated response categories and actually appeared as an option on the screen.

3.7.2 Different question types

The vast majority of questions were pre-coded, meaning that a list of answer categories appeared on the laptop screen and the interviewers entered the appropriate numeric code. Questions were

either single response (i.e. only one code could be entered) or multi-response (i.e. more than one code can be entered). In the latter case, answers are entered, separated by spaces. In multi-response questions it is possible to allow a combination of either multi-response or single response options at the same question. For example the following codes were always single coded even if contained within a multi-**response question: None of these, Don't know and Refused.** In the case of numeric questions, where an actual value is required, the interviewer simply typed in the appropriate number.

Many pre-coded questions had an 'Other –specify' option, and if this option was selected by a respondent, the interviewer would simply type in the answer given. In all these questions, the answers were later examined by specialist TNS-**BMRB coders to see if the 'other'** answer could be back coded into one of the original pre-coded options ([see section 5.2](#)).

In Quancept the standard keys that interviewers use to move forwards and backwards through the questionnaire are Ctrl + Enter and Ctrl + Backspace respectively. It was felt that these keystroke combinations might be awkward for respondents when completing the self-completion part of the questionnaire. Consequently, a modified version of the software was used for the self-completion module which allowed respondents to use single keystrokes instead (F2 for forwards, F1 for backwards).

3.7.3 Logic and consistency checks

A number of logic and consistency checks were built into the Quancept script. These were of two types: hard checks and soft checks. Hard checks are ones where the interviewer is unable to move to the next question until the discrepancy or inconsistency has been resolved. Soft checks are ones where the interviewer is asked to confirm that the information entered at a specific question is correct but is able to pass on to the next question.

- An example of a hard check is to make sure that every household has someone coded as the Household Reference Person; until this is done the interviewer cannot move forward.

- An example of a soft check is to check the value of stolen items that appear low (for example, a vehicle). In this case the interviewer will be prompted to check with the respondent whether the value entered is correct or not, and has the option either to change the original answer or leave it as it is.

A full list of all the logic and consistency checks in the 2011-12 questionnaire can be found in Appendix K of Volume 2.

3.7.4 Date calculation and text substitution

Text substitution and date calculations were used extensively throughout the questionnaire.

Text substitution is where alternative text is used in a question depending upon the series of answers given by a respondent to previous questions. In the paper questionnaire, square brackets are used to denote the existence of text substitution in a question.

Two main types of **date calculations** were used in the questionnaire:

- First, the precise reference period was calculated based on the date of interview and this was then substituted into the text of many questions. In all cases it was decided to calculate the date to the first of the month 12 months previous. Thus, for example, any interviews conducted in July 2011 would use the reference period "*since the first of July 2010*".
- Second, some code frames consisted of particular time periods (e.g. months or quarters) which changed on a month-by-month basis. With these type of questions the Quancept script was programmed to allow the whole reference period covered by the questionnaire (that is, from April 2009 to June 2011 – a total of 27 months). However, interviewers only saw on screen the sub-set of codes that were appropriate to the correct reference period (i.e. 13 calendar months) for the month in which they were interviewing.

Since some questions used these constantly rotating code frames based upon date of interview it was impossible to label these variables in any meaningful way in the SPSS data file. A list of these

questions and the appropriate code frames that actually appeared on screen depending upon the month of interview can be found in Appendix H of Volume 2.

4. Fieldwork

This chapter documents all aspects of the data collection process, focusing on fieldwork procedures, the management of fieldwork across the survey year, quality control procedures and response rates achieved across the different samples.

4.1 Briefing of interviewers

All interviewers working on the Crime Survey for England and Wales attend one of two types of briefings during the year. Interviewers who have not previously carried out a CSEW assignment are required to attend a full day face-to-face briefing before they can work on the survey. Interviewers who have previously worked on the survey attend a half day refresher briefing. There were no new interviewers joining the panel in 2011-12 so no initial briefings were held (details of the content of previous briefings and procedures for new interviewers can be found in the 2010-11 technical report). In March and April 2012 the full panel attended refresher briefings ahead of the start of the 2012-13 survey.

These refresher briefings covered:

- Additional background information about the survey, including an update on the latest results published
- Information about the change in name and ownership of the survey
- Feedback about improving the 10-15 year old response rate
- Additional training about introducing the self completion section to encourage participation
- Updates on fieldwork procedures including an introduction to the electronic contact sheet
- Recent changes to the questionnaire

A total of 27 refresher briefings were attended by 313 interviewers in 2011-12.

4.2 Supervision and quality control

Several methods were used to ensure the quality and validity of the data collection operation.

A total of 251 CSEW assignments, 12% of all CSEW assignments allocated in 2011-12, were supervised. Assignments supervised tended to be those assigned to less experienced interviewers. Interviewers new to random probability sample surveys were also accompanied on the first day of their CSEW assignment by a supervisor.

Thirteen percent of addresses where an interview was achieved were re-contacted, to verify that the interviewer had contacted someone at the address and whether or not an interview had resulted (5,891 addresses). **Addresses for this 'back checking' process were** selected on the basis of TNS **BMRB's standard field quality procedures**, whereby all interviewers have their work checked at least twice a year. A total of 379 separate CSEW assignments were back checked during the year.

Validation was carried out mainly by telephone. Where no telephone number was available a short postal questionnaire was sent to the address to collect the same information.

4.3 Fieldwork dates and fieldwork management

During 2011-12 the survey was managed on a monthly basis. With the exception of the April to June quarter an even number of assignments were issued each month (approximately 180). In April to June the sample was frontloaded with 222 assignments issued in April, 195 in May and 139 in June.

Interviewers were encouraged to start their assignment as early as possible in the month to minimise the time between respondents receiving the advance letter and an interviewer calling. Interviewers had until the end of the calendar month to cover all the addresses in their assignment and report final outcomes.

Once all the issued addresses had been covered the Address Contact Sheets were returned to Head Office and a decision was taken about re-issuing non-productive outcomes. As a general rule all non-productive addresses (non-contacts, refusals, broken appointments, etc.) were re-issued unless there was a specific reason not to or it was considered not to be cost effective (e.g. only one or two addresses in an assignment). Once the first re-issue period had been completed a decision was taken about whether to re-issue addresses that were still non-productive for a second or third time.

In total across the year 7,778 addresses were re-issued on the core sample, which represented 12% of the original sample. Of these 1,138 addresses were issued for a second time (2% of all addresses), and 152 (less than 1% of addresses) were issued for a third time. Just 11 addresses were issued a fourth time. Of all the addresses re-issued, 19% were converted into productive outcomes at some stage. Addresses where the original outcome had been a refusal were less likely to be converted (7% were converted) than those that had been a non-contact (13% converted) or some other unproductive outcome (10% converted). Overall, the impact of the re-issue process was to increase the response rate on the core sample from 72.3% after the initial issue to the final response rate of 75.1%.

Because of this time lag between addresses being issued and interviews being achieved, the time period covered by the 2011-12 issued sample and the time period covered by the 2011-12 achieved sample are different. Although the sample for the survey was issued between April 2011 and March 2012, the actual fieldwork dates during which interviews were achieved ran from April 2011 to June 2012. As already explained this means that for each quarter of the year not all interviews were actually achieved in the quarter of issue. Approximately 85% of interviews were achieved in the same quarter as they were issued, with 15% of interviews falling into the next quarter. Not surprisingly, most of the interviews that fell into the following quarter were those issued in the last month of a quarter (i.e. June, September, December and March).

The questionnaire used in the field was aligned to the survey year, rather than being aligned to the sample issue.

In 2011-12 all interviews carried out between 1st April 2011 and 31st March 2012 were therefore done with the 2011-12 questionnaire, irrespective of the time period in which the sample was issued. The advantage of this is that the questionnaire is in line with the way in which the data are reported. This was also the case in October when mid-year changes to the questionnaire were introduced.

Further details of how the quarterly data outputs relate to the issued and achieved sample can be found in [section 6.2](#).

4.4 Fieldwork procedures and documents

All assignments in the clustered part of the sample consisted of 32 addresses. As part of the process to batch up the unclustered part of the sample into manageable fieldwork assignments an attempt was made to make assignments of 32 addresses wherever possible. However, in practice this was not always possible and so assignment sizes did vary. In 2011-12, 80% of assignments consisted of 32 addresses; 89% had between 30 and 35 addresses. The largest assignment consisted of 42 addresses, while the smallest assignment consisted of 5 addresses.

4.5 Advance letter and leaflet

All selected addresses were sent a letter from the Home Office in advance of an interviewer calling at the address. For addresses in Wales, a Welsh translation was provided on the reverse of the letter. This explained a little about the survey, why this particular address had been selected and telling the occupiers that an interviewer from TNS-BMRB would be calling in the next few weeks. The letter also provided a telephone number and an email address for people to contact to find out more about the survey, to make an appointment for an interviewer to call, or to opt out of the survey. Over the course of the whole year 1,670 people, representing around 3% of addresses issued, opted out of the survey by contacting either TNS BMRB or the Home Office.

Included with the advance letter was a leaflet from the Home Office which provided people with some more details about the survey, including findings from the previous survey. The leaflet also tried to

answer some questions that potential respondents might have such as issues relating to confidentiality.

A leaflet was also specifically designed for the 10 to 15 year olds that explained in relatively simple terms what the survey was about. This leaflet was not sent to households in advance and was rather handed out by the interviewer in eligible household, usually after conducting the core survey. Much of the detailed information about the survey was omitted from this leaflet on the basis that the 10 to 15 year olds would also have access to the original household letter and leaflet about the survey.

Examples of the advance letters used can be found in Appendix A and a copy of the leaflets (including the leaflet designed for 10 to 15 year olds) can be found in Appendix B of Volume 2.

4.6 Address Contact Sheets (ACS)

Interviewers were issued with a paper Address Contact Sheet (ACS) for each sampled address. This was the key document that allowed interviewers to carry out the different tasks that make up the CSEW assignment and to record and manage their own calling strategies for each address.

The Address Contact Sheets are crucial documents to the management of the CSEW, both at the level of the individual assignment and for the management of the survey overall. The primary functions of the ACS are as follows:

- To allow interviewers to record the days and times that they called at an address. Additionally, there is space for interviewers to record details or comments that may be useful should the address be re-issued to another interviewer.
- To provide a record of all the outcomes achieved at the address. The ACS allows the outcome at each re-issue stage to be recorded separately, so that there was a complete record of outcomes for each address. Although these outcomes were recorded by interviewers on the paper ACS, they were also

reported electronically to Head Office on a daily basis so that overall progress could be monitored and managed.

- To allow the interviewer to carry out any selection procedures where required and record the details. Where an interviewer found more than one dwelling unit at an address they had to carry out a procedure to randomly select one dwelling unit for interview. Similarly, where more than one eligible adult was found at an address, interviewers had to randomly select one person for interview.
- To allow the interviewer to carry out the screening process for the 10 to 15 year olds survey the ACS had step by step instructions for interviewers and also allowed them to record the screening outcomes for every address. As with the final response outcomes, all screening outcomes were reported back to Head Office on a daily basis.
- To collect some basic information about the area and the selected address (e.g. type of property, condition of the property, whether it is in a Neighbourhood Watch area, etc.). This information was collected by interviewers based on their own observations and, as such, was highly subjective. Nevertheless, such information does tend to be highly associated with non-response and is also used by the Home Office as an area-based disorder measure. This observational data was recorded by interviewers on the back page of the ACS. Interviewers returned this information by entering the data electronically and returning it as part of their end of day administration procedures. The data was added to the annual data file at a later stage.

Examples of the Address Contact Sheets can be found in Appendix C of Volume 2.

4.7 Fieldwork procedures and documents for the 10 to 15 survey

All respondents for the 10 to 15 survey were selected from households already selected to take part in the core survey. Screening was only carried out in households where a successful adult interview was achieved. In most cases screening was conducted only on completion of the adult interview but in some cases screening was carried out before the adult interview had taken place.

Where a 10 to 15 year old was identified in a household, interviewers were required to obtain the permission of a parent or guardian to interview the child before starting the survey. Permission was recorded in writing on the address contact sheet. In some cases the adult respondent may not have been the parent or guardian of the child (for example an older sibling may have been interviewed in the core survey if they were aged 16 or over). In these cases interviewers were not able to obtain permission to interview the child from the core respondent and would therefore have to make contact with the parent or guardian to obtain permission.

Interviewers were provided with a parental information card which gave details of the nature and content of the survey and was to be presented to parents or guardians when they were asked for permission for the child to take part.

Once parental permission was obtained interviewers were instructed to ensure that the 10 to 15 year old also gave their consent to participate in the survey and that they understood what the survey would be about.

A leaflet was specifically designed for the 10 to 15 year olds that explained in relatively simple terms what the survey was about. Much of the detailed information about the survey was omitted from this leaflet on the basis that the 10 to 15 year olds would also have access to the original household letter and leaflet about the survey.

4.8 Item non-response

In order to emphasise to 10 to 15 year olds their right to refuse a particular question or the survey as a whole they were given a red and green card to use throughout the interview. If they chose not to answer a question they could simply present the interviewer with the red card and that particular question would be coded as a refusal. The red and green card was developed primarily with the younger age groups in mind. It was however also found to be useful in reassuring parents that the 10 to 15 year olds could refuse certain questions if they felt uncomfortable.

4.9 Presence of others during the interview

During the interviewer briefing sessions emphasis was given about trying, wherever possible, to conduct the interview in private. This generally helps to make the interview run more smoothly, but it also might encourage some respondents to mention certain incidents or events, which they might be embarrassed or worried of talking about in front of others.

Privacy during the interview is a particular concern for respondents who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault. Where respondents had experienced such incidents in the last 12 months, interviewers had the option of suspending the Victimisation Module (simply by skipping over it) if they felt it was inappropriate to continue with the questions because of the presence of others in the room. This procedure meant that the interviewer could complete the rest of the questionnaire, rather than having to abandon the whole interview. During 2011-12, a total of 23 Victimisation Modules were suspended by interviewers for this reason.

Although it is preferable for the interview to be conducted with no-one else present, there are also some situations where the presence of others might improve the accuracy of the information collected. This is particularly the case for incidents of vehicle crime or property crime, where the respondent may not have been personally present, reported the incident to the police, etc. Additionally, in many cases it

is simply not be possible for the interview to be conducted without others present in the room.

4.9.1 Presence of others during the adult screener interview

The key point at which the presence of another person could affect the estimate of victimisation is during the initial set of screener questions. Therefore, at the end of these questions, the interviewer recorded whether anyone else was present. Table 4.1 shows whether or not anyone else was present in the room during the initial screener questionnaire, when respondents are giving details about their experiences of crime.

Table 4.1 Presence of others during the screener questionnaire, 2011-12 CSEW

Core sample	
	%¹⁴
No-one present	70
Child(ren) under 16	8
Spouse/partner	17
Other adult	8
<i>Base: All adult respondents</i>	<i>45,930</i>

In 2011-12, seven out of ten (70%) adult respondents were interviewed with no-one else other than the interviewer being present. Where someone else was present, the people most commonly there were the respondent's spouse or partner (17%).

There was little difference between men and women as to whether they completed the interview with no-one else being present (71% of men and 69% of women).

Asian respondents, and in particular Asian women, were less likely than respondents from other ethnic groups to have done the screener questionnaire with no-one else present; 55% of Asian respondents completed the screener with no-one else present. Only 48% of female

¹⁴ Percentages add up to more than 100% because respondents could give more than one answer.

Asian respondents were interviewed with no-one else present, compared with 61% of Asian men.

However, any patterns by age or ethnicity will also be influenced by household composition. Table 4.2 shows the information from the previous table with single person households identified separately.

Not surprisingly this shows that the vast majority of respondents interviewed in single person households were interviewed with no-one else present. The majority of respondents living in households with more than one person were also interviewed with no-one else present, although around four in ten respondents were interviewed with someone else present.

Table 4.2 Presence of others during the screener questionnaire by household size and sample type, 2011-12 CSEW

	Single person household	More than one person household
	%	%
No-one present	93	61
Child(ren) under 16	1	11
Spouse/partner	*	24
Other adult	6	9
<i>Bases: All adult respondents</i>	<i>12,802</i>	<i>33,128</i>
Percentages add to more than 100% because respondents could give more than one answer		

The impact of the presence of others during the interview on the information given in the survey is not known as there is no way of knowing what the respondent might have said if they had been alone. Table 4.3 shows the proportion of respondents who reported being a victim of crime by who was present during the screener survey. Respondents whose spouse or partner was present were less likely to

report victimisation. However, in cases where children under 16 were present or another adult was present respondents appeared to be more likely to report having been a victim of crime.

It is likely however that other demographic factors may be influencing this such as age, gender, social behaviour etc.

Table 4.3 Reporting of victimisation by who else present during the screener questionnaire

	No-one present	Children under 16	Spouse/partner	Other adult	All households with more than 1 person
	%	%	%	%	%
Victim	22	30	21	26	24
Non Victim	78	70	79	74	76
<i>Base:</i>	<i>20,295</i>	<i>3,520</i>	<i>7,949</i>	<i>2,748</i>	<i>33,128</i>

Base: All with more than one person in the household

4.9.2 Presence of others during the self-completion and assistance given

For those who did the self-completion, the presence of others during this part of the interview was also recorded. Table 4.4 shows that almost three-quarters of adult respondents (73%) who did the self-completion did so when no-one else was present. Around one in ten respondents (9%) who completed the self-completion did so when children were present in the room.

Table 4.4 Whether anyone else was present or not during the self-completion by sample type, 2011-12 CSEW

	Core sample
	%
No-one else	73
Spouse/partner/girlfriend/boyfriend	13
Child(ren) under 16	9
Other household member (adult)	6
Someone else	3
<i>Base: All adult respondents who did the self-completion</i>	26,885
Percentages add up to more than 100% since more than one answer could be coded at this question	

Where anyone else was present in the room during the self-completion section, interviewers **were briefed to try and 'arrange'** the room whenever possible so that the respondent had a degree of privacy to do the self-completion. For example, interviewers might try to ensure that the respondent was sitting with the screen facing a wall or was in such a position that no-one else in the room could actually read the computer screen.

Where anyone else was present, the extent to which they were involved in answering questions was noted, as was whether the interviewer was involved in the self-completion sections. In cases where someone else was present during the self-completion, it was not common for others to become involved in answering the questions (11%). In 5% of interviews someone else looked at or read the self-completion with the respondent, while in another 6% of interviews the respondent discussed the self-completion with other people.

Respondents aged 45-59 (15%) and Asian respondents (24%) were more likely than average to have had someone else involved in

answering the questions, either by looking at or reading the questions, or by discussing the questions.

Table 4.5 shows the amount of assistance that interviewers gave to respondents on the self-completion section. The vast majority of respondents who answered the questions (83%) used the laptop on their own without any help from the interviewer while about one in six respondents (17%) required some form of assistance with the self-completion.

Respondents aged 45-59 (23%), Asian respondents (27%) and Black respondents (22%) were the most likely to have sought some help with the self-completion. This was primarily because these respondents were more likely to have asked the interviewer to complete the self-completion for them, rather than using the computer themselves.

Table 4.5 Amount of assistance given by interviewers with the self-completion questionnaire by sample type, 2011-12 CSEW

	Core sample
	%
All done by respondent	83
Help given with one or two questions	2
Help given with more than one or two questions, but less than half	1
Help given with more than half, but not all	* ¹⁵
Help given with all/nearly all	1
Completed by interviewer	13
<i>Base: All adult respondents who did the self-completion</i>	<i>26,884</i>

¹⁵ Less than 0.5 per cent but more than 0

4.9.3 Presence of others during the 10-15 year old interview

The 10-15 year old interview was much more likely to take place in the presence of others than the adult interview with a parent or guardian being the most likely person to be present during the screener questionnaire, see table 4.6 below. As would be expected there was a clear relationship between the age of the child and the likelihood of a parent or guardian being present. Thus when interviewing a 10 year old a parent or guardian was present in 86% of interviews compared with 59% of interviews with 15 year olds.

Table 4.6 Presence of others during the screener questionnaire, 2011-12 CSEW, 10-15 year old sample

	Age of child						Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Parent/guardian	86	81	72	72	62	59	71
Other child from household	11	13	11	10	7	6	10
Other adult from household	2	3	3	4	4	3	3
Other non-household child	2	3	3	3	2	3	3
Other non-household adult	2	2	2	2	1	3	2
No one present	12	15	23	24	34	37	25
Base:	542	628	646	685	698	711	3,911

4.9.4 Self completion acceptance

Acceptance of the self completion section was almost universal among 10-15 year olds (99.6%).

An option to listen to the questions in the self-completion questionnaire using Audio CASI was available for 10-15 year olds. Overall one third of 10-15 year olds (34%) chose to use the Audio CASI for some or all of the questions and two thirds (66%) did not use it. Younger children were slightly more likely to use the Audio

CASI, it was used by 38% of 10 year olds compared with 31% of 15 year olds.

4.10 Length of interview

4.10.1 Introduction

Timing stamps were placed throughout the questionnaire to allow timing of individual sections. Due to various technical issues associated with CAPI systems, it is not always possible to derive meaningful time stamps from every interview. For example, should an interviewer briefly go back into an interview at a later time to check or amend a response the time stamps can be set to show an apparently very short (2-3 minutes) interview. Similarly, if an interviewer has to temporarily stop or suspend an interview for an hour or so and fails to come out of the questionnaire in the intervening period (simply powering down the computer instead) the time stamps can show an interview of 4-5 hours.

To eliminate the effects of these outlying cases on the calculation of average timings, it was decided to only include interviews where the total length of interview was in the range 15 minutes to 180 minutes. On the 2011-12 survey, around 99% of interviews had a valid time within these ranges and are included in the analysis below.

4.10.2 Overall length of interview

The average (mean) core interview length during 2011-12 was 51 minutes. This is broadly the same length compared with recent years but has increased by 5 minutes since 2002 when the average length was 46 minutes. Table 4.7 shows the average interview length for the core sample since 2002-03.

Table 4.7 Average interview length over time

Survey Year	Average time (minutes)
2002-03	46
2003-04	46
2004-05	48
2005-06	48
2006-07	49
2007-08	48
2008-09	49
2009-10	49
2010-11	51
2011-12	51

The main influence on core interview length was whether or not the respondent had been a victim of crime or not. The average interview length for non-victims was 47 minutes compared to 66 minutes for victims of crime.

The average length of interview by number of Victimization Modules completed is shown in Table 4.8 below. Naturally, interview length was strongly related to the number of Victimization Modules completed by the respondent, with those completing 4 or more modules (3.2% of victims) having an average interview length of 95 minutes.

Table 4.8 Average time of interview by number of Victimization Modules, 2011-12 CSEW

Number of Victimization Modules	Average time (minutes)
Non victims	47
All victims	66
1	61
2	73
3	85
4 or more	95
All adult respondents	51

Most interviews took between 30 and 60 minutes, with 63% of all respondents completing the survey in this time. One in ten (10%) completed the survey in less than 30 minutes, while 5% of respondents took 90 minutes or more.

Respondents aged 60 or over had a shorter average interview time compared with those aged under 60 (45 minutes and 55 minutes respectively), reflecting the fact that those aged 60 or over did not do the self-completion part of the interview and also that older people are less likely to be victims of crime.

4.10.3 Length of Victimization Modules

As mentioned above the average length of the core survey is affected primarily by the number of Victimization Modules completed by a respondent, with the average interview time for non-victims being 47 minutes compared with 66 minutes for victims of crime.

Table 4.9 shows that long Victimization Modules (1-3) averaged about 9 to 11 minutes per module, while short Victimization Modules (4-6) averaged 4 to 5 minutes per module. The time taken to complete the first Victim Module was greater than for modules two or three, suggesting that respondents speed up as they go through each

subsequent module. This pattern has been evident in all previous surveys.

Table 4.9 Average time of each individual Victimization Module, 2011-12 CSEW

Victim Module number	Average time (minutes)
Victim Module 1	11.5
Victim Module 2	9.9
Victim Module 3	8.8
Victim Module 4	4.8
Victim Module 5	3.9
Victim Module 6	4.1

4.10.4 Length of part-sample modules

Because the CSEW is highly filtered each respondent only complete a certain number of modules. Table 4.10 below shows the average time taken for each of the part-sample modules based only on those respondents who were asked the module.

Table 4.10 Average time of different survey modules, 2011-12 CSEW

Part-sample module	Average time (minutes)
Module A	8.0
Module B	6.8
Module C	4.1
Module D	5.8
Drugs and drinking self-completion	5.5
Inter-personal violence self-completion	4.3

The overall timings of the self-completion are masked by the fact that all those who are not eligible for the self-completion (i.e. those aged 60 years or over) and those who refuse the self-completion have an average time of zero. Considering only those respondents who actually did the self-completion sections, the average time of the

Drugs and Drinking module was 6 minutes, while the average time of the Inter-Personal Violence module was 4 minutes.

Just under half (49%) of respondents who completed the Drugs and drinking self-completion module did it in less than 5 minutes; 5% of respondents took more than 10 minutes to complete it. For the Inter-personal violence module, almost three quarters of those who completed it (73%) took less than 5 minutes, and 4% took more than 10 minutes.

1.1.1 Length of the 10 to 15 year old interview

As with the core survey timing stamps were present throughout the 10 to 15 year old survey questionnaire to measure the interview length. Some unusually short or long interview times were removed. Any times of less than 5 minutes or more than 120 were removed.

The average interview length of the 10 to 15 year old survey was 17 minutes

Table 4.10 shows the average interview length by type of respondent. As is the case with the core interview respondents who report having been a victim, of at least one crime, have a longer average interview length, 26 minutes compared with 14 minutes for non-victims.

Table 4.10 Average time of the 10 to 15 year old interview, 2011-12 CSEW

	Average time (minutes)
Average interview length	17
Victims	26
Non-victims	14

4.11 Response rate and reasons for non-response: core sample

4.11.1 Overall core response rates

The full response rate analysis for the 2011-12 issued core sample is shown in Table 4.12. In 2011-12 8.8% of issued addresses were identified as not being an eligible residential address (known as deadwood). This represents a slight fall from the 10.5% of addresses identified as deadwood in 2010-11. The most common type of deadwood was empty or vacant residential properties, which accounted for 4.8% of all issued addresses.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible adult at 96% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate just over 4%. There were two types of non-contact. The most common (3.7% of eligible addresses) was where no contact was made with anyone at the address despite repeated calls over a lengthy fieldwork period. It is possible that some of these addresses were actually empty or vacant and so should have been coded as deadwood. However, the impact that this would have had on the overall response rate is minimal. The remaining addresses classified as non-contact (0.7% of eligible addresses) were where contact was made with someone at the address, but no contact was made with the person selected for interview.

At eligible addresses the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to a refusal, which accounted for 16% of all eligible addresses. The most common types of refusal were where the person selected for interview refused to take part in the survey (6%), and where no information about the household was given meaning that the person selection could not be carried out (4%). Refusals directly to Head Office accounted for 3% of all eligible addresses. Proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the selected respondent) were less common (1%).

A further 5% of eligible addresses were categorised as unproductive for other reasons including broken appointments, people who were ill

or away during the period of the survey and people who had inadequate English to complete the survey.

Combining all the different types of unproductive addresses gave a final response rate of 75.1% for the 2011-12 survey. The response rate was similar to the previous year (75.5%). In fact, response to the CSEW has been broadly stable since 2001-02. Reasons for non-response were also broadly similar to previous surveys.

During the whole of 2011-12 a booklet of six first class stamps was **sent with the advance letter as a 'thank you' to people for taking part** in the survey¹⁶.

4.11.2 Performance against targets

Overall 45,930 interviews were achieved in 2011-12 against a target of 46,000 which is a loss of 70 interviews. The target response rate for the 2011-12 survey was 76% and the response rate achieved was 75.1%.

¹⁶

[See Grant C. et. al. \(2006\) 2004/5 British Crime Survey \(England and Wales\) Technical Report \(London: BMRB\) for details of experiment carried out on BCS to test the impact of stamps on overall response rates.](#)

Table 4.12 Core sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2011-12 CSEW

	N	% of issued	% of eligible
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	67,081	100.0	
<i>Deadwood</i>			
Addresses not traced/accessible	249	0.4	
Not built/does not exist	56	0.1	
Derelict/demolished	192	0.3	
Empty/vacant	3,222	4.8	
Second home/not main residence	861	1.3	
Business/industrial	953	1.4	
Institution	152	0.2	
Other deadwood	220	0.3	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	5,905	8.8	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	61,176	91.2	100.0
<i>Non-contact</i>			
No contact made with household	2,269	3.4	3.7
No contact with selected respondent	456	0.7	0.7
Total non-contact	2,725	4.1	4.5
<i>Refusal</i>			
Office refusal	1,670	2.5	2.7
Refused all information	2,502	3.7	4.1
Personal refusal	3,967	5.9	6.5
Proxy refusal	768	1.1	1.3
Contact made, no specific appointment	655	1.0	1.1
Total refusal	9,562	14.3	15.6
<i>Other unproductive</i>			
Broken appointment	1,074	1.6	1.8
Temporarily ill/incapacitated	190	0.3	0.3
Physically or mentally unable	635	0.9	1.0
Away/in hospital	338	0.5	0.6
Inadequate English	277	0.4	0.5
Other unsuccessful	445	0.7	0.7
Total other unsuccessful	2,959	4.4	4.8
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	15,246	22.7	24.9
Full interviews	45,892	68.4	75.0
Partial interviews	38	0.1	0.1
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	45,930	68.5	75.1

4.11.3 Response rate and reasons for non response: 10-15 year old sample

Table 4.13 shows the screening and response outcomes for the 10-15 year old sample. During 2011-12, interviewers were required to screen for 10 to 15 year olds at all of their core sampled addresses where a core interview was conducted.

After accounting for deadwood addresses, 25% of addresses which were issued for the core survey were not screened for 10-15 year olds because the outcome at the core address was an unsuccessful outcome. Interviewers identified at least one 10-15 year old at 12% of addresses where screening was successfully carried out. Among those households where an eligible respondent was identified the response rate achieved was 68%.

The level of non-contact (2%) was broadly in line with, if slightly lower than the level achieved on the core sample but the levels of refusals were higher at 25%. The response rate achieved on the 10 to 15 year olds survey does not take into account households where it was not known whether a 10-15 year old was present because of non-response to the core sample. When this is taken into consideration the 'true' response rate for the 10-15 survey is 51%¹⁷

¹⁷ This is calculated by applying the actual eligibility rate achieved for successfully screened addresses (12.4%) to the total non-deadwood addresses issued for screening with unknown eligibility (15,247) to give an estimate of 7,608 eligible households, from which 3,911 interviews were achieved which represents a response rate of 51%.

Table 4.13 Response rate and non-response outcomes 10-15 year old survey, 2011-12 CSEW

	N	% of issued eligible addresses	% of screened households	% of eligible households
TOTAL ADDRESSES FOR SCREENING	67,081	100.0		
<i>Core deadwood addresses</i>	5,905			
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES FOR SCREENING	61,176	100.0		
No screening attempted (eligibility unknown)	15,246	24.9		
Screening information refused (eligibility unknown)	1	0.0		
Total unknown eligibility	15,247	24.9		
Total households screened for 10-15 year olds	45,929	75.1	100.0	
Screened households with no 10-15 year old	40,212	65.7	87.6	
Screened households with a 10-15 year old	5,717	9.3	12.4	
Total screened households with a 10-15 year old	5,717		100.0	
10-15 year old in household, no interview required	0		0.0	
10-15 year old in household, interview required	5,717		100.0	
Total households where interview required	5,717			100.0
No contact with selected respondent	123			2.2
No contact with parent/guardian	15			0.3
Total non-contact	138			2.4
Office refusal	1			0.0
Parent/guardian permission refusal	970			17.0
Personal refusal	330			5.8
Proxy refusal	83			1.5
Contact made, no specific appointment	25			0.4
Total refusal	1,409			24.6
Other unproductive				
Broken appointment	56			1.0
Temporarily ill/incapacitated	1			0.0
Physically or mentally unable	72			1.3
Away/in hospital	25			0.4
Inadequate English	2			0.0
Other unsuccessful ^b	103			1.8
Total other unsuccessful	259			4.5
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	1,806	2.7		31.6
Full interviews	3,911			68.4
Partial interviews	0			0.0
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	3,911			68.4

4.11.4 Core response rates by Government Office Region

Table 4.14 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by Government Office Region in 2011-12. This shows that across most regions the response rate was broadly similar, ranging from 79% in North East to 73% in Wales. Only in London was response to the survey noticeably lower, with a final response rate of 68%. The lower response rate achieved in London was due to a slightly higher than average non-contact rate (8%) compared with other regions. Lower response rates in London are a problem that is common to most major surveys, although the response achieved in London has improved over recent years.

Table 4.14 Core sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2011-12 CSEW

Percentage of eligible addresses:					
		Non-contact	Refusal	Other unproductive	Achieved interviews
North East	%	4.3	11.2	5.4	79.1
North West	%	4.0	15.0	4.0	77.0
Yorkshire & The Humber	%	3.7	15.7	4.4	76.2
East Midlands	%	4.1	15.2	4.6	76.1
West Midlands	%	3.3	15.4	4.4	76.9
East of England	%	3.7	17.2	4.7	74.3
London	%	8.4	16.6	6.9	68.2
South East	%	3.5	15.8	4.0	76.7
South West	%	4.8	16.8	4.6	73.7
Wales	%	5.1	15.5	6.0	73.4

4.11.5 Core response rate by Police Force Area

As outlined in [section 2.2](#) the aim was to achieve around 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area, with larger sample sizes in the most populous Areas. In order to achieve this sample size within each PFA the amount of sample issued was based on actual average deadwood rates and response rates over the period 2008-2010.

Table 4.15 below shows the actual number of interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates. This shows that in a number of Areas the target number of achieved interviews exceeded 1,000, while in other areas the number of achieved interviews fell slightly short. This is explained simply by the fact that the actual eligibility and response rates achieved in certain Areas in 2011-12 were slightly different (either higher or lower) from the figures used to estimate the amount of sample to issue.

Table 4.15 Core sample achieved interviews and response rates by Police Force Area, 2011-12 CSEW

PFA	Number of interviews		Response rate %
	Target	Achieved	
	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	
Avon & Somerset	1,000	1,002	78.3
Bedfordshire	1,000	975	74.6
Cambridgeshire	1,000	968	72.5
Cheshire	1,000	1,001	76.9
Cleveland	1,000	982	75.5
Cumbria	1,000	1,013	78.3
Derbyshire	1,000	995	77.3
Devon & Cornwall	1,000	990	74.5
Dorset	1,000	935	69.9
Durham	1,000	1,068	77.8
Dyfed Powys	1,000	978	79.3
Essex	1,000	991	76.3
Gloucestershire	1,000	932	69.4
Greater Manchester	1,425	1,438	74.5
Gwent	1,000	1,006	71.2
Hampshire	1,000	994	75.7
Hertfordshire	1,000	987	69.9
Humber	1,000	1028	77.6
Kent	1,000	1007	89.1
Lancashire	1,000	1,010	78.2
Leicestershire	1,000	1016	70.6
Lincolnshire	1,000	970	80.6
Merseyside	1,000	1022	78.5
Metropolitan	3,900	3980	68.2
Norfolk	1,000	964	73.7
North Wales	1,000	947	73.0
North Yorkshire	1,000	991	76.1
Northamptonshire	1,000	1016	77.7
Northumbria	1,000	1,011	84.7
Nottinghamshire	1,000	1,000	75.5
South Wales	1,000	950	70.7
South Yorkshire	1,000	977	76.9
Staffordshire	1,000	997	74.9
Suffolk	1,000	1001	79.3
Surrey	1,000	1,004	76.3
Sussex	1,000	1,013	77.6
Thames Valley	1,125	1,150	75.0
Warwickshire	1,000	1,003	80.4
West Mercia	1,000	1,026	77.4
West Midlands	1,375	1,421	75.6
West Yorkshire	1,175	1,186	74.6
Wiltshire	1,000	965	76.9

4.11.6 Core response rates by type of area and type of property

Since large administrative areas such as Government Office Regions contain a variety of different types of area it is useful to examine response to the survey broken down by area type. Table 4.16 shows the response rates and reasons for non-response by different types of area, showing that overall response rates tended to be lower in areas categorised as inner city compared with non inner city areas (71% and 75% respectively). This difference in response rate explains why the current CSEW data includes a weight to correct for differential response rates between those areas defined as inner city and non-inner city (see [section 7.2.2](#)).

Similarly, the response rate in urban areas was lower compared with that achieved in rural areas (74% and 79% respectively). Response also varied significantly by ACORN¹⁸ Category, being highest in areas classified as 'Wealthy Achievers' (79%) and lowest in areas classified as 'Urban Prosperity' (69%). There was similar variation in response by Output Area Classification, ranging from 80% in 'Countryside' Areas to 68% in 'City living'¹⁹.

Looking at the differences in response rates by types of area shows how most of the response differential is due to variation in the non-contact rate, while the refusal rate tends to be fairly consistent. Thus, while the refusal rate varied between 15% and 17% in the different types of areas shown in Table 4.16, the non-contact rate varied from 2% to 11%.

¹⁸ For details of ACORN categories please see: <http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn-classification.aspx/>

¹⁹ For details of Output Area Classification see <http://areaclassification.org.uk/>

Table 4.16 Core sample response rates and non-response by types of area, 2011-12 CSEW

	Percentage of eligible addresses:			
	Non-contact	Refusal	Other unproductive	Achieved interviews
	%	%	%	%
Inner city ¹	8.0	14.8	6.5	70.7
Non-inner city	4.1	15.7	4.7	75.5
Urban ²	4.9	15.9	5.3	74.0
Rural	3.1	14.8	3.5	78.7
ACORN Category				
Wealthy Achievers	2.7	15.2	3.3	78.8
Urban Prosperity	10.3	14.7	6.1	68.9
Comfortably Off	3.6	16.9	4.5	74.9
Moderate Means	4.9	15.1	5.7	74.2
Hard Pressed	5.0	15.2	6.0	73.8
Output Area Classification				
Blue Collar Communities	3.5	15.3	5.2	76.0
City Living	10.8	16.1	5.6	67.5
Countryside	2.8	14.5	3.1	79.6
Prospering Suburbs	2.4	16.4	3.6	77.6
Constrained by Circumstances	5.1	15.6	6.1	73.2
Typical Traits	4.4	16.0	5.0	74.5
Multicultural	9.0	15.1	7.5	68.5
¹ Inner city is based on the CSEW definition that has been used for many years. See section 7.2.2 for more details. ² This is based on the ONS definition of urban-rural areas, where urban is classed as 'urban - sparse' and 'urban -less sparse' and all other areas are classed as rural				

Part of the CSEW assignment involved the interviewer collecting some details about the area and about the specific issued address. Since this information was collected for all residential addresses, whether or not an interview was obtained, it is possible to analyse response rates according to this data. Of most interest is how response varies first, by the type of property and second, by the type of area.

Table 4.17 shows how response rates on the 2011-12 survey varied according to the type of property, ranging from 81% among detached and semi-detached houses to 67% among flats.

The differential response rates achieved at different types of flats shows the impact on response rates of two particular aspects of flats, namely whether or not a property has a communal entrance and whether or not the communal entrance is lockable (e.g. controlled entry phone system). Not surprisingly, flats with communal entrances that had controlled entry systems were the most difficult type of property for interviewers to gain response. In 2011-12, the response rate at these types of property was 66% compared with 74% for flats with their own (non-communal) entrances. Flats with locked entrances had a higher than average level of non-contact (12%). This highlights the difficulty faced by interviewers in trying to gain an interview at an address where they are unable to make direct face-to-face contact with people, often having to communicate via intercom systems.

Table 4.17 Core sample response rates and non-response by types of property (recorded by interviewers), 2011-12 CSEW

	Percentage of eligible addresses:			
	Non-contact	Refusal	Other unproductive	Achieved interviews
	%	%	%	%
Detached/semi-detached house	2.4	12.8	3.8	81.0
Terraced house	4.2	13.3	5.4	77.1
Maisonette	7.0	12.4	6.4	74.2
<u>Flats with:</u>				
Own entrance	8.0	11.6	6.7	73.8
Non-lockable communal entrance	5.7	13.1	5.7	75.5
Lockable communal entrance	12.4	14.2	7.4	66.0
All types of flat	10.9	13.4	7.1	68.6

Taken together these figures go some way to explain the lower than average response rate in London, although there are clearly other factors involved as well. For the country as a whole, flats represented only 15% of the issued eligible sample, while flats with locked communal entrances represented 11% of the issued eligible sample. However, in London these types of properties represented 41% and 33% of the issued eligible sample respectively. Therefore, one important reason for the lower response rate in London, and inner city areas in general, is the composition of the housing stock and the greater difficulties faced by interviewers in making contact.

Apart from the actual type of property, interviewers were also asked to record their general observations about the area immediately surrounding each issued address with respect to a number of characteristics including how common rubbish or litter was, how common vandalism and graffiti was and how common run down houses were. These might be considered to be an indication of the degree of physical disorder within a particular area, although these observations are clearly open to a high degree of subjectivity. Table 4.18 shows that there was some association between interviewer observations and the final response rate: response rates were highest in areas that had a low level of physical disorder and lowest in the areas that had the highest levels of physical disorder.

Table 4.18 Core sample response rate by evidence of physical disorder (recorded by interviewer), 2011-12 CSEW

	Very commo n	Fairly commo n	Not very commo n	Not at all commo n
How common is...	%	%	%	%
Litter or rubbish lying around	71	73	76	80
Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property	75	70	75	79
Homes in poor condition or run down	72	72	76	80

4.12 Response to the self-completion questionnaire

The last part of the core questionnaire involved a self-completion module which was asked of all respondents aged 16-59. In 2011-12 there were two self-completion modules on the survey:

- Use of illicit drugs and drinking behaviour
- Experience of domestic violence, sexual victimisation, and stalking

Although respondents were encouraged to use the computer themselves, if they did not want to use it for some reason, interviewers were allowed to administer the modules provided that no-one else was present in the room. Where the self-completion part of the survey was administered by the interviewer the domestic violence, sexual victimisation and stalking modules were not completed, since these questions were considered too sensitive to be read out by the interviewer.

Table 4.19 shows that 93% of eligible respondents in the core sample answered the self-completion module, with 81% of them entering their answers directly in to the laptop themselves and 12% asking the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

Table 4.19 Response to the self-completion module, 2011-12

	Core sample
	%
Refused	7.4
Completed by interviewer	11.9
Accepted by respondent	80.7
Overall self-completion response	92.6
Base	29,040

Table 4.20 shows how response to the self-completion questionnaire varied according to the demographic characteristics of adult respondents.

There was no difference between men and women in terms of response to the self-completion. Older respondents were slightly more likely than younger respondents to refuse to complete the self-

completion questions (8% of 45-59 year olds compared with 5% of 16-24 year olds). More noticeable, however, was the fact that older respondents were more likely than younger ones to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (16% of 45-59 year olds compared with 6% of 16-24 year olds).

Some of the most noticeable differences were between respondents from different ethnic groups. Only 6% of White respondents refused to do the self-completion compared with 20% of Asian and 13% of Black respondents. Asian respondents were more likely than White respondents to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (16% of Asian respondents compared with 12% of White respondents).

There were also some differences by socio-economic classification, with respondents from routine and manual occupations being less likely than those from managerial and professional occupations to answer the self-completion (91% and 95% respectively).

Respondents from routine and manual occupations were also more likely than those from managerial and professional occupations to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (16% and 8% respectively).

Table 4.20 Response to the self-completion questionnaire by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (core sample), 2011-12 CSEW

	Refused	Completed by interviewer	Accepted by respondent¹	Overall self-completion response	<i>Bases:</i>
	%	%	%	%	N
Sex					
Male	7.3	12.3	80.3	92.7	13,368
Female	7.4	11.6	81.0	92.6	15,672
Age					
16-24	5.4	6.1	88.6	94.6	3,775
25-34	7.2	10.0	82.8	92.8	6,685
35-44	7.6	10.6	81.8	92.4	7,571
45-59	8.0	16.1	75.9	92.0	11,009
Ethnicity					
White	6.2	11.5	82.3	93.8	25,759
Mixed	5.9	10.7	83.4	94.1	289
Asian	19.5	16.4	64.1	80.5	1,583
Black	13.0	14.4	72.5	87.0	874
Other ethnic group	16.0	15.6	68.5	84.0	495
NS-SEC					
Managerial & professional occupations	5.1	8.5	86.4	94.9	9,698
Intermediate occupations	7.0	11.6	81.4	93.0	5,413
Routine & manual occupations	8.7	16.4	74.9	91.3	9,988
Unclassified	12.5	10.7	76.8	87.5	2,752
Total	7.4	11.9	80.7	92.6	29,040

¹ Respondent used the laptop on their own

Table 4.21 shows the reasons given by respondents either for refusing the self-completion module or for asking the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

Running out of time was the most common reason cited for respondents refusing to complete the self-completion (mentioned by 52%). A dislike of computers was the most common reason why

respondents asked the interviewer to enter their answers for them (mentioned by 35%).

Table 4.21 Reasons for refusing self-completion questionnaire or for completion by interviewer (core sample), 2011-12 CSEW

	Refused	Completed by interviewer	Total
	%	%	%
Don't like computers	11	35	26
Ran out of time	52	29	35
Couldn't be bothered	5	14	11
Language problems	16	7	10
Children in room	10	9	10
Disability	5	5	5
Eyesight problems	2	4	3
Could not read/write	3	2	3
Confidentiality worries	4	1	2
Other people in room	3	1	2
Objected to study	2	*	1
Other reasons	8	9	8
Bases:	2,118	3,467	5,585
Percentages add up to more than 100% since more than one answer could be coded at this question			

Table 4.22 shows the reasons given by people who refused the self-completion or who had the interviewer enter their answers for them broken down by age and ethnic group.

This shows that older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to cite that this was due to due to a dislike of computers (mentioned by 38% of 45-59 year olds compared with 9% of 16-24 year olds).

Non-white respondents were more likely than white respondents to mention language problems. And this was given as a reason by 43% of Asian respondents and 19% of Black respondents.

Table 4.22 Reasons for refusing self-completion questionnaire or for completion by interviewer by age and ethnic group (core sample), 2011-12 CSEW

	Age				Ethnic group				
	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
	%	%	%		%	%	%	%	%
Ran out of time	45	37	40	31	37	40	26	36	31
Don't like computers	9	10	20	38	27	17	18	21	13
Children in room	15	23	11	2	10	15	7	11	6
Couldn't be bothered	13	10	11	11	12	13	9	12	4
Language problems	12	17	14	6	5	8	43	19	44
Disability	4	3	4	6	5	4	2	3	2
Eyesight problems	2	1	2	5	3	6	3	5	0
Could not read/write	4	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3
Confidentiality worries	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Other people in room	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	1
Objected to study	*	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	1
Other reasons	8	7	8	9	9	6	6	8	6
Bases:	429	1,141	1,373	2,642	4,566	48	568	240	156

Percentages add up to more than 100% since more than one answer could be coded at this question

4.13 Full and Partial Interviews

For a core interview to be regarded as valid, respondents had to answer to the end of the screener questions. Any interview which was abandoned before the end of the screener questions was not regarded as useable and was not put on the data file.

An interview was counted as a full interview for the core sample if the respondent completed to the end of the demographics module. If the interview was stopped before the end of the demographics module it was coded as a partial interview. Full and partial interviews were recorded separately in the field figures. In 2011-12, 99.9% of

interviews achieved on the core sample were full interviews and only 0.1% (n=38) were partial interviews.

5. Data Processing

5.1 Offence coding

The CSEW Offence Coding System was developed for the 1982 CSEW to match as closely as possible the way incidents were classified by the police. The CSEW **counts crime according to the victim's account** of events, rather than requiring criminal intent to be proven. This is reflected in how the police record crimes under the National Crime Recording Standard using the Counting Rules²⁰.

In order to classify offences, detailed information is collected about the incidents reported by respondents in the Victimization Modules. Once the data are returned to the office, all Victimization Modules are reviewed by specially trained coders in order to determine whether what has been reported represents a crime or not and, if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime.

Apart from some minor changes, the code frame and the instructions to coders for the core survey have remained stable since 1982. The operational procedures used for assigning codes on the 2010-11 survey have been in place since 2001.

The coding manual itself is reviewed on an annual basis and was significantly revised in 2010 to incorporate the instructions for coding offences against 10 to 15 year olds.

During 2011-12, the Offence Coding System consisted of the following steps:

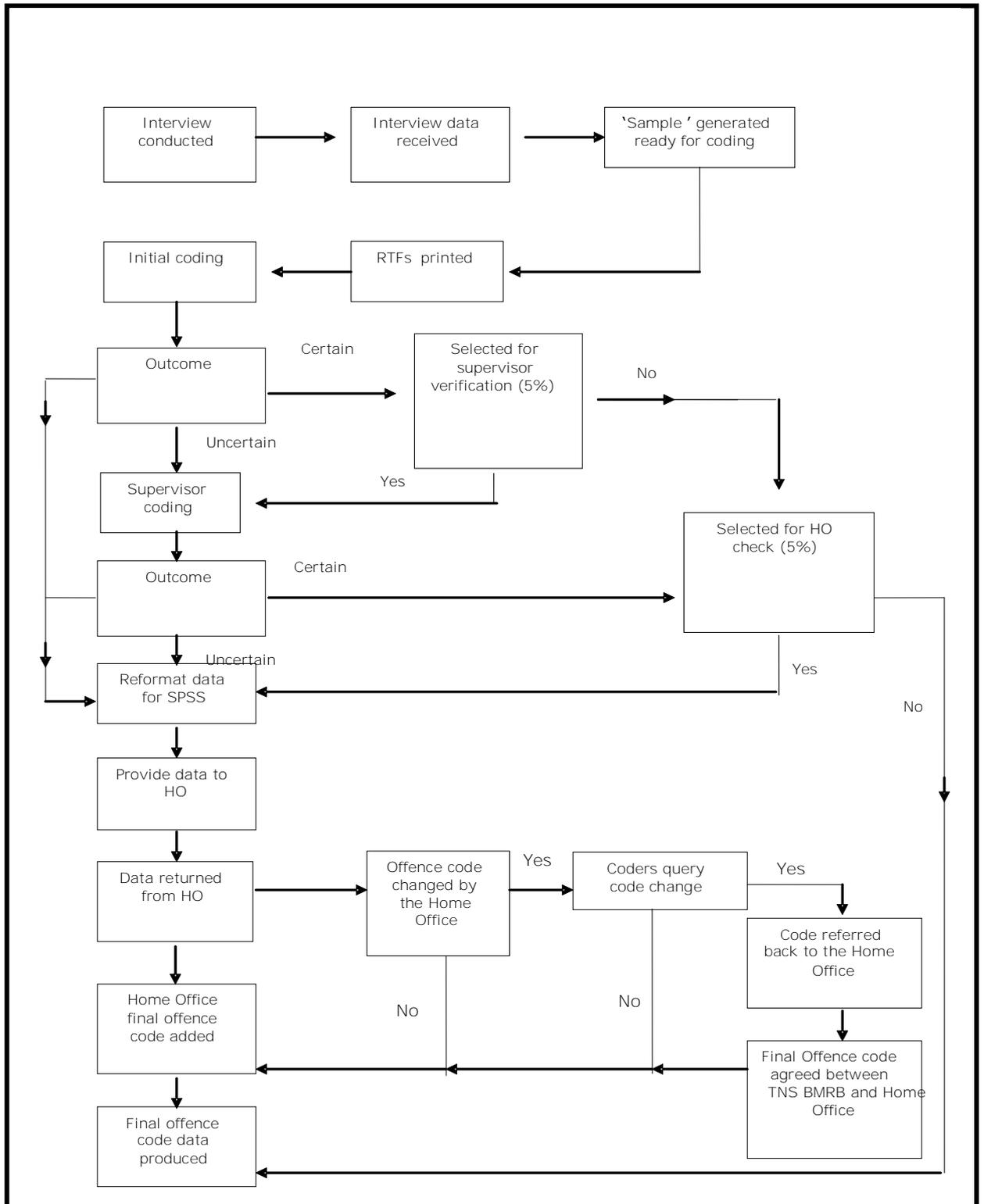
1. For each Victimization Module a paper-based summary was produced.
2. In addition to these paper-based summaries the coders used a specially developed computer assisted questionnaire to help them arrive at a final offence code for each Victimization Module.

²⁰ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/counting-rules/count-intro?view=Binary>

3. A supervisor checked any codes that the original coder was uncertain about. Additionally, 5% of codes where the coder was certain of the outcome were also checked as a further quality check. These are systematically selected from all cases that have been coded (i.e. every *n*th case) in a particular period.
4. Researchers at the Home Office checked:
 - Any codes that TNS BMRB were uncertain about
 - Certain types of incident that were automatically referred (e.g. arson)
 - A proportion (5%) of certain codes as part of a quality control check

The result of this process was that every Victimisation Module had a final offence code assigned to it. A flow chart of the Offence Coding System is shown in Figure 5.1 and the offence coding system is explained in more detail below.

Figure 5.1 Crime Survey for England and Wales Offence Coding Flowchart



5.1.1 The automatically generated offence code

In 1996 a programme was introduced that automatically generated an offence code based on the answers to a number of pre-coded variables in the Victimisation Module. The programme that was used for the 2011-12 survey was the same as that used on the survey since 2001.

An automatic code cannot be generated in all cases, and in 2011-12 no automatically generated code was produced for almost three in ten (29 %) Victimisation Modules due to missing codes or some inconsistency between the different variables used. Irrespective of the suggested automatic code, the coder has the responsibility of producing an offence code, and coders are instructed to see the generated code as only a starting point.

On the 2011-12 survey for Victimisation Modules where a code was automatically generated, it was the same as the final offence code in 71% of cases.

5.1.2 The coding task

Coders are provided with a paper-based print out of the key variables from each Victimisation Module and this information forms the basis of the coding. This document also provides coders with the offence code that had been generated by the automatic generation programme. An example of this paper form can be found in Appendix I in Volume 2.

Coders used a specially designed computer assisted questionnaire to carry out the coding. The questionnaire asked the coders certain questions about the nature of the offence. The questionnaire takes account of the major rules that apply to offence coding (such as the priority of codes), and by answering the questions on the basis of the information provided in the Victimisation Module, the coders reach an offence code.

All coders were personally briefed about the offence coding. The coders were also provided with a coding manual. This manual is

similar to the one used in previous years of the CSEW but was revised in 2010 to incorporate the coding guidelines for the 10 to 15 year old survey. The manual contains all the rules that govern offence coding. The manual also provides flow-charts that show how the coding questionnaire works, so that coders can see how they reached a particular offence code on the basis of the answers that they input. A copy of this manual is provided in Appendix I in Volume 2.

When the coder reaches an offence code, they can say whether they are certain or uncertain that this is the right code. Any Victimization Module which the coder is uncertain about is automatically referred to their supervisor for checking. In addition, the supervisor checks 5% of codes which coders were certain about.

5.1.3 Home Office coding

All cases where the coders are uncertain about the correct code to assign are automatically referred to the Home Office.

In addition to this, 5% of all codes which TNS BMRB were certain about were selected to be sent to the Home Office for quality control checking. These were selected in a systematic fashion by selecting every *n*th case in each two-week time period.

A list of Victimization Modules to be checked by researchers at the Home Office was sent every two weeks. This consisted of an Excel spreadsheet that contained the unique serial number of each Victim Module, the code that the coder (and supervisor if applicable) had given the incident, how certain the coder (and supervisor) was about the coding, and any notes that the coder added about why they were uncertain. An electronic version of the paper-based document providing the key variables from the Victimization Module was also provided.

Researchers at the Home Office coded each of the Victimization Modules sent to them (using the paper-based document) and returned the spreadsheet with their code and any comments added.

These codes were then manually added into the coding file (so that the coders could see the changes that had been made).

Particular attention was paid to cases where the Home Office changed a code that TNS **BMRB coders had marked as "certain"**. If the TNS BMRB coders disagreed with such a coding decision, this was fed back to both TNS BMRB researchers and Home Office researchers for further consideration and discussion.

In total 1,401 cases were sent to the Home Office for checking as part of the 2011-12 survey, which represented about 10% of all Victimisation Modules.

Of the Victimisation Modules sent to the Home Office:

- 25 were code 01s which were automatically referred to Home Office. This covers cases of aggravated burglary, duplicate cases and cases where the Victimisation Module was invalid;
- 78 were code 02s (cases where the TNS-BMRB coder was not certain about the code) which were also automatically referred to the Home Office for checking.
- 669 were part of the quality control check.
- 629 were related Victimisation Modules. To ensure that those checking offence codes had complete information all the Victimisation Modules belonging to an individual respondent were sent to the Home Office, rather than just the single Module under consideration.

Of the 1,401 Victimisation Modules sent to the Home Office 78 cases had their code changed by the Home Office, representing 6% of all cases sent. This level of change was fairly static across the survey year suggesting a degree of stability in the offence coding process.

The codes changed by the Home Office according to the categories outlined above were as follows:

- in 3 cases offences were coded for referral to the Home Office; as this is not a valid code this was changed in all cases;
- in 12 cases where the module was judged to be invalid by TNS BMRB coders four codes were changed (33%);
- in 10 cases referred as duplicates, one was changed by the Home Office (10%);
- in 78 cases where TNS BMRB coders were uncertain, 13 (17%) were changed by the Home Office;
- in 669 cases sent for quality control 24 (4%) were changed by the Home Office; and
- in 629 related cases, 33 (5%) were changed by the Home Office.

In all cases where the Home Office changed a code that TNS BMRB coders or supervisors had been certain about, this was double checked and verified by TNS BMRB upon return of the coding from the Home Office. Where TNS BMRB did not agree with the Home Office decision cases were referred back to the Home Office for re-checking. Of the 78 cases changed by the Home Office, 31 were referred back for re-checking. In 12 cases the original TNS BMRB code was deemed to be correct and was re-instated as the final code and in 16 cases the Home Office code was deemed to be correct. For the remaining 2 cases a different code was decided upon after further discussion. After all queries had been resolved 66 cases were changed by the Home Office, representing 5% of all cases sent.

5.1.4 Final Offence Code

The SPSS data set delivered to the Home Office includes all the offence codes that have been given to each Victimization Module at every stage of the coding process. This allows a complete history of each case to be maintained at all times. The final offence code is derived using a priority ordering system, whereby the Home Office code takes priority over the supervisor code, which takes priority

over the original coder code. The variables supplied to the Home Office are:

OFFSUG	Suggested offence code (generated by computer)
VOFFENCE	Code assigned by the original coder
SOFFENCE	Code assigned by the supervisor
FINLOFFC	Code assigned by the Home Office research team
OFFENCE	Final offence code

5.1.5 Checks on final offence code

During the creation of the SPSS data sets some further consistency checks are run on the final offence codes, checking these against key pre-coded variables in the Victimisation Module. The purpose of this is to highlight cases where some of the pre-coded data seems potentially anomalous with the final offence code. Such anomalies can arise because sometimes the information reported by the respondent is not consistent. In particular, there may be inconsistencies between the verbatim description of the incident and subsequent pre-coded questions. While interviewers are carefully briefed to try and be aware of such inconsistencies arising during the interview it is inevitable that some will be missed. Furthermore, consistency checks within the actual questionnaire script to try and pick up anomalies are not possible when a verbatim description is involved.

The consistency checks carried out are as follows:

- Assaults where no force or violence was recorded as having been used
- Burglary where entry to the property was recorded to be authorised
- Car thefts where no car was recorded as being stolen, or where the police were not informed
- Sexual assaults where there was no sexual element to the assault recorded

- Snatch thefts where the item stolen was not recorded as being held or carried
- Other thefts where the item stolen was recorded as being held or carried
- Wounding where no injury was recorded as being sustained
- In scope offences where the offender was perceived by victim to be mentally ill
- Thefts where nothing has been recorded as having been stolen
- Vandalism where no damage has been recorded
- Threats where no threat has been recorded

All cases that fail these checks are examined individually by a researcher and, if changes are required the revised code is reviewed by a coding supervisor. Where clear anomalies in the data do exist it is up to the judgment of the researchers to decide which bits of information should be prioritised in arriving at the final agreed offence code. In such cases, greater credence tends to be given to a good verbatim description of the incident over the answers to specific pre-coded questions where for example anomalies may be a result of interviewer mis-keying.

Experience of running these checks shows that most flagged cases do have the correct offence codes, but a few may be amended each quarter as a result of this additional check.

5.2 Other coding

In addition to the Offence coding, coders also looked at all questions **where an "other –specify" had been given as an answer.** The aim of this exercise, commonly known as back coding, was to see whether the answer given could actually be coded into one of the original pre-coded response options. Coding was done in Ascribe, a Windows based coding package.

Coders were provided with the code frames used in the questionnaire as a starting point. Since most of the questions have

been used in previous years of the survey, the code frames were already well developed and there was little need to add new codes to the frames. However, if the coding supervisor felt an extra code was needed, this was flagged up to researchers who approved any changes before they were implemented.

5.3 Coding of occupation and socio-economic classification

Occupation details were collected for all respondents, either relating to their current job or to their last job if the respondent was not currently employed but had worked at some time in the past. Occupational details of the Household Reference Person were also collected, if this was not the same person as the respondent.

Occupations were coded using the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000). All occupational coding was done centrally by specialist coders once the data were returned by interviewers. Coding was done using CASCOT, a package widely used to code occupation, with coders using the manuals for reference.

As well as occupation codes, National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) was added to the file for all respondents and Household Reference Persons. NS-SEC categories were derived automatically using an algorithm which was developed from the documentation provided by the Office for National Statistics. Both the NS-SEC operational categories and the NS-SEC analytical categories were derived.

Details of the NS-SEC categories can be found in Appendix I of Volume 2. Coders were provided with the code frames used in the questionnaire as a starting point. Since most of the questions have been used in previous years of the survey, the code frames were already well developed and there was little need to add new codes to the frames. However, if the coding supervisor felt an extra code was needed, this was flagged up to researchers who approved any changes before they were implemented.

5.4 Data processing on the 10 to 15 survey

The offence coding system used for the 10 to 15 year olds survey was based on the system designed for the core survey but was adapted to be suitable for the types of incidents experienced by 10 to 15 year olds. Full details of the development of the coding system can be found in the [Development report](#).

5.5 Home office coding for 10 to 15 year old survey

As with the core survey all cases which the coders are uncertain about are referred to the Home Office for further verification. In addition 20% of all codes which TNS BMRB were certain about were selected and sent to the Home Office for quality control checking. This is a higher proportion of cases than is sent for the core survey which reflects the fact that the offence coding system has been developed relatively recently and requires additional quality checks to ensure all scenarios have been covered in the guidance.

In total 433 cases were sent to the Home Office for checking as part of the 2011-12 10 to 15 year olds survey, which represented around 27% of all victimisation modules.

Of the victimisation modules sent to the Home Office:

- 3 were automatically referred to the Home Office. This covers cases including any sexual element, duplicate cases and cases where the victimisation module was invalid.
- 25 cases where the TNS-BMRB coder was not certain about the code
- 232 were part of the quality control check
- 173 were related victimisation modules

Of the 433 victimisation modules referred to the Home Office 23 had their code changed by the Home Office, representing 5% of all

cases sent. In previous years this percentage has been higher than for the core survey reflecting the fact that the coding system had been newly developed. The lower proportion of cases changed this year indicates that the 10-15s coding system has stabilised and coders are familiar with the system.

The codes changed by the Home Office according to the categories outlined were as follows:

- The single case coded for referral to the Home Office was changed. As this is not a valid code this code would always be changed to a valid code
- In 2 cases referred as duplicates one case was changed
- Of the 25 cases where TNS BMRB coders were uncertain 7 (28%) were changed
- Of 232 cases sent as part of the quality control check 15 had their codes changed (6%)
- Of the 173 related forms 5 (3%) had their codes changed.

In all cases where the Home Office changed a code the code was reviewed by the TNS-BMRB coders. In total 13 cases were referred back to the Home Office with queries regarding the change made and in 7 cases the original TNS BMRB code was restored. After all queries had been resolved 16 cases were changed by the Home Office, representing 4% of all cases sent.

5.5.1 Final offence code

The SPSS set delivered to the Home Office includes all the offence codes that have been given to each victimisation Module at every stage of the coding process. It also includes an additional variable **'Offclass'** which defines whether an incident is classified as a **'relatively minor'** incident or as a **'relatively serious'** incident. The flowchart used for classification of offences in 2010/11 is included below. This classification is not part of the coding process but is derived in SPSS based on answers to a small set of questions coded by the coders covering:

- Whether there was INTENTION to steal, hurt or damage
- Whether the victim knew the offender
- The level of any hurt inflicted or cost of items stole or damaged²¹

The same consistency checks as are run on the adult data are run on the 10 to 15 data to check the offence code. In addition checks are run to ensure that any serious offence codes (such as wounding etc) have not been classified as relatively minor offences and that summary or full offence codes have been applied correctly to mini and full victim forms respectively.

²¹ The guidelines for defining the level of hurt inflicted or cost of any damage or theft are included in the coding manual in Volume II (Appendix H, pages 9 and 10).

Perpetrator known by victim

N

Perpetrator not known by victim

DK/Y

Flowchart for classifying 10 to 15 year old incidents as included or excluded from crime count -

Perpetrator known and not known to victim

Is this an incident of theft or attempted theft ?

Y

Intention to steal ?

DK/Y

Include value of item ?

Y

N

N

N

Is this an incident involving violence or attempted violence ?

Y

Intention to hurt/injur ?

DK/Y

Include injury type ?

Y

N

N

N

Is this an incident where damage has been done or attempted damage ?

Y

Intention to damage ?

DK/Y

Include value of item ?

Y

N

N

N

Is this an incident where something used as a weapon was involved ?

Y

Respondent threatened ?

DK/Y

N

N

Included in count

Excluded from count

Is this an incident attempted theft ?

Is this an incident involving violence or attempted violence ?

Is this an incident where damage has been done or attempted damage ?

Is this an incident where something used as a weapon was involved ?

Excluded

6. Data Output

6.1 Introduction

The main outputs provided to ONS are SPSS data files that are delivered on a quarterly basis. Separate data files are provided for the core sample and the 10 to 15 survey sample. For each type of sample, two data files are provided: the Non Victim File and the Victim File.

The **Non Victim File (NVF)** is produced at the level of the individual respondent and contains all questionnaire data and associated variables, except for information that is collected in the Victimization Modules. Data for both victims and non-victims are included on the Non Victim File.

The **Victim File (VF)** is produced at the level of the individual incident and contains all the data collected in the Victimization Modules. Thus, an individual respondent who reported three crimes and completed three Victimization Modules would have three separate records in the Victim File. All generated Victimization Modules were included on the file, including cases where the module either had been suspended or where the reference period was out of scope. Although such records contain no information and are not used for analysis, it is useful to keep these on the file to monitor the number of modules that fall into these categories.

6.2 Delivery of data output

During 2011-12 three data files were supplied to the Home Office on a quarterly basis (April 2011 to Dec 2011). The data file for the January to March quarter was delivered to ONS. Data was supplied on a 12 month rolling basis, meaning that each new data delivery was updated by adding the newest quarter of data and deleting the oldest quarter of data.

In addition to the achieved sample, a data file of the entire 2011-12 issued sample was supplied to ONS alongside the annual April 2011 - March 2012 data file. This contained information on every issued address such as the final outcome, the screening outcomes, the observational data collected by interviewers, sample variables and geo-demographic variables.

Data was delivered five weeks after the end of each quarterly fieldwork period. Each quarterly data delivery included interviews that were **achieved** in each specific 12 month period, rather than those that were **issued** in a specific time period. Thus, the four sets of quarterly data files delivered in 2011-12 covered all the relevant interviews achieved in the following periods:

- July 2010 – June 2011
- October 2010 – September 2011
- January 2011 – December 2012
- April 2011 – March 2012²²

6.3 Content of SPSS data file

The SPSS data files delivered to the Home Office contain various types of variables. The main types of variables contained on the files are:

- **Questionnaire variables** (NVF and VF).
- **Geo-demographic variables** (NVF only). All interviews had a set of pre-specified geo-demographic variables attached to them (see Appendix J in Volume 2 for complete listing).
- **Observational variables** (NVF only). All interviews had the observational data collected by interviewers on the Address Contact Sheets attached to them (see Appendix C in Volume 2) These variables are included in the quarterly data files.
- **Coding variables** (NVF and VF). On the Non Victim File, SOC2000 codes are included for both the respondent and the Household Reference Person. Additionally, NS-SEC for both the respondent and the Household Reference Person are included. On the Victim File, a full set of offence codes are attached as outlined in [section 5.1.4](#).

²² [The April 2011 – March 2012 data file is the data on which the 2011-12 annual crime figures are based and is the basis of the file deposited at the UK Data Archive.](#)

- **Derived variables** (NVF and VF). Many derived variables were also added to the file. These consisted primarily of 2 types:
- **Flag variables** that identify, for example, the type of sample, the part-sample module split and sub-split, the date of interview, the month of issue, whether a partial or full interview, whether a victim or non-victim, etc. On the Victim File, flag variables include whether the record was a Long or Short Victimization Module, whether it was a Series or a Single incident, and whether it was inside or outside the reference period.
- **Classificatory variables** derived from the data. These included standard classifications such as ONS harmonised variables, banded age groups, ethnic groups, income groups, etc.
- **Weighting variables** (NVF only).

6.4 Conventions used on SPSS Data Files

In creating the 2011-12 data files great attention was paid to ensuring as much consistency as possible was maintained with previous years of the survey.

6.4.1 Case identifier

The case identifier was required to be similar to that used on previous years of the survey but also had to be designed to meet the requirements of a continuous survey.

On the Non-Victim File, where each individual case or record represents an individual respondent, the unique case identifier (ROWLABEL) is an 8-digit number constructed as follows:

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-11
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-9	01-40
Screen number ²³	9	0-9

²³ Screen numbers are used to identify the type of sample. '0' indicates a core sample case and '8' indicates an interview with a 10 to 15 year old.

On the Victim File, where each individual case or record represents a Victimization Module or incident, the unique case identifier (MATCH) is a 10-digit number, which is identical to ROWLABEL with the addition of the Victimization Module number:

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-11
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-8	01-40
Screen number	9	0-9
Victimization Module number	10	1-6

6.4.2 Naming conventions

Variable names were kept the same as on the previous surveys wherever possible. Consistency is particularly important on a continuous survey where data from one survey year is combined with data from a previous survey year as described in [section 6.2](#). However, this means it is also important to systematically document changes to questions over time to avoid confusion amongst users. For example, small changes to a question from one year to the next (such as adding an extra code to the code frame) can create the possibility of wrongly merging data that appears similar but, in fact, is not. To avoid such situations, the variable names on the 2011-12 data file were changed to reflect any variables where such changes had been introduced between 2010-11 and 2011-12 (see Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Changes in variables between 2010-11 and 2011-12 survey

Variable changes between 2010-11 survey and 2011-12 survey			
Core Non Victim File			
Module	2010-11 variable	2011-12 variable	Reason for change
Household Box	Marst-Marst10	Marsta-Marsta10	Extra code added to frame
IPV	PV27A-H	PV272A-J	Extra codes added to frame
IPV	PV33A-H	PV332A-J	Extra codes added to frame
IPV	NIPV53	NIPV532	Change of question wording
IPV	NIPV54	NIPV542	Change of question wording
IPV	NIPV55	NIPV552	Change of question wording
IPV	NIPV56	NIPV562	Change of question wording
IPV	NIPV57	NIPV572	Change of question wording
IPV	NIPV58	NIPV582	Change of question wording
Child Non Victim File			
MOD A	CANYCR1A-P	CANYCR4A-H	Codeframe revised
MOD A	CANYCR2A-N	CANYCR3A-K	Codeframe revised
Core Victim File			
VF	HATEMT2A-H	HATEMT3A-I	New codes added
VF	HATEPS2A-H	HATEPS3A-I	New codes added
VF	WHAST6A-UU	WHAST7A-QQ	New codes added
VF	WHTRS6A-UU	WHTR7A-QQ	New codes added
VF	WHWEA3A-R	WHWEA4A-P	Codeframe revised
VF	HOWCHRG	HOWCHRG3	New codes added
VF	HOWCTOL4	HOWCTOL5	New codes added
Child Victim File			
VF	CBLNGA-A	CBLNG2A-2I	Codeframe revised
VF	CBLNGAA-AI	CBLNG2AA-CBLNG2AI	Codeframe revised
VF	CWHERVI2	CWHERVI3	Codeframe revised
VF	CTRANSP	CTRANSP2	Codeframe revised
VF	COFFREL1	COFFREL2	Codeframe revised

VF	COFREL2A-2Q	COFREL3A-3N	Codeframe revised
VF	CBLNGA-I	CBLNG2A-2E	Codeframe revised
VF	CWHASta-II	CWHASt2A-FF	Codeframe revised
VF	CWHTDPA-II	CWHTDP2A-FF	Codeframe revised
VF	CBLNGAA-AI	CBLNG2AA-2AE	Codeframe revised
VF	CFORCEWA-F	CFORCEW2A-2E	Codeframe revised
VF	CREPWHA-K	CREPWH2A-2J	Codeframe revised

6.4.3 Labelling variables

The changing nature of the 12-month reference period over the course of the year creates a difficulty in labelling certain variables. In the Quancept script, dates were automatically calculated based on the date of interview and appropriate text substitution was used to ensure that the question always referred to the correct period. In the SPSS data files, which contain data from interviews achieved over the whole year, it is difficult to attach meaningful labels to certain variables since the label is different each month depending upon the month of interview. This issue affects the following variables (all on the Victim File):

- DATESERA-DATESERH
- NQUART1-NQUART5
- QTRRECIN
- QTRINCID

6.4.4 Don't Know and Refused values

The convention for Don't Know and Refusal codes used in the most recent surveys was maintained on the 2011-12 data. This meant that on the SPSS file the code for Don't Know was '9' for code frames up to 7, '99' for code frames up to 97, and so on. The code for Refused was 8, 98, and so on. Since these are standard codes used throughout the SPSS files, Don't Know and Refused codes are not labelled.

6.4.5 Multiple response variables

Prior to the 2001 survey, multiple response variables were created as a set of variables equal to the maximum number of answers that could be given. The first variable held the first answer given by the respondent; the second variable held the second answer given, and so on.

After discussions with the Home Office it was agreed from 2001 onwards to present multiple response variables differently from previous years. Multiple response variables were set up as a set of variables equal to the **total number of answers possible (including Don't Know and Refused)**. Each variable was then given a value of '0' or '1' depending on whether the respondent gave that particular answer or not. To denote this change all multiple response variables in 2001 were all named with a letter suffix, rather than the number suffix that was used in previous years of the survey.

An example of a multiple response variable where there are seven possible answer categories, and so seven separate variables, is shown below:

**AGEOFFA-
AGEOFFG [ASK IF NumOff IN (2..4)]**

How old were the people who did it? Would you say they were...

READ OUT CODE ALL THAT APPLY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. children under school age | (AGEOFFA) |
| 2. children of school age | (AGEOFFB) |
| 3. people aged between 16 and 23 | (AGEOFFC) |
| 4. people aged between 25 and 39 | (AGEOFFD) |
| 5. or people aged over 40? | (AGEOFFE) |
| Don't Know | (AGEOFFF) |
| Refused | (AGEOFFG) |

6.4.6 Data output on the 10 to 15 survey

The data for the 10 to 15 survey is delivered to the Home Office to the same quarterly timetable as the core survey data. As with the core data two data files are supplied, the Non Victim File and the Victim File.

7. Weighting

7.1 Overview of weighting

The following weights have been calculated for the 2011-12 CSEW data:

- A household weight for the core sample
- An individual adult weight for the core sample

In addition to these weights, the Home Office apply additional calibration weights once they receive the data so that the data reflect the population profile by age and sex within Government Office Region (see [section 7.4](#)).

There are three main reasons for computing weights on the CSEW:

- To compensate for unequal selection probabilities. In the CSEW, different units of analysis (households, individuals, instances of victimisation) have different probabilities of inclusion in the sample due to factors such as over sampling of smaller Police Force Areas, the selection of one dwelling unit at multi-household addresses, the selection of one adult in each household, and the inclusion of a single Victimisation Module to represent a series of similar incidents.
- To compensate for differential response. Differential response rates can arise both between different geographic units (e.g. differences in response between inner city and non-inner city areas) and between different age and gender sub-groups.
- To ensure that quarters are equally weighted for analyses that combine data from more than one quarter.

As outlined above a variety of different weights were computed to meet the different analysis requirements. The 2011-12 weighting schedule was broadly similar to the weighting schedule applied on previous surveys.

All weights include a component to compensate for unequal selection probabilities, while weighting components to compensate for differential

response and to equally weight quarters are included in some weights but not in others.

In 2009-10 the Home Office commissioned TNS BMRB to carry out analysis of non response in the CSEW to explore the various components of non-response and what influences them and to recommend a new weighting strategy based on the findings. Please refer to the 2009-10 technical report for further details.²⁴

7.2 Component weights

The weights constructed for the 2011-12 CSEW sample were based on a number of key component weights. The following conventions have been used for the components that made up the final weights:

- w_1 : weight to compensate for unequal address selection probabilities in each PFA;
- w_2 : inner city versus non inner-city non-response weight;
- w_3 : dwelling unit weight;
- w_4 : individual selection weight;
- numinc : series of incidents weight

7.2.1 Police Force Area weight (w_1)

Under the survey design introduced in 2008-09 the address sampling probability is a function of the Police Force Area, the cluster stratum and, in a few cases, the number of addresses sampled within the PSU. These can be explained as follows:

1. **Police Force Area**: As described in Chapter 2, addresses were disproportionately sampled in Police Force Areas to ensure a minimum of 1,000 achieved interviews in each Area regardless of the population size. Consequently the basic sampling fraction applied within each PFA varies significantly between different Areas;
2. **Cluster stratum**: As already explained in Chapter 2 all addresses were allocated to one of three cluster strata. While the intention was to allocate proportionately, the requirement to sample whole number PSUs within cluster strata B and C lead to a tiny level of between-strata variation in address sampling probabilities. This

²⁴ [British Crime Survey Technical Report 2009-10 TNS BMRB:London](#)

could have been corrected by altering the number of addresses selected within each sampled PSU, but this was not done. Instead a standard number of addresses (32) were issued in each PSU sampled from strata B and C; and

3. **The number of addresses within the PSU**: A small number of very large PSUs had a computed sampling probability greater than 1. This is because the size of the PSU (as measured by the PAF address count) was larger than the selection interval, meaning they had a 100% chance of selection. In this situation the PSU sampling probability was capped at 1 but the number of addresses sampled within these PSUs was not increased to compensate for this. This introduced another slight variation in address sampling probabilities. Only a handful of PSUs were affected by this.

While the above represents a full explanation of the address sampling probability it is only the Police Force Area which actually introduces any significant variation in probabilities. Factors 2 and 3 above only introduce extremely minor variations in probabilities within each PFA.

Consequently, it is probably easiest to think of w_1 as the Police Force Area weight, which compensates for different selection probabilities between Areas.

7.2.2 Inner city weight (w_2)

In some previous rounds of the CSEW, inner city areas were over sampled meaning that an inner city weight was applied. Historically this weight compensated not only for the difference in selection probabilities but also for the differential response rates between inner city and non-inner city areas.

To be consistent with previous survey years the practice of applying a weight to correct for differential response rates between inner city and non-inner city areas has continued. In essence, the inner city weight is simply the reciprocal of the achieved response rate in inner city and non-inner city areas (after weighting by w_1).

The definition of inner city or non-inner city has been kept consistent since it was first used on the CSEW and is based on 1981 census data. Details of how the inner city weight is constructed can be found in the [2006/07 BCS technical report volume 1](#).

7.2.3 Dwelling unit weight (w_3)

At addresses which had more than one dwelling unit, the interviewer made a random selection of one dwelling unit. The dwelling unit weight is therefore simply the number of dwelling units identified at the address. In over 99% of cases, the dwelling unit weight was 1.

7.2.4 Individual weight (w_4)

At dwelling units that had more than one eligible adult, the interviewer made a random selection of one adult. Thus, the probability of any one individual being selected was inversely proportional to the number of adults in the household. The individual weight is therefore simply the number of adults in the household.

7.2.5 Series weight (numinc)

This weight is applied when estimating victimisation rates. For single incidents NUMINC is always 1. For series incidents, where only details are collected about the most recent incident in the series, the weight equals the number of incidents in the series that fall within the reference period, subject to a maximum limit of 5²⁵.

In estimating victimisation rates, the household or individual weights are multiplied by the NUMINC weight, according to which offence classification code has been assigned to the incident(s).

7.3 Core sample weights

The main units of analysis used on the CSEW are households, individuals, and incidents of victimisation. Different weights are used depending upon the unit of analysis. In particular, some crimes are considered household crimes (e.g. burglary, vandalism to household property, theft of and from a car) and therefore the main unit of analysis is the household, while others are personal crimes (assault, robbery, sexual offences) and the main unit of analysis is the individual.

²⁵ Although the number of incidents is capped at 5 for weighting purposes, the actual number of reported incidents in each series (uncapped) is also supplied on the data file

For the core sample two weights were constructed to take account of this difference, namely the **core household weight** and the **core individual weight**. These were calculated as follows:

$$\mathbf{wtm2hhu} = W_1 * W_2 * W_3$$

$$\mathbf{wtm2inu} = W_1 * W_2 * W_3 * W_4$$

Once the unscaled weights had been calculated the frequencies were examined and extreme values were capped where necessary. Although capping of extreme weights may introduce a small amount of bias this is more than compensated for by the improvement in precision that results. The capped weights were called **wtm2hhf** and **wtm2inf** respectively.

Finally, the weights were scaled to a notional sample size of 11,500 interviews per quarter. Although an approximately equal number of addresses were issued each quarter during 2011-12, the number of interviews actually achieved per quarter varied to some extent. Thus, for analyses based upon a 12 month period, the weights were constructed to adjust for differences in sample size by equalising the quarterly achieved sample sizes.

The final scaled weights were called **wtm2hhs** and **wtm2ins** respectively.

7.4 Weighting on the 10 to 15 survey

A new approach to non-response weighting was explored on the adult survey (see the [2009-10 technical report volume 1](#)). While the change in weighting is being evaluated for use on the core survey, this approach to non-response weighting was adopted for the 10 to 15 year old survey as there is no existing time series.

The variables that were found to be significantly associated with non-response were included in the final model which used logistic regression to obtain the probability of response based on the following variables:

- whether sampled child had mobile phone stolen (no phone; has phone-not stolen; has phone-stolen)
- length of adult interview (banded <1h30, 1h30+)
- Main newspaper readership (broadsheet, Tabloid, other/no main paper, none)
- Whether Adult accepted self completion (Yes, No)
- How confident are you that the police are effective at catching criminals
- Number of adults in the household (1,2,3,4,5+)
- Age of child sampled

The following were not significant, but were included for completeness:

- Whether adult is a victim of crime
- Sex of sampled child.

7.4.1 Creating the final weights for the 10 to 15 year old survey

There were several steps to creating the final weight for the 10 to 15 survey. The non-response weight that incorporates the design weight for the number of eligible children in the household is based on responding households. The household non-response weight from the core adult file is multiplied by the child non-response weight to give an overall unscaled and untrimmed child weight. This was capped at the 99th percentile so as to reduce the impact of any unusual, large weights, and then scaled so that the weighted sample size matched that of the achieved sample size. Full details of the non response analysis can be found in the [2009-10 technical report volume 1](#).

7.5 Calibration Weights

From 2001 onward the Home Office have calculated and applied additional calibration weights to counter the effect of differential response rates between age, gender and regional sub-groups. Results for CSEW

surveys from 1996 onwards have all been re-weighted using this technique²⁶.

Calibration weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different age by gender subgroups and households with different age and gender composition. For example, a 24 year old male living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than one living with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age and sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole.

The effects of applying these weights are generally low for household crime, but are more important for estimates of personal crime, where young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average, but also lower response rates to the survey. However, crime trends since the 1996 survey have not been altered to any great extent by the application of calibration weights.

²⁶ Calibration weights are applied to the data by the Home Office after the application of the design weights.

8. Comparing key survey variables with the population

The achieved sample was weighted in order to be representative of the population living in private households in England and Wales. A series of comparisons are presented in the following tables, showing to what extent the 2011-12 CSEW achieved core sample reflected the population as a whole, after applying the appropriate design weights and before final calibration weighting.

Table 8.1 shows the regional distribution of the adult population aged 16 years or over in England and Wales by Government Office Region compared with the mid-2010 population estimates. This shows that the regional profile of the weighted sample was broadly in line with the population figures. The main discrepancy in the achieved sample was the under-representation of respondents in London compared with the population estimates. This reflects the lower response rates achieved in London as already noted.

Table 8.1 Comparison of the CSEW core achieved sample compared with the population by Government Office Region, 2011-12 CSEW

Government Office Region	Weighted Core Sample¹	Mid-2010 population estimates²⁷	Difference (sample – population)
	%	%	%
North East	5.3	4.7	+0.6
North West	12.7	12.6	+0.1
Yorkshire & The Humber	9.3	9.6	-0.3
East Midlands	8.3	8.1	+0.2
West Midlands	10.3	9.9	+0.4
East of England	10.4	10.6	-0.2
London	13.4	14.2	-0.8
South East	15.6	15.4	+0.2
South West	9.6	9.5	+0.1
Wales	5.1	5.4	-0.3
Bases:	46,031	55,240,475	
¹ Prior to the calibration weights applied at a later stage by the Home Office.			
Source: Mid-2010 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics			

Table 8.2 shows similar comparisons between the achieved core sample in relation to the mid-2010 population estimates for England and Wales by sex and age. This shows that the survey slightly under represented men, those aged under 35, and those aged over 85 (especially women). The profile of the survey by sex and age was very similar to the previous year. All of these patterns are fairly common in large scale surveys and reflect the slightly lower response rates achieved among these particular groups.

Although not reported here, as already mentioned the age and sex distribution of the achieved sample are further corrected by the Home Office at the analysis stage through the application of calibration weights so that the age and sex profile of survey respondents matched population estimates within each GOR (see [section 7.4](#)).

²⁷ Adults aged 16 and over.

Table 8.2 Comparison of the CSEW achieved core sample with the population by sex and age, 2011-12 CSEW

	Weighted Core Sample¹	Mid-2010 population estimates	Difference (sample - population)
	%	%	%
Men			
16-19	5.9	6.6	-0.7
20-24	6.8	8.9	-2.1
25-34	15.2	16.7	-1.5
35-44	16.4	17.8	-1.4
45-54	17.3	17.0	+0.3
55-64	16.2	14.5	+1.7
65-74	13.3	10.4	+2.9
75-84	7.0	6.1	+0.9
85 and over	1.9	1.9	0
Bases:	21,023	21,948,600	
Women			
16-19	4.4	5.9	-1.5
20-24	6.8	8.1	-1.3
25-34	15.8	15.5	+0.3
35-44	17.1	17.2	+0.1
45-54	18.4	16.6	+1.8
55-64	14.4	14.4	0
65-74	12.4	10.9	+1.5
75-84	7.3	7.7	-0.4
85 and over	2.4	3.7	-1.3
Bases:	25,008	22,977,500	
All men	47.8	48.9	-1.1
All women	52.2	51.1	+1.1
Bases:	46,031	44,926,100	
¹ Prior to the calibration weights applied at a later stage by the Home Office. Source: Mid-2010 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics			