

<b>Cost category</b>	<b>Costs in response to crime</b>
<b>Cost item</b>	<b>Prosecution costs</b>
<b>Definition</b>	Costs of prosecuting an offence type: will include case preparation time, advocate time costs and court appearance time. It will also include the costs of reviewing cases and making decisions about whether prosecution is worthwhile.
<b>Theoretical discussion</b>	
<b>Preferred estimation methodology</b>	Ideally there will be data from a prosecuting body on the average cost of prosecution by offence type. This can be used to infer an average cost per offence committed by dividing the total spend on an offence type by an estimate of the number of offences victims experience.
<b>Comments</b>	Many countries have an independent organisation responsible for bringing prosecutions. Alternative estimation methodology sometimes used is proportion of prosecutions involving offence type $j$ * total prosecution budget / number of offences of type $j$ (est. from survey).
<b>Usage</b>	An average cost per prosecution is quite widely available. Offence-specific data are less widely available.
<b>Offences normally included</b>	applies to all offence types
<b>Formula</b>	average cost of prosecuting an offence of type $j$ (prosecuting agency cost analysis) * no of prosecutions of type $j$ brought per annum / no of offences (est from victim survey)
<b>Data sources</b>	Principally from the organisation responsible for bringing prosecutions. An annual or quarterly report will normally contain data on total spending and the number of prosecutions brought so at least a crude average cost of prosecution costs can be estimated. Courts may well produce data on the number of prosecutions brought through them, and may disaggregate this by offence type.
<b>Example</b>	(hypothetical example)
	500,000 annual expenditure of prosecution agency
	1,000 total number of cases prosecuted
	0.2 proportion of prosecutions involving domestic burglary
	100,000 estimated gross prosecution costs of burglary
	5,000 estimate (from victim survey) of number of burglaries per annum
	20 average cost of prosecution per burglary