

HNC @ HOME

2026



Criminology *Activity 3*

You now have the opportunity to see if the media representation of crime matches that of the public perception data you have gathered during the previous task. You can also use crime data collected by the Home Office to see if theft and murder rates are changing, and if any of your participants were able to successfully identify this.

You will need to have access to a local or national newspaper. Ideally this will be in paper form, however all newspapers will have social media pages or websites where articles and news headlines can be gathered.

Read a selection of newspaper articles and see if you can create a tally chart identifying the number/different types of criminal offences reported on. You may wish to select articles from across a range of publications. For example...

Type of criminal offence reported:	Number of times reported:
Assault	II

Read the newspaper articles again and see if you can create a tally chart identifying the different forms of punishments reported on. For example...

Type of punishment reported:	Number of times reported:
Prison sentence of less than 5 years	II
Fine	I
Life sentence	III

Read the newspaper and identify any discussions about changes in the law or formal policy. Make note of the law that is being discussed so you can compare it to the data previously gathered in the enrich task. If no law changes are discussed, this is ok. Follow the links below to the most up to date crime data published by the Home office. Navigate the document to see what information you can gather about levels of hate crime in 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023>

Extension: compare these findings to those from the enrich task. Does the public perception of crime match the media representation and crime statistics?

Write a summary for each of the questions you asked your participants during the enrich task.

For example...

Question 1: What types of crime do you think you are most likely to be victim to?

The data gathered from my 3 interviews showed that theft and assault were crimes the public felt they were most likely to be victim to. After analysing information from a local newspaper, Yorkshire Live, it is clear that there are differences between the public perception of crime and the media representation of crime. Knife crime and cybercrime were most seen in the newspaper. However, there was also a significant amount of violent crime seen in the newspaper.

This would match the public perception that the 3 people interviewed thought they could be victim to a form of assault.