



# Community Safety



## Media Monitor

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### Late January 2021

#### Alcohol and Drugs

##### English and Scottish get drunk most often, 25-nation survey finds

The English and Scottish have topped an international league table of how often people get so drunk that they lose their balance and slur their speech.

The [Global Drugs Survey](#) (GDS) for 2020 suggests the UK's drink problem is far more dangerous than use of any other drug. More than 5% of people under 25 in the UK reported having sought hospital treatment after getting drunk, compared with a global average of 2%.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/25/english-and-scottish-get-drunk-most-often-25-nation-survey-finds>

##### Ministers spurned drug tsar's guidance of £900m funding to tackle misuse

The government's drug tsar told ministers they should find £900m for treatment to tackle drug misuse, the Guardian has learned, before just £80m was [announced this week](#).

On Tuesday Boris Johnson lauded a series of newly announced measures, including £80m for an increase in drug treatment, seen as vital to help break the cycle of drugs and crime but criticised by experts for being ["a drop in the ocean"](#).

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/21/new-funding-to-tackle-drug-misuse-is-820m-less-than-ministers-were-advised>

#### Covid 19

##### Assaults on emergency workers 'most common' virus-related crimes

Assaults on emergency workers made up more than a quarter of Covid-related crimes prosecuted in the first six months of the pandemic, figures show.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said there were 1,688 such offences between 1 April and 30 September in England and Wales.

Many of these involved police officers being "coughed and spat on" by suspected rule-breakers, the CPS said. They were among almost 6,500 crimes related to coronavirus in that period.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55752852>

## **Covid: officials underestimated number of rough sleepers in England needing help**

The number of rough sleepers identified for emergency help during the coronavirus pandemic was eight times greater than official estimates, Whitehall's spending watchdog has found.

Officials working on the Everyone In scheme to find accommodation for those at risk of being left on the street relied on a survey which found that 4,266 people slept rough, the National Audit Office said. But between the end of March when the scheme was launched and November 2020, auditors said that 33,139 people participated in the scheme.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/14/covid-officials-underestimated-number-of-rough-sleepers-in-england-needing-help>

## **Modern Slavery**

### **So long as we blame modern slavery on criminals alone, we'll never tackle the problem**

Modern slavery" is the scourge of our times – a calling card for the prime minister, [a priority](#) for the National Crime Agency and an issue that has gained widespread attention from the media, civil society and politicians. But rather than offering a solution to the problem it seeks to name, modern slavery is a misleading way of talking about exploitation that may help create more problems than it solves. - <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jan/21/blame-modern-slavery-criminals-problem-exploitation?>

## **Domestic Abuse**

### **UK abuse victims given 'Ani' code word to ask pharmacists for help**

People at risk of domestic abuse during the coronavirus lockdown will be able to seek help discreetly by giving a code word to pharmacists, under a UK-wide scheme launched by ministers. - <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/14/uk-abuse-victims-given-ani-code-word-ask-pharmacists-help>

## **Road Safety**

### **Road traffic collisions in London linked to level of neighbourhood deprivation**

New analysis published to coincide with Road Safety Week shows that people living and working in London's most deprived neighbourhoods are twice as likely to be injured in a road traffic collision than the least deprived areas.

<https://londonroadsafetycouncil.org.uk/road-traffic-collisions-in-london-linked-to-level-of-neighbourhood-deprivation/>

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