

Non-Government crime prevention

Cost category	Costs in anticipation of crime
Cost item	Non-Government crime prevention
Definition	The costs of programmes implemented by non-government bodies (such as organisations in the voluntary and charitable sector, residents' associations and neighbourhood watch programmes) to reduce or prevent crime.
Theoretical discussion	[link to relevant section in Bibliography]
Preferred estimation methodology	Product of the amount of time spent by (all) citizens involved in neighbourhood watch (and other) programmes and the average wage rate. This total cost is divided by an estimate of the number of offences of relevant types to get an average cost per offence. Requires detailed data on citizen involvement which may be very difficult to find. Note that the time given by 'volunteer' citizens has a positive opportunity cost which needs to be taken into account. It is time which can variously be valued at the minimum wage rate (conservative) or at an average wage rate (more generous). We note that this category refers in effect to avoidance behaviour by organisations rather than by individuals or households.
Comments	
Usage	normally omitted
Offences normally included	Applies in principle to all offence types of which households may fall victim including burglary, criminal damage, robbery, VAP etc.
Formula	Total cost: amount of time spent by citizens involved in neighbourhood watch (and other) programmes*average wage rate. Average cost per offence calculated by dividing this total cost by an estimate of the number of offences
Data sources	Voluntary organisations do not generally keep managerial type information on things like time inputs so it can be very hard to find relevant data.
Example	-