

## Series 41 - Offending, Crime and Justice Survey

**Description:** The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) (also sometimes known as the Crime and Justice Survey), is the first national longitudinal, self-report offending survey for England and Wales. The series began in 2003, the initial survey representing the first wave in a planned four-year rotating panel study. The survey was developed in response to a significant gap in data on offending in the general population, as opposed to particular groups such as convicted offenders. A specific aim of the series is to monitor trends in offending among young people. The OCJS series has been designed as a 'rotating panel' which means that in each subsequent year, part of the previous year's sample is re-interviewed, and is augmented by further 'fresh' sample to ensure a cross-sectional representative sample of young people. The aim of this design is to fulfil two objectives: firstly, to provide a solid cross-sectional base from which to monitor year-on-year measures of offending, drug use, and contact with the CJS over the planned four year tracking period (2003-2006); and secondly, to provide longitudinal insight into individual behaviour and attitudinal changes over time, and to enable the Home Office to identify temporal links between and within the key survey measures.

- **Available years:** 2003-5 (Waves 1-3)
- **Principal investigator:** Home Office. Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. Offending Surveys and Research; AND National Centre for Social Research AND BMRB. Social Research

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### #41:294 – Offending, Crime and Justice Survey 2003-2005

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**Universe:** Persons aged 10-65 years, resident in private households in England and Wales.

**Sample size:** original sample 6,892 (2003), 5,238 by 2005, inc. Young person, ethnic boost.

**Methods:** Face-to-face interview; Self-completion; CAPI, ACASI and CASI used.

**Sample:** Multi-stage stratified random sample; weighting used.

**Fieldwork:** January 2003-July 2003; January 2004-September 2004; 26 January 2005-11 October 2005.

**Geography:** Government Office Regions (GORs); Standard Regions; Police Force Areas.

**Access:** SN 5248 (2003); 5374 (2004); 5601 (2005).

#### Alcohol consumption

**Consumption:** beverage-specific volume and frequency (12mth frequency, usual beverage type (2003, 2004, 2005)).

**Single occasion:** binge-drinking (How often in the past month respondent has had a certain amount of units in one day (2004, 2005)) and drunkenness (12mths frequency of being 'very drunk', age of first drunkenness (18 and younger only), whether drink to get drunk (2003-2005)).

#### **Other drinking**

- Status (Ever, 12mths (2003, 2004, 2005))
- Drinking location/source ((i) location - where usually drinks; how often goes to a pub or bar / nightclub (separately); how often goes to a pub or bar without their parents/guardians (asked of those younger than 17; all 2003-5); and (ii) source - 12mths whether bought alcohol from shop/off-license, 12mths whether

bought alcohol from pub/bar/club (aged 18 and younger); usual source of alcohol, age of friends who buy alcohol for respondent (2003-5), occasions where asked for proof of age (2005); and (iii) location + friends - whether usually goes to a pub/club with friends on evenings or weekends, and whether 'part of a group of friends who call a pub or nightclub their own' (2004, 2005))

- Drinking context (Who respondent is usually with when they drink alcohol, age of the friends respondent usually drinks with (2003, 2004, 2005))
- Timing of drinking (When usually goes to a pub or a bar / nightclub (separately); what time usually leaves at the end of the night when they go to a pub or a bar / nightclub (separately) on a Thursday (2005 only) / Friday / Saturday (separately) night (2004, 2005))
- Age of first drink
- Symptoms of addiction (12mth frequency of feeling out of control after drinking (2003); 12mth frequency of being unable to memory the night before (2003-5); 12mth frequency of not doing what was expected of them (2004, 2005))

### Other alcohol variables

- Reasons to drink (whether respondent feels drinking makes them: more relaxed, forget their problems, more friendly and outgoing; whether drinks to get drunk, whether drinks because friends do (2003-5))
- Cause of harm - social (whether considers alcohol to be the main cause of crime in the country today; how common people being drunk or rowdy in public is in respondent's area - both 2003-5)
- Experience of harm ((i) social - doing things which later regret, getting in arguments (all during or after drinking; 2003-5)), not doing what was normally expected (because of drinking; 2004-5); (ii) personal - 12mth feeling out of control (2003 only), being unable to

remember night before (2003-5); (iii) crime - for each of getting into a fight, broken others' property, stolen something, violence towards (ex) partner - 12mths whether occurred during or after drinking, whether occurred because they were drunk (all 2003-5), whether police were involved on this occasion (2005 only) )

- Drink driving (12mth whether driven when could have been over legal limit - 2003-5)
- Family attitudes (whether parents/guardians know they drink / have been very drunk (separately), how parents feel (would feel) about them drinking alcohol (if they knew) - asked of 18 and under, 2003-5)
- Peers (Whether respondent agrees with the statement that they drink because their friends do (2003, 2004, 2005))
- Advice to cut down (Whether in the past 12mths a relative, friend, doctor or other health worker has been concerned about respondent's drinking and suggested that they cut down (2003, 2004, 2005) )
- Alcohol - misc (respondent's thoughts on what is the most likely thing to happen to an adult who was caught by the police for punching someone else in a pub knocking them out the first time / third time (separately) they were caught doing this (2003, 2004))

### Health status and behaviour:

- Mental health (High)
- Self-reported health (Low)
- Smoking (Medium)
- Drugs (High, inc. whether in the past 12mths respondent has drunk alcohol at the same time as taking any drug )
- Fitness (Low)

### Other variables

- Socialising (Medium)
- Leisure (Low)
- Personality (High)

- Political opinions (Low)
- Use of services (Low)
- Attitude (fear) of crime (Low)
- Perpetrating crimes (High)
- Victim of crime (High)

### **Demographics**

- Material quality of life (Low)
- Income (Medium)
- Household type/composition (Medium)
- Finances/taxes/benefits (High, including in relation to crime)
- Employment (High)
- Education (High)
- Ethnicity and religion (High)

