

Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey

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This bulletin is available on the [Department of Justice website](#), in the Statistics and Research - Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey section.

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1

Summary Findings

This bulletin presents findings from the Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey and focuses on crime victimisation rates in Northern Ireland based on 2019/20 financial year interviews.

Crime victimisation (prevalence) rates

- Results from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS) indicate that most adults did not experience a crime asked about in the survey. Latest findings estimate that 6.9% of adults were victims of at least one crime measured through the survey during the 12 months prior to interview. This showed no change since 2018/19 (7.5%). The 2019/20 rate of 6.9% is one of the lowest victimisation (prevalence) rates estimated since the measure was first reported in 1998 (23.0%).
- Findings from NISCS 2019/20 and the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW; formerly the British Crime Survey) 2019/20 show that the risk of becoming a victim of crime remains lower in Northern Ireland (6.9%) than in England and Wales (13.3%). These figures compare with 7.5% and 14.9% (respectively) in 2018/19.

Estimated number of NISCS incidents in Northern Ireland

- An estimated 96,000 incidents of crime occurred during the 12-month recall periods for NISCS 2019/20. This compares with the 2018/19 estimate of 122,000. The 2019/20 figure is two-thirds (67%) lower than the peak in 2003/04 (295,000).

Crime reporting

- Latest findings estimate that 45% of all NISCS crime was reported to the police. A subset of NISCS crimes is broadly comparable with a subset of PSNI recorded crimes. Results from 2019/20 estimate that 46% of these crimes identified in the survey were reported to the police. Burglary (69%) displayed the highest reporting rate in Northern Ireland.
- The most common reason cited by both NISCS and CSEW 2019/20 respondents for not reporting a crime to the police was 'too trivial/no loss/police would not/could not do anything' (57% and 70% respectively). This was followed by 'private matter/dealt with the matter ourselves' (29% and 17% respectively).

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Introduction

2.1 The focus of this publication

This bulletin draws on findings from the 2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS). The survey was formerly known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) but was renamed following a review in 2017/18. NISCS is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of 3,710 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. Previously conducted on an ad hoc basis in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04, the survey began operating on a continuous basis in January 2005.

The publication focuses on crime victimisation rates in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales (based on 2019/20 financial year interviews) for the following broad crime types:

- crimes affecting the whole household (mainly property offences), including vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft; and
- personal crimes against respondents only (mainly violent offences), including common assault, wounding, mugging (robbery and snatch theft from the person), stealth theft from the person and other theft of personal property.

Features of this bulletin include:

- trends in prevalence rates (per adult / household), incidence rates (per 10,000 adults / households) and the number of incidents, whether or not reported to the police;

- confidence intervals for the NISCS 2019/20 prevalence rates and number of incidents;
- comparisons with the 2019/20 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW; formerly the British Crime Survey (BCS));
- some comparisons with crimes recorded by the police; and
- reporting rates by crime type, as well as reasons given for not reporting incidents.

Throughout this report key findings are commented on in the text, with numerical details on each section available in the relevant tables comprising the Tabular Annex (Appendix 1). The tables in the Tabular Annex present trend data from 2010/11. Commentary may refer to findings from earlier years, figures for which can be found in the accompanying Microsoft Excel and Open Data Source documents.

Further background information on this bulletin is available in the Technical Annex. Additional bulletins presenting NISCS 2019/20 findings covering, for example, Perceptions of Crime and Perceptions of Policing and Justice (forthcoming), will be published separately.

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Crime Victimization (Prevalence) Rates

This chapter provides an overview of crime victimisation (prevalence) rates. Additional information, including police recorded crime figures, can be found in Tables 1 to 4 of Appendix 1. Table 1 contains best (i.e. the average or mean), lower and higher estimates of crime victimisation (prevalence) rates per household or adult in Northern Ireland for NISCS crime categories during the 12 full calendar months immediately preceding each NISCS 2019/20 interview. Table 2 provides trend information for these prevalence rates since 1998. The following analyses are based on the best estimates derived from the survey.

3.1 Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

Outcome 7: We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other

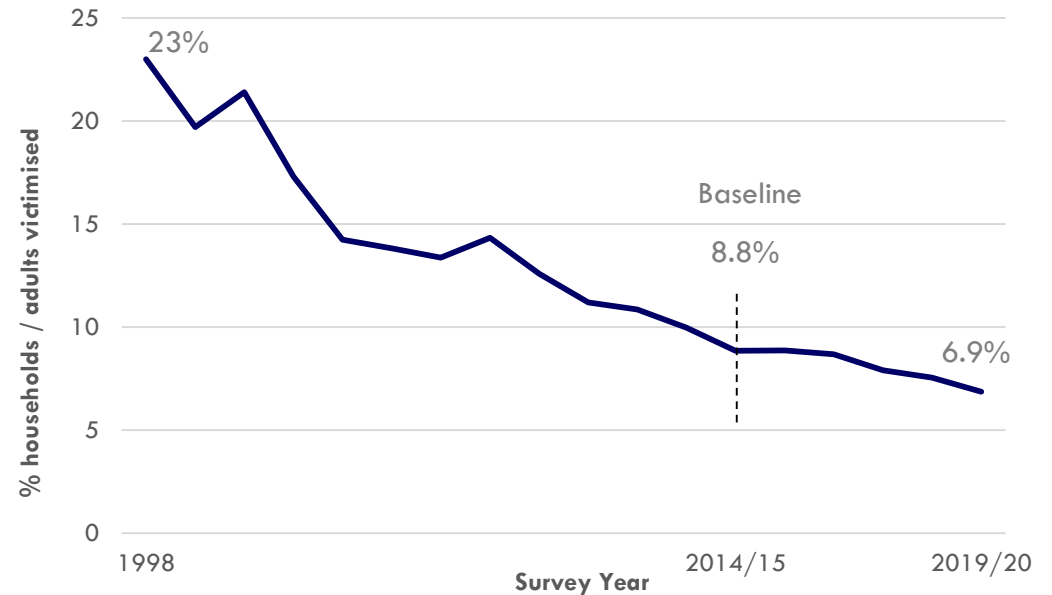
Indicator 1: Prevalence rate (percentage of the population who were victims of any NI Safe Community Survey crime)

The 'Any NISCS Crime' prevalence rate presented in Tables 1 and 2 informs Indicator 1 within the [Draft Programme for Government \(PfG\) 2016-2021](#) and the [Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan](#). The baseline year for this indicator is 2014/15.

Latest position:

Results from NISCS 2019/20 estimate that 6.9% of all households and their adult occupants were victims of 'Any NISCS crime' during the 12 months prior to interview, a statistically significant decrease from the 2014/15 baseline figure of 8.8%.

Figure 3.1: Indicator 1 - Prevalence rate (percentage of the population who were victims of any NI Safe Community Survey crime)



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 1998-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

1. The 'any NISCS crime' rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime.

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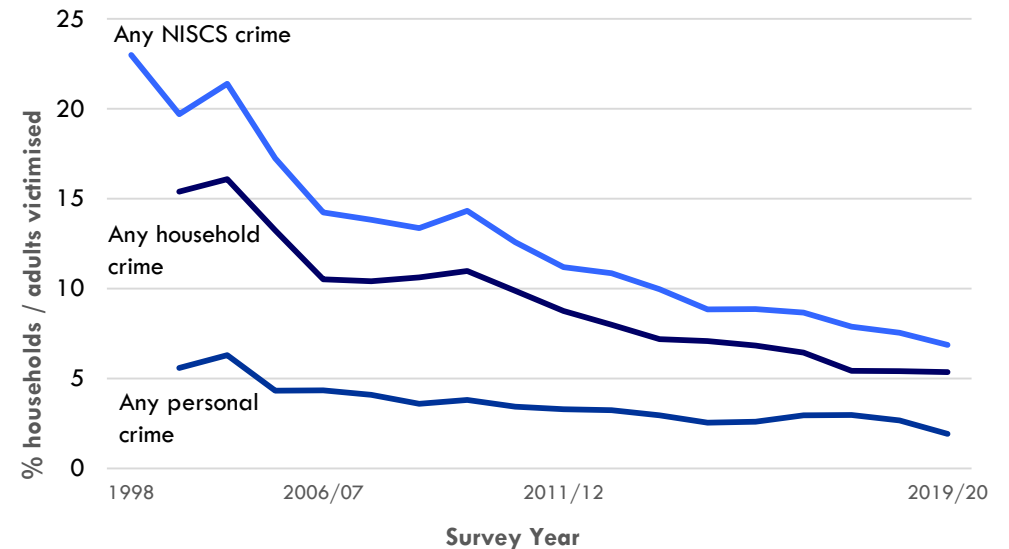
Crime Victimization (Prevalence) Rates

3.2 All offences

- As in previous years, latest findings for 2019/20 show most adults/households were not a victim of any NISCS crime. Results indicate the proportion experiencing crime (any NISCS crime prevalence rate) has shown no statistically significant change from last year, 7.5% in 2018/19 and 6.9% in 2019/20.
- The proportion of adults/households who have been a victim of crime, however, has generally been falling over the last two decades, reducing by over two-thirds from 23.0% in 1998. Much of the decrease occurred during the first decade, particularly between 1998 and 2006/07. Since then there has been a more steady decline, though the decrease has been mainly due to a combination of non-significant decreases over the years.
- A similar pattern was evident when considering the prevalence rates for any household and any personal crime. Latest survey estimates show the proportion who were a victim of a household crime has remained unchanged since 2017/18, with the prevalence rate at 5.4% each year since then. While the household crime prevalence rate has been stable in recent years, when compared with 2003/04 it has also fallen by around two-thirds, down from 16.1%. Much of this decrease again occurred in the earlier years between 2003/04 and 2006/07. Similarly, the proportion experiencing a personal crime has also remained on a par with last year; the apparent decrease from 2.7% in 2018/19 to 1.9% in 2019/20 is not statistically significant. The overall decrease, from 6.3% in 2003/04 to 1.9% in 2019/20, was largely due to a two percentage point decrease which occurred between 2003/04 and 2005.
- Following these sharp decreases in the earlier sweeps of the survey, the household crime rate has, on the whole, continued to show a downward trend, though levelling off in recent years. The personal crime rate has been somewhat more stable. Any apparent year-on-year changes for both are not statistically significant and the overall fall in rates is, again, mainly due to a combination of non-significant decreases.

- While NISCS findings show there was no change in the overall proportion of adults/households experiencing a crime compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 5.7% in PSNI recorded crime (excluding fraud) for Northern Ireland, from 100,854 to 106,585 between 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Figure 3.2: Households / adults victims of crime once or more in Northern Ireland – any household, any personal and any NISCS crime (%)



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 1998-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

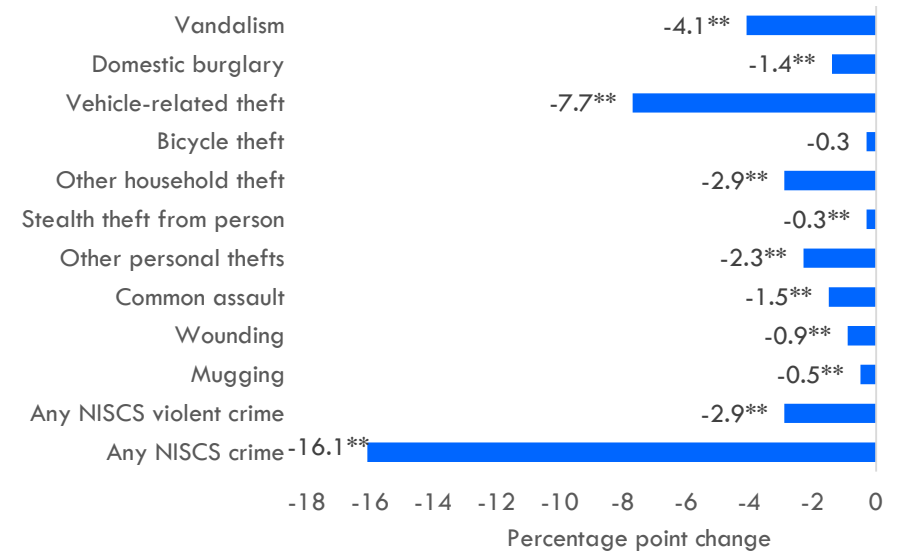
- The any NISCS crime rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime.
- Rates for any household crime are based on all households.
- Rates for any personal crime are based on all adults and are weighted for household size.
- Rates for household and personal crime are not available for 1998.

3 | Crime Victimization (Prevalence) Rates

While there have been some year-to-year fluctuations, when 2019/20 victimisation rates are compared with those from 1998 when the rates were first reported, it would appear that, over the last two decades, the risk of becoming a victim of crime in Northern Ireland has fallen overall across most of the specific NISCS crime types covered.

- Much of the reduction in the overall percentage of adults who were a victim of any NISCS crime over the last two decades was mainly brought about by a statistically significant decrease in the rate of vehicle-related theft (vehicle owners only), which fell by 7.7 percentage points, from a high of 8.7% in 1998 to 1.0% in 2019/20.
- Most of the decrease in the rate for vehicle-related theft occurred between 1998 and 2005 when the rate for vehicle owners fell from 8.7% to 3.1%. It may be that proactive policing and community safety initiatives related to a PSA / Policing Plan / Community Safety Strategy target to reduce vehicle crime (by 10% between 2001/02 and 2006/07) have played a role in achieving a reduction of this scale.
- The next largest decreases, in percentage point terms, occurred in vandalism and other household theft with both falling by 4.1 and 2.9 percentage points respectively over the same period.
- The apparent overall decrease in the prevalence rate for bicycle theft was not statistically significant.

Figure 3.3: Change in NISCS victimisation (prevalence) rates for offences between 1998 and 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 1998; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20

1. Rates for vehicle-related theft are based on all vehicle-owning households.
2. Rates for bicycle theft are based on all bicycle-owning households.
3. Rates for other property offences are based on all households.
4. Rates for violent and personal offences are based on all adults and are weighted for household size.
5. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).

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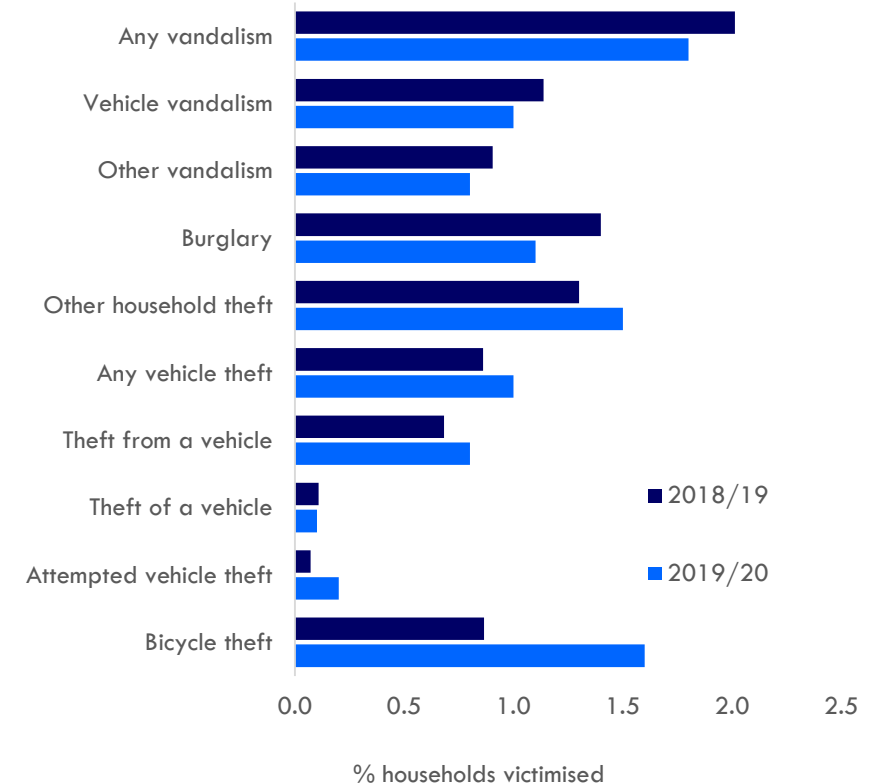
Crime Victimisation (Prevalence) Rates

3.3 Household offences

Victimisation (prevalence) rates for all NISCS 2019/20 household offences were on a par with those experienced in 2018/19.

- While latest figures show the NISCS prevalence rate of 1.0% for all vehicle-related theft (vehicle owners) has not changed from last year (0.9%), the 2019/20 figure maintains the reduction in all vehicle-related theft which occurred between 2016/17 and 2017/18, from 2.0% to 0.8%. The 2019/20 figure is one of the lowest rates observed through the survey and as referenced in section 3.2, it compares favourably with the 1998 rate of 8.7%. This is somewhat consistent with police recorded crime which also shows decreases in vehicle theft offences over recent years with the 2019/20 figure of 3,272 being the lowest number recorded since new counting rules were introduced in 1998/99.
- While the apparent decrease in the NISCS prevalence rate for burglary, from 1.4% to 1.1%, is not statistically significant, it may to some extent be consistent with the net 9.6% decline in the number of burglary-residential offences recorded by the police between 2017/18 (4,999) and 2019/20 (4,521).
- Likewise, the apparent increase in the prevalence rate for bicycle theft, from 0.9% to 1.6% (bicycle owners only), while not statistically significant, may somewhat reflect the net 2.2% rise in theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle recorded between 2017/18 (863) and 2019/20 (882).
- Latest findings show there was no change in the overall prevalence rate for vandalism compared with 2018/19 as the apparent decrease from 2.0% to 1.8% is not statistically significant. Police recorded crime figures show a (net) increase of 2.3% in criminal damage offences (the nearest equivalent to vandalism) between 2017/18 and 2019/20 (from 18,278 to 18,701). The NISCS prevalence rate for vandalism in 2019/20 is the one of lowest estimated from the survey; similarly the number of criminal damage offences recorded in this period by the police is also among the lowest since new counting rules were introduced in 1998/99.

Figure 3.4: Households victims of household crime once or more in Northern Ireland by crime type (%)



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

1. Rates for vehicle-related theft are based on all vehicle-owning households.
2. Rates for bicycle theft are based on all bicycle-owning households.
3. Rates for other property offences are based on all households.

3 | Crime Victimization (Prevalence) Rates

3.4 Personal offences

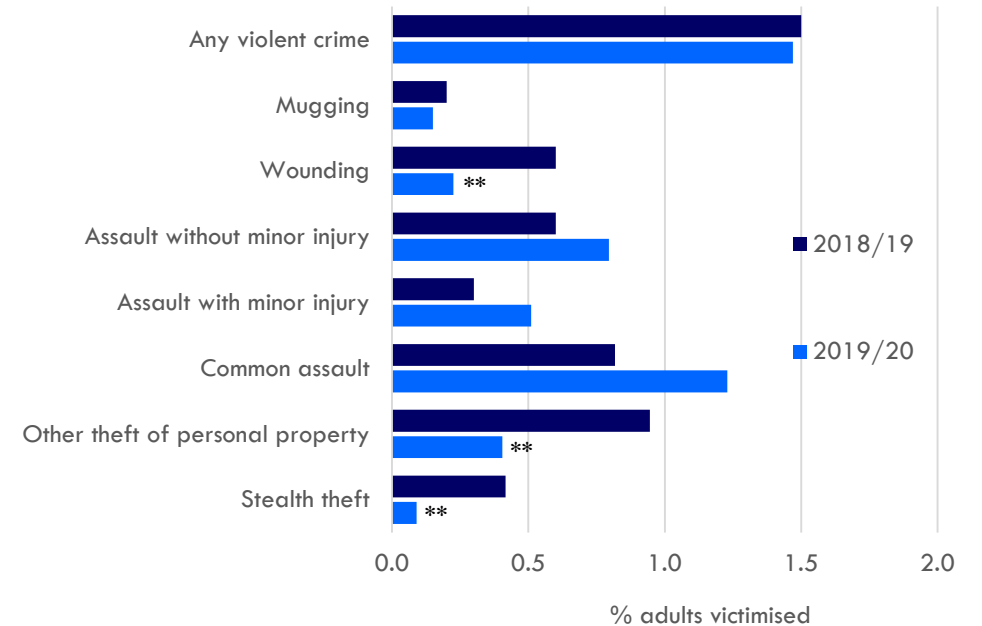
NISCS 2019/20 findings suggest statistically significant changes occurred in the victimisation rates for some personal offences when compared with the previous year.

- Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, statistically significant decreases were observed in the victimisation rates for:
 - stealth theft from the person, from 0.4% to 0.1%;
 - other thefts of personal property, 0.9% to 0.4%;
 - wounding, 0.6% to 0.2%.
- The PSNI recorded level of violence against the person offences has shown a (net) increase of 21.1% over the last two years, from 34,129 in 2017/18 to 41,329 in 2019/20. The proportion of adults who were victims of the (more narrowly focused) NISCS violent crime (common assault, wounding and mugging) has however remained unchanged at 1.5% in both 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Part of any discrepancy in NISCS and police recorded violent crime estimates may relate to:

- the narrower focus of the NISCS;
- the relatively low proportion of respondents affected by violent crime;
- a possible unwillingness of respondents to disclose domestic incidents to an interviewer, contrasting with an increased willingness to report such incidents to the police;
- variation within the sample; or
- differences in the time period covered between the two sources.

Figure 3.5: Adults victims of personal crime once or more in Northern Ireland by crime type (%), 2018/19 and 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

- Rates for violent and personal offences are based on all adults and are weighted for household size.
- Statistical significant of change (5% level two-tailed test) from previous year is indicated by a double asterisk (**).



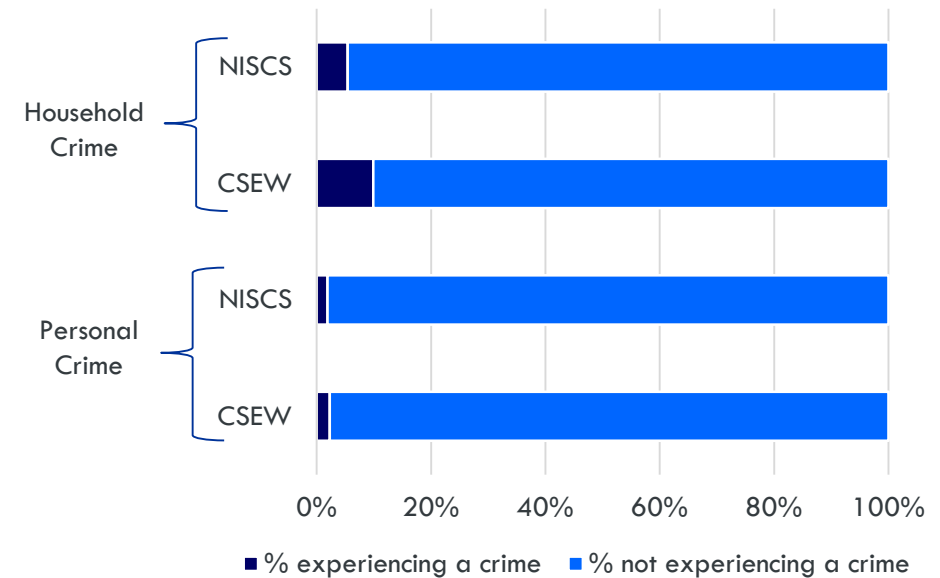
3 Crime Victimization (Prevalence) Rates

3.5 Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Table 4, Appendix 1 compares the victimisation (prevalence) rates for each NISCS / CSEW crime category in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales, as measured by the 2019/20 surveys. Results show that victimisation rates tend to be lower in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales.

- Findings from the 2019/20 surveys show that the risk of becoming a victim of crime remains lower in Northern Ireland (6.9%) than in England and Wales (13.3%). These figures compare with 7.5% and 14.9% (respectively) measured through the 2018/19 surveys.
- Of the specific crime types examined, vandalism and bicycle theft (bicycle owners) were among the most prevalent offences in Northern Ireland while vehicle-related theft (vehicle owners) and vandalism displayed some of the highest prevalence rates in England and Wales.
- Results from 2019/20 suggest that the risk of being a victim of household offences, such as vehicle-related theft, vandalism and burglary, were generally lower in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales. Hence, the overall prevalence rate for household crime in Northern Ireland was lower than the equivalent rate for England and Wales (5.4% and 9.9% respectively).
- In terms of any personal crime, the prevalence rate in Northern Ireland was 1.9% compared with 2.3% in England and Wales. Within this, while rates for offences such as stealth theft from the person and other thefts of personal property were higher in England and Wales, rates for some violent crime offences, such as common assault (1.2% in both), were more closely aligned. The overall risk of becoming a victim of violent crime in Northern Ireland and England and Wales was 1.5% and 1.9% respectively.

Figure 3.6: Households / adults victims of crime once or more in Northern Ireland and England and Wales – any household and any personal crime (%)



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

- Rates for household crime are based on all households.
- Rates for personal crime are based on all adults and are weighted for household size.

Summary: Crime Victimization (Prevalence) Rate

As was the case in previous years, most adults/households were not a victim of any crime measured through the survey. The proportion experiencing any NISCS crime (6.9%), any household (5.4%) or any personal crime (1.9%) were unchanged from last year. The risk of becoming a victim of crime has decreased by more than two-thirds over the last two decades and remains lower than in England and Wales.

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Frequency of Crime Victimization and Incidence Rates

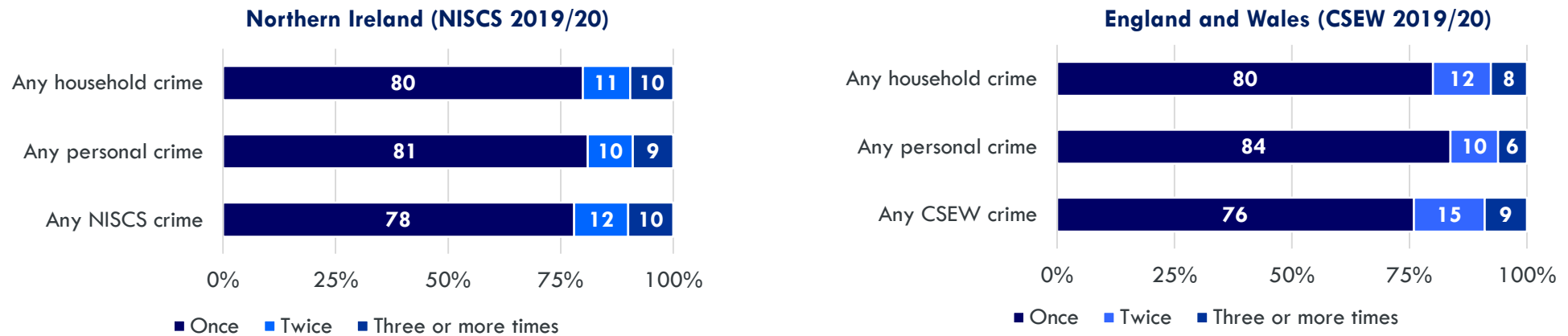
4.1 Repeat victimisation in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Table 5 in Appendix 1 presents the frequency of repeat victimisation for any household crime, any personal crime and any NISCS 2019/20 crime. Given the limitations of the sample size and the number of victims, rates for NISCS repeat victimisation and any reference to them should be viewed with caution. Equivalent figures for CSEW 2019/20 are also included.

- Latest findings show over a fifth (22%) of all victims were victimised on more than one occasion in the 12 months prior to interview. Of these, 12% were victimised twice and 10% experienced three or more crimes. A similar proportion, 24%, of victims in England and Wales were a victim more than once (15%, twice; 9%, three or more times).

- Results for NISCS 2019/20 show repeat victimisation rates were on a par for household and personal crime. It is estimated that around one-in-five victims (20%) experienced more than one household crime, with similar proportions experiencing a crime either twice or on three or more occasions (11% and 10% respectively).
- For personal crimes, 81% of victims were a victim of a single incident. Of the 19% victimised more than once, again similar proportions, 10% and 9% respectively, were victimised twice or three or more times.
- Findings from 2019/20 are similar to previous years which also show that the majority of victims are a victim only once over their recall period.

Figure 4.1: Households / adults victims of crime in Northern Ireland and England and Wales by number of times victimised and crime type (%)



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. Rates for household crime are based on all households.

2. Rates for personal crime and any NISC/CSEW crime are based on all adults. The any NISC/CSEW crime rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime and is weighted for household size.

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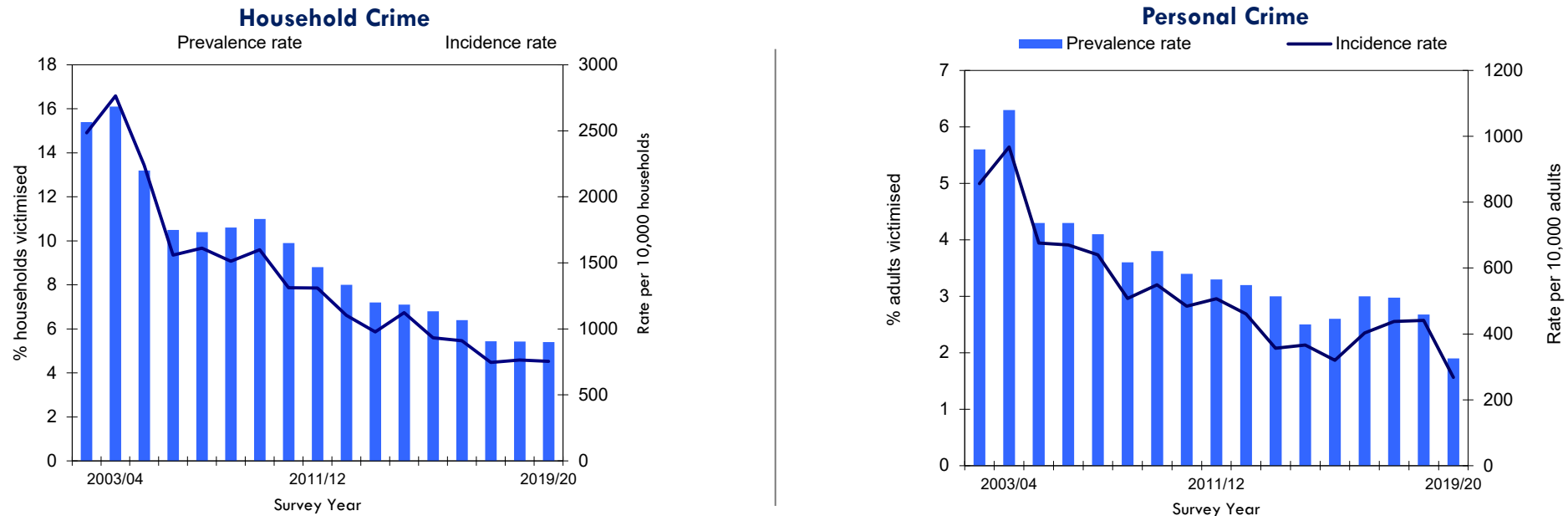
Frequency of Crime Victimization and Incidence Rates

4.2 Crime victimisation (incidence) rates in Northern Ireland

Table 6 in Appendix 1 gives crime victimisation (incidence) rates per 10,000 households or adults for Northern Ireland (NICS 2001 to 2019/20) for a limited range of crime types. This approach differs from prevalence rates in that it takes into account the number of times each type of incident may have occurred, as opposed to the proportion of households or adults victimised at least once.

- Results from 2019/20 indicate that, as with the prevalence rate, incidence rates for any household crime (755 per 10,000 households) was similar to the previous year (764). The incidence rate for personal crime however fell between 2018/19 and 2019/20 from 441 to 268 per 10,000 adults. This is indicative of the repeat victimisation figures which suggest that the proportion of victims of any personal crime who were a victim on more than one occasion also fell (from 28% to 19%) during the same period.
- A similar pattern to the prevalence rates also emerged in terms of the overall reduction in incidence rates. Incidence rates for both household and personal crime have fallen over the last fifteen years or so with rates for 2019/20 among the lowest levels recorded. Compared with 2003/04, household crime has reduced overall from 2,764 to 755 per 10,000 households while personal crime has decreased from 968 to 268 per 10,000 adults. This is evident from Figure 4.2 which shows prevalence and incidence rates for both household and personal crime since 2001. It appears that, on the whole, fluctuation in one series is reflected in the other.

Figure 4.2: Prevalence and incidence rates for any household and any personal crime in Northern Ireland (2001 to 2019/20)



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2001-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

4

Frequency of Crime Victimization and Incidence Rates

For the specific crime types examined, incidence rates on the whole were similar to those from the previous survey year. Any apparent changes in rates from year-to-year should be considered in the context of the sample size and number of respondents reporting being a victim of crime. With regards to the longer term trend, results indicate that most crime types have shown a substantial reduction over the years. Some marked decreases are evident compared with 2003/04, when the highest incidence rate estimates for most crime types were observed.

Personal offences

- NISCS 2019/20 findings indicate that the incidence rate for violent crime was 208 per 10,000 adults compared with the rate of 272 in 2018/19. These figures may seem to contrast a 21.1% increase in the police recorded level of violence against the person offences between 2017/18 and 2019/20 (from 34,129 to 41,329). However, as referred to previously, any discrepancy in these estimates may relate to the narrower focus of the NISCS, the relatively low proportion of respondents affected by violent crime, variation in the sample, the different time periods covered and a potential unwillingness to disclose the incidents to an interviewer.
- The latest NISCS incidence rate of 208 for violent crime is just over a third of that estimated from the 2003/04 survey (588 per 10,000 adults). This is mainly due to a fall in the incidence of common assault, from 467 to 171 per 10,000 adults over the same period.
- The rate for other thefts of personal property also fell from 127 to 51 per 10,000 adults between 2018/19 and 2019/20, which contributed to the reduction in all personal crime, from 441 to 268 per 10,000 adults.

Household offences

- For burglary, the latest incidence rate of 148 per 10,000 households remained on a par with that from 2018/19 (152). The rate has, however, reduced over the years with the 2019/20 rate less than half of that in 2003/04 (313).
- Findings from 2019/20 show a rate of 105 per 10,000 households was observed for vehicle-related theft. This compares with a rate of 73 in 2018/19. Both NISCS and police recorded crime are consistent in suggesting the level of vehicle-related theft in Northern Ireland has on the whole been decreasing with both sources showing vehicle-related theft has reduced by around four-fifths since 2003/04.
- Again, the pattern was similar to the trend in prevalence rates with findings suggesting much of the decrease in incidence rates from 673 in 2003/04 to 105 in 2019/20, occurred between 2003/04 and 2005, from 673 to 276 per 10,000 households. Similarly, the number of vehicle theft offences recorded by the police also fell by 41% between 2002/03 and 2004/05.

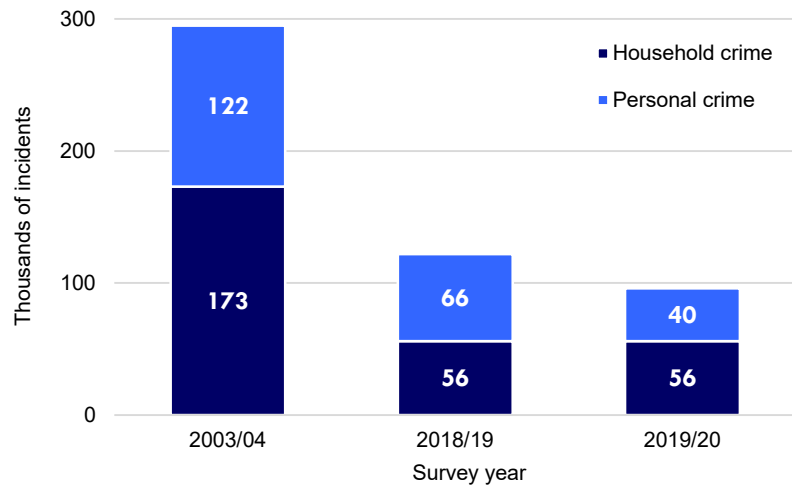
4 | Frequency of Crime Victimization and Incidence Rates

4.3 Estimated number of NISCS incidents in Northern Ireland

It is possible to use these incidence rates along with the household and adult population estimates to produce best, lower and higher estimates of the number of incidents for the range of crime types covered by NISCS 2019/20. There is 95% certainty that the actual number of crimes against households and their adult occupants lies between the lower and higher estimates (confidence intervals). It is important to note that, given the limitations of the sample size, these confidence intervals can be relatively wide, particularly for less common crimes. This should also be borne in mind when considering estimates from year-to-year. Estimates for 2019/20 are presented in Table 7 in Appendix 1. Figures from 2001 are contained in Table 8.

- An estimated 96,000 incidents of crime occurred during the 12-month recall periods for NISCS 2019/20. This compares with the 122,000 incidents estimated from 2018/19 and is two-thirds (67%) lower than the peak in 2003/04 (295,000).

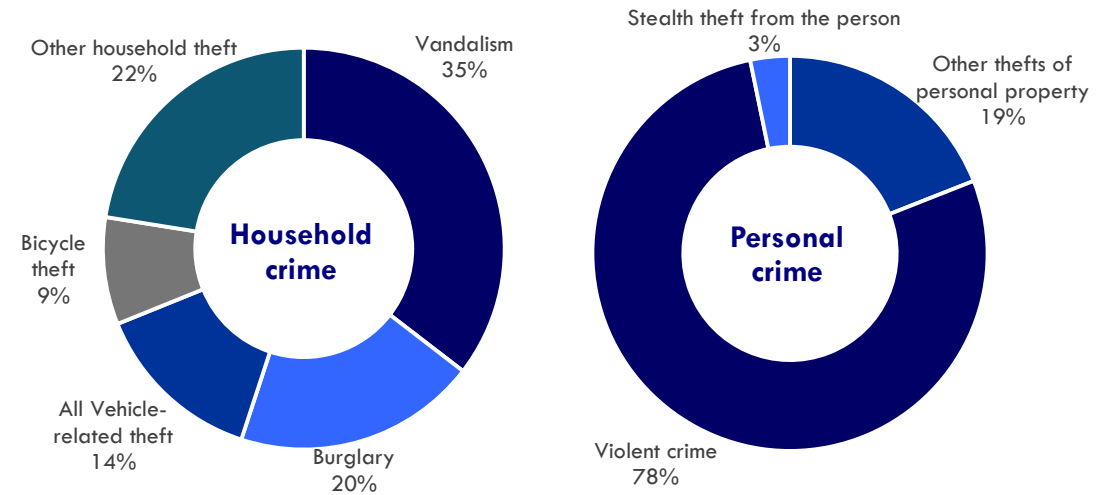
Figure 4.3: Estimated number of NISCS incidents (thousands)



Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2003/04; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

- Of the 96,000 incidents estimated from NISCS 2019/20, household offences accounted for 56,000 (58%) incidents while the remaining 40,000 (42%) related to personal crime. While the estimated number of incidents of household crime was on a par with the previous year (also 56,000), the number of personal crimes estimated has fallen from 66,000, much of which can be accounted for by a fall in other thefts of personal property.
- Results suggest that the 56,000 incidents of household crime estimated from the 2019/20 survey comprised mainly of vandalism (20,000 incidents). Violent crime continued to account for the majority of personal crime (78% in 2019/20).

Figure 4.4: NISCS 2019/20 incidents – breakdown of any household and any personal crime



Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20

- Estimates take account of repeat victimisation.
- Estimates for household crime are based on all households.
- Estimates for personal offences are based on all adults and are weighted for household size.

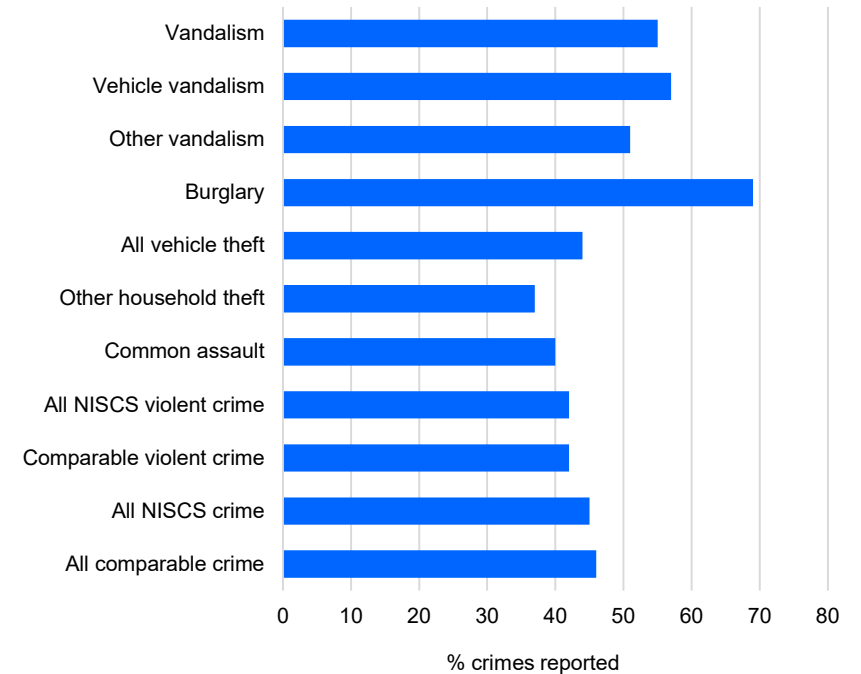
5 | Crime Reporting

5.1 Crime reporting rates in Northern Ireland

Table 9 in Appendix 1 compares the proportions of various crime types reported to the police in Northern Ireland (NICS 2001 to 2019/20). As variation in reporting rates are largely dependent on the type of crime in question, any direct comparison between reporting rates should be carried out cautiously given the limitations of the sample size and the apparent year-to-year fluctuations.

- Latest NISCS findings estimate that 45% of all NISCS crime was reported to the police, up from 35% in 2018/19. In terms of comparable crime (a subset of NISCS crimes that are broadly comparable with a subset of PSNI recorded crimes), the reporting rate also increased from 39% to 46% over the same period. For England and Wales, 39% of all CSEW and 42% of all comparable crime was reported to the police.
- Findings from 2019/20 suggest that around half (49%) of household crime and around two-fifths (39%) of personal crime was reported to the police.
- In terms of the crime types covered, burglary appeared to display the highest reporting rate in Northern Ireland (69%), a similar proportion to that in 2018/19 (73%). Estimates suggest that burglary was also most likely to be reported in England and Wales (64% in 2019/20).
- These results may imply that police recorded crime statistics (for the crime types covered by NISCS) may undercount crime in Northern Ireland. Over half (54%) of comparable crimes identified through NISCS 2019/20 were not reported to the police in the first instance. It is also possible that not all crimes reported end up as being included in the recorded crime count. However, the rate of underreporting varies greatly by crime type and is heavily dependent on the nature of each individual incident.

Figure 5.1: Proportions of crimes reported to the police in Northern Ireland by crime type (%), 2019/20



Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20

1. Estimates based on NISCS incidents reported to the police as a proportion of all NISCS incidents.
2. Comparable crime includes NISCS crime types broadly comparable with recorded crime.

5 | Crime Reporting

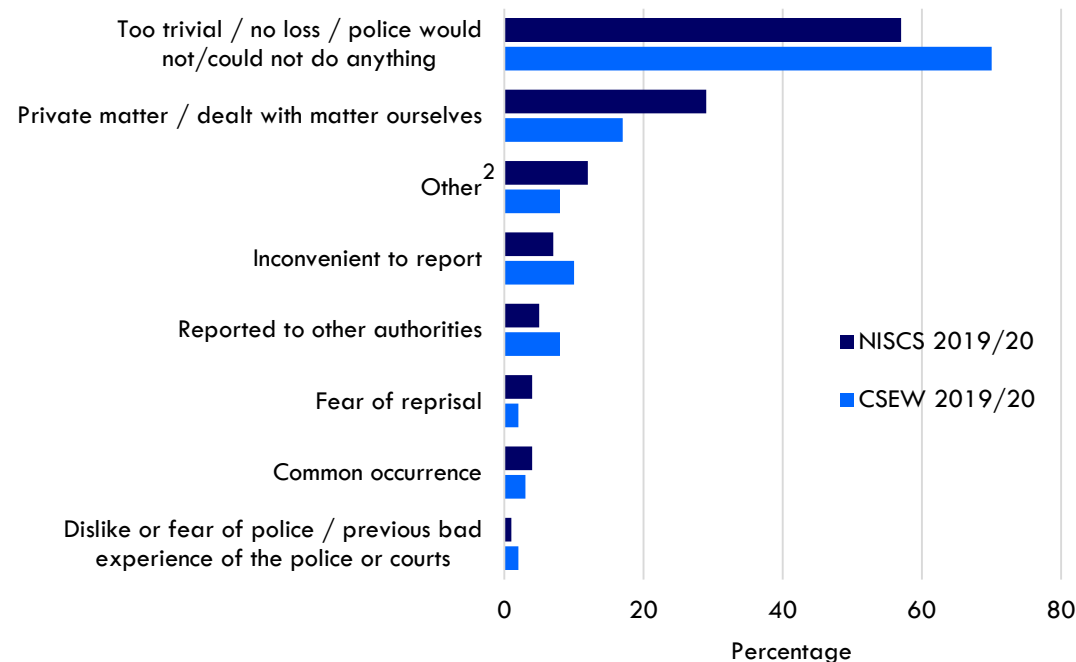
5.2 Reasons given for not reporting crime in Northern Ireland and England and Wales

Table 10 in Appendix 1 compares the reasons given by NISCS (2006/07 to 2019/20) and CSEW (2019/20) victims for not reporting a crime to the police. Victims were able to give one or more reasons.

Overall results from both surveys paint a similar picture as to why victims did not report incidents to the police. Any apparent differences may be reflective of the type of crime experienced.

- ‘Too trivial/no loss/police would not/could not have done anything’ (57%) was the most common reason given by NISCS victims for not having reported a crime to the police. This has consistently been cited as the most common reason since 2006/07. ‘Private matter/dealt with matter ourselves’ (29% in 2019/20) was the second main reason given, again this was the case across many earlier sweeps of the survey.
- Too trivial/no loss and private matter/dealt with matter ourselves were also the main reasons given by victims in England and Wales (70% and 17% respectively, CSEW 2019/20).
- In contrast, among the least common explanations given by victims in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales for not reporting the incident were ‘dislike or fear of police/previous bad experience of the police or courts’ (1%, NISCS and 2%, CSEW), ‘(it’s a) common occurrence’ (4% and 3% respectively) and ‘fear of reprisal’ (4% and 2% respectively).

Figure 5.2: Reasons given for not reporting crime to the police in Northern Ireland and England and Wales (%), 2019/20



Sources: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. More than one reason could be given per incident.
2. See Table 10 for further details on ‘Other’ reasons.

Summary: Crime Reporting

Latest findings estimate that 45% of all NISCS crime and 46% of comparable crime was reported to the police. At 69%, burglary had the highest reporting rate in Northern Ireland. As in previous sweeps, the most common reason cited by victims for not having reported a crime to the police was ‘too trivial / no loss / police would not/could not have done anything’ (57%).

Appendix 1: Tabular Annex

Table 1: Household/adult victims of crime once or more by crime type and confidence interval (%) Northern Ireland (2019/20 interviews)^{1,2}

Percentage of households, victims once or more of:	Best Estimate ³	Lower Estimate ³	Higher Estimate ³
Vandalism	1.8	1.4	2.2
Vehicle vandalism	1.0	0.7	1.3
Other vandalism	0.8	0.5	1.1
Burglary (including attempts)	1.1	0.8	1.5
Burglary with entry	0.7	0.4	1.0
Attempted burglary	0.5	0.2	0.7
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	0.9	0.6	1.2
Theft from a vehicle	0.6	0.4	0.9
Theft of a vehicle	0.1	0.0	0.2
Attempted theft of/from a vehicle	0.2	0.0	0.3
Bicycle theft	0.6	0.3	0.8
Other household theft	1.5	1.1	1.9
Stealth theft from the person	0.1	0.0	0.2
Other thefts of personal property	0.4	0.2	0.6
<i>Unweighted base – household crime</i>	3,710	3,710	3,710
Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:			
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	1.0	0.7	1.4
Theft from a vehicle	0.8	0.5	1.1
Theft of a vehicle	0.1	0.0	0.2
Attempted theft of/from a vehicle	0.2	0.0	0.4
Vehicle vandalism	1.2	0.8	1.6
<i>Unweighted base – vehicle owners</i>	3,019	3,019	3,019
Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:			
Bicycle theft	1.6	0.9	2.3
<i>Unweighted base – bicycle owners</i>	1,215	1,215	1,215
Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:			
Common assault⁴	1.2	0.8	1.6
Assault with minor injury	0.5	0.3	0.8
Assault with no injury	0.8	0.5	1.1
Wounding	0.2	0.1	0.4
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.1	0.0	0.3
<i>Unweighted base – personal crime</i>	3,710	3,710	3,710
ANY NISCS VIOLENT CRIME ²	1.5	1.0	1.9
ANY HOUSEHOLD CRIME ¹	5.4	4.6	6.1
ANY PERSONAL CRIME ²	1.9	1.4	2.4
ANY NISCS CRIME ⁵	6.9	6.0	7.8

Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20

1. Prevalence risks for household crime (vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft) are based on households.
2. Prevalence risks for violent crime (common assault, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury, wounding and mugging) and personal crime (violent crime, stealth theft from the person and other thefts of personal property) are based on adults and are weighted for household size.
3. The best estimate is the mean figure drawn from the sample. The lower and higher estimates are for the 95% confidence interval. There is 95% certainty that the prevalence risk per household or adult lies between the lower and higher estimates.
4. The NISCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the PSNI recorded crime definition no longer includes minor injuries.
5. The Any NISCS crime rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime. It is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Table 2: Household/adult victims of crime once or more by crime type (%) Northern Ireland (2010/11-2019/20 interviews)^{1,2}

Percentage of households, victims once or more of:	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Statistically significant change, 2018/19 to 2019/20 ³
Vandalism	3.7	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.2	2.6	1.9	2.0	1.8	
Vehicle vandalism	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	
Other vandalism	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.8	
Burglary (including attempts)	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.1	
Burglary with entry	1.6	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.7	
Attempted burglary	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	
Theft from a vehicle	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.6	
Theft of a vehicle	0.3	<0.05	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Attempted theft of/from a vehicle	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	
Bicycle theft	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	
Other household theft	2.4	3.0	2.6	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.5	
Stealth theft from the person	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.1	**↓
Other thefts of personal property	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.4	**↓
<i>Unweighted base – household crime</i>	4,081	4,064	4,055	3,598	2,074	1,975	1,877	1,582	3,429	3,710	
Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:											
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	
Theft from a vehicle	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.2	0.3	0.7	0.8	
Theft of a vehicle	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Attempted theft of/from a vehicle	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.2	
Vehicle vandalism	2.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	
<i>Unweighted base – vehicle owners</i>	3,219	3,216	3,222	2,841	1,708	1,601	1,480	1,305	2,788	3,019	
Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:											
Bicycle theft	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.2	1.8	2.1	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.6	
<i>Unweighted base – bicycle owners</i>	1,227	1,206	1,264	1,161	721	671	594	501	1,156	1,215	
Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:											
Common assault⁴	1.6	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.2	
Assault with minor injury	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	
Assault with no injury	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	
Wounding	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.2	**↓
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	
<i>Unweighted base – personal crime</i>	4,081	4,064	4,055	3,598	2,074	1,975	1,877	1,582	3,429	3,710	
ANY NISCS VIOLENT CRIME ²	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5	
ANY HOUSEHOLD CRIME ¹	9.9	8.8	8.0	7.2	7.1	6.8	6.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	
ANY PERSONAL CRIME ²	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.7	1.9	
ANY NISCS CRIME ⁵	12.6	11.2	10.9	10.0	8.8	8.9	8.7	7.9	7.5	6.9	

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2010/11-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19-2019/20

1. Prevalence risks for household crime (vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft) are based on households.
2. Prevalence risks for violent crime (common assault, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury, wounding and mugging) and personal crime (violent crime, stealth theft from the person and other thefts of personal property) are based on adults and are weighted for household size.
3. Statistical significance of change at the 5% level (two-tailed test) is indicated by a double asterisk (**).
4. The NISCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the recorded crime definition no longer includes minor injuries.
5. The Any NISCS crime rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime. It is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Table 3: Notifiable offences recorded by the police: Northern Ireland 2010/11-2019/20

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	% change 17/18 to 18/19	% change 18/19 to 19/20
VICTIM-BASED OFFENCES												
Violence against the person	29,328	30,458	30,304	32,404	34,252	35,684	33,351	34,129	36,425	41,329	6.7%	13.5%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	1,102	998	1,129	1,020	1,161	1,285	1,164	1,198	1,182	1,121	-1.3%	-5.2%
Assault with injury	13,868	14,347	13,481	11,993	12,215	12,660	11,858	11,609	12,206	11,510	5.1%	-5.7%
<i>AOABH</i>	12,237	12,714	11,718	11,209	11,505	11,950	11,223	10,993	11,545	10,950	5.0%	-5.2%
<i>Grievous Bodily Harm and Wounding</i>	795	901	784	771	706	702	618	606	646	543	6.6%	-15.9%
Assault without injury	7,024	7,933	9,078	10,772	11,547	12,379	12,086	12,219	12,318	12,995	0.8%	5.5%
Sexual offences	1,927	1,816	1,933	2,233	2,729	3,030	3,146	3,431	3,536	3,558	3.0%	0.6%
Robbery	1,306	1,221	1,014	958	880	732	653	577	639	631	10.7%	-1.3%
Theft (Including burglary)	38,472	37,270	35,611	36,023	35,444	34,129	30,999	30,220	30,658	29,157	1.4%	-4.9%
Burglary offences	11,849	10,580	9,581	9,067	8,937	8,773	7,125	6,822	6,126	6,078	-10.2%	-0.8%
<i>Domestic burglary</i>	7,081	6,650	5,945	5,753	5,873	5,856	4,714		
<i>Residential</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,999	4,571	4,521	-8.6%	-1.1%
Theft from the person	530	609	661	576	514	558	413	439	499	475	13.7%	-4.8%
Theft in a dwelling (other than from an automatic machine or meter)	550	603	777	719	663	587	522	469	470	471	0.2%	0.2%
Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	1,027	1,058	1,073	1,097	966	718	844	863	833	882	-3.5%	5.9%
Vehicle offences	6,933	6,017	5,339	5,609	5,089	4,924	4,418	3,880	3,661	3,272	-5.6%	-10.6%
<i>Aggravated vehicle taking</i>	250	224	238	178	204	236	218	175	172	199	-1.7%	15.7%
<i>Theft from a vehicle</i>	3,350	3,126	2,770	3,070	2,708	2,671	2,328	2,007	1,817	1,398	-9.5%	-23.1%
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle</i>	2,469	2,066	1,900	1,943	1,684	1,428	1,308	1,242	1,276	1,274	2.7%	-0.2%
<i>Interfering with a motor vehicle</i>	864	601	431	418	493	589	564	456	396	401	-13.2%	1.3%
Criminal damage	24,483	22,758	20,959	19,889	19,830	20,511	19,487	18,278	17,658	18,701	-3.4%	5.9%
Criminal damage to a vehicle	9,170	8,567	8,160	7,339	7,047	7,274	6,906	6,407	5,954	6,117	-7.1%	2.7%
OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY												
Drug offences	3,485	3,780	4,378	4,732	5,048	5,548	5,416	6,437	7,050	7,843	9.5%	11.2%
Possession of weapons offences	741	714	651	727	772	921	890	999	1,061	1,103	6.2%	4.0%
Public order offences	1,682	1,679	1,517	1,536	1,447	1,468	1,215	1,097	1,006	1,299	-8.3%	29.1%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	2,252	2,314	2,191	2,415	2,774	2,903	2,849	2,937	2,821	2,964	-3.9%	5.1%
ALL OFFENCES RECORDED (excluding fraud)	103,676	102,009	98,558	100,917	103,176	104,926	98,006	98,105	100,854	106,585	2.8%	5.7%

Table 4: Household / adult victims of crime once or more by crime type (%) Northern Ireland (2019/20 interviews) and England and Wales (2019/20 interviews) ^{1,2,4}

Percentage of households, victims once or more of:	NISCS 2019/20	CSEW 2019/20
Vandalism	1.8	3.0
Vehicle vandalism	1.0	2.2
Other vandalism	0.8	0.9
Burglary (including attempts)	1.1	1.5
Burglary with entry	0.7	0.8
Attempted burglary	0.5	0.7
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	0.9	3.0
Theft from a vehicle	0.6	2.2
Theft of a vehicle	0.1	0.3
Attempted theft of/from a vehicle	0.2	0.6
Bicycle theft	0.6	1.0
Other household theft	1.5	2.3
Stealth theft from the person	0.1	0.7
Other thefts of personal property	0.4	1.2
<i>Unweighted base – household crime</i>	3,710	33,656
Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:		
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	1.0	3.8
Theft from a vehicle	0.8	2.8
Theft of a vehicle	0.1	0.4
Attempted theft of/from a vehicle	0.2	0.7
Vehicle vandalism	1.2	2.8
<i>Unweighted base – vehicle owners</i>	3,019	27,092
Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:		
Bicycle theft	1.6	2.0
<i>Unweighted base – bicycle owners</i>	1,215	15,283
Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:		
Common assault⁴	1.2	1.2
Assault with minor injury	0.5	0.4
Assault with no injury	0.8	0.9
Wounding	0.2	0.4
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.1	0.3
<i>Unweighted base – personal crime</i>	3,710	33,735
ANY NISCS/CSEW VIOLENT CRIME ²	1.5	1.9
ANY HOUSEHOLD CRIME ¹	5.4	9.9
ANY PERSONAL CRIME ²	1.9	2.3
ANY NISCS/CSEW CRIME ⁵	6.9	13.3

Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. Prevalence risks for household crime (vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft) are based on households.
2. Prevalence risks for violent crime (common assault, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury, wounding and mugging) and personal crime (violent crime, stealth theft from the person and other thefts of personal property) are based on adults and are weighted for household size.
3. The NISCS/CSEW common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the recorded crime definition no longer includes minor injuries.
4. The CSEW rates for other household theft, stealth theft from the person, common assault, mugging, violent crime, any household crime and any personal crime presented in this table have been re-calculated / included for comparability purposes only; they have not been published separately.
5. The any NISCS / CSEW crime rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime. It is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Table 5: Household / adult victims of crime by number of times victimised and crime type (%) Northern Ireland (2019/20 interviews) and England and Wales (2019/20 interviews)^{1,2,3}

	NISCS 2019/20				CSEW 2019/20			
	Once	Twice	Three or more times	Unweighted base	Once	Twice	Three or more times	Unweighted base
Any Household Crime¹	80	11	10	199	80	12	8	3,216
Any Personal Crime²	81	10	9	72	84	10	6	1,080
Any NISCS/CSEW Crime	78	12	10	255	76	15	9	4,050

Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. Rates for household crime (vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft) are based on households.
2. Rates for personal crime (violent crime, stealth theft from the person and other theft of personal property) are based on adults and are weighted for household size.
3. Rates generated from an unweighted base of less than 100 should be treated with caution.

Table 6: Crime incidence rates per 10,000 households / adults by crime type Northern Ireland (2010/11-2019/20 interviews)^{1,4}

	NICS / NISCS									
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Vandalism	473	472	375	297	391	284	341	247	318	267
Vehicle vandalism	262	207	195	170	203	137	170	158	166	146
Other vandalism	211	266	180	128	188	147	170	88	152	121
Burglary (including attempts)	245	207	160	170	154	147	160	95	152	148
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	230	175	143	150	149	162	176	88	73	105
Theft from a vehicle	157	116	86	97	92	132	112	38	58	81
Theft of a vehicle	29	5	27	8	10	5	16	13	9	8
Attempted theft of / from a vehicle	44	54	30	44	48	25	48	38	6	16
Bicycle theft	88	76	91	81	116	91	43	44	44	65
Other household theft	274	379	333	281	313	248	192	272	178	170
Other thefts of personal property	113	124	109	148	117	135	77	130	127	51
Common assault³	208	258	221	123	120	66	192	144	151	171
Assault with minor injury	114	147	74	61	86	41	92	68	64	64
Assault with no injury	94	111	147	61	33	25	101	75	87	106
ALL NISCS VIOLENT CRIME²	341	343	311	186	216	149	258	287	272	208
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME²	1,311	1,309	1,102	978	1,123	932	911	746	764	755
ALL PERSONAL CRIME²	484	507	461	357	366	320	403	438	441	268
<i>Unweighted base - household/personal crime⁴</i>	4,081	4,064	4,055	3,598	2,074	1,975	1,877	1,582	3,429	3,710

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2010/11-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19 – 2019/20

1. Rates for all NISCS crime are not constructed because rates for household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult, and the two are not combined.
2. Rates for violent offences, personal crime and other thefts of personal property are quoted per 10,000 adults. For property offences, rates are quoted per 10,000 households.
3. The NISCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the recorded crime definition no longer includes minor injuries.
4. Publications prior to 2018/19 included equivalent rates for England and Wales (CSEW). Incidence rates are no longer comparable due to a change in methodology used to calculate CSEW rates.

Table 7: Estimated number of incidents of crime by crime type and confidence interval (thousands) Northern Ireland (2019/20 interviews)

	Best Estimate ³	Lower Estimate ³	Higher Estimate ³
Vandalism	20	14	26
Vehicle vandalism	11	7	15
Other vandalism	9	5	13
Burglary (including attempts)	11	7	15
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	8	5	11
Theft from a vehicle	6	3	9
Theft of a vehicle	1	0	1
Attempted theft of / from a vehicle	1	0	2
Bicycle theft	5	3	7
Other household theft	13	9	16
Other thefts of personal property	8	3	13
ALL NISCS PROPERTY CRIME⁵	65	n/a	n/a
Common assault⁴	26	16	36
Assault with minor injury	10	4	16
Assault with no injury	16	8	23
ALL NISCS VIOLENT CRIME²	31	20	42
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME¹	56	46	65
ALL PERSONAL CRIME²	40	28	53
ALL NISCS CRIME⁵	96	n/a	n/a
<i>Unweighted base - household/personal crime</i>	3,710	3,710	3,710

Source: Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2019/20

1. For household crime (including the property crimes of vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related, bicycle and other household theft), the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 736,470 households (household projections).

2. For violent crime (common assault, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury, wounding and mugging) and personal crime (including violent crime and other theft of personal property), the numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 1,497,742 (population aged 16+).

3. The best estimate is the mean figure drawn from the sample. The lower and higher estimates are for the 95% confidence interval. There is 95% certainty that the number of crimes lies between the lower and higher estimates.

4. The NISCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the recorded crime definition no longer includes minor injuries.

5. Confidence ranges (lower and higher estimates) are not given for either all property crime or all NISCS crime because these measures are based on a mixture of rates per household and rates per adult.

Table 8: Estimated number of incidents of crime by crime type (thousands) Northern Ireland (2010/11-2019/20 interviews)

	NICS / NISCS									
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Vandalism	33	33	27	22	28	20	25	18	23	20
Vehicle vandalism	19	15	14	12	15	10	12	12	12	11
Other vandalism	15	19	13	9	13	11	12	6	11	9
Burglary (including attempts)	17	15	12	12	11	11	12	7	11	11
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	16	12	10	11	11	12	13	6	5	8
Theft from a vehicle	11	8	6	7	7	10	8	3	4	6
Theft of a vehicle	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Attempted theft of / from a vehicle	3	4	2	3	3	2	3	3	0	1
Bicycle theft	6	5	7	6	8	7	3	3	3	5
Other household theft	19	27	24	21	22	18	14	20	13	13
Other thefts of personal property	16	18	16	21	17	20	11	19	19	8
ALL NISCS PROPERTY CRIME⁵	113	116	101	96	102	92	88	77	81	65
Common assault⁴	29	37	32	18	17	10	28	21	22	26
Assault with minor injury	16	21	11	9	13	6	14	10	10	10
Assault with no injury	13	16	21	9	5	4	15	11	13	16
ALL NISCS VIOLENT CRIME²	48	48	45	27	31	22	38	43	41	31
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME¹	93	92	80	72	81	67	66	54	56	56
ALL PERSONAL CRIME²	69	73	66	52	53	47	59	65	66	40
ALL NISCS CRIME⁵	161	165	146	123	134	114	126	119	122	96
<i>Unweighted base - household/personal crime</i>	4,081	4,064	4,055	3,598	2,074	1,975	1,877	1,582	3,429	3,710

Source: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2010/11-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19 – 2019/20

1. For household crime (including the property crimes of vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related, bicycle and other household theft), the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by the number of households.

2. For violent crime (common assault, wounding and mugging) and personal crime (including violent crime, theft from the person and other theft of personal property), the numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the adult population.

3. The NISCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the recorded crime definition no longer includes minor injuries.

4. Incidents are presented in thousands. Less than one thousand incidents of attempted theft of/from a vehicle were estimated from the 2018/19 sample and for theft of a vehicle from the 2011/12 and 2015/16 samples.

Table 9: Proportion of crimes reported to the police by crime type (%) Northern Ireland (2010/11-2019/20 interviews) and England and Wales (2019/20 interviews)¹

	NICS / NISCS										CSEW 2019/20
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Vandalism	34	37	57	47	36	43	39	33	30	55	33
Vehicle vandalism	26	26	48	46	26	44	34	32	28	57	29
Other vandalism	44	45	66	48	46	41	44	36	33	51	42
Burglary (including attempts)	67	69	68	62	53	83	57	60	73	69	64
Vehicle-related theft (including attempts)	35	42	48	41	61	38	55	50	32	44	44
Other household theft	24	29	35	45	38	55	33	23	28	37	21
Common assault⁴	36	40	43	40	51	83	38	36	27	40	48
ALL NISCS / CSEW VIOLENT CRIME^{3,5}	46	46	54	51	53	70	47	54	41	42	50
COMPARABLE VIOLENT CRIME⁶	46	45	48	51	53	75	47	55	41	42	50
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME¹	38	40	48	46	44	51	43	36	39	49	39
ALL PERSONAL CRIME²	42	39	46	49	40	44	39	45	31	39	40
ALL NISCS / CSEW CRIME	40	40	47	47	43	48	41	40	35	45	39
ALL COMPARABLE CRIME⁷	44	44	52	46	47	52	45	45	39	46	42
<i>Unweighted base - household/personal crime</i>	4,081	4,064	4,055	3,598	2,074	1,975	1,877	1,582	3,429	3,710	4,850

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2010/11-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19 – 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. The proportion of NISCS incidents reported to the police is calculated from the actual number of incidents (rate multiplied by households / population) and the actual number of incidents reported to the police (rate multiplied by households / population).
2. For household crime (including the property crimes of vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related, bicycle and other household theft), the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by the number of households.
3. For violent crime (common assault, wounding and mugging) and personal crime (including violent crime, theft from the person and other thefts of personal property), the numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by the adult population.
4. The NISCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From April 2003, the recorded crime definition does not include minor injuries.
5. All NISCS violent crime presented here includes common assault, wounding and mugging (robbery and snatch theft from the person).
6. Comparable violent crime includes robbery, wounding and common assault (including attempts).
7. All comparable NISCS crime includes crime types broadly comparable with recorded crime categories (violence, robbery, theft from person, domestic burglary in a dwelling, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, criminal damage to a vehicle and criminal damage to a dwelling). Offences included in Northern Ireland 'all comparable crime' category from 2014/15 differ from those included in previous years. CSEW comparable crime now also includes two offences related to burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse.

Table 10: Reasons given for not reporting crime to the police (%) Northern Ireland (2010/11-2019/20 interviews) and England and Wales (2019/20 interviews)^{1,2}

% saying	NICS / NISCS										CSEW 2019/20
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Too trivial / no loss / police would not/could not do anything	72	70	71	70	77	66	71	51	59	57	70
Private matter / dealt with matter ourselves	22	21	17	19	14	23	25	30	30	29	17
Other ³	6	6	11	7	5	11	8	5	7	12	8
Inconvenient to report	12	15	15	10	13	12	16	9	9	7	10
Reported to other authorities	4	6	5	7	6	9	6	7	5	5	8
Fear of reprisal	6	3	4	6	3	6	2	6	6	4	2
Common occurrence	5	8	8	4	1	9	11	12	7	4	3
Dislike or fear of police / previous bad experience of the police or courts	3	6	3	5	1	2	1	2	2	1	2
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	417	358	301	252	164	124	141	113	233	222	2,828

Sources: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2010/11-2017/18; Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey 2018/19 – 2019/20; Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20

1. More than one response can be given.
2. Percentage based on total number of victims not reporting a crime, excluding 'don't knows' and refusals.
3. This category includes: something that happens as part of job; partly my / friends / relative's fault; offender not responsible for actions; thought someone else had reported incident/similar incidents; tried to report but was not able to contact the police / police not interested; didn't want to get anyone in trouble; consequence to my home life; felt too ashamed to report it; didn't understand it was wrong at the time; other.
4. Some figures from CSEW 2019/20 are included for comparability purposes; they have not been published previously.

Appendix 2: Technical Annex

About the NISCS

Mirroring the format and core questions of the CSEW, the NISCS is an important source of information about community safety issues such as levels of, and public attitudes to, crime and anti-social behaviour. Its results play an important role in informing and monitoring government policies and targets. Within the [Draft 2016-21 Programme for Government](#) (PFG) and the [Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan](#), the Department of Justice will lead on Indicator 1 which reports the 'Any NISCS crime' prevalence rate (referred to in this report as the 'Any NISCS crime' rate following the survey name change). Change in the prevalence rate will be used to quantify progress towards the desired outcome of reducing crime and the harm and vulnerability caused by crime. Findings from the survey will also inform the assessment of the impact of the [Community Safety Strategy](#) (DoJ, 2012) and the [Northern Ireland Policing Board's Strategic Outcomes for Policing in Northern Ireland 2016-2020](#) (NIPB, 2016) and [Annual Policing Plan 2019-20](#) (NIPB, 2019).

An alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the police, the main aims of the NISCS are to:

- measure crime victimisation rates experienced by people living in private households regardless of whether or not these crimes were reported to, or recorded by, the police;
- monitor trends in the level of crime, independent of changes in reporting levels or police recording practices;
- measure people's perceptions of and reactions to crime (for example, the level and causes of crime, the extent to which they are concerned about crime and the effect of crime on their quality of life);
- measure public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system; and
- collect sensitive information, using self-completion modules, on people's experiences regarding crime-related issues, such as domestic violence.

The core modules for NISCS 2019/20 were generally based on CSEW 2019/20. However, some modification has been necessary to reflect local issues and the fact that the smaller NISCS sample size would not have generated robust results for follow-up questions asked of small sub-sections of the sample.

The need for both recorded crime figures and the NISCS

Recorded crime statistics are produced by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in line with [Home Office counting rules](#) and are broadly comparable with those supplied by police forces in England and Wales. They provide year-on-year changes for the full range of notifiable offence categories, typically the more serious types of offence, and, according to the 2019/20 Crime in England and Wales report, provide a good measure of well-reported crimes as well as the less common but more serious crimes (in particular, homicide, which cannot be covered by the NISCS or CSEW), and provide data for smaller geographic areas ([ONS](#), 2020).

While recorded crime statistics do not include crimes that are not reported to the police or that the police do not record, they include a wider range of crime types than the NISCS, including crimes against children, crimes against businesses and many, so-called 'victimless' crimes (such as drug possession offences). For further explanation of recorded crime statistics see the [Police Service of Northern Ireland \(PSNI\) User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#) (PSNI, 2018a).

The level of recorded crime can be affected by changes in both police recording / counting practices and in levels of reporting of incidents to the police. For example, the introduction, in April 1998, of a new system for counting and recording crime resulted in a substantial increase in the number of crimes recorded. Further increases occurred in 2001/02, particularly related to less serious crime, following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

The main CSEW 2005/06 report estimated that 30% of all crimes committed against households and their adult occupants end up in the recorded crime count. The remaining 70% are either unreported or unrecorded and, thus, make up what may be referred to as the 'dark figure of crime' (Walker *et al.*, 2006).

According to [MacDonald](#) (2001), the following factors "might influence the probability of an incident being reported" to the police:

- socio-economic factors relating to the victim (for example, age, sex, location, social class and community background);
- economic or political developments;
- attitude of the victim to the police;
- incident-specific factors (for example, relationship between victim and offender, the gravity of the crime, the likelihood of an insurance claim, whether the crime was witnessed and the time of occurrence); and
- criminal inclinations of the victim.

Due to methodological consistencies between sweeps, and the fact that the data collected are unaffected by police reporting and recording practices, the NISCS has the potential to become a more reliable device for measuring trends for crimes against households and their adult occupants. It would, however, require a much larger sample size to facilitate the tracking of small, statistically significant changes in the levels of particular types of crime. In the past, PSNI recorded crime figures have been used to track progress towards the achievement of crime reduction targets within Northern Ireland.

Recorded crime figures cannot, by their nature, provide an impression of the extent of concern about crime (often described as 'fear of crime') among different sections of the community. Hence, it is necessary to complement the police figures with information drawn from the NISCS, which, for the crime types it covers, provides a more complete measure of the extent and impact of crime against private households and their adult occupants.

In England and Wales, a Data Quality Framework has been produced which addresses the quality and reliability of crime statistics from both sources for different types of crime. However in Northern Ireland, the two sources of crime statistics (police recorded crime and the NISCS) are published separately. Following consultation, it has been deemed best that information on police recorded crime trends, and any changes that may impact upon them, is sourced directly from the relevant police recorded crime reports (available from the PSNI website). In terms of the NISCS, a table has been compiled which gives a high level overview of the reliability of the trend statistics for the main crime types covered. This is available on page 34.

Limitations of NISCS Data

Although the NISCS sheds light on the large proportion of crime not reported to the police:

- its coverage is restricted to non-fatal crimes against private households and their adult occupants (it excludes, for instance, homicide, crimes against children, fraud, crimes against businesses, organised crime and so-called ‘victimless’ crimes);
- it does not facilitate local crime pattern analysis;
- it has not traditionally been carried out annually (but see ‘Frequency and Sample Size of the NICS/NISCS’ section below); and
- it is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors (see [NISCS Quality Report](#) (DoJ, 2019b) for further detail).

Examples of non-sampling errors that respondents may introduce include:

- making up an offence;
- failing to realise that an incident meets the criteria of the questions;
- failing to recall all incidents;
- being unable to remember whether an incident occurred within the reference period; or
- not wanting to reveal their experiences as victims (for instance, sexual offences, domestic incidents and victimisation occurring as a consequence of a victim’s own criminal involvement).

Notably, the NISCS may undercount crimes where the victim and offender know each other, either because respondents do not think of these as ‘real crimes’ or they do not wish to disclose the details to an interviewer.

When measuring victimisation, the coverage of the Crime Survey for England and Wales has been extended to include respondents’ experiences of fraud and computer misuse. The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey has not been extended. Victimisation figures presented in this publication for both Northern Ireland and England and Wales, for example the ‘Any NISCS/CSEW Crime’ prevalence rates, exclude fraud and computer misuse.

Changes to the recall period

In contrast to the 1998 and 2001 sweeps, when ‘fixed’ 12-month recall periods for crime incidents were deployed, respondents to the survey from 2003/04 onwards have been asked to recall all relevant incidents in the 12 full calendar months prior to the month of interview. To ensure consistency between the lengths of these ‘floating’ recall periods, regardless of the date of interview, data on incidents occurring during the month of interview have been removed from consideration.

Since the NISCS 2019/20 fieldwork period covered the 2019/20 financial year, this means that the valid recall periods commenced for some respondents as early as 1 April 2018 and finished for others as late as 29 February 2020 (a spread of 23 months). This makes it difficult to compare the resulting victimisation rates with any specific set of annual recorded crime figures.

This 'floating' approach to the recall period has been adopted for England and Wales since CSEW 2001/02, mainly to facilitate a move to continuous fieldwork. After studying the effects of the two approaches running in parallel in early 2001, the Home Office concluded that the change had little effect on victimisation rates. In addition, by bringing the recall period closer to the date of interview, this new approach should actually increase the accuracy of recall of incidents.

Frequency and sample size of the NICS/NISCS

Initially, the then NICS was conducted on an ad hoc basis, before becoming a biennial survey in 2001. At that time, the Community Attitudes Survey (CAS) was also being conducted on a continuous basis, facilitating annual reports on topics linked to crime, policing and the criminal justice system. Increasingly, however, the CSEW was becoming a key vehicle to track progress against Public Service Agreement (PSA) and other targets related to the criminal justice and health sectors in England and Wales. Hence, interest increased among officials and Ministers in what the NICS had to offer in terms of direct comparison, while, in light of the improved security situation, many of the issues originally covered by CAS were becoming less relevant.

Accordingly, it was decided that a more effective use of resources would be to discontinue CAS at the end of 2003 and to move fieldwork for the NICS to a continuous basis with effect from January 2005. This would facilitate the monitoring of annual trends and more regular direct comparison with England and Wales. It was also decided to increase the target achieved sample size for the NICS from 3,000 to 4,000. This would contribute to increased accuracy of headline results and generate more robust analyses for various socio-demographic characteristics. However, unavoidable budgetary pressures resulted in the need to reduce the target achieved sample size; a moderate decrease was first made in-year 2013/14, from 4,000 to 3,500, with a full sample reduction to 2,000 first being implemented in 2014/15. Following a review of the survey during 2017/18 (details of which can be found on the NISCS section of the [Department of Justice](#) website), the target sample size has been increased with effect from April 2018 onwards. It is anticipated that around 3,500 interviews will now be achieved annually.

Additional information, covering issues such as sampling design and methodology is available within the [NISCS User Guide](#) (DoJ, 2019a) and associated [Quality Report](#) (DoJ, 2019b).

Sampling and fieldwork

The initial NISCS 2019/20 sample consisted of 7,500 addresses, randomly selected from the NISRA Address Register (NAR). The NAR is developed within NISRA and is primarily based on the Land and Property Services (LPS) POINTER database. Visits to each address by an interviewer from the NISRA Central Survey Unit resulted in an eligible sample of 6,576 occupied addresses, from which attempts were made to interview one randomly selected adult respondent at each address.

Selecting only one person at each address means that individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than those living in small households. Accordingly, the data presented in this publication for personal crime (violent and personal theft offences) have been weighted by household size to prevent a bias towards small household sizes.

In January 2005, the then NICS began operating on a continuous basis. This bulletin refers primarily to fieldwork undertaken during the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, which involved 3,710 people aged 16 years and over providing details of crimes against themselves, or their households, during the 12 calendar months prior to the month of interview. This represents an eligible response rate of 56%.

Respondents were assured in advance of the interviews that any information they provided would be treated as entirely confidential and that the level of detail produced in publications or in any subsequent analyses would not allow for identification of individuals. The interviews typically lasted just under an hour for non-victims, although those involving respondents who disclosed several crimes could last much longer.

Demographic breakdown

The following socio-demographic (personal, household and area) groups (listed below) are now presented in the accompanying Microsoft Excel workbook and Open Data Source tables only. Associated confidence intervals are also presented. The first six relate to equality categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

1. religious belief;
2. age (of respondent and household reference person);
3. living arrangements;
4. sex (gender);
5. disability (or illness);
6. household type (child dependants);
7. perceived nationality;
8. housing tenure;
9. type of area (urban / rural);
10. policing district;
11. perceived level of anti-social behaviour in area;
12. multiple deprivation measure rank (MDM 2017); and
13. number of vehicles owned by household.

Rounding, error and statistical significance

Don't knows, refusals and non-valid responses have been excluded from the analyses. Percentages may not always sum to 100 or numbers may not sum to an overall total due to the effect of rounding to the nearest whole number, or because respondents could give more than one response. Figures presented in some tables and the graphs within this bulletin have been rounded. Unrounded figures are available in the accompanying Microsoft Excel and Open Data Source versions of the Tabular Annex.

Because of a combination of both sampling and non-sampling error, any sample is unlikely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population. Estimates drawn from the sample will, therefore, be less precise for infrequent crimes, such as mugging and stealth theft from the person.

Because NISCS estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance.

For the purposes of this bulletin, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these have been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance.

As a result of the sample reduction in recent years, the respective confidence limits of any percentages from the survey were wider than was the case previously and the margin of difference between findings required to achieve 'statistical significance' was widened accordingly. This means that absolute differences in percentages which would previously have been 'statistically significant' with the larger numbers then sampled (and the much narrower range of error for any findings) may not necessarily be found to be statistically significant with the reduced sample size. Rates presented, such as incidence rates and figures for rarer crimes, should also be considered in the context of the sample size.

The Department of Justice does not routinely publish NISCS estimates where the unweighted base is less than 100 cases, therefore findings for some socio-demographic sub-groups (included in the accompanying Microsoft Excel and ODS workbooks) may not be published. Some findings for the socio-demographic sub-groups examined may present as zero but this does not necessarily suggest there was no occurrence of crime in this area or among this group. These findings are based on the selected sample in which none of the respondents in 2019/20 reported having been a victim of the crime type in question.

Further information on the 2019/20 sweep of the NISCS is contained within the NISCS 2019/20 Technical Report (forthcoming, via the Northern Ireland Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-crime-survey>).

Sample profile for NISCS 2019/20

Group	Sub-Group	Unweighted Number	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Sex	Men	1,662	45	46
	Women	2,048	55	54
Age Group	16-24	211	6	9
	25-34	491	13	13
	35-44	597	16	16
	45-54	610	16	18
	55-64	681	18	18
	65-74	653	18	16
	75+	467	13	10
Religion	Catholic	1,523	41	42
	Protestant	1,636	44	44
Area Type	Rural	1,382	37	40
	Urban	2,328	63	60
Policing District	Antrim and Newtownabbey	281	8	8
	Ards and North Down	305	8	8
	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	427	12	12
	Belfast	676	18	17
	Causeway Coast and Glens	296	8	8
	Derry and Strabane	329	9	9
	Fermanagh and Omagh	256	7	7
	Lisburn and Castlereagh	281	8	8
	Mid and East Antrim	261	7	7
	Mid Ulster	255	7	8
	Newry, Mourne and Down	343	9	9
Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank ¹	1 st quintile (most deprived)	727	20	18
	2 nd quintile	747	20	19
	3 rd quintile	751	20	21
	4 th quintile	749	20	21
	5 th quintile (least deprived)	736	20	20
Vehicle-owning households		3,019	81	86

1. Rank order of super output areas (derived from 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measure).

NISCS – reliability of statistics

Crime Type	Against individuals and households	Trend
Violent crime	Reasonably long term trends available from the NISCS for the crime types covered but the sample size, particularly the reduction in recent years, and the relatively low number of respondents who are a victim may introduce volatility into the estimates which should be considered when comparing year-to-year figures.	Since 2001, the estimates showed a general downward trend for over a decade. Findings may indicate a slight increase in recent years however sample size should be considered and it may be the longer term before any emerging change in the trend is evident.
Vandalism	Reliable long term trends available from the NISCS.	Relatively stable in recent years following an overall decrease in earlier survey years.
Vehicle theft offences	Reliable long term trends available from the NISCS.	Following a sharp decrease between 2003/04 and 2005, the rate of decline slowed down thereafter. The lowest estimates have been derived in the most recent survey years.
Burglary	Reliable long term trends available from the NISCS.	Estimates somewhat stable over the last number of years but latest figures shows an overall decrease on earlier survey years.
Other household theft	Reliable long term trends available from the NISCS.	Following an overall downward trend, the latest estimate is one of the lowest derived from the survey.
Other theft of personal property	Reliable long term trends available from the NISCS.	Estimates showed an overall decrease from the early survey years to 2008/09 but were somewhat more stable for a decade or so thereafter. The latest estimate is one of the lowest derived from the survey.
Bicycle theft	Reasonably reliable long term trend information from the NISCS but relatively small numbers of victims means that there can be some volatility in NISCS estimates from year-to-year.	Estimates relatively stable long-term.

Appendix 3: National Statistics Status



National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in July 2020 following a [Compliance Check](#) by the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#). The statistics last underwent a [full assessment](#) against the Code of Practice in 2012/13.

As part of the recent compliance check, we have made the following improvements:

- published a [Future Programme of Work](#) that details the list of developments that the department plan to scope in terms of feasibility of implementation.

Appendix 4: References

Department of Justice (2019a) Northern Ireland Crime Survey User Guide

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-crime-survey-user-guide>

Department of Justice (2016b) Northern Ireland Crime Survey Quality Report

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