

Three-quarters of British people commit micro crimes

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Photo - Public Domain
(via Klaus Hausmann on pixabay.com)

A new report from a British market research company says there is a "wave of micro crime" in the country.

Researchers from the organisation YouGov said they were shocked by their findings. Matthew Smith, a data analyst at YouGov, said: "Looking around you, you probably wouldn't expect that three in every four people you see are [hiding] a criminal past. Yet that's exactly what is happening as new research...[shows] that as many as 74 per cent of British people are 'micro-criminals' - having [done] at least one very minor or 'micro' crime." The most common crime confessed to by the British public is paying someone cash for services, knowing that the person will not pay tax on it.

YouGov says that men and middle-class people were the most likely to commit these micro crimes. Researchers say 77 per cent of men and 71 per cent of women committed micro crimes. About 80 per cent of middle-class people admitted to committing micro crimes while the figure was closer to 70 per cent for working-class people. The second-most commonly committed crime was illegally downloading or streaming TV shows, movies or music. Slightly fewer than 30 per cent of people said they had done this. Other micro crimes included not paying for plastic bags in supermarkets, lying about your age to get a better deal, and eating things in a supermarket without paying.

Sources: [ibtimes.com](http://www.ibtimes.com) / [news.sky.com](http://www.news.sky.com) / [examiner.co.uk](http://www.examiner.co.uk)

Writing

Discuss three ideas about how to reduce crime. How well would your ideas work?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / market / research / shocked / probably / hiding / criminal / micro / tax / middle class / working class / figure / illegally / movies / music / plastic bags / age

True / False

- A report says there is a wave of micro crime in Britain. T / F
- Researchers were not surprised by their findings. T / F
- The report says three in four British people are hiding a criminal past. T / F
- The most common micro crime in Britain is related to tax. T / F
- The middle class commits more micro crimes than the working class. T / F
- Women commit more micro crimes than men. T / F
- The second most common micro crime was not paying for shopping bags. T / F
- Lying about your age to get a better deal is not a micro crime. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. wave | a. owned up to |
| 2. findings | b. unimportant |
| 3. expect | c. a little |
| 4. minor | d. think |
| 5. likely | e. do |
| 6. commit | f. flood |
| 7. admitted | g. bargain |
| 8. figure | h. probable |
| 9. slightly | i. number |
| 10. deal | j. discovery |

Discussion – Student A

- Why do the middle class commit more crimes than the working class?
- Who commits the most crimes in your country?
- What crimes do you worry about in your country?
- Have you ever committed a crime?
- Is lying a crime?
- What should the punishment be for micro crimes?
- What things would you like to become a crime?
- What questions would you like to ask a micro criminal?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. they were shocked by | a. these micro crimes |
| 2. three in every four people you see are | b. to by the British public |
| 3. having done at least | c. without paying |
| 4. The most common crime confessed | d. or streaming TV shows |
| 5. knowing that the person will not | e. one |
| 6. the most likely to commit | f. to get a better deal |
| 7. the figure | g. their findings |
| 8. illegally downloading | h. pay tax on it |
| 9. lying about your age | i. was closer to 70 per cent |
| 10. eating things in a supermarket | j. hiding a criminal past |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of micro crime?
- Is micro crime different from crime?
- How often do people around you commit micro crimes?
- What kind of micro crimes do people commit in your country?
- Is speeding a micro crime?
- Are you a criminal if you illegally download a song?
- How easy is it to follow the law and not commit crimes?

Spelling

- a British market hsreaecr company
- they were edcskoh by their findings
- you probably wouldn't etcxep that
- hiding a amniicrl past
- at least one very mnoir or 'micro' crime
- The most common crime neoscefsd to
- the most likely to ocmitm these micro crimes
- the irefgu was closer to 70 per cent
- lglaeyill downloading or streaming TV shows
- histlgyl fewer than 30 per cent
- crimes niedcudl not paying for plastic bags
- nilgy about your age

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. d	4. b	5. h
6. e	7. a	8. i	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Corruption

You think corruption is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others what the punishments for these should be and why: slander, house burglary or drugs possession.

Role B – Slander

You think slander is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others what the punishments for these should be and why: corruption, house burglary or drugs possession.

Role C – House Burglary

You think house burglary is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others what the punishments for these should be and why: slander, corruption or drugs possession.

Role D – Drugs Possession

You think drugs possession is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others what the punishments for these should be and why: slander, house burglary or corruption.

Speaking – Crimes

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst crime at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • bank robbery | • corruption |
| • blackmail | • slander |
| • cyber-bullying | • car theft |
| • drugs possession | • house burglary |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.