



Home Office

Home Office use of administrative sources for statistical purposes

Home Office Analysis and Insight

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Background

Official statistics published by the Home Office are based on administrative sources where possible, along with data gathered from censuses, surveys and some bespoke data collections.

The UK Statistics Authority actively encourages public bodies to exploit [administrative and management sources for statistical purposes](#) rather than collecting data afresh, to limit the overall cost and burden placed on data providers. Details of administrative sources used for statistical purposes by the Home Office are provided in the overview and table below.

Overview

Crime and policing statistics

Administrative data used for the Home Office's crime and policing statistics are obtained from police forces in England and Wales which is managed as part of a single annual process. This process, the Annual Data Requirement, is a statutory regulation in the Police Act 1996 as amended by the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. It sets out that police forces must supply data as agreed by the Home Secretary each year and is overseen by an internal Policing Data Collection Group, chaired by the Chief Statistician. They consider the burden, statistical and public need, and quality of the data and make subsequent recommendations to the Home Secretary each year.

Immigration Statistics

Immigration statistics provide information on the Home Office's operation of immigration control and related processes and are obtained using data from systems managed by UK Visas and Immigration, Immigration Enforcement and Border Force. Additionally, a linked database that combines immigration status data from Home Office systems and travel movements data provided by carriers is used to produce experimental statistics on exit checks. Statisticians are involved in the development of these IT systems.

Fire statistics

Data from the fire and rescue incidents database (the Incident Recording System, IRS) are a hybrid of administrative data populated from Fire and Rescue Services' (FRS) control systems, and data items entered by the officer in charge at an incident. Data on workforce, pensions, safety and prevention are collected from FRSs annually by Home Office Statisticians. The national IRS dataset and processes are held on a server controlled by the Fire Statistics Team. All sub national statistics and requests for access to record level data are reviewed for disclosure risk, both for whether there is a risk of identifying the location of an incident (e.g. location/address of a property) or by other identifying information, and whether there is any risk that information might then be deduced or matched to other datasets, with particular focus on information about any individual or household.

Animal experiments

Data on animal experiments are obtained via an administrative data collection carried out jointly by statisticians and those responsible for licensing processes and inspections. This collection is underpinned by legislation.

Home Office administrative data sources used in statistical publications

Name of data source	Name of overarching administrative system (if different)	Name of organisation responsible for systems	Main administrative purpose of this source/system	Title(s) of statistical products derived from this Source
Animal Scientific Procedures 'Return of Procedures' annual data collection		Home Office	Data collection to meet requirements of 1986 Act to collect and publish statistical information on the use of protected animals in regulated procedures, and to lay that information before Parliament; to enable the UK to meet data requirements of EU directive	Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals
Homicide Index		Home Office	Record level dataset of every homicide since 1977. Used for statistical outputs as well as front line usage by police forces, National Crime Agency, College of Policing, NPCC Homicide Working Group, internally in the Home Office and by academia.	Homicide in England and Wales, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences (published by ONS). Various academic reports.
Home Office immigration administrative data systems within UK Visas and Immigration, Immigration Enforcement and Border Force	Case Information Database (CID), Home Office Proviso-Central Referencing System (CRS), Trojan, ATLAS	Home Office	Immigration casework administration and monitoring, support of operational and policy management in the immigration system.	Immigration Statistics [quarterly], Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status , data supplied to Eurostat
Football Banning Order Authority database (part of UK Football Policing Unit)			Data on banning orders in connection with regulated international and domestic football matches are collected to inform government policy and operational decisions by the police	Football-related Arrests and Banning Orders (specifically football banning orders)

Police force administrative sources	Data Hub	43 individual police forces plus British Transport Police (where applicable)	Supporting operational and policy management in the criminal justice system	Crime Outcomes statistics Office for National Statistics Crime in England and Wales publications Seizures of Drugs Firearms and Shotgun Certificates Police Powers and Procedures Police Workforce Hate Crime Police use of Firearms Police use of Force Football-related Arrests and Banning Orders
Fire and rescue services incidents	Incident recording system (IRS)	45 individual fire and rescue authorities	Supporting operational and policy management in the fire and rescue system	Fire and rescue incident statistics Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services in England Fire incidents response times Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services, England
Fire and rescue services operational sources		45 individual fire and rescue authorities	Supporting operational and policy management in the fire and rescue system	Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics Fire prevention and protection statistics

Alcohol and Late night refreshment licensing data		350 licensing authorities	Supporting Government policy making and associated decisions about related programmes and projects	Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing
Data on arrests, sentencing, prisoners in custody, use of powers under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act		National Counter Terrorism Policing Operations Centre	Supporting operational and policy management in the criminal justice system	Arrests and Outcomes under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation
Tribunals Service data		Ministry of Justice	Administration of appeal processes	Immigration Statistics
Defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Act		Ministry of Justice	Supporting operational and policy management in the criminal justice system	Immigration Statistics
Exit checks	ISA system (UK Visas and Immigration administrative system)	Home Office	Monitoring of UK arrivals and departures, travel histories and passenger movements, including linkage to immigration records	Report on statistics being collected under the exit checks programme (experimental statistics)

Quality

Responsibility for the quality of the original administrative data ultimately lies with the data providers. However, Home Office statisticians have a key role in identifying quality issues. Every administrative data source used to publish official statistics is quality assured using methods such as variance checks and reconciliation exercises with other data sources, and Home Office statisticians are closely involved in any changes, or discontinuities, in underlying source data. These assurances are in line with the UK Statistics Authority's ['Quality Assurance of Administrative Data' toolkit](#). Additionally, specific internal processes exist for improving the quality of Home Office management information data streams. The quality of the data collection and processing systems is reviewed by the UK Statistics Authority via their programme of assessments.

Access to resulting statistical data in its final form is limited to the statistical teams responsible for production of outputs and those identified on published pre-release access lists. The staff in statistical teams are made aware of their responsibilities to protect data as required under the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Further information and contact details

For more information about the application of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics within the Home Office please see:

[Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics](#)

[Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics – Revisions and Corrections Policy](#)

[Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics – Release practices](#)

Please contact the responsible statistician named in each publication for details on specific administrative sources. Alternatively, the Chief Statistician for the Home Office can be contacted at:

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email: ChiefStatistician@HomeOffice.gov.uk