

Candidate 1 evidence

Research Sheet

[The Guardian view on poverty and crime: speaking truth to Priti Patel | Editorial | The Guardian](#) - Source A

[Crime and income deprivation | Trust for London](#) - Source B

<https://www.davidolsonlaw-firm.com/post/why-is-white-collar-crime-worse-than-street-crime#:~:text=It%20decreases%20income%20rates%20and,their%20crimes%20were%20non%2Dviolent.> - Source C

[White-Collar Crime 2022 - UK | Global Practice Guides | Chambers and Partners](#) - Source D

[White-Collar Crime Statistics | DBT & Partners \(dbtandpartners.co.uk\)](#) - Source E

Public survey

- In your view, is poverty the single most influential factor behind criminal activities?
- Have you personally encountered situations where crime occurred, and poverty was not a primary factor?
- Do you think public opinion on the causes of crime has evolved over the years?
- Do you think there are factors more significant than poverty in causing crime?

Aims

- To find out if poverty is the main cause of crime
- To find out if poverty is not the main cause of crime
- To find out the public opinion

Hypothesis

I believe poverty is the main cause of crime

For my research, I employed a survey to gather public opinions in whether poverty is the main cause of crime. One of the advantages of this method is its adaptability, as it allows me to carry out questions tailored to my aims ensuring the collection of relevant data. Additionally, the use of close ended questions, ensures clear and direct answers. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that this survey did not yield a representative sample of society, limiting the diversity of viewpoints represented. The participants consisted primarily of individuals under the age of 20 and predominantly of white ethnicity. Since the majority of respondents were personally known to me, there is a possibility of response bias, as they may have answered in a manner aligned with my expectations, rather than expressing their genuine opinions or beliefs. Consequently, the accuracy of the results may be compromised. To address these limitations, if I were to employ this method again, I would opt for an online survey platform such as Survey Monkey. This would allow me to reach a more diverse and inclusive range of individuals, thereby obtaining a better representation of societal perspectives.

My second method of research involved using an article from The Guardian website. This approach has several benefits. Articles from reputable news outlets such as the Guardian are authored by professional journalists who uphold ethical standards and fact check their content, enhancing and reassuring the credibility of my research. In addition, online accessibility allows me to access from anywhere with an internet connection, streamlining data collection. This is efficient. A drawback however, is that the article was published two years ago, potentially leading to outdated information in fast changing fields. Also, the complex language used in the article posed comprehension challenges, especially for a young audience such as myself. If I were to use this method again, I will seek articles tailored for general audiences of marked 'easy to understand' or 'beginner friendly'

In source A, a strong argument supporting the link between poverty and crime is that not having enough money for basic needs and lacking opportunities for social and economic improvement can drive criminal behaviour.

Source B which states 'Overall, 52% more crimes were recorded in the most income deprived areas in 2022. Violence, robbery and sexual offences are 2.1 times more prevalent in the most income deprived 10% of areas compared to the least income deprived 10%'

Another argument supporting the link between poverty and crime (source B) is that the vast majority of prisoners in Scotland come from poor socioeconomic backgrounds with underlying causes of offending. According to the Scottish Prison Service 17th prisoner survey, prisoners identify many factors which they felt contributed to their committing offence, some of which relate directly to poverty.

Why poverty isn't the main cause of crime

Source C indicates that poverty isn't the sole cause of criminal behaviour and rather it's just one factor. Low income individuals tend to commit street crimes, while wealthier individuals engage in non-violent white collar crimes like fraud. White collar crimes can be highly damaging and difficult to prosecute due to sophisticated strategies used by offenders. Some argue this is more damaging than street crime.

According to source D, action fraud reported a staggering 36% rise in fraud and related criminal activities in 2021, resulting in over 420,000 recorded offences. This stark revelation underscores the severe impact of white collar crime, highlighting its potential to inflict greater harm than street level crime.

Source E asserts that the United Kingdom is losing around an alarming 190 billion GBP annually due to fraud, emphasising the enormous financial impact of these illegal activities.

My hypothesis was that poverty is the main cause of crime. However, after researching this topic I have come to the conclusion that there are more compelling reasons to support the idea that poverty isn't the sole cause of criminal behaviour and rather just a factor. Firstly, I found that white collar crimes, due to their complexity, can have significant impacts. Secondly, I discovered an increase in fraud cases and white collar crime in the UK, which I believe can be more damaging. My final objective was to find out the public's opinion (employing a survey) the results of the survey suggest the majority of respondents do not view poverty as the sole or the most significant cause of crime. This now backs up my conclusion.