

Crime

- Average crime rates are lower in rural areas than urban areas.
- In 2019/20, the rate of violence against the person was 23.1 per 1,000 population in *predominantly rural* areas compared with 30.4 per 1,000 population in *predominantly urban* areas.
- The rate of sexual offences in *predominantly rural* areas was 2.3 per 1,000 population in 2019/20, compared with 2.7 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 4.3 vehicle offences per 1,000 population in *predominantly rural* areas and 9.1 per 1,000 population in *predominantly urban* areas in 2019/20.

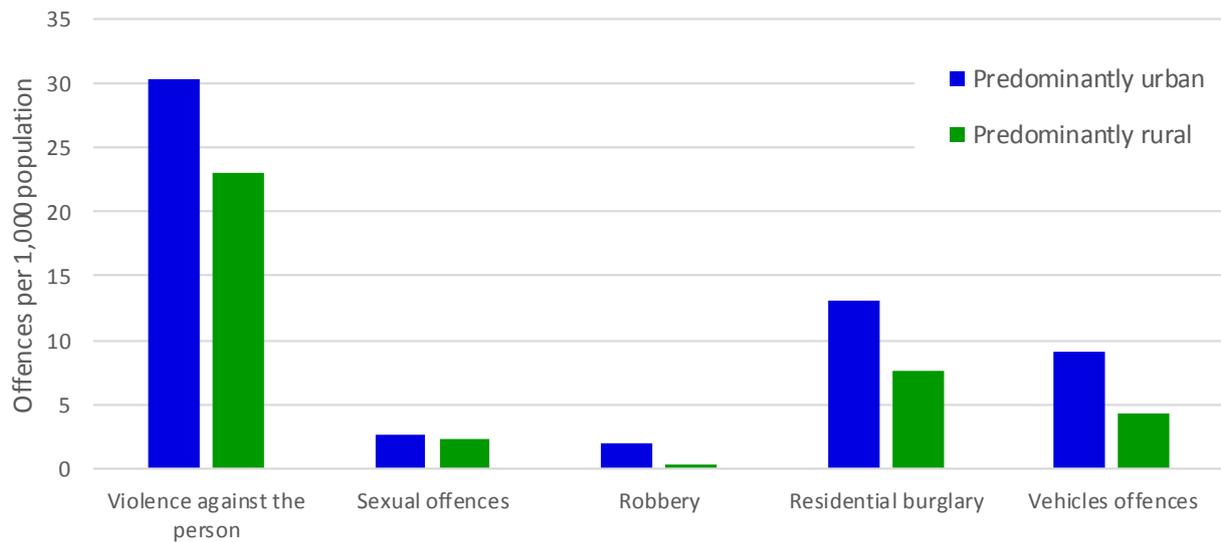
The way crimes are recorded by the police and the likelihood of victims reporting crimes may change over time. Figures on recorded crime may not be a reliable measure of year on year trends.

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 March 2020':

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

Police recorded crime rates per 1,000 population, by offence type and Community Safety Partnership area, in England, 2019/20



- In 2019/20, 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 16.8 recorded acts of violent crime per 1,000 population, and highest in *urban city and town*, at 34.7 recorded acts of violent crime per 1,000 population. This category included two new items for 2018/19, alongside the existing ones of *homicide*, *violence with injury* and *violence without injury*. The two new items were *death or serious injury caused by illegal driving* and *stalking and harassment*.
- **Sexual offences:** the rate of sexual offences was lowest in *mainly rural areas*, where there were 1.8 recorded acts of sexual crime per 1,000 population, and highest in *urban with city and town areas*, at 3.2 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 2.7 which was recorded in *urban areas with major conurbations*.
- **Residential burglary offences:** the lowest rate of domestic burglary offences was recorded in *mainly rural areas* at 4.7 offences per 1,000 population, compared with the highest rate of 15.7 which was recorded in *urban areas with minor conurbations*.
- **Vehicle offences:** the rate was lowest in *mainly rural areas*, where there were 2.9 vehicle offences per 1,000 people compared with 10.4 offences recorded in *urban areas with major conurbations*.

Police recorded crime rates per 1,000 population, by offence type and Community Safety Partnership area, in England, 2019/20

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Domestic burglary	Vehicle offences
Urban with major conurbation	26.9	2.3	2.7	14.4	10.4
Urban with minor conurbation	32.7	3.1	1.2	15.7	8.9
Urban with city and town	34.7	3.2	1.1	11.0	7.3
Urban with significant rural	23.9	2.1	0.5	7.7	4.8
Largely rural	27.2	2.6	0.4	9.9	5.2
Mainly rural	16.8	1.8	0.2	4.7	2.9
Predominantly urban	30.4	2.7	2.0	13.1	9.1
Predominantly rural	23.1	2.3	0.3	7.7	4.3
England	28.0	2.5	1.5	11.2	7.5

Source: ONS, *Recorded crime data at Community Safety Partnership*:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea>

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/crimeinenglandandwalesami/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.