

Crime

- Average crime rates are lower in rural areas than urban areas.
- In 2016/17, the rate of violence against the person was 14.1 per 1,000 population in *predominantly rural areas* compared with 22.2 per 1,000 population in *predominantly urban areas*.
- The rate of sexual offences in *predominantly rural areas* was 1.7 per 1,000 population in 2016/17, compared with 2.2 per 1,000 population in *predominantly urban areas*.
- The rate of recorded crime was also lower in rural areas than urban areas for crimes such as robbery, domestic burglary and vehicle offences (theft of, theft from or vehicle interference). For example, there were 3.9 vehicle offences per 1,000 population in *predominantly rural areas* and 8.5 per 1,000 population in *predominantly urban areas* in 2016/17.

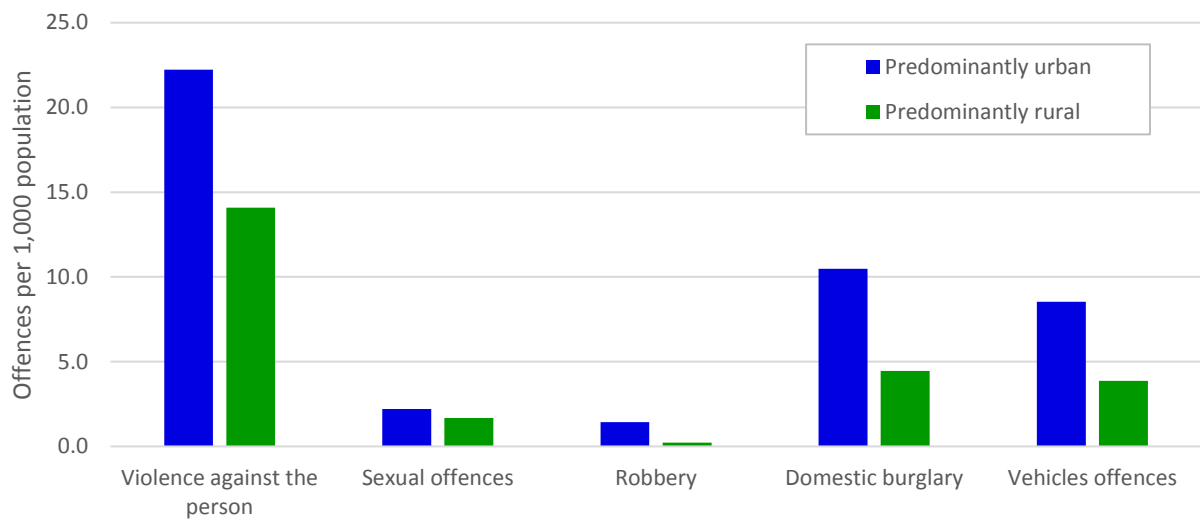
The way crimes are recorded by the police and the likelihood of victims reporting crimes may change over time. Figures on recorded crime may not be a reliable measure of year on year trends.

This analysis compares the rural and urban crime numbers as rates per head of population for only the latest year available. However, the relative differences between crime rates in rural and urban areas have been broadly consistent in previous years.

Further information can be found in the ONS publication 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending June 2017':

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/june2017#latest-violent-crime-figures-continue-to-present-a-complex-picture

Police recorded crime rates per 1,000 population, by offence type and Local Authority Classification, in England, 2016/17



- In 2016/17, the lowest and highest crime rates by offence type were as follows:
- **Violence against the person:** the rate of violence against a person was lowest in *mainly rural areas*, where there were 11.9 recorded acts of violent crime per 1,000 population, and highest in *urban with city and town*, at 22.8 recorded acts of violent crime per 1,000 population.
- **Sexual offences:** the rate of sexual offences was lowest in *mainly rural areas*, where there were 1.6 recorded acts of sexual crime per 1,000 population, and highest in *urban with city and town*, at 2.4 recorded acts of sexual crime per 1,000 population.
- **Robbery offences:** the lowest rate of robbery offences was recorded in *mainly rural areas* at 0.2 offences per 1,000 population, compared with the highest rate of 2.0 which was recorded in *urban areas with major conurbations*.
- **Domestic burglary offences:** the lowest rate of domestic burglary offences was recorded in *mainly rural areas* at 3.8 offences per 1,000 population, compared with the highest rate of 12.2 which was recorded in *urban areas with major conurbations*.
- **Vehicle offences:** the rate was lowest in *mainly rural areas*, where there were 3.3 vehicle offences per 1,000 people compared with 9.7 offences recorded in *urban areas with major conurbations*

Police recorded crime rates per 1,000 population, by offence type and Local Authority Classification, in England, 2016/17

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Domestic burglary	Vehicles offences
Urban with major conurbation	22.2	2.1	2.0	12.2	9.7
Urban with minor conurbation	19.0	2.3	0.9	11.0	7.9
Urban with city and town	22.8	2.4	0.8	8.1	7.0
Urban with significant rural	16.8	1.8	0.4	5.6	4.7
Largely rural	15.3	1.7	0.3	4.8	4.2
Mainly rural	11.9	1.6	0.2	3.8	3.3
Predominantly urban	22.2	2.2	1.4	10.5	8.5
Predominantly rural	14.1	1.7	0.2	4.5	3.9
England	19.8	2.0	1.1	8.6	7.1

Source: ONS, *Recorded crime data at Community Safety Partnership / Local Authority level from 2002/03' – Supplementary Excel tables to 'Crime Statistics, period ending March 2017*, available from:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatatacommunitysafetypartnershiplocalauthoritylevel

Unlike the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or incidents that the police decide not to record. It was estimated in the year ending March 2016 that around 45 per cent of CSEW comparable crime was reported to the police, although this proportion varied considerably for individual offence types. See:

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeinenglandandwalesqmi/pdf

(Section 4, page 5) for more information.

Crime rates are calculated using the mid-year population / household numbers for the year immediately prior to the crime reporting period.