



Past achievements and future challenges: estimating crime in the UK context

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The Crime Survey for England and Wales (previously known as the British Crime Survey) is a victimisation survey that measures the extent of crime in England & Wales by asking people in the household population whether they experienced crime in the past year. In 2013/14 the survey interviewed some 50,000 people, including a sample of around 3,000 children aged 10 to 15. While other voluntary household surveys have experienced declining response rates, the survey has managed to maintain a consistently high response rate. The Crime Survey is a valuable source of information for government and a range of users about the extent and nature of crime in England & Wales. Over time it has provided valuable insights into the experience of victims of crime providing a richer source of data than available from official police records. The survey has run since 1982 and employs a standard methodology to produce reliable crime estimates that can be compared over time. However, the changing nature of crime with the proliferation of the internet has posed new methodological challenges. This talk will present an overview of the current methodological design of the survey and its past achievements. The presentation will then discuss the methodological challenges that are currently being tackled to make sure the survey is able to measure more modern forms of crime such as cyber crime.

Keywords: victimisation; survey; methodology; cyber-crime.