One weakness of this is that until 2009 the survey only included 16-25 year olds, and even since the changes took place the survey excludes everyone over the age of 25, this is a substantial amount of people and therefore the results cannot be used to represent the crime figures country-wide. As well as ignoring all those over 25, the survey only includes 50,000 households and as a result they do not gather all the crime recorded across the country.

Individuals who take part in the study are asked to recall back over a 12 month period and this is a difficult thing to do as details of instances could have been forgotten in this time and as a result the findings are not accurate to real life. Demand characteristics will also play a part as people are expected to report a crime and may find themselves making a scenario seem more serious than it was or even making up a whole event. This is more likely to be the case with children who are always keen to please those in authority, including children as young as 10 means that the survey is able to cover a larger group of individuals however it can also lead to misrepresentative results.

The results from the official statistics are much lower than that of the victim reports despite the smaller sample size of the victim reports, this shows that not all crime is reported and that the official statistics do not show the true number of crimes committed.

The official statistics are published every year by the home office whereas the Crime Survey of England and Wales only takes place every 2 years, as a result of this every other year’s crime statistics are missing from this survey, any major crimes committed in that year will be disregarded as they do not fall within the 12 month recall period allowed for the respondents. This means that the consistency of results from the Official Statistics is more reliable than that from Victim Reports.

Victim Reports found that there was a 7% increase in crime from 2012 to 2013 and as a result of this the results are more likely to be closer to the Dark Figure of Crime making them more reliable. Despite this, due to bias, demand characteristics and the small sample size the Victim Report still does not provide the true figure of crime.

To get an accurate representation of crime, you must look at several sources and take a lot of data into consideration.