

Criminology *Activity 2*

Public perception

The public perception of crime is of interest to criminologists and researchers. Generally, the public will look to media sources such as newspapers and social media to discover information about crime. Therefore, it is interesting to see whether there is consistency between the public perception of crime, crime statistics, and the media representation of crime.

Public perception can be measured in many ways. Here are some ideas below.

1. What do the public think they are most likely to be victim to?
2. Do the public think that certain crimes are rising?
3. Are the public aware of how criminals are being punished for their offences?

As part of your enriching experience, we would like you to identify 3 adults, over the age of 18, that you can interview for around 10 minutes and gather data on the public perception of crime.

You will ask them the following questions and record their answers - you will be asking both open and closed questions. Open questions allow the responder to give a more detailed answer whereas closed questions provide selected and limited responses. It is important before you carry out the short interview that you gain informed consent from the adult. You will need to explain why you want to interview them and what you will be doing with their data. It is important to note that the data should be kept anonymous. You can do this by recording the data as 'adult A', instead of using their real name. If the adult says they are happy to participate in the short interview, you can proceed with the following questions.

- What types of crime do you think you are most likely to be victim to?
- Do you think levels of hate crime are increasing, decreasing, or have stayed the same in the last year?
- Please can you describe any forms of punishment you are aware of that are given to offenders for criminal behaviour.
- Are you aware of any changes to the law or policies that have been discussed in the media recently?

Identify key themes in the answers from your participants and produce a summary of your main findings. Were there recurring themes in the answers? Were there some key differences in levels of awareness?