



Police Numbers & Crime

Do police numbers affect crime rates?

Selected resources from the National Police Library

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Evidence Summaries

Bradford, B. (2011) [Police numbers and crime rates: a rapid evidence review](#). HMIC.

College of Policing (2013) [The impact of police numbers on crime rates](#). What works in policing to reduce crime.

Further Reading

Cowen, N. (2011) [Police reductions could see crime rate surge](#). CIVITAS.

Elliott-Davies, M., Donnelly, J., Boag-Munroe, F., and Van Mechelen, D. (2016) [‘Getting a battering’: the perceived impact of demand and capacity imbalance within the Police Service of England and Wales: a qualitative review](#). *Police Journal: Theory, Practice and Principles*, 89 (2): 93-116.

Kleck, G., and Barnes, J.C. (2014) [Do more police lead to more crime deterrence?](#) *Crime & Delinquency*, 60 (5): 716-738.

Lin, M-J. (2009) [More police, less crime: evidence from US state data](#). *International Review of Law and Economics*, 29 (2): 73-80.

Marvell, T. B., and Moody, C. E. (1996) [Specification problems, police levels, and crime rates](#). *Criminology*, 34 (4): 609-646.

Millie, A. (2013) [Policing task and the expansion \(and contraction\) of British policing](#). *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, 13 (2): 143-160.

Payne, T.C. (2017) [How do you determine the right size of a police department? don't look to crime rates.](#) *Alaska Justice Forum*, 34 (2).

Sindall, K., and Sturgis, P. (2013) [Austerity policing: is visibility more important than absolute numbers in determining public confidence in the police?](#) *European Journal of Criminology*, 10 (2): 137-153. [[Also available from CEPOL Library](#)]

Van Mechelen, D. (2013) [Numbers do matter: the continuing relevance of police officer numbers](#). Police Federation.

Vollaard, B., and Hamed, J. (2009) [Effect of police on recorded crime vs. the effect of police on victimisation of crime: evidence for England and Wales](#). TILEC Discussion Paper, 2009/02.

Vollaard, B., and Hamed, J. (2012) [Why the police have an effect on violent crime after all: evidence from the British Crime Survey](#). Journal of Law & Economics, 55 (4): 901-924.

Yeong, S. (2019) [Effect of police on crime and arrests: Are police deterring or incapacitating criminals?](#) Crime & Justice Bulletin, 223: 1-12.

Statistics and Information

Allen, G., and Jackson, L. (2018) [Police service strength](#). House of Commons Library Briefing Papers, 634.

Crawford, R., Disney, R., and Simpson, P. (2016) [Police officer retention in England and Wales](#). IFS Briefing Note, BN191.

Home Office. [Police Workforce England and Wales statistics](#).

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