

Why Victims Do Not Report

Criminal Justice

Reporting as a decision made under constraint, not a default.

Most crime is never reported, and the reasons are patterned.

Reasons for not reporting

Belief that nothing will be done

Fear of the offender or of retaliation

Shame, self-blame or embarrassment

Wanting privacy rather than a process

Previous poor experience of the system

What raises reporting

Insurance or documentation requirements

Serious injury or high financial loss

Confidence that a report is taken seriously

Third-party and anonymous routes

Support available before any formal step

Educational reference. Reporting rates differ enormously by offence, so recorded crime can move without any change in offending.