

## Emotional and Physical harm

**Cost category** Costs as a consequence of crime

**Cost item** Emotional and Physical harm

**Definition** value of losses to an individual or household resulting from victimisation (typically the pain and suffering resulting from personal injury in an assault but can be psychic loss or PTSD)

**Theoretical discussion** [link to relevant section in Bibliography]

**Preferred estimation methodology** Identify proportion of victims of an offence who suffer a particular type of injury; then use health data to measure cost. If the data do not enable such a detailed analysis then identify proportion suffering different degrees of injury e.g. "serious" or "minor" and use estimates from health sources to value these.

**Comments** Based on application of the Quality-Adjusted Life-Year (QALY) concept developed in the health services literature, and information on the health impacts of violent crimes reported by respondents to crime surveys (e.g. BCS). Alternative is to transfer values used by other government departments: e.g. values estimated by transport departments for serious non-fatal road injuries. Other approaches include use of damage values from jury trials involving similar types of injuries in legal claims in respect of personal injuries

**Usage** Dubourg et al (2005) introduced the use of QALY-based measures for Home Office model. Earlier Home Office model (Brand & Price 2000) used the alternative methodology based on Department of Transport estimates of the human costs of fatal injuries.

**Offences normally included** wounding, robbery, common assault, rape, sexual assault, homicide causing death by dangerous driving.

**Formula** 
$$\frac{\text{proportion of victims of offence type } j \text{ with injury type } k \text{ (victim survey)} * \text{average QALY-loss (from health data) of injury type } k * \text{monetary value of a QALY} * \text{no of households victimised (victim survey)}}{\text{no of offences of type } j \text{ (est from survey)}}$$

**Data sources** Quality Estimates derived from Health services data: distribution of injury types or severity from crime survey data

**Example 1 Human Costs of Homicide**

This is a very real cost for many victims of crime but is often difficult to measure or value  
 One possibility is to use data from private legal actions involving personal injuries  
 Another is to use data from willingness-to-pay studies

The standard UK source of estimates of the value of preventing road accidents and casualties is:  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/ea/pdfeconnote105>

This report includes estimates for 'human costs' as follows:

injury severity	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Average, all casualties
lost output	490,960	18,920	2,000	9,580
human costs	936,380	130,110	9,530	33,360
medical & ambulance	840	11,460	850	1,980
<b>Total homicide</b>	<b>1,428,180</b>	<b>160,490</b>	<b>12,380</b>	<b>44,920</b>

Questions about homicide are not usually included in victim surveys  
 The working assumption is that virtually all homicides are recorded

**example for England and Wales**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/recorded-crime-2002-2007.xls>  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/ea/pdfeconnote105>

recorded offences 2004-05*	1,349
human costs per offence	936,380
<b>total human costs of homicide</b>	<b>1,263,176,620</b>

\* includes offences of:

- homicide
- causing death by dangerous driving or by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs
- causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
- causing or allowing death of a child or vulnerable person

**Example 2 Human Costs of Serious Wounding**

this is an offence type where definitions may vary widely across countries

**example for England and Wales**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/recorded-crime-2002-2007.xls>  
 cost per more serious injury  
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/ea/pdfeconnote105>:

recorded offences 2004-05*	19,612
human costs per offence	130,110
<b>total human costs of offence</b>	<b>2,551,717,320</b>