

Crime in England and Wales 2004/2005

**Sian Nicholas, David Povey, Alison Walker and
Chris Kershaw**

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Chris Kershaw**

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Copies of this and other Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the RDS (CRCSG) Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>

For further information about the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime statistics, please e-mail crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to Strategic Data Flows, RDS (CRCSG), 3rd Floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Contents

	Page
Contents	
List of figures and tables	
Summary	1
Chapter 1 Introduction	7
1.1 Coverage.....	7
1.2 Structure of the report	8
1.3 Guide to tables and figures	9
Chapter 2 Extent and trends	11
<i>Hiren Bhimjiyani and Jonathan Allen</i>	
2.1 Summary	11
2.2 Extent of crime.....	12
2.3 Trends in crime.....	16
2.4 Repeat victimisation.....	19
2.5 Public perceptions	21
Chapter 3 Reporting and recording crime	35
<i>Katharine Thorpe and Chandni Ruparel</i>	
3.1 Summary	35
3.2 The British Crime Survey and police measures of crime	36

	3.3 Reporting crime	37
	3.4 Recording crime.....	42
Chapter 4	Property crime	49
	<i>Krista Jansson, Hannah Roy and Richard Barrett</i>	
	4.1 Summary	49
	4.2 Burglary	51
	4.3 Vehicle-related theft	54
	4.4 Thefts and handling stolen goods.....	58
	4.5 Criminal damage (vandalism) and arson	59
	4.6 Fraud and forgery	61
	4.7 Drug and other offences.....	62
Chapter 5	Violent crime	71
	<i>Kathryn Coleman, Andrea Finney and Peter Kaiza</i>	
	5.1 Summary	71
	5.2 The British Crime Survey and Police measures of violent crime.....	72
	5.3 Extent and trends.....	73
	5.4 Types of violent crime	77
	5.5 Firearm offences.....	81
	5.6 Victim-offender association	82
	5.7 Risks of becoming a victim of violent crime	84
	5.8 Influence of alcohol and drugs	85

Chapter 6	Patterns of crime	91
	<i>Anna Upson</i>	
	6.1 Summary	91
	6.2 Risk of victimisation by region	92
	6.3 Risk of victimisation by police force area	94
	6.4 Victimization in rural and urban areas	97
	6.5 Geographical concentration of crime	98
	6.6 Worry about crime	101
	6.7 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	103
	6.8 Confidence in the local police.....	103
Chapter 7	Detection of crime	115
	<i>Nerys Thomas and Andy Feist</i>	
	7.1 Summary	115
	7.2 Trends over time.....	117
	7.3 Detection method.....	124
	7.4 Basic Command Units	126
	7.5 Detections per officer	126
Appendix 1	Glossary.....	137
Appendix 2	Recorded crime list.....	155
Appendix 3	Bibliography	163

List of figures and tables

Chapter 1 Introduction

Chapter 2 Extent and trends

- Figure 2.1 Percentage changes in the main crime types according to BCS interviews in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04
- Figure 2.2 Percentage changes in recorded crime, 2003/04 to 2004/05
- Figure 2.3 BCS crime and police recorded crime by type of crime, 2004/05
- Figure 2.4 Trends in BCS crime, 1995 to 2004/05 (indexed 1995)
- Figure 2.5 Trends in all BCS crime, 1981 to 2004/05
- Figure 2.6 Trends in recorded crime, 1981 to 2004/05
- Figure 2.7 Percentage change in BCS offences between 1995 and 2004/05
- Figure 2.8 Proportion of victims who were victimised twice or more in the past 12 months, by offence type, 2004/05 BCS interviews
- Figure 2.9 Public perceptions of changing crime levels, 2003/04 to 2004/05 BCS
- Table 2a Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in 2003/04 and 2004/05
- Table 2b Number of crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04 and 2004/05
- Table 2c Proportion of victims who were victimised twice or more in the past 12 months by main offence groups, 1981 to 2004/05 BCS interviews
- Table 2d Worry about crime
- Table 2e Anti-social behaviour indicators
- Table 2f Public confidence in the criminal justice system
- Table 2.01 Trends in BCS incidents of crime 1981 and 1991 to interviews held in 2004/05, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1995, 1997, 2002/03, 2003/04, and 2004/05 interviews

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

Table 2.02	Trends in BCS victimisation rates 1981 and 1991 to interviews held in 2004/05, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1995, 1997, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 interviews
Table 2.03	Trends in percentage of households/adults who were victims once or more, 1981, 1991, 1995, 1997 and interviews in 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 (prevalence risks)
Table 2.04	Recorded crime by offence 1995 to 2004/05 and percentage change between 2003/04 and 2004/05
Table 2.05	Recorded crime and number per 100,000 population for violent crime, property crime and vehicle-related crime
Table 2.06	Number of times victims were victimised, 2003/04 and 2004/05 BCS interviews

Chapter 3 Reporting and recording crime

Figure 3.1	Proportion of BCS estimate of all crime reported to the police and recorded by them (comparable subset of crimes), year to September 2004
Figure 3.2	Reporting rates based on 2004/05 BCS interviews, comparable subset
Figure 3.3	Indexed trends in the reporting and recording of crime, and all BCS crime, 1981 to 2004/05 (1981 = 100)
Figure 3.4	Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police for comparable crime, year to September 2004
Table 3.01	Comparison of the 2004/05 BCS and recorded crime for year to September 2004
Table 3.02	Percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1981 to 2004/05 interviews
Table 3.03	Reasons for not reporting crime to the police, 2004/05
Table 3.04	Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to year ending September 2004

Chapter 4 Property crime

Figure 4.1	Police recorded and BCS property crime broken down by offence, 2004/05
Figure 4.2	Trends in BCS and police recorded burglary, 1981 to 2004/05

List of figures and tables

Figure 4.3	Households most at risk of burglary, 2004/05 interviews
Figure 4.4	Trends in BCS and police recorded vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2004/05
Figure 4.5	Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft, 2004/05 interviews
Table 4.01	Percentage of households victims of burglary by household type
Table 4.02	Ownership of home security devices among victims of burglary and the general population
Table 4.03	Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts by household type
Table 4.04	Vehicle security precautions on cars targeted in thefts
Table 4.05	Location and timing of vehicle-related thefts
Table 4.06	Percentage of adult victims of theft from the person by personal characteristics
Table 4.07	Percentage of households victims of criminal damage by household type
Table 4.08	Percentage of households victims by type of area (ACORN)
Chapter 5	Violent crime
Figure 5.1	All BCS violent crime, 1981 to 2004/05
Figure 5.2	More serious offences and other violence against the person, recorded by the police, 1991 to 2004/05
Figure 5.3	Trends in BCS violence by offence type, 1995 to 2004/05
Figure 5.4	Police recorded and BCS violence broken down by offence 2004/05
Figure 5.5	Recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, 2004/05
Figure 5.6	Trends in BCS violent crime, by type of violence, 1995 to 2004/05
Figure 5.7	Adults most at risk of violence, 2004/05 BCS interviews.
Table 5.01	Number of violent incidents against men and women by BCS typology of violence
Table 5.02	Injuries sustained in violent incidents
Table 5.03	Whether offender/s under the influence of drink and drugs in violent incidents

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

Table 5.04	Proportion of adult victims of violence by personal characteristics and BCS typology of violence
Table 5.05	Proportion of adults victims of violence, by household and area characteristics
Chapter 6	Patterns of crime
Figure 6.1	BCS victimisation rates by region, 2004/05
Figure 6.2	Levels of household victimisation by police force area compared with England and Wales, 2004/05 BCS
Figure 6.3	Levels of personal victimisation by police force area compared with England and Wales, 2004/05 BCS
Figure 6.4	Risk of crime by type of area, 2004/05 BCS
Figure 6.5	Recorded robbery in the ten Street Crime Initiative forces, 2004/05
Figure 6.6	Concentration of crime in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2004/05
Figure 6.7	Worry about crime by region, 2004/05 BCS
Table 6.01	BCS incidents of crime and victimisation rates by police force area and region
Table 6.02	Recorded crime by offence group by police force area and region, 2004/05
Table 6.03	Recorded offences by offence group by police force area and region, numbers per 1,000 population, 2004/05
Table 6.04	Burglaries recorded by the police and BCS rates by police force area and region, 2004/05
Table 6.05	Vehicle-related theft recorded by the police and BCS rates by region and police force area, 2004/05
Table 6.06	Violent crime recorded by the police and BCS, by police force area and region, 2004/05
Table 6.07	Worry about crime by police force area and region
Table 6.08	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour and confidence in the local police by police force area and region

Chapter 7 Detection of crime

Figure 7.1	Overall detection rates, 1988 to 2004/05
Figure 7.2	Detection rates for drug offences, violence against the person, sexual offences and fraud and forgery, 1988 to 2004/05
Figure 7.3	Detection rates for robbery, theft and handling, criminal damage and burglary, 1988 to 2004/05
Figure 7.4	Offences and detection rates, 1988 to 2004/05
Figure 7.5	Maximum, minimum, and national average detection rates among police forces for different offence groups, 2004/05
Figure 7.6	Force detection rates by sanction and administrative detections, 2004/05
Table 7a	Change in the number of offences detected, 2003/04 and 2004/05
Table 7.01	Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2003/04 and 2004/05
Table 7.02	Recorded crime: annual detection rate by police force area and region, 2000/01 to 2004/05
Table 7.03	Recorded crime: detection rate by offence group, police force area and region, 2004/05
Table 7.04	Recorded crime: detection rate by method of detection, police force area and region, 2004/05
Table 7.05	Sanction detection rates for selected offences by police force area and region, 2004/05
Table 7.06	National method of detection by offence, 2004/05

Summary

This bulletin brings together statistics from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and the numbers of crimes recorded by the police to provide a comprehensive account of the latest patterns and trends in the main high volume crimes.

Extent and trends (Chapter 2)

Overall crime has fallen by seven per cent according to the BCS. There has also been a fall of six per cent in the number of crimes recorded by the police in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04.

Chapter 2 provides a summary of the numbers of crimes captured by the British Crime Survey (BCS), and those crimes that are recorded by the police. These are complementary series that together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

- Since peaking in 1995, BCS crime has fallen by 44 per cent, representing 8.5 million fewer crimes, with vehicle crime and burglary falling by over a half (both by 57%) and violent crime falling by 43 per cent during this period.
- Violent crime has decreased by 11 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04. Recorded crime statistics show a seven per cent increase in violent crime in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04, although this increase is partly due to the continuing effect of recording changes.
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 24 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2004/05, representing almost six million fewer victims. This is the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981.
- According to the BCS, the proportion of people believing that crime has increased over the past two years, both in their local area (42%) and in the country as a whole (61%), has fallen compared with the previous year.
- Levels of worry about car crime have fallen compared with the previous year, levels of worry about burglary and violent crime have now stabilised after recent falls.
- The overall level of perceived anti-social behaviour has remained stable over the last year. One in six people currently perceive a high level of disorder in their local area (17%).
- The 2004/05 BCS shows that confidence in the CJS has improved in all areas (where a trend is possible) compared with the previous year.

Figure 1.1 Percentage changes in the main crime types according to BCS interviews in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04

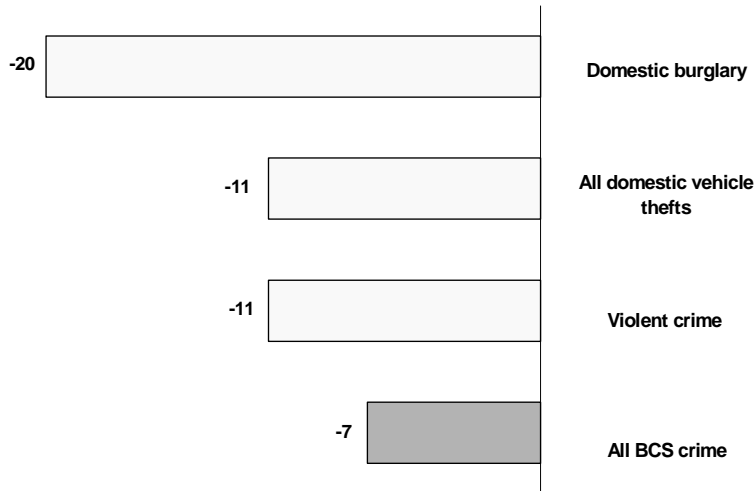
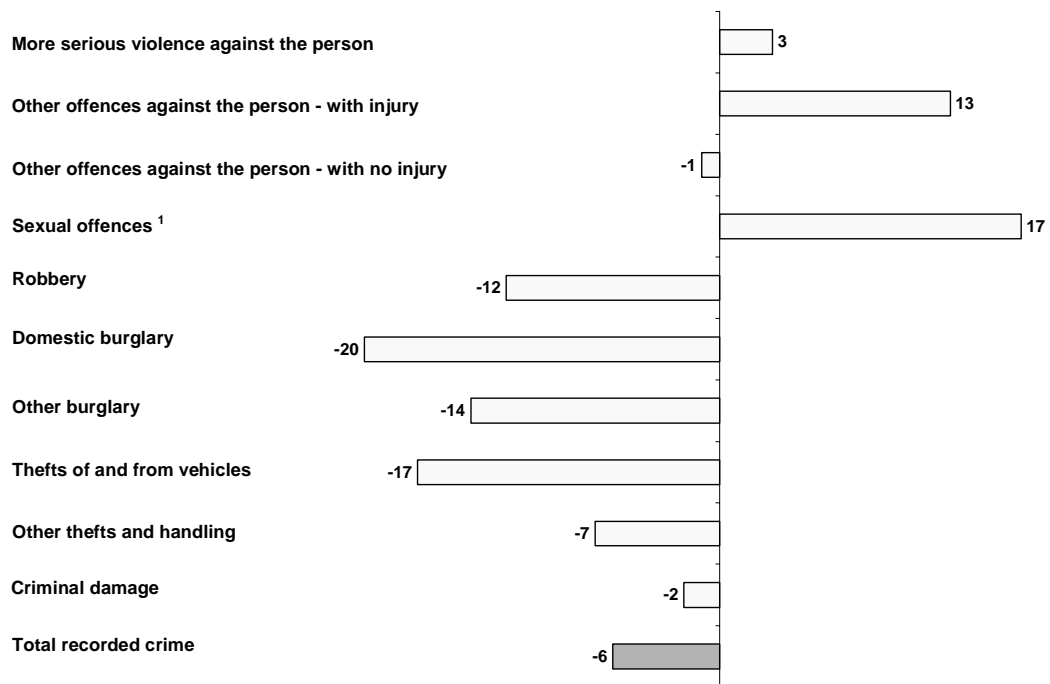
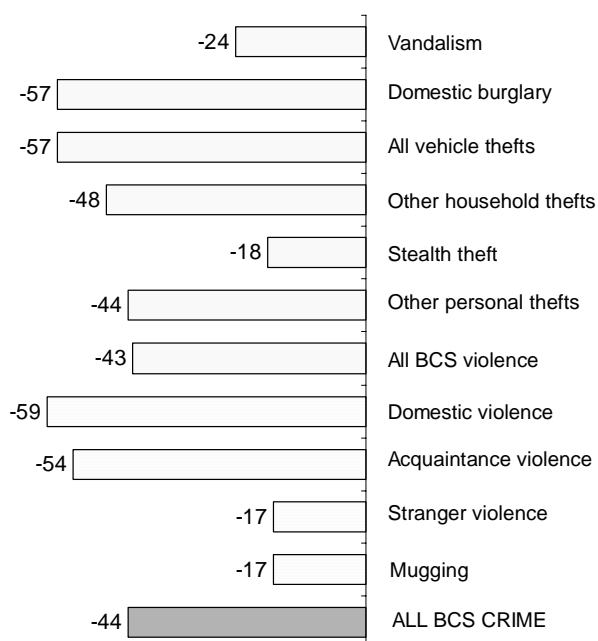


Figure 1.2 Percentage changes in recorded crime, 2003/04 to 2004/05



1. Changes in definition of offences have affected this category, see Chapter 5 and Appendix 2.

Figure 1.3 Percentage change in BCS offences between 1995 and 2004/05

1. Not all crime categories making up all BCS crime are presented individually.
2. The changes in stranger violence and mugging are not statistically significant at the 95% level.

Reporting and Recording crime (Chapter 3)

The rate of victims' reporting of crimes to the police has remained broadly stable since 1997, whereas the rate of recording of crimes by the police has been increasing, especially in the last three years, largely as a result of the national introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

There are differences in the number of crimes that are recorded by the police and the number that are measured by the BCS but, in recent periods, there has been a marked divergence between their trends. Comparisons between the series suggest that the increases seen in recorded crime continue to result largely from changes in recording practice. Although the NCRS recording rule changes were introduced in all police forces in April 2002, it appears that ongoing auditing and improvements continue to cause further inflation in the recording of crimes.

- The estimated recording rate of comparable reported offences increased from 74 per cent in the year ending September 2003¹ to 75 per cent for the year ending September 2004. Police recording of crime is at the highest rate on record and between a quarter and a third higher than in 1981, when the introduction of the British Crime Survey first made this comparison possible.

- The proportion of reported comparable violent crime that was recorded by the police continued to rise from 62 per cent in the year to September 2003 to 67 per cent in the year to September 2004, up from 36 per cent in 1999.
- The public's reporting of crime varies considerably by type of offence. Thefts of vehicles are most likely to be reported (95%), followed by burglaries in which something was stolen (77%). Reporting rates are relatively low for crimes such as common assault, theft from the person and vandalism (34%, 32% and 32% in 2004/05).

Property crime (Chapter 4)

Property crime has fallen considerably since 1995. Overall household acquisitive crime, as measured by the BCS, has fallen by more than half (53%) between 1995 and 2004/05 interviews.

This chapter describes the main types of high volume property crime. The majority of these are acquisitive crimes which comprise both household (burglary, vehicle-related theft and other household thefts) and personal (theft from the person and other thefts of personal property) acquisitive crimes. In addition information on other types of property crimes such as criminal damage are presented.

- Both the BCS and police recorded crime show a fall in the number of burglaries between 2003/04 and 2004/05. Domestic burglaries measured by the BCS fell by 20 per cent. Police recorded domestic burglaries also fell by 20 per cent, and non-domestic burglaries by 14 per cent.
- The fall in vehicle-related thefts since the mid 90s has continued in the most recent period. A fall of 11 per cent was measured by the BCS and 17 per cent by police recorded crime between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- Criminal damage remained stable between 2003/04 and 2004/05 as measured by the BCS. The police recorded a two per cent fall in criminal damage between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- The risk of being a victim of either burglary or vehicle-related theft has halved since 1995 and is much reduced for other property crimes.
- For both burglary and vehicle-related crime, having security measures in place was strongly associated with lower levels of victimisation. For example, while 83 per cent of all homes had window locks in 2004/05, this was the case in only 36 per cent of homes where a burglar got into the property.

¹ See Chapter 3 for explanation of time periods.

Violent crime (Chapter 5)

Violent crime as measured by the BCS has fallen by 43 per cent since a peak in 1995, an estimated 1.8 million fewer incidents.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is considered the more reliable measure of overall violent crime. Police recorded crime is susceptible to recording changes, especially non-serious violent offences which form a large proportion of overall violent crime. The changes have been particularly marked since the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 also led to changes in the definition and coverage of sexual offences, which means figures for 2004/05 are not comparable with earlier years.

- Forty-six per cent of all violent incidents reported to the BCS did not result in any injury to the victim. At least 48 per cent of all police recorded violence against the person involved no injury in 2004/05.
- Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk of being a victim of violent crime; 14.6 per cent experienced a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to their BCS interview in 2004/05.
- There were 1,184,702 violent crimes recorded by the police in 2004/05, an increase of seven per cent since 2003/04. Part of this increase is likely to be due to the continuing impact of changes in recording and more proactive policing to counter violence problems.
- Police recorded robbery fell by 12 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- The number of homicides and recorded firearm offences increased in 2004/05, by one and six per cent respectively.

Patterns of crime (Chapter 6)

Risk of being a victim of BCS crime varied by region. Household victimisation rates ranged from 21 per cent in the North West to 15 per cent in the East of England.

There is considerable variation in patterns of crime across England and Wales. Many of these differences will result from the variation in the socio-economic make-up of these populations, both victims and offenders. The risk of becoming a victim can be very different depending on where you live, your personal characteristics and the socio-economic characteristics of your neighbourhood.

- Personal victimisation rates ranged from eight per cent in London to five per cent in regions with the lowest level of risk, for example the North East.
- People living in rural areas had a lower risk of being a victim of crime than people in urban areas. For example, five per cent of households in rural areas were a victim of one or more vehicle thefts in 2004/05, compared with nine per cent of households in urban areas.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

- The geographical concentration of crime varies between offences. Robbery is one of the most concentrated crimes; 44 per cent of robberies recorded in 2004/05 occurred in just one police force area, the Metropolitan Police.
- In 2004/05 a third of recorded crime BCS comparator offences took place in 40 CDRPs ('High Crime Areas'). The number of recorded crime BCS comparator offences recorded in these areas fell by 11 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05, compared with a fall of five per cent in the rest of England and Wales.
- The proportion of people who were worried about burglary was higher in the regions where risk of being a victim of burglary was greater; London had the highest percentage of people who were very worried about burglary (18%).
- A higher proportion of people living in London perceived there to be high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area than in any other region, 29 per cent of people in London perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour, compared with 17 per cent of people nationally.

Detection of crime (Chapter 7)

There were just over 1.4 million detected crimes in 2004/05. Some other crimes may have had a suspect identified, but not met the definition of detected crime. The number of recorded detections in 2004/05 was up by two per cent on 2003/04 figures.

There have been a variety of changes to the count of detections over recent years. Detection statistics are only one measure of police effectiveness, and it should be noted that detection rates can vary considerably depending on the type of crime and the manner in which a crime is brought to police attention. Not all crimes in which a suspect is identified will necessarily be reflected in the count of detected crimes. Conversely not all detections result in a charge/summons and a court appearance, but for those that do not, the police must still obtain evidence that they consider sufficient to charge and convict.

- The detection rate in 2004/05 increased by three percentage points to 26 per cent.
- The proportion of recorded crimes that were detected through an offender being charged or summoned, cautioned, having an offence taken into consideration, receiving a fixed penalty notice or a formal warning for cannabis possession ('sanction' detections), was 21 per cent; five per cent of crimes detected were 'administrative', that is no further action was taken. The relative weight of sanction and administrative detections varied widely by force.
- There was an increase in the proportion of crimes resulting in a sanction detection between 2003/04 and 2004/05, equivalent to a two percentage point increase in the sanction detection rate.

1 Introduction

This report is the main annual volume in a series of publications produced by the Home Office on the latest levels and trends in crimes in England and Wales. The report is based on two sources of statistics, the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime data. The BCS and police recorded crime statistics are complementary series, and together these two sources provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

1.1 COVERAGE

BCS

The BCS is a victimisation survey in which adults living in private households are asked about their experiences of crimes. It includes property crimes such as vehicle-related thefts and burglary, and personal crimes such as assaults. For the crime types it covers, the BCS can provide a better reflection of the true extent of crime because it includes crimes that are not reported to the police and crimes which are not recorded by them.

The BCS also gives a better indication of trends in crime over time because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, and in police recording practices. The methodology of the BCS has remained the same since the survey began in 1981 – therefore it is the best guide to long-term trends.

As a survey of members of the public living in private households, the BCS does not cover commercial victimisation, e.g. thefts from businesses and shops, and frauds. Another Home Office survey, the Commercial Victimization Survey has been undertaken to capture the extent and costs of crime to the retail and manufacturing sector (Taylor, 2004). Nor does it cover crime against children for methodological reasons. However, the Home Office has conducted a new survey of offending and victimisation which includes young people aged 10-16 (Budd et al. 2005).

The BCS also excludes so-called victimless crimes (e.g. illegal drug use) and crimes such as murder (where a victim is no longer available for interview).

POLICE RECORDED CRIME

Police recorded crime statistics provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, are an important indicator of police workload, and can be used for local crime pattern analysis. However, they do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or that the police decide not to record. Police recording practice is governed by Home Office Counting Rules and the National Crime Recording Standard (for more information see <http://www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html>).

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in all police forces in April 2002 to ensure better consistency of crime recording. In December 2004, the Audit Commission published an assessment of crime recording and concluded that the quality of crime recording by the police had generally improved (Audit Commission, 2004). Police recorded crime statistics, like any administrative data, will be affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. They need to be interpreted in this light, and where appropriate this is commented on in the text.

BCS METHODOLOGY

BMRB Social Research carried out 45,120 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 16 or over living in private households in England and Wales. Interviews took place between April 2004 and March 2005. The sample was designed to be representative of private households, and of adults aged 16 and over living in private households. The overall response rate for calendar year 2004 was 75 per cent¹.

TIME PERIODS COVERED

BCS respondents are asked about their experiences of crime-related incidents in the 12 months prior to their interview. In addition, the respondents are asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police, Criminal Justice System, perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The BCS figures are based on the interviews between April 2004 and March 2005 (BCS year ending March 2005) and incidents experienced by survey respondents in the 12 months prior to their interview, with the estimates centering on March 2004. Averaging over the moving recall period of the BCS generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures for the 12 months up to the end of September 2004.

The police recorded crime figures relate to the crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in the financial year 2004/05.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

Chapter 2 provides information on the overall levels and trends in crimes as estimated by the BCS and recorded by the police. Statistics on repeat victimisation, public perceptions of crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, confidence in the Criminal Justice System and victim and witness satisfaction with the police are also covered in this chapter.

Chapter 3 focuses on comparisons between the BCS and police recorded crimes, including the extent to which crimes are reported to and recorded by the police. Information on trends in reporting and recording crimes is covered.

Chapters 4 and 5 provide more detailed information on property crimes and violent crimes. The chapters examine the levels and trends of different crime types, and the risk of victimisation.

¹ See sample size in the Glossary for more detail.

Chapter 6 focuses on patterns in the levels of crime by looking at the extent to which the levels of crime vary across geographical regions, police force areas and between urban and rural areas.

Chapter 7 provides information on detection of crimes, including issues affecting the interpretation of the detection statistics.

1.3 GUIDE TO TABLES AND FIGURES

'No answers' (missing values) All analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

Percentages

Row or column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding, unless otherwise stated.

Most tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of people/households who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100%, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

Estimates of numbers of incidents are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Weighting All BCS percentages and rates presented in the tables in the substantive chapters are based on data weighted to compensate for differential nonresponse. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

'-' indicates no response in that particular category (the question was asked but no-one chose that category).

'<1' indicates less than 0.5% but not 0 (this does not apply when percentages are presented to 1 decimal point).

'n/a' indicates that the question was not applicable or not asked in that particular year.

'..' for the BCS indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is less than 50, unless otherwise stated. For police recorded crime indicates that the data is not available.

'***' indicates that the change is statistically significant at 5% level.²

'**' indicates that the change is statistically significant at 10% level.

² For more information see 'Statistical significance' and 'Confidence interval' in the Glossary.

2 Extent and trends

Hiren Bhimjiyani and Jonathan Allen

2.1 SUMMARY

- Overall crime has fallen by seven per cent according to the BCS. There has also been a fall of six per cent in the number of crimes recorded by the police in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04.
- Based on BCS interviews taking place in 2004/05, it is estimated that there were approximately 10.8 million crimes against adults living in private households.
- Since peaking in 1995, BCS crime has fallen by 44 per cent, representing 8.5 million fewer crimes, with vehicle crime and burglary falling by over a half (both by 57%) and violent crime falling by 43 per cent during this period.
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 24 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2004/05, representing almost six million fewer victims. This is the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981.
- Property crime accounts for the majority of both BCS and recorded crime (78 and 75 per cent respectively).
- According to the BCS, the proportion of people believing that crime has increased over the past two years, both in their local area (42%) and in the country as a whole (61%), has fallen compared with the previous year.
- Levels of worry about car crime have fallen compared with the previous year, levels of worry about burglary and violent crime have now stabilised after recent falls.
- The overall level of perceived anti-social behaviour has remained stable over the last year. One in six people currently perceive a high level of disorder in their local area (17%).
- The 2004/05 BCS shows that confidence in the CJS has improved in all areas (where a trend is possible) compared with the previous year.
- Violent crime has decreased by 11 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04. Recorded crime statistics show a seven per cent increase in violent crime in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04, although this increase is partly due to the continuing effect of recording changes.
- Almost half of the violent crimes recorded by the BCS and of violence against the person recorded by the police involved no injury to the victim.

2.2 EXTENT OF CRIME

- Based on BCS interviews taking place in 2004/05, it is estimated that there were approximately 10.8 million crimes against adults living in private households. This represents a decrease of seven per cent (almost 0.9 million crimes) compared with the estimate based on interviews in 2003/04 (Tables 2.01 and 2a).
- There were 5.6 million crimes recorded by the police in 2004/05, a fall of six per cent compared with 2003/04 (Tables 2.04 and 2b).

Table 2a Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in 2003/04 and 2004/05

	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	% change	BCS Statistically significant change ¹
Number of crimes (000s)				
Domestic burglary	943	756	-20	**
All vehicle thefts	2,121	1,886	-11	**
All household crime	7,182	6,792	-5	**
BCS violence	2,713	2,412	-11	**
<i>With injury</i>	1,366	1,301	-5	
<i>With no injury</i>	1,347	1,111	-18	**
All personal crime	4,544	4,058	-11	**
All BCS crime	11,725	10,850	-7	n/a
Percentage risk of being a victim once or more				
Domestic burglary	3.2	2.7		**
All vehicle thefts ²	9.7	8.2		**
All household crime	20.0	18.4		**
BCS violence	4.1	3.6		**
<i>With injury</i>	2.2	2.0		*
<i>With no injury</i>	2.2	1.8		**
All personal crime	7.3	6.5		**
All BCS crime	25.7	23.9		**
Unweighted base	37,891	45,069		

1. Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in the number of incidents of all BCS crime.

2. Results for 'all vehicle thefts' are based only on households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

- The risk of being a victim of crime continued to fall from 26 per cent to 24 per cent between BCS interviews in 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- Violent crime has decreased by 11 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04 (Tables 2.01 and 2a). Recorded crime statistics show a seven per cent increase in violent crime in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04, although this increase is partly due to the continuing effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), changes in police priorities and changes in crime reporting levels (see text box on 'Changes in recording practices' and Chapter 5 for further information).

- Within the recorded violent crime category, violence against the person has increased by eight per cent, sexual offences have increased by 17 per cent¹ and robbery has fallen by 12 per cent compared with 2003/04.
- Vehicle thefts have declined, falling by 11 per cent according to the 2004/05 BCS interviews and by 17 per cent according to recorded crime figures for 2004/05 compared with the previous year. Domestic burglary has fallen by 20 per cent according to both police statistics and the BCS measure. The amount of criminal damage recorded by the police has fallen by two per cent.

Table 2b Number of crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04 and 2004/05

Offence group	Number of crimes (thousands) ¹		% change 2003/04 to 2004/05 ²
	2003/04	2004/05	
Violence against the person (VAP)	955.8	1,035	8%
<i>More serious VAP</i> ³	43.9	45.2	3%
<i>Other offences against the person - with injury</i> ⁴	433.4	490.5	13%
<i>Other offences against the person - with no injury</i> ⁵	478.5	472.4	-1%
Sexual offences ⁶	52.1	60.9	17%
Robbery	101.2	88.7	-12%
<i>Total violent crime</i>	1,109	1,185	7%
Domestic burglary	402.3	321.5	-20%
Other burglary	416.3	358.5	-14%
Thefts of & from vehicles	889.2	738.5	-17%
Other thefts & handling	1,379.0	1,289.0	-7%
Fraud & forgery	317.9	278.9	-12%
Criminal damage	1,205.6	1,185.4	-2%
<i>Total property crime</i>	4,610.3	4,171.8	-10%
Drug offences	141.1	142.3	1%
Other offences	74.2	63.9	-14%
Total recorded crime	5,934.6	5,562.7	-6%

1. The figures given in the table are the latest available. Therefore they may differ slightly from figures published in previous bulletins due to revisions submitted by police forces.

2. The percentage changes have not been adjusted for the effects of the NCRS. Improvements in recording practices may have had a continued impact on these figures, particularly on the less serious categories of violent crime and criminal damage. For further information see text box on 'Changes in recording practices'.

3. More serious violence against the person includes homicide, threats or conspiracy to murder, serious wounding and other acts endangering life.

4. Other offences against the person - with injury comprises less serious wounding.

5. Other offences against the person - with no injury includes harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children, and common assault (where there is no injury).

6. See text footnote 1 below.

¹ The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. In particular, indecent exposure is now classified as a sexual offence which is likely to account for much of the increase in sexual offences. Further details of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are given in Appendix 2.

Figure 2.1 Percentage changes in the main crime types according to BCS interviews in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04

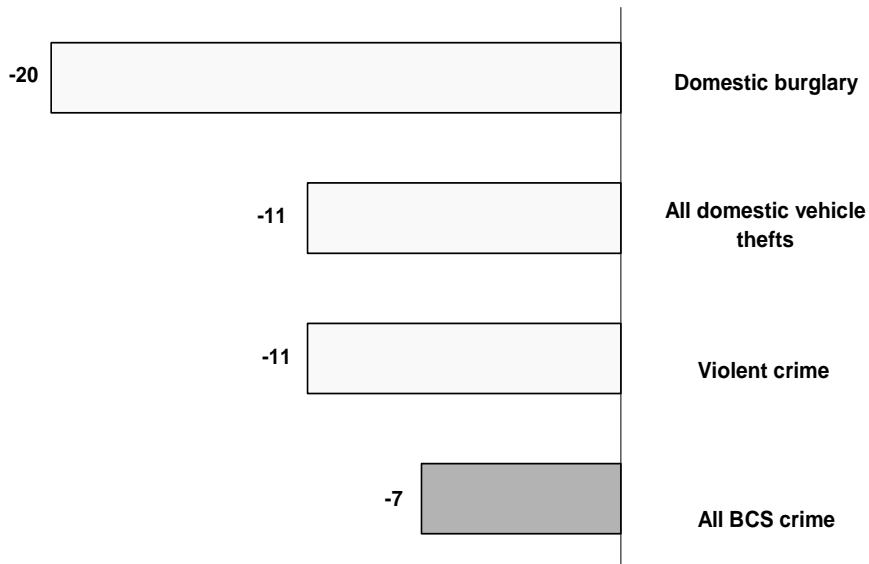
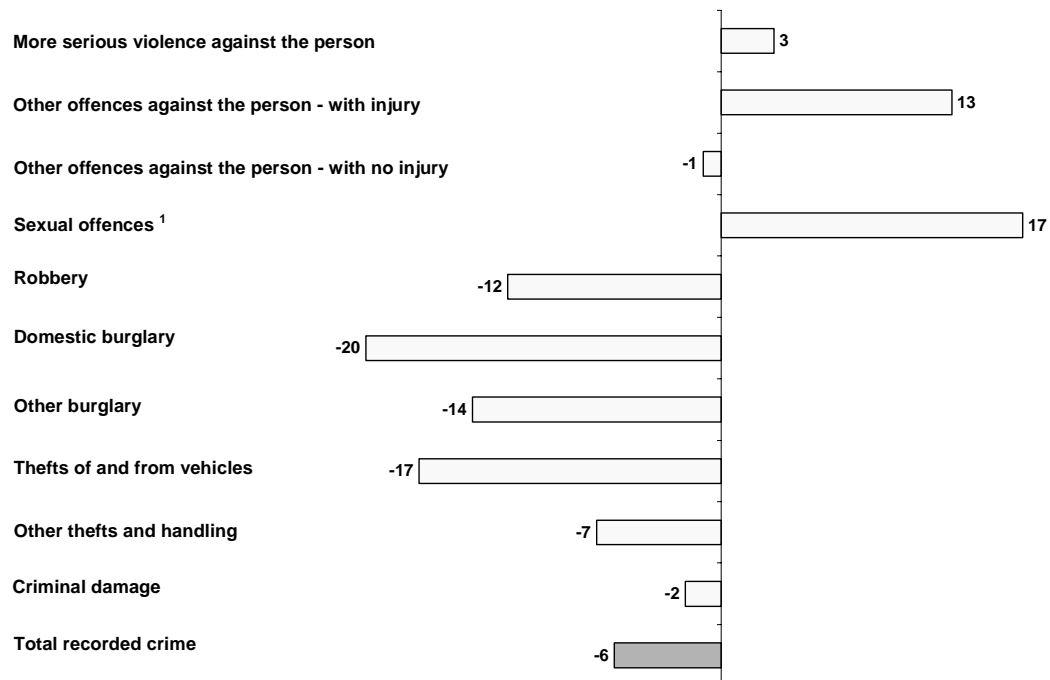
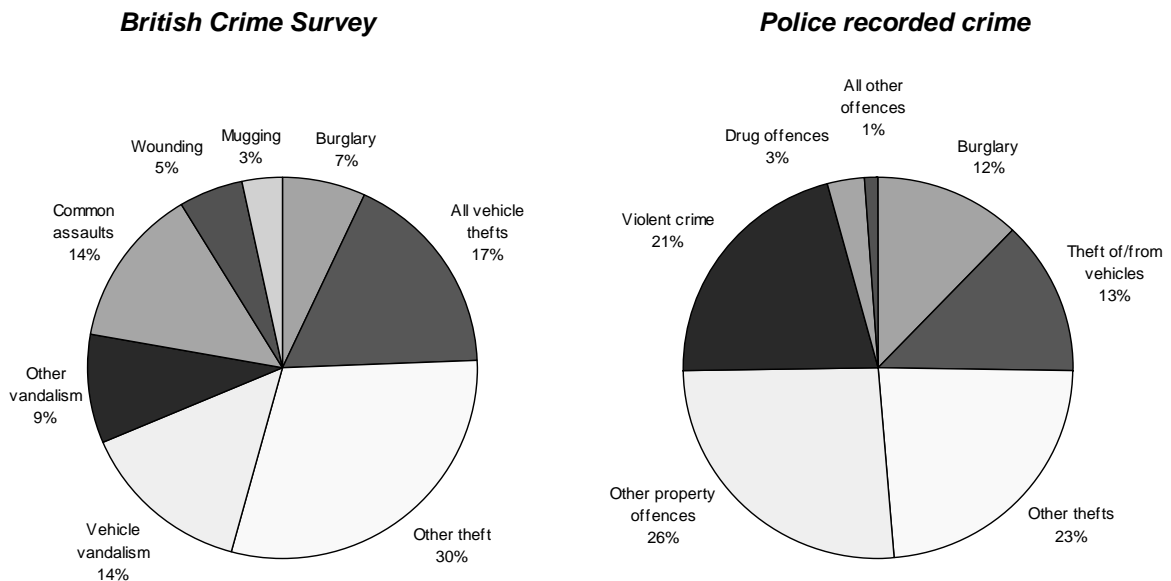


Figure 2.2 Percentage changes in recorded crime, 2003/04 to 2004/05



1. Changes in definition of offences have affected this category, see Chapter 5 and Appendix 2.

Figure 2.3 BCS crime and police recorded crime by type of crime, 2004/05



1. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From 2002/03 recorded common assault excludes all injuries.

Figure 2.3 shows the offence profiles of police recorded crime and BCS crime. Differences in the offence profiles reflect the different coverage of the two series and differences in reporting and recording (see Chapter 3).

- Property crime² accounts for the majority of both BCS and recorded crime (78 and 75 per cent) respectively. All vehicle thefts account for 17 per cent of all BCS crime and theft of/from vehicles for 13 per cent of recorded crime; other thefts account for 30 per cent and 23 per cent of BCS and recorded crime respectively. Burglary accounts for seven per cent of BCS crime and 12 per cent of recorded crime (see Chapter 4).
- Violent crime represented 22 per cent of all BCS and 21 per cent of police recorded crimes in 2004/05. Almost half of the violent crimes recorded by the BCS and of violence against the person recorded by the police involved no injury to the victim³ (Tables 2a and 2b; see Chapter 5).
- Mugging, which is a BCS category comprising robbery and snatch theft, accounts for three per cent of BCS crime while robbery accounts for two per cent of recorded crime (Figure 2.3 and Table 2b).

² Property crime comprises burglary, theft and vandalism for the BCS and burglary, theft, criminal damage and fraud and forgery for recorded crime.

³ The actual proportion for recorded crime may be higher as some offences classified under 'more serious violence against the person', such as threats or conspiracy to murder, may not involve an injury.

British Transport Police (BTP)

The BTP is the national police force for the railways throughout England, Scotland and Wales. They also police the London Underground and a number of local transport systems, as well as railway property (including car parks, stations and shopping/eating areas within them). Crimes recorded by the BTP are shown below for 2003/04 and 2004/05. These figures are shown separately from the figures for the Home Office forces because, for operational reasons, there is a small amount of duplication between the two.

Offence	2003/04	2004/05	% change
Violence against the person	11,554	13,239	14.6
Sexual offences	673	1,100	63.4
Robbery	2,541	2,008	-21.0
Burglary	1,373	1,105	-19.5
Theft and handling	44,865	41,996	-6.4
Fraud and forgery	1,696	1,548	-8.7
Criminal damage	12,937	12,772	-1.3
Drug offences	2,451	3,211	31.0
Other	1,213	1,029	-15.2
Total	79,303	78,008	-1.6

Of crimes recorded by the BTP, over half (54%) involved theft, 16 per cent were criminal damage and 17 per cent were offences involving violence against the person.

Robbery represented three per cent of BTP recorded offences but showed a 21 per cent fall compared to 2003/04 figures. Criminal damage showed a one per cent fall.

2.3 TRENDS IN CRIME

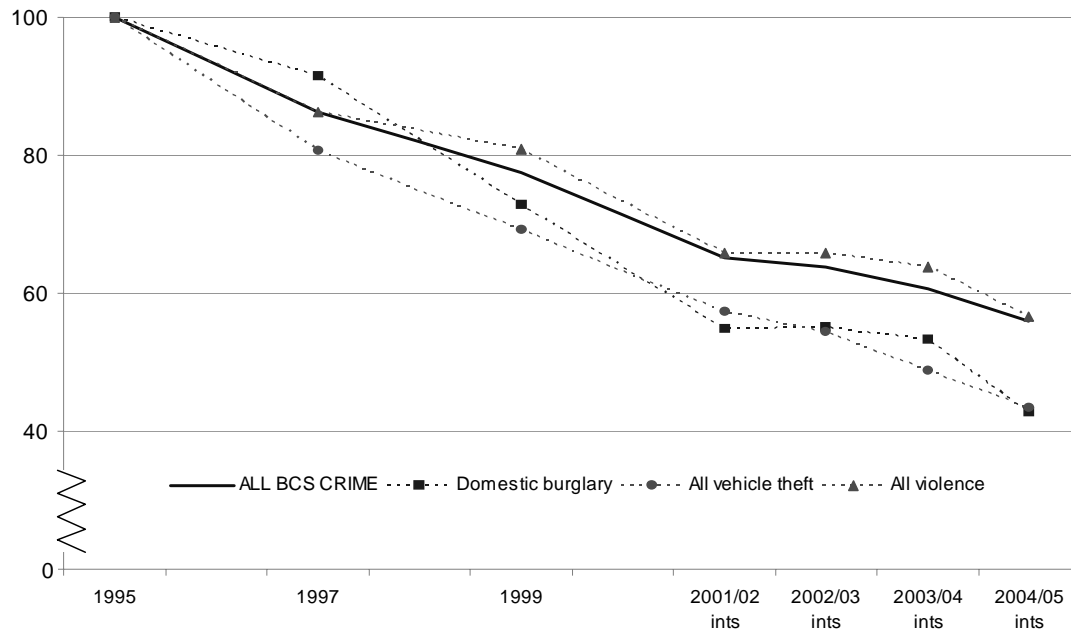
Trends in the crimes measured by the BCS now cover a time span of over 20 years. Nine surveys were carried out between 1982 and 2001; these surveys reported on victimisation in the preceding calendar year. Since 2001/02, interviews have been conducted throughout the year with respondents being asked about crimes they had experienced in the 12 months preceding the interview. The incident recall period for the 2004/05 data is therefore centred around March 2004.

Recorded crime statistics have been collated since 1857 but statistics from 1981 only are used here to enable comparisons to be made with the BCS.

- BCS crimes rose steadily in the decade from 1981, and continued to rise during the early 1990s, peaking in 1995. Since 1995 total BCS crime has fallen each year. In 2004/05 it was 44 per cent less than in 1995, representing 8.5 million fewer crimes, and 35 per cent less than in 1997 (Figure 2.4, 2.5 and Table 2.01).

- The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 24 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2004/05, representing almost six million fewer victims. This is the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981 (Table 2.03).

Figure 2.4 Trends in BCS crime, 1995 to 2004/05 (indexed 1995)



- Recorded crime increased during most of the 1980s, reaching a peak in 1992. Recorded crime then fell each year until 1998/99 when there was a change in the Home Office Counting Rules. Since then recorded crime has increased. However, figures for 2004/05 show a six per cent fall in crime compared to 2003/04. Trends in recorded crime in recent years should be interpreted with caution due to changes in recording practices (see text box on 'Changes in recording practices' and Chapter 3).

Changes in recording practices

Recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. There have been two major changes to the recording of crimes since 1997/98. In April 1998, the Counting Rules for Recorded Crime were expanded to include certain additional summary offences. In April 2002, the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced to ensure greater consistency between forces in recording crime and to take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording (see Simmons et al. 2003 and Chapter 3).

Both these changes resulted in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. Certain offences, such as minor violent crime, were more affected by these changes than others. It is likely there has been some continuing impact on the number of recorded crimes in 2004/05, as a result of audits to further improve recording. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime.

Figure 2.5 Trends in all BCS crime, 1981 to 2004/05

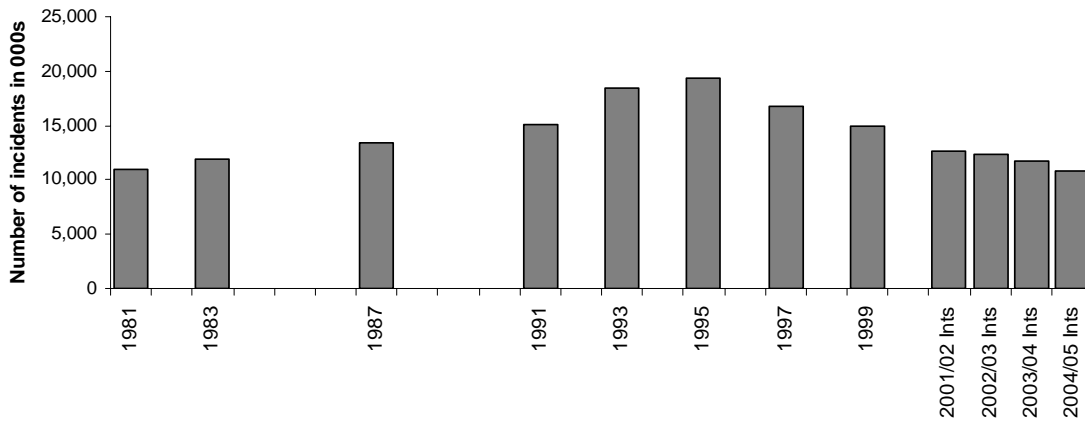


Figure 2.6 Trends in recorded crime, 1981 to 2004/05

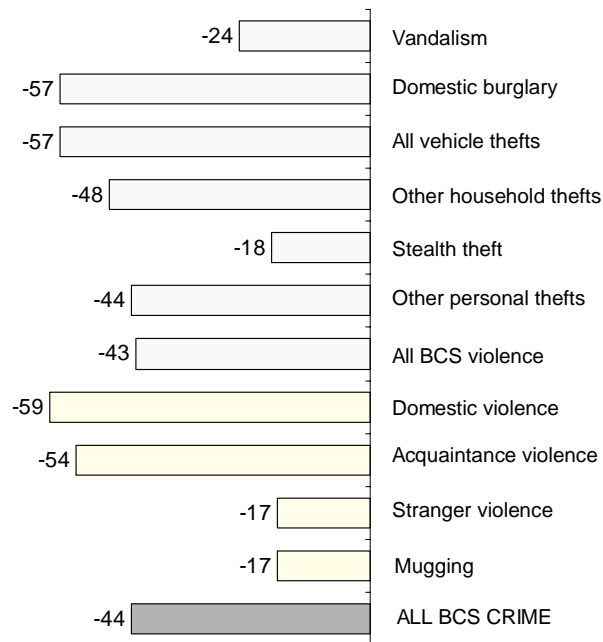


Falls in both household and personal crime have contributed to the decline in BCS crime since it reached its highest point in 1995. More details can be found in Chapters 4 and 5.

- Since 1995, vehicle theft and domestic burglary have each fallen by over a half (both by 57%), and vandalism has fallen by 24 per cent, according to the BCS. Other thefts of personal property have fallen by 44 per cent since 1995 (Table 2.01 and Figure 2.7).
- The BCS shows violent crime has fallen by 43 per cent, with common assault falling by 49 per cent since 1995 (Table 2.01 and Figure 2.7).
- The number of burglaries recorded by the police has fallen by 45 per cent and theft of/from vehicles has fallen by 44 per cent since 1995. Over the same period there has been a marked increase in recorded violent crime, which was particularly affected by changes in recording practices in 1998 and 2002 (Table 2.04 and text box on 'Changes in recording

practices'). Recorded robbery, however, has fallen in the last two years, following a marked increase between 1997/8 and 2001/02.

Figure 2.7 Percentage change in BCS offences between 1995 and 2004/05

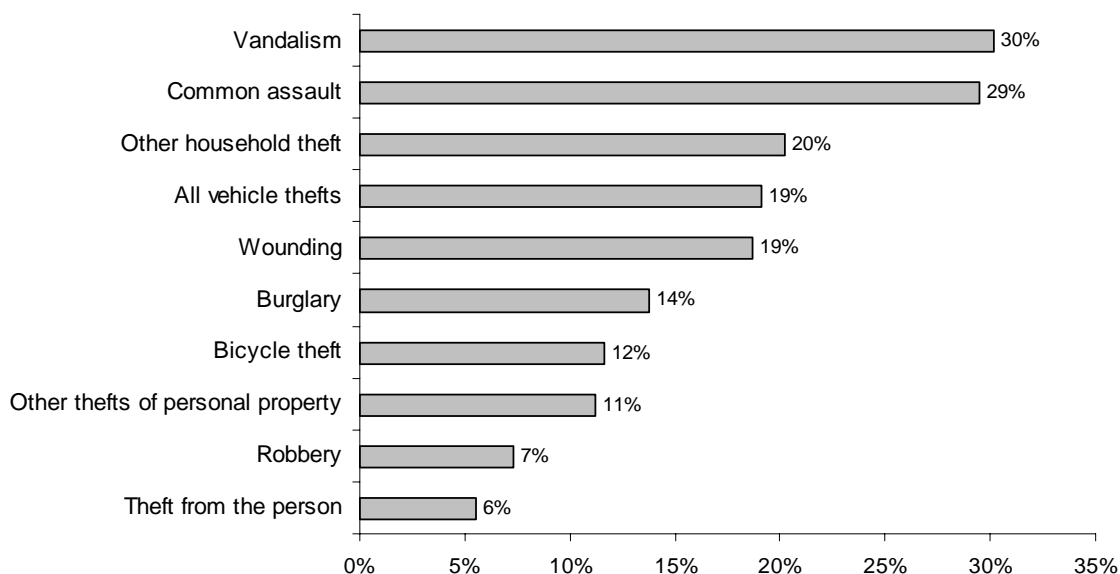


1. Not all crime categories making up all BCS crime are presented individually.
2. The changes in stranger violence and mugging are not statistically significant at the 95% level.

2.4 REPEAT VICTIMISATION

Repeat victimisation accounts for the differences between incidence rates (total numbers of offences) and prevalence rates (the proportion of the population victimised once or more). High levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in relatively lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rates. Repeat victimisation is defined here as those victims of a particular offence or group of offences who are victims of the same offence or group of offences two or more times within the same year.

Figure 2.8 Proportion of victims who were victimised twice or more in the past 12 months by offence type, 2004/05 BCS interviews



- BCS interviews for 2004/05 indicated that victims of vandalism (30%) and violence (26%) were most likely to suffer repeat victimisation (Figure 2.8; Table 2.06).
- Twenty-six per cent of vehicle vandalism victims and 29 per cent of all other vandalism victims were victims twice or more in the 12-month period (Table 2.06).
- Of all violence, domestic violence had the highest rate of repeat victimisation, with 46 per cent of victims being victimised twice or more, and almost one in four (24%) being victimised three or more times (Table 2.06; see Chapter 5 for more details). Theft from the person had the lowest repeat victimisation rates, with six per cent of victims being victimised more than once in a 12-month period.
- The proportions of victims experiencing repeat victimisation by offence or offence type according to 2004/05 BCS interviews do not differ largely from those found in the 2003/04 BCS.

Table 2c Proportion of victims who were victimised twice or more in the past 12 months by main offence groups, 1981 to 2004/05 BCS interviews

Percentages										BCS
	1981	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	Unweighted base
Vandalism	33	31	30	33	31	32	30	29	30	3,112
Burglary	13	16	19	19	20	15	18	16	14	1,107
Vehicle thefts	21	25	28	24	25	21	19	19	19	2,662
All BCS violence	27	32	37	32	35	33	28	26	26	1,351

1. Base numbers for the interview years 2001/02 to 2003/04 are similar to current base numbers. Prior to this base numbers are between a quarter and a half of those shown.

- Levels of repeat victimisation for vehicle thefts and violent crime remain at their lowest since first measured by the BCS in 1981, following somewhat higher levels during the mid to late 1990s (Table 2c). Levels of repeat victimisation for burglary show a similar pattern. However, the variations seen are not as large or as consistent as those seen in the fall in numbers of crimes.
- These trends suggest that a small proportion of the fall in the numbers of crimes since 1995 may be attributed to declines in repeat victimisation.

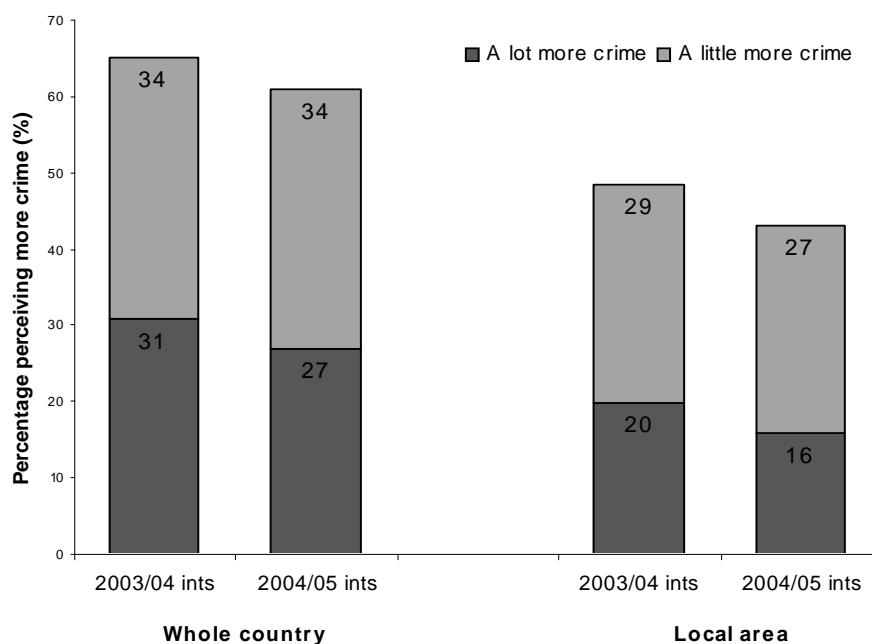
2.5 PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

Perceptions of changing crime levels

The BCS asks respondents how they think the level of crime in the country as a whole and the level of crime in their local area have changed over the previous two years. The proportions of people believing crime to have increased for each measure has fallen compared with 2003/04, continuing the fall from the previous year. However, figures still remain comparatively high.

- Sixty-one per cent of the public thought crime in the country as a whole had increased in the previous two years, with a little over a quarter (27%) believing that crime had risen 'a lot'. This is despite the total number of crimes estimated by the BCS falling over recent years (Figure 2.4). However, these proportions are lower than for 2003/04 (65% and 31% respectively; Figure 2.9).
- As has been found previously from the survey, people continue to show more positive perceptions of crime in their *own* area than nationally. Under a half (42%) of the public thought that local crime had increased, with one in six (16%) believing that local crime had increased 'a lot'. Again, these findings have fallen compared with 2003/04 and 2002/03.

Figure 2.9 Public perceptions of changing crime levels, 2003/04 to 2004/05 BCS



Fear of crime

The 2004/05 BCS shows that worry about car crime (13%) has fallen compared with the previous year (15%), however worry about burglary and violent crime has remained stable, with similar proportions of people with high levels of worry about these crimes as in 2003/04.

- Previously, worry about crime fell steadily from 1998 to 2003/04 for violent crime and car crime, and since 1994 for burglary (Table 2d).
- Worry about each of these three crime types has fallen by approximately one third since 2000. Worry about burglary is now less than half the level in 1994, reflecting the similar fall in actual incidence of burglary over this period.

Table 2d Worry about crime

Percentage very worried	BCS									
	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05
High level of worry about ¹ :										
Burglary	19	26	22	19	19	15	15	13	12	
Car crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	21	17	17	15	13	**
Violent crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	24	22	21	16	16	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	10,044	14,502	7,973	14,925	19,388	8,964	36,479	37,891	45,069	

1. See Glossary for more information on the definitions of the fear of crime indicators.

Anti-social behaviour

The overall level of perceived anti-social behaviour has remained stable over the last year. One in six people (17%) currently perceive a high level of disorder in their local area (Table 2e).

- The proportion of adults perceiving abandoned or burnt-out cars to be a problem in their area has fallen since 2003/04, with only half as many people perceiving this a problem as in 2002/03.
- The proportion perceiving people being drunk or rowdy in public places, and teenagers hanging around on the streets to be a problem has increased over the last year, from 19 to 22 per cent and from 27 to 31 per cent respectively.

Table 2e Anti-social behaviour indicators

Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area	BCS									
	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19 ²	21 ²	16	17	
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	20 ²	25 ²	15	12	**
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	8	8	8	8	9	10	10	9	9	
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	23	19	22	**
People using or dealing drugs	14	22	21	25	33	31	32	25	26	
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	20	26	24	27	32	32	33	27	31	**
Rubbish or litter lying around	30	26	26	28	30	32	33	29	30	
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	26	29	24	26	32	34	35	28	28	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	10,059	14,520	7,978	14,937	9,663	32,824	36,450	37,891	45,069	

1. This measure is derived from responses to the seven individual anti-social behaviour strands reported in the table. In bulletins prior to 2003/04, the overall anti-social behaviour measure was derived from five strands: teenagers hanging around on the streets; vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property; people being attacked/harassed because of their race/colour; people using or dealing drugs; and people being drunk or rowdy in public places.

2. The question relating to abandoned or burnt-out cars was asked of one-quarter of the sample in 2001/02 and 2002/03. The unweighted base for this strand and the overall measure is approximately one-quarter of the sample shown.

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

The BCS reports on public confidence in seven different aspects of the criminal justice system (CJS)⁴. The 2004/05 BCS shows that the broader public's confidence in the CJS has improved in all six areas where comparison is possible with 2003/04, continuing the general trend from 2002/03 (Table 2f).

- In 2004/05, almost four-fifths (78%) of the public were confident that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly.
- Two-thirds (65%) of people were confident that the CJS treats witnesses well.

⁴ Prior to 2004/05 public confidence in six different aspects of the CJS were asked about. A new question on treatment of witnesses was introduced in late 2003, and therefore no trend data is available for this measure.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

- There have been statistically significant improvements for the remaining measures of confidence in the CJS compared with the previous year, though levels of confidence in these aspects of the CJS remain low.
- The two largest increases were for confidence that the CJS is effective in dealing with young people accused of crime and also in reducing crime. Thirty-nine per cent of the public were confident that the CJS is effective at reducing crime, compared with 31 per cent in 2002/03.
- The increases between 2003/04 and 2004/05 mean that the levels of general public confidence have now returned to, and in some cases exceeded, those found in 2001/02.

Table 2f Public confidence in the criminal justice system

<i>Percentage very/fairly confident</i>	BCS				
	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05
Respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly	76	77	77	78	**
Treats people who come forward as witnesses well ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	65	n/a
Effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice	44	39	41	43	**
Deals with cases promptly and efficiently	39	36	38	39	**
Effective at reducing crime	36	31	35	39	**
Meets the needs of victims of crime	34	30	32	34	**
Dealing with young people accused of crime	25	21	24	27	**
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>32,782</i>	<i>36,007</i>	<i>37,393</i>	<i>45,069</i>	

1. This question on treatment of witnesses was introduced in late 2003, and therefore no trend data is available for this measure.

Victim and witness satisfaction with the police

For incidents that the police came to know about, victims of crime were asked how satisfied overall they were about the way the police handled the matter.

- Victims were very or fairly satisfied with the way the police handled the matter in 58 per cent of the incidents that the police came to know about. This remains stable compared with 2003/04 (58%) and also 2002/03 (59%).

The BCS asks respondents questions regarding their experience of witnessing crime. The most commonly witnessed crimes were dangerous driving, anti-social behaviour and threatening or violent behaviour.

- Of incidents in the last 12 months where the witness had contact with the police, 58 per cent of witnesses were satisfied with the way the police handled the (most recent) matter. This remains at a similar level as 2003/04 (57%).

Table 2.01 Trends in BCS incidents of crime 1981 and 1991 to interviews held in 2004/05, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1995, 1997, 2002/03, 2003/04, and 2004/05 interviews

Numbers (thousands) and percentage changes	BCS												
	1981	1991	1995	1997	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	% change 1995 to 2004/05	% change 1997 to 2004/05	% change 2002/03 to 2004/05	% change 2003/04 to 2004/05	
PROPERTY CRIME													
Vandalism	2,713	2,759	3,366	2,866	2,603	2,535	2,465	2,564	-24 **	-11 **	1	4	
Vehicle vandalism	1,558	1,685	1,826	1,609	1,511	1,517	1,437	1,564	-14 **	-3	3	9	
Other vandalism	1,155	1,073	1,540	1,256	1,093	1,018	1,028	1,001	-35 **	-20 **	-2	-3	
Burglary⁴	749	1,380	1,770	1,621	969	973	943	756	-57 **	-53 **	-22 **	-20 **	
Attempts	276	511	772	768	416	412	410	287	-63 **	-63 **	-30 **	-30 **	
Attempts and no loss	376	668	979	970	573	566	526	429	-56 **	-56 **	-24 **	-18 **	
With entry	474	869	998	852	552	561	533	469	-53 **	-45 **	-17 **	-12 **	
With loss	373	712	791	651	396	407	417	327	-59 **	-50 **	-20 **	-22 **	
All vehicle thefts	1,751	3,845	4,350	3,511	2,494	2,365	2,121	1,886	-57 **	-46 **	-20 **	-11 **	
Theft from vehicle	1,286	2,424	2,544	2,200	1,496	1,425	1,337	1,210	-52 **	-45 **	-15 **	-9 **	
Theft of vehicles	285	522	510	378	316	278	241	214	-58 **	-43 **	-23 **	-11 *	
Attempts of and from	179	899	1,297	933	683	662	543	462	-64 **	-51 **	-30 **	-15 **	
Bicycle theft	216	569	673	541	368	359	370	403	-40 **	-25 **	12	9	
Other household theft	1,518	1,857	2,267	2,024	1,443	1,360	1,283	1,183	-48 **	-42 **	-13 **	-8 **	
Theft from the person	434	438	680	621	604	690	623	584	-14 *	-6	-15 *	-6	
Snatch theft from person	86	79	80	83	74	88	116	92	11	11	4	-21	
Stealth theft from person	348	359	600	538	529	602	507	492	-18 **	-9	-18 **	-3	
Other thefts of personal property	1,586	1,739	2,069	1,935	1,407	1,344	1,323	1,154	-44 **	-40 **	-14 **	-13 **	
VIOLENCE													
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)⁵	1,403	1,751	2,923	2,455	1,724	1,702	1,657	1,488	-49 **	-39 **	-13 *	-10	
Wounding	508	624	914	804	648	709	656	577	-37 **	-28 **	-19 **	-12	
Robbery	164	182	339	334	356	303	283	255	-25 **	-24 *	-16	-10	
All BCS violence⁶	2,160	2,635	4,256	3,676	2,802	2,802	2,713	2,412	-43 **	-34 **	-14 **	-11 **	
With injury	n/a	n/a	2,413	2,187	1,501	1,442	1,366	1,301	-46 **	-41 **	-10	-5	
With no injury	n/a	n/a	1,843	1,489	1,302	1,360	1,347	1,111	-40 **	-25 **	-18 **	-18 **	
Domestic violence	292	534 ⁷	989	814	626	506	447	401	-59 **	-51 **	-21	-10	
Acquaintance	774	1,043 ⁷	1,816	1,642	862	949	906	828	-54 **	-50 **	-13	-9	
Stranger	844	797 ⁷	1,004	784	883	956	960	836	-17 *	7	-13	-13	
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	250	259 ⁷	419	417	430	391	400	347	-17 *	-17	-11	-13	
Household acquisitive	4,234	7,651	9,060	7,697	5,275	5,057	4,717	4,227	-53 **	-45 **	-16 **	-10 **	
Personal acquisitive	2,184	2,358	3,088	2,891	2,367	2,337	2,230	1,993	-35 **	-31 **	-15 **	-11 **	
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME⁸	6,947	10,410	12,426	10,562	7,879	7,592	7,182	6,792	-45 **	-36 **	-11 **	-5 **	
ALL PERSONAL CRIME⁸	4,094	4,733	6,925	6,149	4,739	4,748	4,544	4,058	-41 **	-34 **	-15 **	-11 **	
Old comparable crime^{9 10}	6,535	9,796	12,092	10,298	8,042	7,934	7,461	7,024	-42	-32	-11	-6	
Comparable crime^{9 10}	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,766	9,636	9,119	8,513	n/a	n/a	-12	-7	
ALL BCS CRIME¹⁰	11,041	15,142	19,351	16,712	12,618	12,341	11,725	10,850	-44	-35	-12	-7	
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	32,787	36,450	37,891	45,069					

1. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the 2004/05 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,803,177 households in England and Wales. For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts, all BCS violence and other thefts of personal property the 2004/05 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 42,688,689 adults in England and Wales.

2. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2003/04 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary) and revisions to population and numbers of household estimates. Figures for 1991 to 2004/05 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information on population and numbers of households estimates please see the Glossary.

3. Tests are based on comparing rates of victimisation per household or per number in the adult population (i.e. account is taken of shifts in household and population numbers before comparisons are made).

4. Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary add up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus attempts and no loss also add up to total burglary.

5. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From 2002/03 the recorded crime definition does not include minor injuries.

6. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft.

7. The 1991 estimates for domestic, acquaintance and stranger violence and mugging were calculated based on the estimate for all BCS violence. Estimates for these individual categories could not be calculated using their individual incidence rates because the data used for calculating these rates were not collected in the 1992 BCS (which measured crime in 1991).

8. For more information about the crime types included in 'All household' and 'All personal' crime please see the Glossary.

9. Old comparable crime includes vandalism, burglary, all vehicle thefts, bicycle theft, snatch and stealth thefts from the person, wounding and robbery. Comparable crime also includes common assault which became a notifiable offence from 1 April 1998.

10. Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS/comparable crime.

Table 2.02 Trends in BCS victimisation rates 1981 and 1991 to interviews held in 2004/05, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1995, 1997, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 interviews

	Rates per 10,000 adults/households and percentage changes								BCS			
	1981	1991	1995	1997	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	% change 1995 to 2004/05	% change 1997 to 2004/05	% change 2002/03 to 2004/05	% change 2003/04 to 2004/05
PROPERTY CRIME												
Vandalism	1,481	1,356	1,588	1,330	1,185	1,145	1,104	1,125	-29 **	-15 **	-2	2
Vehicle vandalism	850	829	862	747	687	685	644	686	-20 **	-8	<1	7
Other vandalism	630	528	727	583	497	459	461	439	-40 **	-25 **	-4	-5
Burglary	409	678	835	752	441	439	422	331	-60 **	-56 **	-25 **	-22 **
Attempts	150	251	364	357	189	186	184	126	-65 **	-65 **	-32 **	-31 **
Attempts and no loss	205	328	462	450	261	256	236	188	-59 **	-58 **	-26 **	-20 **
With entry	258	427	471	396	251	253	239	205	-56 **	-48 **	-19 **	-14 **
With loss	204	350	373	302	180	184	187	143	-62 **	-53 **	-22 **	-23 **
All vehicle thefts	955	1,890	2,052	1,630	1,135	1,068	950	827	-60 **	-49 **	-23 **	-13 **
Theft from vehicle	702	1,192	1,200	1,021	681	643	599	531	-56 **	-48 **	-17 **	-11 **
Theft of vehicles	156	257	241	175	144	126	108	94	-61 **	-47 **	-25 **	-13 *
Attempts of and from	98	442	612	433	311	299	243	202	-67 **	-53 **	-32 **	-17 **
Bicycle theft	118	280	317	251	167	162	166	177	-44 **	-30 **	9	7
Other household theft	828	913	1,070	940	658	614	575	519	-52 **	-45 **	-16 **	-10 **
Theft from the person	112	108	167	152	144	164	147	137	-18 *	-10	-17 *	-7
Snatch theft from person	22	19	20	20	18	21	27	21		6	3	-22
Stealth theft from person	90	89	148	131	126	143	120	115	-22 **	-12	-19 **	-4
Other thefts of personal property	410	429	508	472	336	319	312	270	-47 **	-43 **	-15 **	-13 **
VIOLENCE												
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)⁴	362	432	718	599	412	404	391	349	-51 **	-42 **	-14 *	-11
Wounding	131	154	225	196	155	168	155	135	-40 **	-31 **	-20 **	-13
Robbery	42	45	83	82	85	72	67	60	-28 **	-27 *	-17	-11
All BCS violence⁵	558	651	1,046	897	669	665	640	565	-46 **	-37 **	-15 **	-12 **
Domestic violence	75	-	243	199	150	120	105	94	-61 **	-53 **	-22	-11
Acquaintance	200	-	446	401	206	225	214	194	-57 **	-52 **	-14	-9
Stranger	218	-	247	191	211	227	226	196	-21 *	2	-14	-14
Mugging	65	64	103	102	103	93	94	81	-21 *	-20	-12	-14
(robbery and snatch theft)												
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME⁶	3,791	5,118	5,863	4,903	3,586	3,428	3,217	2,978	-49 **	-39 **	-13 **	-7 **
ALL PERSONAL CRIME⁶	1,057	1,169	1,702	1,501	1,132	1,127	1,071	951	-44 **	-37 **	-16 **	-11 **
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	32,787	36,450	37,891	45,069				

1. Rates for common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch theft, stealth theft, all BCS violence and other theft of personal property are quoted per 10,000 adults. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts, rates are quoted per 10,000 households.

2. It is not possible to construct a rate for all BCS/comparable crime because rates for household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult, and the two cannot be combined.

3. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2003/04 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary).

4. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From 2002/03 the recorded crime definition does not include minor injuries.

5. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft.

6. For more information about the crime types included in 'All household' and 'All personal' crime please see the Glossary.

Table 2.03 Trends in percentage of households/adults who were victims once or more, 1981, 1991, 1995, 1997 and interviews in 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 (prevalence risks)

Percentages	BCS							
	1981	1991	1995	1997	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints
<i>% victims once or more of:</i>								
Vandalism	9.2	8.6	10.1	8.2	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1
Vehicle vandalism	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.8
Other vandalism	3.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
Burglary	3.4	5.3	6.4	5.6	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.7
Attempts	1.4	2.1	2.9	2.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.0
Attempts and no loss	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.3	2	1.9	1.8	1.5
With entry	2.2	3.5	3.7	3.2	2	2.0	1.9	1.7
With loss	1.8	2.9	3.1	2.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.2
All vehicle thefts	7.3	13.5	14.5	12.0	8.5	8.2	7.4	6.4
Theft from vehicle	5.6	8.8	9.1	7.9	5.3	5.2	4.8	4.1
Theft of vehicles	1.4	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9
Attempts of and from	0.8	3.6	4.8	3.6	2.5	2.5	2.1	1.7
Bicycle theft	1.1	2.4	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Other household theft	5.4	6.4	7.6	6.6	4.8	4.7	4.4	3.9
Theft from the person	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2
Snatch theft from person	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Stealth theft from person	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0
Other thefts of personal property	3.3	3.3	4.1	3.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.3
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	32,787	36,450	37,891	45,069
<i>% of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:</i>								
All vehicle thefts	10.8	18.2	19.7	16.0	11.3	10.8	9.7	8.2
Theft from vehicle	8.2	11.8	12.3	10.5	7.0	6.8	6.2	5.4
Theft of vehicles	2.1	3.2	2.9	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.1
Attempts of and from	1.1	4.8	6.5	4.9	3.3	3.3	2.7	2.2
Vehicle vandalism	8.5	7.6	8.5	6.8	6.4	6.3	6.0	6.2
Unweighted base	7,714	7,386	11,751	10,965	25,022	28,106	29,404	35,378
<i>% of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:</i>								
Bicycle theft	2.7	5.5	6.1	4.8	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.6
Unweighted base	4,766	4,093	6,882	6,380	13,501	15,567	16,041	19,344
<i>% of adults (16+), victims once or more of:</i>								
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)³	2.0	2.3	3.8	3.5	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.1
Wounding	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0
Robbery	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Any BCS violence	3.2	3.6	5.5	5.2	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.6
Domestic violence	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Acquaintance	1.2	1.4	2.3	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
Stranger	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.4
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	32,787	36,450	37,891	45,069
<i>% victims once or more of:</i>								
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME⁴	22.2	29.0	32.5	27.8	21.6	21.0	20.0	18.4
ALL PERSONAL CRIME⁴	6.9	7.3	10.4	9.5	7.3	7.5	7.3	6.5
All BCS CRIME⁵	27.7	34.9	39.7	34.6	27.5	27.0	25.7	23.9
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	32,787	36,450	37,891	45,069

1. Risks for common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch theft, stealth theft and other theft of personal property are based on adults. Risks for vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts are based on households.

2. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2003/04 may vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary).

3. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From 2002/03 the recorded crime definition does not include minor injuries.

4. For more information about the crime types included in 'All household' and 'All personal' crime please see the Glossary.

5. This rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime. It is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Table 2.04 Recorded crime by offence 1995 to 2004/05 and percentage change between 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentage changes		Recorded crime											
Offence	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 ¹	1998/99	1998/99 ²	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 ¹¹	2003/04	2004/05	% change between 2003/04 and 2004/05
1 Murder													
4.1 Manslaughter	745	679	739	748	750	750	766	850	891	1,043	853	859	1
4.2 Infanticide													
2 Attempted murder	634	674	652	661	676	676	750	708	856	819	884	736	-17
3 Threat or conspiracy to murder	7,044	8,533	9,340	9,661	11,112	11,212	13,434	14,064	13,651	18,060	22,232	23,668	6
4.3 Child destruction	8	2	5	6	9	9	1	2	-	2	8	4	-50
4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving													
4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs	242	320	291	325	348	349	317	335	370	414	445	440	-1
37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	21	34	12	18	30	30	37	35	35	55	63	40	-37
5 More serious wounding or other act endangering life	10,445	12,169	12,531	12,833	13,960	14,006	15,135	15,662	16,547	17,875	19,358	19,425	0
6 Endangering railway passenger	12	12	11	7	15	15	7	10	16	6	7	9	29
More serious violence against the person	19,151	22,423	23,581	24,259	26,900	27,047	30,447	31,666	32,366	38,274	43,850	45,181	3
7 Endangering life at sea	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	2	3	50
8A Less serious wounding ⁷	..	..	..	..	..	196,737	201,290	195,925	208,542	..	..	..	..
8A Less serious wounding ^{7,13} (including any minor injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	345,345	428,521	485,195	13
8B Possession of weapons ³	193,016	216,467	226,795	231,360	203,313	23,635	23,792	24,552	28,787	32,097	34,975	35,727	2
8C Harassment ⁴						79,534	88,625	93,832	96,784	120,708	152,269	194,157	28
8D Racially-aggravated less serious wounding ⁵							2,687	3,176	3,463	4,352	4,840	5,312	10
8E Racially-aggravated harassment ⁵							10,758	12,468	14,975	16,696	20,584	22,669	10
11 Cruelty to and neglect of children ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	2,300	2,631	2,558	3,068	4,108	6,081	5,675	-7
12 Abandoning a child under the age of two years	46	65	56	54	41	42	51	48	48	59	49	49	0
13 Child abduction	355	374	390	391	490	502	577	546	584	843	921	1,028	12
14 Procuring illegal abortion	5	7	-	-	2	2	2	4	6	7	9	15	67
15 Concealment of birth	15	4	5	6	10	10	4	9	4	5	6	6	0
104 Assault on a constable ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	21,510	26,115	28,000	30,095	33,743	21,927	23,267	6
105A Common assault (includes some minor injury) ^{4,13}	..	..	..	..	..	151,469	189,783	203,427	226,440	..	..	..	..
105A Common assault (no injury) ^{4,13}	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234,197	237,701	213,085	-10
105B Racially-aggravated common assault ^{5,13}	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,275	4,711	5,164	4,491	4,017	3,677	-8
Other offences against the person	193,437	216,917	227,246	231,811	203,856	475,741	550,591	569,256	617,964	796,653	911,902	989,865	9
TOTAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	212,588	239,340	250,827	256,070	230,756	502,788	581,038	600,922	650,330	834,927	955,752	1,035,046	8

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1995 to 2004/05 and percentage change between 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentage changes		Recorded crime											
Offence	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 ¹	1998/99 ²	1998/99 ²	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 ¹¹	2003/04	2004/05	% change between 2003/04 and 2004/05
16 Buggery ¹⁸	818	728	645	657	567	566	437	401	355	287	247	73	..
17 Indecent assault on a male ¹⁸	3,150	3,130	3,503	3,885	3,672	3,683	3,614	3,530	3,611	4,093	4,070	998	} -14
17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,292	
17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,225	
18 Gross indecency between males ¹⁸	727	553	520	483	353	354	286	167	163	198	244	46	..
19A Rape of a female ¹⁸	4,986	5,759	6,281	6,523	7,139	7,132	7,809	7,929	9,002	11,436	12,354	728	} 4
19C Rape of a female aged 16 and over ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,159	
19D Rape of a female child under 16 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,006	
19E Rape of female child under 13 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	974	} 4
Rape of a female	4,986	5,759	6,281	6,523	7,139	7,132	7,809	7,929	9,002	11,436	12,354	12,867	
19B Rape of a male ¹⁸	150	231	347	375	502	504	600	664	732	851	893	81	
19F Rape of a male aged 16 and over ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	441	} 27
19G Rape of a male child under 16 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	320	
19H Rape of a male child under 13 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	293	
Rape of a male	150	231	347	375	502	504	600	664	732	851	893	1,135	27
20 Indecent assault on a female ¹⁸	16,876	17,643	18,674	18,979	19,463	19,524	20,664	20,301	21,789	24,809	26,709	5,112	} -10
20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,635	
20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,373	
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 ¹⁸	178	171	148	156	153	153	181	155	169	184	212	19	..
21 Sexual activity involving child under 13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,481	..
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 ¹⁸	1,260	1,261	1,112	1,084	1,133	1,135	1,270	1,237	1,328	1,515	1,907	436	} 55
22B Sexual activity involving child under 16 ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,522	
22A Causing sexual activity without consent ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	237	
23 Familial sexual offences ¹⁸	185	157	183	189	139	139	121	80	92	99	105	710	..
24 Exploitation of prostitution ¹⁸	207	132	131	142	155	215	138	129	129	127	183	117	..
25 Abduction ¹⁸	364	313	277	258	242	240	251	262	262	291	402	86	..
26 Bigamy	86	98	75	106	126	129	83	80	74	88	71	105	48
27 Soliciting of women by men ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	1,107	973	1,028	1,655	2,108	1,939	1,833	-5
70 Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104	..
71 Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98	..
72 Trafficking for sexual exploitation ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..
73 Abuse of position of trust ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	417	678	792	679	-14
74 Gross indecency with a child ¹⁸	1,287	1,215	1,269	1,314	1,271	1,293	1,365	1,336	1,654	1,880	1,942	396	..
88A Sexual grooming ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	..
88B Other miscellaneous sexual offences ¹⁸	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,161	..
TOTAL SEXUAL OFFENCES¹⁸	30,274	31,391	33,165	34,151	34,915	36,174	37,792	37,311	41,432	48,644	52,070	60,946	17
34A Robbery of business property	68,074	74,035	63,072	62,652	66,172	10,481	12,148	12,394	13,186	11,069	10,110	7,926	-22
34B Robbery of personal property	..	..	..	..	..	56,354	72,129	82,760	108,173	96,963	91,084	80,784	-11
TOTAL ROBBERY	68,074	74,035	63,072	62,652	66,172	66,835	84,277	95,154	121,359	108,032	101,194	88,710	-12
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	310,936	344,766	347,064	352,873	331,843	605,797	703,107	733,387	813,121	991,603	1,109,016	1,184,702	7

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1995 to 2004/05 and percentage change between 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentage changes		Recorded crime												
Offence	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 ¹	1998/99	1998/99 ²	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 ¹¹	2003/04	2004/05	% change between 2003/04 and 2004/05	
28	Burglary in a dwelling	641,063	599,372	516,346	498,578	470,005	470,465	439,609	399,927	426,859	434,095	398,934	318,921	-20
29	Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	2,582	2,756	2,919	3,015	2,955	2,884	2,993	3,057	3,488	3,476	3,399	2,538	-25
	Total burglary in a dwelling	643,645	602,128	519,265	501,593	472,960	473,349	442,602	402,984	430,347	437,571	402,333	321,459	-20
	of which distraction burglary ²⁰	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,316	12,961	-15	
30	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	595,385	562,019	495,396	486,408	478,509	479,425	463,372	432,540	447,552	450,644	415,774	358,061	-14
31	Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	454	436	414	431	410	410	494	503	610	612	535	453	-15
	Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling	595,839	562,455	495,810	486,839	478,918	479,835	463,866	433,043	448,162	451,256	416,309	358,514	-14
	TOTAL BURGLARY	1,239,484	1,164,583	1,015,075	988,432	951,878	953,184	906,468	836,027	878,509	888,827	818,642	679,973	-17
37.2	Aggravated vehicle taking	6,170	7,794	8,031	8,143	9,811	10,098	10,416	10,759	11,794	11,532	11,546	11,121	-4
48	Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	502,280	485,695	399,208	392,381	381,080	381,709	364,270	328,037	316,321	305,618	279,111	230,729	-17
45	Theft from a vehicle	813,094	799,552	710,333	695,498	680,937	685,919	669,232	629,651	655,161	658,697	598,514	496,681	-17
	Theft of and from vehicles	1,321,544	1,293,041	1,117,572	1,096,022	1,071,828	1,077,726	1,043,918	968,447	983,276	975,847	889,171	738,531	-17
38	Proceeds of crime ¹⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	433	528
39	Theft from the person of another	59,692	59,331	57,767	57,894	63,054	63,118	76,254	87,332	114,848	135,392	125,042	111,616	-11
40	Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	36,471	37,955	38,301	38,765	44,199	44,375	44,764	43,045	46,859	56,443	61,097	57,756	-5
41	Theft by an employee	14,357	16,314	17,156	17,476	17,872	17,900	17,468	17,487	17,120	17,414	17,571	17,131	-3
42	Theft or unauthorised taking of mail	4,641	3,902	3,638	3,692	4,919	4,931	5,856	6,890	9,665	13,453	20,527	22,407	9
43	Abstracting electricity	2,600	2,473	3,325	2,978	2,454	2,454	2,157	1,451	1,338	1,411	1,303	1,289	-1
44	Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	169,476	148,970	139,092	140,031	125,176	128,557	131,240	108,509	102,713	95,018	102,520	102,680	0
46	Theft from shop	275,802	282,052	274,015	273,509	281,457	281,972	292,494	293,080	306,596	309,338	301,796	280,461	-7
47	Theft from automatic machine or meter	12,465	13,041	13,595	12,662	15,211	15,343	19,077	18,619	19,544	23,253	28,373	34,280	21
49	Other theft or unauthorised taking	513,493	488,979	466,917	469,592	472,869	479,306	510,573	518,573	565,475	627,369	614,281	570,358	-7
54	Handling stolen goods	41,568	37,888	33,574	32,352	27,677	27,746	23,298	19,243	18,775	18,620	17,022	13,896	-18
126	Vehicle interference and tampering ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	48,011	56,521	62,696	80,755	91,648	89,371	76,678	-14
	Other theft and handling stolen goods	1,130,565	1,090,905	1,047,380	1,048,951	1,054,890	1,113,713	1,179,702	1,176,925	1,283,688	1,389,359	1,378,972	1,288,985	-7
	TOTAL THEFT AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS	2,452,109	2,383,946	2,164,952	2,144,973	2,126,718	2,191,439	2,223,620	2,145,372	2,266,964	2,365,206	2,268,143	2,027,516	-11
51	Fraud by company director	29	39	15	15	39	159	165	152	106	26	80	50	-38
52	False accounting	1,295	1,728	1,820	1,711	1,209	1,304	1,103	1,043	1,033	847	665	531	-20
53A	Cheque and credit card fraud ⁷	120,699	125,609	124,389	126,790	165,221	141,948	173,857	148,252	153,646	142,280	130,239	120,875	-7
53B	Other frauds ⁷	..	..	..	..	..	122,437	145,448	155,647	144,436	169,140	170,524	141,358	-17
55	Bankruptcy and insolvency offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	23	82	10	15	11	9	11	22
60	Forgery or use of false drug prescription	844	1,071	941	799	838	842	871	821	762	871	794	744	-6
61	Other forgery	10,149	7,778	7,233	6,917	6,427	6,762	6,173	6,225	6,835	8,311	7,620	9,899	30
814	Vehicle/driver document fraud ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	6,028	7,074	7,174	8,026	8,618	8,016	5,434	-32
	TOTAL FRAUD AND FORGERY	133,016	136,225	134,398	136,232	173,728	279,503	334,773	319,324	314,859	330,104	317,947	278,902	-12

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1995 to 2004/05 and percentage change between 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentage changes		Recorded crime											
Offence	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 ¹	1998/99	1998/99 ²	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 ¹¹	2003/04	2004/05	% change between 2003/04 and 2004/05
56 Arson	29,985	31,068	31,516	32,051	39,636	47,273	53,794	52,818	60,456	53,192	57,162	48,038	-16
57 Criminal damage endangering life	373	316	372	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58 Other criminal damage ⁸	881,558	917,448	842,415	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other criminal damage ⁹	667,261	749,272	704,717	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58A Criminal damage to a dwelling ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	216,590	234,575	238,896	269,456	291,999	321,613	309,044	-4
58B Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling ⁴	..	..	..	827,104	792,276	159,461	166,770	166,960	178,288	174,269	183,964	171,975	-7
58C Criminal damage to a vehicle ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	357,152	374,218	378,903	419,403	432,122	455,926	459,667	1
58D Other criminal damage ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	95,777	108,318	113,628	126,076	146,061	172,756	181,257	5
58E Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling ⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,452	1,765	2,228	2,044	1,981	1,844	-7
58F Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling ⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	756	985	1,547	1,152	1,162	1,100	-5
58G Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle ⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,232	1,399	1,885	1,524	1,602	1,638	2
58H Racially-aggravated other criminal damage ⁵	..	..	..	..	..	..	590	612	822	776	836	834	0
59 Threat etc. to commit criminal damage	2,075	2,442	2,739	2,691	2,459	3,333	3,977	4,121	4,334	6,119	8,574	9,991	17
TOTAL CRIMINAL DAMAGE	913,991	951,274	877,042	861,846	834,370	879,586	945,682	960,087	1,064,495	1,109,258	1,205,576	1,185,388	-2
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME	4,738,600	4,636,028	4,191,467	4,131,483	4,086,694	4,303,712	4,410,543	4,260,810	4,524,827	4,693,395	4,610,308	4,171,779	-10
92A Trafficking in controlled drugs	21,272	22,122	23,153	23,336	21,306	21,788	19,956	19,820	19,686	22,325	24,510	23,940	-2
92B Possession of controlled drugs ^{4 17}	..	..	..	..	..	112,576	100,598	92,716	100,905	117,800	115,687	..	..
92C Other drug offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	1,581	1,312	922	802	976	863	798	-8
92D Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis) ¹⁷	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,162	..
92E Possession of controlled drugs (Cannabis) ¹⁷	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85,438	..
TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES	21,272	22,122	23,153	23,336	21,306	135,945	121,866	113,458	121,393	141,101	141,060	142,338	1
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc.	6,754	6,275	6,132	6,006	5,852	5,866	5,208	4,634	5,081	5,712	5,623	4,494	-20
35 Blackmail	856	957	877	927	1,036	1,038	1,137	1,086	1,072	1,324	1,475	1,459	-1
36 Kidnapping	1,247	1,429	1,559	1,652	2,046	2,049	2,339	2,404	2,788	3,184	3,125	2,790	-11
62 High treason and other offences against Treason Acts	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	0
63 Treason felony	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
64 Riot	12	4	6	6	3	2	6	2	12	8	6	4	-33
65 Violent disorder	1,669	2,027	2,060	2,113	2,460	2,500	2,804	2,753	2,602	2,768	2,709	2,570	-5
66 Other offences against the State or public order	11,794	14,112	16,240	16,736	17,334	18,638	19,600	17,834	18,872	19,506	19,497	19,872	2
67 Perjury	287	246	309	348	314	329	217	183	143	186	205	259	26
68 Libel	-	-	5	3	3	3	4	2	3	2	-	-	..
75 Betting, gaming and lotteries ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	48	23	27	17	5	1	12	1,100
76 Aiding suicide	10	9	14	12	8	8	6	10	4	8	11	6	-45
78 Immigration offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	505	427	262	329	432	451	550	22
79 Perverting the course of justice	4,394	5,914	6,779	7,108	9,216	9,265	9,637	9,763	10,282	11,294	11,834	11,532	-3
80 Absconding from lawful custody	1,547	1,410	1,379	1,372	1,294	1,301	1,559	1,389	1,357	1,547	1,711	1,356	-21
81 Firearms Acts offences ^{4 19}	..	..	..	..	..	3,325	3,143	3,531	3,199	3,514	3,306	4,174	26
82 Customs and Revenue offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	119	96	116	124	117	49	31	-37

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1995 to 2004/05 and percentage change between 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentage changes													Recorded crime	
		Offence	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 ¹	1998/99 ²	1998/99 ²	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 ¹¹	2003/04	2004/05
83	Bail offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	66	143	107	133	133	125	115	-8
84	Trade descriptions, etc. ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	263	245	192	173	193	510	1,326	160
85	Health and Safety offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	5	5	3	4	15	275
86	Obscene publications etc. ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	603	643	665	852	2,118	2,881	2,860	-1
87	Protection from eviction ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	68	66	71	56	63	75	71	-5
89	Adulteration of food ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	69	46	94	117	80	34	29	-15
90	Knives Act 1997 offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	99	66	51	59	41	22	21	-5
91	Public health offences ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	9	12	10	17	20	86	112	30
94	Planning Laws ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	5	3	1	3	4	33
95	Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements etc. ¹⁰	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	22	135	514
99	Other indictable or triable-either-way offences	863	1,253	1,283	1,362	2,408	2,537	3,559	4,058	4,034	3,224	3,433	2,573	-25
139	Indecent exposure ^{4,18}	..	..	..	..	..	10,327	9,476	8,647	8,223	9,403	9,507	928	-90
802	Dangerous driving ⁴	..	..	..	..	..	4,589	5,205	5,287	6,126	7,559	7,487	6,574	-12
TOTAL OTHER OFFENCES		29,433	33,636	36,643	37,645	41,974	63,635	65,671	63,188	65,683	72,461	74,193	63,872	-14
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME		5,100,241	5,036,552	4,598,327	4,545,337	4,481,817	5,109,089	5,301,187	5,170,843	5,525,024	5,898,560	5,934,577	5,562,691	-6

1. The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998
2. The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998
3. Included within 'less serious wounding' prior to 1 April 1998
4. These offences were added to the series from 1 April 1998
5. These offences were added to the series from 1 April 1999, prior to that they would have been included in the original classifications. Also includes Religiously Aggravated offences from April 2002
6. These offences were added to the series from 1 January 2001
7. These offences were split with effect from 1 April 1998.
8. Including offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under
9. Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under
10. These offence was added to the series from 1 April 2002
11. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03'. The national impact of recording changes in 2002/03 was estimated to be ten per cent for total recorded crime. The impact will vary for different types of offences.
12. A summary of recorded crime data from 1898 to 2002/03 is available in Excel format on the RDS website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/100years.xls>.
13. The change in definition relating to resultant injury in common assaults and less serious woundings, which applies from 1 April 2002, is described in the 'Common Assault' text box in Chapter 5
14. The homicide figure for 2002/03 includes 173 murders committed by Harold Shipman in previous years but coming to light in the official inquiry in 2002. See also section 5.6
15. These offences were added to the series from 1 April 2003
16. Some forces have revised their 2003/04 data and totals may not therefore agree with those previously published
17. Possession of controlled drugs offences were split with effect from April 2004 into possession of cannabis and possession of drugs other than cannabis
18. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. In particular, it re-defined indecent exposure as a sexual offence which is likely to account for much of the increase in sexual offences.
19. These are offences under the Firearms Act 1968 and other Firearms Acts connected with licensing and certification of firearms. Such offences are not included in the firearms offences statistics which are discussed in Chapter 5
20. Excludes Nottinghamshire and Sussex for 2003/04 and Durham for 2004/05.

Table 2.05 Recorded crime and number per 100,000 population for violent crime, property crime and vehicle-related crime

Numbers and numbers per 100,000 population								Recorded crime
Year	Total recorded violent crime (thousands)	Number of violent offences per 100,000 population	Total recorded property crime (thousands)	Number of property crime offences per 100,000 population	Total recorded vehicle-related crime ⁴ (thousands)	Number of vehicle-related offences per 100,000 population	Total recorded offences (thousands)	Number of offences per 100,000 population
1950	20	47	435	993	39	90	461	1,053
1960	38	82	699	1,513	110	237	744	1,610
1970	72	146	1,471	2,994	323	657	1,556	3,166
1980	133	271	2,547	5,171	619	1,258	2,688	5,459
1981	140	282	2,815	5,671	712	1,435	2,964	5,971
1982	151	305	3,102	6,253	800	1,613	3,262	6,577
1983	154	310	3,079	6,208	750	1,512	3,247	6,546
1984	159	321	3,325	6,696	800	1,611	3,499	7,047
1985	171	343	3,424	6,882	846	1,701	3,612	7,258
1986	178	357	3,653	7,316	988	1,980	3,847	7,707
1987	199	397	3,674	7,337	1,048	2,093	3,892	7,773
1988	216	430	3,477	6,920	987	1,965	3,716	7,396
1989	240	476	3,603	7,150	1,022	2,029	3,871	7,681
1990	250	494	4,263	8,430	1,267	2,506	4,544	8,986
1991	265	523	4,976	9,812	1,495	2,948	5,276	10,403
1992	284	556	5,268	10,310	1,549	3,032	5,592	10,943
1993	294	574	5,191	10,124	1,523	2,971	5,526	10,777
1994	310	603	4,895	9,516	1,384	2,691	5,253	10,212
1995	311	602	4,739	9,180	1,322	2,560	5,100	9,880
1996	345	665	4,636	8,946	1,293	2,495	5,037	9,719
1997	347	667	4,191	8,059	1,118	2,149	4,598	8,841
.....								
1997/98 ^{1,2}	353	678	4,131	7,944	1,096	2,107	4,545	8,739
1998/99 ²	332	636	4,087	7,827	1,072	2,053	4,482	8,584
.....								
1998/99 ³	606	1,160	4,304	8,243	1,078	2,064	5,109	9,785
1999/00	703	1,341	4,411	8,413	1,044	1,991	5,301	10,111
2000/01	733	1,392	4,261	8,087	968	1,838	5,171	9,814
2001/02	813	1,536	4,525	8,552	983	1,857	5,525	10,440
2002/03	992	1,904	4,694	9,012	976	1,874	5,899	11,325
2003/04 ⁶	1,109	2,113	4,610	8,785	889	1,694	5,935	11,309
2004/05	1,185	2,244	4,172	7,902	739	1,399	5,563	10,537

1. Change from calendar year to financial year.

2. The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.

3. The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

4. Vehicle-related crime includes aggravated vehicle taking, theft from a vehicle and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

5. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03'. The national impact of recording changes in 2002/03 was estimated to be 10 per cent for total recorded crime. This impact will vary for different types of offences.

6. Some forces have revised their 2003/04 data and totals may not therefore agree with those previously published.

Table 2.06 Number of times victims were victimised, 2003/04 and 2004/05 BCS interviews

Percentages								BCS
		2003/04 ints			2004/05 ints			<i>Unweighted base</i>
		Once	Twice	Three or more times	Once	Twice	Three or more times	
PROPERTY CRIME								
Vandalism	%	71	16	13	70	17	14	3,112
Vehicle vandalism	%	76	14	10	74	16	10	2,064
Other vandalism	%	68	16	16	71	13	15	1,203
Burglary	%	84	9	7	86	9	5	1,107
Attempts	%	83	10	7	86	10	4	427
Attempts and no loss	%	83	9	8	87	8	6	615
With entry	%	89	6	6	88	7	5	704
With loss	%	90	7	3	91	6	3	521
All vehicle thefts	%	81	14	5	81	13	6	2,662
Theft from vehicle	%	83	12	5	82	12	6	1,746
Theft of vehicles	%	93	5	1	94	6	<1	372
Attempts of and from	%	88	9	3	87	9	4	674
Bicycle theft	%	89	9	2	88	9	3	662
Other household theft	%	82	11	7	80	13	7	1,745
Theft from the person	%	93	7	1	94	4	2	498
Snatch theft from person	%	97	3	1	99	1	0	83
Stealth theft from person	%	94	5	1	94	4	2	416
Other thefts of personal property	%	88	8	3	89	7	4	862
VIOLENCE								
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)²	%	71	15	14	71	15	15	795
Wounding	%	82	10	8	81	9	10	371
Robbery	%	88	11	1	93	4	3	181
ALL BCS VIOLENCE								
Domestic violence	%	56	26	18	54	22	24	231
Acquaintance	%	72	14	14	70	14	16	438
Stranger	%	83	9	8	82	10	8	490
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	%	90	9	1	95	3	2	264

1. Based on victims of specified offences.

2. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From 2002/03 the recorded crime definition does not include minor injuries.

3 Reporting and recording crime

Katharine Thorpe and Chandni Ruparel

3.1 SUMMARY

- There are differences in the number of crimes that are recorded by the police and the number that are measured by the BCS but, in recent periods, there has been a marked divergence between their trends. Comparisons between the series suggest that the increases seen in recorded crime continue to result largely from changes in recording practice. Although the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced in all police forces in April 2002, it appears that ongoing auditing and improvements continue to cause further inflation in the recording of crimes.
- The rate of victims' reporting of crimes has remained broadly stable since 1997, whereas the rate of recording of crimes by the police has been increasing, especially in the last three years, largely as a result of the national introduction of the NCRS.
- The public's reporting of crime varies considerably by type of offence. Thefts of vehicles are most likely to be reported (95%), followed by burglaries in which something was stolen (77%). Reporting rates are relatively low for crimes such as common assault, theft from the person and vandalism (34%, 32% and 32% in 2004/05).
- The most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting incidents was that victims perceived them to be too trivial, there was no loss or they believed that the police would or could not do much about them (71% of incidents). In one in five cases (20%), the victim felt the incident was a private matter to be dealt with themselves, a percentage which rises to 41 per cent for violent crimes.
- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 there were no statistically significant changes in the percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police.
- The estimated recording rate of comparable reported offences increased from 74 per cent in the year ending September 2003 to 75 per cent for the year ending September 2004. Police recording of crime is at the highest rate on record and between a quarter and a third higher than in 1981, when the introduction of the British Crime Survey first made this comparison possible.
- The proportion of reported comparable violent crime that was recorded by the police continued to rise from 62 per cent in the year to September 2003 to 67 per cent in the year to September 2004, up from 36 per cent in 1999.

3.2 THE BRITISH CRIME SURVEY AND POLICE MEASURES OF CRIME

The BCS provides a measure of the level of crime in England and Wales, for private households, within which police recorded crime can be located. Comparisons can be made between these data series in order, particularly, to interpret movements in recorded crime. The need for this comparison has been particularly important in recent periods due to the divergence between the two series.

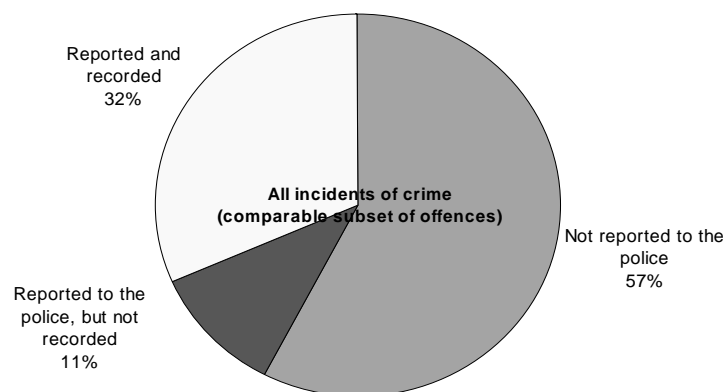
In broad terms, the BCS and recorded crime series display similar trends, with rises from the early 1980s to peaks in the early to mid 1990s before falling. However, more recent periods have shown considerable divergence in these trends (see Figure 3.3). Of particular interest have been the divergent trends in violent crime, an important category where recent years have seen the number of recorded offences rising while the BCS has shown falls followed by a period of stability and more recently further falls. The possible reasons for this divergence are discussed in the sections below.

There are differences in the type of offences that each series covers (see 'Comparing the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime' text box below), and so a 'comparable subset' of offences is used to compare the trends in the two series. The number of crimes in this comparable subset estimated by the BCS in 2004/05 was over eight million compared with under three million offences recorded by the police, representing 32% of all BCS comparable crime (Figure 3.1 and Table 3.01).

There are clear reasons for this difference between the series. The most important limitation of recorded crime is that it can only consider those crimes that are brought to the attention of the police (estimated to be only 42% of comparable crime by the BCS). The reasons why the public choose not to report crimes to the police are discussed in Section 3.3 below.

In addition, the police only record a proportion of the crime reported to them (75% of the reported comparable subset of crimes) (Table 3.01). Although the National Crime Recording Standard has introduced a more victim-focused approach to recording, the police are not required to record incidents that they deem to be unsubstantiated and for which the NCRS also provides guidance.

Figure 3.1 Proportion of BCS estimate of all crime reported to the police and recorded by them (comparable subset of crimes), year to September 2004¹



¹ See 'Comparisons of reported and recorded crime' text box.

Comparing the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime

To compare BCS and police recorded crime figures it is necessary to limit both to a set of offences that are covered by both series, the **comparable subset**, which comprises:

- Vandalism
- Burglary
- Vehicle-related theft
- Bicycle theft
- Theft from the person
- Robbery
- Common assault
- Wounding

The BCS excludes so-called victimless crimes (e.g. drug dealing), crimes such as murder, where the victim is no longer available for interview, and fraud. BCS estimates also exclude sexual offences (due to the small number reported to the survey and concerns about willingness of respondents to disclose such offences).

- BCS thefts involving household and personal property also cannot be compared because while they might be included in police figures they would fall into a miscellaneous category of thefts, which will also include thefts of business property, shoplifting and other crimes.
- In 1998/99 there were changes to the police counting rules and extensions to the offences covered that influenced comparisons (e.g. common assault only became a police recorded crime in 1998/99 and so is not in the comparable subset for longer-term comparisons – see **old comparable subset**). The Glossary gives definitions of the various offence categories, and highlights those where comparisons can be made.

Various **adjustments** are also made to police figures to take account of the fact that the BCS does not cover offences against non-domestic targets (e.g. businesses) and those under 16. Full details of the adjustments are available at:

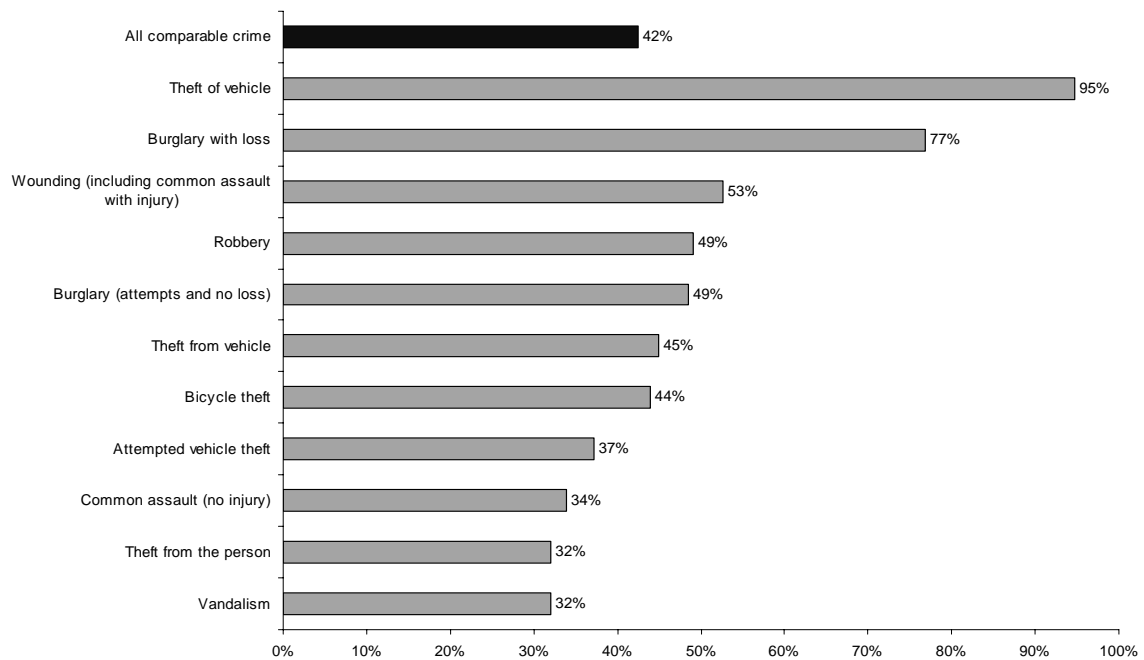
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html>

3.3 REPORTING CRIME

For victims interviewed during 2004/05, 42 per cent said that the incident had been reported to the police or was known to them². This figure is similar to the figure for 2003/04 and shows that most crimes (58% of all comparable crimes) are never reported to the police. This gap is the main reason why the BCS estimate is higher than the recorded crime figure and represents a more complete picture of crime within England and Wales (Figure 3.2 and Table 3.01).

² Based on comparable crime only.

Figure 3.2 Reporting rates based on 2004/05 BCS interviews, comparable subset



The public's likelihood to report crime varied considerably by the type of offence (see Figure 3.2).

- Thefts of vehicles are most likely to be reported (95%) and the latest estimates are consistent with previous years.
- Burglaries in which something was stolen had the second highest reporting rate (77%).
- Reporting rates are relatively low for crimes such as common assault³, theft from the person and vandalism (34%, 32% and 32% in 2004/05).

Victims of crime were asked why they did not report incidents to the police (Table 3.03).

- As in previous years, the most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting incidents was that victims perceived them to be too trivial, there was no loss or they believed that the police would or could not do much about them (71% of incidents). In one in five cases (20%), the victim felt the incident was a private matter to be dealt with themselves.
- For violent crime, however, a large proportion of the incidents were not reported because victims considered the issue to be a private matter and dealt with it themselves (41%). This may reflect the personal relationships involved with some of these offences.

³ Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved common assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. The BCS definition of common assault and wounding has been changed to reflect this from 2002/03 interviews.

- The majority of crimes that go unreported are relatively minor offences (the more serious offences in the comparable subset – wounding, robbery, theft of vehicles and burglary with loss – only accounted for 16% of incidents that were not reported in 2004/05) (Table 3.01).

The recorded crime BCS comparator:

The recorded crime BCS comparator is a measure used by the Home Office to monitor changes in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's), including those 40 referred to as High Crime Areas (see Chapter 6). This measure contains the same set of recorded crimes as defined by the comparable subset (vandalism, burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, theft from the person, robbery, common assault and wounding). The recorded crime BCS comparator is not adjusted for commercial targets and offences against under 16s, as such adjustments are only calculated annually at a national level, but it does allow monitoring of comparable crime at a more local level than the BCS.

For more information see the Home Office technical notes on measuring PSA targets:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs3/HomeOffice_SR04_TNs.pdf

A table showing the BCS comparator recorded crime figures for CDRPs in England and Wales is available online at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html>

Trends in reporting

- The proportion of crimes experienced by adults living in private households that were reported to the police (using the old comparable subset⁴) has been relatively stable since 1997. For the 2004/05 interviews, 43 per cent of these crimes were reported to the police (Table 3.02).
- Between 1991 and 1995, having risen considerably over the previous decade, the proportion of incidents reported to the police fell slightly (Figure 3.3). The actual *number* of incidents reported was still rising over this period due to the increases in the total number of offences.
- Reporting rates in general appear to be relatively stable in recent years, and there have been no statistically significant changes in the percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police between 2003/04 and 2004/05. The more important changes over the most recent period have been in the recording of crime, rather than its reporting (see below).

However, the pattern is slightly different for violent crime, resulting in a sharper divergence between the survey and police statistics. For violent crime, there is evidence that reporting of incidents has increased since 2001/02. A recent Home Office report concluded that around a third of the increase in recorded violent crime in 2002/03 was due to increased reporting of incidents (Smith and Allen, 2004). This is supported by recent analysis linking forces with the

⁴ For more information on the two comparable subsets of crimes used in this section, see 'Old comparable subset of crimes' and 'Comparable subsets of crimes' in the Glossary.

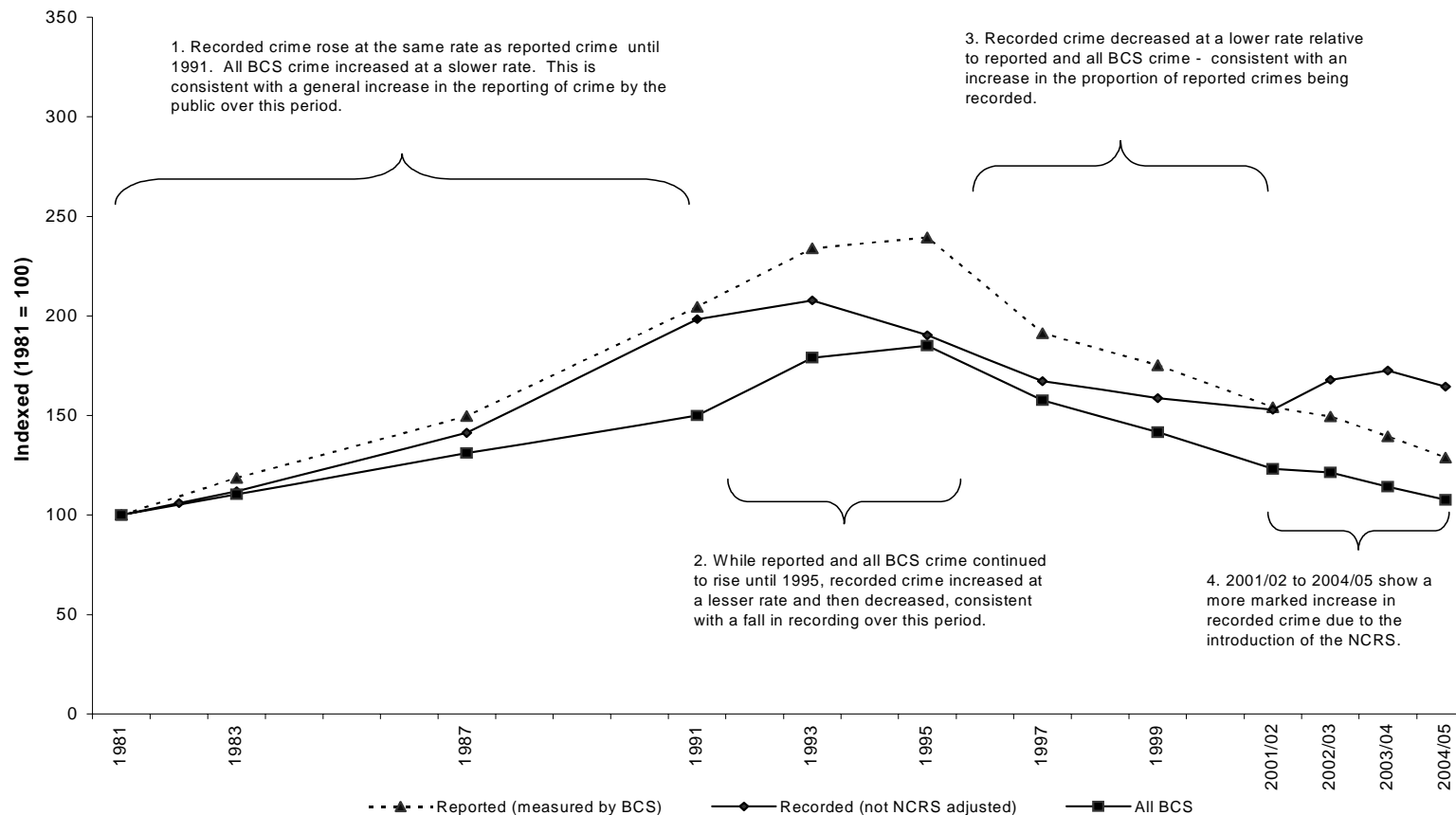
biggest improvements in NCRS compliance with those with the biggest increases in recorded violence. See Chapter 5 for more details.

While part of the divergence in trends for violence may have been explained by reporting changes between 2001/02 and 2002/03, there has been no statistically significant change in the rate between 2003/04 to 2004/05 and this therefore cannot account for the ongoing divergence. Instead, changes in recording practice by the police are the most likely source of the disparity for violence, as for crime generally. The next section discusses the impact of recording practice.

Comparisons of reported and recorded crime

The BCS provides estimates for the number of incidents said to have been reported to the police. Precise comparisons, based on calendar year estimates, between BCS reported incidents and police recorded incidents are no longer possible due to the BCS adopting continuous sampling, with a moving previous 12-month recall period. In Table 3.01 comparisons are made between the annual estimates of reported crimes based on BCS interviews during 2004/05 and police recorded crime figures for the year to the end of September 2004. This period of recorded crime data is selected because it is the most closely comparable period to the overlapping recall periods used during these BCS interviews. This generates a more approximate measure of police recording as a proportion of reported crime than before 2001/02 but results should give a reasonable indication as to the crimes where police recording has changed the most.

Figure 3.3 Indexed trends in the reporting and recording of crime, and all BCS crime, 1981 to 2004/05 (1981 = 100)

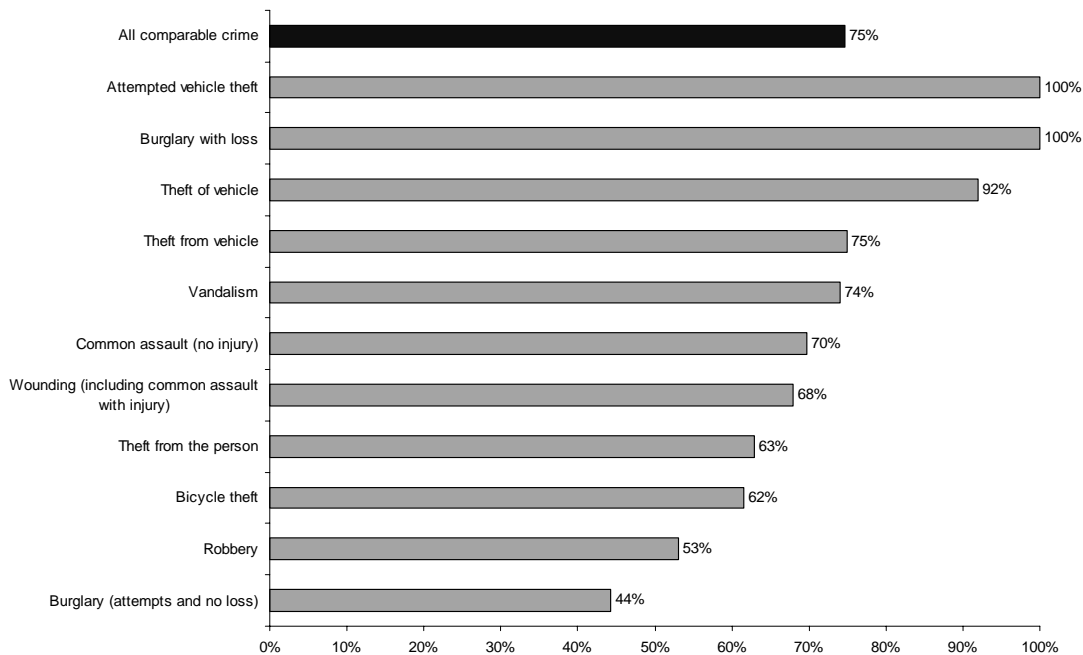


1. BCS estimates of incidents for 1991 to 2004/05 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information please see the Glossary.
2. From 2001/02, reported and all BCS crime relate to interviews carried out in that financial year and incidents experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Recorded crimes relate to incidents in the 12 months up to the end of September of that financial year. This is so that the recorded crime data are centred on the same period as reported and all BCS crime.

3.4 RECORDING CRIME

- Overall, the estimated recording rate of comparable reported offences has increased from 74 per cent in the year ending September 2003 to 75 per cent for the year ending September 2004 (Table 3.04).
- Police recording of crime is at its highest rate since the BCS began in 1981.
- It is estimated that the police recorded 62 per cent of reported crime in 1981 *within the old comparable subset* (Table 3.04). Sharp falls from 1991 followed by rises from 1995, inversely mirrored the rise in crime. The proportion of recording in the year to September 2004 continues this upward trend from September 2001 to a historically high 80 per cent *for the old comparable subset*.

Figure 3.4 Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police for comparable crime, year to September 2004



- However, there is still considerable variation in the recording rates between offence types (Figure 3.4). For some offences the proportion recorded has always tended to be high – thefts of vehicles (92%) for example. Almost three-quarters of the crimes of vandalism reported to the police are now being recorded, compared to a third in 1981. Recording of reported thefts from the person (63%) is more than double the rate in 1981 (Table 3.04).
- The recording rates for certain crimes are still quite low, suggesting that there may still be some scope for increased recording, in particular for comparable violent crimes where it is estimated that only 67 per cent of the reported crimes are recorded.

Recent trends in recording

As shown above, the number of crimes recorded by the police are influenced both by changes in the reporting of crime by the public and changes in the rules and practice for recording crimes by the police. Indexed trends (Figure 3.3) show that the numbers of offences being recorded increased noticeably between 2001/02 and 2003/4 despite both numbers of crimes and numbers of reported crimes (as measured by the BCS) falling. This divergence is still apparent in 2004/05 and suggests that changes to recording practice have been the main reason for the increase in recorded crime rather than increases in actual crime.

Although the proportion of reported crime recorded by the police has been rising consistently since 1995 (as crime as measured by the BCS has been falling), the size of the rise between the year to September 2001 and the year to September 2004 is unprecedented at 18 percentage points for the *old comparable subset* (from 62% to 80%).

The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in all forces in April 2002 aimed to introduce greater consistency to the process of recording crime and to establish a more victim-oriented approach to recording. The impact of the NCRS is discussed in detail in Simmons and Dodd (2003) and Simmons et al. (2003), but in general its effect was to increase the numbers of crimes recorded and less serious violent offences were particularly affected.

Data from individual police forces suggests that increased levels of compliance with NCRS, encouraged by the first and second year of auditing, have resulted in further increases in recording, particularly for minor violence. However, the BCS estimates would suggest that there is still some scope for further increases in recording in certain categories of crime.

- Focusing on the new comparable subset (which takes account of the 1998 change in counting rules and includes common assault and vehicle interference), there has been an increase of 21 percentage points in the proportion of reported crimes being recorded from 2000 (the period prior to any police forces adopting the NCRS). The proportion now stands at 75 per cent.
- Changes in counting rules introduced in April 2002 moved violent offences involving minor injury from the common assault category into 'less serious wounding'. From this date, all recorded assaults which result in some injury or bruising, however minor, are now classified as less serious wounding. This rule change came on top of the anticipated increases in the recording of common assaults from the introduction of the NCRS.
- Adjusting for these differences suggests that the recording of both common assaults and woundings rose, with the greater rise in the less serious category of common assault from 46 per cent to 70 per cent. Overall comparable violent crime shows a rise in the recording of reported crimes from 51 per cent in the year to September 2002 to 67 per cent in the year to September 2004 (Table 3.04).

Table 3.01 Comparison of the 2004/05 BCS and recorded crime for year to September 2004

Numbers (thousands) and percentages	Recorded crime and BCS						
	Crimes recorded by the police - comparable subset (thousands)	Crimes recorded by the police adjusted comparable subset ² (thousands)	BCS estimate of crimes committed (thousands)	BCS estimate of crimes reported (thousands)	Percentage of BCS crimes reported to the police	Percentage of all BCS crimes recorded by the police	Percentage recorded of reported
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(d)/(c)	(b)/(c)	(b)/(d)
Vandalism	1,215	607	2,564	821	32%	24%	74%
ALL COMPARABLE PROPERTY CRIME³	1,484	1,391	3,628	1,741	48%	38%	80%
Burglary	354	354	756	459	61%	47%	77%
Attempts and no loss	92	92	429	208	49%	21%	44%
Burglary with loss	262	262	327	251	77%	80%	100% ⁷
All vehicle thefts⁴	896	811	1,886	918	49%	43%	88%
Thefts from vehicles	459	408	1,210	544	45%	34%	75%
Thefts of vehicles	201	186	214	202	95%	87%	92%
Attempted vehicle theft	237	217	462	172	37%	47%	100% ⁶
Bicycle theft	107	109	403	177	44%	27%	62%
Theft from the person	127	117	584	187	32%	20%	63%
VIOLENCE⁵	827	700	2,320	1,050	45%	30%	67%
Common assault (BCS adjusted) ⁸	260	205	867	294	34%	24%	70%
Wounding (BCS adjusted) ⁸	484	428	1,198	630	53%	36%	68%
Robbery	84	66	255	125	49%	26%	53%
ALL COMPARABLE CRIME	3,526⁹	2,699	8,513	3,612	42%	32%	75%

1. Source: 2004/05 BCS interviews and recorded crime for year to September 2004. The police recorded crime figures used in this comparison relate to the year to September 2004 as this is the period most closely comparable with the recall periods covered by BCS interviews in 2004/05.
2. Adjustments are necessary because of the sampling structure and coverage of the BCS. Recorded crime figures are adjusted to account for under 16s, and commercial property and vehicles which are not covered by the BCS.
3. All comparable property crime comprises: all burglary, all vehicle thefts, bicycle theft and theft from the person.
4. Vehicle interference and tampering became a comparable crime from 1 April 1998; this has been added to attempted thefts of and from, but in some instances may be coded as a nuisance incident or vehicle vandalism when reported to the BCS.
5. Unlike the 'All BCS violence' category in Table 2.01, the violence category here does not include snatch theft.
6. The number of recorded offences of attempted vehicle theft was higher than the number estimated to have been reported. This is the result of estimates having to be made about the proportion of recorded vehicle thefts that are attempts to be consistent with previous years as attempts are a relatively new offence to be recorded by the police.
7. The number of recorded offences of burglary with loss was higher than the number estimated to have been reported. This is the result of estimates having to be made about the proportion of recorded burglaries that are attempts to be consistent with previous years as attempts are a relatively new offence to be recorded by the police.
8. Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. In order to ensure comparability, the BCS definitions of common assault and wounding have been changed to reflect this.
9. This is the recorded crime BCS comparator.

Table 3.02 Percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1981 to 2004/05 interviews

Percentages	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	BCS 2004/05 ints
PROPERTY CRIME												
Vandalism	22.2	22.0	23.7	27.0	26.5	29.9	26.2	30.4	31.7	31.0	30.8	32.0
Vehicle vandalism	10.3	16.1	21.7	24.5	22.5	25.6	23.0	23.6	25.9	27.1	26.3	27.8
Other vandalism	36.4	31.6	26.2	30.9	31.0	35.0	30.2	39.0	39.6	36.8	37.1	38.6
Burglary	66.2	67.8	62.8	73.0	67.8	65.7	63.5	63.3	61.3	64.9	61.5	60.8
Attempts	42.0	48.1	37.9	48.1	47.5	45.0	47.0	47.5	40.8	42.6	44.7	42.2
Attempts and no loss	48.4	50.2	43.7	53.0	51.6	51.0	49.4	49.7	45.2	49.2	48.5	48.5
With entry	81.2	82.3	81.9	87.9	82.9	81.8	78.4	74.1	76.7	81.3	74.5	72.2
With loss	84.7	86.6	86.3	92.2	86.8	84.0	84.5	81.6	84.6	86.8	77.9	76.8
All vehicle thefts	40.8	43.1	46.4	55.9	53.1	51.1	46.1	50.3	51.7	49.8	48.0	48.7
Theft from vehicle	30.0	38.2	39.9	52.6	50.3	50.1	41.7	47.0	48.2	47.0	45.1	44.9
Theft of vehicles	94.9	96.4	94.9	98.6	96.3	97.7	95.9	94.6	93.5	96.8	95.3	94.7
Attempts of and from	30.7	18.0	33.9	41.2	40.0	34.9	36.3	39.6	40.0	36.1	34.2	37.2
Bicycle theft	63.9	68.2	62.4	69.0	71.9	61.6	63.0	54.7	53.1	50.1	43.1	44.0
Other household theft	25.2	21.8	23.8	29.2	31.9	30.2	32.8	32.4	33.0	30.0	30.1	30.1
Theft from the person	31.3	31.2	33.6	34.6	25.6	40.6	33.2	31.9	34.2	32.6	38.4	32.0
Snatch theft from person	24.1	47.2	48.8	37.5	38.7	74.9	49.8	46.4	54.2	39.6	50.2	53.9
Stealth theft from person	32.9	28.8	31.1	33.9	23.4	36.0	30.7	30.5	31.3	31.6	35.7	27.9
Other thefts of personal property	22.7	29.8	31.2	38.0	30.2	28.6	30.7	31.5	32.0	36.1	34.5	34.7
VIOLENCE												
<i>Common assault (no injury)⁴</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.5	30.3	34.0
<i>Wounding (including common assault with injury)⁴</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.8	47.8	52.6
<i>Common assault (including some with minor injuries)⁵</i>	25.1	30.5	32.5	25.5	23.2	34.3	29.6	29.5	25.8	34.2	33.0	39.1
Wounding	40.2	59.6	43.3	47.7	53.2	39.7	45.8	58.3	55.9	51.0	57.2	59.5
Robbery	46.5	39.0	43.9	47.2	48.2	55.1	56.6	29.7	44.5	52.9	53.2	49.1
OLD COMPARABLE VIOLENCE⁷	41.5	54.7	43.4	47.6	52.0	43.9	49.0	47.3	51.8	51.6	56.0	56.3
COMPARABLE VIOLENCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.1	35.4	40.7	41.3	45.3
All BCS violence⁷	29.7	37.8	35.0	32.4	31.5	37.9	36.1	35.3	35.9	40.6	41.7	45.6
Domestic violence	19.6	13.3	46.3	23.4	21.6	27.3	25.9	30.7	34.8	34.7	40.3	39.6
Acquaintance	25.2	35.3	34.0	29.1	32.0	37.4	31.8	36.6	36.4	42.0	39.9	43.8
Stranger	35.2	46.8	30.3	37.5	39.1	40.0	45.6	39.8	31.1	38.7	39.7	48.2
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	37.8	41.6	44.9	47.2	45.7	58.9	55.3	31.8	46.2	49.9	52.3	50.4
OLD COMPARABLE CRIME⁷	36.0	38.7	41.1	49.4	47.1	46.6	43.7	44.5	45.1	44.4	44.0	43.1
COMPARABLE CRIME⁷	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5	41.7	42.6	42.0	42.4
ALL BCS CRIME⁷	31.2	34.2	36.7	43.0	40.1	40.9	38.8	39.4	39.6	40.5	39.9	40.3

1. Source 1982 to 2004/05 BCS.

2. The proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police is calculated from the actual number of BCS incidents (rate multiplied by households/population) and the actual number of BCS incidents reported to the police (reported incidents rate multiplied by the households/population).

3. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the 2004/05 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,803,177 households in England and Wales. For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts, all BCS violence and other thefts of personal property the 2002/03 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 42,688,689 adults in England and Wales. Figures for 1991 to 2004/05 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in the light of the 2001 Census. For more information please see the Glossary.

4. Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. The BCS definition of common assault and wounding has been changed to reflect this from 2002/03 interviews.

5. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries.

6. Old comparable violence includes robbery and wounding only. Comparable violence includes robbery, wounding and common assault. From 1 April 1998 common assault became a notifiable offence.

7. All BCS violence includes robbery, wounding, common assault and snatch theft.

8. It is not possible to test significance for old comparable crime, comparable crime and all BCS crime because rates for household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult, and the two types of rates cannot be combined.

Table 3.03 Reasons for not reporting crime to the police, 2004/05

Percentages	BCS 2004/05							
	Vandalism	Burglary	Thefts from vehicles & attempts ²	Other household theft	Other personal theft	BCS violence	Comparable subset ³	All BCS
Trivial/no loss/police would not/could not do anything ⁴	83	70	82	79	64	45	71	71
Private/dealt with ourselves	11	24	12	15	15	41	20	19
Inconvenient to report	6	5	8	5	6	5	6	6
Reported to other authorities	1	2	1	3	16	6	3	5
Police-related reasons ⁵	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2
Fear of reprisal	2	3	<1	1	<1	5	3	2
Common occurrence	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	2
Fault of friend/relative/respondent	<1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Thought someone else had reported it	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Unable to contact police/police not interested	<1	2	<1	<1	0	0	<1	<1
Offender not responsible	<1	1	<1	1	<1	1	<1	<1
Part of the job	0	0	0	<1	1	1	<1	<1
Other	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,379</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>1,342</i>	<i>1,273</i>	<i>554</i>	<i>814</i>	<i>5,585</i>	<i>7,412</i>

1. Source 2004/05 BCS. More than one reason could be given.

2. Thefts of vehicles not shown as very few incidents were not reported.

3. The comparable crime subset includes vandalism, burglary, vehicle theft, bicycle theft, wounding, common assault, robbery, snatch and stealth theft.

4. Too trivial/no loss/would not have been interested/police could not do anything/ attempt at offence was unsuccessful are merged due to the similarity in their definition, for example: A respondent who thinks the incident was too trivial may code the incident as 'too trivial, no loss' or 'the police would not be interested' as these two codes may be understood as meaning the same.

5. Police-related reasons include: dislike or fear of the police and previous bad experience with the police or courts.

Table 3.04 Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to year ending September 2004

Percentages	Recorded crime and BCS																		
	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999 ² old	1999 ² new	2000 old	2000 new	Year to Sep 2001 old	Year to Sep 2001 new	Year to Sep 2002 ³ old	Year to Sep 2002 ³ new	Year to Sep 2003 ³ old	Year to Sep 2003 ³ new	Year to Sep 2004 ³ old	Year to Sep 2004 ³ new
PROPERTY																			
Vandalism	33	37	43	56	51	46	59	53	56	49	52	59	62	66	70	72	76	70	74
Burglary	70	69	64	62	60	55	50	55	55	58	58	70	70	71	71	74	74	77	77
Attempts and no loss	40	39	36	41	38	34	29	32	32	29	29	42	42	42	42	44	44	44	44
With loss	87	87	83	74	76	71	69	74	74	91	91	92	92	94	94	98	98	100 ⁸	100 ⁸
All vehicle thefts	91	75	71	65	60	54	63	62	66	65	69	67	72	76	84	83	92	79	88
Theft from vehicle	88	64	67	61	59	52	60	58	58	58	59	66	66	75	75	79	80	74	75
Theft of vehicle	100 ⁸	100 ⁸	89	95	94	81	87	88	88	76	76	75	75	84	84	90	90	92	92
Attempts of and from	51	54	47	34	27	33	45	49	64	74	98	60	84	71	100 ⁸	86	100 ⁸	81	100 ⁸
Bicycle theft	91	73	54	62	48	44	44	60	62	56	58	55	56	55	57	63	65	60	62
Theft from the person⁵	26	21	37	26	33	22	29	37	37	44	44	45	45	58	58	57	57	63	63
VIOLENCE																			
Common assault (no injury from April 2002) ^{6,7}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	25	-	46	-	46	-	68	-	70
Wounding (any injury from April 2002) ⁷	41	37	48	53	42	48	56	53	49	73	68	59	54	62	57	66	61	73	68
Robbery	24	35	38	48	45	31	27	53	53	47	48	48	48	53	53	51	51	53	53
Comparable violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	38	-	50	-	51	-	62	-	67
OLD COMPARABLE CRIME	62	59	59	60	55	50	54	56		58		62		70		77		80	
COMPARABLE CRIME									54		54		62		68		74		75

1. Source: 1982 to 2004/05 BCS and recorded crime from 1981 to the year ending in September 2004.
2. Counting rule changes in 1998 meant a new subset of crimes was comparable between recorded crime and the BCS. The old comparable subset is included here in order to continue the trend.
3. From 2001/02 the comparable recorded crime periods for BCS interviews are the year to the September within that financial year.
4. Estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to the population estimates used in calculations (see the Glossary for details).
5. Theft from the person includes snatch and stealth thefts from the person.
6. Common assault became a comparable crime from 1 April 1998.
7. Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. The BCS definition of common assault and wounding has been changed to reflect this from 2002/03 interviews.
8. The number of recorded offences in places is higher than the number estimated to have been reported. This is the result of estimates having to be made where reliable data are not recorded centrally.

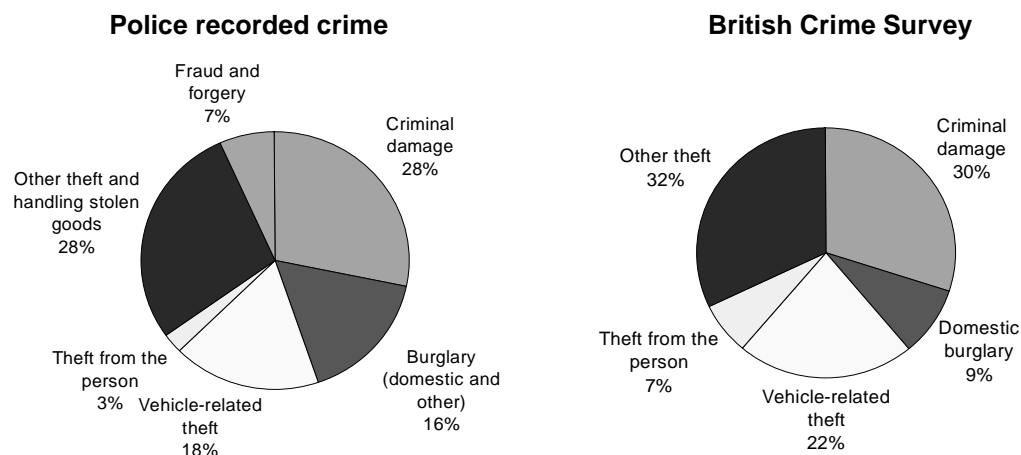
4 Property crime

Krista Jansson, Hannah Roy and Richard Barrett

4.1 SUMMARY

- Property crime has fallen considerably since 1995. Overall household acquisitive crime, as measured by the BCS, has fallen by more than half (53%) between 1995 and 2004/05 interviews (Table 2.01).
- Both the BCS and police recorded crime show a fall in the number of burglaries between 2003/04 and 2004/05. Domestic burglaries measured by the BCS fell by 20 per cent. Police recorded domestic burglaries also fell by 20 per cent, and non-domestic burglaries by 14 per cent.
- The fall in vehicle-related thefts since the mid 1990s has continued in the most recent period. A fall of 11 per cent was measured by the BCS and 17 per cent by police recorded crime between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- Criminal damage remained stable between 2003/04 and 2004/05 as measured by the BCS. The police recorded a two per cent fall in criminal damage between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- The risk of being a victim of either burglary or vehicle-related theft has halved since 1995 and is much reduced for other property crimes.
- For both burglary and vehicle-related crime, having security measures in place was strongly associated with lower levels of victimisation. For example while 83 per cent of all homes had window locks in 2004/05, this was the case in only 36 per cent of homes where a burglar got into the property. Similarly, while 77 per cent of main household cars had some kind of immobiliser, this was the case in only a third (34%) of cars that were stolen.

Figure 4.1 Police recorded and BCS property crime broken down by offence, 2004/05



Coverage of British Crime Survey and police recorded crime

This chapter looks at the various ways that individuals, households or corporate bodies are deprived of their property by illegal means (or there is intent to do so). It comprises burglaries, thefts and handling stolen goods, fraud and forgery and criminal damage.

Recorded crime figures include crimes in all these categories, provided that they have been reported to and recorded by the police. The degree to which crimes are reported and recorded varies according to crime type. Key to whether property crime is reported are perceived seriousness and whether the property is insured. The BCS does not look at frauds, or at crimes against corporate bodies (see Chapter 3).

*Key elements of **burglaries** (as defined by the Theft Act 1968) are entry (or attempted entry) to a building as a trespasser with intent to steal property from it, and actually stealing (or attempting to steal) or vandalising property while inside. Recorded crime figures include burglaries of all buildings, reported to and recorded by the police, and include a distinction between domestic and non-domestic ones. The BCS covers domestic burglaries only, including break-ins (regardless of intent) to all inhabited dwellings.*

- **Domestic burglaries** include break-ins (regardless of intent) to all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (i.e. by a connecting door).
- **Non-domestic burglaries** will include burglaries to both businesses, including hotels and similar accommodation, and also some burglaries of sheds and out-houses where these are not clearly connected to the inhabited property.

*Police recorded **vehicle-related theft** comprises:*

- **thefts and attempted thefts of vehicles** (where the intent is to permanently deprive the owner);
- **unauthorised taking of a vehicle** (where intent to permanently deprive the owner is not evident – this would typically include ‘joyriding’ where the car is later recovered);
- **aggravated vehicle taking** (where a vehicle once taken is known to have been driven dangerously, damaged or caused an accident);
- **thefts and attempted thefts from a vehicle** (targeting property in or on the vehicle); and
- **vehicle interference** (which includes attempts to drive a vehicle away without apparent intent to permanently deprive the owner – mostly included as attempts in BCS).

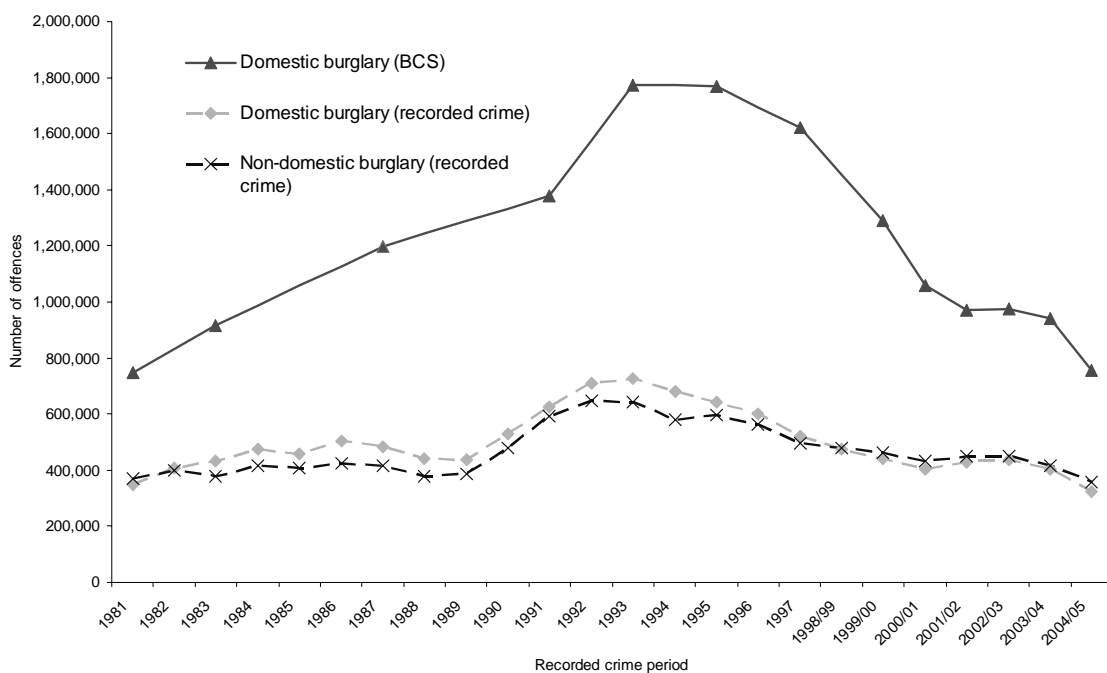
The BCS includes offences against private households only. It looks at three vehicle theft categories: thefts of vehicles, thefts from vehicles and attempts of and from (attempted thefts of and from are not distinguished between due to the difficulty in establishing intent).

4.2 BURGLARY

Extent and trends

- The number of domestic burglaries in England and Wales as measured by the BCS fell significantly between 2003/04 and 2004/05, by 20 per cent to 756,000 crimes. This follows a levelling off in the downward trend in the recent years (Table 2.01).
- The number of domestic burglaries with entry to the property fell by 12 per cent to 469,000 crimes in 2004/05. Attempted burglaries fell by 30 per cent to an estimated 287,000 crimes. (Table 2.01).
- The police recorded 321,459 domestic burglaries and 358,514 non-domestic burglaries in 2004/05. Overall recorded burglary declined 17 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05, further to an eight per cent fall in 2003/04 from the previous year. This follows a small rise during the period when the NCRS counting rule changes were introduced in 2002 (Table 2.04).

Figure 4.2 Trends in BCS and police recorded burglary, 1981 to 2004/05



- The BCS and police recorded crime have both shown considerable falls in burglary levels since peaks in the mid 1990s. The number of domestic burglaries estimated by the BCS fell by over half (57%) from 1,770,000 in 1995 to 756,000 in the 2004/05 BCS. (Figure 4.2).
- Since 1981, police recorded domestic and non-domestic burglary trends have closely followed one another with both experiencing falls since their peaks in the early 1990s. As in previous years domestic burglary fell more sharply than non-domestic burglary (Figure 4.2 and Table 2.04).

- The 2004/05 BCS estimated that 61 per cent of domestic burglaries were reported to the police, and of these 77 per cent were recorded. Burglaries where there was a loss were more likely to have been reported and recorded. (Table 3.01).

Risks of becoming a victim of burglary

- Overall, 2.7 per cent of households in England and Wales had experienced at least one domestic burglary in the previous 12 months. This was significantly lower than the 2003/04 level of risk (3.2%) and substantially below the 1995 level of 6.4 per cent (Table 2.03). Within the 2.7 per cent of households experiencing burglary 1.7 per cent of households were victims of burglary with entry and 1.0 per cent were victims of attempts in 2004/05.

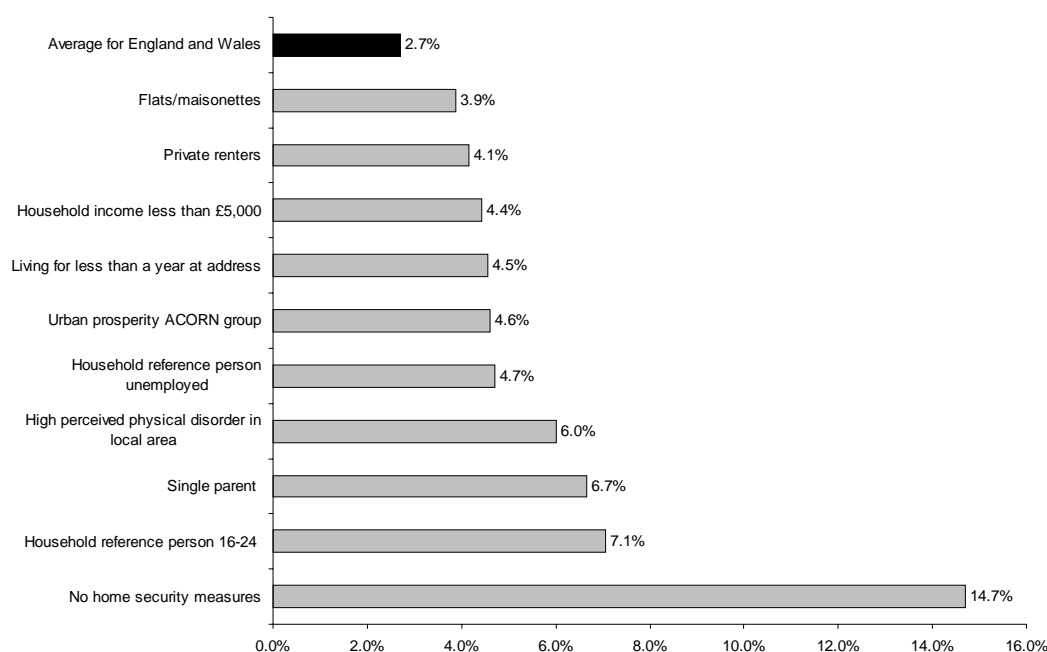
The risk of becoming a victim of burglary varied considerably across households with different characteristics and between households situated in different localities (Figure 4.3 and Table 4.01).

- Households where there were no home security measures were far more likely to have been victims of burglary than those where there were simple security measures such as deadlocks on doors and window locks (14.7% compared with 2.8%, Table 4.01). Although only a small proportion of homes had no security measures (4%), they were the victims of 19 per cent of all burglaries.
- Households where the household reference person was aged between 16 and 24 were significantly more likely (at 7.1%) to have experienced burglary than those living in households where the head of household was older. This may in part reflect the findings of Barberet et al. (2003) where there was a considerably higher prevalence of burglary among students than in the general population, in particular of students living in private accommodation.
- Single parent families were at high risk of becoming a victim of burglary (6.7%). Households with an overall income of less than £5,000 were also more likely to have experienced at least one burglary in the past year (4.4%) compared with households with higher incomes.
- Households that were left unoccupied for five hours or more a day were more likely to have experienced burglary (3.3%), perhaps reflecting the fact that burglars will tend to be deterred from entering occupied properties.
- In addition to household characteristics, households in certain types of areas were also more at risk of burglary. In particular, households in urban areas were more likely to have experienced this crime in the previous year (3.0%) than those in rural areas (1.6%). Households in council estate areas and in rented properties were also at greater risk of victimisation (Table 4.01).
- The risk of victimisation also appears to vary between some areas in the country. The East of England region had experienced significantly lower levels of burglary than the

national average, while London appeared to be more at risk, although this was only significant at the 90 per cent level (Table 6.04). The risk of victimisation has decreased significantly between 2003/04 and 2004/05 in the Yorkshire and Humberside and the West Midlands regions.

- Other risk factors included the number of years spent at an address, with people who had lived at an address for less than a year being more likely to experience victimisation (4.5%). Again, this may be influenced by the higher mobility of students and younger adults (Barberet et al. 2003) and the types of areas in which more of the population is likely to be transitory. The level of physical disorder perceived in the local area also showed a significant relationship, with areas where perceived physical disorder were high being more likely to experience burglary (6.0%).

Figure 4.3 Households most at risk of burglary, 2004/05 interviews



Many of the risk factors mentioned here are inter-related. For instance, income tends to rise with age until retirement. Multivariate analysis¹ was carried out in order to look at which factors were the most important predictors of becoming a victim of burglary independent of other variables.

- Overall, the level of home security was the most important predictor of whether a household experienced burglary or not, with those in households with no security being far more likely to become victims.
- Illustrating this, 83 per cent of the general population had window locks compared to 39 per cent of burglary victims (Table 4.02).

¹ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

- Differences between homes where the burglar had gained entry to the property and those where the attempt failed were also evident. Households that had experienced an attempted burglary were more likely to have a burglar alarm, have double/dead locks, window locks or use outdoor sensors or timer lights (Table 4.02).
- While the level of home security was the strongest predictive factor, other factors were also significantly associated with burglary victimisation, independent of other variables. These are listed in the box below in order of the strength of their prediction.

Strongest predictors of households experiencing burglary:

- *Having little or no security measures*

Weaker predictors:

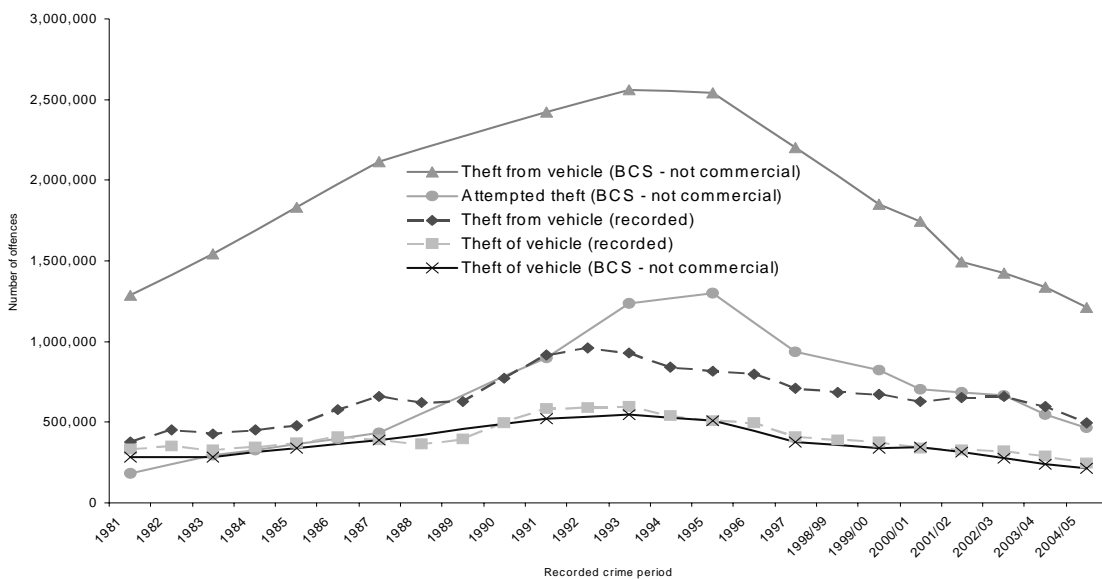
- *Households in areas where high levels of physical disorder are perceived*
- *Being single or separated*
- *Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)²*

4.3 VEHICLE-RELATED THEFT

Extent and trends

- Vehicle-related theft has fallen considerably since the peak in 1995 (57%) and the fall has continued in the latest period. The number of vehicle-related thefts as measured by the BCS fell 11 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05 to 1,886,000 crimes. (Table 2.01 and Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4 Trends in BCS and police recorded vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2004/05



² Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of burglary across different parts of the country independent of other factors including the *type* of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

- The number of thefts of and from vehicles recorded by the police also fell by 17 per cent to 738,531 between 2003/04 and 2004/05. This fall represents a resumption of a downward trend in the last two years following previous increases resulting from the NCRS police recording rule changes. Altogether recorded offences have fallen by 44 per cent since 1995 (Table 2.04 and Figure 4.4).
- Within the BCS categories of vehicle-related theft, there was a fall of 15 per cent in attempted thefts of and from vehicles between 2003/04 and 2004/05 BCS interviews. The number of thefts from vehicles also fell by nine per cent. Estimates also suggest that there was a fall in the number of thefts of vehicles (11%) although this was only statistically significant at the 90 per cent confidence level. Offences in each of the individual categories are around half the level they were at in 1995 (Table 2.01).
- Recorded crime showed a fall of 17 per cent in both thefts of and from vehicles between 2003/04 and 2004/05. Vehicle interference and tampering fell by 14 per cent.
- The BCS estimates that 49 per cent of vehicle-related thefts were reported to the police in 2004/05, of which 88 per cent were recorded. Theft of vehicles were much more likely to be reported and recorded than thefts from vehicles (Table 3.01).

Risks of vehicle-related theft

- Overall, 8.2 per cent of vehicle-owning households interviewed in the 2004/05 BCS had experienced one or more vehicle-related thefts in the previous 12 months. This is down from 9.7 per cent in the 2003/04 BCS and is less than half of the 1995 prevalence (19.7%) (Table 2.03).

Several factors interact to mean that the risk of experiencing vehicle-related theft is not even across the population. Socio-demographic factors will influence usage and ownership patterns, and levels of offending will vary between different types of area. Particularly important for thefts of vehicles are the security measures with which vehicles are equipped³.

- Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft were those where the household reference person was unemployed. Of these households 15 per cent had experienced vehicle-related theft compared with the national average of 8.2 per cent. The risk of becoming a victim of a vehicle-related theft was higher for households where the household reference person was aged between 16 and 44 years. Single parent families were also more likely to have been victims (Figure 4.5).
- Not surprisingly the number of vehicles that a household owned was also a risk factor. Overall 13.6 per cent of households with three or more cars had been victims of vehicle-related thefts.
- Certain types of area were also associated with a higher risk of victimisation. Those living in areas where the perceived physical disorder was high were more likely to have been

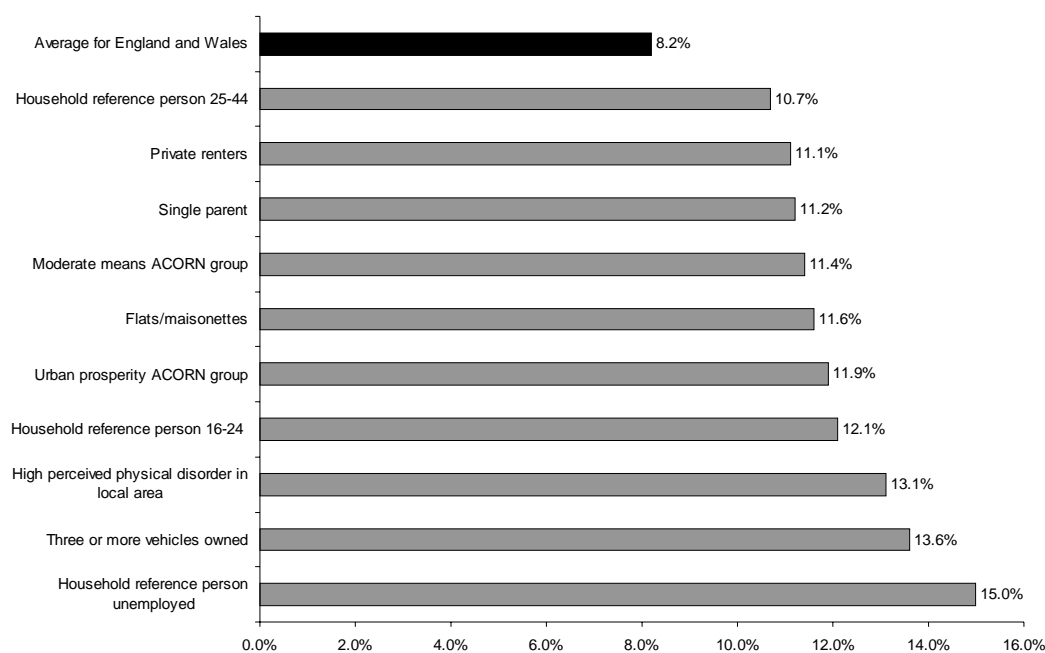
³ The prevalence of thefts among vehicles with different levels of security could not be calculated, but see Table 4.04 for a comparison of security measures on stolen and other vehicles.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

victims of vehicle-related thefts (Figure 4.5), as were those living in urban areas and council estates (Table 4.03).

- London region experienced higher levels of vehicle-related theft in the last year than the national average. The levels of vehicle-related theft were lowest in the East of England and South East regions (Table 6.05). The level of victimisation fell significantly in the South East region between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- The risk of victimisation also varied by the type of ACORN area. Households living in areas classified as urban prosperity (prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas) had the highest risk of becoming a victim of vehicle-related theft (Figure 4.5).⁴
- Those living in flats or terraced housing were at greater risk of vehicle-related theft, perhaps as a result of being more likely to need to park their cars on the street rather than in private areas. Private renters were also more likely to have been victims of vehicle-related theft (Table 4.03).

Figure 4.5 Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft, 2004/05 interviews



Many of these risk factors are interrelated. Multivariate analysis⁵ was carried out among the socio-demographic factors to draw out which were the underlying predictors of vehicle theft. The box below lists the factors that were most strongly related to vehicle-related theft independently of other variables (these are listed in order of their strength of prediction).

⁴ See Glossary for more details on ACORN.

⁵ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

*Predictors of households experiencing vehicle-related theft:*⁶

- *Young household reference person, in particular between 16-24*
- *Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)*⁷
- *Living in a flat or a semi-detached or terraced house*
- *Multiple vehicle ownership*

In addition to these socio-demographic factors, an important element of risk is how secure the vehicle itself is. The considerable falls in vehicle-related theft described above are closely linked to the increasing security measures available on more modern vehicles that make them more resistant to theft (particularly in the case of theft *of* vehicles). The Car Theft Index 2004⁸ shows that older cars, between 13 and 14 years old, are at greatest risk of being stolen. The age of vehicles is a risk factor that will interact with household characteristics.

- Stolen vehicles were far less likely to have security precautions compared with the households' main cars overall. To illustrate this, 27 per cent of stolen cars had a car alarm and 34 per cent some kind of immobiliser, compared with 60 per cent and 77 per cent respectively in the households' main cars overall. Stolen cars were also less likely to have central locking, tracking devices or window etching. There was a greater proportion of security measures found on vehicles subject to attempted thefts compared with those on vehicles that were successfully stolen. This may reflect the effectiveness of security measures in thwarting attempts (Table 4.04).

Another important component of risk for vehicle-related theft is the usage of the vehicle, in particular the places in which it is parked.

- A large proportion of vehicle-related thefts occurred in areas around the home (67%). The street outside the home is where the highest volume of incidents occur, with 41 per cent of vehicle-related thefts in the 2004/05 BCS reported to have occurred in this location. Nineteen per cent of all vehicle thefts occurred in a car park (Table 4.05). The location of vehicle thefts has remained broadly similar between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- However, in assessing the relative risk of different locations, the length of time that vehicles are in those locations needs to be considered. Work by Clarke and Mayhew (1996) found that cars in car parks were at much greater risk than those parked outside the home when length of time parked there is taken into account. Altogether 42 per cent of vehicle-related thefts that occur during the day take place in car parks (Table 4.05).

⁶ The effect of security devices could not be included in this analysis.

⁷ Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of vehicle theft across different parts of the country (when looking at the police force area) independent of other factors including the *type* of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

⁸ The Car Theft Index 2004 based on 2003 theft data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC), and on information provided by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on the number of cars on the road.

4.4 THEFTS AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

Extent and trends

- The 2004/05 BCS estimated that there were 3,324,000 thefts from adults living in private households in England and Wales (excluding burglaries and vehicle-related thefts), of which 403,000 were bicycle thefts, 1,183,000 other household thefts, 584,000 thefts from the person and 1,154,000 other thefts of personal property (Table 2.01). Approximately a third of thefts from the person are reported to the police. Of bicycle thefts 44 per cent are reported to the police (Table 3.02).
- The number of other thefts of personal property (for example thefts of unattended property in the workplace) fell by 13 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05. Other household thefts (including theft of property immediately outside the home) also fell by eight per cent.
- When looking at longer-term trends in these categories, other household thefts have fallen by 48 per cent between 1995 and 2004/05 interviews while other thefts of personal property fell by 44 per cent during the same period (Table 2.01).
- In terms of recorded crime, there was a seven per cent fall in other thefts and handling stolen goods (excluding vehicle-related thefts) between 2003/04 and 2004/05 (Table 2.04).
- The reliability of recorded crime as a measure of underlying trends in non-vehicle thefts needs to be considered. In particular, levels of recorded shop thefts, which fell by seven per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05 to 280,641, are highly dependent on whether the shops themselves, and particularly the larger chains, apprehend suspects or involve the police.

Other Home Office surveys have been undertaken to capture the extent and costs of crime to the retail and manufacturing sector (The Commercial Victimization Survey, Taylor 2004 and Handling Stolen Goods, Finney and Wilson, forthcoming).

The BCS coverage of thefts

Theft from the person comprises both *snatch* and *stealth theft*. There may be an element of force in *snatch theft* just to *snatch the property away* and victims are usually aware of the incident. No force is used in *stealth thefts* and victims are often unaware of incidents at the time they occur.

Other theft of personal property covers thefts where no force is used, and the victim is not holding or carrying the items when they are stolen.

Other household thefts cover a number of theft types. Theft in a dwelling includes thefts that occurred in the victim's dwelling, but the offender was entitled to be there. Theft from outside dwelling covers incidents where items are stolen from outside the victim's home. The category also includes burglaries to non-connected buildings, e.g. garden sheds.

Bicycle thefts are also covered by the BCS.

Risks of theft from the person

- The 2004/05 BCS estimated that, overall, 1.2 per cent of adults in England and Wales had been a victim of theft from the person. Women were more likely than men to have been victims, and those in younger age groups were also more at risk (Table 4.06).
- The risk factors appear to reflect differences in lifestyles as thefts are more likely in particular types of locations. People who had visited a pub or a wine bar more than three times a week in the month before their interview were at higher risk of victimisation (2.0%). People who had left the house for less than three hours a day were significantly less likely to have been victimised (0.8%).
- Marital status also appeared to affect the risk of being a victim of theft from the person, with single people most likely to have been victimised, again maybe because they go out more.
- Multivariate analysis⁹ confirmed that age was an important predictor of experiencing theft from the person. Other factors found to be important are presented in order in the box below.

Predictors of adults experiencing theft from the person:

- *Being young, in particular aged 16-24*
- *Living in 'Urban Prosperity' or 'Hard Pressed' ACORN areas*
- *Being single, widowed or divorced*

4.5 CRIMINAL DAMAGE (VANDALISM) AND ARSON

Extent and trends

- There were 2,564,000 offences of vandalism against private property as measured by the BCS in 2004/05. Of these 1,564,000 were against vehicles and 1,001,000 against other private property, such as a dwelling or surrounding property. Under a third of these incidents were reported to the police (32%) (Tables 2.01 and 3.02).
- Vandalism has remained stable between 2003/04 and 2004/05 according to the BCS (the four per cent apparent increase was not statistically significant). However, the number of incidents of vandalism has fallen by 24 per cent since the high point in 1995 when the BCS estimated there were 3,366,000 incidents.
- Looking at recorded crime figures, there was a two per cent fall in total criminal damage between 2003/04 and 2004/05 to 1,185,388 offences. Of these, 39 per cent (461,305) were to a vehicle and 26 per cent to a dwelling (310,888) (Table 2.04).

⁹ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

There are substantial recording differences between arson recorded by the police and malicious fires figures recorded by fire brigades. The police need a higher level of proof to establish that the report of a fire legally constitutes arson than the fire brigades need to attribute a fire as deliberately started. Also, the police record a large proportion of fires to stolen vehicles as thefts of vehicles rather than arson¹⁰. The figures recorded by fire brigades also relate to a different time period.

- There was a 16 per cent decline in the number of arson offences recorded by the police between 2003/04 and 2004/05 to 48,038 offences (Table 2.04).
- The number of deliberate fires¹¹ recorded by fire brigades in the United Kingdom fell for the second consecutive year, from 121,800 in 2002 to 115,100 in 2003, or a fall of 5.5 per cent (ODPM, 2005, latest available data).
- The number of deliberate fires in road vehicles fell by 9 per cent in 2003, the first fall since 1997. However, as in previous years, in 2003, fires in road vehicles accounted for a large proportion of all deliberate fires, a total of 63 per cent. This type of fire has increased by 56 per cent in the last ten years rising from 46,600 in 1993 to 72,900 in 2003. Deliberate fires in buildings (i.e. dwellings and other buildings) have also increased by 17 per cent in the same period (ODPM, 2005).

Risks of criminal damage

- Overall, 7.1 per cent of households in England and Wales had experienced some form of criminal damage in the previous 12 months according to the 2004/05 BCS. The risk of victimisation was 6.2 per cent for vehicle vandalism¹² and 2.7 for other vandalism. This risk was not uniform across the population (Table 4.07).
- Multivariate analysis¹³ was used to establish those factors most predictive of a household experiencing criminal damage. Since criminal damage comprises both vehicle vandalism and vandalism to the home, two separate analyses were performed.

*Predictors of households experiencing criminal damage to the **home**:*

- *Living in a particular ACORN area, in particular 'Hard pressed' or 'Urban prosperity' areas*
- *Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)¹⁴*

¹⁰ Arson is recorded in addition to the theft, only if there is evidence that the theft and the burning out of the vehicle were committed by different people.

¹¹ A "deliberate fire" is a primary fire where the cause of fire is suspected non-accidental. A 'primary fire' is any fire involving casualties, property (including non-derelict vehicles) or where at least 5 fire appliances attend.

¹² Based on vehicle-owning households.

¹³ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

¹⁴ Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of criminal damage across different parts of the country (when looking at the police force area) independent of other factors including the type of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk. See Glossary for more details on ACORN.

*Predictors of households experiencing criminal damage to a **vehicle**:*

- *Living in a particular ACORN area, in particular 'Moderate means' or 'Hard pressed' areas*
- *Owning more than one vehicle*
- *Families where household reference person under 60 years of age, in particular single parent families*
- *Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)¹⁴*

4.6 FRAUD AND FORGERY

Recorded cheque and credit card frauds are legally defined as deception, with the victims being the owners of goods and services purchased with the stolen or forged card or cheque, rather than the account holder or the bank or credit card company. Many of these deceptions go unreported to the police, either because the victims are unaware that they are being deceived, or because the card holders, once they realise, are more likely to inform the bank or card company than the police. For similar reasons fraud offences cannot be identified by the BCS.

- The number of fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police in 2004/05 was 278,902, a decrease of 12 per cent from 2003/04. Of these, 120,875 offences were cheque and credit card frauds, a seven per cent decrease from 130,239 offences recorded in 2003/04 (Table 2.04).

The police recorded statistics of fraud are, however, a poor indication of the real level and trends. The banking and credit card industry itself records a considerable amount of information on fraudulent misuse of its services, which may provide a better indication of the extent and trends in fraud (see APACS figures below).

For more information on trends and type of fraud and forgery see Flood-Page and Taylor (2003) and Wilson (2005).

UK Card Fraud

APACS, the UK payments association, records information on the financial losses resulting from plastic card fraud in the UK. The total losses reported by APACS in 2004 were £504.8 million, an increase of 20 per cent from 2003 (£420.4m)¹⁵. The largest fraud type was card-not present fraud. Losses from this fraud type were £150.8 million, up by 24 per cent. However, according to APACS this increase was in line with the increase in the number of businesses that offered on-line, fax or telephone payments.

Mail non-receipt frauds involve cards being stolen before they are delivered to the cardholder. This fraud type was up by 62 per cent from 2003, totalling at £72.9m. Losses resulting from some other card fraud types had also increased. Losses resulting from counterfeit (skimmed/cloned) cards had increased by 17 per cent (£110.6m to £129.7m) and identity theft by 22 per cent. (£30.2m to £36.9m). Losses from fraudulent use of lost or stolen cards had only increased by two per cent to £114.4m.

Altogether 18 per cent of the fraud on UK cards occurred abroad, i.e. UK cards or card details were used fraudulently abroad. The reported losses resulting from frauds abroad decreased by 11 per cent from 2003 to a total of £92.5m in 2004.

APACS attribute much of the increase in fraud to criminal groups committing increasing numbers of frauds before the full implementation of chip and PIN, which is expected to limit the opportunities in future years. Similarly the increase in mail non-receipt frauds is attributed to the increase in the number of new cards that were sent out in 2004 with the roll-out of chip and PIN cards providing increasing opportunities for this fraud type.

The implementation of chip and PIN cards and a specialist police squad (the Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit) is expected to play an important role in tackling certain types of card fraud (APACS 2005).

4.7 DRUG AND OTHER OFFENCES

The recorded crime figures for drug possession and trafficking are thought to seriously understate the true extent of offending in those areas. The statistics will also be heavily influenced by local policing priorities in response to local drug problems, and may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime rather than real changes in its incidence. Statistics on drug offending are published annually by the Home Office (the latest information is available in Mwenda & Kumari, 2005).

There is a diverse range of further offences recorded by the police, from libel to immigration that fall outside the subject of the main chapters in this volume. In 2004/05 the total number for this group of 'other offences' was 63,872 (Table 2.04). The marked fall of 10,321 (14%) is due in large part to the re-categorisation of indecent exposure as an other miscellaneous sexual offence.

¹⁵ The total figure for 2003 has been adjusted to include losses reported after the publication of 2003 figures.

Table 4.01 Percentage of households victims of burglary by household type

Percentages	BCS 2004/05			
	All burglary	With entry % victims once or more	Attempts	Unweighted base
Age of Household reference person				
16-24	7.1	4.4	2.7	1,506
25-44	3.6	2.2	1.4	15,104
45-64	2.1	1.4	0.8	16,028
65-74	1.5	0.9	0.6	6,514
75+	1.6	1.0	0.5	5,821
Household type				
Household reference person under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	6.7	4.2	2.6	2,421
Adults & child(ren)	2.7	1.7	1.0	10,011
No children	3.2	2.0	1.3	16,601
Household reference person over 60				
	1.5	1.0	0.5	15,940
Household income				
Less than £5,000	4.4	2.9	1.8	2,871
£5,000 less than £10,000	2.9	1.9	1.1	5,828
£10,000 less than £20,000	2.8	1.7	1.1	8,459
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.5	1.4	1.2	6,400
£30,000 or more	2.6	1.6	1.1	11,868
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	2.1	1.3	0.8	32,359
Social renters	4.0	2.5	1.6	7,962
Private renters	4.1	2.8	1.4	4,516
Household reference person employment status¹				
In employment	2.8	1.8	1.1	25,332
Unemployed	4.7	3.8	1.2	431
Economically inactive	4.5	2.9	1.7	5,636
Accommodation type				
Houses	2.5	1.6	1.0	37,585
Detached	2.0	1.4	0.7	11,449
Semi-detached	2.4	1.5	1.0	14,270
Terraced	3.0	1.8	1.2	11,866
Flats/maisonettes	3.9	2.6	1.4	4,860
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday				
Never	2.2	1.4	0.9	5,485
Less than 3 hours	2.4	1.6	0.9	14,745
3 but less than 5 hours	2.3	1.5	0.8	8,404
5 hours or more	3.3	2.0	1.4	16,240
Area type²				
Urban	3.0	1.9	1.2	33,118
Rural	1.6	1.1	0.6	11,855
Council estate³				
Council estate	3.7	2.3	1.6	8,027
Non-council estate	2.4	1.6	0.9	36,903
Number of years at address				
Less than 1 year	4.5	3.1	1.5	4,188
1 to 2 years	3.0	2.0	1.1	3,049
2 to 5 years	3.3	2.1	1.3	8,351
5 to 10 years	3.0	1.9	1.1	7,595
Longer	1.9	1.1	0.8	21,788
Level of physical disorder⁴				
High	6.0	4.1	2.1	2,750
Low	2.4	1.5	0.9	39,487
Level of home security⁵				
High	1.3	0.7	0.7	3,489
Some	2.8	1.4	1.5	1,964
None	14.7	12.0	3.2	244
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	2.7	1.7	1.0	44,973

1. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

2. Area type is based on the rural and urban area classification 2004. This is not comparable to the breakdown used in previous bulletins (see Glossary for details).

3. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

4. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For these variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

5. 'High' home security includes those homes with burglar alarms, internal or external security lights, or bars on windows. 'Some' security includes homes with deadlocks on doors, window locks or security chains on doors.

Table 4.02 Ownership of home security devices among victims of burglary and the general population

	Percentages			BCS 2004/05
	All burglary	Victims ¹		General population ²
	%	With entry	Attempts	%
Burglar alarm	22	18	28	30
Double/deadlocks	40	33	52	81
Outdoor sensor/timer lights	21	18	26	42
Indoor sensor/timer lights	9	8	11	26
Window locks	39	36	48	83
Window bar/grilles	2	1	2	3
Security chains on door	18	17	19	34
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>906</i>	<i>609</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>44,973</i>

1. Victims were asked what security measures were in place at the time of the burglary.

2. Base is all households (not just those involved in burglary) in 2004/05.

3. Percentages add to more than 100 as respondents could have more than one security measure.

Table 4.03 Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts by household type

Percentages					BCS 2004/05
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle % victims once or more	Theft from vehicle	Attempted vehicle theft	Unweighted base
Age of Household reference person					
16-24	12.1	2.2	8.8	2.1	833
25-44	10.7	1.5	6.9	2.8	12,958
45-64	8.0	1.0	5.3	2.2	14,033
65-74	3.3	0.6	1.9	0.9	4,787
75+	2.6	0.2	1.5	0.8	2,767
Household type					
Household reference person under 60:					
Single adult & child(ren)	11.2	2.4	7.2	2.8	1,416
Adults & child(ren)	10.5	1.4	6.8	2.8	9,328
No children	9.4	1.2	6.3	2.5	14,030
Household reference person over 60	3.8	0.6	2.2	1.1	10,604
Household income					
Less than £5,000	8.8	1.6	4.9	2.7	1,101
£5,000 less than £10,000	6.6	1.3	3.3	2.4	2,799
£10,000 less than £20,000	7.2	1.0	4.8	1.8	6,622
£20,000 less than £30,000	7.9	1.0	5.0	2.3	5,497
£30,000 or more	9.7	1.1	6.7	2.5	11,530
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	7.5	0.9	5.0	2.1	28,486
Social renters	10.4	2.3	5.7	3.1	3,557
Private renters	11.1	1.5	7.8	2.4	3,234
Household reference person employment status²					
In employment	9.7	1.3	6.5	2.5	23,179
Unemployed	15.0	1.8	9.0	5.6	221
Economically inactive	8.3	1.5	4.9	2.4	3,528
Accommodation type					
Houses	7.8	1.0	5.1	2.0	30,932
Detached	5.1	0.5	3.5	1.1	10,707
Semi-detached	7.9	1.0	5.3	2.1	11,663
Terraced	10.5	1.6	6.7	3.0	8,562
Flats/maisonettes	11.6	2.0	6.6	3.9	2,372
Area type					
Urban ³	9.2	1.3	5.9	2.5	25,009
Rural	5.2	0.5	3.7	1.2	10,369
Council estate ⁴	9.9	1.8	6.2	2.5	4,975
Non-council estate	7.9	1.0	5.2	2.1	30,364
Number of vehicles owned by household					
One	6.5	0.8	4.0	1.9	19,253
Two	9.6	1.4	6.4	2.4	12,486
Three or more	13.6	1.8	9.7	3.4	3,279
Level of physical disorder⁵					
High	13.1	3.4	7.1	3.9	1,537
Low	7.9	1.0	5.2	2.1	31,646
ALL VEHICLE-OWNING HOUSEHOLDS	8.2	1.1	5.4	2.2	35,378

1. Based on vehicle-owning households.

2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

3. Area type is based on the rural and urban area classification 2004. This is not comparable to the breakdown used in previous bulletins (see Glossary for details).

4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

5. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For these variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

Table 4.04 Vehicle security precautions on cars targeted in thefts

Percentages	BCS 2004/05				
	Thefts of and from car/van	Thefts of car/van	Thefts from car/van	Attempted thefts	All main cars ³
	%	%	%	%	%
Car alarm ¹	35	27	37	43	60
Central locking	65	48	69	67	84
Any immobiliser	56	34	61	68	77
- Electronic	45	22	51	52	65
- Mechanical	29	18	32	34	36
Tracking device	1	<1	1	2	3
Window security etching	54	48	56	63	57
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,015	203	812	368	3,740
Audio security ²	77	63	80	79	79
- Removable stereo	55	38	58	53	44
- Security pin number	49	40	50	54	62
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,054	210	844	360	3,965

1. Base is cars or light vans subject to vehicle theft.

2. Base is cars or light vans with radio/cassette/CD.

3. Base is all main cars for households (not just those involved in thefts) in 2004/05.

4. Percentages add to more than 100 as respondents could have more than one security measure.

Table 4.05 Location and timing of vehicle-related thefts

Percentages	BCS 2004/05		
	Morning or afternoon ²	Evening or night ³	Total
	%	%	%
Home			
Private	2	2	2
Semi-private ¹	11	28	24
Street	15	49	41
Work			
Car park	9	1	3
Street	6	1	2
Other			
Car park	33	11	16
Street	20	8	11
Other	4	1	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	678	2,007	2,685

1. 'Semi-private' includes outside areas on the premises and garages or car parks around but not connected to the home.

2. From 6am to 6pm.

3. From 6pm to 6am.

Table 4.06 Percentage of adult victims of theft from the person by personal characteristics

Percentages	% victims once or more	BCS 2004/05 <i>Unweighted base</i>
Men	1.1	20,150
16-24	3.2	1,662
25-44	1.0	6,709
45-64	0.5	6,690
65-74	0.3	2,919
75+	0.4	2,170
Women	1.4	24,919
16-24	3.6	2,047
25-44	1.2	8,444
45-64	0.9	7,630
65-74	1.1	3,429
75+	0.9	3,369
Marital Status		
Married	0.6	22,081
Cohabiting	1.1	3,399
Single	2.7	8,562
Separated	1.3	1,400
Divorced	1.6	1,400
Widowed	1.3	5,645
Respondents' employment status¹		
In employment	1.2	23,251
Unemployed	2.4	611
Economically inactive	1.8	7,416
Hours out of home on an average weekday		
Less than 3 hours	0.8	14,012
3 but less than 7 hours	1.3	12,073
7 hours or more	1.5	18,897
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month		
None	0.9	21,957
Less than 3 times a week	1.2	13,076
More often	2.0	10,028
ALL ADULTS	1.2	45,061

1. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

Table 4.07 Percentage of households victims of criminal damage by household type

Percentages	BCS 2004/05			
	Criminal damage to a vehicle ¹	Criminal damage to the home and other property	All criminal damage	Unweighted base
% victims once or more				
Age of Household reference person				
16-24	9.2	3.3	8.0	1,506
25-44	7.8	3.1	9.1	15,104
45-64	6.2	2.9	7.8	16,028
65-74	2.9	2.4	4.4	6,514
75+	1.8	1.4	2.2	5,821
Household type				
Household reference person under 60:				
Single adult & child(ren)	9.5	4.6	9.4	2,421
Adults & child(ren)	7.3	2.8	9.0	10,011
No children	7.3	2.9	8.4	16,601
Household reference person over 60				
	3.0	2.2	4.0	15,940
Household income				
Less than £5,000	5.1	2.7	4.5	2,871
£5,000 less than £10,000	5.5	2.9	5.3	5,828
£10,000 less than £20,000	6.3	2.9	7.4	8,459
£20,000 less than £30,000	6.4	3.0	8.5	6,400
£30,000 or more	7.0	2.9	9.0	11,868
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	5.7	2.7	7.3	32,359
Social renters	8.4	3.1	6.4	7,962
Private renters	7.6	2.1	6.9	4,516
Household reference person employment status²				
In employment	7.0	2.8	8.6	25,332
Unemployed	11.9	3.9	9.4	431
Economically inactive	7.6	4.1	8.2	5,636
Accommodation type				
Houses	6.0	2.9	7.4	37,585
<i>Detached</i>	3.6	2.5	5.8	11,449
<i>Semi-detached</i>	5.9	2.8	7.2	14,270
<i>Terraced</i>	8.6	3.4	9.0	11,866
Flats/maisonettes	8.1	2.0	5.7	4,860
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday				
Never	5.8	2.7	6.5	5,484
Less than 3 hours	4.9	2.6	5.8	14,745
3 but less than 5 hours	6.0	2.5	6.9	8,404
5 hours or more	7.2	3.0	8.6	16,240
Area type				
Urban ³	6.9	3.0	7.7	33,118
Rural	4.1	1.7	5.1	11,855
Council estate⁴				
Council estate ⁴	8.5	3.6	8.3	8,027
Non-council estate	5.8	2.5	6.9	36,903
Number of cars owned in household				
None	n/a	2.7	2.9	9,955
One	5.4	2.7	7.7	1,953
Two	7.0	2.7	9.2	12,486
Three or more	8.4	2.9	10.7	3,279
Level of physical disorder⁵				
High	9.0	4.7	9.7	2,750
Low	6.0	2.6	6.8	39,487
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	6.2	2.7	7.1	44,973

1. Based on vehicle-owning households.

2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

3. Area type is based on the rural and urban area classification 2004. This is not comparable to the breakdown used in previous bulletins (see Glossary for details).

4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

5. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For these variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

Table 4.08 Percentage of households victims by type of area (ACORN)

Percentages					BCS 2004/05
	All burglary	Vehicle-related theft ²	Theft from the person	Criminal damage	Unweighted base
% victims once or more					
Wealthy Achievers	1.6	5.1	0.9	5.1	12,326
Wealthy Executives	2.0	4.9	1.1	5.1	3,877
Affluent Greys	1.2	4.1	0.7	4.7	4,416
Flourishing Families	1.7	6.3	0.9	5.6	4,033
Urban Prosperity	4.6	11.9	3.1	8.0	3,104
Prosperous Professionals	3.2	7.5	2.4	8.2	798
Educated Urbanites	5.5	15.4	4.3	6.8	1,099
Aspiring Singles	4.5	11.3	2.3	9.2	1,207
Comfortably Off	2.0	7.8	0.8	6.7	13,686
Starting Out	2.8	11.3	1.5	6.6	1,095
Secure Families	2.0	8.7	0.8	7.1	7,551
Settled Suburbia	1.8	5.0	0.7	5.9	3,692
Prudent Pensioners	2.3	6.6	0.7	7.1	1,348
Moderate Means	2.9	11.4	1.1	9.7	6,316
Asian Communities	4.4	12.9	1.2	5.4	358
Post Industrial Families	2.6	10.4	1.2	11.1	1,780
Blue Collar Roots	2.8	11.8	1.1	9.6	4,178
Hard Pressed	3.8	10.1	1.5	7.8	9,437
Struggling Families	3.6	9.6	1.3	9.0	6,281
Burdened Singles	3.6	9.4	1.8	6.4	1,982
High Rise Hardship	4.7	9.1	1.8	4.3	614
Inner City Adversity	5.1	15.7	2.1	5.2	560
ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS	2.7	8.2	1.2	7.1	44,973

1. See Glossary for more information about the ACORN geo-demographic classification.

2. Prevalence of vehicle-related theft based on vehicle owning households.

5 Violent crime

Kathryn Coleman, Andrea Finney and Peter Kaiza

5.1 SUMMARY

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is considered the more reliable measure of violent crime. Police recorded crime is susceptible to recording changes, especially non-serious violent offences which form a large proportion of overall violent crime. The changes have been particularly marked since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002.

- The number of violent incidents fell by 11 per cent based on comparison between 2003/04 and 2004/05 BCS interviews. Violent crime has fallen by 43 per cent since a peak in 1995, an estimated 1.8 million fewer incidents.
- The 2004/05 BCS estimated that there were 2,412,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales.
- Forty-six per cent of all violent incidents reported to the BCS did not result in any injury to the victim. At least 48 per cent of all police recorded violence against the person in 2004/05 involved no injury.
- Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk of being a victim of violent crime in 2004/05; 14.6 per cent experienced a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to their BCS interview.
- There were 1,184,702 violent crimes recorded by the police in 2004/05, an increase of seven per cent since 2003/04. Part of this increase is likely to be due to the continuing impact of changes in recording, and more proactive policing of violence problems.
- Overall recorded violence against the person increased by eight per cent. More serious offences in this category increased by three per cent¹. Within this, there was no change in offences of more serious wounding while threat or conspiracy to murder increased by six per cent.
- The number of homicides and recorded firearm offences increased in 2004/05, by one and six per cent respectively.
- Police recorded robbery fell by 12 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- Of the 1,184,702 recorded violent crimes, 20 per cent were common assaults² and 18 per cent harassment, both of which involve no physical injury to the victim. Less serious woundings accounted for 41 per cent of recorded violent crime. Many of these incidents will have resulted in only minor injuries, such as bruising, grazes or black eyes.

¹ See 'Effect of recording changes on recorded violence against the person' text box.

² Including assault on a constable.

5.2 BRITISH CRIME SURVEY AND POLICE MEASURES OF VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime is a very diverse crime grouping, with the most serious crime of murder at one end, pushing and shoving at the other, and a range of offences in between. The BCS and police measures of violent crime both cover a wide range of incidents; there are differences in the type of offences that each series covers (Figure 5.4), although a 'comparable subset' of offences is used to compare the two series (see Chapter 3). In addition, the degree of violence varies considerably even between incidents within the same crime classification.

There are particular issues that make police measures of violent crime figures difficult to interpret and these are of greatest consideration when looking at trends in violent crime. Firstly, police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents. The proportion of violent crimes estimated to be reported to the police has been increasing since the late 1990s (see Chapter 3).

Secondly, police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices, including those relating to national counting rules and recording standards. The Counting Rules changes in 1998 had a very significant impact on violent crime; the numbers of such crimes recorded by the police increased by 83 per cent in the first year of using the new rules (Povey et al. 1999). The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced in April 2002, again resulted in increased recording of violent crimes particularly for less serious violent offences (Simmons et al. 2003). There is still thought to be some residual NCRS effect in this area: audits have identified continued under-recording in some forces, and comparative analysis between BCS and recorded crime suggests that continuing increases in the recorded violence figures are at least partly influenced by increased recording. This is borne out by recent analysis that shows a statistically significant association between the size of increase in recorded violence against the person and levels of improvement in NCRS compliance by police forces³.

Additionally, local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded violent crime. Where police are proactive in addressing low-level violence and anti-social behaviour, this can lead to more of these crimes being brought to their attention and being recorded, meaning care should be taken when interpreting these statistics. Analysis by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has found that police recorded violence against the person increased by 8.6 per cent overall in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04. This increase was largely made up of a rise in low-level and alcohol-related violent crime, and over half of the increase was due to proactive policing (MPS, 2005). Recent research by the Cardiff Violence Research Group also suggests that police data can reflect changes in policing activity against violence rather than measuring changing levels of actual violence. Their study showed an association between the introduction of CCTV surveillance and increased police detection of violence (Sivarajasingam et al. 2003).

Nonetheless, police statistics remain important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with, and recorded, by the police. They are also an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems.

The BCS violent crime measure is resistant to changes in reporting, police recording and local policing activity, and has been measured in a consistent way since the survey began in 1982. It

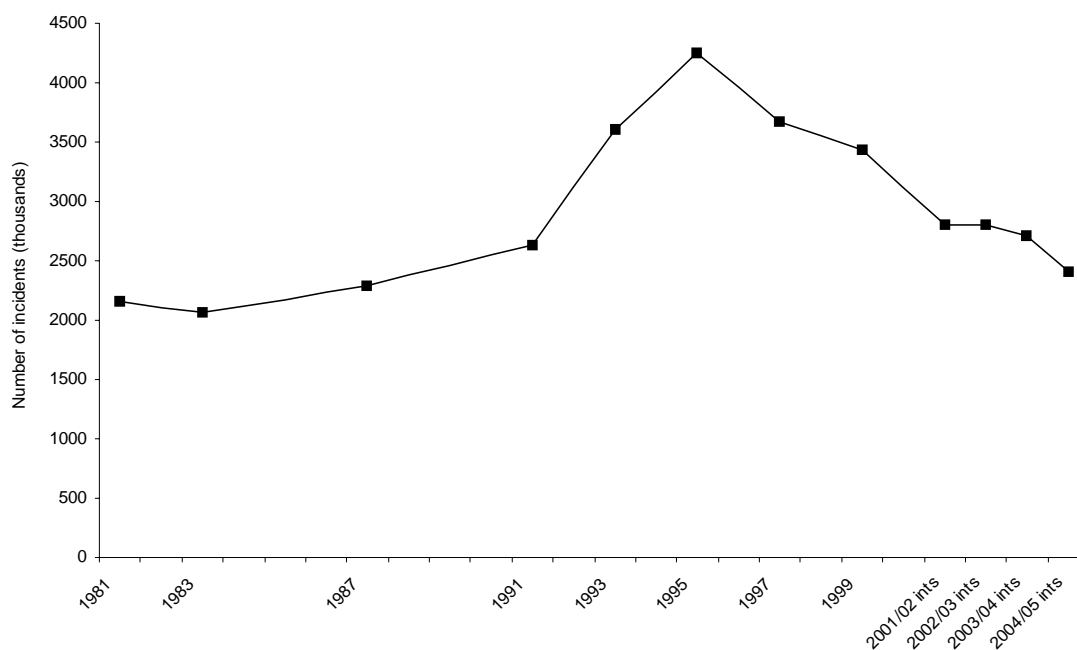
³ See 'Effect of recording changes on recorded violence against the person' text box.

therefore provides a more reliable trend measure, enabling better comparisons over time for the more general forms of violence that it routinely covers.

5.3 EXTENT AND TRENDS

- The latest BCS results estimated that there were 2,412,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales, based on incidents reported to the 2004/05 survey.
- The BCS shows a fall of 11 per cent in the number of violent crimes experienced by adults living in private households between 2003/04 and 2004/05 interviews (Figure 5.1, Table 2.01). This follows a period of some stability between 2001/02 and 2003/04 interviews.
- Longer-term trends in BCS violence show substantial declines. Violent crime reported to the BCS has fallen by 43 per cent from the peak in 1995 to the current level and by 34 per cent since 1997 (Figure 5.1, Table 2.01).

Figure 5.1 All BCS violent crime, 1981 to 2004/05

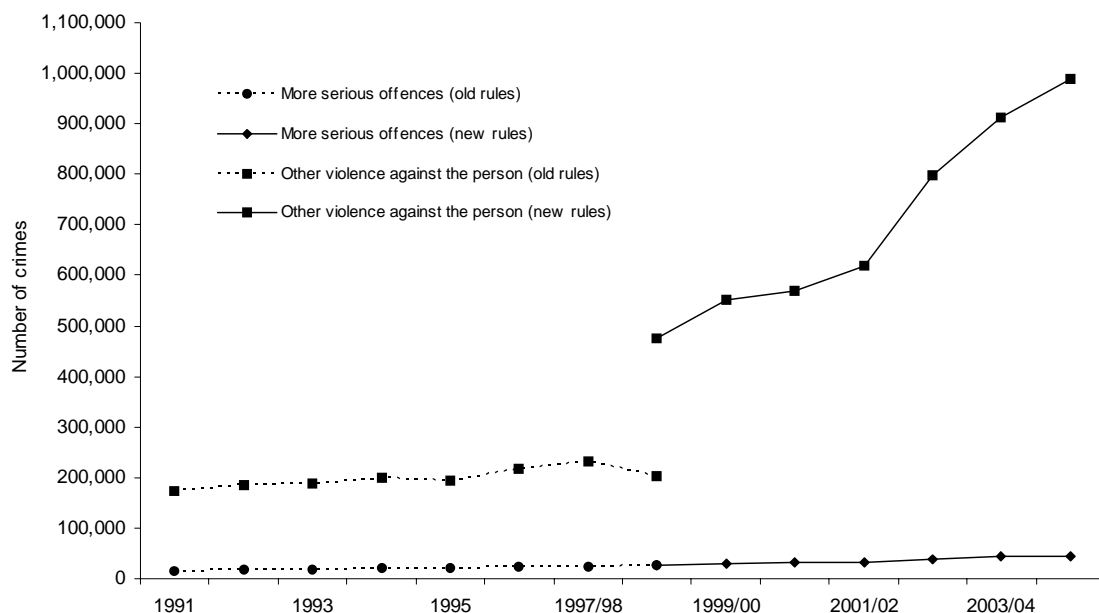


- The proportion of BCS violence incidents reported to the police has increased from 29.7 per cent in 1981 to 45.6 per cent in 2004/05. This increase has been particularly marked in the last few years (Table 3.02).
- Along with the significant changes in recording practices, this explains why the BCS and recorded crime statistics present contrasting trends in violent crime. While estimates from the BCS show large falls in violent crime since a peak of 4,256,000 in 1995, police recorded violent crime has substantially increased over the same period.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

- There were almost double the number of violent crimes recorded by the police in 1998/99 compared to 1997/98, which followed changes to the counting rules that required police to record crimes of common assault and harassment for the first time. Factoring out the effect of these changes, recorded violent crime increased by a further 109 per cent between 1995 and 2004/05. About a quarter of this is due to increases in recording of violent crime following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. The remainder of the increase is likely to be largely due to increased reporting of violent crime by the public, increased police activity and other improvements in recording by the police in previous years (Figure 5.2, Table 2.04).
- There were 1,184,702 incidents of violent crime recorded by the police in 2004/05. Of these, 19,425 were incidents of more serious wounding in 2004/05, representing 1.6 per cent of all recorded violent crime. Less serious wounding, including racially-aggravated less serious wounding, accounted for 41 per cent of all recorded violent crime in 2004/05 (490,507 offences).
- Due to the changes in police recorded statistics, more serious offences, in particular serious wounding, will tend to provide a more reliable measure of trends in general violence as they are more immune to the changes in reporting and recording (Figure 5.2) (See 'Violence against the person' text box for definitions).

Figure 5.2 More serious offences and other violence against the person, recorded by the police, 1991 to 2004/05



Note: There is a discontinuity in the police recorded trend for violence in 1998 when new offence categories were added to police recorded violence, notably common assault, and new crime counting rules were introduced. The numbers of recorded violent crimes before and after this change should not be compared directly.

Effect of recording changes on recorded violence against the person

The Police Standards Unit in the Home Office commissioned the Audit Commission to undertake reviews of crime recording in police forces, to ensure compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard. The first two years' reviews show substantial improvements in NCRS compliance between year 1 (2003) and year 2 (2004)¹.

Audit results for violent crime for each police force indicate a strong association between improved force compliance and larger than average increases in recorded violence against the person. This association has been identified through rank correlation analysis (see glossary). The two variables tested were the improvement in NCRS compliance in violent crime between year 1 and year 2 audits and percentage change in recorded violence against the person between 2003 and 2004.

The resultant correlation coefficient of 0.52 demonstrates a strong positive correlation.

Some individual offences within violence against the person were also tested, on the assumption that some of the more minor offences were more susceptible to NCRS effects. The coefficients were much lower and therefore demonstrated only a weak correlation. As the audit results did not distinguish between different types of violence, this is probably not unexpected. What can be said is that the 2004/05 increases in most of the large offences within violence against the person are significantly greater (or the falls are smaller) in forces with the largest improvements in NCRS compliance (the 'Top nine forces'), as the table below shows.

Percentage change in main recorded offences within violence against the person² between 2003/04 and 2004/05

	2004/05 Number of crimes	'Top nine forces' ³	Other forces
More serious violence against the person			
Threat or conspiracy to murder	23,668	+31%	+3%
Wounding or other act endangering life	19,425	0%	0%
Other offences against the person			
Less serious wounding	485,195	+25%	+12%
Possession of weapons	35,727	+13%	0%
Harassment	194,157	+58%	+22%
Assault on a constable	23,267	0%	+8%
Common assault	213,085	-1%	-13%
Total violence against the person	1,035,046	+22%	+6%

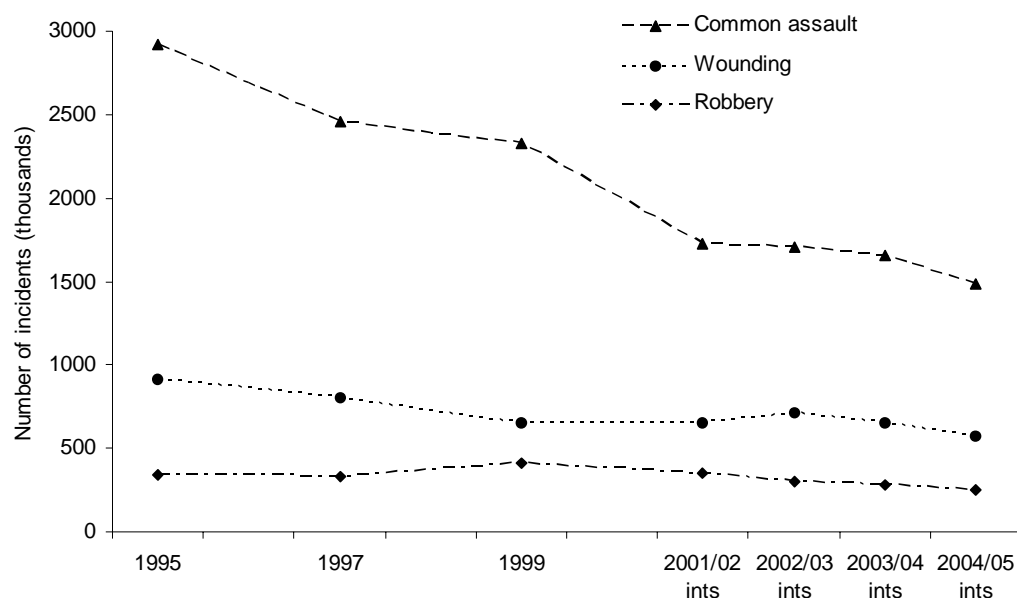
This analysis provides supporting evidence to the assumption that increases in recorded violent crime can partly be explained by recording effects. Furthermore, these effects are concentrated in threats to kill, less serious wounding, harassment, possession of weapons and common assault.

¹ The compliance measure is based on the auditor's assessment that incidents were closed correctly. A full description of the audits and key results appear in 'Crime Recording: Improving the quality of crime records in police authorities and forces in England and Wales.' (Audit Commission 2004, see www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

² Includes only offence categories with more than 10,000 offences recorded in England and Wales in 2004/05. See Table 2.04 for a full offence breakdown for England and Wales.

³ The top nine forces contain those forces with over a 20 per cent increase in NCRS compliance with respect to the recording of violent crimes. The remaining forces have a 15 per cent increase in compliance or less.

Figure 5.3 Trends in BCS violence by offence type, 1995 to 2004/05



- Incidents of wounding, as estimated by the BCS, have generally been decreasing over the last decade, with statistically significant falls of 37 per cent since 1995 and 19 per cent since 2002/03 interviews (the fall of 12 per cent since 2003/04 interviews is not significant). Incidents of robbery have also shown a downward trend in recent years, resulting in an overall fall of 25 per cent since 1995. However, many of the apparent falls between the intervening years were very small and were not statistically significant (Figure 5.3; Table 2.01).
- In just under half (46%) of all BCS violent incidents (from 2004/05 interviews) there was no injury. This has remained stable since 2003/04 interviews (50%; the apparent difference is not statistically significant). The majority of robberies (62%) and common assaults (59%) reported to the 2004/05 BCS involved no injury (Table 5.02).
- There was also no injury in at least 48 per cent of all recorded violence against the person in 2004/05⁴ (Table 2.04).
- The most common injuries incurred in BCS-reported violence were minor bruising or a black eye (32%). Sixteen per cent of incidents resulted in severe bruising and 15 per cent in cuts. For incidents of wounding, more than half resulted in cuts and just over half in severe bruising (Table 5.02).

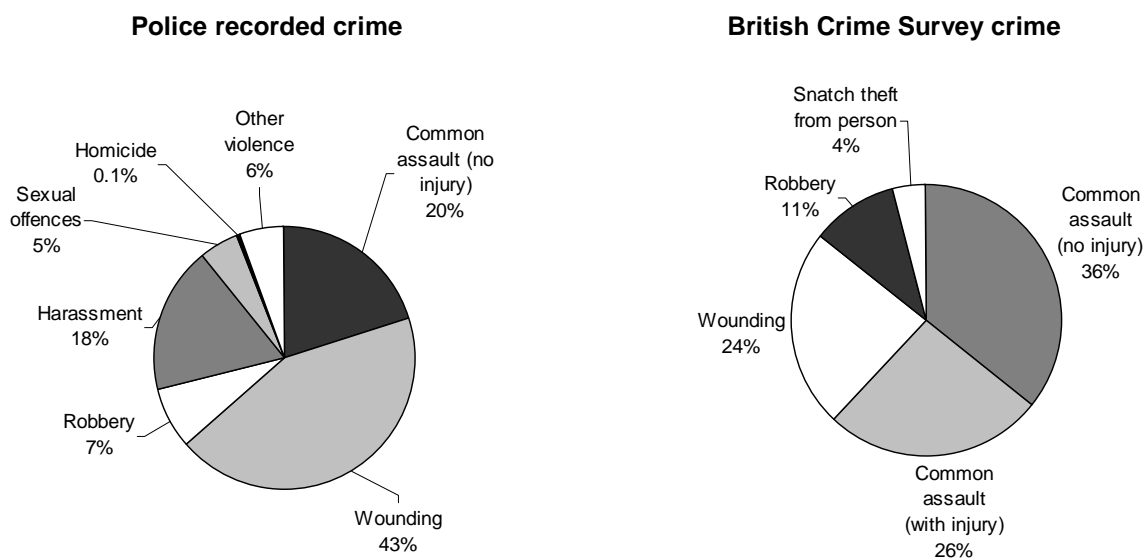
⁴ These 'no injury' offences comprise common assault, assault on a constable, harassment, possession of weapons, and the specific offences against children within other offences against the person. The percentage is likely to be higher if one also includes threats to kill, which is currently included within threat or conspiracy to murder in more serious violence.

- Victims in 11 per cent of BCS violent incidents received medical attention from a doctor, with this rising to 33 per cent for wounding. Two per cent of BCS violent incidents resulted in a hospital stay.
- The BCS shows that the substantial falls in violent crime since 1995 are evident for both violence with injury and violence with no injury, with the fall in violence with injury being slightly more pronounced (46% compared with 40% for violence with no injury) (Table 2.01).
- Independent evidence supporting recent BCS trends in more serious violent crime is provided by the Cardiff Violence Research Group (Sivarajasingam et al. 2005). Their study, covering a nationally representative sample of 32 major A&E departments in England and Wales, indicated that between 2000 and 2004 the number of people attending for treatment of serious violence fell by 13 per cent in England and 20 per cent in Wales.

5.4 TYPES OF VIOLENT CRIME

The category of violent crime comprises of three main offence groups: violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. These cover a wide range of different types of incidents and the degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents within the same crime classification. It is important to remember that the majority of the incidents categorised as violent crimes do not involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of these crimes may still be traumatic.

Figure 5.4 Police recorded and BCS violence broken down by offence, 2004/05



Violence against the person

Violence against the person

'More serious violence against the person' includes homicide, threat or conspiracy to murder, and serious wounding inflicted intentionally (i.e. grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent). 'Other offences against the person' includes less serious injury (such as assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH) or GBH without intent). It also includes offences that are generally viewed less seriously by the courts, such as common assault (see 'Common assault' text box), harassment and possession of weapons.

Among these offences the BCS covers wounding and common assault. As for all BCS offences, coverage is restricted to adults living in private households.

- The majority of violent crimes recorded by the police in 2004/05 (1,035,046 offences) were classed as violence against the person.
- More serious offences of violence against the person accounted for four per cent of all recorded violence (45,181 offences). Within this category, the majority of offences recorded by the police were threat or conspiracy to murder (23,668 offences) and more serious wounding or other act endangering life (19,425 offences). The former offence does not involve injury to the victim but can, nevertheless, be serious.
- The most serious violent crime is homicide⁵. Homicides accounted for 0.1 per cent of recorded violent crime, and 0.01 per cent of overall recorded crime, in 2004/05. The police recorded 859 incidents in 2004/05, an increase of one per cent compared to 2003/04. (A more detailed analysis of 2004/05 homicides will be published later in the year).
- The police recorded 490,507 offences of less serious wounding in 2004/05, an increase of 13 per cent from 2003/04 (Table 2.04).
- Harassment, which does not involve physical injury to the victim, accounted for 18 per cent of police recorded violent crime in 2004/05. The police recorded 216,826 cases of harassment in 2004/05, 25 per cent more than in 2003/04.

⁵ The police statistics for the number of homicides include murders, manslaughters and infanticides that come to the attention of the police. Deaths that are not initially believed to be suspicious may be re-categorised as homicides at a later date. The police record such incidents at the time of re-classification, not the year of death.

Common assault

From April 2002, the definition of common assault for police recorded crime changed and differs from that used in the BCS. Previously, in accordance with guidance on charging, assaults resulting in injuries no more serious than grazes, scratches, abrasions, minor bruising, swellings, reddening of the skin, superficial cuts or black eyes were recorded as common assaults. These are now included in less serious woundings (formerly known as 'other wounding'). At present only assaults involving no injury (including assault on a police officer) are now included as common assaults in recorded crime.

The BCS definition did not change in April 2002, and includes assaults involving at most minimal injury (which is broadly in line with the previous recorded crime definition). However, it is possible to separate out BCS assaults involving no injury and this narrower measure is used in the text, where stated, for comparative purposes. Unlike police recorded crime, BCS common assaults will include those on a police officer, although these are rare. When comparing results in the text however, the police recorded offences of common assault and assault on a police officer are combined.

- Common assaults accounted for 62 per cent (1,488,000 incidents) of BCS violence. Of these, over half (867,000) involved no injury at all and the remainder involved only minor injury (Figure 5.4).
- Police forces in England and Wales recorded 240,029 common assaults in 2004/05, nine per cent fewer compared to 2003/04. Two per cent of common assaults in 2004/05 were racially or religiously aggravated. Common assaults accounted for 20 per cent of recorded violent crime in 2004/05, and since April 2002 involve no injury.

Sexual offences**Sexual offences**

Recorded crime covers most unlawful sexual activity, including kerb crawling and procuration (e.g. pimping), but excludes prostitution. Not all offences included are violent, e.g. bigamy. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, re-defined many sexual offences and aims to encourage greater confidence in the criminal justice system which, in turn, may lead to increased reporting of previously under-reported crimes. Exposure (previously referred to as indecent exposure) is one of the offences affected, having been transferred from the 'other offences' group into the 'sexual offences' group. Further details of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are given in Appendix 2.

There were 9,507 indecent exposure incidents recorded in the 'other offences' category in 2003/04. The new category of 'miscellaneous sexual offences' that includes (indecent) exposure and other new sexual offences contains 10,161 offences in 2004/05 (See Appendix 2 for further information). This change in categorisation in itself could account for much of the increase in recorded sexual offences.

The number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS is too small to provide a reliable estimate of trends; therefore these figures are not presented in this publication. Findings from the 2001 self-completion module covering sexual assault as well as domestic violence and stalking are reported in Walby and Allen (2004).

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

- Although 17 per cent more sexual offences were recorded by the police in 2004/05, this can be largely accounted for by the change in recording of indecent exposure (see text box above).
- Within the 2004/05 total of 60,946 sexual offences, the police recorded 24,120 indecent assaults on a female and 3,515 indecent assaults on a male.
- There were 14,002 recorded rapes in 2004/05, 92 per cent of which were rapes of a female.

Robbery

Robbery

Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. It covers a wide variety of different incidents including bank robbery, mobile phone robbery, street mugging and altercations between schoolchildren over small amounts of money or property.

Recorded crime further distinguishes between robbery of personal property and business property. The former refers to goods being stolen that belong to an individual or group of individuals, regardless of the location of the robbery or whether it was the owner of the property who was being robbed. If there is no threat of force, an offence of theft from the person is recorded. A robbery of business property is where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery.

In the BCS, mugging comprises snatch theft (when there is no threat of force), robbery and attempted robbery.

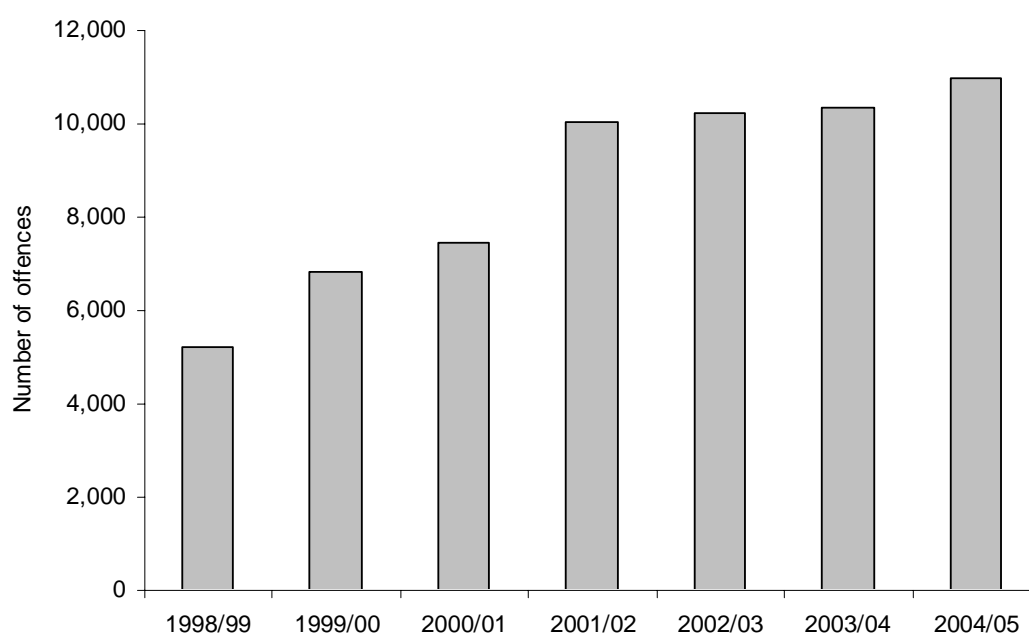
- Although all crime tends to be geographically concentrated, this is particularly the case for robberies. In 2004/05, 44 per cent of robberies in England and Wales were recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service (see Chapter 6 for more information on regional trends).
- The police recorded 88,710 robberies in 2004/05, the lowest total for five years and a fall of 12 per cent on 2003/04. Of these, 91 per cent were robberies of personal property, and the remainder robberies of business property.
- The number of robbery and snatch theft victims interviewed by the BCS is generally too small to provide robust estimates in these categories for individual years. However, BCS estimates suggest a general decrease in robbery over the last decade, with a fall of 25 per cent since 1995.

5.5 FIREARM OFFENCES

Provisional statistics are available for recorded crimes in 2004/05 involving firearms⁶ other than air weapons (referred to as 'firearm offences' in the remainder of this section). Most offences involving a firearm are violent crimes and more than half (54%) occurred in just three metropolitan forces: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.

- In 2004/05 there were a provisional 10,979 firearm offences recorded in England and Wales, an increase of six per cent since 2003/04. The number of firearm offences has risen each year since 1997/98 (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.5 Recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, 2004/05



- Firearms were involved in 1,206 more serious incidents of violence against the person (other than homicide) in 2004/05, the same proportion (3%) as in 2003/04. Less than half of one per cent (0.5%) of other offences of violence against the person involved firearms in 2004/05, though the 4,568 offences recorded represents a 31 per cent increase from 2003/04.
- Firearms were used in 73 (8.5%) homicides in 2004/05, five more than the previous year.
- There were 2,659 firearm robberies in 2004/05 (4% of all robbery offences), a nine per cent decrease from the previous year.
- Handguns, including imitation handguns, were used in 4,326 offences during 2004/05, a decrease of 16 per cent from 2003/04. Shotguns were used in 590 offences, an 18 per cent decrease from the previous year.

⁶ Firearms are taken to be involved in an incident if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used in a threat.

- There were 412 firearm offences that resulted in serious injury in 2004/05⁷, a six per cent decrease compared to 2003/04. The number of slight injuries increased by 81 per cent, to 3,361 offences; it seems likely that changes to the categories used in classifying these offences have partly contributed to this increase. More than half of these slight injuries (55%) were caused by imitation weapons.
- Imitation weapons were used in 3,332 offences in 2004/05, an increase of 55 per cent (1,186 offences) from the previous year. Ball-bearing guns accounted for a large majority of these.

Further analysis of 2004/05 firearm offences will be published when full data are available later in the year.

5.6 VICTIM-OFFENDER ASSOCIATION

Violent crime measured by the BCS can be sub-divided into a typology of four groupings, broadly on the basis of the relationship between suspect and victim:

Domestic violence includes all violent incidents, except mugging, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives.

Mugging comprises robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person.

Stranger violence includes common assaults and woundings in which the victim did not know any of the offenders in any way.

Acquaintance violence comprises woundings and common assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.

Interpreting BCS statistics on violent crime

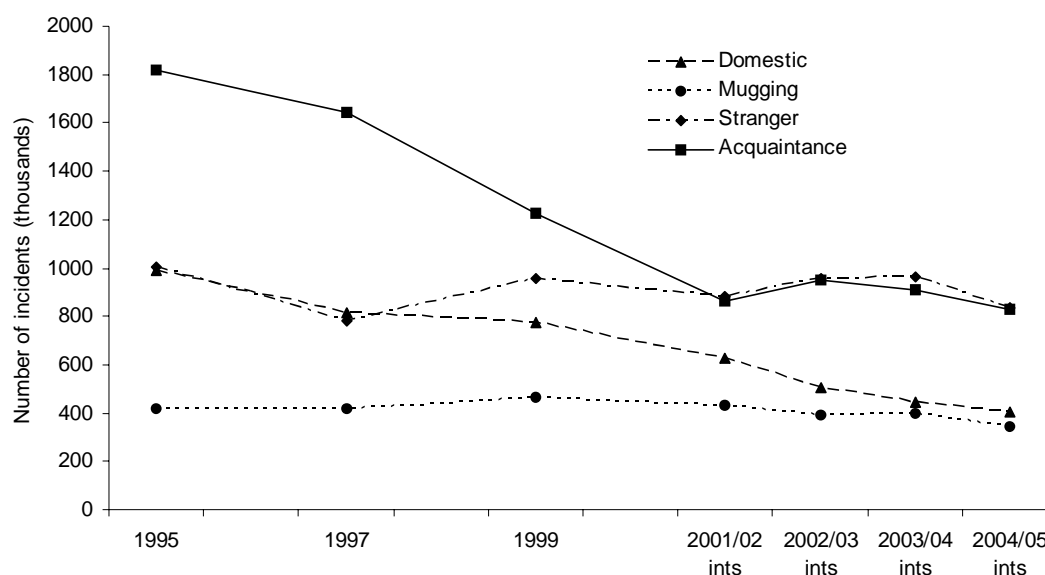
Estimates of the number of violent crimes can be compromised by changes in the willingness of victims to report incidents to either the interviewers or the police. A decrease in the tolerance of aggressive behaviour may increase violent crime figures over time. The relative rarity of some types of violent crime also means that trends are difficult to track reliably through the BCS.

The issue of willingness to disclose incidents is very important for domestic violence. Respondents may not wish to disclose such sensitive information face-to-face and therefore the 1996 and 2001 BCS questionnaires included self-completion modules on domestic violence. These are viewed as providing a more complete measure of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004). Prevalence rates for domestic violence derived from the 2001 self-completion module were around five times higher for all adults than those obtained from the face-to-face interviews. When interpreting changes in domestic violence in this report some caution is required as results only relate to those incidents reported face-to-face to BCS interviewers.

⁷ New, more explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons, introduced on 1 April 2004, may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed with imitation weapons.

- Just over one-third of the 2,412,000 violent incidents reported to the BCS in 2004/05 were incidents of stranger violence, and a further third were incidents of acquaintance violence. Seventeen per cent of violent incidents were incidents of domestic violence (Table 5.01).
- Differences can be seen between men and women in the experience of these different violence types. Seventy-seven per cent of victims of domestic violence were women while 78 per cent of victims of stranger violence were men (Table 5.01).
- Men were more likely than women to experience stranger violence: 45 per cent of violent incidents against men were stranger violence, compared with 19 per cent of incidents against women. Thirty-two per cent of violent incidents against women were domestic violence, compared with six per cent of incidents against men (Table 5.01).

Figure 5.6 Trends in BCS violent crime, by type of violence, 1995 to 2004/05

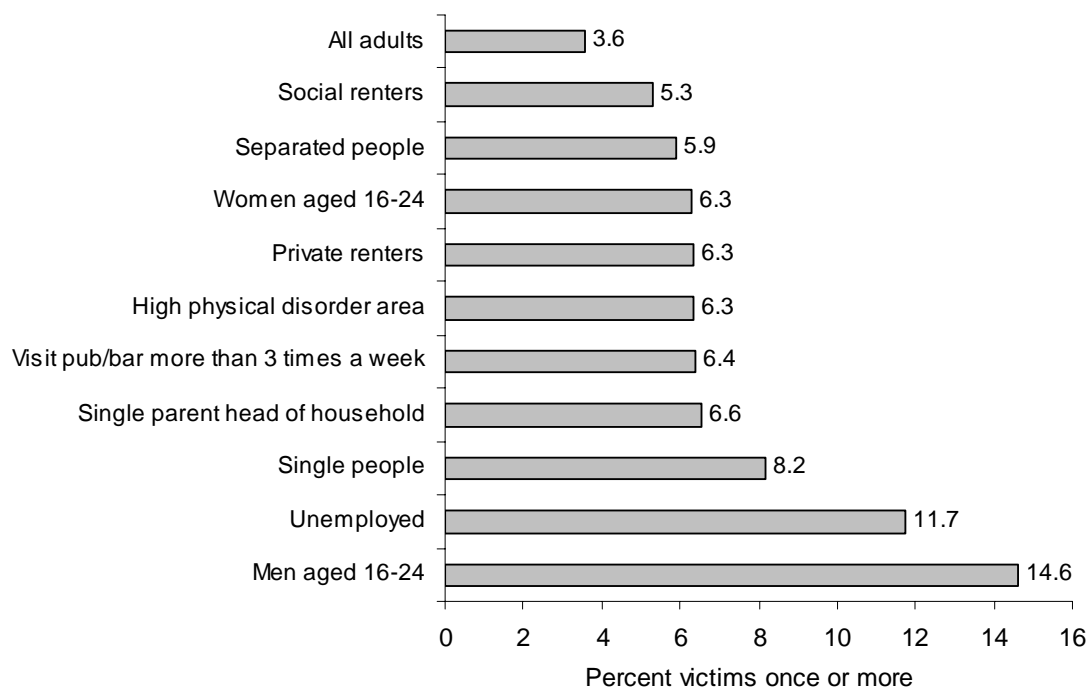


- Since 1995 there have been large and statistically significant falls in both domestic and acquaintance violence. Between 1995 and 2004/05 there was a 59 per cent fall in domestic violence and a 54 per cent fall in acquaintance violence. Muggings and stranger violence have remained relatively stable over this period, leading to a change in the composition of violent crime, with a decrease in the proportion of incidents committed by someone known to the victim (Figure 5.6, Table 2.01).

5.7 RISKS OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

- The risk of being a victim of violent crime in the 2004/05 BCS was 3.6 per cent. Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk, with 14.6 per cent experiencing a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to interview (Figure 5.7; Table 5.04).
- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime was considerably lower for older people for all types of violence. For men, the risk of suffering any violent crime decreased to 2.1 per cent for those aged 45 to 64 years old, and to 0.2 per cent for men aged 75 and over. For women the risk of suffering violent crime was lower overall; the risk of becoming a victim was 6.3 per cent for women aged 16-24, reducing to 1.7 per cent for women aged 45-64 and 0.5 per cent for those women aged 65 and over.
- Other particularly high-risk groups were unemployed people (11.7% of this group experienced one or more violent incidents); single people (8.2%); single parents (6.6%); those living in areas categorised as having a high level of disorder (interviewer-rated; 6.3%); and private renters (6.3%)(Figure 5.7). These patterns are broadly consistent with results from the 2003/04 BCS.
- People who had visited a pub or wine bar more than three times a week in the past month had a higher risk of victimisation for all BCS violence. These respondents were particularly likely to experience stranger violence: 3.2 per cent compared with 0.6 per cent of respondents who had not visited a pub or wine bar (Table 5.04).

Figure 5.7 Adults most at risk of violence, 2004/05 BCS interviews



- Domestic violence was the only category of violence for which the risks for women (0.7%) were higher than for men (0.2%). Risks of stranger and acquaintance violence were substantially greater for men than for women; 2.3 per cent of men were victims of stranger violence in 2004/05 interviews, compared with 0.6 per cent of women (Table 5.04).
- People living in hard pressed ACORN areas (see Glossary for more information) were at the higher end of the range of risk of victimisation from violent crime in the 2004/05 BCS (5.1%), while people living in wealthy achiever areas were least at risk (2.3%) (Table 5.05).

Many socio-demographic characteristics relate to risk of victimisation of violence; however, these characteristics themselves may be inter-related. Multivariate analysis⁸ showed that once the influence of other characteristics was taken into account many of the relationships between the socio-demographic factors and risk of victimisation held true.

The strongest predictors of victimisation of all BCS violence were:

- *being young, particularly aged 16-24⁹;*
- *being divorced, separated, single or cohabiting; and*
- *being male.*

5.8 INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

- The 2004/05 BCS shows that victims believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol in about half (48%) of all violent incidents. This is approximately the same as for 2003/04 (50%; the apparent difference is not statistically significant) (Table 5.03).
- The offender was judged to be under the influence of alcohol in 60 per cent of incidents of stranger violence. The offender was least likely to be perceived to be under the influence of alcohol in incidents of mugging (17%).
- Victims believed the offender to be under the influence of drugs in just under one in five (18%) incidents of violence. Again there is no change compared with the 2003/04 BCS (19%; the apparent difference is not statistically significant) (Table 5.03).
- In contrast to the findings for alcohol, the offender was most likely to be perceived to be under the influence of drugs in incidents of muggings (25%) and acquaintance violence (22%). Victims judged the offender to be under the influence of drugs in 14 per cent of incidents of stranger violence and 11 per cent of incidents of domestic violence.

⁸ Logistic regression (see Glossary for more information).

⁹ The odds of victimisation decreased with the increasing age of the respondent.

Table 5.01 Number of violent incidents against men and women by BCS typology of violence

	Numbers and percentages			2004/05 BCS					
	Number of incidents (thousands)			Percentage of incidents by violence type¹			Percentage of incidents by sex		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
Domestic	92	308	401	6	32	17	23	77	100
Mugging	223	124	347	15	13	14	64	36	100
Stranger	654	184	836	45	19	35	78	22	100
Acquaintance	494	335	828	34	35	34	60	40	100
All violence	1,463	951	2,412	100	100	100	61	39	100
Wounding	353	225	577	24	24	24	61	39	100
Robbery	185	70	255	13	7	11	73	27	100
Common assault	888	602	1,488	61	63	62	60	40	100
All violence	1,463	951	2,412	100	100	100	61	39	100

1. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding and also, within the bottom half of the table, the exclusion of the snatch theft category.

Table 5.02 Injuries sustained in violent incidents

Percentages	2004/05 BCS							
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Wounding	Robbery	Common assault
Physical injury¹								
No injury	46	30	71	48	43	1	62	59
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,612</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>496</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>918</i>
Type of injury²								
Minor bruise/black eye	32	40	19	30	35	28	25	36
Severe bruising	16	26	12	14	15	53	16	3
Scratches	12	20	12	9	11	26	16	6
Cuts	15	15	11	14	18	56	15	1
Broken bones	2	1	1	3	2	8	2	-
Broken nose	2	1	<1	2	2	6	1	<1
Broken or lost teeth	2	<1	<1	3	2	6	<1	<1
Chipped teeth	1	<1	<1	<1	1	2	<1	-
Concussion or loss of consciousness	2	1	2	3	3	9	2	<1
Facial or head injuries (no bruising)	1	<1	1	2	2	4	1	<1
Eye or facial injuries caused by acid, paint, sand etc. thrown in face	<1	-	<1	-	-	-	-	-
Other	3	2	2	3	3	9	2	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,612</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>496</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>918</i>
Medical response³								
Medical attention from a doctor	11	14	7	12	11	33	7	3
Some form of medical attention	16	17	11	16	18	46	11	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,519</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>568</i>	<i>496</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>911</i>
Hospital stay ^{3,4}	2	1	1	2	3	8	1	<1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,468</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>186</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>402</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>880</i>

1. More than one type of physical injury may have occurred. The figure for all violence is calculated using the estimates for violence without injury and with injury in Table 2a.

2. The categories of 'facial or head injuries (no bruising)' and 'eye or facial injuries caused by acid, paint, sand etc. thrown in face' were new to 2004-05 therefore direct comparisons to previous years in respect of type of injury should be treated with caution.

3. Asked of victims where force or threat of force was used.

4. Whether respondent needed one night or more in hospital.

5. Results for muggings should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

6. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries.

Table 5.03 Whether offender/s under the influence of drink and drugs in violent incidents

Percentages	2004/05 BCS							
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Wounding	Robbery	Common assault
Under influence of drink								
Yes	48	53	17	60	46	59	19	51
No	43	45	58	28	49	34	58	42
Don't know	9	2	25	12	5	7	23	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,529</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>880</i>
Under influence of drugs								
Yes	18	11	25	14	22	22	29	15
No	52	80	44	39	55	51	44	55
Don't know	30	9	30	47	23	27	27	31
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,529</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>880</i>

1. Questions not asked if offender identified as under school age.

Table 5.04 Proportion of adult victims of violence by personal characteristics and BCS typology of violence

Percentages	% victims once or more					2004/05 BCS
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Unweighted base
Men	4.7	0.2	0.9	2.3	1.5	20,150
16-24	14.6	0.4	3.4	7.3	5.0	1,662
25-44	5.0	0.4	0.8	2.5	1.6	6,709
45-64	2.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	0.5	6,690
65-74	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	2,919
75+	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,170
Women	2.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	24,919
16-24	6.3	1.7	1.5	1.2	2.5	2,047
25-44	3.2	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.0	8,444
45-64	1.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	7,630
65-74	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	3,429
75+	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	3,369
Ethnic group						
White	3.6	0.5	0.7	1.5	1.2	42,359
Non-white	3.7	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.8	2,699
Marital status						
Married	1.7	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	22,081
Cohabiting	4.8	0.6	0.8	2.4	1.4	3,399
Single	8.2	0.8	1.8	3.3	2.9	8,562
Separated	5.9	2.8	1.1	1.9	0.8	1,400
Divorced	4.6	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	3,968
Widowed	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	5,645
Respondents' employment status²						
In employment	4.1	0.4	0.8	1.8	1.3	23,251
Unemployed	11.7	1.7	2.5	5.5	3.0	611
Economically inactive	5.0	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.6	7,416
Highest qualification						
None	2.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	15,050
O level/GCSE	5.2	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.9	8,429
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	4.2	0.6	0.9	1.9	1.2	7,347
Degree or diploma	3.2	0.3	0.5	1.7	0.8	12,022
Other	2.4	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.6	2,135
Disability/illness						
No disability/illness	3.8	0.4	0.7	1.6	1.2	32,423
Non-limiting disability/illness	2.4	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.4	3,693
Limiting disability/illness	3.2	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	8,897
Hours out of home on an average weekday						
Less than 3 hours	1.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	14,012
3 hours less than 5 hours	3.0	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	12,073
5 hours or longer	4.9	0.5	0.9	2.3	1.6	18,897
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month						
None	2.1	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8	21,957
Less than three times a week	3.5	0.5	0.8	1.3	1.1	13,076
More often	6.4	0.7	1.0	3.2	1.9	10,028
ALL ADULTS	3.6	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.2	45,069

1. Risks based on adults.

2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for details).

Table 5.05 Proportion of adults victims of violence, by household and area characteristics

Percentages	% victims once or more					BCS Unweighted base
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	
Head of household under 60						
Single adult & child(ren)	6.6	3.5	1.0	0.7	1.8	2,425
Adults & child(ren)	4.4	0.4	0.8	1.8	1.7	10,034
No children	4.7	0.5	1.0	2.1	1.4	16,633
Head of household over 60	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	15,952
Household income						
Less than £5,000	5.3	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.5	2,875
£5,000 less than £10,000	2.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	5,829
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.3	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.2	8,466
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.4	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.2	6,405
£30,000 or more	3.6	0.3	0.6	1.9	1.0	11,887
Tenure						
Owner occupiers	2.7	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.9	32,417
Social renters	5.3	1.0	1.2	1.3	2.1	7,967
Private renters	6.3	0.7	1.3	3.4	1.3	4,541
Accommodation type						
Houses	3.4	0.4	0.6	1.4	1.1	37,667
<i>Detached</i>	2.3	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.7	11,475
<i>Semi-detached</i>	3.2	0.4	0.5	1.3	1.2	14,299
<i>Terraced</i>	4.7	0.7	0.9	2.0	1.4	11,893
Flats/maisonettes	4.7	0.8	1.4	1.7	1.2	4,868
ACORN category						
Wealthy Achievers	2.3	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.7	12,355
Urban Prosperity	4.4	0.4	1.4	2.1	0.7	3,115
Comfortably Off	3.1	0.3	0.6	1.4	1.0	13,714
Moderate Means	4.3	0.7	0.7	1.8	1.4	6,329
Hard Pressed	5.1	0.9	1.0	1.5	2.0	9,452
Area type²						
Rural	2.2	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.0	33,192
Non-rural	4.0	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.2	11,877
Council estate³						
Council estate ³	5.0	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.8	8,041
Non-council estate	3.3	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.0	36,985
Level of physical disorder⁴						
High	6.3	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.0	2,755
Low	3.4	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.1	39,572
ALL ADULTS	3.6	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.2	45,069

1. Risks based on all adults.

2. Area type is based on the rural and urban area classification 2004. This is not comparable to the breakdown used in previous bulletins (see Glossary for details).

3. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

4. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For these variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

6 Patterns of crime

Anna Upson

6.1 SUMMARY

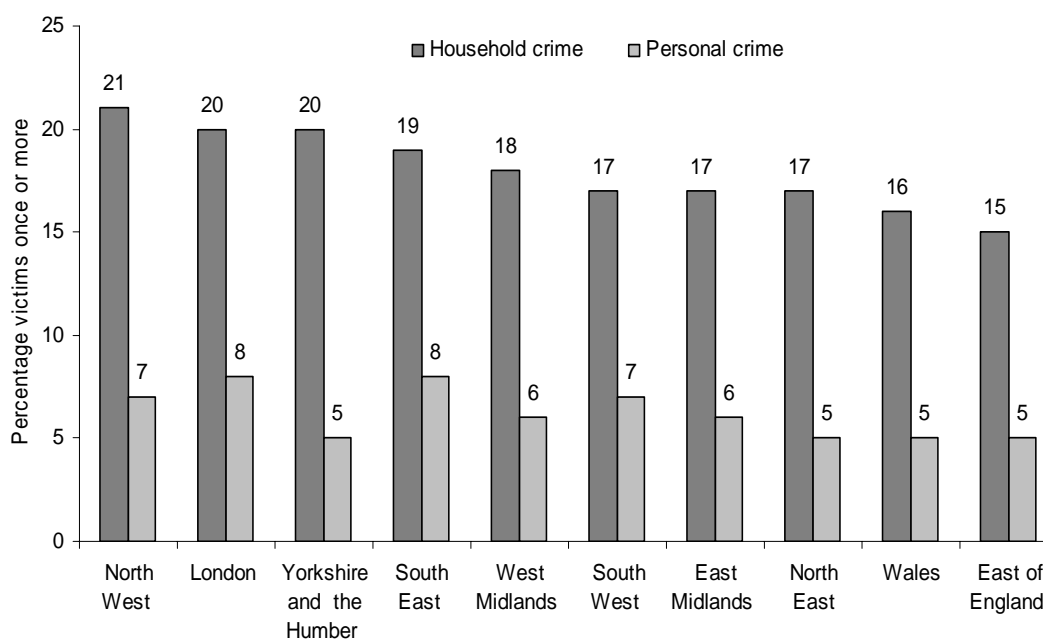
- Risk of being a victim of BCS crime varied by region. Household victimisation rates ranged from 21 per cent in the North West to 15 per cent in the East of England. Personal victimisation rates ranged from eight per cent in London and in the South East, to five per cent in regions with the lowest level of risk.
- Risk of victimisation also varied within the regions; risk of being a victim of household crime was at the top of the range in the Greater Manchester police force area and at the bottom of the range in the Essex police force area. Risk of being a victim of personal crime was at the top of the range in Kent, Greater Manchester and Thames Valley and at the bottom in Essex and Dyfed Powys.
- People living in rural areas had a lower risk of being a victim of crime than people in urban areas. For example, five per cent of vehicle owning households in rural areas were a victim of one or more vehicle thefts in 2004/05, compared with nine per cent of households in urban areas.
- The geographical concentration of crime varies between offences. Robbery is one of the most concentrated crimes; 44 per cent of robberies recorded in 2004/05 occurred in just one police force area, the Metropolitan Police.
- In 2004/05 a third of recorded crime BCS comparator offences took place in 40 CDRPs ('High Crime Areas'). The number of recorded crime BCS comparator offences recorded in these areas fell by 11 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05, compared with a fall of five per cent in the rest of England and Wales.
- The proportion of people who were worried about burglary was higher in the regions where risk of being a victim of burglary was greater; London had the highest percentage of people who were very worried about burglary (18%).
- A higher proportion of people living in London perceived there to be high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area than in any other region, 29 per cent of people in London perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour, compared with 17 per cent of people nationally.
- Three-fifths (60%) of people in Suffolk thought that their local police did an excellent or good job, compared with two-fifths (39%) of people in Nottinghamshire and half (49%) of people across England and Wales.

6.2 RISK OF VICTIMISATION BY REGION

There was considerable variation in the pattern of crime across England and Wales, the distribution of crime varied both by region and type of crime.

- Risk of being a victim of household crime, as measured by the BCS, varied across the regions; ranging from 21 per cent of households having been a victim in the North West to 15 per cent of households in the East of England. Eighteen per cent of households across England and Wales had been a victim of one or more household crimes in the 2004/05 BCS (Figure 6.1, Table 6.01).
- The risk of being a victim of personal crime also varied by region. In 2004/05 risk ranged from eight per cent of people in London and the South East experiencing one or more personal crimes to five per cent of people in the North East, East of England, Wales and Yorkshire and the Humber. Nationally six per cent of people had been a victim (Figure 6.1, Table 6.01).

Figure 6.1 BCS victimisation rates by region, 2004/05



- Similar variations in crime levels were found for police recorded crime. The highest rate of all police recorded crime was in the London region with 139 offences per 1,000 population, compared with 105 offences per 1,000 population across England and Wales. The East of England had the lowest rate of recorded crime, at 88 offences per 1,000 population (Table 6.03).
- Burglary incidence rates, as measured by the BCS, were at the upper end of the range in London, at 426 offences per 10,000 households, although this difference was not

statistically significant (at the 95% level) from the national average of 331 offences per 10,000 households. The East of England had the lowest incidence rate for burglary, with 227 offences per 10,000 households, significantly lower than the national average (Table 6.04).

- In 2004/05 the rates of police recorded burglary in a dwelling were highest in the London region, with 195 offences per 10,000 households, compared with 144 per 10,000 households in England and Wales. The lowest rate, of 96 offences per 10,000 households, was recorded by the police in both the East of England and in Wales (Table 6.04).
- BCS incidence rates of thefts from a vehicle were higher in London than the England and Wales average. In 2004/05 there were 732 thefts from a vehicle per 10,000 households in London, this compares with 531 per 10,000 households across England and Wales. Incidences of theft of a vehicle were at the upper end of the range in Yorkshire and the Humber and London, with 133 and 129 thefts of a vehicle per 10,000 households respectively. Although the rates in these areas were not statistically significantly higher than the national average of 94 thefts per 10,000 households (Table 6.05).
- London also had the highest police recorded crime rates for vehicle related thefts. There were 65 offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle per 10,000 population and 120 offences of thefts from a vehicle per 10,000 population recorded in London in 2004/05. In comparison an average of 46 thefts of a vehicle per 10,000 population, and 94 thefts from a vehicle per 10,000 population were recorded in England and Wales overall. The lowest rate of thefts of a vehicle, at 31 per 10,000 population, was recorded by the police in the South West region, while the East of England had the lowest rate of thefts from a vehicle, with 79 per 10,000 population recorded in 2004/05 (Table 6.05).
- Incidence rates of violent crime, as measured by the 2004/05 BCS, ranged from 655 offences per 10,000 adults in the West Midlands to 474 offences per 10,000 adults in the North East and 471 offences per 10,000 adults in the East of England. The rate for London was around the middle of the range, at 556 offences per 10,000 adults. None of these rates were statistically significantly different from the national average, of 565 offences per 10,000 adults (Table 6.06).
- The rate of violent crime recorded by the police in the West Midlands was close to the national average; there were 226 offences per 10,000 population in the West Midlands, and 224 per 10,000 population in England and Wales. The highest rate of police recorded violent crime was in London (342 offences per 10,000 population) while the lowest rate was recorded by police in the East of England (181 violent crimes per 10,000 population) (Table 6.06). The differences between police and BCS measures of violence reflect variations in the recording and reporting of this information (see text box below).

Differences in recording practices between BCS and police recorded crime

There are differences in the way that crime is recorded by the police and the British Crime Survey. These largely explain the variations between the two sets of figures, and in particular the differences in the figures for violent crime.

BCS incidents are geographically located in the area where the respondent lives rather than at the precise location of the incident, while the area recorded by the police is the actual location of the incident. Therefore recorded crime rates for personal crimes in areas where there is a high influx of people for work or leisure will generally be higher than those based on the BCS. Conversely, BCS rates for personal crimes in areas where the resident population commute to other areas to work or spend leisure time will generally be higher than those based on recorded crime.

The effect is most noticeable when comparing rates for London and the South East. Recorded crime rates for the South East are very low, while for London they are high. BCS rates show London as comparatively high while those for the South East are average. This is because many of those victims responding to the BCS will have been victimised away from their home, either at work, travelling or whilst engaged in leisure activities. Many of the BCS crimes reported by individuals living in the South East will have been recorded by the police in the London region.

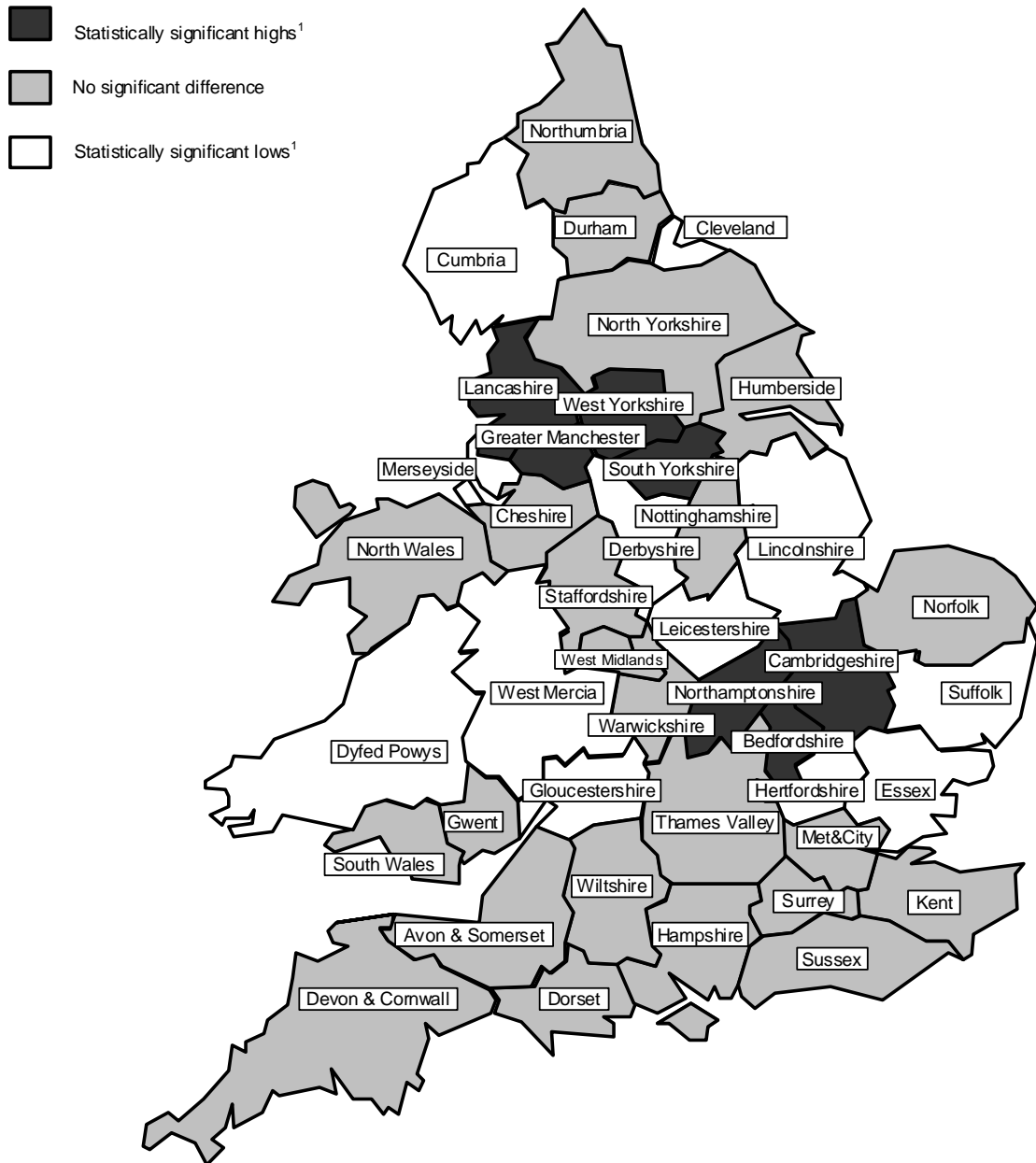
6.3 RISK OF VICTIMISATION BY POLICE FORCE AREA

Risk of victimisation not only varied by region, but also varied within the regions. There was both geographical variation in the pattern of crime, and variation by type of crime in the different police force areas across England and Wales¹.

- In the 2004/05 BCS the risk of being a victim of household crime was at the top of the range in the Greater Manchester police force area and at the bottom of the range in the Essex police force area. Twenty-six per cent of households in Greater Manchester were victims of one or more household crimes, while ten per cent of households in Essex and 18 per cent of households nationally were victims (Figure 6.2, Table 6.01).
- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 there were statistically significant falls in the risk of household victimisation in three police force areas: Cleveland; West Yorkshire; and Derbyshire. In Derbyshire, for example, the risk of being a victim of household crime fell from 22 per cent in 2003/04 to 13 per cent in 2004/05 (Table 6.01).
- There were no statistically significant increases (at the 95% level) in the risk of household victimisation in any areas between 2003/04 and 2004/05 (Table 6.01).

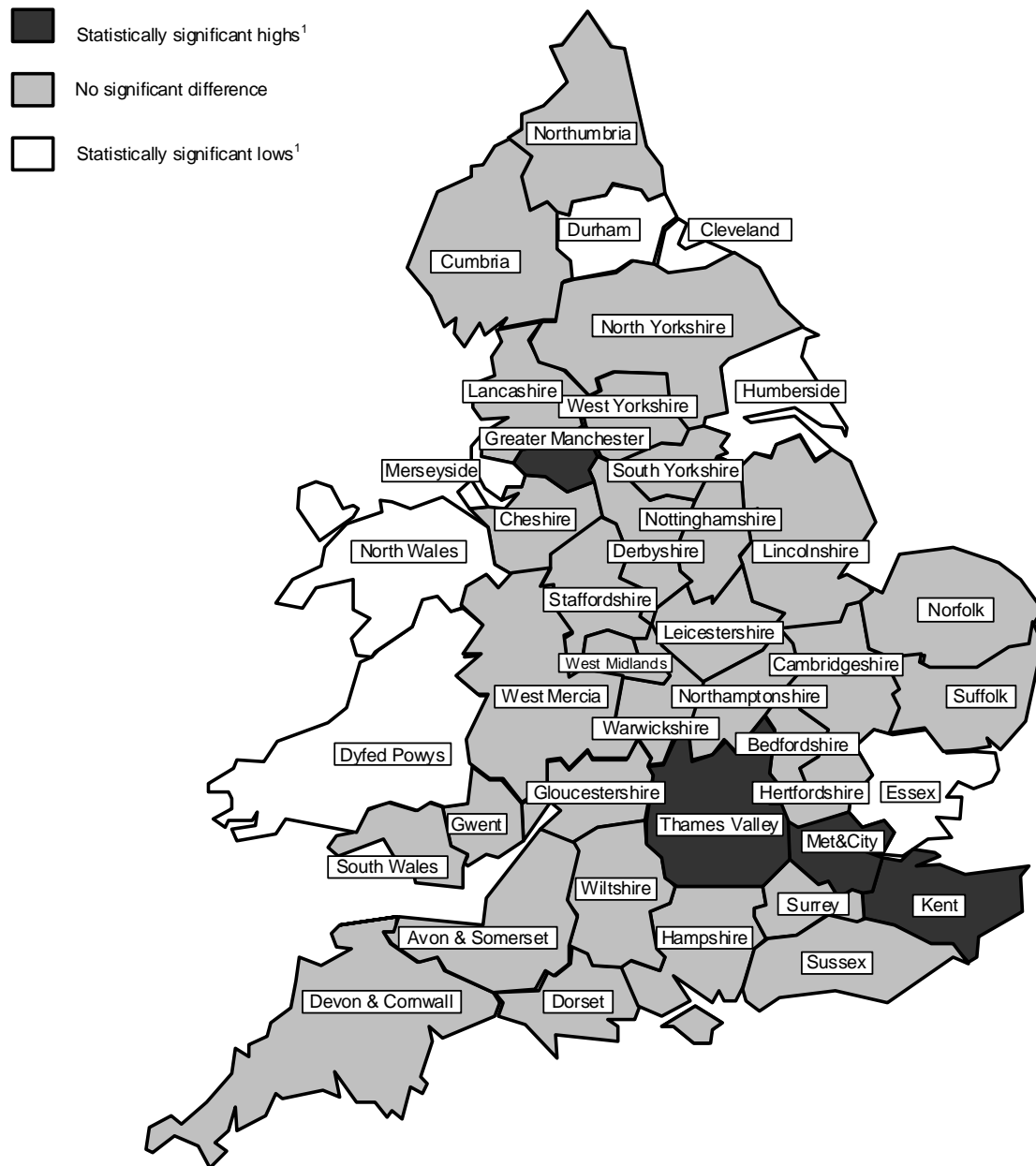
¹ BCS figures at police force area level are based on small numbers of cases and are therefore more likely to fluctuate than those at a regional or national level.

Figure 6.2 Levels of household victimisation by police force area compared with England and Wales, 2004/05 BCS



¹ Statistically significant at the 95% level compared with the average for England and Wales.

Figure 6.3 Levels of personal victimisation by police force area compared with England and Wales, 2004/05 BCS



¹ Statistically significant at the 95% level compared with the average for England and Wales.

- There was less variation in the risk of being a victim of a personal crime, as measured by the BCS, by police force area, risk ranged from nine per cent of people who had been a victim in Kent, Greater Manchester and Thames Valley, to three per cent of people in Essex and Dyfed Powys (Figure 6.3, Table 6.01).
- There were statistically significant falls in the risk of personal victimisation in four police force areas between 2003/04 and 2004/05: West Yorkshire; Cambridgeshire; the Metropolitan Police; and Dyfed Powys. For example, in 2003/04, 11 per cent of people in Cambridgeshire were victims of one or more personal crimes, this fell to six per cent in 2004/05 (Table 6.01).
- However, there were statistically significant increases in the risk of being a victim of a personal crime in two police force areas between 2003/04 and 2004/05: Staffordshire and Gwent. In Staffordshire the risk of personal victimisation increased from four per cent to seven per cent over this period and in Gwent it increased from three per cent to six per cent (Table 6.01).
- Levels of crime recorded by the police also varied by police force area. Nottinghamshire recorded the highest rate of burglaries in a dwelling in 2004/05². There were 281 burglaries per 10,000 households recorded in Nottinghamshire, while Dyfed Powys, with 50 burglaries per 10,000 households, recorded the lowest rate (excluding the City of London³) (Table 6.04).
- Greater Manchester had the highest rate of theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle recorded by the police in 2004/05, with 74 thefts per 10,000 population. Dyfed Powys recorded the lowest rate of thefts of a vehicle at 15 offences per 10,000 population (excluding the City of London). Nottinghamshire had the highest recorded rate of thefts from a vehicle with 160 per 10,000 population, while Dyfed Powys recorded the lowest rate, at 32 thefts from a vehicle per 10,000 population (Table 6.05).
- Levels of violent crime recorded by the police also varied by police force area. The Metropolitan Police had the highest rate of violent crime with 341 offences per 10,000 population recorded in 2004/05, while the Wiltshire area had the lowest rate with 109 offences per 10,000 population (Table 6.06).

6.4 VICTIMISATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

- Both the BCS and police statistics suggest that crime is lower in rural areas. The 2004/05 BCS indicated that households in rural areas had a lower risk of vehicle theft than those in urban areas (5% compared with 9%). Lower levels of risk for people in rural areas were also found for burglary and violent crime (Figure 6.4).

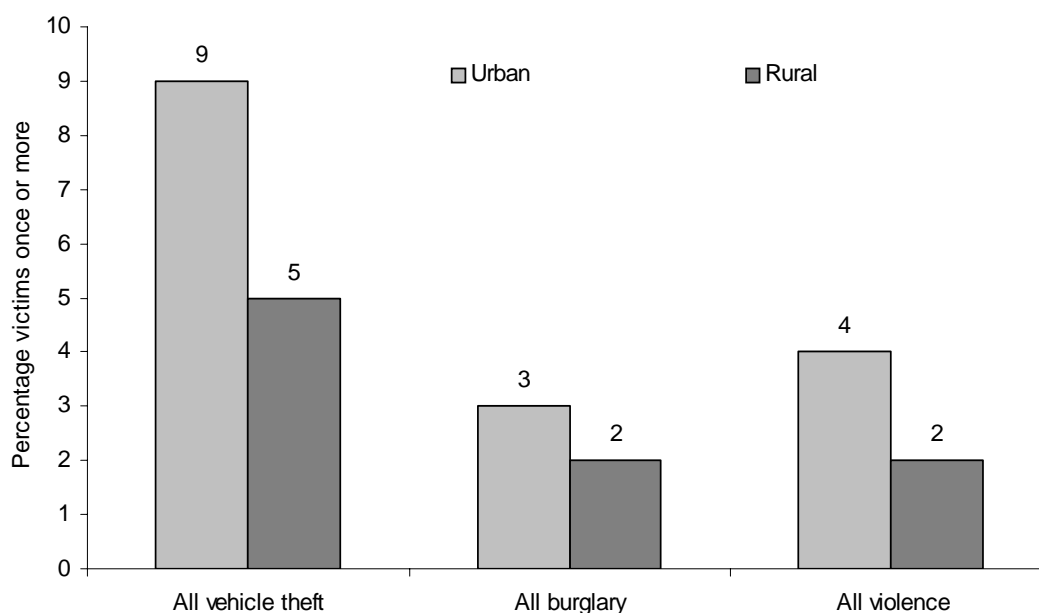
² The police force areas are of differing sizes and this influences the number of crimes recorded. Comparisons using the crime rates, that is the number of crimes per 10,000 population or households in the area, remove the variation caused by the size of the area.

³ The City of London records considerably fewer crimes than any other police force area due to its small size and low resident population, although there are large numbers of people who travel in to this area for work and leisure. When looking at the rate of crime per 1,000 population, the City of London crime rate is generally higher than the rates for other areas because of the small resident population in this area. This police force area has been excluded from a number of comparisons in this chapter because of these reasons.

- Over the past two decades levels of vehicle thefts, burglary and violence in rural areas have been consistently lower than in urban areas⁴.

Chapters four and five examine the variations in property crime and violent crime at a more local level using ACORN, A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (see Glossary). Many of the differences found in the different ACORN areas reflect variations in the socio-economic composition of different neighbourhoods.

Figure 6.4 Risk of crime by type of area, 2004/05 BCS



1. Risks for burglary are based on households. Risks for violence are based on adults. Risks for vehicle crime are based on vehicle owning households.

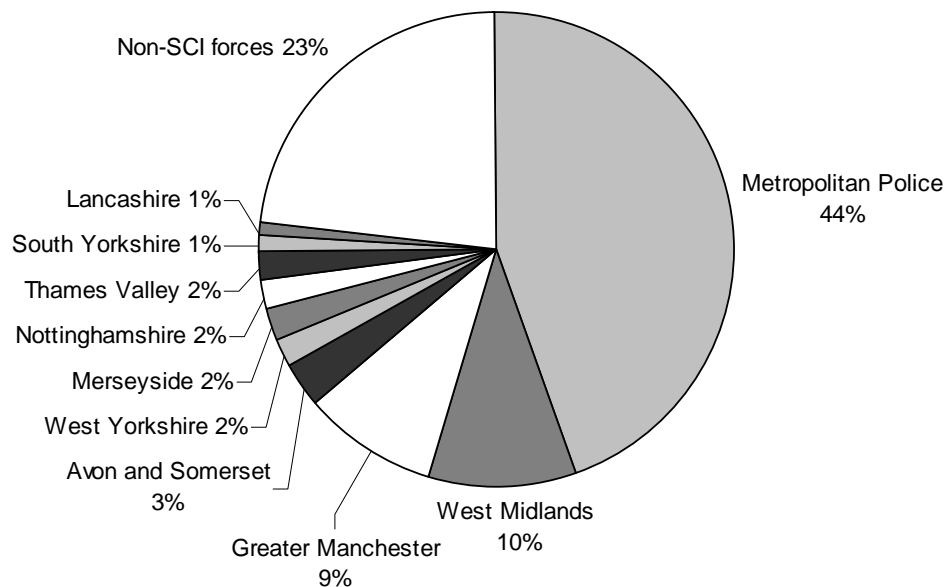
6.5 GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF CRIME

- Prior to the introduction of the NCRS in 2002 the variation in recorded crime between forces partly reflected differences in recording practices (see text box 'Changes in recording practices' in Chapter 2). By 2004/05 this variation had reduced; in 2001/02 the force with the highest level of crime had 44 times the number of offences recorded in the force with the lowest level of crime (excluding the City of London). In 2004/05 the highest force had 31 times the number of offences recorded in the lowest force (Table 6.02).

⁴ Area type is based on the rural and urban area classification 2004. This is not comparable to the breakdown used in previous bulletins (see Glossary for details).

- Much of the remaining variation between forces is a reflection of the number of people who visit the area; the resident population tends to be smaller in city centres, while large numbers of potential victims visit these areas for work or leisure. The highest levels of recorded crime in 2004/05 were mostly in the metropolitan police force areas⁵, these eight forces accounted for 42 per cent of all recorded crime. Thirty-five per cent of the population lived in these areas; however, there are no estimates of the size of the visiting population for these areas (Table 6.02).
- The concentration of crime is particularly evident for robbery. More than three-fifths (63%) of all recorded robberies took place in just three police force areas in 2004/05: the Metropolitan Police, West Midlands and Greater Manchester. The Metropolitan Police Service recorded 44 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales. The ten police forces that were covered by the government’s Street Crime Initiative⁶ accounted for 77 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales in 2004/05 (Figure 6.5, Table 6.02).

Figure 6.5 Recorded robbery in the ten Street Crime Initiative forces, 2004/05



Recorded crime data for the 376 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and Wales⁷ showed that there were different levels of geographic concentration for different crime types.

⁵ The metropolitan police forces are: the Metropolitan Police Service; City of London; West Midlands; Merseyside; Greater Manchester; West Yorkshire; South Yorkshire; and Northumbria.

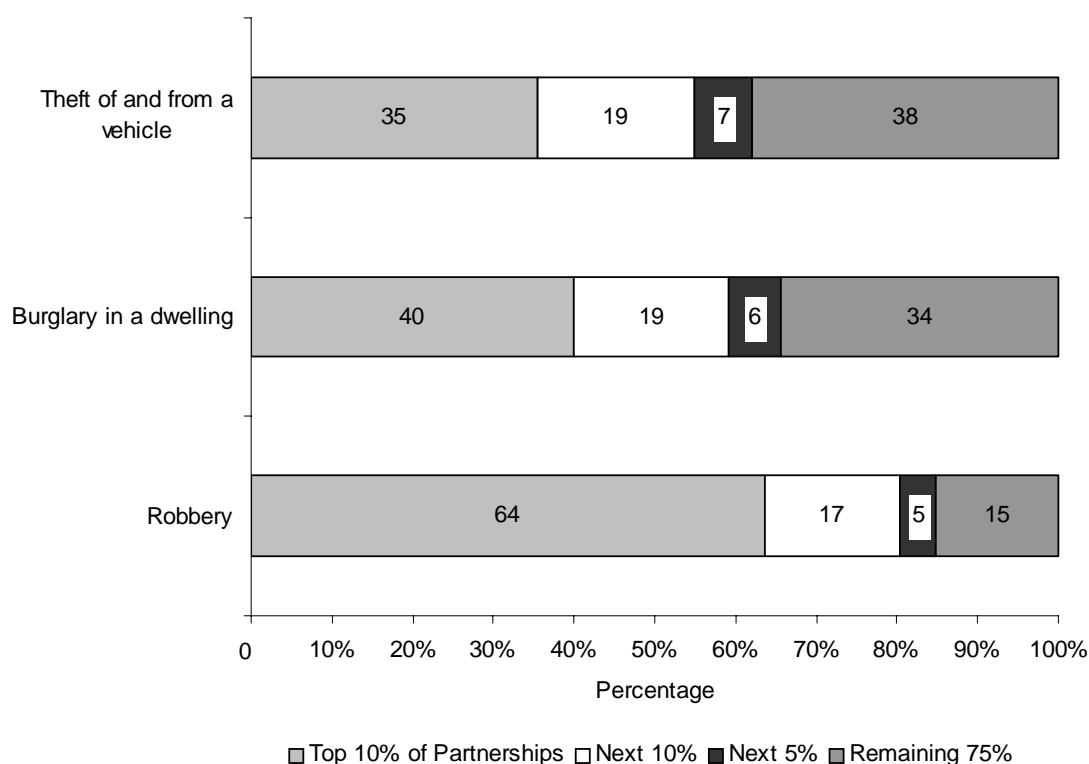
⁶ See Glossary for details of the Street Crime Initiative (SCI).

⁷ Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to tackle crime within local authority boundaries. They are partnerships between police forces and local authorities, together with police authorities, health authorities, probation committees and other partners in some areas. The 22 CDRPs in Wales changed to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) after merging with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

- The ten per cent of partnerships with the highest numbers of recorded robberies (the top 38 CDRPs) accounted for 64 per cent of recorded robberies in England and Wales in 2004/05. While the 75 per cent of partnerships with the lowest number of robberies accounted for just 15 per cent of recorded robberies (Figure 6.6).
- The ten per cent of partnerships with the highest number of recorded burglaries accounted for 40 per cent of burglaries recorded by the police in 2004/05, while the ten per cent of partnerships with the highest number of recorded vehicle related thefts accounted for 35 per cent of thefts of and from vehicles (Figure 6.6).

Figure 6.6 Concentration of crime in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2004/05



Forty of the CDRPs have been identified as 'High Crime Areas', based on their recorded crime BCS comparator⁸ crime rates and their levels of overall crime in 2003/04. Twenty-two per cent of the population of England and Wales live in these High Crime Areas.

- There were 1,104,463 recorded crime BCS comparator offences in the High Crime Areas in 2004/05. The number of recorded crime BCS comparator offences in these High Crime

⁸ The recorded crime BCS comparator refers to a subset of recorded crime which covers a similar range of offences to the BCS. See text box 'The recorded crime BCS comparator' in Chapter 3.

Areas fell by 11 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05, compared with a fall of five per cent in the rest of England and Wales over the same period.

- The High Crime Areas accounted for 33 per cent of recorded crime BCS comparator offences in 2004/05, while in 2003/04 they accounted for 34 per cent of these offences.
- There were 94 recorded crime BCS comparator offences per 1,000 population in the High Crime Areas in 2004/05, compared with 55 per 1,000 population in other areas. The crime rate per 1,000 population fell by 11 per cent in the High Crime Areas, while the rate fell by six per cent in other areas between 2003/04 and 2004/05.

Tables showing the recorded crime figures for the 376 CDRPs in England and in Wales and for Police Basic Command Units (BCUs)⁹ are available online at:

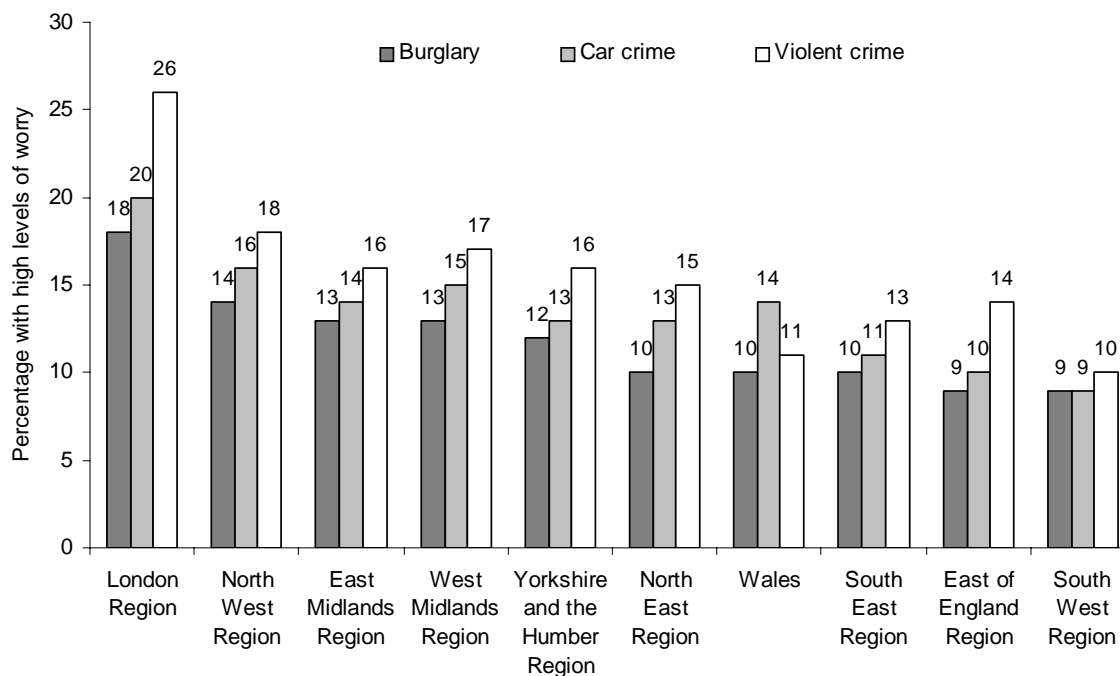
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html>

6.6 WORRY ABOUT CRIME

- In the 2004/05 BCS the level of worry about burglary generally reflected the regional pattern of victimisation; the proportion of people who were very worried was higher in the regions where risk of victimisation was greater. London had the highest percentage of people who were very worried about burglary, at 18 per cent, compared with an average of 12 per cent across England and Wales (Figure 6.7, Table 6.07).
- The links between risk of victimisation in the regions and worry about car crime were less clear. The proportion of people with high levels of worry about car crime ranged from 20 per cent of people in London, to nine per cent of people in the South West (based on vehicle owners only). However, levels of worry in Yorkshire and the Humber were relatively low when considered against the high incidence rate in this region; 13 per cent of vehicle owning people in Yorkshire and the Humber were worried about car crime (Figure 6.7, Table 6.07).
- Worry about violent crime also did not generally follow the regional pattern of risk of victimisation. For example, while people in London were at an average risk of being a victim of BCS violence, a higher proportion of people in London than in any other region had a high level of worry about violent crime (26%) (Figure 6.7, Table 6.07). However, the London region had the highest rates of police recorded violence against the person and robbery in 2004/05 (Table 6.03, Table 6.06); this is likely to have had an influence on people's perceptions of crime and worry about crime in the region.
- Across the majority of the regions a higher percentage of people were worried about violent crime than about the other crime types, with the exception of Wales, where a significantly larger proportion of people were worried about car crime (Figure 6.7, Table 6.07).

⁹ Basic Command Units (BCUs) are the units into which police forces divide their areas for management and accounting purposes.

Figure 6.7 Worry about crime by region, 2004/05 BCS



- Levels of worry about crime also varied by police force area. The proportion of people who were very worried about burglary in the 2004/05 BCS ranged from 18 per cent in the Metropolitan Police to seven per cent in Essex, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Dorset and Suffolk. Nottinghamshire, the police force area with the highest rate of police recorded burglary in a dwelling, was also near the top of the range for worry about burglary; 16 per cent of people in Nottinghamshire were very worried about burglary (Table 6.07).
- The percentage of people with high levels of worry about car crime ranged from over a fifth (22%) of people in Merseyside to six per cent of people in Lincolnshire, Suffolk and Dyfed Powys (Table 6.07).
- Even within the regions there were substantial variations in levels of worry. For example, seven per cent of people in Lincolnshire had high levels of worry about violent crime, compared with 25 per cent of people in Northamptonshire, and 16 per cent of people in the East Midlands as a whole (Table 6.07).

6.7 PERCEPTIONS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Perceptions of anti-social behaviour varied across the regions. Twenty-nine per cent of people living in London perceived there to be high levels of anti-social behaviour¹⁰ in their area, compared with 12 per cent of people in the East of England and 17 per cent of people in England and Wales overall (Table 6.08).
- London was also the region with the highest proportion of people perceiving there to be a very or fairly big problem with drug use or drug dealing in their area. A third (34%) of people in London thought this was a problem in their area, compared with a fifth (20%) of people in the East of England, the region with the lowest proportion of people perceiving this to be a problem, and a quarter (26%) of people nationally (Table 6.08).
- The percentage of people perceiving there to be high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area also differed by police force area. It was at the top of the range in the Metropolitan Police force area, where 29 per cent of people perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour, while it was at the bottom of the range in Lincolnshire and Essex, where seven per cent of people perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour (Table 6.08).
- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the percentage of people perceiving high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area increased in the Metropolitan Police force area, from 24 per cent of people to 29 per cent. There were no statistically significant decreases in the percentage of people perceiving high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area over this period (Table 6.08).
- Lincolnshire and Essex were also at the bottom end of the range for the proportion of people perceiving there to be a very or fairly big problem with drug use or drug dealing in their area, with 13 per cent of people perceiving this to be a problem. In comparison South Yorkshire, at 35 per cent, was at the top of the range (Table 6.08).

6.8 CONFIDENCE IN THE LOCAL POLICE

- The proportion of people who thought that the police in their area did an excellent or good job varied by police force area, ranging from three-fifths (60%) of people in Suffolk to two-fifths (39%) of people in Nottinghamshire. Nationally, half (49%) of people thought this (Table 6.08).
- Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 there were statistically significant increases in the percentage of people who thought that the local police did an excellent or good job in seven police force areas: Lancashire; Merseyside; North Yorkshire; Warwickshire; Suffolk; Avon and Somerset; and Dorset. For example, in Avon and Somerset the percentage of people who thought this increased from 40 per cent in 2003/04 to 48 per cent in 2004/05 (Table 6.08).

¹⁰ Based on the seven-strand measure of anti-social behaviour. See SPI 10b entry in Glossary for details.

Table 6.01 BCS incidents of crime and victimisation rates by police force area and region

Police force and region	2004/05 BCS					
	Risk of victimisation			BCS household crime		Unweighted base
	% victim at least once ¹	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Number of incidents (thousands)	Rate per 10,000 households	
Cleveland	13	**	**↓		2,447	963
Durham	17				2,555	1,000
Northumbria	17				2,610	934
North East Region	17	*	**↓	279	2,560	2,897
Cheshire	18				3,127	983
Cumbria	15	**			2,239	1,032
Greater Manchester	26	**			4,746	1,371
Lancashire	24	**			3,676	1,029
Merseyside	13	**			2,033	1,018
North West Region	21	**		998	3,481	5,433
Humberside	15	*	*↓		2,585	1,014
North Yorkshire	17				2,709	995
South Yorkshire	23	**			3,555	966
West Yorkshire	22	**	**↓		3,217	1,122
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	20	**	**↓	660	3,120	4,097
Derbyshire	13	**	**↓		2,255	1,017
Leicestershire	15	**			2,251	987
Lincolnshire	14	**	*↓		2,264	945
Northamptonshire	24	**			4,673	898
Nottinghamshire	20				3,311	879
East Midlands Region	17	*	**↓	509	2,863	4,726
Staffordshire	19		*↑		3,416	946
Warwickshire	18				2,621	1,068
West Mercia	14	**			2,064	908
West Midlands	20				3,264	1,541
West Midlands Region	18			651	2,971	4,463
Bedfordshire	23	**			4,136	1,067
Cambridgeshire	23	**			4,296	1,013
Essex	10	**			1,438	1,076
Hertfordshire	14	**	*↓		2,353	997
Norfolk	16				2,594	980
Suffolk	15	**			2,203	951
East of England Region	15	**		581	2,527	6,084
Metropolitan/City of London	20	*			3,184	3,329
London Region	20	*		1,031	3,184	3,329
Hampshire	17				2,930	1,042
Kent	21	*			3,520	1,021
Surrey	18				2,760	916
Sussex	21				3,325	1,024
Thames Valley	19				2,593	1,267
South East Region	19			1,024	3,015	5,270
Avon and Somerset	19				3,140	980
Devon and Cornwall	17				2,679	997
Dorset	15				2,535	1,037
Gloucestershire	16	**			2,790	1,042
Wiltshire	17				2,840	991
South West Region	17			605	2,830	5,047
England Total	18		**↓	6,335	3,000	41,346
Dyfed Powys	12	**			1,901	941
Gwent	18				2,713	895
North Wales	16	*			2,498	879
South Wales	18				2,937	912
Wales	16	**		316	2,608	3,627
ENGLAND AND WALES	18		**↓	6,792	2,978	44,973

1. Statutory Performance Indicator 4 (See Glossary for explanation).

2. Numbers of incidents at a regional level will not sum to the total for England and Wales. This is due to rounding and differences in the population estimates used to calculate the numbers of crimes.

Table 6.01 (continued) BCS incidents of crime and victimisation rates by police force area and region

Police force and region	Risk of victimisation			Number of incidents (thousands)	Rate per 10,000 households	Unweighted base
	% victim at least once ¹	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05			
2004/05 BCS						
Cleveland	4	**			609	964
Durham	5	**			807	1,001
Northumbria	5				713	934
North East Region	5	*		142	714	2,899
Cheshire	6				833	983
Cumbria	5				648	1,032
Greater Manchester	9	**			1,420	1,373
Lancashire	7				1,037	1,031
Merseyside	4	**	*↓		441	1,020
North West Region	7			518	978	5,439
Humberside	4	**			478	1,014
North Yorkshire	6				1,015	995
South Yorkshire	5				662	967
West Yorkshire	6		**↓		818	1,124
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	5	**	*↓	292	743	4,100
Derbyshire	5				941	1,017
Leicestershire	7		*↑		897	990
Lincolnshire	6				892	945
Northamptonshire	8		*↓		1,225	903
Nottinghamshire	6				945	880
East Midlands Region	6			325	968	4,735
Staffordshire	7		**↑		947	948
Warwickshire	7				949	1,069
West Mercia	5				735	908
West Midlands	7				1,049	1,543
West Midlands Region	6			397	954	4,468
Bedfordshire	8				1,135	1,068
Cambridgeshire	6		**↓		903	1,018
Essex	3	**			383	1,076
Hertfordshire	6		*↓		718	998
Norfolk	5				1,209	982
Suffolk	5				898	953
East of England Region	5	**	**↓	339	784	6,095
Metropolitan/City of London	8	**	**↓		1,058	3,353
London Region	8	**	**↓	611	1,058	3,353
Hampshire	5				848	1,047
Kent	9	**			1,260	1,022
Surrey	6				865	919
Sussex	8				1,415	1,028
Thames Valley	9	**			1,336	1,270
South East Region	8	**		748	1,169	5,286
Avon and Somerset	8				1,038	982
Devon and Cornwall	7				997	999
Dorset	6				755	1,040
Gloucestershire	5				781	1,044
Wiltshire	6				883	992
South West Region	7			372	933	5,057
England Total	7		**↓	3,745	955	41,432
Dyfed Powys	3	**	**↓		456	941
Gwent	6		**↑		882	896
North Wales	4	**			521	883
South Wales	7				1,260	917
Wales	5	*		204	879	3,637
ENGLAND AND WALES	6		**↓	4,058	951	45,069

1. Statutory Performance Indicator 4 (See Glossary for explanation).

2. Numbers of incidents at a regional level will not sum to the total for England and Wales. This is due to rounding and differences in the population estimates used to calculate the numbers of crimes.

Table 6.02 Recorded crime by offence group by police force area and region, 2004/05

Police force area and region	Recorded crime										
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drugs and other offences	Theft of and from vehicles ¹
Cleveland	68,967	11,652	805	898	13,355	9,357	25,374	1,867	16,941	2,073	10,126
Durham	47,115	7,028	397	178	7,603	6,853	14,553	1,247	15,176	1,683	5,503
Northumbria	142,122	22,858	1,496	1,176	25,530	16,822	47,222	4,866	41,248	6,434	16,025
North East Region	258,204	41,538	2,698	2,252	46,488	33,032	87,149	7,980	73,365	10,190	31,654
Cheshire	89,300	15,608	927	533	17,068	10,627	30,925	3,839	24,365	2,476	11,610
Cumbria	43,300	9,195	337	109	9,641	4,274	13,076	1,504	12,858	1,947	3,941
Greater Manchester	324,616	53,208	3,470	7,544	64,222	49,372	114,552	11,435	73,662	11,373	49,972
Lancashire	152,043	31,584	1,632	1,092	34,308	16,274	48,817	6,897	40,863	4,884	15,336
Merseyside	170,846	34,178	1,442	2,173	37,793	21,943	55,544	6,438	41,838	7,290	23,247
North West Region	780,105	143,773	7,808	11,451	163,032	102,490	262,914	30,113	193,586	27,970	104,106
Humberside	124,105	24,190	1,403	1,262	26,855	18,602	43,360	3,689	28,202	3,397	17,283
North Yorkshire	61,864	12,072	557	331	12,960	7,767	22,250	2,868	13,610	2,409	6,491
South Yorkshire	140,371	21,213	1,382	1,131	23,726	21,149	50,404	5,386	35,384	4,322	24,204
West Yorkshire	263,534	44,609	2,351	2,196	49,156	39,657	92,222	10,599	63,666	8,234	38,486
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	589,874	102,084	5,693	4,920	112,697	87,175	208,236	22,542	140,862	18,362	86,464
Derbyshire	84,712	16,584	1,160	802	18,546	11,667	28,834	4,526	17,991	3,148	10,203
Leicestershire	96,347	21,570	1,372	1,329	24,271	11,687	32,262	5,766	18,955	3,406	11,374
Lincolnshire	58,349	10,856	816	243	11,915	7,306	19,928	2,452	14,934	1,814	5,907
Northamptonshire	73,903	11,161	642	875	12,678	11,120	26,940	3,996	16,842	2,327	10,576
Nottinghamshire	143,108	19,615	1,294	2,004	22,913	25,034	56,608	5,572	29,022	3,959	22,754
East Midlands Region	456,419	79,786	5,284	5,253	90,323	66,814	164,572	22,312	97,744	14,654	60,814
Staffordshire	101,084	23,581	1,323	777	25,681	11,058	32,217	4,773	23,262	4,093	11,270
Warwickshire	43,131	6,491	435	353	7,279	6,403	16,366	2,047	9,728	1,308	6,644
West Mercia	95,056	18,179	1,139	531	19,849	12,424	32,346	4,747	21,962	3,728	10,943
West Midlands	293,972	55,275	3,470	8,905	67,650	40,499	98,758	17,739	56,641	12,685	42,780
West Midlands Region	533,243	103,526	6,367	10,566	120,459	70,384	179,687	29,306	111,593	21,814	71,637
Bedfordshire	57,973	10,137	622	1,028	11,787	7,186	23,351	3,315	10,561	1,773	8,413
Cambridgeshire	73,659	13,358	766	634	14,758	8,501	28,675	3,546	16,227	1,952	9,169
Essex	134,789	25,362	1,347	1,426	28,135	14,771	49,847	5,763	32,406	3,867	18,753
Hertfordshire	97,065	16,845	971	875	18,691	11,471	35,770	7,686	20,762	2,685	13,109
Norfolk	66,376	12,920	889	324	14,133	6,577	23,068	2,884	17,470	2,244	6,291
Suffolk	52,101	10,347	620	260	11,227	5,090	17,609	2,618	12,781	2,776	5,463
East of England Region	481,963	88,969	5,215	4,547	98,731	53,596	178,320	25,812	110,207	15,297	61,198
London, City of	8,685	991	50	42	1,083	501	4,729	993	311	1,068	253
Metropolitan Police	1,015,121	201,926	10,864	39,033	251,823	101,474	412,264	70,151	135,684	43,725	136,190
London Region	1,023,806	202,917	10,914	39,075	252,906	101,975	416,993	71,144	135,995	44,793	136,443
Hampshire	173,072	38,173	2,658	948	41,779	15,552	58,082	9,246	42,210	6,203	16,539
Kent	136,440	22,857	1,766	1,195	25,818	16,621	50,078	5,433	35,274	3,216	17,894
Surrey	70,851	10,666	820	462	11,948	8,870	25,374	4,545	17,271	2,843	9,243
Sussex	140,177	27,093	1,801	1,228	30,122	14,607	52,592	6,904	30,830	5,122	15,166
Thames Valley	205,273	34,223	2,096	1,968	38,287	25,466	84,502	12,099	37,338	7,581	31,036
South East Region	725,813	133,012	9,141	5,801	147,954	81,116	270,628	38,227	162,923	24,965	89,878
Avon and Somerset	161,210	31,463	1,914	2,237	35,614	21,496	60,018	8,081	31,642	4,359	24,006
Devon and Cornwall	133,282	28,334	1,564	541	30,439	14,012	46,702	5,393	31,021	5,715	14,990
Dorset	57,722	10,750	689	342	11,781	6,330	22,128	3,129	12,297	2,057	6,580
Gloucestershire	53,333	9,549	539	384	10,472	7,142	19,671	3,442	10,802	1,804	6,759
Wiltshire	40,075	6,004	525	256	6,785	5,120	15,288	2,206	9,020	1,656	4,945
South West Region	445,622	86,100	5,231	3,760	95,091	54,100	163,807	22,251	94,782	15,591	57,280
England Total	5,295,049	981,705	58,351	87,625	1,127,681	650,682	1,932,306	269,687	1,121,057	193,636	699,474
Dyfed Powys	32,409	8,315	503	41	8,859	2,875	8,685	998	8,186	2,806	2,331
Gwent	57,206	12,892	560	351	13,803	6,520	19,110	2,234	13,494	2,045	8,583
North Wales	53,865	12,027	666	150	12,843	5,023	16,874	1,466	15,093	2,566	5,351
South Wales	124,162	20,107	866	543	21,516	14,873	50,541	4,517	27,558	5,157	22,792
Wales	267,642	53,341	2,595	1,085	57,021	29,291	95,210	9,215	64,331	12,574	39,057
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,562,691	1,035,046	60,946	88,710	1,184,702	679,973	2,027,516	278,902	1,185,388	206,210	738,531

1. Includes theft of motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking. These numbers are included in the totals for the theft and handling stolen goods offence group.

2. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording.

Table 6.03 Recorded offences by offence group by police force area and region, numbers per 1,000 population, 2004/05

Police force area and region	Numbers per 1,000 population					Recorded crime					
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drugs and other offences	Theft of and from vehicles
Cleveland	124	21	1	2	24	17	46	3	31	4	18
Durham	80	12	1	<1	13	12	25	2	26	3	9
Northumbria	102	16	1	1	18	12	34	3	30	5	12
North East Region	102	16	1	1	18	13	34	3	29	4	12
Cheshire	90	16	1	1	17	11	31	4	25	3	12
Cumbria	88	19	1	<1	20	9	27	3	26	4	8
Greater Manchester	128	21	1	3	25	20	45	5	29	4	20
Lancashire	106	22	1	1	24	11	34	5	29	3	11
Merseyside	125	25	1	2	28	16	41	5	31	5	17
North West Region	115	21	1	2	24	15	39	4	28	4	15
Humberside	141	27	2	1	30	21	49	4	32	4	20
North Yorkshire	81	16	1	<1	17	10	29	4	18	3	9
South Yorkshire	110	17	1	1	19	17	40	4	28	3	19
West Yorkshire	126	21	1	1	23	19	44	5	30	4	18
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	118	20	1	1	22	17	42	5	28	4	17
Derbyshire	87	17	1	1	19	12	30	5	18	3	10
Leicestershire	103	23	1	1	26	12	34	6	20	4	12
Lincolnshire	88	16	1	<1	18	11	30	4	22	3	9
Northamptonshire	115	17	1	1	20	17	42	6	26	4	16
Nottinghamshire	139	19	1	2	22	24	55	5	28	4	22
East Midlands Region	107	19	1	1	21	16	39	5	23	3	14
Staffordshire	96	22	1	1	24	11	31	5	22	4	11
Warwickshire	83	12	1	1	14	12	32	4	19	3	13
West Mercia	81	15	1	<1	17	11	28	4	19	3	9
West Midlands	114	21	1	3	26	16	38	7	22	5	17
West Midlands Region	100	19	1	2	23	13	34	6	21	4	13
Bedfordshire	101	18	1	2	21	13	41	6	18	3	15
Cambridgeshire	101	18	1	1	20	12	39	5	22	3	13
Essex	83	16	1	1	17	9	31	4	20	2	12
Hertfordshire	93	16	1	1	18	11	34	7	20	3	13
Norfolk	82	16	1	<1	17	8	28	4	22	3	8
Suffolk	77	15	1	<1	17	8	26	4	19	4	8
East of England Region	88	16	1	1	18	10	33	5	20	3	11
London, City of ³	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Metropolitan Police	138	27	1	5	34	14	56	10	18	6	18
London Region	139	27	1	5	34	14	56	10	18	6	18
Hampshire	96	21	1	1	23	9	32	5	23	3	9
Kent	85	14	1	1	16	10	31	3	22	2	11
Surrey	67	10	1	<1	11	8	24	4	16	3	9
Sussex	93	18	1	1	20	10	35	5	20	3	10
Thames Valley	97	16	1	1	18	12	40	6	18	4	15
South East Region	90	16	1	1	18	10	33	5	20	3	11
Avon and Somerset	107	21	1	1	24	14	40	5	21	3	16
Devon and Cornwall	83	18	1	<1	19	9	29	3	19	4	9
Dorset	83	15	1	<1	17	9	32	4	18	3	9
Gloucestershire	94	17	1	1	18	13	35	6	19	3	12
Wiltshire	64	10	1	<1	11	8	25	4	15	3	8
South West Region	89	17	1	1	19	11	33	4	19	3	11
England Total	106	20	1	2	23	13	39	5	22	4	14
Dyfed Powys	65	17	1	<1	18	6	17	2	16	6	5
Gwent	103	23	1	1	25	12	34	4	24	4	15
North Wales	80	18	1	<1	19	7	25	2	22	4	8
South Wales	102	17	1	<1	18	12	42	4	23	4	19
Wales	91	18	1	<1	19	10	32	3	22	4	13
ENGLAND AND WALES	105	20	1	2	22	13	38	5	22	4	14

1. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential victims.

2. Numbers of crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording.

3. '+' data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 6.04 Burglaries recorded by the police and BCS rates by police force area and region, 2004/05

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME						BCS ^{1,2}		
	Total burglary in a dwelling	Burglary in a dwelling per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households	Total burglary other than in a dwelling	Burglary other than in a dwelling per 10,000 population	All burglary per 10,000 households	Burglary with entry per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households
Cleveland	4,572	197	709	31	4,785	86			
Durham	2,465	98	n/a	n/a	4,388	74			
Northumbria	7,897	130	1,134	19	8,925	64			
North East Region	14,934	137	1,843	17	18,098	71	317	173	144
Cheshire	4,236	102	654	16	6,391	65			
Cumbria	1,475	69	191	9	2,799	57			
Greater Manchester	27,196	254	4,718	44	22,176	88			
Lancashire	6,695	112	821	14	9,579	67			
Merseyside	10,951	192	1,396	24	10,992	81			
North West Region	50,553	176	7,780	27	51,937	76	404	223	181 *
Humberside	7,795	208	1,125	30	10,807	123			
North Yorkshire	2,931	92	292	9	4,836	64			
South Yorkshire	10,495	195	1,518	28	10,654	84			
West Yorkshire	18,985	215	3,044	35	20,672	99			
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	40,206	190	5,979	28	46,969	94	404	271	133
Derbyshire	5,051	123	841	20	6,616	68			
Leicestershire	5,774	151	1,060	28	5,913	63			
Lincolnshire	2,687	96	328	12	4,619	69			
Northamptonshire	4,448	167	633	24	6,672	104			
Nottinghamshire	12,241	281	1,878	43	12,793	124			
East Midlands Region	30,201	170	4,740	27	36,613	86	332	222	110
Staffordshire	4,713	109	784	18	6,345	60			
Warwickshire	2,668	122	337	15	3,735	72			
West Mercia	4,785	97	746	15	7,639	65			
West Midlands	19,086	182	3,305	32	21,413	83			
West Midlands Region	31,252	143	5,172	24	39,132	74	336	221	115
Bedfordshire	3,917	165	690	29	3,269	57			
Cambridgeshire	3,034	100	380	13	5,467	75			
Essex	5,874	85	828	12	8,897	56			
Hertfordshire	5,385	124	950	22	6,086	58			
Norfolk	2,046	58	227	6	4,531	56			
Suffolk	1,787	62	215	7	3,303	49			
East of England Region	22,043	96	3,290	14	31,553	58	227 **	150 *	78 **
London, City of ³	34	+	2	+	467	+			
Metropolitan Police	63,084	195	12,786	40	38,390	52			
London Region	63,118	195	12,788	40	38,857	53	426 *	269	157
Hampshire	5,415	72	758	10	10,137	56			
Kent	6,753	102	966	15	9,868	62			
Surrey	3,779	85	432	10	5,091	48			
Sussex	6,836	102	728	11	7,771	52			
Thames Valley	11,846	136	1,998	23	13,620	64			
South East Region	34,629	102	4,882	14	46,487	58	283	166	117
Avon and Somerset	9,586	150	1,680	26	11,910	79			
Devon and Cornwall	5,706	83	605	9	8,306	52			
Dorset	2,616	85	372	12	3,714	53			
Gloucestershire	2,741	114	334	14	4,401	77			
Wiltshire	2,177	84	331	13	2,943	47			
South West Region	22,826	107	3,322	16	31,274	63	278	170	108
England Total	309,762	147	49,796	24	340,920	68	337	208	129
Dyfed Powys	1,042	50	110	5	1,833	37			
Gwent	2,583	113	305	13	3,937	71			
North Wales	1,595	57	117	4	3,428	51			
South Wales	6,477	130	1,048	21	8,396	69			
Wales	11,697	96	1,580	13	17,594	60	239	157	82
ENGLAND AND WALES	321,459	144	51,376	23	358,514	68	331	205	126

1. Only regional figures are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level.

2. Statistical significance in comparison to national average.

3. '+' data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 6.05 Vehicle-related theft recorded by the police and BCS rates by region and police force area, 2004/05

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS ^{1,2}			
	Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle	Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle per 10,000 population	Theft from a vehicle	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 population	Attempted theft of motor vehicle	All motor vehicle theft per 10,000 households	Theft of a vehicle per 10,000 households	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 households	Attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle per 10,000 households
Cleveland	3,616	65	6,510	117	113				
Durham	2,088	35	3,415	58	n/a				
Northumbria	5,189	37	10,836	78	52				
North East Region	10,893	43	20,761	82	165	628 *	87	406	135 *
Cheshire	3,599	36	8,011	81	210				
Cumbria	1,101	22	2,840	58	45				
Greater Manchester	18,794	74	31,178	123	586				
Lancashire	4,514	32	10,822	76	55				
Merseyside	9,354	69	13,893	102	204				
North West Region	37,362	55	66,744	98	1,100	936	107	613	217
Humberside	6,096	69	11,187	127	n/a				
North Yorkshire	2,107	28	4,384	58	1,627				
South Yorkshire	8,005	63	16,199	127	35				
West Yorkshire	13,961	67	24,525	117	77				
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	30,169	60	56,295	112	1,739	983	133	572	279
Derbyshire	2,785	29	7,418	76	111				
Leicestershire	3,506	37	7,868	84	79				
Lincolnshire	1,833	28	4,074	61	120				
Northamptonshire	3,415	53	7,161	111	53				
Nottinghamshire	6,288	61	16,466	160	n/a				
East Midlands Region	17,827	42	42,987	101	363	723	70	466	186
Staffordshire	3,470	33	7,800	74	33				
Warwickshire	1,919	37	4,725	91	2				
West Mercia	3,179	27	7,764	66	45				
West Midlands	17,002	66	25,778	100	199				
West Midlands Region	25,570	48	46,067	87	279	810	88	488	234
Bedfordshire	1,965	34	6,448	112	63				
Cambridgeshire	2,720	37	6,449	88	40				
Essex	6,419	39	12,334	76	n/a				
Hertfordshire	3,445	33	9,664	93	25				
Norfolk	1,851	23	4,440	55	17				
Suffolk	1,645	24	3,818	56	75				
East of England Region	18,045	33	43,153	79	220	668 **	74	431 *	164
London, City of ³	97	+	156	+	5				
Metropolitan Police	48,026	65	88,164	119	1,255				
London Region	48,123	65	88,320	120	1,260	1,144 **	129	732 **	282 *
Hampshire	4,871	27	11,668	65	272				
Kent	6,181	39	11,713	73	71				
Surrey	2,413	23	6,830	64	70				
Sussex	4,379	29	10,787	72	n/a				
Thames Valley	7,651	36	23,385	111	171				
South East Region	25,495	32	64,383	80	584	707 **	62 **	482	164
Avon and Somerset	7,070	47	16,936	112	188				
Devon and Cornwall	3,256	20	11,734	73	23				
Dorset	1,767	25	4,813	69	67				
Gloucestershire	1,949	34	4,810	85	62				
Wiltshire	1,328	21	3,617	58	122				
South West Region	15,370	31	41,910	84	462	728	80	495	153
England Total	228,854	46	470,620	94	6,172	834	92	535	206
Dyfed Powys	727	15	1,604	32	12				
Gwent	3,189	57	5,394	97	20				
North Wales	1,744	26	3,607	54	38				
South Wales	7,336	60	15,456	127	72				
Wales	12,996	44	26,061	89	142	713	117	454	143
ENGLAND AND WALES	241,850	46	496,681	94	6,314	827	94	531	202

1. Only regional figures are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level. Figure for all households, not just vehicle owning households.

2. Statistical significance in comparison to national average.

3. '+' data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 6.06 Violent crime recorded by the police and BCS, by police force area and region, 2004/05

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS ^{1,2}				
	All violent crime	All violent crime per 10,000 population	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total BCS violence per 10,000 adults	Domestic per 10,000 adults	Mugging per 10,000 adults	Stranger per 10,000 adults	Acquaintance per 10,000 adults
Cleveland	13,355	241	11,652	805	898					
Durham	7,603	128	7,028	397	178					
Northumbria	25,530	183	22,858	1,496	1,176					
North East Region	46,488	183	41,538	2,698	2,252	474	114	66	169	125
Cheshire	17,068	172	15,608	927	533					
Cumbria	9,641	197	9,195	337	109					
Greater Manchester	64,222	254	53,208	3,470	7,544					
Lancashire	34,308	240	31,584	1,632	1,092					
Merseyside	37,793	277	34,178	1,442	2,173					
North West Region	163,032	240	143,773	7,808	11,451	613	91	70	169	283
Humberside	26,855	305	24,190	1,403	1,262					
North Yorkshire	12,960	171	12,072	557	331					
South Yorkshire	23,726	186	21,213	1,382	1,131					
West Yorkshire	49,156	235	44,609	2,351	2,196					
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	112,697	225	102,084	5,693	4,920	507	50	78	224	155
Derbyshire	18,546	190	16,584	1,160	802					
Leicestershire	24,271	259	21,570	1,372	1,329					
Lincolnshire	11,915	179	10,856	816	243					
Northamptonshire	12,678	197	11,161	642	875					
Nottinghamshire	22,913	223	19,615	1,294	2,004					
East Midlands Region	90,323	212	79,786	5,284	5,253	531	66	104	163	197
Staffordshire	25,681	245	23,581	1,323	777					
Warwickshire	7,279	140	6,491	435	353					
West Mercia	19,849	169	18,179	1,139	531					
West Midlands	67,650	262	55,275	3,470	8,905					
West Midlands Region	120,459	226	103,526	6,367	10,566	655	179	70	216	190
Bedfordshire	11,787	205	10,137	622	1,028					
Cambridgeshire	14,758	202	13,358	766	634					
Essex	28,135	173	25,362	1,347	1,426					
Hertfordshire	18,691	180	16,845	971	875					
Norfolk	14,133	174	12,920	889	324					
Suffolk	11,227	166	10,347	620	260					
East of England Region	98,731	181	88,969	5,215	4,547	471	53	60	158	200
London, City of ³	1,083	+	991	50	42					
Metropolitan Police	251,823	341	201,926	10,864	39,033					
London Region	252,906	342	202,917	10,914	39,075	556	85	176 **	164	132
Hampshire	41,779	232	38,173	2,658	948					
Kent	25,818	161	22,857	1,766	1,195					
Surrey	11,948	112	10,666	820	462					
Sussex	30,122	200	27,093	1,801	1,228					
Thames Valley	38,287	181	34,223	2,096	1,968					
South East Region	147,954	183	133,012	9,141	5,801	611	95	58	222	236
Avon and Somerset	35,614	236	31,463	1,914	2,237					
Devon and Cornwall	30,439	190	28,334	1,564	541					
Dorset	11,781	168	10,750	689	342					
Gloucestershire	10,472	184	9,549	539	384					
Wiltshire	6,785	109	6,004	525	256					
South West Region	95,091	190	86,100	5,231	3,760	559	101	40 **	249	169
England Total	1,127,681	226	981,705	58,351	87,625	563	92	83	194	194
Dyfed Powys	8,859	178	8,315	503	41					
Gwent	13,803	249	12,892	560	351					
North Wales	12,843	191	12,027	666	150					
South Wales	21,516	177	20,107	866	543					
Wales	57,021	194	53,341	2,595	1,085	599	132	50	229	188
ENGLAND AND WALES	1,184,702	224	1,035,046	60,946	88,710	565	94	81	196	194

1. Only regional figures are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level.

2. Statistical significance in comparison to national average.

3. '+' data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 6.07 Worry about crime by police force area and region

Percentages and numbers											2004/05BCS	
Police force and region	High level of worry about burglary ¹				High level of worry about car crime ¹				High level of worry about violent crime ¹			
	%	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base	%	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base	%	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base
Cleveland	13			964	13			624	12	**		597
Durham	10	**		1,001	11			675	9	**	**↓	531
Northumbria	9	**	**↓	933	14			569	18			511
North East Region	10	**	**↓	2,898	13		*↓	1,868	15			1,639
Cheshire	13			983	14			768	19			659
Cumbria	8	**		1,032	10	**		772	13	*		867
Greater Manchester	16	**		1,371	16	*		927	20	**		1,119
Lancashire	14			1,031	15			731	13	*		586
Merseyside	16	**		1,020	22	**		639	20	*		872
North West Region	14	**		5,437	16	**		3,837	18	**		4,103
Humberside	10			1,014	11			746	13			572
North Yorkshire	10	*		994	10	**		779	14		*↑	865
South Yorkshire	13			966	17	*	**↓	646	18			782
West Yorkshire	12		*↓	1,124	13		**↓	785	16			989
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	12		**↓	4,098	13		**↓	2,956	16			3,208
Derbyshire	13			1,016	13			749	16			915
Leicestershire	12		**↓	989	13			783	15			796
Lincolnshire	9	**		945	6	**	*↓	754	7	**		862
Northamptonshire	17	**	*↑	902	20	**	*↑	714	25	**	**↑	833
Nottinghamshire	16	**		878	17	**		602	17			661
East Midlands Region	13			4,730	14			3,602	16			4,067
Staffordshire	12			948	13			723	11	**		866
Warwickshire	7	**	**↓	1,069	9	**	**↓	867	10	**	*↓	869
West Mercia	9	**		907	11			736	11	**		618
West Midlands	16	**		1,543	19	**		1,002	23	**		1,421
West Midlands Region	13			4,467	15			3,328	17			3,774
Bedfordshire	11			1,068	12			833	19			980
Cambridgeshire	10	*		1,018	16			793	20			702
Essex	7	**		1,075	7	**		844	10	**		703
Hertfordshire	10			996	11			787	13			767
Norfolk	8	**		982	10	**		795	14			549
Suffolk	7	**		953	6	**		748	15			553
East of England Region	9	**		6,092	10	**		4,800	14	**		4,254
Metropolitan/City of London	18	**		3,347	20	**		2,108	26	**	*↑	2,813
London Region	18	**		3,347	20	**		2,108	26	**	*↑	2,813
Hampshire	9	**		1,047	12			827	14	*		860
Kent	12			1,022	13			781	17			774
Surrey	10			919	8	**	*↓	793	11	**		864
Sussex	9	**		1,027	11	**		783	9	**		886
Thames Valley	9	**		1,270	10	**	*↓	1,034	14	*		1,075
South East Region	10	**		5,285	11	**	**↓	4,218	13	**		4,459
Avon and Somerset	10			982	11	*		773	14			698
Devon and Cornwall	9	**		999	8	**		787	9	**	**↓	927
Dorset	7	**		1,040	9	**	**↓	871	9	**		850
Gloucestershire	7	**		1,044	8	**		818	8	**		819
Wiltshire	11			992	9	**		816	11	**		683
South West Region	9	**		5,057	9	**	**↓	4,065	10	**		3,977
England Total	12			41,411	13		**↓	30,782	17			32,294
Dyfed Powys	8	**		941	6	**		745	9	**		708
Gwent	9	**		896	10	**		658	10	**		578
North Wales	8	**	**↓	882	13			664	13	*		642
South Wales	13			916	21	**		659	11	**		750
Wales	10	**		3,635	14			2,726	11	**		2,678
ENGLAND AND WALES	12			45,046	13		**↓	33,508	16			34,972

1. Statutory Performance Indicator 10a (See Glossary for explanation).

Table 6.08 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour and confidence in the local police by police force area and region

Percentages and numbers		High levels of perceived disorder							2004/05BCS
Police force and region		7-strand measure % ¹	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base	5-strand measure % ¹	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base
Cleveland	18				915	19			910
Durham	17				957	19			955
Northumbria	16				884	19			879
North East Region	17				2,756	19			2,744
Cheshire	16				944	19			939
Cumbria	14	**			991	15	**		987
Greater Manchester	20				1,305	24	**		1,295
Lancashire	16				975	17			976
Merseyside	18				959	20			955
North West Region	18				5,174	20			5,152
Humberside	10	**			972	10	**		967
North Yorkshire	11	**			924	13	**		928
South Yorkshire	23	**			924	24	*		914
West Yorkshire	12	**			1,063	13	**		1,057
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	15	*			3,883	15	**		3,866
Derbyshire	15				991	17			981
Leicestershire	13	**			938	14	*		933
Lincolnshire	7	**			919	7	**		915
Northamptonshire	22	*			790	22			774
Nottinghamshire	20				858	21			852
East Midlands Region	15				4,496	16	**		4,455
Staffordshire	17				876	20		**↑	869
Warwickshire	10	**			1,017	13	**		1,014
West Mercia	8	**			895	10	**		891
West Midlands	21				1,469	23	**	*↑	1,460
West Midlands Region	16				4,257	19		*↑	4,234
Bedfordshire	22	**			1,005	23	**	*↑	1,001
Cambridgeshire	16				977	17			969
Essex	7	**			998	8	**		996
Hertfordshire	15				897	18			889
Norfolk	9	**			948	9	**		942
Suffolk	10	**			883	11	**		877
East of England Region	12	**			5,708	13	**		5,674
Metropolitan/City of London	29	**	**↑		3,057	31	**	**↑	2,984
London Region	29	**	**↑		3,057	31	**	**↑	2,984
Hampshire	18				977	19			971
Kent	18				973	20			963
Surrey	13	**			885	14	**		879
Sussex	17				992	19			990
Thames Valley	15				1,204	16			1,196
South East Region	16				5,031	18			4,999
Avon and Somerset	14	*			954	16			951
Devon and Cornwall	12	**			955	12	**		952
Dorset	14				1,019	14	*		1,017
Gloucestershire	13	*			1,023	13	**		1,021
Wiltshire	14				975	15	*		973
South West Region	13	**			4,926	14	**		4,914
England Total	17				39,288	19		**↑	39,022
Dyfed Powys	9	**			903	12	**		901
Gwent	15				845	15			845
North Wales	14	*			801	14	**		799
South Wales	14				870	14	*		863
Wales	13	**			3,419	14	**		3,408
ENGLAND AND WALES	17				42,707	19		**↑	42,430

1. Statutory Performance Indicator 10b (See Glossary for explanation).

2. Statutory Performance Indicator 10c (See Glossary for explanation).

3. Statutory Performance Indicator 2a (See Glossary for explanation).

Table 6.08 (continued) Perceptions of anti-social behaviour and confidence in the local police by police force area and region

Percentages and numbers		2004/05BCS						
Police force and region	High levels of perceived drug use or dealing ²				Confidence in local police ³			
	%	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base	%	Statistically significantly different from national average	Statistically significant change, 2003/04 to 2004/05	Unweighted base
Cleveland	34	**		918	46			919
Durham	33	**		964	50			959
Northumbria	24			888	56	**		919
North East Region	28			2,770	52	**		2,797
Cheshire	23			948	42	**		955
Cumbria	28			995	55	**		1,013
Greater Manchester	29	*		1,312	45	**		1,340
Lancashire	27			980	50		**↑	996
Merseyside	27			967	48		**↑	952
North West Region	27			5,202	47		↑	5,256
Humberside	21	*		972	40	**		1,005
North Yorkshire	20	**		930	49		**↑	974
South Yorkshire	35	**		929	43	**		934
West Yorkshire	27			1,068	49		↑	1,084
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	27			3,899	46	**		3,997
Derbyshire	29			992	46		↑	996
Leicestershire	20	**		941	53	**		960
Lincolnshire	13	**		920	47			916
Northamptonshire	31	*		799	41	**		882
Nottinghamshire	31	**		861	39	**		865
East Midlands Region	25			4,513	46	**		4,619
Staffordshire	32	**		880	43	**		932
Warwickshire	18	**		1,020	50		**↑	1,051
West Mercia	17	**		897	48			887
West Midlands	30	*		1,470	44	**		1,511
West Midlands Region	27			4,267	45	**		4,381
Bedfordshire	31	**		1,007	41	**		1,059
Cambridgeshire	25			982	47			1,006
Essex	13	**		1,000	44	*	**↓	1,042
Hertfordshire	24			901	50			983
Norfolk	18	**		948	47			950
Suffolk	18	**		889	60	**	**↑	924
East of England Region	20	**		5,727	48			5,964
Metropolitan/City of London	34	**	**↑	3,086	51	**	↑	3,238
London Region	34	**	**↑	3,086	51	**		3,238
Hampshire	22	*		981	53	**		1,017
Kent	23			977	46	*		1,001
Surrey	17	**		889	58	**		900
Sussex	23			994	46			1,011
Thames Valley	23			1,210	50		**↓	1,247
South East Region	22	**		5,051	50			5,176
Avon and Somerset	25			956	48		**↑	964
Devon and Cornwall	19	**		957	52	**	**↓	978
Dorset	17	**		1,023	58	**	**↑	1,026
Gloucestershire	22			1,024	51			1,028
Wiltshire	20	**		977	58	**		979
South West Region	21	**		4,937	53	**	↑	4,975
England Total	26			39,452	49		**↑	40,403
Dyfed Powys	23			905	58	**		921
Gwent	24			851	44			870
North Wales	28			810	47		↑	851
South Wales	28			874	46			878
Wales	26			3,440	48			3,520
ENGLAND AND WALES	26			42,892	49		**↑	43,923

1. Statutory Performance Indicator 10b (See Glossary for explanation).

2. Statutory Performance Indicator 10c (See Glossary for explanation).

3. Statutory Performance Indicator 2a (See Glossary for explanation).

7 Detection of crime

Nerys Thomas and Andy Feist

7.1 SUMMARY

- There were just over 1.4 million detected crimes in 2004/05. Some other crimes may have had a suspect identified, but not met the definition of detected crime. The number of recorded detections in 2004/05 was up by two per cent on 2003/04 figures.
- The detection rate in 2004/05 increased by three percentage points to 26 per cent.
- The main change in detection rate by offence group was for violence against the person (which saw an increase in the detection rate of three percentage points between 2003/04 and 2004/05).
- The proportion of recorded crimes that were detected through an offender being charged or summoned, cautioned, having an offence taken into consideration, receiving a fixed penalty notice or a formal warning for cannabis possession ('sanction' detections), was 21 per cent; a further five per cent of recorded crimes were detected through 'administrative' methods, that is no further action was taken. The relative balance between sanction and administrative detections varied widely by force.
- There was an increase in the proportion of crimes resulting in a sanction detection between 2003/04 and 2004/05, equivalent to a two percentage point increase in the sanction detection rate.
- Not all officers are involved in the investigation of crime – but the average number of detections per officer remained stable at just over ten detections per officer per year.

Counting detections: offences and offenders

Detections are counted on the basis of crimes, rather than offenders. So, for example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged – this counts as one detection. Alternatively, if only one of the six is identified and charged, while the other five remain unidentified and remain free, this also counts as one detection.

For this reason, care should be taken when comparing detection data with conviction data, as the latter count individual offenders, where the former count crimes.

Detected crimes

Broadly speaking, detected crimes are those that have been 'cleared up' by the police. It is the police who record detected crimes, in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. Not every case where the police know, or think they know, who committed a crime can be counted as a detection. Some crimes are not counted as detected even though the offender is apprehended for another offence; and some crimes are counted as detected when the victim might view the case as far from solved.

Not all detections will result in a charge/summons and a court appearance, but for those that do not, the police must still obtain evidence that they consider sufficient to charge and convict.

For any crime to be counted as detected, the following conditions must apply:

- a notifiable offence has been committed and recorded;
- a suspect has been identified (and interviewed, or at least informed that the crime has been 'cleared up');
- there is sufficient evidence to charge the suspect;
- the victim has been informed that the offence has been 'cleared up'.

The police may use one of several methods to count a crime as detected. It may be by:

- A Charging or issuing a summons to an offender.
- B Issuing a caution, reprimand, or final warning to the offender.
- C Having the offence taken into consideration in court.
- D Counting an offence as 'cleared up' but taking no further action because of any of the following reasons:
 - offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;
 - victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;
 - offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;
 - police or CPS decides that no useful purpose would be served by proceeding;
 - time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.
- E A penalty notice has been issued.

Some detections require more 'police work' than others. A murder obviously will do so more than a shoplifting, where the police may have limited involvement. Some detections will result from a prolonged policing operation (perhaps involving many officers), although they are counted the same as a detection for going equipped to steal resulting from a stop and search.

Only some detections involve a judicial sanction. Forces have been asked to concentrate on 'sanction' detections (A to C, and E above) as opposed to 'non-sanction' or 'administrative' detections (D above). Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) 7a measures the percentage of police recorded offences resulting in 'sanction' detection. The SPIs form part of the Police Performance Assessment Framework which measures the performance of the police.

In 2004/05, the Home Office issued guidance to forces over recording of formal warnings for cannabis possession. Detections of offences of cannabis possession were to be treated as if they were street warnings, and therefore would continue to be counted as sanction detections.

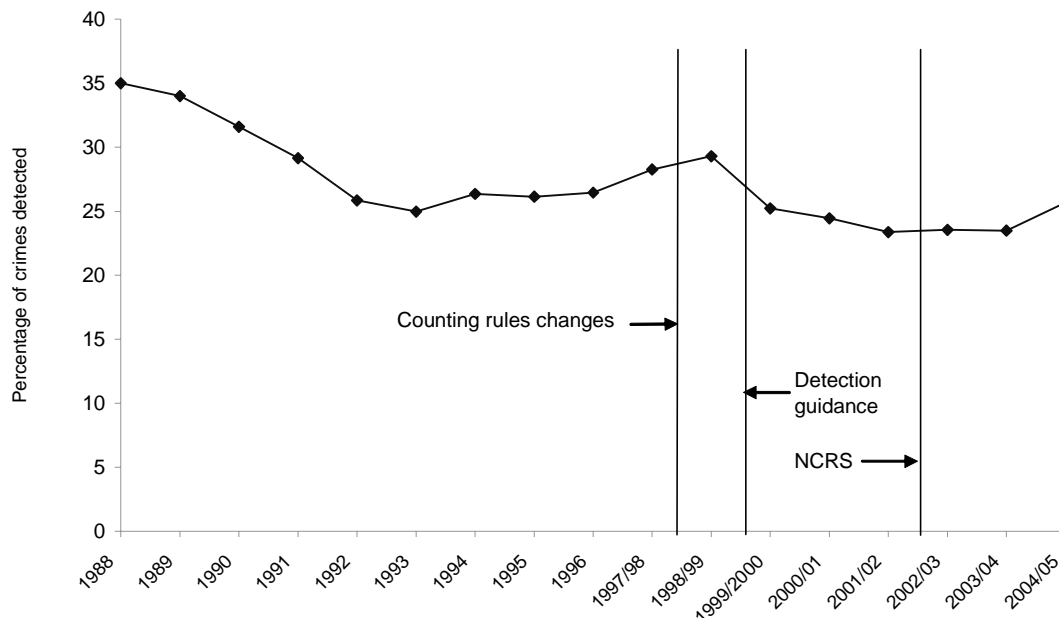
In part, detection rates are affected by 'housekeeping' procedures: some crimes could easily be detected, but are not. As an example, matches of forensic samples against databases are sometimes not followed up by investigators; or a person named as a suspect for crime A, is dealt with for a separate crime B, without being linked back to crime A.

7.2 TRENDS OVER TIME

The detection rate (or clear up rate) is simply the number of detections recorded in a given year as a percentage of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period. In general, detection rates have been declining since 1980. Broadly speaking, the number of detections achieved has failed to keep pace with the rise in recorded crime over this period, or when crime numbers have fallen, the tendency has been for a greater fall in the number of detections. Between 2001/02 and 2003/04, the detection rate remained broadly stable at around 23 per cent of all crimes. In 2004/05, however, there was an increase of three percentage points to 26 per cent (Table 7.02).

Where possible, the graphs in the rest of this chapter cover the period 1988 to 2004/05, in order to give ten years' data prior to the changes in crime counting rules.

Figure 7.1 Overall detection rates, 1988 to 2004/05



1. The detection rate from 2002/03 onward is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

Figure 7.1 shows the picture since 1988. Broadly:

- The detection rate fell in the first half of the 1990s, as the number of crimes recorded increased faster (or fell less slowly) than the number detected.
- This was followed by an upturn in detection rates, although the increase in 1998/99 was attributable to the changes to the counting rules.
- The fall in the following year coincided with the tightening up of the detection guidance, and there were further slight falls in the next two years, which may have reflected a 'bedding down' of the guidance changes.
- The recorded detection rate has increased in 2004/05 to 26 per cent.

Changes affecting recent detection figures

Counting rules changes

The counting rules for recorded crime changed with effect from 1 April 1998. For one, these changes brought new offences into the series. Some of these (e.g. common assault) had higher than average detection rates, so that the overall detection rate increased because of the change in the crime 'mix'. At the same time, these 'new' offences would not necessarily have the same chance of being detected as other offences within their overall group (in the case of common assault this is violence against the person).

It is estimated that the effect of the counting rules changes was to increase the overall detection rate from 28 to 29 per cent (1998/99). For violence against the person, the counting rules changes led to a decrease in the detection rate from 75 to 71 per cent, due to the number of common assaults.

Guidance on counting detections

Further changes were implemented with effect from 1 April 1999. More precise and rigorous criteria for recording detections were introduced, with the underlying emphasis on the successful result of a police investigation. Any detection recorded required 'sufficient evidence to charge', an interview with the offender, and notification to the victim. In addition, detections obtained by the interview of a convicted prisoner ceased to count.

The effect of the April 1999 change is estimated overall as a single percentage point decrease in detection rates – but the effect varied from crime to crime.

In April 2003, the so-called 'inflammatory consequences' detections rule was removed. This meant that detections in which the injured party had asked the police not to speak to a named perpetrator could no longer be counted as administrative detections.

The National Crime Recording Standard

The NCRS was intended to ensure greater consistency between forces in the recording of crime, and to take a more victim-oriented approach by recording all reports of crime by victims unless there was very strong evidence not to do so. The NCRS was fully implemented in April 2002, although a few forces introduced it earlier. It was expected to have an inflationary effect on the crime count, and the general assumption was that it would tend to depress the detection rate in 2002/03 and 2003/04 since additional crimes would generally be less serious ones, which may be harder to detect.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003

The classification and coverage of the offences included in the Sexual Offences group changed from 1 May 2004 due to the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. A number of new offences were added to the group (for example, exposure) and the definitions of other offences were broadened. Some of these 'new' offences would not necessarily have the same chance of being detected as other offences within their overall group. These changes also have an impact on the 'other' offences group as indecent exposure has now been removed from this group.

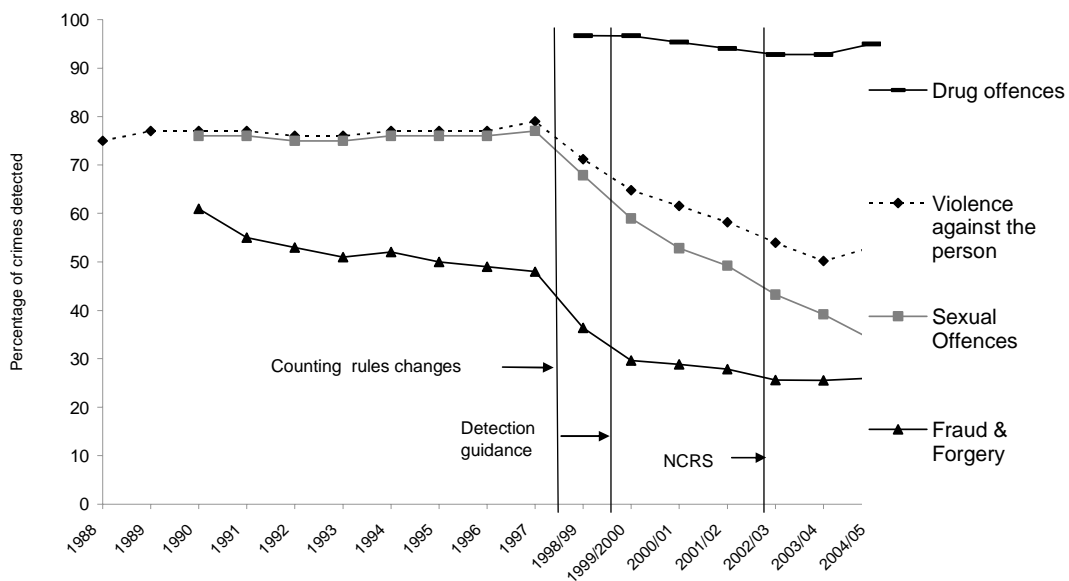
For this reason, the 2004/05 detection rates for sexual offences and 'other' offences can not be compared with detection rates for previous years.

Changes in detection rates for different offence groups

The overall detection rate is dictated mainly by the detection rates for the most numerous crimes – theft and handling, criminal damage and burglary. These are much less likely to be cleared up than violence against the person, sexual offences and drug offences – where there is a high likelihood of the victim being able to identify the offender, or because knowledge of the offence directly identifies the offender. Possession of drugs, for example, requires an offender to be present when the offence is reported. This is quite unlike burglary, where sometimes evidence of an offence can be discovered long after it was committed, and the offender may be far away.

Figure 7.2 shows changes in detection rates since 1988 in ‘higher detection’ offence groups. (Drug offences, with a very high detection rate, are shown only since 1998/99 when possession offences became included in the count). The long-term decline in fraud and forgery, where the changes in counting rules had a particularly marked impact, is now starting to level out.

Figure 7.2 Detection rates for drug offences, violence against the person, sexual offences and fraud and forgery, 1988 to 2004/05



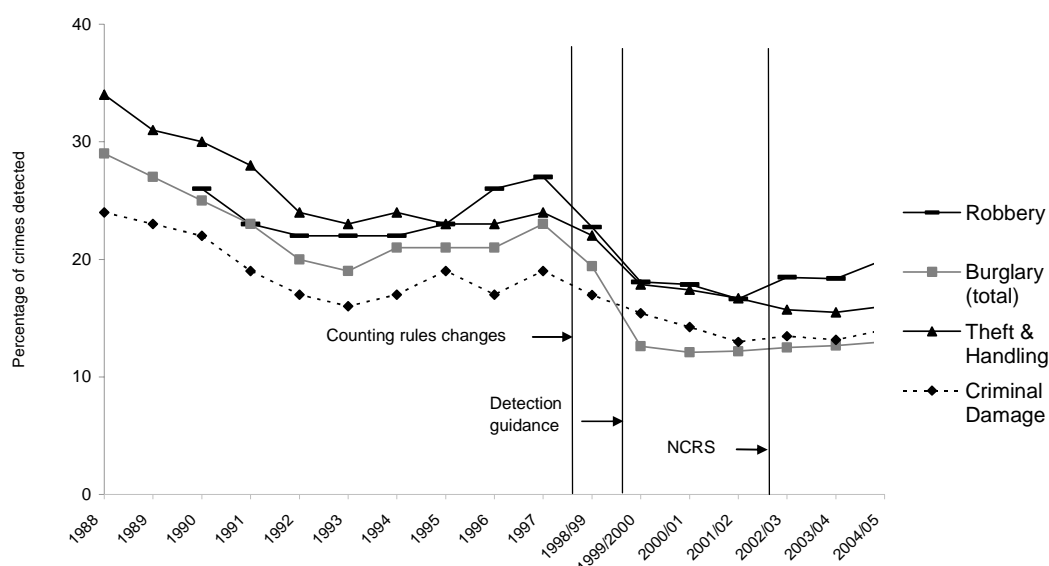
1 The detection rate in 2002/03 onward is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.
 2 Due to changes in the classification and coverage of sexual offences as a result of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the detection rate for 2004/05 is not directly comparable to previous years.

The year-on-year decline in the detection rate for violence against the person since 1997 has been reversed this year with a modest increase in the detection rate for this offence group (up from 50% in 2003/04 to 53% in 2004/05). For sexual offences, recent falls in detection rates may well be influenced by the NCRS effect (in 2002/03 and to some extent in 2003/04). Moreover, changes to the classification and coverage of sexual offences that were introduced in May 2004 will have contributed to the lower detection rate recorded in 2004/05. Certain crime types have been introduced to this group which, by their very nature, are less likely to be cleared up (for example, exposure).

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

Figure 7.3 shows trends for other offence groups. The counting rules changes in April 1998 saw falls in detection rates for these offences, although rates were generally falling in the previous year. The changes in the detection guidance in April 1999 had less of an effect.

Figure 7.3 Detection rates for robbery, theft and handling, criminal damage and burglary, 1988 to 2004/05



1. The detection rate from 2002/03 onward is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.
2. The scale on the left-hand axis differs from that in Figure 7.2.

The last two years

Table 7a shows the trends over the last two years by offence group. In summary, it shows:

- The *number* of detections *fell* between 2003/04 and 2004/05 for most offences; burglary, fraud and forgery, robbery, and theft and handling. These falls parallel decreases in the number of offences recorded.
- The *number* of detections *increased* for violence against the person and drug offences (alongside a rise in recorded offences for these offence groups). The number of detections for criminal damage also increased, however this was against falling numbers of crimes. Comparisons between the numbers of sexual offences and 'other' offences in 2003/04 with 2004/05 are not possible because of the changes in the offences being recorded under these groups as a result of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Within this broader landscape, the overall detection *rate* has increased from 23 per cent in 2003/04 to 26 per cent in 2004/05. Although most offences have seen an increase in detection rates, the scale of the increase differs between offence groups.
- Re-calculating the detection figures for sexual offences to include only those offences that are comparable to sexual offences recorded in 2003/04 will give a better indication of the

trend in detection rates for this offence group¹. This re-calculation gives a detection rate of 37 per cent in 2004/05 for 'comparable' sexual offences and represents a two percentage point fall in the detection rate from 2003/04 (39%). It is important to note, however, that it is not possible to undertake an exact comparison between the two years because the definitions of some of the offences that make up the group have been broadened. Therefore, even with the 'new' offences removed, the year-on-year comparison can only be considered as indicative.

- The detection rate for burglary and fraud and forgery was the same as in the previous year.

Table 7a Change in the number of offences detected, 2003/04¹ and 2004/05

	Recorded crime					
	Number of detections 2003/04	Number of detections 2004/05	% change in number of detections	Detection rate %, 2003/04	Detection rate %, 2004/05	% point change in detection rate
Violence against the person	479,594	548,107	14.3	50	53	3
Sexual offences ²	20,393	20,761	1.8	39	34	-5
Robbery	18,587	17,655	-5	18	20	2
<i>Violent crime</i>	<i>518,574</i>	<i>586,523</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>3</i>
Burglary	103,714	89,093	-14.1	13	13	0
Theft and handling stolen goods	351,424	334,476	-4.8	15	16	1
Fraud and forgery	81,312	73,010	-10.2	26	26	0
Criminal damage	158,496	165,082	4.2	13	14	1
Drug offences	130,916	135,390	3.4	93	95	2
Other offences ³	49,552	44,939	-9.3	67	70	3
Total recorded crime	1,393,988	1,428,513	2.5	23	26	3

1. The detection rate in 2003/04 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

2. Due to changes in the classification and coverage of sexual offences as a result of the 2003 Sexual Offences Act, the detection rate for 2004/05 is not directly comparable to 2003/04.

3. The removal of indecent exposure from the 'other' offences group to the sexual offences groups means that the detection rates for 'other' offences in 2004/05 is not directly comparable with 2003/04.

Table 7.01 shows the change in the number of offences and detections between 2003/04 and 2004/05, for each offence group and offence classification.

Changes in the 'crime mix'

There have been changes in the 'crime mix' over the last 15 years. In 2004/05, burglary and theft made up a smaller part of total recorded crime, and violence against the person a larger part (because of the inclusion of common assault in 1998, and the reduction in burglary and theft). Since burglary and theft have relatively low detection rates, and violence against the person a much higher one, one would expect the overall detection rate in 2004/05 to be higher than in 1990, other things being equal. However, this is not the case. The 'observed' detection rate in 2004/05 is 26 per cent compared with 32 per cent in 1990. Moreover, if one were to adjust for changes in the 'crime mix' over time, the gap would widen.²

¹ The following offences were removed for this calculation: 'Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography'; 'Trafficking for sexual exploitation'; 'Sexual grooming'; and 'Other miscellaneous sexual offences'.

² The adjustment applies the proportion of different types of crime within total recorded crime in 1990 to total recorded crime in 2004/05, with the present detection rate then applied to the revised number of different types of crime. For instance, theft and handling in 1990 was over 50 per cent of total crime with a detection rate of 30 per cent; this proportion (i.e. 50 per cent), is applied to the 2004/05 data, using the present detection rate of 16 per cent. Applying the 1990 'crime mix' to 2004/05 detection rates would give an overall detection rate of 18 per cent.

Crime in England and Wales 2004/05

Part of the explanation for this is that while 'higher detection' offence types now form a proportionately greater part of the total, and 'lower detection' offence types a proportionately smaller part, the former have seen bigger drops in detection rates than the latter. This will be partly due to the various changes in counting rules and guidance on recording detections in the late 1990s (for instance the inclusion of common assaults, which are less likely to be detected than more serious violence).

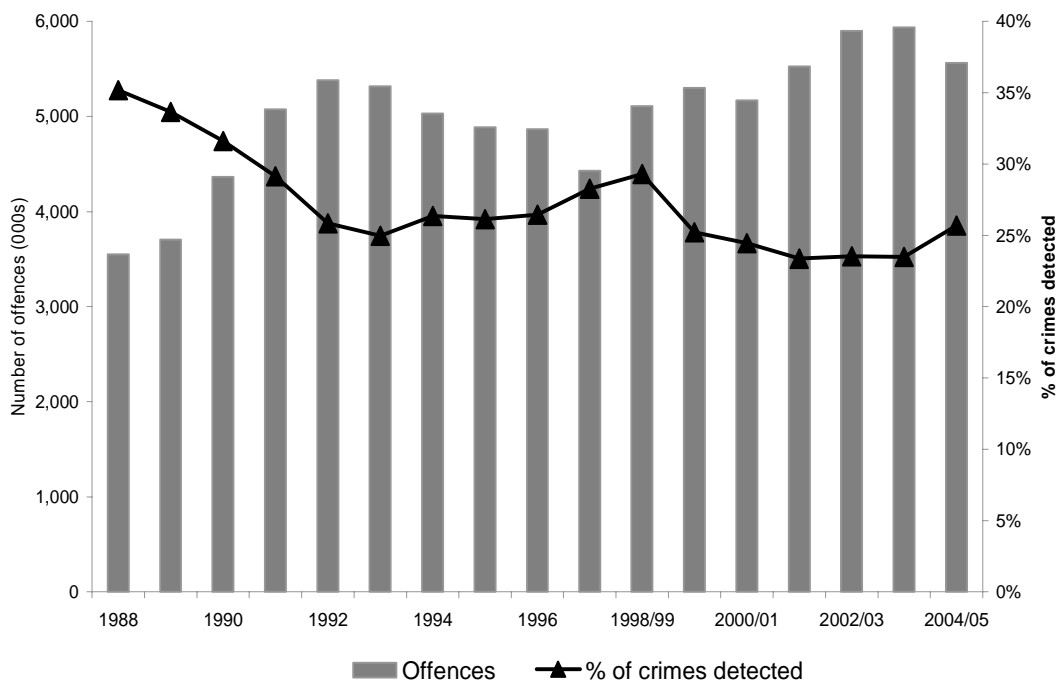
The change in 'crime mix' over the last two years is of course much smaller, although there has been a slight change. Violence against the person (16% of total last year; 19% this year) and criminal damage (20% of total last year; 21% this year) were a proportionally larger share in 2004/05 than in 2003/04. If the 2003/04 'crime mix' was applied to the 2004/05 data, then the 'observed' detection rate of 26 per cent would change to 25 per cent.

Offences and detection rates

There appears to be a link between the number of recorded crimes and detection rates – detection rates increase when recorded crime falls, and vice versa (see Figure 7.4).

In terms of absolute numbers rather than detection rates, 2004/05 has seen an increase in the *number* of detections despite a fall in recorded crime.

Figure 7.4 Offences and detection rates, 1988 to 2004/05



1. The detection rate from 2002/03 onward is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

Trends in detection rates by police force area

Table 7.02 shows annual detection rates by police force area and region, from 2000/2001 to 2004/05. The changes need to be viewed with some caution. There are variations in the particular 'mix' of crimes with which different forces have to deal, so that the effect of the counting rules changes may have varied from force to force. In addition, 2002/03 witnessed the national introduction of the NCRS, with variable consequences for individual forces. This too will have affected detection rate comparisons between forces, for which it has not been possible to make adjustments. There are still likely to be some residual effects from NCRS as a result of the year one audits. Furthermore, improvements in detection rates may be present for certain crimes and not others. Finally there may be variations over time in the types of detections different forces secure (see below).

In 2004/05 the main points are³:

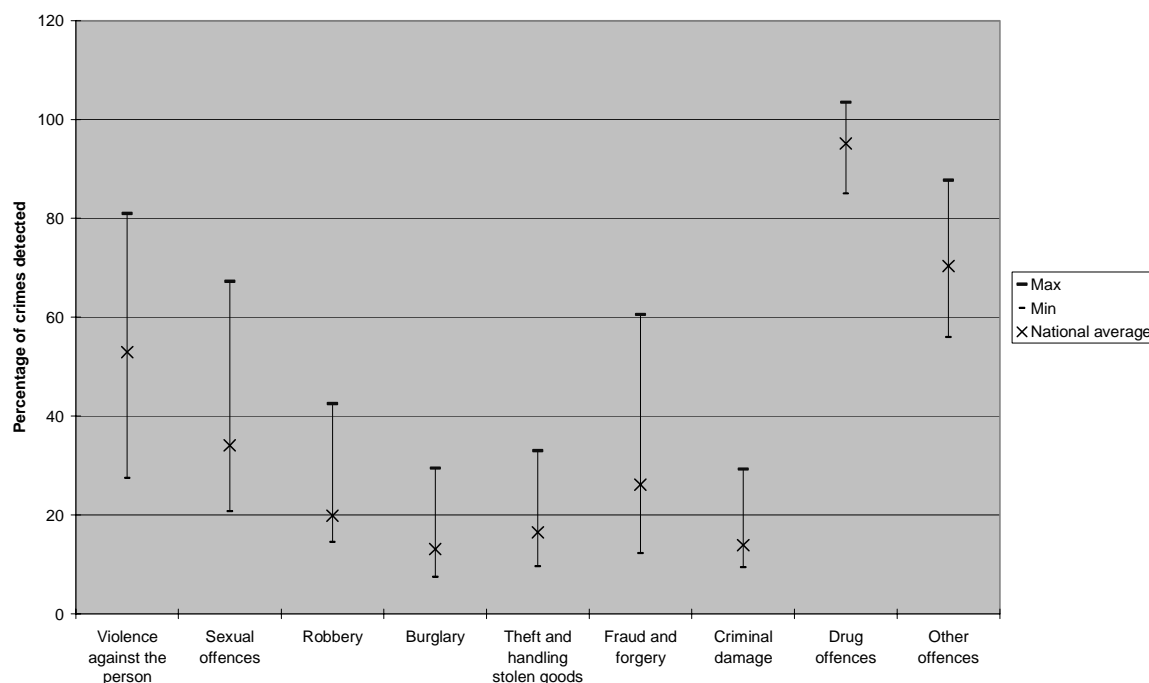
- Overall, four of the forces recorded no change in their detection rate for all crime from 2003/04 to 2004/05. Ten forces recorded a decrease and 29 forces recorded an increase.
- The biggest fall in the detection rate was in Dyfed Powys and West Midlands with drops of four and three percentage points respectively. A further five forces recorded falls of two percentage points on the previous year.
- Over the last year, the biggest increases in detection rates have been in North Wales, North Yorkshire, the Metropolitan Police Service, West Yorkshire and Bedfordshire. In those forces the detection rate was five percentage points or more above that of the previous year.

There was considerable variation between forces in their detection rates for individual offence groups, as shown in Table 7.03 and Figure 7.5. As well as differences in police performance, the variation could reflect differing resources available to investigate crime, different force priorities, and variations in 'crime mix' *within* general offence categories. Force detection rates varied:

- for violence against the person from 27 per cent to 81 per cent (average 53%);
- for burglary from eight per cent to 29 per cent (average 13%);
- for theft and handling from ten per cent to 33 per cent (average 16%).

³ Based on figures rounded to two decimal places for detection rates.

Figure 7.5 Maximum, minimum, and national average detection rates among police forces for different offence groups, 2004/05



7.3 DETECTION METHOD

Detections consist of two broad groups. Sanction detections include offences which are cleared up by an offender being cautioned, charged or summoned, having an offence taken into consideration, receiving a fixed penalty notice for disorder or other relevant offence, or a formal warning for cannabis possession (see 'Detected Crimes' text box)⁴. These contrast with 'administrative' detections, comprising those where no further action is taken. Not all sanction detections will necessarily result in a subsequent conviction. In cases detected by 'charge/summons', the Crown Prosecution Service may not take forward proceedings; or the offender might be found not guilty. Sanction detections are considered a better measure of police performance than the overall detection rate⁵.

The government target for narrowing the 'justice gap' aims to increase the number of offences brought to justice⁶. Detections are the cornerstone of this work since no offence can be brought to justice without a sanction detection.

Table 7.04 shows detection rates by method of detection, by police force area for 2004/05. Variations in detection rates are, in part, due to differing use of detection methods – particularly 'administrative' detections. Figure 7.6 illustrates force variations in the proportion of crimes detected by sanction or administrative detections.

⁴ Offences taken into consideration (TICs) fall into those for which an offence was previously recorded, and those that were not. Both types are included within 'sanction' detections. There should be sufficient evidence to charge the suspect with the offence.

⁵ Sanction detections are one of the key measures within the investigations domain of the Police Performance Assessment Framework.

⁶ That is to say, where an offender has been cautioned, convicted or had an offence previously recorded taken into consideration by the court, received a penalty notice or a warning for cannabis possession. There are some differences in the definition of 'brought to justice' compared with 'sanction' detections.

Overall, 80 per cent of detections in 2004/05 were classified as sanction detections (the balance were 'administrative' detections). This represents no change from 2003/04. In terms of the overall balance between sanction and 'administrative' detections, more than one-third of detections were 'administrative' in North Wales and Merseyside. At the other extreme, Avon and Somerset recorded few 'administrative' detections (less than 0.05% of all detections) in 2004/05.

Comparing only sanction detections paints a somewhat different picture of relative force performance, as well as narrowing the range of detection rates across forces (Table 7.05). For example, while force detection rates for violence against the person range from 27 to 81 per cent (Table 7.03), violence against the person *sanction* detection rates range from 22 to 51 per cent (Table 7.05).

There was an increase in the proportion of crimes resulting in a sanction detection between 2003/04 (19%) and 2004/05 (21%), equivalent to a two percentage point rise in the sanction detection rate⁷. There was also a very small increase (0.4 percentage point) in the administrative detection rate over the period.

Figure 7.6 Force detection rates by sanction and administrative detections, 2004/05

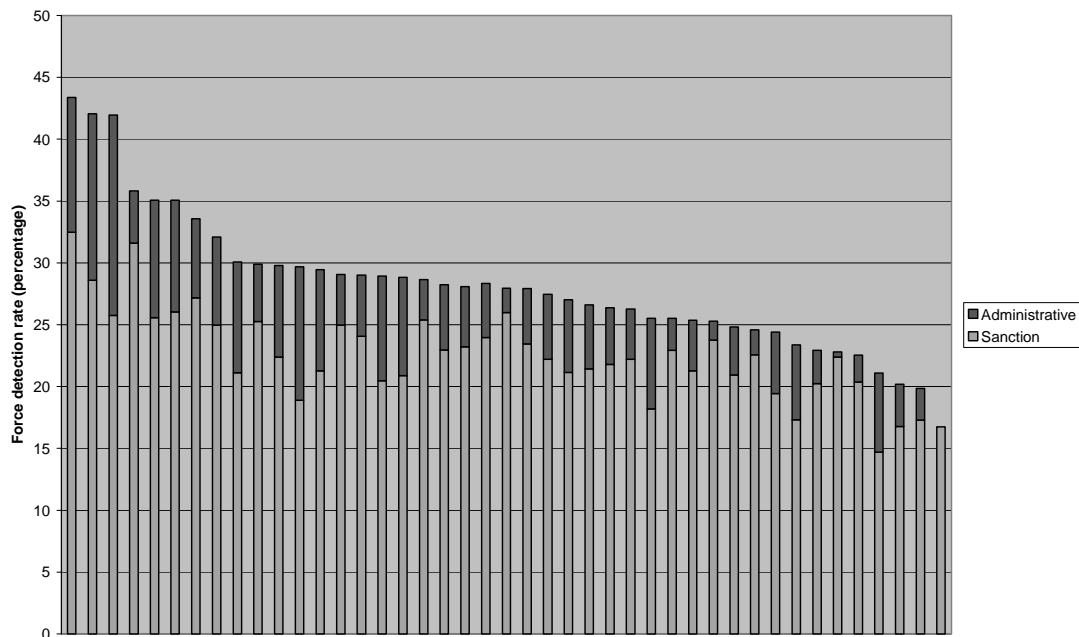


Table 7.06 gives an overview of method of detection by offence group and selected crime types, 2004/05. Charge/summons accounted for 50 per cent of all detections in 2004/05. This represents a fall in the share of detections by this method (the corresponding figure for 2003/04 was 56%). However, as a proportion of all recorded crime, detections by charge/summons have remained the same (13%), reflecting a similar decrease in recorded offences. Overall, cautions and Fixed Penalty Notices account for the increase in the sanction detection rate for 2004/05. Cautions account for 17 per cent of all detections in

⁷ Calculations for changes in method of detection from 2003/04 to 2004/05 do not include Durham.

2004/05, compared to 16 per cent in 2003/04⁸. The use of Fixed Penalty Notices for some notifiable offences was taken up across all forces in 2004/05⁹ and accounted for three per cent of all detections. The majority of the Fixed Penalty Notice detections (78%) were for Harassment offences. Detections of offences of cannabis possession account for three per cent of all detections (these detections were treated as street warnings, and therefore counted as sanction detections).

7.4 BASIC COMMAND UNITS

Detection rates for key offences for each Basic Command Unit (BCU), split by family, are available on: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>.

7.5 DETECTIONS PER OFFICER

In 1995, there were 9.8 detections per officer. This rose to 10.7 in 2002/03, and then fell to 10.4 in 2003/04. In 2004/05 the number of detections per officer has remained stable at 10.4. Excluding the Metropolitan Police and the City of London (the two forces which had the lowest number of detections per officer), there were 11.4 detections per officer. Five forces had 14 detections or more per officer, but otherwise the figures were within a relatively narrow range.

⁸ A caution may be given by, or on the instructions of, a senior police officer when an offender admits guilt, where there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction, where the offender consents, and where it does not seem in the public interest to instigate criminal proceedings. New guidance on administering cautions was published in June 2005 (see HO Circular 30/2005) although this did not impact on the cautions administered in 2004/05.

⁹ Police Operational Guidance on Penalty Notices for Disorder was issued by the Home Office in October 2002. A detection is counted if the penalty notice is not contested, is contested but the Crown Prosecution Service proceeds with the case, or, in discontinued cases, the designated decision-maker reviews the case and stands by the original decision.

Table 7.01 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime					
		2003/04 ¹			2004/05 ¹		
Offence		Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %
1	Murder	853	759	89	859	842	98
4.1	Manslaughter						
4.2	Infanticide						
2	Attempted murder	884	627	71	736	535	73
3	Threat or conspiracy to murder	22,232	10,228	46	23,668	10,604	45
4.3	Child destruction	8	3	38	4	3	75
4.4	Causing death by dangerous driving	445	423	95	440	421	96
4.6	Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs						
37.1	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	63	35	56	40	30	75
5	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	19,358	10,003	52	19,425	9,317	48
6	Endangering railway passenger	7	6	86	9	7	78
More serious violence against the person		43,850	22,084	50	45,181	21,759	48
7	Endangering life at sea	2	2	100	3	3	100
8A	Less serious wounding (including any minor injury)	428,521	214,376	50	485,195	236,501	49
8B	Possession of weapons	34,975	30,131	86	35,727	31,580	88
8C	Harassment	152,269	88,401	58	194,157	128,225	66
8D	Racially aggravated less serious wounding	4,840	1,965	41	5,312	2,063	39
8E	Racially aggravated harassment	20,584	7,524	37	22,669	9,083	40
11	Cruelty to and neglect of children	6,081	2,945	48	5,675	3,345	59
12	Abandoning a child under the age of two years	49	32	65	49	32	65
13	Child abduction	921	328	36	1,028	343	33
14	Procuring illegal abortion	9	5	56	15	9	60
15	Concealment of birth	6	2	33	6	4	67
104	Assault on a constable	21,927	21,334	97	23,267	22,157	95
105A	Common assault (no injury)	237,701	89,291	38	213,085	91,713	43
105B	Racially aggravated common assault	4,017	1,174	29	3,677	1,290	35
Other offences against the person		911,902	457,510	50	989,865	526,348	53
TOTAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON		955,752	479,594	50	1,035,046	548,107	53

Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime					
		2003/04 ¹			2004/05 ¹		
Offence		Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %
16	Buggery ⁵	247	117	47	73	43	59
17	Indecent assault on a male ⁵	4,070	1,664	41	998	614	62
17A	Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over ⁵	..	..	..	1,292	374	29
17B	Sexual assault on a male child under 13 ⁵	..	..	..	1,225	343	28
18	Gross indecency between males ⁵	244	124	51	46	35	76
19A	Rape of a female ⁵	12,354	3,793	31	728	523	72
19C	Rape of a female aged 16 and over ⁵	..	..	..	8,159	1,942	24
19D	Rape of a female child under 16 ⁵	..	..	..	3,006	1,014	34
19E	Rape of a female child under 13 ⁵	..	..	..	974	316	32
	Rape of a female	12,354	3,793	31	12,867	3,795	29
19B	Rape of a male ⁵	893	271	30	81	64	79
19F	Rape of a male aged 16 and over ⁵	..	..	..	441	55	12
19G	Rape of a male child under 16 ⁵	..	..	..	320	112	35
19H	Rape of a male child under 13 ⁵	..	..	..	293	103	35
	Rape of a male	893	271	30	1,135	334	29
20	Indecent assault on a female ⁵	26,709	9,508	36	5,112	3,160	62
20A	Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over ⁵	..	..	..	14,635	3,672	25
20B	Sexual assault on a female child under 13 ⁵	..	..	..	4,373	1,369	31
21	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 ⁵	212	106	50	19	11	58
21	Sexual activity involving child under 13 ⁵	..	..	..	1,481	462	31
22	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 ⁵	1,907	909	48	436	335	77
22B	Sexual activity involving child under 16 ⁵	..	..	..	2,522	969	38
22A	Causing sexual activity without consent ⁵	..	..	..	237	71	30
23	Familial sexual offences ⁵	105	34	32	710	215	30
24	Exploitation of prostitution ⁵	183	114	62	117	83	71
25	Abduction ⁵	402	91	23	86	30	35
26	Bigamy	71	52	73	105	57	54
27	Soliciting of women by men ⁵	1,939	1,906	98	1,833	1,751	96
70	Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder ⁵	..	..	..	104	17	16
71	Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography ⁵	..	..	..	98	30	31
72	Trafficking for sexual exploitation ⁵	..	..	..	21	8	38
73	Abuse of position of trust ⁵	792	705	89	679	576	85
74	Gross indecency with a child ⁵	1,942	999	51	396	297	75
88A	Sexual grooming ⁵	..	..	..	185	51	28
88B	Other miscellaneous sexual offences ⁵	..	..	..	10,161	2,059	20
	TOTAL SEXUAL OFFENCES⁵	52,070	20,393	39	60,946	20,761	34
34A	Robbery of business property	10,110	2,877	28	7,926	2,303	29
34B	Robbery of personal property	91,084	15,710	17	80,784	15,352	19
	TOTAL ROBBERY	101,194	18,587	18	88,710	17,655	20
	TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	1,109,016	518,574	47	1,184,702	586,523	50

Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime					
		2003/04 ¹			2004/05 ¹		
Offence		Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %
28	Burglary in a dwelling	398,934	59,090	15	318,921	49,949	16
29	Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	3,399	1,300	38	2,538	1,106	44
	Total burglary in a dwelling	402,333	60,390	15	321,459	51,055	16
30	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	415,774	43,142	10	358,061	37,885	11
31	Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	535	182	34	453	153	34
	Total burglary in a building other than dwelling	416,309	43,324	10	358,514	38,038	11
	TOTAL BURGLARY	818,642	103,714	13	679,973	89,093	13
37.2	Aggravated vehicle taking	11,546	5,252	45	11,121	5,263	47
48	Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	279,111	36,577	13	230,729	31,692	14
45	Theft from vehicle	598,514	37,890	6	496,681	37,935	8
	Theft of and from vehicles	889,171	79,719	9	738,531	74,890	10
38	Proceeds of crime ²	69	53	77	433	308	71
39	Theft from the person of another	125,042	5,463	4	111,616	4,602	4
40	Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	61,097	12,788	21	57,756	11,611	20
41	Theft by an employee	17,571	10,016	57	17,131	9,575	56
42	Theft or unauthorised taking of mail	20,527	572	3	22,407	949	4
43	Abstracting electricity	1,303	892	68	1,289	907	70
44	Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	102,520	4,270	4	102,680	4,713	5
46	Theft from a shop	301,796	177,925	59	280,461	171,623	61
47	Theft from automatic machine or meter	28,373	3,294	12	34,280	3,668	11
49	Other theft or unauthorised taking	614,281	35,904	6	570,358	33,262	6
54	Handling stolen goods	17,022	14,892	87	13,896	12,874	93
126	Vehicle interference and tampering	89,371	5,636	6	76,678	5,494	7
	TOTAL THEFT AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS	2,268,143	351,424	15	2,027,516	334,476	16
51	Fraud by company director	80	69	86	50	27	54
52	False accounting	665	606	91	531	405	76
53A	Cheque and credit card fraud	130,239	38,947	30	120,875	34,339	28
53B	Other frauds	170,524	29,789	17	141,358	28,213	20
55	Bankruptcy and insolvency offences	9	6	67	11	7	64
60	Forgery or use of false drug prescription	794	501	63	744	502	67
61	Other forgery	7,620	4,283	56	9,899	4,907	50
814	Vehicle/driver document fraud	8,016	7,111	89	5,434	4,610	85
	TOTAL FRAUD AND FORGERY	317,947	81,312	26	278,902	73,010	26

Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime					
		2003/04 ¹			2004/05 ¹		
Offence		Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %
56	Arson	57,162	4,817	8	48,038	4,193	9
58A	Criminal damage to a dwelling	321,613	47,866	15	309,044	49,227	16
58B	Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	183,964	27,345	15	171,975	28,220	16
58C	Criminal damage to a vehicle	455,926	44,814	10	459,667	45,951	10
58D	Other criminal damage	172,756	29,025	17	181,257	32,447	18
58E	Racially aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling	1,981	244	12	1,844	260	14
58F	Racially aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	1,162	322	28	1,100	306	28
58G	Racially aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle	1,602	309	19	1,638	330	20
58H	Racially aggravated other criminal damage	836	195	23	834	175	21
59	Threat etc.to commit criminal damage	8,574	3,559	42	9,991	3,973	40
TOTAL CRIMINAL DAMAGE		1,205,576	158,496	13	1,185,388	165,082	14
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME		4,610,308	694,946	15	4,171,779	661,661	16
92A	Trafficking in controlled drugs	24,510	22,205	91	23,940	21,963	92
92B	Possession of controlled drugs	115,687	107,964	93	..	..	..
92C	Other drug offences	863	747	87	798	776	97
92D	Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)	..	..	..	32,162	30,185	94
92E	Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)	..	..	..	85,438	82,466	97
TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES		141,060	130,916	93	142,338	135,390	95
33	Going equipped for stealing, etc.	5,623	4,485	80	4,494	3,543	79
35	Blackmail	1,475	387	26	1,459	382	26
36	Kidnapping	3,125	1,414	45	2,790	1,236	44
62	High treason and other offences against Treason Acts	1	0	-	0	0	-
63	Treason felony	0	0	-	0	0	-
64	Riot	6	8	133	4	2	50
65	Violent disorder	2,709	1,744	64	2,570	1,597	62
66	Other offences against the State or public order	19,497	14,216	73	19,872	13,713	69
67	Perjury	205	139	68	259	172	66
68	Libel	0	0	-	0	0	-
75	Betting, gaming and lotteries	1	4	400	12	11	92
76	Aiding suicide	11	21	191	6	3	50
78	Immigration offences	451	410	91	550	517	94
79	Perverting the course of justice	11,834	8,478	72	11,532	7,557	66
80	Absconding from lawful custody	1,711	1,581	92	1,356	1,249	92
81	Firearms Acts offences	3,306	2,811	85	4,174	3,613	87
82	Customs and Revenue offences	49	46	94	31	20	65
83	Bail offences	125	109	87	115	95	83

Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2003/04 and 2004/05

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime					
		2003/04 ¹			2004/05 ¹		
Offence		Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of offences	Number of detections	Detection rate %
84	Trade descriptions etc.	510	350	69	1,326	1,080	81
85	Health and Safety offences	4	5	125	15	0	0
86	Obscene publications etc.	2,881	2,383	83	2,860	2,026	71
87	Protection from eviction	75	11	15	71	15	21
89	Adulteration of food	34	27	79	29	14	48
90	Knives Act 1997 offences	22	20	91	21	16	76
91	Public health offences	86	44	51	112	61	54
94	Planning Laws	3	2	67	4	1	25
95	Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements, etc.	22	16	73	135	111	82
99	Other indictable or triable-either-way offences	3,433	1,934	56	2,573	1,506	59
139	Indecent exposure	9,507	1,930	20	928	399	43
802	Dangerous driving	7,487	6,977	93	6,574	6,000	91
TOTAL OTHER OFFENCES⁵		74,193	49,552	67	63,872	44,939	70
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME		5,934,577	1,393,988	23	5,562,691	1,428,513	26

1. Offences detected in the current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

2. These offences were added to the series from 1 April 2003.

3. Numbers of recorded crimes and percentages will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03'.

4. Some forces have revised their 2003/04 data and totals may not therefore agree with those previously published.

5. The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 resulted in substantial changes to the sexual offences group (and consequent changes to the other offences group). Please see Appendix 3 for further details.

Table 7.02 Recorded crime: annual detection rate by police force area and region, 2000/01 to 2004/05

Police force area and region	Recorded crime					
	Percentages	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Cleveland		21	20	23	21	24
Durham		34	33	34	29	29
Northumbria		31	31	31	30	29
North East Region		29	29	30	28	28
Cheshire		30	26	26	27	26
Cumbria		34	32	31	32	30
Greater Manchester		22	21	22	22	23
Lancashire		27	26	27	27	30
Merseyside		28	24	25	27	30
North West Region		25	23	24	25	26
Humberside		21	20	20	19	20
North Yorkshire		30	26	26	28	35
South Yorkshire		25	23	21	24	26
West Yorkshire		23	19	20	20	25
Yorkshire and the Humber Region		24	21	21	21	25
Derbyshire		26	25	26	25	28
Leicestershire		28	28	27	22	25
Lincolnshire		25	27	23	22	25
Northamptonshire		33	31	28	28	29
Nottinghamshire		20	18	16	18	20
East Midlands Region		25	18	23	23	25
Staffordshire		23	20	31	33	35
Warwickshire		22	25	26	25	27
West Mercia		27	28	33	31	34
West Midlands		28	29	26	25	23
West Midlands Region		27	27	28	28	27
Bedfordshire		27	25	26	23	28
Cambridgeshire		24	22	22	23	23
Essex		26	26	27	28	27
Hertfordshire		24	24	23	25	29
Norfolk		26	25	24	26	28
Suffolk		35	33	34	33	32
Eastern Region		26	26	26	26	28
London, City of		27	34	36	33	36
Metropolitan Police		15	14	14	15	21
London region		15	14	15	16	21
Hampshire		29	29	30	27	28
Kent		28	28	28	25	23
Surrey		28	25	22	22	26
Sussex		23	25	24	24	25
Thames Valley		22	24	25	23	26
South East Region		25	26	26	24	26
Avon and Somerset		22	14	15	15	17
Devon and Cornwall		34	32	29	29	30
Dorset		25	27	25	26	28
Gloucestershire		31	30	29	28	27
Wiltshire		30	30	28	28	29
South West Region		27	23	23	24	24
ENGLAND		24	22	23	23	25
Dyfed Powys		63	64	68	47	43
Gwent		57	55	48	45	42
North Wales		31	28	29	33	42
South Wales		32	33	29	29	29
WALES		41	39	36	35	36
ENGLAND AND WALES		24	22	24	23	26

1. Number of recorded crimes and detections will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For more information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03'.

Table 7.03 Recorded crime: detection rate by offence group, police force area and region, 2004/05

Police force area and region	Percentages								Recorded crime	
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences
Cleveland	24	50	46	19	13	19	37	12	94	71
Durham	29	65	67	25	14	22	61	15	100	85
Northumbria	29	57	33	22	12	23	50	14	98	79
North East Region	28	56	42	21	13	22	49	13	97	79
Cheshire	26	59	37	24	16	18	18	13	94	75
Cumbria	30	55	42	29	13	24	40	14	91	66
Greater Manchester	23	54	30	18	9	15	33	12	93	69
Lancashire	30	56	40	34	17	23	30	15	95	78
Merseyside	30	68	40	27	16	19	15	12	93	72
North West Region	26	58	35	22	13	18	27	13	93	71
Humberside	20	38	28	20	10	15	26	10	85	59
North Yorkshire	35	77	48	31	13	21	54	19	98	86
South Yorkshire	26	59	36	32	16	20	35	13	89	81
West Yorkshire	25	51	31	32	15	19	28	12	93	72
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	25	53	33	29	14	18	33	12	91	73
Derbyshire	28	57	36	26	12	18	28	16	97	79
Leicestershire	25	40	27	18	13	20	27	15	92	74
Lincolnshire	25	52	39	23	9	18	41	13	91	59
Northamptonshire	29	69	48	22	12	21	33	15	98	87
Nottinghamshire	20	52	45	21	8	13	24	11	103	81
East Midlands Region	25	52	38	21	10	17	29	14	98	76
Staffordshire	35	67	38	27	16	23	33	19	98	82
Warwickshire	27	63	38	24	18	19	26	14	98	83
West Mercia	34	71	39	40	15	24	37	17	98	78
West Midlands	23	46	29	21	10	15	18	11	91	63
West Midlands Region	27	56	33	22	12	18	24	14	94	70
Bedfordshire	28	58	36	23	15	19	31	16	95	74
Cambridgeshire	23	51	27	24	15	16	19	12	89	70
Essex	27	63	33	23	12	17	28	15	93	74
Hertfordshire	29	68	41	36	21	19	21	15	95	76
Norfolk	28	55	34	16	13	20	40	15	99	72
Suffolk	32	66	36	29	14	20	36	17	90	68
Eastern Region	28	61	35	25	15	18	27	15	94	73
London, City of	36	64	38	29	25	17	45	29	97	66
Metropolitan Police	21	43	35	15	13	10	12	13	97	61
London region	21	43	35	15	13	10	13	13	97	61
Hampshire	28	51	33	33	17	19	30	14	98	71
Kent	23	46	28	15	10	17	29	14	99	71
Surrey	26	59	33	31	11	14	44	14	97	63
Sussex	25	52	27	23	11	15	28	16	95	68
Thames Valley	26	52	28	24	14	18	36	15	93	68
South East Region	26	51	30	24	13	17	33	15	96	69
Avon and Somerset	17	27	21	15	10	12	23	9	91	56
Devon and Cornwall	30	57	31	25	13	19	41	16	100	66
Dorset	28	49	28	25	18	19	45	16	96	74
Gloucestershire	27	52	34	34	12	20	25	16	90	66
Wiltshire	29	66	36	30	15	20	36	16	95	70
South West Region	24	45	28	20	13	17	32	14	96	64
ENGLAND	26	52	34	20	13	16	26	14	95	69
Dyfed Powys	43	66	43	37	21	27	51	26	98	84
Gwent	42	74	56	39	29	33	44	22	96	84
North Wales	42	81	38	39	21	29	56	22	97	88
South Wales	29	68	41	43	14	17	42	16	96	87
WALES	36	72	44	41	19	23	46	20	97	86
ENGLAND AND WALES	26	53	34	20	13	16	26	14	95	70

1. Offences detected in the current year may have been initially recorded in earlier years and for this reason percentages may exceed 100.

2. Number of recorded crimes and detections will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For more information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03'.

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rate by method of detection, police force area and region, 2004/05

Police force area and region	Recorded crime									
	Recorded offences	Detected	Detected (sanction detections) ¹	Charge/Summons	Caution	Method of detection			Formal warning for possession of cannabis	Other ²
						TIC (previously recorded)	TIC (Not previously recorded)	Fixed penalty notice		
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Cleveland	68,967	24	19	14	4	1	0	1	0	5
Durham	47,115	29	20	16	1	2	0	0	1	8
Northumbria	142,122	29	25	15	8	2	0	0	0	3
North East Region	258,204	28	23	15	6	2	0	0	0	5
Cheshire	89,300	26	18	11	4	2	0	1	0	7
Cumbria	43,300	30	25	18	5	1	0	0	1	5
Greater Manchester	324,616	23	20	14	4	1	0	1	1	3
Lancashire	152,043	30	22	13	5	2	0	2	0	7
Merseyside	170,846	30	19	12	3	2	0	1	1	11
North West Region	780,105	26	20	13	4	1	0	1	0	6
Humberside	124,105	20	17	11	4	1	0	1	0	3
North Yorkshire	61,864	35	26	18	4	1	1	1	1	9
South Yorkshire	140,371	26	22	13	5	3	0	0	0	5
West Yorkshire	263,534	25	23	12	5	3	0	1	0	2
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	589,874	25	22	13	5	2	0	1	0	3
Derbyshire	84,712	28	23	16	4	2	0	1	1	4
Leicestershire	96,347	25	24	16	4	2	0	1	0	2
Lincolnshire	58,349	25	21	14	5	1	0	1	0	4
Northamptonshire	73,903	29	21	12	5	2	1	0	0	8
Nottinghamshire	143,108	20	17	12	3	1	0	1	0	3
East Midlands Region	456,419	25	21	14	4	2	0	1	0	4
Staffordshire	101,084	35	26	17	5	2	0	1	1	10
Warwickshire	43,131	27	21	11	4	4	0	1	1	6
West Mercia	95,056	34	27	17	7	2	0	0	1	6
West Midlands	293,972	23	22	15	4	1	0	1	1	0
West Midlands Region	533,243	27	24	16	5	2	0	1	1	4
Bedfordshire	57,973	28	24	15	5	2	0	1	1	4
Cambridgeshire	73,659	23	17	11	4	2	0	0	0	6
Essex	134,789	27	22	13	5	2	0	2	0	5
Hertfordshire	97,065	29	21	13	4	3	0	0	0	8
Norfolk	66,376	28	23	16	5	1	0	1	1	5
Suffolk	52,101	32	25	16	6	1	0	0	1	7
Eastern Region	481,963	28	22	14	5	2	0	1	1	6
London, City of	8,685	36	32	18	6	1	0	1	6	4
Metropolitan Police	1,015,121	21	15	9	3	1	0	1	1	6
London region	1,023,806	21	15	10	3	1	0	0	1	6
Hampshire	173,072	28	23	16	5	1	0	1	0	5
Kent	136,440	23	20	11	7	1	0	0	0	2
Surrey	70,851	26	23	11	8	2	1	0	1	3
Sussex	140,177	25	21	12	7	1	0	0	1	4
Thames Valley	205,273	26	22	10	6	4	1	1	1	4
South East Region	725,813	26	22	12	6	2	0	1	1	4
Avon and Somerset	161,210	17	17	10	3	2	1	1	1	0
Devon and Cornwall	133,282	30	21	12	5	2	0	1	1	9
Dorset	57,722	28	26	15	5	4	0	1	1	3
Gloucestershire	53,333	27	21	11	5	4	0	0	1	5
Wiltshire	40,075	29	25	17	5	1	0	1	1	4
South West Region	445,622	24	21	12	4	2	0	1	1	4
ENGLAND	5,295,049	25	20	13	4	2	0	1	1	5
Dyfed Powys	32,409	43	32	17	10	1	0	1	3	11
Gwent	57,206	42	29	17	5	5	1	1	0	13
North Wales	53,865	42	26	16	5	2	0	1	1	16
South Wales	124,162	29	24	18	4	2	0	0	0	5
WALES	267,642	36	26	17	5	2	0	1	1	10
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,562,691	26	21	13	4	2	0	1	1	5

1. Sanction detections include charge/summons, cautions, TICs, FPNs and formal warnings for cannabis possession.

2. Other detections are also known as 'Administrative' detections.

Table 7.05 Sanction detection rates for selected offences by police force area and region, 2004/05

Police force area and region	Recorded crime			
	Violence against the person	Robbery	Burglary in a dwelling	Theft of and from vehicles
Cleveland	32	17	15	7
Durham	42	23	15	9
Northumbria	45	20	12	11
North East Region	41	19	13	9
Cheshire	33	20	24	13
Cumbria	42	28	16	13
Greater Manchester	44	17	9	6
Lancashire	35	28	19	16
Merseyside	32	16	13	11
North West Region	38	18	13	10
Humberside	31	19	12	9
North Yorkshire	49	27	14	8
South Yorkshire	39	29	19	11
West Yorkshire	45	30	16	13
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	41	27	16	11
Derbyshire	44	24	14	10
Leicestershire	36	17	14	16
Lincolnshire	40	22	11	8
Northamptonshire	36	17	11	12
Nottinghamshire	38	19	8	4
East Midlands Region	39	20	11	9
Staffordshire	40	22	18	13
Warwickshire	39	23	20	17
West Mercia	49	37	24	15
West Midlands	45	21	12	8
West Midlands Region	44	22	15	11
Bedfordshire	44	22	16	11
Cambridgeshire	29	21	21	13
Essex	44	20	17	9
Hertfordshire	37	30	26	14
Norfolk	40	15	17	11
Suffolk	44	27	19	9
Eastern Region	40	23	19	11
London, City of	49	29	9	13
Metropolitan Police	22	12	12	5
London region	22	12	12	5
Hampshire	37	30	26	10
Kent	39	14	14	6
Surrey	49	29	12	7
Sussex	39	21	12	8
Thames Valley	38	23	16	11
South East Region	39	23	16	9
Avon and Somerset	27	15	12	8
Devon and Cornwall	33	22	13	10
Dorset	44	23	21	13
Gloucestershire	34	31	14	13
Wiltshire	51	29	14	9
South West Region	34	19	13	10
ENGLAND	36	17	14	9
Dyfed Powys	41	34	20	18
Gwent	33	32	33	26
North Wales	36	30	29	17
South Wales	51	40	17	9
WALES	42	36	22	14
ENGLAND AND WALES	36	17	14	9

Table 7.06 National method of detection by offence, 2004/05

Numbers and percentages Offence	Number detected	Method of detection					Recorded crime	
		Charge/ Summons	Caution	TIC	Fixed penalty notice	Formal warning for possession of cannabis	Other ¹	
Violence against the person	548,107	46	16	0	5	..	32	
More serious violence	21,759	75	6	0	0	..	19	
Other offences against the person	526,348	45	16	0	6	..	32	
Common assault	93,003	24	11	0	0	..	65	
Harassment	137,308	48	12	0	24	..	15	
Other wounding	238,564	44	20	0	0	..	36	
Sexual offences	20,761	71	11	1	0	..	17	
Indecent assault on a female	8,201	70	9	0	0	..	21	
Rape of a female	3,975	83	2	0	0	..	15	
Robbery	17,655	78	3	5	0	..	14	
Burglary	89,093	51	6	35	0	..	9	
Burglary in a dwelling	51,055	49	4	37	0	..	10	
Burglary in other building	38,038	54	8	32	0	..	7	
Theft and handling stolen goods	334,476	54	19	14	2	..	11	
Theft from vehicle	37,935	32	8	53	0	..	7	
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor v	36,955	57	9	24	0	..	10	
Fraud and Forgery	73,010	52	11	28	0	..	9	
Criminal damage	165,082	45	24	3	2	..	25	
Drug offences	135,390	41	26	0	0	29	3	
Other offences	44,939	77	13	0	1	..	8	
Total	1,428,513	50	17	7	3	3	20	

1. Other detections are also known as 'Administrative' detections.

Appendix 1 Glossary

ACORN – ‘A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods’, developed by CACI Ltd., classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is most useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The new 2001 ACORN has been used in the 2004/05 BCS. The original ACORN categories were developed through the use of cluster analysis of variables from the 1991 Census. The new version used 2001 Census data and has been introduced to take account of changes in characteristics of the population, such as ageing and the decrease in unemployment, over the last decade. Although there are a total of 56 ACORN types, the five-group and 17-group breakdowns have been used in this report (these groups are constructed from the 56 types). The main ACORN groups are characterised as follows:

- **Wealthy achievers** – wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families.
- **Urban prosperity** – prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas.
- **Comfortably off** – young couples, secure families, older couples living in the suburbs and pensioners.
- **Moderate means** – Asian communities, post-industrial families and skilled manual workers.
- **Hard pressed** – low-income families, residents in council areas, people living in high-rise, inner-city estates.

Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS.

Acquaintance violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It comprises woundings and common assault in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. It does not include **domestic violence**.

APACS – The Association of Payment Clearing Services, records information on the financial losses resulting from plastic card fraud in the UK.

Arson – Deliberately setting fire to property including buildings and vehicles. For vehicle crime, if a vehicle is stolen and later found deliberately burnt out by the same offender, one crime of theft of a vehicle is recorded by the police and in the BCS. If there is evidence that someone unconnected with the theft committed the arson, then an offence of arson is recorded by the police in addition to the theft. For the BCS, only an offence of theft of a vehicle would be recorded as in practice it would often not be possible to establish that the arson was committed by someone unconnected with the theft.

Attempted burglary – An attempted burglary is recorded by the police and in the BCS if there is clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to a building but was unsuccessful.

Basic Command Units (BCUs) – These broadly equate to former police divisions or districts. There are currently 280 BCUs in England and Wales. Recorded crime figures for six key offences for each BCU are published on the Home Office website.

Bicycle theft – Thefts of pedal cycles. This does not include every bicycle theft, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary where other items are stolen) and are therefore classified as such by the police and in the BCS. The BCS covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any other member of the household.

Black and minority ethnic groups – Results from the 2004/05 BCS combine the 16-point census classification into the five groups, White, Black, Asian, mixed and Chinese or other. Respondents were asked to make a choice from a card to identify their cultural background. Adopting the census definition, however, means ethnic group is not comparable to sweeps of the BCS prior to 2001/02.

Burglary – An offence of burglary is recorded by the police if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. Burglary does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g. impersonating an official). Burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be in the dwelling at the time of the offence (see **theft in a dwelling**). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g. hallways) are not included. Figures on recorded crime are provided separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and those which occur in commercial or other properties.

The BCS covers domestic burglary only, but it is possible to differentiate between attempted burglaries and burglaries with entry. BCS burglary can be classified as: attempted burglary; burglary with entry, no loss; burglary with entry; burglary with loss. These combine as follows: attempted burglary and burglary with entry is equivalent to all burglary; attempted burglary and burglary with entry, no loss and burglary with loss is equivalent to all burglary. See also: **attempted burglary, burglary-no loss, burglary with entry, burglary with loss, domestic burglary** and **theft in a dwelling**.

Burglary-no loss – In the BCS burglary-no loss includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. In making comparisons with police recorded crime, **burglary with no loss** is used in the BCS comparisons as a proxy for attempted burglary, though there will be some instances with no loss where entry has been gained.

Burglary with entry – This term is used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss – This term is used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered and something was stolen.

Calibration weighting – The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recommended, as part of a review of BCS methodology, that the calibration weighting method be adopted in the BCS. The weighting is designed to make adjustment for known differentials in response rates between different age by gender subgroups and households with different age and gender composition. For example, a household containing a 24-year-old male living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a 24-year-old male living with a young partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age/sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole.

The weights are generated using an algorithm (CALMAR) that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. Calibration weights for BCS sweeps back to 1996 have been generated for both household and individual weights. They are based on calibrating on **population figures** provided by ONS. The effects of applying these new weights are generally low for household crime, but are more important for estimates of personal crime, where young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average but also lower response rates to the survey. However, crime trends since the 1996 sweep have not been altered to any great extent by the introduction of calibration weighting.

The calibration weighting method is used on the Labour Force Survey (ONS), the General Household Survey (ONS), the Expenditure and Food Survey (ONS and DEFRA), the Family Resources Survey (DWP) and the Family and Children's Survey (DWP).

Common assault – In the BCS, a common assault (or attempted assault) is one where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but the incident did not result in an injury, or the injury was negligible (e.g. a black eye). This definition is the same as that used for police recorded crime between 1st April 1998 and 31st March 2002. However, from 1st April 2002 where battery results in injury, this is recorded by the police as 'other wounding' providing the injury amounts to no more than grazes, scratches, abrasions, minor bruising, swellings, reddening of the skin, superficial cuts, or a 'black eye'. In this report, BCS common assault includes minor injury except where explicitly stated. The BCS does not measure assaults against those aged under 16 years old and those not living in private households, this being a caveat on all personal crimes. Assault on a constable is a separate category within recorded crime, however, such incidents are not treated separately for the BCS and would fall within the BCS common assault category. The police recorded crime figures quoted in the text and charts include assault on a constable.

Comparable subset of crimes – Seventy-eight per cent of BCS offences reported via interviews in the **2004/05 interview sample** fall into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded under the new police coverage of offences adopted from 1st April 1998. The new comparable subset includes common assaults (and assaults on a constable), and vehicle interference and tampering. As with the old comparable subset, the new comparable subset is

used to observe differences between police and BCS figures (see also **old comparable subset of crimes**).

Comparable violence – This comprises wounding, robbery and common assault – the violent crimes measured by the BCS which, since 1998, can be compared with violent crimes recorded by the police. It excludes the small category of snatch theft that is not separately identified in police recorded crime figures but is part of the police recorded crime category of theft from the person (see also **old comparable violence**).

Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) – The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI, whereby the interviewer enters responses to the questionnaire into a laptop computer. The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and instructions for navigating through the questionnaire.

Confidence interval – The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie (also referred to as margin of error). Surveys produce statistics that are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that these confidence intervals would contain the true population value in 95 per cent of cases. When assessing the results of a single survey it is assumed that there is a one in 20 per cent chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate. A 90 per cent confidence interval relates to a one in ten chance of the true value lying outside the range. Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between years of the BCS and for differences between population sub-groups. If a difference is outside a range set by a 95 per cent confidence interval then one judges the difference to be 'statistically significant at the five per cent level'. If a difference is outside a 90 per cent confidence interval it is 'statistically significant at the ten per cent level'. In this publication a five per cent significance level has been applied, unless otherwise stated. See also the definition of **statistical significance**.

Counting rules – Instructions issued to the police by the Home Office on how the police should count and classify crime. Recorded crime figures in this publication are based on the counting rules that came into force on 1st April 1998. These rules were up-dated following the introduction on 1st April 2002 following revisions to take account of the ACPO **National Crime Recording Standard**. A copy of the latest rules is available on the Home Office website.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) – Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are broadly local authority areas. They include representatives from police, health, probation and other local agencies and provide strategies for reducing crime in the area. There are currently 376 CDRPs in England and Wales. In Wales, the 22 CDRPs have changed to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to reflect their new identity subsequent to merging with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams. Recorded crime figures for six key offences for each CDRP are published on the Home Office website.

Criminal damage – Criminal damage results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Combined figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage. In the BCS, criminal damage is referred to as vandalism. As for burglary, the BCS only includes private households. See also: **vandalism** and **vehicle vandalism**.

Detections – Previously known as clear ups. Detailed information on the way the police are able to show a crime as ‘detected’ is contained in Section H of the Home Office Counting Rules. A copy of the counting rules is available on the Home Office website.

Domestic burglary – The BCS only covers domestic burglary whilst police recorded crime covers both commercial and domestic burglary.

Domestic violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It includes all violent incidents, excluding mugging, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives. A computerised self-completion module was included in the 1996 and 2001 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004) and a similar module is included in the 2004/05 BCS (publication due in 2005/06). See also: **acquaintance violence, mugging** and **stranger violence**. Figures on recorded crime do not identify offences of domestic violence since it is not a legal category. Such offences would be recorded in accordance with any injuries sustained i.e. other wounding.

Fraud – Dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or a pecuniary advantage. Recorded crime statistics are collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; cheque and credit card fraud; other frauds; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery; vehicle/driver document fraud. Credit card fraud is covered to a small extent within the technology crimes module of the 2002/03 BCS (Wilson, 2005) and 2003/04 BCS (publication due in 2005/06). However, fraud is mainly a crime against commercial organisations and therefore not thoroughly investigated by the BCS.

Government Office Region (GOR) – An administrative division of England and Wales. See also **ONS harmonised variables**.

Homicide – Comprises the recorded crimes of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. The published figures do not separately identify between these categories since at the time an offence is recorded by the police the circumstances surrounding the offence may not necessarily be known. Whether an offence is murder or manslaughter may be decided once an offender has been apprehended and appeared in court. The BCS, by its nature (i.e. being reliant on victim interviews), cannot include homicide.

Household crimes – For household offences reported in the BCS, all members of the household can be regarded as victims. Therefore the respondent answers on behalf of the whole household in the offence categories of: bicycle theft; burglary; theft in a dwelling; other

household theft; thefts of and from vehicles; and vandalism to household property and vehicles.

Household reference person (HRP) – For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. In common with other government surveys, the BCS has replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP). The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure – The classification of households in the BCS is on the basis of size, age of head of household, and number of children. Households are divided into those where the head of household is aged over 60, and those where the head of household is aged 16 to 59. The latter group is subdivided into the following categories:

- one adult aged less than 60, and one or more children (under 16). Note this does not necessarily denote a lone *parent* family, as the adult may be a sibling or grandparent of the child;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16);
- one or more adults with no children (under 16).

Incidence rates – The number of crimes experienced per household or adult in the BCS. See also **prevalence rates**.

Logistic regression – A multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable, which has only two possible outcomes (a binary, or dichotomous, variable), from a set of independent variables. Multivariate techniques allow the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables under consideration is taken into account. The logistic regression method used in this report was the forward stepwise selection.

Metropolitan forces – For recorded crime purposes, the Metropolitan police force areas are taken to be the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.

Mugging – This is a component of the BCS **violence typology**. It is a popular rather than a legal term, comprising robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person. The BCS does not cover muggings against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. Police recorded crime does not separately record the small category of snatch theft, this being part of the police recorded crime category of theft from the person.

National Crime Recording Standard – Instigated by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with Home Office support, it aims to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim-orientated approach to crime recording. Although some forces adopted the Standard early, it was officially introduced

across England and Wales on 1st April 2002. A copy is attached as Annex A to the Home Office Counting Rules, which are available on the Home Office website.

Non-commercial vehicle-related thefts – The BCS only covers vehicle-related thefts against private households. Police recorded crime does not separately identify whether a theft is a non-commercial vehicle-related theft, but estimates of the proportion of these are provided by the police in order to enable comparisons between BCS and recorded crime figures.

Old comparable subset of crimes – Sixty-five per cent of offences reported via interviews in the **2004/05 interview sample** fall into the old comparable subset. This is the subset used, up to and including, the 1998 BCS, to make comparisons with police figures. This excludes common assaults, 'other household theft' and 'other theft of personal property'. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the BCS. Comparable crime is used to compare trends in police and BCS figures, and to identify the amount of crime that is not reported to the police and not recorded by them. Trends for 'old comparable' police recorded crime have been continued to the 2004/05 BCS by applying adjustments to take account of changes in police counting rules.

Old comparable violence – This comprises wounding and robbery – these are the violent crimes in the **old comparable subset** used for comparing BCS violence and police recorded violence back to the first BCS sweep.

ONS harmonised variables – The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has constructed core variables and variable categories which are becoming widely used in government surveys (including the BCS) to provide comparable measures.

The harmonised variables used in this publication are:

Age breakdown (short) – 16 to 24; 25 to 44; 45 to 64; 65 to 74; 75+.

Employment status:

- Economically inactive – includes respondents of working age (16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women) who are retired; going to school or college full-time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.
- Employed – includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed – actively seeking work, or waiting to take up work.

GOR – Government Office Regions: North East; North West; Yorkshire and the Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West. In this report analysis by region includes separate analysis for Wales.

Household accommodation type:

- House or bungalow – detached, semi-detached, terraced.
- Flat or maisonette – purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.

Living arrangements:

- Persons living as a couple – married, cohabiting (includes same-sex couples).
- Persons not living as a couple – single, separated, divorced or widowed.

Tenure:

- Owners – households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social rented sector tenants – households renting from a council, housing association or other social rented sector.
- Rented privately – households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

Other household theft – A BCS category of household offences covering thefts and attempted thefts from domestic garages, outhouses, sheds, etc. not directly linked to the dwelling, as well as thefts from both inside and outside a dwelling (excluding thefts of milk bottles from the doorstep). This category is not in either the **comparable subset** or **old comparable subset**. In principle, it could be in the comparable subset, but the number of offences is small and therefore changes over time are unreliable. The category of **theft in a dwelling** is included here.

Other theft of personal property – A BCS offence category referring to theft of personal property away from the home (e.g. handbags from offices), where there was no direct contact between the offender and victim. Only the respondent can be the victim of this crime category. This category is not in the **old comparable subset** or **comparable subset**.

Personal crimes – For personal offences, the respondent reports only on his/her experience to the BCS. This applies to the following offence categories: assault; sexual offences; robbery; theft from the person; and other personal theft. Information is also collected on threats, though not reported in this publication as few meet the criteria of an offence. The BCS does not cover personal crimes against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. In the BCS data presented in this volume 'all personal crime' excludes sexual offences, the number of sexual offences picked up by the survey is too small to give reliable estimates and these figures are not provided in this publication.

Physical disorder – Two measures are used in the BCS. The first is based on the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. The interviewer has to make their own assessment as to whether each of these problems is very or fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for

each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The second measure is based on the respondent's perception of local problems; for the definition of this measure see **SPI 10b**.

Population figures – The BCS uses population figures in the calibration weighting and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes. Following the 2001 Census, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued revised estimates of population involving the total numbers of people and the distribution by age and sex. Calibration weighting for the 2004/05 BCS and previous years has been calculated using population distributions, which have not fully incorporated the census revisions. For the calculation of the numbers of crimes, population figures based on census-revised mid-year estimates have been used for figures up to and including 2003/04 and census-revised population projections have been used for 2004/05. Figures relating to the estimated numbers of adults in the population were supplied by the ONS and household estimates were supplied by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Some of the tables in this volume use population figures with recorded crime figures to calculate the number of crimes per 1,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2003 population estimates provided by the ONS.

Postcode Address File (PAF) – This has been used as the sampling frame for the BCS since 1992. It is a listing of all postal delivery points in the country, with almost all households having one delivery point or letterbox. BCS sampling methods take account of the fact that a delivery point may correspond to more than one household such as a house with one front door converted into flats.

Prevalence rates – Prevalence rates show the percentage of the BCS sample who were victims of an offence once or more during the year. Unlike BCS **incidence rates** they only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the recall period, but not of the number of times victimised.

Racially or religiously aggravated offences – Used in recorded crime, racially aggravated offences are legally defined under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 28). The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (section 39) added the religiously aggravated aspect. Racially or religiously aggravated offences cannot be separately identified in police recorded crime. BCS respondents are asked whether they thought the incident was racially motivated.

Rank correlation analysis - This is a technique to test the strength of association between two variables, by converting the values into rankings. In this case, the two variables are the change in NCRS compliance in each police force between the year 1 and year 2 audits by the Police Standards Unit; and the percentage increase in recorded violent offences over the same period. For each variable the police force with the largest increase is ranked as 1 and the smallest increase, or largest decrease, as 43. We use the Spearman's rank correlation to calculate a coefficient r^2 using the formula $r^2 = 1 - (6 * \text{sigma}(d^2/(n^3-n)))$, where d is the difference between the ranks, and n is the number of ranks (43 in our test). A strong positive correlation is achieved if r^2 exceeds 0.5 (1 is a perfect positive correlation).

Recall period – This is the time over which BCS respondents are asked to report offences they had experienced. Following the introduction of continuous sampling in 2001/02 the BCS

recall period for offences relates to the 12 calendar months prior to interview. Prior to this the recall period was between 1st January and 31st December.

Recorded crime – Police recorded crime is those crimes which are recorded by the police and which are notified to the Home Office. All indictable and triable-either-way offences are included together with certain closely associated summary offences. Attempts are also included. See Appendix 2 for a full list of recorded crimes.

Recorded crime BCS comparator – This is a total number of police recorded crimes based on the set of offences that form the comparable subset (i.e. which match offences recorded by the BCS). This total is not adjusted for offences against under 16's or commercial targets. See chapter 3.

Repeat victimisation – In the BCS, the recurrence of the same crime against those who have already been victimised once in the year.

Robbery – An incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. Recorded crime offences are distinguished between robbery of personal property and business property. Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. If there is no use or threat of force an offence of theft from the person is recorded (this would be classified in the BCS as **snatch theft**, which together with **robbery** comprises the BCS **mugging** category). The BCS excludes robberies against those not living in private households and those aged under 16.

Rural areas – The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Rural areas are those classified as 'small town and fringe – sparse', 'village – sparse', 'hamlet and isolated dwelling – sparse', 'small town and fringe – less sparse', 'village – less sparse' and 'hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse'. More information is available via the National Statistics website at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>.

Prior to this report rural areas were defined in the BCS as those areas falling into 1991 **ACORN** types 1 to 9 and 27 (more information available from CACI Ltd.). Figures based on these two different definitions are not comparable.

Sampling error – A sample, as used in the BCS, is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn. As such, the sample may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of the error depends on the sample size, the size of the estimate, and the design of the survey. It can be computed and used to construct **confidence intervals**. Sampling error is also taken into account in tests of **statistical significance**.

Sample size – In the 2004/05 BCS the overall achieved core sample size was 45,120 and the response rate 75 per cent. The 2004/05 survey was designed to achieve at least 1000 core sample interviews were conducted in each Police Force Area (PFA). Tables A.01 and A.02

show the sample sizes for different subgroups and regions. For more information on BCS methodology see Bolling et al, 2004.

Sexual offences – Prior to May 2004 there were 15 separate offences included in the recorded crime sexual offences group including the offences of rape and indecent assault. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 introduced several new offences and repealed some of those which were previously in the series. Full details are provided in Appendix 2. Due to the small number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS the figures are too unreliable to report. The 1994 BCS, however, included a computerised self-completion component on sexual victimisation to improve estimates (Percy and Mayhew, 1997), and similar modules were included in the 1998 and 2000 BCS (Myhill and Allen, 2002), the 2001 BCS (Walby and Allen, 2004) and the 2004/05 BCS (publication due in 2005/06). Woundings with a sexual nature are included in **wounding**.

Snatch theft – Incidents reported to the BCS where an offender snatches property away from the victim and the victim was clearly aware of the incident as it happened. The BCS does not cover snatch theft against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. Snatch theft is included within the recorded crime category of theft from the person and is not separately identifiable in police recorded crime figures. See also **stealth thefts**, which are thefts from the person in which the victim was *not* aware of what was happening and are included as such in the recorded crime figures.

Statistical significance – Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population sub-groups may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this publication tests at the five per cent significance levels have been applied (the level at which there is a one in 20 chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance), unless otherwise stated.

Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) – These are a suite of indicators developed for monitoring the performance of local authorities and police authorities/forces within the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). There are three indicator areas (consisting of six measures) directly based on BCS data. The three areas are SPIs 2a (confidence in local police), 4 (risk of household and personal crime), and 10 (quality of life measures). The BCS can generate indicator values at police force area level, but finer breakdowns are not possible (e.g. to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership level). The indicators described below use the 2005/06 SPI definition.

SPI 2a consists of one indicator; the percentage of respondents who think their local police do a good or excellent job.

SPI 4 is made up of two components:

- **4a** – the estimated risk of an adult being a victim once or more in the previous 12 months of a personal crime (excluding sexual offences); and
- **4b** – the estimated risk of a household being a victim once or more in the previous 12 months of a household crime.

SPI 10 consists of three indicators:

- **10a** – fear of crime
- **10b** – perceptions of anti-social behaviour; and
- **10c** – perceptions of local drug use or drug dealing

SPI 10a, the fear of crime indicator, has three components:

- a measure based on a 'worry about burglary' question;
- a measure based on two questions on 'worry about car crime';
- a measure based on four questions on 'worry about violence'.

The SPI 10a component for burglary is the percentage of respondents who say they are 'very worried' about having their home broken into and something stolen.

The SPI 10a component for car crime is based on two questions on worry about 'having your car stolen' and 'having things stolen from your car'. It uses a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: 'very worried' = 2; 'fairly worried' = 1; 'not very worried' and 'not at all worried' = 0. Scores for individual respondents are calculated by summing the scores across each question, these ranging from 0 to 4. The percentage for this component is based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a car who score 3 or 4 on this scale.

The SPI 10a component for violence is based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. The same coding system for question responses has been used as for the vehicle crime questions. Once results from the four questions are combined, the scale ranges from 0 (i.e. all responses are either 'not very worried' or 'not at all worried') to 8 (i.e. all responses are 'very worried'). The percentage for this component is based on respondents who score 4 or more on this scale.

SPI 10b, perceptions of anti-social behaviour, consists of one indicator based on a scale constructed from seven questions on problems due to noisy neighbours or loud parties, teenagers and young people hanging around, rubbish and litter, vandalism, people using or dealing drugs, people being drunk or rowdy and abandoned cars. It is based on a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: 'very big problem' = 3, 'fairly big problem' = 2, 'not a very big problem' = 1 and 'not a problem at all' = 0. The maximum score for the seven questions is 21 and the SPI 10b percentage (those with 'high' levels of perceived anti-social behaviour) is based on those who score 11 or more on this scale. This disorder scale can only be calculated for the 2001 BCS sweep onwards as the question on people being drunk or rowdy was only introduced in 2001.

The 2004/05 SPI definition for this measure was based on a scale constructed from five questions on problems due to teenagers and young people hanging around, vandalism, racial attacks, drug use or dealing and people being drunk or rowdy. It was constructed in a similar way to the 2005/06 SPI 10b indicator, but the maximum score for the five questions was 15, and the percentage (those with 'high' levels of perceived anti-social behaviour) was based on those who scored 8 or more on this scale. The 2004/05 SPI indicator is included in Table 6.08 for comparability with previously published data.

SPI 10c, perceptions of local drug use/drug dealing, is the percentage of respondents who perceive that people using or dealing drugs are a very or fairly big problem in their local area. This measure duplicates an element of SPI 10b, it has been separated out to aid understanding of this issue.

Stealth theft – Thefts from the person which involve no force and where – unlike **snatch theft** – the victim was not aware of what was happening at the time. The BCS does not cover stealth theft against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. Stealth theft is included as part of the recorded crime theft from the person category and cannot be separately identified from snatch theft.

Stranger violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**, it includes common assaults and woundings, in which the victim did not know any of the offenders in any way.

Stratification - One of the survey requirements was a design that achieved at least 1000 core sample interviews per Police Force Area (PFA). The survey was designed to over-sample in the smaller PFAs to achieve the minimum number of interviews. One result of this is that the data have to be weighted to remove the effect of differences in the probability of selection of addresses within different Police Force Areas. As well as stratifying disproportionately by PFA, the sample was stratified by other socio-demographic variables in order to maximise the precision of estimates. The stratifiers used in 2004-5 were the same as on previous surveys, namely population density and the proportion of household heads in non-manual occupations.

Street Crime Initiative (SCI) – the SCI was launched by the Government in March 2002 in response to increases in levels of police recorded robbery in England and Wales. The initiative covered ten police force areas; the Metropolitan Police, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, Merseyside, Avon and Somerset, Nottinghamshire, Thames Valley, Lancashire, and South Yorkshire. In 2001/02 these ten areas accounted for 83 per cent of recorded robbery. The SCI involved a range of agencies working in partnership, including the Home Office, the police service, the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts, the Youth Justice Board, probation, prison and youth services, Connexions and other government departments. Through these agencies the Street Crime Initiative introduced a number of measures aimed at reducing street crime.

Theft from the person – Theft (including attempts) of a purse, wallet, cash etc. directly from the person of the victim, but *without* physical force or the threat of it. One BCS component of theft from the person is **snatch theft**, which is added to **robbery** to create a category of **mugging**. The other is **stealth theft**. Theft from the person exists as a separate police recorded crime category.

Theft in a dwelling – This BCS classification includes thefts committed *inside* a home by someone who is entitled to be there at the time of the offence (e.g. party guests, workmen, etc.). They are included in **other household thefts**.

2004/05 interview sample – This is the sample on which latest BCS results are based. It consists of all respondents interviewed by the BCS in the 2004/05 financial year who were asked to recall their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

Urban areas – The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Urban areas are those classified as ‘urban – sparse’ and ‘urban – less sparse’. More information is available via the National Statistics website at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>.

Prior to this report urban areas were defined as all 1991 **ACORN** types used in the BCS that are not classified as rural or inner-city. Figures based on these two different definitions are not comparable.

Vandalism – In the BCS this is intentional and malicious damage to household property and equates to the recorded crime category of criminal damage. Vandalism shown in the BCS ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g. letting down car tyres) are not included. Where criminal damage occurs in combination with burglary, robbery or violent offences, these take precedence in offence coding. The BCS produces estimates both for vandalism to the home and other property and against vehicles. Vandalism to the home and other property involves intentional or malicious damage to doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs for example. It also includes incidents involving arson. See **vehicle vandalism** for details of what this covers.

Vehicles – In the BCS these cover cars, vans, motorcycles, scooters, mopeds etc. either owned or regularly used by anyone in the household, including company cars. Vehicles used solely for business purposes such as lorries or work vans, however, are excluded. See also **vehicle crime**.

Vehicle crime – Recorded vehicle crimes include offences of theft of or from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking, vehicle interference and tampering, and criminal damage to a vehicle. **Theft of a vehicle** includes offences of theft of a vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking. Attempted thefts of a vehicle are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. **Theft from a vehicle** includes attempts if there is evidence of intent to commit theft from a vehicle. If such evidence does not exist then an offence of vehicle interference or tampering is recorded. Offences of **vehicle interference and tampering** and **criminal damage to a vehicle** are also included. The BCS focuses on a category called **vehicle-related thefts** that covers three categories: (i) theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered); (ii) theft from motor vehicles (i.e. theft of parts, accessories and contents); and (iii) attempts. No distinction is made between attempted thefts *of* and attempted thefts *from* motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender’s intention. If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft *of* a motor vehicle. The BCS only covers **vehicle-related thefts** against private households. Police recorded crime does not separately identify whether a theft is a **non-commercial vehicle-related theft** but estimates of the proportion of these are provided by the police in order to enable comparisons between BCS and police recorded crime figures.

Vehicle interference and tampering – This includes recorded crime offences where there is evidence of intent to commit either theft of or from a vehicle or taking without consent (TWOC), but there is either (i) no evidence of intent to commit one of these three offences specifically, or (ii) there is evidence of intent to commit TWOC (TWOC is a summary offence but, under the provisions of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence). The BCS cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the BCS it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

Vehicle vandalism – Includes in the BCS any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle such as scratching a coin down the side of a car, or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and therefore included in vandalism to other property. The BCS only covers vehicle vandalism against private households. Recorded crime includes all vehicle vandalism under the offence classification of criminal damage to a motor vehicle.

Violence typology – This includes BCS offences in which the nature of the offence is such that the offender had some physical contact with the victim: wounding, common assault, robbery, attempted robbery and snatch theft. These offences form the BCS violence typology comprising: **mugging, domestic, acquaintance** and **stranger** violence.

Violent crime – The combination of offences recorded in the violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery offence groups for recorded crime. As for other personal crimes, the BCS does not cover violent crime against those aged under 16 or against those not living in private households. The coverage of BCS violence consists of **common assault, wounding, robbery** and **snatch theft**. **Sexual offences** are not included in the BCS violent crime figures presented in this publication, because of the small number of offences the survey picks up. This is a generally a more restricted category than violence as measured by police recorded crime, but does include the category of snatch theft that would not be included in the police figures.

Weighted data – Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the BCS sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas and the selection of multi-household addresses. Second, **calibration weighting** is used to adjust for differential non-response.

Wounding – There are two types of wounding classifications used for recorded crime. The more serious are those offences committed with intent to do grievous bodily harm and are classified as 'wounding or other act endangering life'. Those of assault occasioning actual bodily harm are classified in the 'other wounding' category. The definition in the BCS is similar: wounding is a category of comparable violence that includes 'serious wounding' involving intentionally inflicted severe injuries, and 'other wounding', involving less serious injury or severe injuries inflicted unintentionally.

A.01 The BCS sample sizes 2004/05

Number of respondents	BCS 2004/05
Men	20,150
16-24	1,662
25-44	6,709
45-64	6,690
65-74	2,919
75+	2,170
Women	24,919
16-24	2,047
25-44	8,444
45-64	7,630
65-74	3,429
75+	3,369
Respondents' employment status¹	
In employment	24,605
Unemployed	620
Economically inactive	19,795
Household income	
Less than £5,000	2,879
£5,000 less than £10,000	5,834
£10,000 less than £20,000	8,471
£20,000 less than £30,000	6,406
£30,000 or more	11,890
Tenure	
Owner occupiers	32,457
Social renters	7,972
Private renters	4,541
Area type	
Urban	33,231
Rural	11,889
Council estate ²	8,045
Non-council estate	37,032
TOTAL SAMPLE	45,120

1. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

2. Council areas are those that fall into 1991 ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

A.02 The BCS sample sizes 2004/05

Number of respondents	BCS 2004/05
Cleveland	964
Durham	1,002
Northumbria	934
North East Region	2,900
Cheshire	983
Cumbria	1,034
Greater Manchester	1,374
Lancashire	1,031
Merseyside	1,021
North West Region	5,443
Humberside	1,017
North Yorkshire	995
South Yorkshire	968
West Yorkshire	1,124
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	4,104
Derbyshire	1,017
Leicestershire	990
Lincolnshire	945
Northamptonshire	904
Nottinghamshire	882
East Midlands Region	4,738
Staffordshire	948
Warwickshire	1,069
West Mercia	908
West Midlands	1,544
West Midlands Region	4,469
Bedfordshire	1,068
Cambridgeshire	1,018
Essex	1,078
Hertfordshire	999
Norfolk	982
Suffolk	953
East of England Region	6,098
Metropolitan/City of London	3,372
London Region	3,372
Hampshire	1,047
Kent	1,024
Surrey	920
Sussex	1,029
Thames Valley	1,272
South East Region	5,292
Avon and Somerset	982
Devon and Cornwall	1,000
Dorset	1,043
Gloucestershire	1,045
Wiltshire	993
South West Region	5,063
England Total	41,479
Dyfed Powys	944
Gwent	896
North Wales	883
South Wales	918
Wales	3,641
ENGLAND AND WALES	45,120

Appendix 2 Recorded crime list

The classifications defined in this Appendix are those used for crime recorded by the police and notifiable to the Home Office. In general, attempting, conspiring, aiding, abetting, causing or permitting a crime is classified under the heading of the crime itself, though in certain cases it is shown separately.

Recorded crime covers all indictable and triable-either-way offences. Additionally, a few closely associated summary offences are included. These offences are identified in the listing, together with the reasons for their inclusion.

Most of the offences listed are defined in terms of legal offences (i.e. Sections of Acts). A comprehensive list of these laws, together with key legal definitions and explanatory notes, appear on the Home Office web-site: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

Each offence is listed along with its Home Office classification code. The following extra information is shown (in their presentation style):

MAIN OFFENCE GROUPS

Offence subgroups

Other offence aggregations

Explanatory notes on coverage and definition.

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

More serious offences

1. Murder.
- 4.1 Manslaughter.
- 4.2 Infanticide.
Applies to infants aged under 12 months killed by the mother while of disturbed mind.
- Homicide
Comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
2. Attempted murder.
3. Threat or conspiracy to murder.
- 4.3 Child destruction.
Applies to the unborn child 'capable of being born alive'.
- 4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving.
- 4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs.
5. More serious wounding.
Includes, amongst other offences, wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861).
6. Endangering a railway passenger.

37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking.

Less serious offences

- 7. Endangering life at sea.
- 8A. Less serious wounding.
Includes, amongst other offences, wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 and assault occasioning actual bodily harm (section 47 of the same Act). This means that non-intentional GBH is included as well as all assaults involving minor injury (as from 1 April 2002).
- 8B. Possession of weapons.
The police record this offence only if it is thought to be the only offence or the most serious committed by the suspect at that time.
- 8C. Harassment.
Includes the summary offences of harassment; harassment, alarm or distress; and fear or provocation of violence. They are closely associated with the offence of 'putting people in fear of violence' also included here.
- 8D. Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding (see 8A).
- 8E. Racially or religiously aggravated harassment (see 8C).
- 11. Cruelty to and neglect of children.
- 12. Abandoning a child under the age of two years.
- 13. Child abduction.
- 14. Procuring illegal abortion.
- 15. Concealment of birth.
- 104. Assault on a constable.
Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see 8A).
- 105A. Common assault
Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see 8A). Includes, amongst other offences, common assault and battery (section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988). From 1 April 2002 only includes assaults involving no injury.
- 105B. Racially or religiously aggravated common assault (see 105A).

SEXUAL OFFENCES

(see explanatory note concerning the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 at the end of this Appendix)

- 16. Buggery - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 17. Indecent assault on a male - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 17A. Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over.
 - 17B. Sexual assault on a male child under 13.
- 18. Gross indecency between males - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 19A. Rape of a female - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 19C. Rape of a female aged 16 and over.
 - 19D. Rape of a female child under 16.
 - 19E. Rape of a female child under 13.
- 19B. Rape of a male - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 19F. Rape of a male aged 16 and over.
 - 19G. Rape of a male child under 16.

- 19H. Rape of a male child under 13.
- 20. Indecent assault on a female - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over.
 - 20B. Sexual assault on a female child under 13.
- 21. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 - *up until May 2004.*
- 21. Sexual activity involving a child under 13 - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 22. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 22A. Causing sexual activity without consent - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 22B. Sexual activity involving a child under 16 - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 23. Incest - *re-titled with effect from May 2004.*
- 23. Familial sexual offences - *with effect from May 2004 (previously incest).*
- 24. Exploitation of prostitution.
- 25. Abduction - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 26. Bigamy.
- 27. Soliciting of women by men.
- 70. Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 71. Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 72. Trafficking for sexual exploitation - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 73. Abuse of position of trust.
- 73. Abuse of trust - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 74. Gross indecency with a child - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 88A. Sexual grooming - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 88B. Other miscellaneous sexual offences - *with effect from May 2004.*

ROBBERY

Key elements of the offence of robbery (section 8 of the Theft Act 1968) are stealing and the use of force immediately before doing so, and in order to do so. Any injuries resulting from this force are not recorded as additional offences of violence. See also glossary entry in Appendix 1.

- 34A. Robbery of business property.
- 34B. Robbery of personal property.

BURGLARY

The key element of the offence of burglary (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968), as recorded here, is entry into a building as a trespasser in order to steal. The offence group also includes aggravated burglary (section 10 of the same Act), which is defined as a burglary where the burglar is in possession of a weapon at the time. The Home Office website (see above) contains details of the types of premises that constitute a dwelling. See also glossary entry in Appendix 1.

- 28. Burglary in a dwelling.
- 29. Aggravated burglary in a dwelling.
- 30. Burglary in a building other than a dwelling.
- 31. Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling.

THEFT AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

All the offences listed here, unless shown otherwise, form the legal offence of theft (section 1 of the Theft Act 1968), which is defined as a person dishonestly appropriating property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.

- 37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking.
Part of section 1 of the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992. Applies to offences of unauthorised vehicle taking (see 48 below) with additional aggravating factors of dangerous driving, or causing an accident involving injury or damage.
38. Proceeds of crime (*new offence classification from April 2002*).
39. Theft from the person of another.
Includes snatch theft, but if this involves the use or threat of force (e.g. if the victim resists), then it is recorded as robbery. See also glossary entry in Appendix 1.
40. Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter.
41. Theft by an employee.
42. Theft or unauthorised taking of mail.
43. Abstracting electricity.
44. Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle.
Includes taking a pedal cycle without consent (section 12(5) of the Theft Act 1968).
45. Theft from a vehicle.
46. Theft from a shop.
47. Theft from an automatic machine or meter.
48. Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle.
Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (part of section 12 of the Theft Act 1968; also known as taking without consent or TWOC) is a summary offence. It is closely associated with theft of a motor vehicle (because at the time of recording it may not be known whether the intention is to permanently deprive the owner).
49. Other theft or unauthorised taking.
Includes, amongst other offences, unauthorised taking of conveyance other than a motor vehicle or pedal cycle.
54. Handling stolen goods.
Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968. Dishonestly receiving etc. goods, knowing them to have been stolen.
126. Vehicle interference and tampering.
Summary offences, closely associated with theft of or from vehicles. The Home Office website (see above) contains detailed guidance for forces on distinguishing between these offences, and criminal damage, where a vehicle is reported damaged.

Thefts of and from vehicles

Comprises aggravated vehicle taking, theft from a vehicle, and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.

FRAUD AND FORGERY

51. Fraud by company director.
52. False accounting.
- 53A. Cheque and credit card fraud.

The initial theft or forgery of the cheque book or card is recorded additionally. The victims of subsequent fraudulent usage are the owners of goods and services deceived, rather than the issuing banks. The offences are counted according to the numbers of these victims.

- 53B. Other fraud.
Includes, amongst other offences, unauthorised access to computer material (section 2 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990) and making off without payment (section 3 of the Theft Act 1978, e.g. driving off without paying for petrol).
- 55. Bankruptcy and insolvency offences.
- 60. Forgery or use of false drug prescription (in respect of drugs listed in Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- 61. Other forgery, etc.
- 814. Vehicle/driver document fraud.
These records comprise driving licences, insurance certificates, registration and licensing documents, work records, operators' licences, and test certificates.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

- 56. Arson.
Not all malicious fires that the police record are included here. If the owner of the property set alight is wounded, then a crime of violence is recorded. If a stolen vehicle is subsequently burnt out, it is recorded as a vehicle theft. An additional arson offence is recorded only if there is evidence that the arsonist is unconnected with the vehicle thief (see also glossary entry in Appendix 1).
- 58A. Criminal damage to a dwelling.
- 58B. Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling.
- 58C. Criminal damage to a vehicle.
- 58D. Other criminal damage.
- 58E. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling (see 58A).
- 58F. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (see 58B).
- 58G. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle (see 58C).
- 58H. Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage (see 58D).
- 59. Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage.

DRUG OFFENCES

- 92A. Trafficking in controlled drugs.
- 92B. Possession of controlled drugs.
- 92C. Other drug offences.
Various offences, mostly under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes; failure to comply with notice requiring information relating to prescribing, supply etc. of drugs; supply of intoxicating substance; and supply etc. of articles for administering or preparing controlled drugs.
- 92D. Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis).
- 92E. Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis).

OTHER OFFENCES

- 33. Going equipped for stealing, etc.
- 35. Blackmail.
- 36. Kidnapping.
- 62. High treason and other offences against Treason Acts.
- 63. Treason felony.
- 64. Riot.
- 65. Violent disorder.
- 66. Other offences against the State and public order.
- 67. Perjury.
- 68. Libel.
- 75. Betting, gaming and lotteries.
- 76. Aiding suicide.
- 78. Immigration Act offences.
- 79. Perverting the course of justice.
- 80. Absconding from lawful custody.
- 81. Firearms Acts offences.
- 82. Customs & Excise and Inland Revenue offences.
- 83. Bail offences.
- 84. Trade description offences.
- 85. Health and Safety offences.
- 86. Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material.
- 87. Protection from eviction.
- 89. Adulteration of food.
- 90. Knives Act 1997 offences.
- 91. Public health offences.
- 94. Planning laws.
- 95. Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc.
- 99. Other indictable or triable-either-way offences.
- 139. Indecent exposure.
- 802. Dangerous driving.

SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT

The introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 resulted in substantial changes to the sexual offences group. These changes are summarised as follows:

New offences:

- 70 Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
- 71 Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
- 72 Trafficking for sexual exploitation
- 88A Sexual grooming
- 88B Other miscellaneous sexual offences

Split classifications creating new offences:

- 17 Indecent assault on a male split into:
 - 17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
 - 17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13

- 19A Rape of a female split into:
 - 19C Rape of a female aged 16 and over
 - 19D Rape of a female child under 16
 - 19E Rape of a female child under 13

- 19B Rape of a male split into:
 - 19F Rape of a male aged 16 and over
 - 19G Rape of a male child under 16
 - 19H Rape of a male child under 13

- 20 Indecent assault on a female split into:
 - 20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over
 - 20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13

- 22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 split into:
 - 22A Causing sexual activity without consent
 - 22B Sexual activity involving a child under 16

Re-used classification codes:

- 21 Sexual activity involving a child under 13
(previously unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13)
- 23 Familial sexual offences (previously incest)
- 24 Exploitation of prostitution (previously procuration)
- 27 Soliciting of women by men (previously soliciting or importuning by a man)
- 73 Abuse of trust (previously abuse of position of trust)

Offences repealed:

- 16 Buggery
- 18 Gross indecency between males
- 25 Abduction
- 74 Gross indecency with a child

Further detail on all these offences is available in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. This is available on the Home Office website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html>

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Copies of recent Home Office publications based on the British Crime Survey can be downloaded from:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>