

Home Office Non-Crime Incidents

Eleanor Ferreira, BA Criminology

My Project involved analysing the level of public initiated contact with the police for non-crime crime issues. I used the Crime Survey for England and Wales and analysed the data on the software SPSS.

Objective

The purpose of the project was to explore the trend of public initiated contact with the police on non-crime issues. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) measures crime by asking members of the public about their experiences of crime. Within the CSEW, Module A focuses on peoples views and attitudes of the police.

Method

I used the CSEW from 2004/05 to 2017/18. From the years 2012/13 to 2015/16 the research question was not included in the survey therefore there is a gap in the data. I focused on one question within Module A which had 18 responses that were all non-crime issues. Some examples of possible responses include; contacting the police for a social chat, informing the police their house was going to be empty or asking for directions.

To clean and analyse the data I used the software SPSS. Variables that were not relevant were removed and missing cases had to be recoded in order for my results to be separated into two distinct categories; yes and no. Furthermore I created four categories of reasons in contacting the police such as "crime", "non-crime", "other", and "lost and found".

I created frequency tables in SPSS which I then imported into Excel where I created pie charts. Some of the data used in this project is unpublished therefore it is not possible to provide a detailed explanation of the project or the results from previous years.

Contact with the police (2017/18)

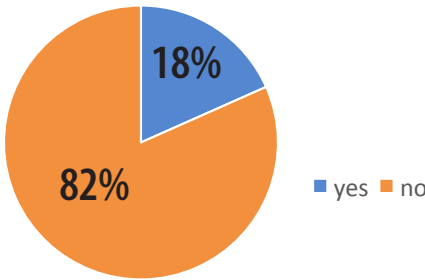


Figure 1 shows out of 8910 respondents 18% (1635) made contact with the police and 82% (7275) did not contact the police.

Respondents who reported crime, non-crime, other or lost and found in last 12 months (2017/18)

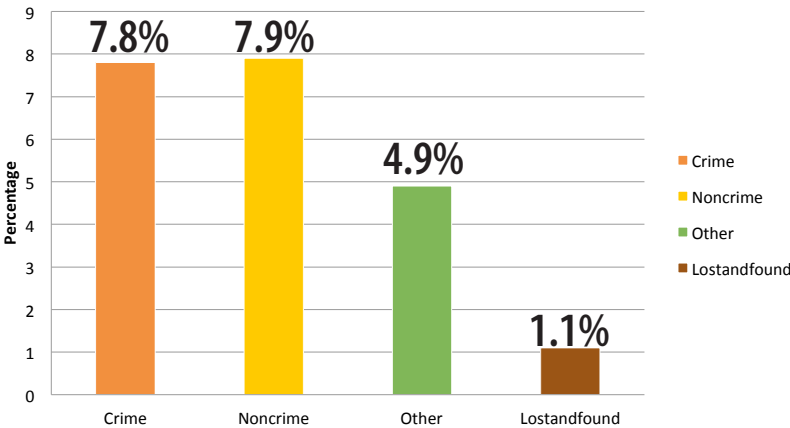


Figure 2 shows out of the 1635 respondents who contacted the police the majority (7.9%) was as a result of "non-crime" issues and only 1.1% reported under "lost and found".