

# Burglary of Domestic Dwellings

## *Findings from the British Crime Survey*

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### MAIN POINTS

#### **Extent of burglary**

- The 1998 British Crime Survey estimated 1.6 million burglaries against domestic dwellings in England and Wales in 1997. Just under a half of these were attempts in which the offenders failed to gain entry to the home (*Section 2*).
- The number of burglaries increased by 137%, between 1981 and 1993. Between 1993 and 1997 burglary fell by 8% (*Section 2*).

#### **Risks of burglary**

- 5.6% of households in England and Wales were burgled in 1997 (*Section 3*).
- The following factors increase the risk of burglary: lack of security; low levels of occupancy; living in a detached house; living in inner city areas; and living in a household in which there is a single adult and children, the head of household is young, or the occupants are Asian (*Section 3*).
- Households were more than twice as likely to be burgled in 1997 if they had been burgled in the previous four years (*Section 3*).
- One-fifth of households burgled in 1997 experienced more than one incident in the year. 13% were burgled twice and 7% three or more times (*Section 3*).

#### **Nature of burglary**

- In most burglaries with entry, force was used to gain entry, but in a fifth (22%) the offender entered via an open window or unlocked door (*Section 4*).
- In a quarter (25%) of burglaries someone was at home and aware of what was happening. In a tenth (11%) of burglaries violent or threatening behaviour was used. Victims were emotionally affected in 87% of all burglaries (*Section 4*).

#### **Insurance**

- In 1998 eight in ten (82%) households had an insurance policy which covered the contents of the home against theft. Economically disadvantaged groups were far less likely to have such insurance (*Section 5*).

#### **Security**

- Ownership of security devices increased substantially between 1992 and 1998. In 1998 almost a half (48%) of all households had security lights and a quarter (24%) had burglar alarms (*Section 5*).
- The evidence from the BCS suggests security devices are very effective in reducing the risk of burglary victimisation (*Section 5*).

## **Acknowledgements**

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# Summary

- The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures crimes against people living in private households in England and Wales. It has been conducted seven times by the Home Office since 1982. The most recent sweep was in 1998. Each sweep measures crime in the year preceding the survey.
- This report mainly presents the findings from the 1996 and 1998 sweeps on burglary against domestic dwellings.
- Burglary against domestic dwellings comprises burglary with entry and attempted burglary. Burglary with entry includes incidents in which the offender actually entered the home as a trespasser. Attempted burglary includes incidents in which the offender tried but failed to gain entry to the home.

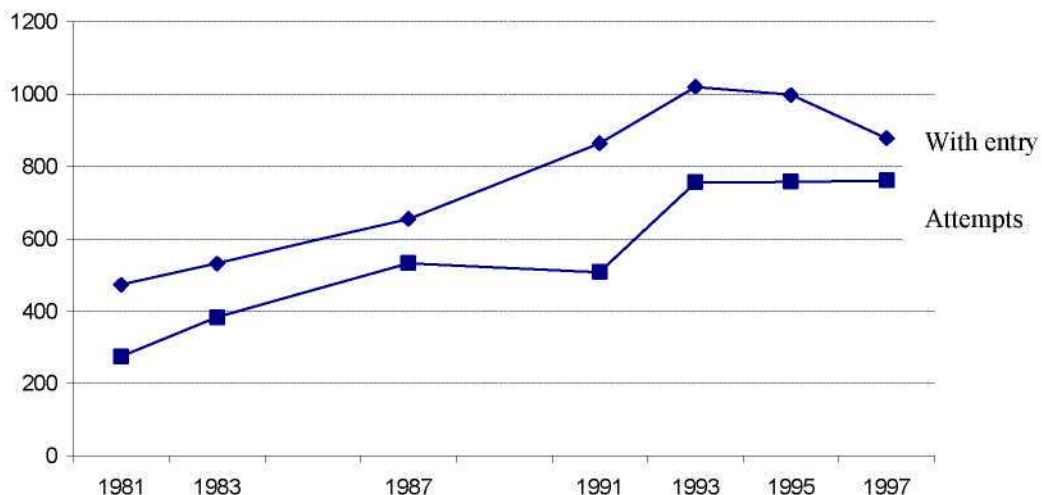
## EXTENT OF BURGLARY IN 1997

- The 1998 BCS estimates there were 1,639,000 burglaries against domestic dwellings in 1997. Just under a half (761,000) were attempted burglaries where the burglar failed to gain entry to the home. Of the 878,000 burglaries where entry was gained, three-quarters resulted in the theft of property (664,000 incidents).
- Burglary against domestic premises formed a tenth (10%) of all BCS crimes measured in 1997.

## TRENDS IN BURGLARY 1981 TO 1997

- The number of burglaries increased by 137% between 1981 and 1993, but has since fallen by 8%. Over the entire period, burglary increased by 119%.
- The trends for burglary with entry and attempted burglary differ. Between 1981 and 1997 burglary with entry increased by 86%, while the number of attempts increased by 177% (Figure A).

Figure A - Trend in burglary with entry and attempted burglary, 1981 to 1997 (numbers in thousands)



## Burglary of domestic dwellings

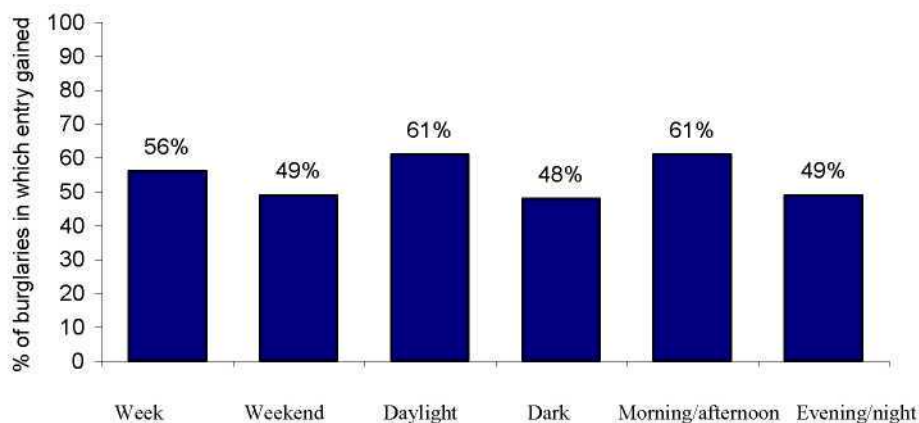
### RISKS OF BURGLARY

- 5.6% of households in England and Wales were burgled at least once in 1997. 3.2% of households were victims of burglary with entry, 2.7% were victims of attempted burglary.
- The risk of burglary has fallen since 1995 when 6.3% of households were burgled. But in 1981 only 3.4% of households were burgled.
- 9.6% of households were the victims of attempted burglary at least once in the five years from the beginning of 1993. In the same period 12.1% of households were the victims of a burglary in which property was stolen.
- Multivariate analysis identified the following factors as increasing the risk of burglary: lack of security; low levels of occupancy; living in a detached house; living in inner city areas; and living in a household in which there is a single adult and children, the head of household is young, or the occupants are Asian.
- Households were more than twice as likely to be burgled in 1997 if they had been burgled in the previous four years.
- A fifth (20%) of those burgled in 1997 experienced more than one incident in the year. 13% were burgled twice and 7% three or more times. Those most at risk of repeat victimisation were households comprising one adult and children. Risks of repeat victimisation were also higher for victims in inner cities, council estate areas and areas with high physical disorder.

### NATURE OF BURGLARY, 1998 BCS

- Burglaries which occurred during daylight or on weekdays were more likely to result in entry being gained to the home, probably because the home is less likely to be occupied at these times (Figure B).

Figure B - Proportion of burglaries in which entry was gained



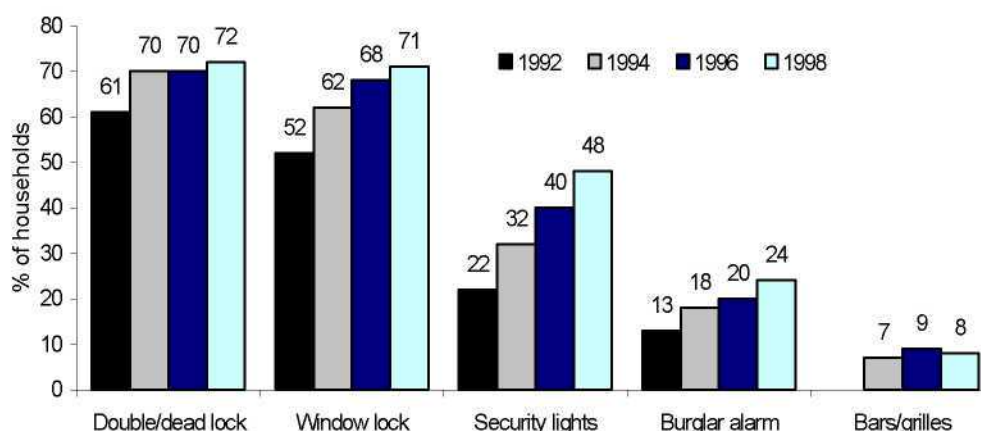
- In the majority of burglaries force was used to gain entry. However, in a fifth (22%) of burglaries in which entry was gained the offender acquired access through an unlocked door or an open window. Only 5% of burglaries involved the use of false pretences, but this was more common among elderly victims.

- In just over a half (54%) of burglaries no one was at home at the time. In a quarter (25%) someone was at home and aware of what was happening.
- Violent or threatening behaviour was used in a tenth (11%) of all burglaries. It was more common in burglary with entry (13%) than attempts (7%).
- The most commonly stolen items in burglary were cash, jewellery, and video and stereo equipment.
- Two-thirds (67%) of burglaries involved some form of property damage, usually caused by the offender trying to gain entry to the home. Soiling and graffiti were extremely rare.
- The BCS estimates that £950 million worth of property was stolen in burglaries in 1997. The damage costs amounted to £420 million.
- In the majority of burglaries either the respondent or another household member were emotionally affected by the incident. Victims were more affected if the burglar had gained entry to the property.
- Four-fifths (78%) of burglaries with entry were reported to the police. Less than a half (45%) of attempts were reported.
- In almost two-thirds (63%) of burglaries with entry, and a half (48%) of attempts, victims said they would have liked some form of help or support immediately after the incident. Of these the proportion who were offered, or asked for, help was 84% and 65% respectively

## SECURITY AND INSURANCE

- In 1998 about eight in ten (82%) households had an insurance policy which covered the contents of their home against theft. However, economically disadvantaged households are less likely to be insured. 42% of households headed by an unemployed person had insurance.
- Levels of security protection increased substantially between 1992 and 1998 (Figure C). In 1998 almost a half (48%) of households had security lights, and a quarter (24%) had burglar alarms. Households were more likely to have deadlocks (72%) or window locks (71%).

Figure C – Trend in security devices, 1992 to 1998 BCS



## Burglary of domestic dwellings

- Levels of security differ considerably for different types of household. Young households, households with one adult and children, and households which are economically disadvantaged are particularly likely to have low levels of security.
- Evidence from the BCS suggests that even the most common security devices, deadlocks and window locks, greatly reduce the risk of being burgled. Those who additionally have burglar alarms, security lights or window grilles reduce their risks further.

# Introduction

Domestic burglary is relatively common in England and Wales compared with other industrialised countries. The International Crime Victimization Survey has shown that the risk of burglary is higher in England and Wales than in the ten other countries included in the survey (Mayhew and White, 1997). To address this problem, the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme includes a three-year initiative to reduce burglary victimisation. The initiative will target high-risk communities and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of burglary reduction projects.<sup>1</sup>

This report presents the results from the 1996 and 1998 sweeps of the British Crime Survey (BCS) in relation to burglary against domestic dwellings.<sup>2</sup> Domestic burglary comprises the following:

- Burglary with entry - incidents in which the offender *entered* the dwelling as a trespasser with the *intention* of committing theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. To be classified as burglary with entry the offender must have entered the property but need not have carried out their intention.<sup>3</sup>
- Attempted burglary - incidents in which there is clear evidence that the offender *tried* to enter the dwelling as a trespasser but failed.

Burglary against a domestic dwelling (burglary hereafter) therefore does not necessarily entail the theft, or attempted theft, of property, or involve forced entry (it may be through an open window or involve the use of false pretences).<sup>4</sup>

This report examines:

- the total number of burglaries in 1997 and the trend in burglary since the first BCS, which measured crime in 1981 (Section 2);

1. Further details about the Crime Reduction Programme are on the Home Office Website <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>.
2. Domestic dwellings are houses, flats and domestic outhouses or garages directly linked to a dwelling via a connecting door. Communal areas of multi-occupancy buildings (e.g., hallways) are also included if usually secured. The BCS does not cover crimes against non-domestic properties (e.g., schools or businesses). The 1994 Commercial Crime Survey measured the extent of burglary against retail and manufacturing businesses (Mirrlees-Black and Ross, 1995).
3. Burglary with entry is also referred to as successful burglary in this report.
4. The BCS definition of domestic burglary is consistent with the legal definition. The rules for classifying all BCS offences were agreed for the first survey in 1982 in consultation with the then Home Office Statistical Department and the statistical officers of a number of police forces. They have been applied consistently in all sweeps of the survey.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

- the risks of burglary for different types of household and community, and the extent of repeat victimisation (Section 3);
- the nature of burglary, including when incidents occur, how offenders gain entry to the home, the emotional and financial consequences for victims, whether victims report to the police and the type of help victims would like to receive (Section 4);
- the extent to which households have home contents insurance and home security measures, and the effectiveness of home security in reducing the risk of victimisation (Section 5).

The 1996 and 1998 surveys are the most recent sweeps of the BCS. Previous sweeps were in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1994. Each sweep questions adults in private households about their experiences of victimisation in the year preceding the survey.

The main purpose of the BCS is to estimate the number of crimes against individuals and their households, including those not reported to, or recorded by, the police. The BCS therefore provides a measure of trends in crime over time which is not influenced by changes in reporting behaviour or recording practices. The BCS not only provides a measure of burglary but covers a range of other offences including violent offences (e.g., common assault, wounding and robbery); vehicle-related thefts (thefts of and from, and attempts) and vandalism.<sup>5</sup> However, the BCS does not provide a measure of all crime. For example, it does not include crimes against those under the age of 16 or those in institutions, and does not include crimes against commercial or public sector establishments. The following table summarises the main features of the BCS.

5. For the main findings from the 1996 and 1998 sweeps see Mirrlees-Black et al., 1996 and Mirrlees-Black et al., 1998.

### The British Crime Survey

- The 1998 BCS is the seventh sweep of the survey. Previous sweeps were in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994 and 1996. Each sweep measures the extent of crime in the year preceding the survey.
- The BCS provides a measure of crime which complements the police recorded crime figures.
- For the types of offence it covers, the BCS measure of crime more closely reflects the true level than the recorded crime figures. This is because the BCS includes crimes which are not reported to the police and those not recorded by them.
- The BCS also provides an indication of trends in crime overtime since 1981. The BCS trend is unaffected by changes in reporting behaviour or recording practice. The same rules to code BCS crimes into offences have been applied in each sweep.
- The BCS count of crime is based on estimates from a sample of the population. The estimates are therefore subject to sampling error and other methodological limitations.
- The BCS only measures crimes against adults in private households. It measures personal offences against individuals (e.g., common assault) and offences against households (e.g., burglary, vehicle crime).
- The BCS does not include crimes against:
  - > those under the age of 16;
  - > those in institutions;
  - > the homeless;
  - > commercial and public sector establishments.
- The BCS does not measure:
  - > victimless offences (e.g., driving offences and handling stolen goods);
  - > offences in which the victim is no longer available for interview (e.g., murder or manslaughter);
  - > offences in which the victim is likely to be unaware of the crime (e.g., fraud).
- In addition to the main crime counting function, the BCS also:
  - > collects information on the nature of crime (e.g., when crimes occur, and the financial, physical and emotional impact on victims);
  - > provides information on how the risks of victimisation vary for different groups;
  - > collects information on people's experiences of, or attitudes towards, a range of other crime-related issues.

### Methodological Note

The British Crime Survey has a nationally representative sample of people aged 16 and over in England and Wales. The 1998 BCS had a sample of 14,947 adults, the 1996 sample was 16,348 adults. In both sweeps the sample was drawn from the Postcode Address File. Face-to-face CAPI interviews were carried out mainly between January and May of the survey year, measuring crime in the preceding year. The response rate was 79% in 1998; 83% in 1996. Appendix C gives further details.

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# The extent of burglary

This Section first looks at the number of burglaries against domestic dwellings in 1997 as estimated by the 1998 British Crime Survey. The Section then examines the trend in the number of burglaries since the first sweep of the BCS in 1982, which measured crime in 1981.

## THE EXTENT OF BURGLARY IN 1997

The 1998 BCS estimates that there were a total of 1,639,000 burglaries against domestic premises in 1997.<sup>1</sup> Almost half (761,000) were attempted burglaries in which the offender tried to gain entry to the dwelling but was unsuccessful.<sup>2</sup> 878,000 were burglaries in which the offender did gain entry to the home. Not all burglaries with entry necessarily resulted in theft of property, either because this was not the motive for the offence or because the offender was disturbed before completing the crime. Theft of property occurred in three-quarters of burglaries with entry (41% of all burglaries) - a total of 664,000 incidents.

These figures give the best estimate of the true number of burglaries against domestic properties in England and Wales in 1997. The estimates are derived from a sample survey of the population and therefore may differ from the true number. However, it is possible to calculate the range in which the true value is likely to fall. Table 2.1 shows the range of estimates in which there is a 95% chance the true value lies. For example, there is a 95% chance that the true number of burglaries in England and Wales in 1997 is between 1,473,000 and 1,806,000.

**Table 2.1 Best estimate and range of estimates for the number of burglaries in England and Wales in 1997 (in thousands)**

	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Higher estimate
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,806</b>
Attempts	761	667	855
With entry	878	756	1,000
With loss	664	571	756

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Lower and higher estimates are for the 95% confidence interval. There is 95% certainty that the true figure lies between these two figures. The ranges differ slightly to those published in The 1998 British Crime Survey, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 21/98. This is because the survey design effects have been revised.

1. The estimated number of burglaries is derived by applying the number of crimes per 10,000 households in the sample ('the burglary rate'), to the household population of England and Wales (21,685,901 households). Similar calculations are undertaken for other household offences. For offences against the person the number of crimes per 10,000 adults in the sample is multiplied by the adult population in England and Wales (41,539,546 adults). Offence rates are given in Table A2.3.
2. For an incident to be classified as an attempted burglary there must be clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to the property.

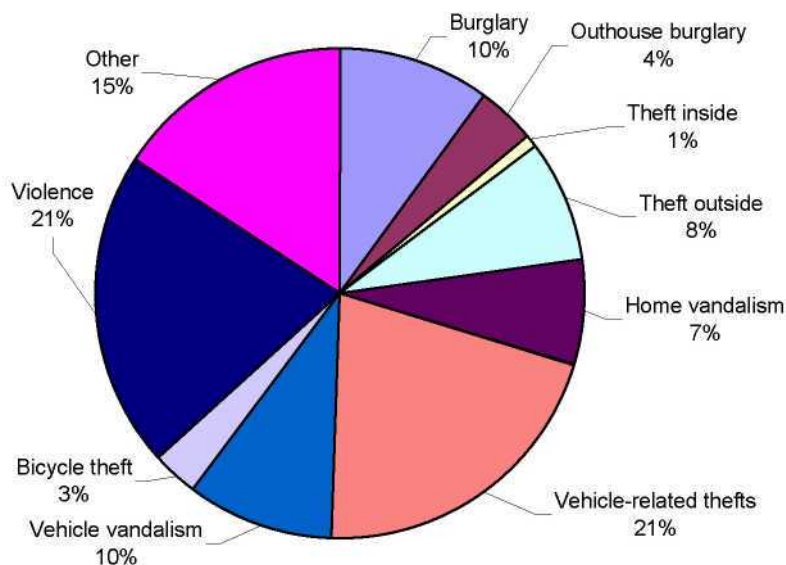
## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A2.1 in Appendix A gives the number of incidents in 1997 for other offences measured in the survey. Table A2.2 gives the associated 95% confidence ranges.

## THE EXTENT OF BURGLARY RELATIVE TO OTHER CRIMES

Burglary against domestic dwellings formed a tenth (10%) of all BCS crimes measured in 1997 (Figure 2.1). Burglaries against non-connected outhouses and garages made up another 4%. Altogether, crimes against the home (comprising burglary in a dwelling, outhouse burglary, theft in a dwelling, theft outside a dwelling and home vandalism) formed 29% of all crimes covered in the survey. Crimes against vehicles accounted for 31%, bicycle theft 3% and violence 21%.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 2.1 - Burglary as a proportion of all BCS crime



## TREND IN BURGLARY: 1981 TO 1997

The BCS has been conducted seven times to date. The first survey was conducted in 1982 and the most recent in 1998. Each sweep has measured crime in the year preceding the survey. Thus the 1998 survey measured the extent of crime in 1997 and the 1982 survey measured crime in 1981.<sup>4</sup> Continuity across the sweeps, both

3. Violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft.
4. Interviews are conducted early in the survey year. Respondents are questioned about experiences of criminal victimisation since January 1 of the previous year. The full recall period is thus from January 1 of the previous year to the date of interview. However, in examining the extent of, and trends in, crime the count is restricted to those crimes which occurred within the calendar year (e.g., 1997).

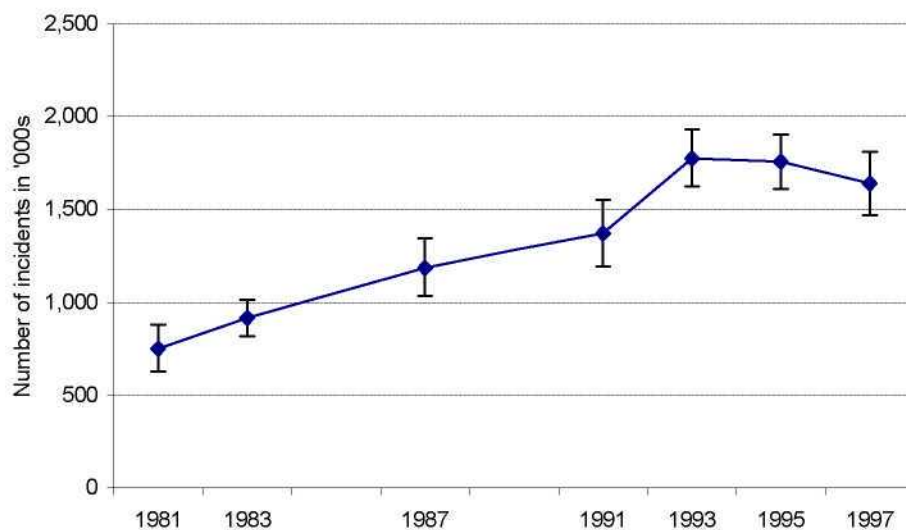
## The extent of burglary

in terms of the methodology and the rules applied for classifying offences, enables the BCS to show how the number of burglaries has changed since 1981.

Between 1981 and 1993 the total number of burglaries increased by 137% from 750,000 incidents to 1,776,000 (Figure 2.2). Between 1993 and 1997 the number of burglaries fell by 8%. Although, the corresponding fall in the rate of burglary from 855 incidents per 10,000 households to 756 per 10,000 households is not statistically significant, the trend of increasing levels of burglary appears to have reversed.<sup>5</sup> Despite the recent fall, the number of burglaries in 1997 was 119% higher than in 1981.

Table A2.1 in Appendix A shows the trend in the number of incidents for other offences since 1981. The increase in the number of burglaries over the period is one of the highest. Outhouse burglary, attempted vehicle theft, bicycle theft and domestic violence show larger increases.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 2.2 - Trend in burglary, 1981 to 1997



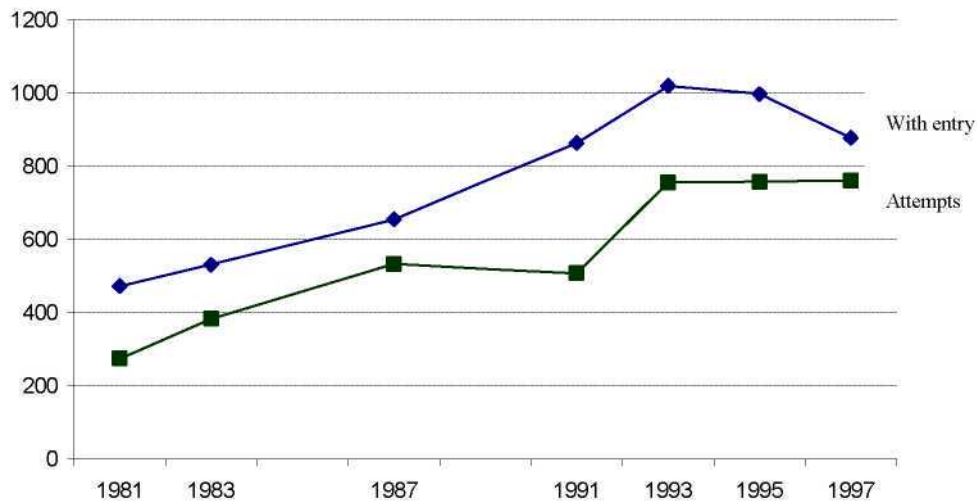
The overall burglary trend masks differences between the trend in burglary with entry and attempted burglary over the period (Figure 2.3). Between 1981 and 1987 both burglary with entry and attempts increased (38% and 94% respectively), but while burglary with entry continued to increase between 1987 and 1991 the number of attempts fell. Between 1991 and 1993 both burglary with entry and attempts increased. Since 1993

5. The y-error bars in Figure 2.2 show the 95% confidence ranges around the estimates. Tests of significance are based on the incident rates per 10,000 households (Table A2.3).
6. The increase in domestic violence may be partly due to an increasing willingness among victims to report their experiences to the survey over time.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

the number of attempted burglaries has remained stable (a 1% increase), while burglary with entry has fallen by 14% (a statistically significant fall). Over the entire period, from 1981 to 1997, the number of successful burglaries increased by 86%, the number of attempts by 177%.

Figure 2.3 - Trend in burglary with entry and attempted burglary, 1981 to 1997  
Number of incidents in thousands



As a result of these different trends, the proportion of burglaries in which the offender *gained* entry has changed over time (Table A2.4). Since 1991 there has been a fall in the proportion of burglaries with entry, from 63% in 1991 to 54% in 1997. Reflecting this, the proportion of burglaries in which property was stolen also fell between 1991 and 1997 - from 52% to 41% (Table A2.4). However, the proportion of with-entry burglaries involving the theft of property has remained relatively stable, at about two-fifths, since 1981.

# Risks of burglary

This Section considers the risk of domestic burglary victimisation for different types of household and different types of community, and shows that there is considerable variation in risk among different groups of the population.

First, the national average prevalence risk of burglary against domestic dwellings is discussed.<sup>1</sup> This provides the benchmark to which the risks of victimisation among different sub-groups can be compared. Second, the 1998 BCS risk estimates for different households and communities are examined, and compared to the equivalent figures from the 1996 BCS. These findings are based on bivariate analysis which examines a series of relationships between burglary victimisation and various household and community characteristics. The findings indicate the risks for different types of household and community. However, because many of the risk characteristics overlap it is difficult to judge their unique contribution to the risk of burglary. Multivariate analysis is therefore used to assess the independent influence of each characteristic. Finally, the Section considers the extent of repeat burglary victimisation, that is, the chance of victims being burgled more than once in a given period.

## NATIONAL PREVALENCE RISKS

### One-year prevalence risk

The national prevalence risk of domestic burglary in 1997 was 5.6% (Table A3.1, Appendix A). That is 5.6% of households in England and Wales were burgled at least once during the year. 3.2% of households were victims of burglary with entry and 2.7% victims of attempted burglary.<sup>2</sup> In 1995, 6.3% of households were burgled once or more, 3.7% being victims of burglary with entry and 2.9% of attempts.

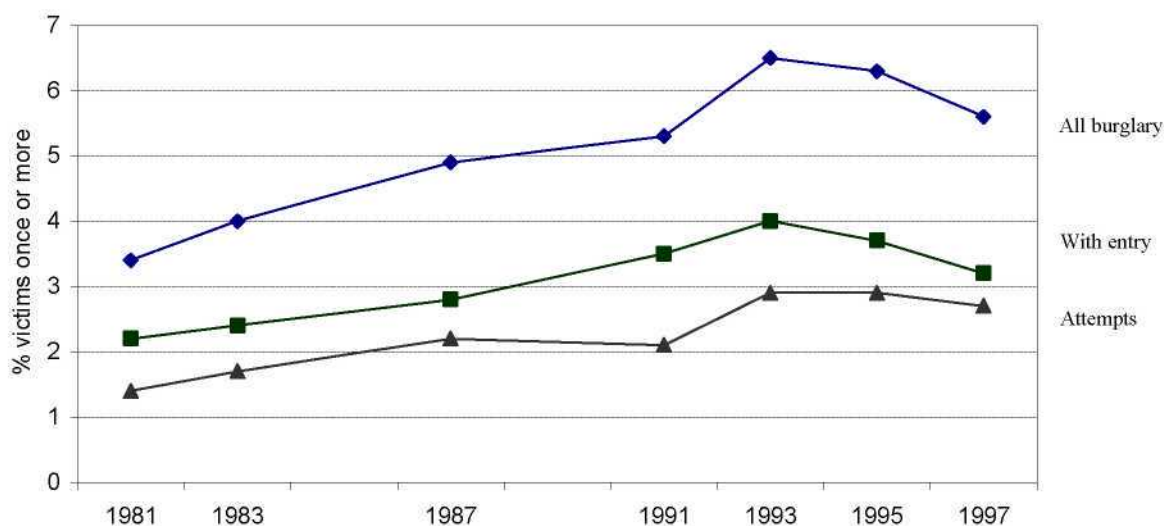
Figure 3.1 shows the trend in the prevalence risk of burglary since 1981. As one would expect, the pattern is very similar to the trend in the number of burglaries, discussed in Section 2. Over the whole period the risk of burglary with entry increased by 45%, the risk of attempted burglary increased 93%.<sup>3</sup>

Table A3.1 shows the trend in prevalence risks for a range of different offences.

1. The prevalence risk is the proportion of households who were victims of burglary once or more during the year. The alternative risk measure is the incident risk, the number of burglaries per 10,000 households.
2. The prevalence risk for all burglary does not equal the addition of the risks for attempts and burglary with entry as some victims will have experienced both types of burglary offence during the year.
3. That the percentage increase in the prevalence rate between 1981 and 1997 is somewhat lower than the increase in the incidence rate (57% and 134% respectively, Table A2.3) suggests that the risk of repeat victimisation has increased. This is discussed further under Repeat Victimisation (page 16).

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Figure 3.1 - Trend in the proportion of households victims of burglary, 1981 to 1997**



## Five-year prevalence risk

The main BCS count of burglary covers the calendar year preceding the survey. However, respondents are also asked whether or not they have experienced attempted burglary and burglary with loss in the four years prior to this.<sup>4</sup> It is therefore possible to construct five-year prevalence rates for these offences.

The 1998 BCS estimates that 9.6% of households were the victims of an attempted burglary in the five-year period from the beginning of 1993 to the end of 1997. 12.1% were the victims of burglary with loss in this period. The five-year risk estimates from the 1996 BCS are similar, 10.1% and 11.9% respectively.

## UNEQUAL RISKS: BIVARIATE ANALYSIS

The BCS has consistently shown that the risk of burglary victimisation varies considerably for different types of household and area (Gottfredson, 1984; Mayhew et al, 1993; Mayhew et al., 1994; Mirrlees-Black et al, 1996; Mirrlees-Black, 1998; Mirrlees-Black et al., 1998). The results from the 1998 BCS are summarised below.

Overall, 5.6% of households in England and Wales were victims of burglary in 1997. However, some types of household faced far higher risks, while others faced far lower risks. Households most at risk of burglary are listed below. Prevalence risks are given in brackets.

4. Burglary with loss is a sub-set of burglary with entry. It includes those incidents in which the offender entered the home as a trespasser and stole property.

### Household structure

Household structure is associated with risk of burglary. Households most at risk are those where:

- the **head of household is young**, aged between 16 and 24 (15.2%);
- **one adult is living alone with children** (11.2%);
- the head of household is **single (9.7%), divorced (7.7%) or separated (9.1%)**;
- the respondent is **Afro-Caribbean (7.9%) or Asian (9.9%)**<sup>5</sup>.

### Socio-economic circumstances

Socio-economic circumstances are also related to the risk of burglary victimisation. Generally, economically disadvantaged households are at higher risk. Most at risk are households where:

- the head of household is **unemployed (10.1%) or economically inactive (9.5%)**<sup>6</sup>;
- household **income is low**: under £5,000 per year (8.3%);
- the home is **rented** privately (9.7%) or from a Council or Housing Association (8.0%);
- there is **no car** (7.7%);
- the contents of the home are **not insured against theft** (8.6%).

### Other household factors

Also at high risk are:

- **flats (7.2%) or terraced property (6.6%)**

and households:

- in which the respondent has been **resident for less than one year (9.8%)**;
- **left empty during weekdays** for five or more hours on average (6.2%);
- left **unoccupied overnight** for more than a month in the previous year (7.2%);
- with **no security measures (15.2%)**<sup>7</sup>.

5. Based on combined 1996 and 1998 data to improve the reliability of the results.

6. Economically inactive includes students, temporary and permanently sick/disabled and looking after the home. Excludes retired.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

### Locality

Locality is also associated with risk. Households located in the following areas are more at risk:

- on a **main (6.6%)** or **side road (6.2%)**;
- in **inner-cities (8.5%)**;
- in **council estate areas (8.1%)**;
- in areas with **high levels of physical disorder (12.0%)**<sup>8</sup>;
- in the **north** of the country (7.7%)<sup>9</sup>.

Another area classification is ACORN - 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (CACI Ltd). The ACORN classification assigns each home in the country to one of 17 neighbourhood groups according to the social and housing characteristics of its immediate area, as measured by the 1991 Census.<sup>10</sup> To increase the reliability of results, the 1996 and 1998 datasets were combined to examine the risks for different ACORN areas. ACORN areas with the highest risks are:

- **council estates, greatest hardship (13.2%)**;
- **multi-ethnic, low-income** areas (10.1%);
- **affluent urbanites**, town and city (9.9%);
- **council estates, better off** homes (9.8%);
- **better-off executives, inner city** areas (8.7%).

7. The measure of security is at the time of interview for non-victims and at the time of the burglary for victims. This is because victims tend to increase security after victimisation. Therefore, if the victims' current security status was used the results could misleadingly suggest that security increases victimisation.
8. The measure of physical disorder is based upon interviewers' perceptions of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, and (b) rubbish and litter in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very big problem', 'fairly big problem', 'not a very big problem' or 'not a problem at all'. For both variables 'very' and 'fairly' big problem were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale thus ranged from 0 to 2: 0 representing areas with low physical disorder, 1 or 2 areas with high disorder.
9. Comprises North East, North West, Merseyside, and Yorkshire and the Humber.
10. ACORN provides a measure of the type of area in which households are situated. The characteristics of individual households within the area may well differ from the predominant type in the area. For example, not all households situated in ACORN areas classified as 'council estate areas, greatest hardship' will be on council estates or experiencing hardship. See Glossary for further details.



Tables A3.2 to A3.8 separately show the prevalence risks of all burglary, burglary with entry and attempted burglary for different types of household in 1995 and 1997. The risk patterns discussed above are similar for both burglary with entry and attempts, and those patterns identified for 1997 are generally similar to those for 1995. Table A3.9 shows the incidence risk for the full 54 ACORN types based on the 1994, 1996 and 1998 sweeps of the survey.

### UNEQUAL RISKS: MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

The results from the bivariate analysis indicate that households with certain characteristics or in certain localities are more at risk. However, the risk factors identified overlap to some degree. For instance, lone parents, the unemployed and households with a low income are more likely to reside in poorer urban or inner city areas and are less likely to have security measures (see Section 5). Therefore, their high risks may relate to the type of area in which they live, or the fact they have low levels of household security. Multivariate analysis is required to isolate the importance of any one particular factor in the risk of burglary victimisation. Logistic regression is the technique used here. The results of the logistic regression analysis for all domestic burglary, burglary with entry and attempted burglary are summarised below. For further details of the logistic regression procedure, including a list of the independent variables tested and the full results, see Appendix B.

### Burglary

The factors independently associated with burglary victimisation are discussed below. Table B.I gives the full results. The most intuitive way to interpret the results in the table is to consider two households identical in every way, except in terms of the factor under consideration. The figures in the table show the change in the level of risk of burglary victimisation for households which are identical except for the specified factor.<sup>11</sup> Figures which are greater than one indicate that the characteristic is associated with an increased risk of victimisation, those less than one that the characteristic is associated with a lower risk of victimisation.

- **Security devices**<sup>12</sup> Household security is strongly associated with the risk of burglary victimisation. The risk of victimisation increases with declining levels of security, holding other factors constant. Households without any of the security devices measured are, by far, most at risk. Those with only window locks or deadlocks reduce their risks considerably, and those with a burglar alarm, security lights or window grilles have even lower risks.
- **Household occupation** Household occupancy is also associated with the risk of burglary victimisation. Risks are higher for households more often left unoccupied overnight. A household left unoccupied for more than a month during a year has a 43% higher risk of being a victim of burglary than a household identical in other respects but never left unoccupied overnight. This suggests that the presence of occupants acts as a deterrent.

11. Technically, the figures show the change in the odds of victimisation. See Appendix B for further details.

12. Security was measured at time of interview for non-victims and at time of incident for victims.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

- **Accommodation type** When other factors are taken into account, for example location, detached houses are at higher risk of victimisation than other types of housing. Flats are least at risk. If a detached house and flat are similar in other respects, then the flat has a 46% lower risk of being burgled. This is probably because a detached house will be more accessible to offenders as it offers more points of entry and is less likely to be overlooked.<sup>13</sup>
- **Type of area** A household in an inner city area has a 44% higher risk of being burgled than an identical household in a non-inner city area. ACORN is also associated with burglary victimisation, with households in Rising, Settling and Striving areas being at significantly higher risk than equivalent households in Thriving areas.<sup>14</sup> Households located in Rising areas, that is prosperous city areas, are more at risk than similar households in the other ACORN categories. This is likely to be because they are areas which are both attractive to burglars and in close proximity to offenders.

The relationship between the above factors and burglary victimisation is relatively self-evident. However, other factors associated with burglary victimisation are rather less easy to explain. They are as follows:

- **Age of head of household** The risk of victimisation decreases with age, holding all other factors constant. Households headed by 16 to 24 year olds are most vulnerable - they have a 165% higher risk of being a victim of burglary than identical households headed by someone aged 75 or older.
- **Ethnicity** Households in which the respondent is Asian face higher risks of victimisation than households in which the respondent is White. The risk among Afro-Caribbeans is no higher than for Whites.
- **Household structure** Households in which there is a single adult and child(ren) face higher risks of victimisation, holding other factors constant.

These factors may be important because they reflect other factors which have not been measured, either at all or with sufficient subtlety. For example, households with a single adult and child(ren) may be disproportionately located in the most deprived areas. Although variables are included in the model to measure area type (e.g. ACORN), the level of aggregation used may not capture such localised differences.

## Burglary with entry

The model for burglary with entry (Table B.2) is similar to that for all burglary. However, there are three different factors which enter the model: head of household's marital status; length of residence;

13. In contrast flats may have only one point of entry, particularly those above ground level, and gaining access unobserved is likely to be more difficult. Entry-phone systems at the main entrance may also act as an additional deterrent.
14. The six ACORN category breakdown was used in the logistic regression analysis. Table A3.8 shows how the 17 ACORN groups form the 6 categories. See Glossary for further details.

and household income.<sup>15</sup> Risks are higher for households with a divorced or separated head. This could be because some burglaries are committed by the victim's ex-partner.<sup>16</sup> Households in which the respondent has resided for less than one year are also at higher risk. The relationship between burglary victimisation and length of residence has also been found in previous analyses of the BCS (Trickett et al., 1995; Ellingworth and Pease, 1998). There are several possible reasons for this relationship. One explanation is that those who move have lifestyles which render them more at risk. Another possible reason is that prior to a move properties become more vulnerable. For example, estate agents' boards may suggest to potential burglars low levels of guardianship and allow them to inspect the property without suspicion. Ellingworth and Pease (1998) discuss the relationship further. Unlike the all burglary model, household structure and household occupation are not independently important for burglary with entry.

### Attempted burglary

The model for attempted burglary is also similar to that for all burglary (Table B.3). Households with no security, households left unoccupied more often, and those in inner city areas are at high risk. So too are households with one adult and children, and households in which the respondent is Asian. Dwelling type is not important however. It may be that while dwelling type does not deter potential burglars, the layout may influence the likelihood of successfully gaining entry. Other factors not in the model are age of head of household and ACORN.

Table 3.1 summarises which factors increased the risk of all burglary, burglary with entry and attempts.

**Table 3.1 Factors associated with an increased risk of burglary victimisation**

Factors	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
No/low security	✓	✓	✓
Low occupancy level	✓	✗	✓
Detached dwelling	✓	✓	✗
Head of household aged 16-44	✓	✓	✗
Asian respondent	✓	✓	✓
Single adult and child(ren)	✓	✗	✓
Head of household divorced/separated	✗	✓	✗
Resident less than one year	✗	✓	✗
Inner city area	✓	✓	✓
Rising, Settling, Striving ACORN areas	✓*	§	✗

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. ✓ indicates factor is associated with an increased risk; ✗ indicates factor is not associated with an increased risk.

15. Households with an income between £5,000 and £9,999 have a significantly lower risk than households with an income less than £5,000. However, those with an income of £10,000 or above do not have significantly different risks to those with an income below £5,000.
16. It is not possible to test this fully as in many incidents the victim will be unaware of who the offender was. However, for those incidents where the victim could say something about the offender, 13% were committed by a current spouse, ex-spouse or ex-partner.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

### REPEAT VICTIMISATION

So far, this Section has considered the prevalence risk of victimisation, that is the risk of being a victim of burglary once or more during one year. However, it is important to recognise that some victims are victimised more than once during a given period. Tackling repeat victimisation is an important element in crime prevention strategies and is a key performance indicator for the police. The results from the British Crime Survey are discussed below.

#### Risk of repeat victimisation in 1997 and 1995

A fifth (20%) of burglary victims had experienced more than one burglary during 1997; 13% had been burgled twice and 7% three or more times. The risks of repeat victimisation were similar in 1995 (Tables 3.2, A3.10).

Table 3.2 Number of times victims were victimised, 1995 and 1997

<i>Number of times victims victimised in the year:</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
Once	81	81	84	86	84	81
Twice	12	13	10	9	11	13
Three or more times	7	7	5	5	6	7

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Figures do not sum to 100 because of rounding.

Risks of repeat victimisation, however, differ for different types of victim. The following groups of victims were at higher risk of repeat victimisation in 1997:

- **one adult living alone with child(ren)** (37%);
- head of household **single, divorced or separated** (23%);
- **low household income:** under £5,000 per year (24%);
- **social renters** - renting from a Council or Housing Association (26%);
- those in **inner cities** (26%) and **council estate** areas (25%);
- those in areas with a high level of **physical disorder** (27%).

#### Proportion of burglaries experienced by repeat victims

Repeat victims experience a relatively high proportion of all burglaries measured by the BCS. A fifth (21%) of all burglaries measured in 1997 were against the 7% of victims who experienced three or

more incidents (less than 1% of all respondents) (Table 3.3). The pattern is similar for both burglary with entry and attempts and has not changed between 1995 and 1997 (Tables A3.11, A3.12).

Table 3.3 Repeat burglary victimisation, 1995 and 1997

<i>Number of burglaries</i>	% respondents		% victims		% incidents	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
None	94	94	0	0	0	0
One	5	5	81	81	61	60
Two	1	1	12	13	18	19
Three or more	<1	<1	7	7	20	21
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted N</i>	16,348	14,947	1,090	868	1,467	1,195

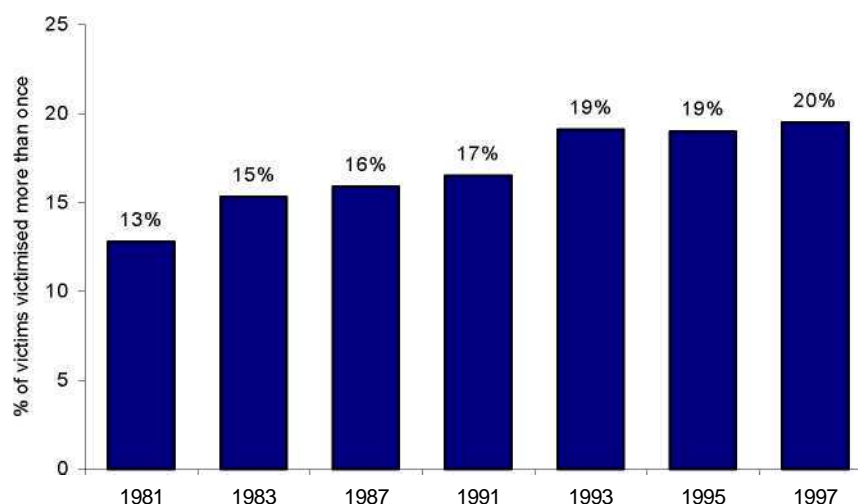
Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.

### Trend in repeat victimisation: 1981 to 1997

Figure 3.2 shows the trend in the proportion of burglary victims victimised more than once during a year. Repeat victimisation increased between 1981 and 1993. In 1981, 13% of burglary victims experienced more than one incident in the year, in 1993, 19% of those burgled were repeat victims. Since 1993 repeat victimisation has stabilised.

Figure 3.2 - Trend in the proportion of burglary victims victimised more than once



## Burglary of domestic dwellings

### **Risks of repeat victimisation over a five-year period**

The 1998 BCS shows that households that had been burgled in the previous four years were more likely to be burgled in 1997.<sup>17</sup> 10% of those who were the victims of an attempted burglary between January 1993 and the end of 1996 also experienced an attempted burglary in 1997, compared with only 2% of those who were not victims in the previous four years (Table A3.13). The same pattern holds for burglary in which property was stolen, with victims in the previous four years being more than twice as likely as non-victims to experience an incident in 1997 (Table A3.14). The 1996 BCS gives a similar picture.

A quarter (26%) of those who had been victims of an attempted burglary between January 1993 and the end of 1997 had experienced more than one incident in the period. 15% were the victims of an attempted burglary twice in the five years and 11% were victims three or more times. The pattern for with loss burglary is similar, with 23% of victims in the five years experiencing more than one incident.

### Explaining repeat victimisation

The pattern of repeat victimisation is likely to arise because those factors which initially make a household attractive and vulnerable, such as its location and low levels of occupancy, continue to influence its risk. Many of the factors which make a household attractive to burglars may be impossible or difficult to alter. Re-victimisation over the short term may also be due to the fact that prior victimisation itself serves to increase risk. For example, offenders may choose to return to steal those items they were unable to take on the first occasion. Pease (1998) further discusses the issue of repeat victimisation.

17. The BCS asks respondents about their experience of attempted burglary and burglary with loss over the entire four years. They are not asked about each year individually. Therefore, although we know whether or not they were victims during the four years, we cannot say within which year an incident occurred.

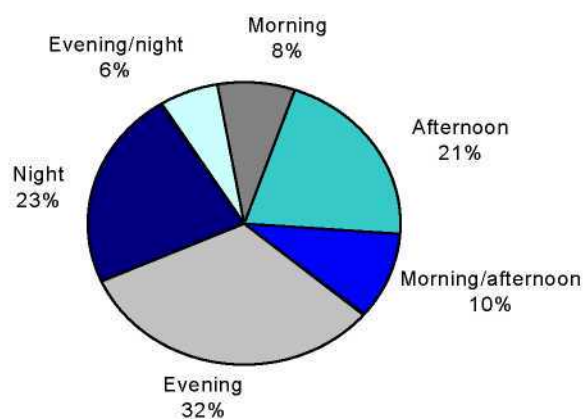
# The nature of burglary

This Section examines the nature of domestic burglary: when burglaries occur; how offenders gain entry to the home; the type of contact between burglars and victims; who the offenders are; the emotional and financial impact upon victims; whether or not victims report the incident to the police; and what type of help victims of burglary would like following an incident.<sup>1</sup> The Section focuses on the findings from the 1998 British Crime Survey. Although tables in Appendix A include the comparable findings from the 1996 BCS, the results are generally similar and only differences are discussed here. Where appropriate, longer-term trends are presented.

## WHEN DO BURGLARIES OCCUR?

The majority of victims were able to recall details about when they had been burgled.<sup>2</sup> The 1998 BCS estimates that 30% of burglaries against domestic dwellings occurred at the weekend, suggesting risks of burglary are no higher at weekends than during the week (Table A4.1, Appendix A).<sup>3</sup> Burglaries were more likely to have taken place during the evening or night than during the day (Figure 4.1). 32% of all incidents occurred during the evening and 23% at night.<sup>4</sup> In a further 6% of incidents the victim said the burglary took place during the evening or night. Daytime burglaries were more likely to take place during the afternoon than the morning. The BCS also asks victims whether it was daylight, dark or dawn/dusk when the incident occurred. 56% of burglaries took place while it was dark. The pattern is similar in the 1996 BCS.

Figure 4.1 - Time of day of burglaries

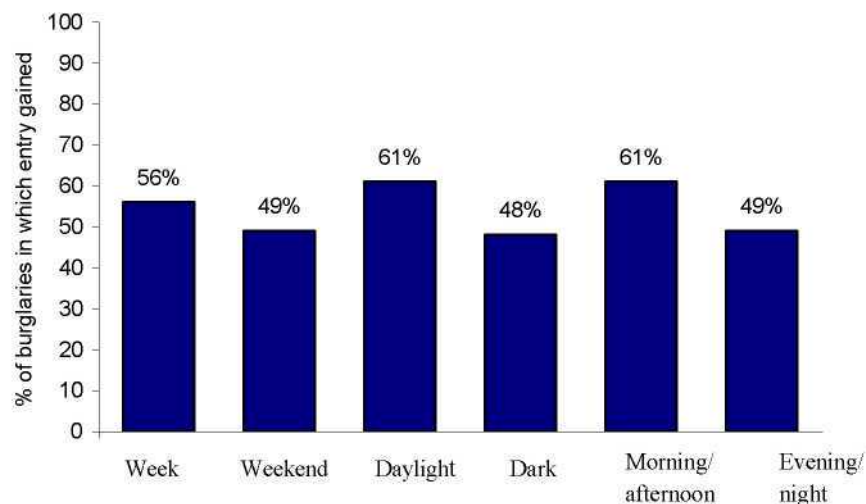


1. In this Section results are based on all incidents in the full recall period, a period of about 14 months.
2. 5% were unable to say whether the incident occurred at the weekend or during the week and 5% could not say whether the incident occurred during the morning/afternoon or the evening/night.
3. The weekend is from 6 p.m. on Friday evening to 6 a.m. on Monday morning.
4. The evening is 6 p.m. to midnight; the night is midnight to 6 a.m..

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Burglaries are less likely to result in entry to the home if they occur while it is dark. Just under a half (48%) of burglaries which took place after dark were successful, compared with 61% of those which occurred during the day. This may be surprising given that darkness provides cover for offenders. However, during the evening or night homes are more likely to be occupied, and this may prevent burglars from completing the crime. Burglaries during the weekend are also less likely to be successful (49%) than those during the week (56%), perhaps for the same reason (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2 - Proportion of burglaries in which entry was gained



## POINT AND METHOD OF ENTRY

### Point of entry

Table 4.1 shows where burglars gained entry or tried to gain entry to the home. Successful offenders were slightly more likely to gain entry from the back of the dwelling (48%) than the front (44%). The most common point of entry in successful burglaries was through a door (70%). A third (36%) gained entry through a window.<sup>5</sup> The pattern is similar for attempts.<sup>6</sup>

5. More than one point of entry could be given by victims. This is because burglars may actually use more than one point of entry. Also, the victim, unless present during the incident, will only be able to assess point of entry from the evidence available.
6. Victims of attempts were only asked about point of entry if they said the incident occurred in the home and the offender tried to get inside. Some victims did not say this was the case, although the description of the incident clearly indicates there was an attempted burglary, and therefore were not asked the questions on point of entry. Examination of the offence descriptions in these cases suggests the pattern of point of entry was similar to those where the questions were asked.



Table 4.1 Point of entry in burglaries, 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
Back	48	48	47
Front	42	44	40
Side	6	6	7
More than one way	4	2	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	841	470	371
Door <sup>1</sup>	70	70	71
Window	37	36	38
Other	2	1	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	822	464	358

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS. Percentages add to more than 100 as more than one point of entry could be given.
2. See footnote 6.

The point of entry selected by offenders is likely to be determined by their assessment of the easiest and quickest way of gaining access to the home without being observed. This assessment will be influenced by a range of factors, including security devices and whether the home is overlooked (Maguire, 1982; Bennet and Wright, 1981; Cromwell et al., 1991). The range of options available to offenders will, however, differ for different types of property. For example, often the only means of access to many flats will be via the front door, while side entry is not an option for most terraced housing. Table A4.3 shows how the point of entry varies for different types of dwelling.<sup>7</sup> Detached, semi-detached and terraced houses were most vulnerable from the back, whereas flats were most vulnerable from the front. For both houses and flats, burglars were more likely to gain or try to gain entry via a door than a window, though flats were more likely to be entered via a door than houses.

Point of entry also differed according to when the incident occurred (Table A4.4). Burglaries during the day were more likely to involve entry or attempted entry via a door than those during the evening or night. Attempted burglaries during the day were more likely to take place at the front of the home (46%) than those which took place at night (39%).

Table A4.5 shows how the point of entry used in burglaries has changed over the 1990s. The proportion of burglaries in which burglars gained entry via a door has increased. There has also been a fall in the proportion of attempts in which the burglar tried to gain entry from the front of the property. It is difficult to explain these patterns.

7. These results are based on combined 1996 and 1998 BCS data to improve reliability.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

### Method of entry

In the majority of successful burglaries some form of force was used to acquire entry (Table 4.2).<sup>8</sup> In 37% of incidents the offender forced a lock on a door or window; in 24% door panels or window panes were broken or removed. However, in almost a quarter (22%) of successful burglaries the offender gained entry through an unlocked door or an open window. As one would expect, for attempts a smaller proportion tried to gain entry through an insecure door or window (5%). Burglaries in which the offender used false pretences were rare. In only 6% of successful burglaries and 3% of attempts were false pretences used.<sup>9</sup>

**Table 4.2 Method of entry in burglaries, 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
Forced lock on door/window	50	37	68
Removed/broke door panel/glass in window	23	24	23
Door unlocked/window open	15	22	5
Had a key	4	6	1
False pretences	5	6	3
Pushed past person who opened door	3	5	1
Other	6	6	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	854	489	365

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. The definition of false pretences differs to that used in previous publications.

The method of entry was similar for different types of dwelling, although flats were less likely to have a door panel or window pane removed or broken (Table A4.3). Method of entry differed for day-time and night-time incidents (Table A4.4). A higher proportion of day-time incidents involved offenders gaining or trying to gain entry with a key or by false pretences. During the night, burglars were more likely to force the locks on doors or windows. Entry through unsecured doors or windows was similar regardless of dwelling type or time of incident.

Table A4.5 shows the trend in the mode of entry used in burglaries since 1992. The proportion of successful burglaries in which a lock was forced has fallen from 44% (1992 BCS) to 37% (1998 BCS). In contrast, for attempts the forcing of locks has risen from 61% to 68%. This suggests the forcing of locks has become a less effective means of gaining entry to a property. The proportion of burglaries with entry in which the burglar gained entry through an unsecured window or door has remained at about a fifth throughout the 1990s.

8. As with point of entry, these questions were not asked for a sub-set of attempted burglaries. See footnote 6.

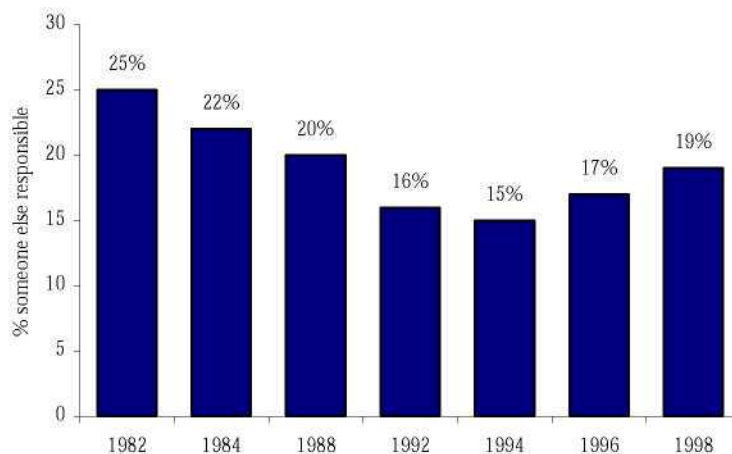
9. The proportion of burglaries involving the use of false pretences was higher for households in which the respondent was aged 60 or over. In these households 8% of attempts and 14% of burglaries with entry involved false pretences (Table A4.6).

## VICTIM RESPONSIBILITY

Victims were asked whether or not anyone other than the offender was in any way responsible for the burglary. In only a minority of burglaries did the victim say someone other than the offender was responsible (Table A4.7). Victims were more likely to say so in successful burglaries (19%), than in attempts (5%). Failure to lock or close doors or windows was the most commonly given reason. In 13% of successful burglaries the victim said either they or someone else failed to lock or close doors or windows.

The proportion of burglaries with entry in which victims attributed responsibility to someone other than the offender fell between the 1982 and 1994 surveys: from 25% to 15% (Figure 4.3). This may be because the proportion of victims who had left windows or doors unsecured fell over this period. Unfortunately, this hypothesis can not be tested because questions on method of entry have changed between the sweeps. Since 1994 the proportion of victims who felt responsible has increased, but this is not statistically significant.

Figure 4.3 - Proportion of burglaries with entry in which respondent felt someone other than the offender was responsible



## CONTACT WITH THE OFFENDER

The 1998 BCS estimates that the home was occupied in just under a half (46%) of all burglaries (Table A4.8).<sup>10</sup> The home was more likely to be occupied in attempts (50%) than successful burglaries (43%). In a quarter (25%) of all burglaries someone was at home and aware of what was happening, and in a further fifth (22%) someone was at home although unaware (Tables 4.3, A4.9). The proportion of incidents in which someone was at home and aware of what was happening was higher in attempts (30%) than

10. The BCS has consistently shown that a relatively high proportion of burglaries occur while the home is occupied. Some of these incidents involve offenders known to the victim. At least 14% of successful burglaries which occurred while the home was occupied were committed by the victims' current spouse, ex-spouse or ex-partner.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

successful burglaries (20%). This is probably because the person in the home disturbed the burglar before entry was gained. Pattern of contact also varied according to the time of day the incident occurred (Table A4.10). Someone was more likely to be at home in night-time burglaries (53% of burglaries with entry; 66% of attempts). In two-fifths (39%) of night-time attempts someone in the household was at home and aware of what was happening.

Table 4.3 Contact with offenders in burglaries, 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
<b>Type of contact</b>			
No-one at home	54	57	50
Someone at home	46	43	50
Unaware	22	23	20
Aware but did not see offender	6	2	11
Aware and did see offender	19	18	20
<i>Unweighted N</i>	990	516	474
<b>Threats or force used</b>			
Violence used	7	10	4
Violence or threats used	11	13	7
Neither used	90	87	93
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1105	563	542

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Violent or threatening behaviour was used in a tenth (11%) of all burglaries (Tables 4.3, A4.9). It was more common in successful incidents (13%) than attempts (7%). Night-time incidents were more likely to involve violence or threats (Table A4.10). Almost a fifth (19%) of successful night-time incidents did so.

Combining the data from the 1998 and 1996 sweeps shows that in 64% of burglaries which involved violence or threats the victim knew the offender well. In a further 19% the victim was casually acquainted with the offender.

## OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

Victims were able to say something about the offender or offenders in 41% of burglaries.<sup>11</sup> Victims of successful burglaries were more likely to be able to say something (49%), than victims of attempts (33%). Those victims who could say something about the offender were asked a series of questions to assess the characteristics of the offender. The discussion below is based on those incidents in which the victim *could* provide details about the offender. The offender profile, including the victim-offender

11. Victims may be able to say something about the offender if they or another household member had any contact with the offender during the incident, because the police identified the culprit or because they thought they knew who the offender was themselves.

## The nature of burglary

relationship, for burglaries in which the respondent was *unable* to give details is likely to differ. Therefore the results discussed below should *not* be interpreted as providing an accurate profile of all burglars. Full results are given in Table A4.11.

### Relationship to offender(s)

Of those incidents in which the victim *could* provide information about the offender(s) almost a half (49%) were committed by complete strangers. 17% involved offenders known casually (either by sight or just to speak to) by the victim and 34% offenders known well to the victim. Successful burglaries were more likely to be committed by someone known well to the victim (39%), than attempts (26%).

Assuming that the victim did not know the offender in burglaries where offender details were unknown, then 14% of *all* burglaries involved offenders who were well-known to the victim. This figure is not surprising as the legal definition of burglary is relatively broad, including all incidents of trespass in which the motivation is theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. So, for example, incidents in which ex-partners try to gain entry to the home against the victims' will and cause damage are classified as burglaries.

### Number of offenders)

Just over a half (54%) of burglaries in which the victim *could* give details involved just one offender; 27% two offenders and 19% three or more. Attempts were slightly more likely to involve more than one offender.

### Sex of offenders)

Men were the offenders in the majority of incidents (88%) for which offender information was available. 6% were committed by men and women together and 6% by women alone. A higher proportion of successful burglaries involved women alone (9%), than attempts (1%).

### Age of offender(s)

In a half (50%) of incidents where the victim *could* provide details the offenders were said to be aged 16 to 24. Offenders were said to be of school age in 16%. School-age offenders were more likely to be implicated in attempts (24%) than successful burglaries (13%).

## IMPACT UPON VICTIMS

### Financial and material consequences

#### Stolen property

In two-fifths (39%) of all burglaries counted in the 1998 BCS property was stolen.<sup>12</sup> The most commonly stolen items were cash, jewellery, and video and stereo equipment (Table A4.12). Cash was stolen in 41% of incidents of burglary with loss, jewellery and video equipment in just over a third, and stereo

12. This figure differs to that given in Section 2 because that was based on the calendar year.

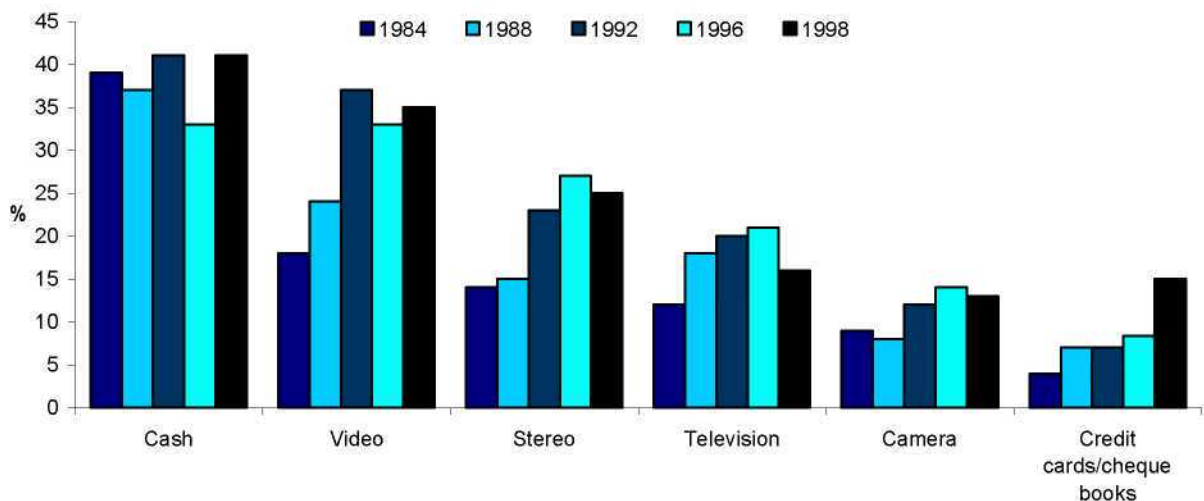
## Burglary of domestic dwellings

equipment in a quarter. Televisions, purses or wallets, cameras and credit cards were also stolen relatively often.

Table A4.12 shows the trend in items stolen since the 1994 BCS. For selected items it is also possible to examine the longer-term trend since 1984 (Figure 4.4, Table A4.13).

Theft of video and stereo equipment, televisions and cameras increased until the early or mid 1990s, but has since stabilised (stereo and video equipment) or fallen (televisions and cameras). The pattern for the theft of electrical goods and cameras partly reflects changing levels of ownership, with an increase in ownership in the 1980s which has now slowed. The introduction of new products on the market, such as CD players, is also likely to influence the type of goods stolen (Sutton, 1995; Johnson et al, 1993). The trend in the theft of cash and credit cards/cheque-books is more difficult to explain. The increase between the 1996 and 1998 surveys corresponds to an increase in the proportion of burglaries where purses or wallets were stolen.

Figure 4.4 - Trend in the theft of selected items, 1984 to 1998 BCS



## Damage to property

Two-thirds of burglaries (67%) measured in the 1998 BCS involved some form of property damage (Table A4.15). Attempted burglaries were more likely to result in damage (74%) than successful burglaries (61%). In both attempts and successful burglaries damage was usually caused by the offender trying to gain entry to the premises. Damage to the inside of the home occurred in 15% of burglaries with entry in which there was damage. Soiling and graffiti, however, were extremely rare (1% and 3% of successful burglaries).

The picture is very similar in the 1996 BCS, with 66% of burglaries entailing some form of property damage (Table A4.15).

### Financial losses

The 1998 BCS, as in previous sweeps, asked victims about the value of any property stolen and also the cost of any damage caused in the incident.<sup>13</sup>

Victims of burglaries in which property was stolen were asked to estimate the replacement value of the stolen property. The average loss was £1,416 (Table A4.14).<sup>14</sup> The average figure, however, masks considerable variation. In 22% of loss burglaries less than £100 worth of property was stolen, while in 8% the loss amounted to at least £5,000.

The cost of damage committed during the course of all burglaries was on average £254 (Table A4.16). Two-thirds (64%) involved no damage or damage which cost less than £50. In a tenth (11%) of burglaries damage costs amounted to at least £500.<sup>15</sup>

Grossing up the average cost estimates by the total number of incidents in 1997, gives an estimate of £950 million for the total value of property stolen in burglaries during the year and £420 million for damage. These estimates provide an indication of costs rather than precise figures.<sup>16</sup>

The costs discussed above are the initial *gross* costs of the incident. These are not necessarily met by the victim. Home contents insurance policies may cover some or all of the costs. The issue of insurance coverage is discussed further in Section 5. Furthermore, in 15% of burglaries in which something was stolen some or all of the property was later recovered.

Although the BCS provides a measure of the direct financial costs which arise from burglary, not all costs are measured by the BCS. Excluded, for instance, are: the cost of home contents insurance policies; security installation costs; the costs borne by the criminal justice system to investigate and process cases and deal with offenders; and the loss of income of imprisoned burglars.

### Emotional impact

In the majority of burglaries respondents reported that either they or another household member were emotionally affected by the incident (Table A4.17). Respondents admitted to being emotionally affected themselves in four-fifths (82%) of burglaries. They were affected very much in 29% of incidents, and quite a lot in 27%. As one would expect, victims of burglary with entry were more likely to be emotionally affected.

13. The BCS cost questions have been refined over time and were again improved for the 1998 survey. Although the changes are designed to improve the accuracy of the data collected, it is inherently difficult to measure costs. Respondents may be unable to recall such details or may simply find it difficult to give cost estimates.
14. This is the mean loss. The median loss was £500. The median is the middle value when all the values are put in rank order.
15. The pattern of costs differed for burglary with entry and attempts. The average cost of damage in burglary with entry was £389, in attempts £101.
16. The estimates are not precise for several reasons. Firstly, the survey estimates are subject to sampling error. Secondly, respondents may not report incidents of burglary, particularly relatively minor incidents, to the survey. Thirdly, estimates are based upon victims' willingness and ability to provide accurate cost information.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

More than a third (37%) said they were very much affected, compared to a fifth (21%) in attempted burglaries.

Anger was the most common emotional reaction to burglary. Shock and difficulty in sleeping were also fairly common experiences. A third of burglaries resulted in victims feeling frightened.

Women were more likely to say they were emotionally affected by the incident than men (Table A4.18). Women were affected very much in a third (33%) of incidents, men in a quarter (24%). Women were more likely to say they had difficulty sleeping, were tearful and frightened than men. The differences between the emotional responses of men and women may, at least in part, be due to a greater reluctance among men to reveal their emotional responses to the interviewer.

## SERIOUSNESS OF BURGLARY

The BCS asks victims to give their own assessment of the seriousness of the incident they experienced.<sup>17</sup> Their assessment could be based on a wide range of factors, including the amount of damage, levels of financial loss, whether any violence was used and the emotional impact upon the victim.

Table A4.19 gives the average seriousness scores for different offences. Burglary was rated more seriously than all other offences, with the exception of theft of a vehicle. Burglaries in which entry was gained were considered more serious than attempts.

Seriousness ratings varied depending on the nature of the burglary. They were higher if force or threats had been used and for incidents in which the value of property stolen or damaged was relatively high (Table A4.20). Burglaries with entry were considered more serious if no one was at home during the incident, while attempts were rated more seriously if someone was at home.

The average seriousness score for both burglary with entry and attempts was slightly lower in the 1998 BCS than in the 1996 BCS (Table 4.4). It seems unlikely that this reflects real differences in the nature of the incidents in the two sweeps as those in the 1998 BCS were, if anything, more serious on measures such as use of violence or threats and damage to property. Average seriousness scores also fell for all other offences (Table A4.19).

In 1996 and 1998 victims were also asked whether they personally thought what happened was a crime, wrong but not a crime, or just something that happens. 85% of incidents of burglary in the 1998 survey were regarded as a crime by victims, compared with 90% in the 1996 BCS (Table 4.4).

17. Victims are asked to rate what happened to them using a 'seriousness scale', where zero represents a very minor offence, and 20 represents murder. The scale has been divided into three levels of seriousness: 0 to 6, 7 to 13 and 14 to 20.



Table 4.4 Victim assessment of the seriousness of burglaries, 1996 and 1998 BCS

	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<b>Seriousness score<sup>2</sup></b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Low seriousness (0 to 6)	43	53	35	44	54	62
Medium seriousness (7 to 13)	43	36	47	40	37	31
High seriousness (14 to 20)	14	12	18	17	9	7
<b>Mean score</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1374	1098	758	558	616	540
<b>Was it a crime?</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%
A crime	90	85	93	87	85	82
Wrong but not a crime	6	8	4	7	9	10
Just something that happens	4	7	3	6	6	9
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1378	1104	760	562	618	542

Notes.

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Victims are asked to place the incident on a scale ranging from 0 to 20. 0 represents the most minor crime (e.g., theft of milk bottles) and 20 the most serious (e.g., murder).

## REPORTING TO THE POLICE

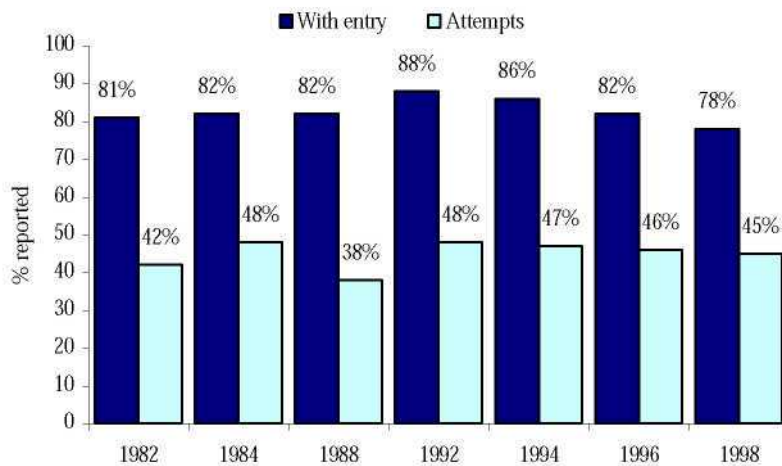
The BCS has consistently shown that a substantial proportion of crimes are not reported to the police and that rates of reporting vary considerably across offence types. Table A4.21 shows the trend in reporting for different types of offence.

Burglary is relatively well reported. The 1998 BCS estimated that four-fifths of burglaries with entry and almost a half of attempts were reported to the police.<sup>18</sup> Figure 4.5 shows the trend in reporting to the police since the 1982 BCS. The proportion of burglaries with entry reported to the police increased between 1982 and 1992 but has since fallen. The pattern for attempts differs, and has remained relatively stable over the 1990s.

18. Reporting to the police varied depending on the relationship between the offender and the victim. 83% of incidents in which the victim said the offender was a stranger were reported, compared with 59% of incidents where the victim knew the offender either casually or well.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Figure 4.5 - Proportion of incidents reported to the police: 1982 to 1998 BCS



### Why victims do not report

The 1998 BCS asked victims why they chose not to report a crime to the police. The main reason given for not reporting burglaries was that the incident was not serious enough (Table A4.22). In almost a half (49%) of unreported incidents the victim said this was one reason for not reporting. Other reasons given were that the police would have been unable to do much about it (33%) and that the police would not have been interested (18%). In 12% of unreported burglaries the victims felt that the incident was private or they dealt with it themselves. Fear of reprisal, the inconvenience of reporting and fear or dislike of the police were rarely mentioned.

There were some differences in the reasons given for attempts and burglary with entry. The triviality of the offence and the perception that the police could not do anything or would not be interested were more commonly cited for unreported attempts than for burglaries with entry. Conversely, where entry was gained, a higher proportion viewed the incident as private or dealt with it themselves.

### Why victims do report

The 1998 BCS also asked burglary victims who did report why they did so. The most commonly given reasons were that they felt they should do so or that they wanted the offender to be caught and punished (Table A4.23). Each was mentioned in almost a half of all burglaries. Other common reasons, each given in about a fifth, were the desire to recover property, for the purposes of an insurance claim, and because the crime was serious or upsetting. All these reasons were more often given for successful burglaries than for attempts. In attempts, victims were more likely to say they reported to prevent repeat victimisation, either to themselves or to others.

### Insurance and reporting

One reason victims give for reporting burglaries to the police is for the purposes of an insurance claim. The impact of insurance upon whether or not victims report incidents was assessed more directly through two questions in the 1996 BCS. Victims of reported burglaries in which an insurance claim had been made were asked whether the incident would still have been reported if a claim had not been made. In 98% of these burglaries victims said they would have reported regardless of the claim. Conversely, for the small number (N=87) of unreported burglaries which were covered by insurance but where no claim was made, victims were asked whether they would have reported if they had decided to make an insurance claim. In 81% of these burglaries the respondent said that if they had wished to make a claim they would have reported the matter to the police. These results suggest that for the majority of reported burglaries insurance claims are not the only motive for reporting the crime. However, in a small number of incidents in which the victim decided not to report, an insurance claim would have motivated them to do so.

### Seriousness and reporting

As one would expect, those burglaries rated more seriously by the victim were more likely to be reported to the police. Three-quarters of the more serious incidents were reported, compared to a half of the least serious (Table A4.24). Even so, a quarter of the most serious incidents were not reported to the police. The BCS has consistently shown that many incidents which are regarded as serious by victims go unreported (Mirrlees-Black et al., 1996; Mirrlees-Black et al, 1998).

## HELP AND SUPPORT

The 1998 BCS asked victims of burglary about the type of help or support they would have liked following the incident and whether or not they asked for, or were offered, help from any source.

In almost two-thirds (63%) of burglaries with entry, and a half (48%) of attempts, victims said they would have liked some form of help or support immediately after the incident. The types of help most often wanted were advice about security and crime prevention, information from the police, and moral support or someone to talk to (Table A4.25). Each of these were mentioned in a fifth of all burglaries. Help in reporting to the police or in making an insurance claim were rarely required.

For those incidents in which the victim said they would have liked help, the proportion who actually asked for, or were offered, help was 84% for burglary with entry and 65% for attempts. Overall, the proportion of incidents in which help was asked for, or offered, was 61% and 41% respectively.

The most frequent sources of help were family or friends (Table A4.25). In almost a half of burglaries with entry and a third of attempts, family or friends were asked for, or provided, help. Victim Support was also relatively frequently cited for burglary with entry (21%). The police were asked for, or offered, help in a tenth of burglaries where entry was gained. Other organisations were rarely involved.

It is not possible to assess from the BCS whether the type of help provided to victims was appropriate to their needs.

Burglary of domestic dwellings

# Security and insurance

This Section considers the extent to which households protect themselves from the experience and consequences of burglary victimisation. First, the Section examines trends in home contents insurance cover, variations in cover for different types of household and the proportion of burglaries in which victims claim on insurance policies. Second, the Section addresses the issue of home security: trends in home security; variation in security levels among different households; and the effectiveness of security measures in preventing victimisation.

## TREND IN INSURANCE COVERAGE

The BCS asks respondents whether or not the contents of their home are insured against theft. The proportion of households with home contents insurance policies has remained relatively stable throughout the 1990s at about four-fifths (Table 5.1).

**Table 5.1 Trend in home contents insurance coverage<sup>3</sup>, 1992 to 1998 BCS**

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1998</u>
% of households with home contents insurance	83	82	81	82
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<u>4,789</u>	<u>7,178</u>	<u>16,190</u>	<u>14,800</u>

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. The question asked is: 'Are the contents of your home insured against theft?'

## UNEQUAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Although four-fifths of households were insured against theft of property, the 1998 BCS indicates considerable variation in coverage among different groups of the population.

As one would expect, economically disadvantaged households and those in more deprived areas are less likely to be insured. Other factors associated with home contents insurance cover are household structure, length of residence, household occupation patterns and security levels. Table 5.2 shows those types of household less likely to be insured in 1998.

Tables A5.1 to A5.3 in Appendix A give the full results for both 1998 and 1996. The picture is similar for both years.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table 5.2 Households least likely to have home contents insurance , 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentage with home contents insurance</i>			
<b>Household structure</b>		<b>Household occupation</b>	
Head of household:		Household never left unoccupied overnight in the last year	72
Aged between 16 and 24	47		
One adult living alone with children	49		
Single	65	<b>Household security</b>	
Divorced	69	Less than two security devices <sup>5</sup>	69
Separated	64		
		<b>Locality</b>	
<b>Socio-economic characteristics</b>		Inner city areas	61
Head of household unemployed	42	Council estate areas	65
Home rented from council/housing association	51	Areas with high level of disorder <sup>6</sup>	65
Household income under £5,000 a year	57		
Home is a flat	59	<b>Region</b>	
Head of household economically inactive <sup>3</sup>	59	Merseyside	64
Household does not own a car	62	London	68
Home rented privately	62		
		<b>ACORN areas</b>	
<b>Length of residence in household</b>		Multi-ethnic, low income	41
Respondent resident for less than a year	66	Council estates, greatest hardship	51
Respondent resident for 1 to 2 years	74	Council estates, high unemployment	57
		Better-off executives, inner city areas	63
<b>Ethnicity<sup>4</sup></b>		Council estates, better-off homes	66
Afro-Caribbean	53	Older people, less prosperous areas	74
Asian	67		
		<b>All households</b>	<b>82</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Respondents were asked: "Are the contents of your home insured against theft?".
3. Economically inactive includes students, temporary sick, permanent disability or sickness, and looking after the home. It does not include the retired.
4. Respondents' ethnic group.
5. Households with none or only one of the following security measures: burglar alarm; security lights; deadlocks; window locks and window bars or grilles at time of interview.
6. Areas in which the interviewer said that litter/rubbish or vandalism/graffiti or both were 'very' or 'fairly' big problems. Further details in the Glossary.

### REASONS FOR NOT BEING INSURED

The 1998 BCS asked respondents who did not have home contents insurance the main reason why they were uninsured. The most common reason was that it was too expensive (42%). The next most frequently cited reason was that they had not got round to arranging or renewing a policy (26%). Not considering their property at risk and that they could not be bothered were mentioned by a tenth each. Only 1% said they had been refused by an insurance company (Table A5.4).

Among uninsured households the expense of policies was mentioned more often by households with the following characteristics:

- **one adult living alone with children** (58%);
- the head of household is **divorced** (51%) or **separated** (51%);
- the respondent is **Afro-Caribbean** (51%);
- **low household income**: under £5,000 a year (55%);
- the head of household is **unemployed** (53%) or **economically inactive** (55%)<sup>1</sup>;
- home is **rented** from a Council or Housing Association (47%);
- in **inner-cities** (47%);
- in **council estate areas** (47%);
- in areas with **high levels of physical disorder** (49)<sup>2</sup>;
- in **Merseyside** (52%), the **North East** (46%) and **London** (46%).

The question was also asked in the 1994 and 1996 sweeps. Between 1994 and 1998 the proportion citing the expense of policies as the main reason for not being insured has fallen from 51% to 42%.

## BURGLARY VICTIMS AND INSURANCE

### Insurance cover in 1997

The BCS asks victims of burglaries involving property loss or damage whether they had an insurance policy at the time which covered any of the stolen or damaged property. The 1998 BCS estimated that just over a half (54%) of these burglaries were covered by insurance (56% of successful burglaries and 52% of attempts).

Levels of cover varied by victim characteristics (Table A5.5). Those patterns identified for all households in the sample (see Unequal insurance coverage, p 33) also apply to victims.<sup>3</sup>

1. Economically inactive includes students, temporary sick, permanently disabled/sick and looking after the home. Excludes retired.
2. Areas in which the interviewer said that litter/rubbish or vandalism/graffiti or both were 'very' or 'fairly' big problems.
3. Due to limitations in the number of burglary incidents it is only possible to examine insurance cover by selected victim characteristics. The results in Table A5.5 are based on combined 1996 and 1998 sweeps.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A5.6 shows the proportion of incidents covered by insurance for different property offences. Vehicle-related offences were more likely to be covered by insurance than burglary, but for most other property offences the level of cover was lower.

### Trend in insurance cover

Since 1992 BCS the proportion of burglaries in which the household was insured has fallen, although it remained stable between 1996 and 1998 sweeps (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Proportion of burglary incidents involving property loss or damage covered by insurance, 1992 to 1998 BCS

<i>% covered by insurance</i>	1992	1994	1996	1998
<b>All burglary</b>	59	60	53	54
Attempts	58	57	52	52
With entry	60	61	54	56
With loss	59	64	56	60

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

### Insurance claims in 1997

Victims who were insured did not always claim on their insurance policies (Table A5.7). In only 56% of burglaries in which the victim was insured was a claim actually made (31% of all burglaries). Burglaries with a higher amount of property loss or damage were more likely to result in claims (Table A5.8).

The most common reason for not claiming, cited in a third (33%) of incidents, was that the 'excess' on the policy meant it was not financially worthwhile (Table A5.9). In 17% of incidents the victim said they had not claimed because they could not be bothered or there was too much paperwork. Loss of a no-claims bonus, concern that premiums would increase or concern about being required to increase security were rarely mentioned.

### TREND IN HOME SECURITY

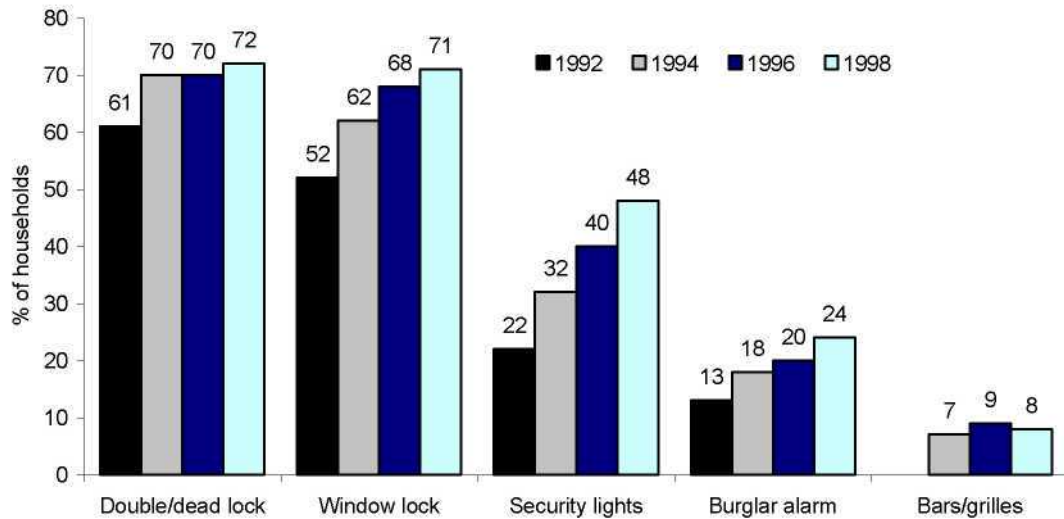
The 1998 BCS estimated that almost a half (48%) of all households had either an external or internal security light which operated on a timer or sensor, and a quarter (24%) had burglar alarms installed. Households were even more likely to have double or deadlocks (72%), window locks (71%) or security chains or bolts (59%). Bars or grilles on windows (8%) and dummy burglar alarms (3%) were least common.

Since 1992 ownership of security devices increased considerably (Figure 5.1). Between 1992 and 1998 the proportion of households with security lights more than doubled and ownership of burglar alarms almost doubled. The proportion of households with double or deadlocks and window locks also increased. Ownership of window bars or grilles remained relatively stable between 1994 and 1998.



Table A5.10 gives the trend information for more types of security practice, including the security marking of property and having a home security survey carried out by the police.

Figure 5.1 - Trend in security devices, 1992 to 1998 BCS



#### GARAGE AND SHED SECURITY

The 1998 BCS introduced some new questions to assess the extent to which garages and sheds were secured by their owners. Among households who owned a shed, the majority said their shed either had a lock or alarm (Table 5.4). However, a quarter of sheds were unsecured, with neither a lock nor an alarm. Furthermore, of those with a lock, 16% admitted that they often left their sheds unattended and unlocked. Garages were more likely to be secured. Only a tenth said their garages had neither an alarm nor a lock. 14% of those whose garages had a lock said they often left them unattended and unlocked.

Table 5.4 Shed and garage security, 1998 BCS

	Sheds	Garages
<i>Percentage with:</i>		
Lock only	72	82
Alarm only	1	3
Both alarm and lock	2	6
Neither	25	10
<i>Unweighted N</i>	4,408	3,044
<i>Percentage of locked sheds/garages which were:</i>		
Never left unlocked while unattended	79	80
Occasionally left unlocked and unattended	6	5
Often left unlocked and unattended	16	14
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,273	2,672

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Often is if left unlocked and unattended once a week or more often. Occasional is if twice a month or less often.

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### UNEQUAL SECURITY COVERAGE

A security scale was constructed to measure the unequal distribution of security. The scale was based upon the following security devices: burglar alarms; security lights; deadlocks; window locks; and window bars or grilles.<sup>4</sup> The scale thus ranged from zero to five - zero representing none of these security measures at time of interview, and five all security measures.

In 1998 the mean security score was 2.2 (Table 5.5). However, there was considerable variation in the number of security measures households owned. 8% of households did not have any of the security measures, while 15% had four or more.

Table 5.5 Security coverage, 1998 BCS

Number of security devices	1994	1996	1998
None	13	11	8
One	25	22	19
Two	32	31	30
Three	21	24	28
Four	8	12	14
Five	1	1	1
<b>Mean number</b>	1.9	2.1	2.2
<b>Unweighted N</b>	<b>7,217</b>	<b>7,971</b>	<b>7,396</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Scale was based upon the following security devices: burglar alarms; security lights; deadlocks; window locks; and window bars or grilles.

Between 1994 and 1998 the mean number of security devices increased from 1.9 to 2.2. In 1994 only 30% of households had three or more security measures, in 1998 43% did so.

Ownership of security devices varies greatly among different types of household. Table 5.6 shows those households with lower levels of home security in 1998.

Young households, households with one adult and children, and economically disadvantaged households are particularly likely to have low levels of security. The household types with low levels of security are similar to those identified as being least likely to have home contents insurance. Examining the relationship between insurance and security shows almost a half of those without home contents insurance had fewer than two security devices.

Tables A5.11 to A5.13 give the full results for different types of household in both 1996 and 1998. The patterns are generally similar across the two sweeps.

4. The security measures were those at time of interview.

**Table 5.6 Households with lower levels of home security, 1998 BCS**

<i>Proportion with less than two security measures</i>			
<b>Household structure</b>		<b>Household occupation</b>	
Head of household:		Household never left unoccupied overnight in the last year	33
Aged between 16 and 24	44		
One adult living alone with children	43		
Separated	40	<b>Household insurance</b>	
Single	39	No home contents insurance	48
Divorced	38		
Aged 75 or older	36	<b>Locality</b>	
		Council estate areas	34
<b>Socio-economic characteristics</b>		Areas with high level of disorder <sup>2</sup>	32
Home rented from council/housing association	46	Inner city areas	30
Home is a flat	43	<b>Region</b>	
Home rented privately	42	Wales	39
Household does not own a car	42	North East	33
Household income under £5,000 a year	41		
Head of household unemployed	38		
Head of household economically inactive <sup>2</sup>	37	<b>ACORN areas</b>	
		Affluent greys, rural communities	46
<b>Length of residence</b>		Council estates, high unemployment	40
Respondent resident for less than a year	36	Better-off executives, inner city areas	40
		Multi-ethnic, low income	38
<b>Ethnicity<sup>2</sup></b>		Older people, less prosperous areas	37
Afro-Caribbean	39	Council estates, greatest hardship	37
		<b>All households</b>	<b>28</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. See notes 3, 4 and 6 to Table 5.2.
3. Security scale is constructed from the following security devices: burglar alarms; security lights; deadlocks; window locks or window bars and grilles at time of interview.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY

The logistic regression analysis reported in Section 3 shows that security measures are strongly associated with a reduced risk of victimisation, after other factors have been taken into account. Households without any of the security devices measured are most at risk. Those with only window locks or deadlocks burglar alarms have far lower risks, and those with a burglar alarm, security lights or window grilles are at even lower risk. The effectiveness of home security is explored further here.

### Security levels among victims and non-victims

One way of examining the effectiveness of home security is to compare the security levels of non-victims with that of victims - both at the time of the burglary and at the time of interview. Table 5.7 shows both victims of burglary with entry and attempts had lower levels of security

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than non-victims at the time the incident occurred. For instance, 41% of victims of burglary with entry had double locks or deadlocks at the time the incident occurred compared to 72% of non-victims. This suggests that security measures protect households from burglary. Furthermore, victims of burglary with entry tended to have lower levels of security than victims of attempts. So, for example, 50% of households who experienced an attempted burglary had double locks or deadlocks at the time, compared to 41% of households who experienced a successful burglary. This suggests that security measures were also effective in preventing entry to the home after the household had been targeted by burglars.

Table 5.7 also shows that victims increase their security levels following a burglary.<sup>5</sup> For example, the proportion of victims of successful burglaries with double or dead locks increased from 41% to 73%.

Table 5.7 Victimization and ownership of home security devices, 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	Non-victims	Victims of burglary with entry		Victims of attempted burglary	
	Currently	At time of incident	Currently	At time of incident	Currently
Burglar alarm	24	19	34	25	31
Double /deadlocks <sup>3</sup>	72	41	73	50	77
Window locks <sup>4</sup>	71	41	68	55	73
Light timers/sensors <sup>5</sup>					
Internal	23	8	22	11	26
External	38	17	36	21	43
Window bar/grilles	8	4	18	8	10
Unweighted N	7,396	180	209	164	242

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes victims of burglary at a previous address.
3. Double or deadlocks on the outside doors of the house.
4. Windows with locks which need keys to open them.
5. Lights that operate either on a timer or sensor switch.

### Proportion of burglaries where entry not gained

Another way of assessing whether security measures help prevent entry to the home after it has been targeted by burglars, is to examine the proportion of incidents where offenders failed to gain entry for households with different levels of security. Table 5.8 shows that offenders were less likely to gain entry to homes with more security devices installed. Offenders failed to gain entry

5. It is because victims tend to increase their security following a burglary that simply examining current levels of ownership among victims and non-victims could misleadingly suggest that security actually increases risk. The BCS is one of only a few studies which measures the security levels of victims both at the time of and after a burglary.

in more than a half of all incidents against households with two or more security devices, whereas for households with no security only a third of incidents were attempts.

Table 5.8 Proportion of incidents where entry not gained, 1998 BCS

	Proportion of burglaries where entry not gained by the offender
Number of security devices	
None	35
One	46
Two	57
Three or more	56
Households with:	
Burglar alarm	59
Double/deadlocks <sup>3</sup>	51
Window locks <sup>4</sup>	54
Security lights <sup>5</sup>	59

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Security scale constructed from the following security devices: burglar alarms; security lights; deadlocks; window locks; and window bars and grilles. Measured at time of incident.
3. Double or deadlocks on the outside doors of the house.
4. Windows with locks which need keys to open them.
5. Lights that operate either on a timer or sensor switch.

### Risks of burglary before and after installing burglar alarms

The BCS also measures the effectiveness of burglar alarms for households that had an alarm installed within the last five years, by comparing the risk of attempted burglary before and after installation. The results suggest that the number of attempted burglaries per year after the installation of an alarm was lower than before the alarm was installed. It seems likely that burglar alarms would reduce the risk of burglary with entry in a similar way.

The evidence from the BCS therefore suggests security devices are beneficial in reducing the risk of burglary, although they do not completely prevent victimisation.

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## Appendix A Additional tables

Table A2.1 Number of BCS incidents of crime, in thousands, 1981 to 1997

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	% change 1981 to 1997	% change 1995 to 1997
<b>Home Vandalism</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-18</b>
<b>Burglary in a dwelling</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-7</b>
Attempts	275	383	533	508	756	758	761	177	0
With entry	473	532	655	864	1,020	998	878	86	-12
With loss	374	454	517	708	818	780	664	77	-15
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>-10</b>
Attempts	4	20	33	53	108	97	111	2916	14
With entry	218	186	203	308	592	559	479	120	-14
With loss	209	164	196	275	536	432	425	103	-2
<b>Theft inside the home</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Theft outside the home</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>-17</b>
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>2,916</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-19</b>
Theft from vehicle	1,287	1,537	2,098	2,412	2,565	2,525	2,164	68	-14
Theft of vehicle	286	284	387	520	544	500	375	31	-25
Attempts of & from	180	294	430	895	1,236	1,292	943	425	-27
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-13</b>
<b>All BCS violence</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>3,381</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-17</b>
Domestic violence	290	286	442	538	1,179	992	835	187	-16
Mugging	252	208	229	261	323	387	390	55	1
Stranger	844	866	840	803	806	947	681	-19	-28
Acquaintance	774	642	780	1,050	1,318	1,729	1,462	89	-15
<b>All BCS crime</b>	<b>11,045</b>	<b>11,891</b>	<b>13,311</b>	<b>15,129</b>	<b>18,561</b>	<b>19,161</b>	<b>16,437</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>-14</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1982 to 1998 BCS.
2. For vandalism, burglary, bicycle thefts, thefts inside and thefts outside and vehicle crime the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (see Table A2.3) by 21,685,901 households in England and Wales.
3. For violence the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates by 41,539,546. Violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch thefts.
4. Note that estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to population estimates.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table A2.2 Range on BCS estimates of number of crimes in 1997**

	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Higher estimate
<b>Home vandalism</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>1,227</b>
<b>Burglary in a dwelling</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,806</b>
Attempts	761	667	855
With entry	878	756	1,000
With loss	664	571	756
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>663</b>
Attempts	111	82	139
With entry	479	414	545
With loss	425	364	486
<b>Theft inside the home</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>357</b>
<b>Theft outside the home</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,404</b>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>621</b>
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>3,294</b>	<b>3,676</b>
Theft from vehicle	2,164	2,010	2,318
Theft of vehicle	375	327	424
Attempts of & from	943	858	1,029
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>1,774</b>
<b>All BCS violence</b>	<b>3,381</b>	<b>2,984</b>	<b>3,787</b>
Domestic violence	835	640	1,030
Mugging	390	279	502
Stranger	681	548	815
Acquaintance	1,462	1,200	1,724
<b>All BCS crime</b>	<b>16,437</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. See notes 2 and 3 to Table A2.1.
3. The best estimate is the estimate from the sample. As these are derived from a sample they are subject to sampling error: a different sample might result in different estimates. The lower and higher estimates are for the 95% confidence interval. There is 95% certainty that the number lies between these two figures.
4. It is not possible to construct confidence ranges for all BCS crime because household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult. The two types of rate cannot be combined (see Glossary for details of household and personal offences).
5. The lower and higher estimates given here differ to those published in The 1998 British Crime Survey, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 21/98. This is because the design effects have been revised.



Table A2.3 Statistical significance of change in BCS rates of victimisation between 1981 /1993/1995 and 1997

<i>Rates per 10,000</i>	1981	1993	1995	1997	% change 1981 to 1997	% change 1993 to 1997	% change 1995 to 1997
<b>Home vandalism</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>504</b>	-9	<b>-27</b> *	<b>-19</b> *
<b>Burglary in a dwelling</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>85</b> *	<b>-12</b>	-9
Attempts	150	364	358	351	134 *	-4	-2
With entry	258	491	471	405	57 *	-18 *	-14
With loss	204	394	368	306	50 *	-22 *	-17 *
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>125</b> *	<b>-19</b> *	<b>-13</b>
Attempts	2	52	46	51	2450 *	-2	11
With entry	119	285	264	221	86 *	-22 *	-16
With loss	114	258	204	196	72 *	-24 *	-4
<b>Theft inside the home</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>18</b>	7	-8
<b>Theft outside the home</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>583</b>	-7	<b>-18</b> *	<b>-11</b>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>114</b> *	<b>-13</b>	<b>-19</b> *
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>68</b> *	<b>-23</b> *	<b>-21</b> *
Theft from vehicle	702	1,235	1,192	998	42 *	-19 *	-16 *
Theft of vehicle	156	262	236	173	11	-34 *	-27 *
Attempts of & from	98	595	610	435	344 *	-27 *	-29 *
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-14</b> *	<b>-15</b> *
<b>All BCS violence</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>46</b> *	-8	<b>-18</b> *
Domestic violence	75	288	241	201	168 *	-30 *	-17
Mugging	65	79	94	94	45	19	0
Stranger	218	197	230	164	-25	-17	-29 *
Acquaintance	200	322	420	352	76 *	9	-16

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1994, 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Rates for property crime are quoted per 10,000 households. Rates for violence per 10,000 adults.
3. \* indicates the change is statistically significant at the 5% level (two tailed).

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table A2.4 Proportion of burglaries with entry and with loss, 1981 to 1997**

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997
Burglary in a dwelling	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Attempts	37	42	45	37	43	43	46
With entry	63	58	55	63	57	57	54
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Burglary in a dwelling	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
With loss	50	50	44	52	46	44	41
No loss	50	50	56	48	54	56	59
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998 BCS.

Table A3.1 Percentage of households victims once or more, 1981 to 1997

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997
<i>Percentage of households victims once or more of:</i>							
<b>Home Vandalism</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	3.6	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Burglary in a dwelling</b>	<b>3.4</b>	4.0	4.9	<b>5.3</b>	6.5	6.3	5.6
Attempts	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.9	2.9	2.7
With entry	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.2
With loss	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.6
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	1.6	<b>2.7</b>	2.6	<b>2.2</b>
Attempts	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
With entry	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	2.3	2.2	1.8
With loss	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.2	2.1	1.7	1.6
<b>Other home based thefts</b>	<b>4.6</b>	4.7	4.7	4.9	5.6	<b>5.1</b>	4.6
Theft inside the home	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6
Theft outside the home	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.6	5.1	4.6	4.1
<i>Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:</i>							
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>	5.4	<b>5.9</b>	4.8
<i>Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:</i>							
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>
Theft from vehicle	8.2	9.4	11.8	11.8	12.3	12.2	10.2
Theft of vehicle	2.1	2.0	2.5	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.1
Attempts of/from	1.1	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	6.4	4.8
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>	8.4	7.6	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.5</b>	6.7
<i>Percentage of adults, victims once or more of:</i>							
<b>All BCS violence</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	3.6	4.7	<b>5.2</b>	4.7
Domestic violence	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.9
Mugging	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8
Stranger	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3
Acquaintance	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.1
<b>Any BCS crime</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>34.1</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Risks for violence are based on adults. Risks for property crimes are based on households.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A3.2 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by household type

% victims once or more	All burglary		With entry		Attempts	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
<b>Age of head of household</b>						
<b>16-24</b>	11.5	15.2	7.4	11.4	4.9	4.7
<b>25-44</b>	7.7	6.5	4.6	3.5	3.5	3.4
<b>45-64</b>	5.5	4.8	3.1	2.5	2.7	2.4
<b>65-74</b>	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.9	2.1	1.7
<b>75+</b>	4.6	4.1	2.8	2.7	2.0	1.5
<b>Household structure</b>						
Head of household under 60						
Single adult & child(ren)	14.9	11.2	9.1	6.3	7.0	6.0
Adults & child(ren)	6.0	5.3	3.4	2.9	2.8	2.7
No children	6.7	6.4	3.9	3.8	3.1	2.9
Head of household over 60	4.6	4.0	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.9
<b>Head of household's marital status</b>						
Married	4.9	4.2	2.8	2.2	2.3	2.2
Cohabiting	8.1	6.2	5.4	3.5	3.0	3.0
Divorced	9.3	7.7	5.6	4.1	4.1	4.1
Separated	11.4	9.1	7.9	5.3	4.3	4.1
Widowed	5.0	4.5	2.7	2.8	2.5	1.7
Single	9.2	9.7	5.2	6.3	4.5	4.0
<b>Accommodation type</b>						
Houses	6.1	5.3	3.6	2.8	2.8	2.7
Detached	5.1	4.1	3.3	2.5	2.0	1.7
Semi-detached	5.7	5.0	3.1	2.5	2.9	2.7
Mid terrace	7.3	6.5	4.3	3.4	3.3	3.4
End terrace	7.1	7.1	4.3	3.6	3.1	3.8
Flats/maisonettes	7.3	7.2	4.3	5.0	3.3	2.5
<b>Length of residence</b>						
Less than one year	10.1	<b>9.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	3.4
One to two years	5.3	<b>6.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	3.1
Two to five years	6.8	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	3.2
Five to ten years	6.6	<b>5.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	2.8
Ten years or longer	5.3	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	2.2
<b>All households</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Ethnic groups</b>		1995/1997		1995/1997		1995/1997
White		5.8		3.3		2.7
Afro-Caribbean		7.9		4.0		4.0
Asian		9.9		6.4		4.1
<b>All households</b>		5.9		3.4		2.8

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. This refers to the ethnic group of the respondent. The 1996 and 1998 data have been combined to improve the reliability of the results.

Table A3.3 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by socio-economic characteristics

% victims once or more	All burglary		With entry		Attempts	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
<b>Household income</b>						
Less than £5,000	8.0	8.3	4.7	5.5	3.8	3.2
£5,000<£10,000	6.3	5.8	3.7	2.8	2.7	3.1
£10,000<£20,000	5.4	5.3	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.6
£20,000<£30,000	5.6	4.6	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.3
£30,000 or more	5.6	5.0	3.8	2.8	2.0	2.4
<b>Tenure</b>						
Owner occupiers	5.3	4.2	3.0	2.3	2.5	2.1
Social renters	8.9	8.0	5.2	4.4	4.1	4.2
Private renters	6.9	9.7	4.8	6.5	2.6	3.6
<b>Head of household's employment status</b>						
In employment	6.1	5.3	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.7
Unemployed	10.2	10.1	6.2	5.9	5.1	5.2
Retired	4.5	3.6	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.7
Other economically inactive	9.1	9.5	5.2	5.9	4.3	4.1
<b>Car ownership</b>						
Car owner	5.6	5.0	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.6
Non-car owner	8.1	7.7	4.9	4.9	3.5	3.0
<b>Home contents insurance<sup>2</sup></b>						
Yes	5.5	5.0	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.3
<b>No</b>	9.4	8.6	5.9	4.7	4.0	4.4
<b>All households</b>	6.3	5.6	3.7	3.2	2.9	2.7

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Risks based on households.

2. The question was "Are the contents of your home insured against theft?"

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table A3.4 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by household occupation**

% victims once or more	All burglary		With entry		Attempts	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
<b>Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday<sup>2</sup></b>						
Never	na.	5.2	na.	2.9	na.	2.5
Less than 3 hours	na.	4.8	na.	2.7	na.	2.3
3 but less than 5 hours	na.	5.9	na.	3.6	na.	2.6
5 hours or more	na.	6.2	na.	3.5	na.	3.1
<b>Time home left unoccupied overnight in previous year</b>						
Never	5.5	5.2	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.8
1 to 11 nights	6.5	6.0	3.3	3.9	3.5	2.3
12 to 32 nights	5.6	5.2	3.8	3.0	2.1	2.5
More than a month	5.5	7.2	2.6	3.7	3.1	3.8
<b>All households</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. Question not asked in the 1996 BCS.

**Table A3.5 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by home security<sup>2</sup>**

% victims once or more	All burglary		With entry		Attempts	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
<b>Type of security device</b>						
None	13.8	15.2	9.9	10.5	5.3	6.1
Deadlock or window locks only	5.1	4.2	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.1
Burglar alarm, security light or window grilles	2.3	2.9	1.2	1.7	1.2	1.3
<b>Number of security devices</b>						
None	13.8	15.2	9.9	10.5	5.3	6.1
One	6.6	4.9	3.6	2.6	3.1	2.5
Two	3.3	4.1	1.9	2.5	1.4	1.7
Three	2.2	2.1	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.9
Four or five	1.4	2.2	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.4
<b>All households</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. The security measure is at time of incident for victims and time of interview for non-victims. If the current level of security of burgled households was used this would be misleading as victims may well increase their security following victimisation.
3. Based on the random half of the sample who were asked current security questions.

Table A3.6 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by area type

% victims once or more	All burglary		With entry		Attempts	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
<b>Area type<sup>2</sup></b>						
Inner city	10.3	8.5	5.5	4.4	5.4	4.5
Urban	6.3	5.9	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.8
Rural	3.9	3.4	2.6	2.2	1.5	1.3
Council estate area <sup>3</sup>	9.1	8.1	5.3	4.2	4.2	4.4
Non-council estate area	5.6	5.1	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.3
<b>Level of physical disorder<sup>4</sup></b>						
Low	na.	4.8	na.	2.7	na.	2.3
High	na.	12.0	na.	7.0	na.	5.6
<b>Location</b>						
Main road	na.	6.6	na.	4.3	na.	2.5
Side road	na.	6.2	na.	3.5	na.	3.0
Cul-de-sac	na.	4.3	na.	2.1	na.	2.5
<b>All households</b>	6.3	5.6	3.7	3.2	2.9	2.7

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. Rural areas are those that fall into ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27. Inner city areas are defined according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure and social class profile. The remaining areas are urban.
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 and (b) rubbish and litter in the area. Areas with high physical disorder are those where either vandalism or rubbish, or both, were a 'very' and 'fairly' big problem. Areas with low disorder were where neither vandalism or litter was a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem.

Table A3.7 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by region

% victims once or more	All burglary		With entry		Attempts	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
<b>Region</b>						
North East	8.3	8.6	3.8	6.0	4.7	2.9
North West	7.4	6.8	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.4
Merseyside	8.3	6.7	3.7	3.9	5.0	3.3
Yorkshire/Humber	8.9	8.3	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.2
East Midlands	5.6	5.6	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.4
West Midlands	6.4	5.9	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.9
Eastern	4.5	3.1	2.8	1.8	2.0	1.3
London	7.2	5.7	4.3	2.9	3.1	2.9
South East	4.2	4.3	2.7	2.6	1.7	2.0
South West	5.1	4.4	3.5	2.8	1.7	1.6
Wales	6.3	4.8	4.3	2.6	2.4	2.6
<b>All households</b>	6.3	5.6	3.7	3.2	2.9	2.7

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Risks based on households.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A3.8 Proportion of households victims of burglary, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
<b>Thriving</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	3.7	2.3	1.5
Affluent greys, rural communities	3.3	2.0	1.3
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	4.3	3.0	1.6
<b>Expanding</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Affluent executives, family areas	4.2	1.9	2.4
Well-off workers, family areas	3.8	2.0	1.8
<b>Rising</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Affluent urbanites, town and city	9.9	6.6	3.5
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	5.1	2.7	2.6
Better-off executives, inner city areas	8.7	5.9	3.5
<b>Settling</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Comfortable middle-agers, mature home owning areas	4.8	2.9	2.1
Skilled workers, home-owning areas	5.8	3.3	2.8
<b>Aspiring</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>
New home-owners, mature communities	5.2	2.6	2.9
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	7.9	5.0	3.3
<b>Striving</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Older people, less prosperous areas	7.7	4.2	4.1
Council estates, better off homes	9.8	5.4	4.9
Council estates, high unemployment	6.0	3.5	2.8
Council estates, greatest hardship	13.2	7.6	6.3
Multi-ethnic, low-income areas	10.1	5.0	5.3
<b>All households</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Notes:

1. Source combined 1996 and 1998 BCS to improve reliability of estimates. Risks based on households.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).



**Table A3.9 Incidence risk of burglary by ACORN, 1994/1996/1998 BCS**

	Incidence risk	Indexed risk
2.6 Agricultural villages, home based workers	248	31
3.8 Home owning areas, well off older residents	329	41
1.3 Mature affluent home owning areas	335	41
9.27 Rural areas, mixed occupations	363	45
1.2 Villages with wealthy commuters	365	45
4.10 Affluent working families with mortgages	370	46
5.13 Home owning family areas	408	50
9.26 Mature established home owning areas	469	58
15.48 Council flats, elderly people, health problems	500	62
1.4 Affluent suburbs, older families	519	64
4.12 Transient workforces, living at place of work	520	64
4.11 Affluent working couples with mortgages new homes	534	66
10.30 Established home owning areas, skilled workers	538	66
11.34 Mature home owning areas, skilled workers	538	66
5.14 Home owning family areas, older children	542	67
5.15 Families with mortgages, younger children	557	69
2.7 Holiday retreats, older people, home based workers	560	69
7.19 Apartments, young professional singles and couples	560	69
3.9 Private flats, elderly people	654	81
1.5 Mature well off suburbs	656	81
9.28 Established home owning areas	680	84
1.1 Wealthy suburbs, large detached house	700	86
11.33 Council areas, some new home owners	747	92
9.29 Home owning areas, council tenants, retired people	767	95
11.35 Low rise estates, older workers, new home owners	817	101
6.17 Flats & mortgages, singles and young working couples	825	102
10.31 Home owners in older properties, younger workers	845	104
7.20 Gentrified multi-ethnic areas	899	111
13.39 Home owners, small council flats, single pensioners	975	120
12.36 Home owning multi-ethnic areas, young families	1010	125
6.16 Well off town and city area	1028	127
8.23 Affluent city centre areas, tenements and flats	1038	128
15.47 Estates with high unemployment	1129	139
17.54 Multi-ethnic, high unemployment, overcrowding	1131	139
10.32 Home owning areas with skilled workers	1139	140
14.42 Council areas, young families, some new home owners	1154	142
12.37 Multi-occupied town centres, mixed occupations	1158	143
14.43 Council areas, young families, many lone parents	1160	143
14.41 Better-off council areas, new home owners	1178	145
17.52 Multi-ethnic, large families, overcrowding	1180	145
13.40 Council areas, older people, health problems	1200	148
12.38 Multi-ethnic areas, white collar workers	1227	151
8.25 Converted flats and bedsits, single people	1249	154
8.21 Prosperous enclaves, highly qualified executives	1281	158
14.45 Low rise council housing, less well-off families	1311	162
8.24 Partially gentrified multi-ethnic areas	1476	182
17.53 Multi-ethnic, severe unemployment, lone parents	1724	213

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## Burglary of domestic dwellings

	Incidence risk	Indexed risk
14.46 Council areas, residents with health problems	1786	220
14.44 Multi-occupied terraces, multi-ethnic areas	1802	222
15.49 Council flats, very high unemployment, singles	1889	233
8.22 Academic centres, students and young professional	1922	237
16.50 Council areas, high unemployment, lone parents	2007	247
16.51 Council flats, greatest hardship, many lone parents	2052	253
6.18 Furnished flats and bedsits, younger single people	2335	288
<b>Average risk</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>100</b>

Table A3.10 Repeat victimisation, 1995 and 1997

<i>Number of times victims victimised in the year</i>	1995			1997		
	Once	Twice	Three or more	Once	Twice	Three or more
<b>Home vandalism</b>	67	14	19	63	20	18
<b>Burglary in a dwelling</b>	81	12	7	81	13	7
With entry	84	10	5	86	9	5
Attempts	84	11	6	81	13	7
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	86	12	2	82	13	5
<b>Other home based thefts</b>	74	13	12	74	14	11
Theft inside a dwelling	72	8	20	75	12	13
Theft outside a dwelling	76	13	11	75	14	11
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	86	12	2	85	13	2
<b>Vehicle-related thefts</b>	72	20	8	77	16	8
Theft of vehicle	89	10	1	94	5	1
Theft from vehicle	78	16	6	80	13	6
Attempts	80	16	5	86	9	5
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	75	16	7	72	18	10
<b>All violence</b>	63	16	21	69	15	16

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS

Table A3.11 Burglary with entry, repeat victimisation, 1995 and 1997

<i>Number of burglaries:</i>	% respondents		% victims		% incidents	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
None	96	97	0	0	0	0
One	3	3	84	86	66	68
Two	<1	<1	10	9	16	14
Three or more	<1	<1	5	5	18	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	16,348	14,947	624	469	808	607

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.

Table A3.12 Attempted burglary, repeat victimisation, 1995 and 1997

<i>Number of burglaries:</i>	% respondents		% victims		% incidents	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
None	97	97	0	0	0	0
One	2	2	84	81	67	61
Two	<1	<1	11	13	17	20
Three or more	<1	<1	6	7	16	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	16,348	14,947	520	439	657	588

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A3.13 Proportion of households victims of attempted burglary in 1997 and 1995, by attempted burglary victimisation in previous four years

<i>Victims of attempted burglary</i>	<u>Percentage victims in 1995</u>	<u>Percentage victims in 1997</u>
Victim of attempted burglary in previous four years		
Yes	8.0	9.5
No	2.4	2.1
All	2.9	2.7

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Previous four years is January 1993 to end of 1996 for the 1998 BCS, January 1991 to end 1994 for the 1996 BCS.

Table A3.14 Proportion of households victims of burglary with loss in 1997 and 1995, by burglary with loss victimisation in previous four years

<i>Victims of burglary with loss</i>	<u>Percentage victims in 1995</u>	<u>Percentage victims in 1997</u>
Victim of burglary with loss in previous four years		
Yes	5.9	5.6
No	2.7	2.2
All	3.0	2.6

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Previous four years is January 1993 to end of 1996 for the 1998 BCS, January 1991 to end 1994 for the 1996 BCS.

Table A4.1 When burglaries occurred, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
During the week	71	71	69	73	75	67
At the weekend	29	30	31	27	26	33
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,181	953	672	505	509	448
Morning	11	8	13	10	8	6
Afternoon	24	21	29	26	17	15
Morning/afternoon	10	10	9	9	11	12
Evening	26	32	25	32	27	31
Night	23	23	19	17	29	30
Evening/night	7	6	6	7	8	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,156	944	654	496	502	448
Daylight	42	40	48	45	34	34
Dark	52	56	46	51	60	63
Dawn/dusk	6	4	6	4	6	3
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,147	938	647	493	500	445

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't know.

Table A4.2 Point and method of entry in burglaries, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
Back	50	48	50	48	48	47
Front	39	42	38	44	40	40
Side	9	6	10	6	8	7
More than one way	3	4	2	2	3	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>1,080</i>	<i>841</i>	<i>629</i>	<i>470</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>371</i>
Door	66	70	63	70	71	71
Window	40	37	44	36	35	38
Other	3	2	2	1	3	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>1,045</i>	<i>822</i>	<i>615</i>	<i>464</i>	<i>430</i>	<i>358</i>
Forced lock on door/window Removed/broke door panel/glass in window	47	50	36	37	63	68
Door unlocked/window open	27	23	29	24	24	23
Had a key	14	15	22	22	2	5
Pushed past person who opened door	3	4	5	6	1	1
False pretences	3	3	3	5	2	1
Other	4	5	4	6	4	3
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>1,076</i>	<i>854</i>	<i>637</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>365</i>

## Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Percentages may sum to more than 100 as more than one response was allowed.
4. Percentages differ to those previously published due to a change in the definition of false pretences.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A4.3 Point and method of entry in burglaries, by dwelling type, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	Detached/semi-detached		Terraced		Flats	
	Entry	Attempts	Entry	Attempts	Entry	Attempts
Back	55	54	55	55	28	18
Front	31	31	38	36	64	73
Side	12	12	4	4	6	5
More than one way	2	4	3	5	2	5
<i>Unweighted N</i>	487	353	390	315	218	151
Door	65	67	62	69	77	82
Window	45	40	41	39	27	22
Other	1	2	3	2	1	3
<i>Unweighted N</i>	478	341	386	302		143
Forced lock on door/window	37	68	36	61	37	68
Removed/broke door panel/glass in window	30	25	26	26	21	15
Door unlocked/window open	23	2	22	5	20	4
Had a key	4	0	6	1	7	3
Pushed past person who opened door	4	1	5	1	4	3
False pretences	4	3	5	4	8	5
Other	6	7	6	11	7	8
<i>Unweighted N</i>	493	343	399	309	230	150

Notes:

1. Data from the 1996 and 1998 BCS were combined to improve the reliability of the results
2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.4 Point and method of entry in burglaries, by time of day, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	During the day		During evening/night	
	Entry	Attempts	Entry	Attempts
Back	49	44	50	49
Front	42	46	39	39
Side	8	6	8	8
More than one way	1	4	3	5
<i>Unweighted N</i>	462	265	585	478
Door	72	78	62	68
Window	34	29	44	39
Other	2	5	2	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	453	250	576	463
Forced lock on door/window	31	60	41	67
Removed/broke door panel/glass in window	27	29	25	20
Door unlocked/window open	24	5	21	4
Had a key	7	2	3	<1
Pushed past person who opened door	3	2	6	1
False pretences	9	7	2	2
Other	4	5	8	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	489	265	587	464

Notes:

1. Data from the 1996 and 1998 BCS were combined to improve the reliability of the results.
2. Excludes don't knows.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A4.5 Point and method of entry in burglaries, 1992 to 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	Burglary with entry				Attempted burglary			
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1992	1994	1996	1998
Back	52	55	50	48	44	41	48	47
Front	38	36	38	44	50	50	40	40
Side	8	7	10	6	6	7	8	7
More than one way	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	385	589	629	470	214	475	451	371
Door	55	59	63	70	67	64	71	71
Window	50	46	44	36	37	45	35	38
Other	1	4	2	1	1	1	3	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	382	598	615	464	213	405	430	358
Forced lock on door/window	44	40	36	37	61	65	63	68
Removed/broke door panel/glass in window	24	26	29	24	33	25	24	23
Door unlocked/window open	21	18	22	22	5	4	2	5
Had a key	4	6	5	6	3	2	1	1
Pushed past person who opened door	2	1	3	5	<1	0	2	1
False pretences	5	8	4	6	3	3	4	3
Other	8	6	6	6	6	10	11	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	391	530	637	489		404	439	365

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.6 Method of entry in burglaries, by age of respondent, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	Age of victim					
	16-29		30-59		60 or over	
	Entry	Attempts	Entry	Attempts	Entry	Attempts
Forced lock on door/window	36	66	39	65	31	64
Removed/broke door panel/glass in window	28	23	28	26	22	16
Door unlocked/window open	19	3	23	4	25	3
Had a key	6	1	4	1	7	1
Pushed past person who opened door	7	1	4	1	2	2
False pretences	2	3	2	2	14	8
Other	7	10	6	7	6	12
<i>Unweighted N</i>	307	202	552	427	265	775

Notes:

1. Data from the 1996 and 1998 BCS were combined to improve the reliability of the results
2. Excludes don't knows.



Table A4.7 Victim responsibility in burglaries, 1992 to 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	Burglary< with entry				Attempted burglary			
	1992	1994	1996	1998	1992	1994	1996	1998
Someone else responsible	16	15	17	19	3	3	4	5
<i>Unweighted N</i>	425	653	690	519	254	485	556	486
<i>In what way responsible:</i>								
No-one responsible	84	85	83	81	97	97	96	95
Failed to lock or bolt windows/doors	10	7	9	10	2	1	2	2
Failed to close windows/doors	4	3	2	3	<1	<1	<1	1
Provoked offender	1	0	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1
Failed to put away	1	1	2	1	0	0	<1	<1
Failed to lock away	<1	<1	<1	<1	0	0	0	<1
Failed to set burglar alarm	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	2	4	3	4	0	1	2	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	425	653	690	519	254	485	556	486

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.8 Time home left unoccupied in burglaries, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<b>Time the home had been left empty at time of incident:</b>						
Home occupied	43	46	38	43	50	50
Home left empty	57	54	62	57	50	50
Less than 24 hours	48	47	52	49	42	44
For up to 3 days	4	3	4	4	3	3
For 3 or more days	6	3	6	4	4	3
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1212	986	682	516	530	470

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.9 Contact with offenders in burglaries, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<b>Type of contact</b>						
No-one at home	57	54	62	57	50	50
Someone at home	43	46	38	43	50	50
Unaware	22	22	22	23	22	20
Aware but did not see offender	5	6	1	2	11	11
Aware and did see offender	16	19	15	18	17	20
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1219	990	684	516	535	474
<b>Threats or force used</b>						
Violence used	6	7	10	10	1	4
Violence or threats used	9	11	12	13	4	7
Neither used	92	90	88	87	96	93
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1377	1105	760	563	617	542

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A4.10 Contact with offenders in burglaries, by time of day, 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	During the day		During evening/night	
	Entry	Attempts	Entry	Attempts
<b>Type of contact</b>				
No-one at home	66	76	47	34
Someone at home	34	24	53	66
Unaware	20	7	27	28
Aware but did not see offender	2	2	2	16
Aware and did see offender	13	15	24	23
<i>Unweighted N</i>	221	159	272	286
<b>Threats or force used</b>				
Violence used	5	3	16	4
Violence or threats used	9	6	19	9
Neither used	91	94	81	92
<i>Unweighted N</i>	221	160	275	288

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.11 Offender characteristics in burglaries, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<b>Able to say something about offender</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1289	1038	713	537	576	501
<b>Number of offenders</b>						
One	48	54	49	55	46	51
Two	36	27	36	26	35	29
Three	12	8	11	8	12	9
Four or more	6	11	4	11	7	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	412	349	260	220	152	129
<b>Sex of offender(s)</b>						
Male	88	88	85	86	92	91
Female	5	6	7	9	3	1
Both	7	6	8	4	5	8
<i>Unweighted N</i>	404	344	257	218	147	126
<b>Age of offender(s)<sup>4</sup></b>						
School age	17	16	16	13	18	24
Aged between 16 and 24	54	50	50	57	64	37
Aged 25 or older	34	39	39	38	24	40
<i>Unweighted N</i>	389	333	252	212	137	121
<b>Relationship to victim</b>						
Stranger	52	49	44	44	67	57
Known by sight or to speak to	21	17	19	17	24	17
Known well	28	34	37	39	9	26
<i>Unweighted N</i>	455	375	284	235	171	140

## Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Offender characteristics, including relationship to victim, based on those incidents in which the victim could say something about the offenders).
4. Percentages sum to more than 100 because if there was more than one offender more than one age group could be given.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A4.12 Items stolen in burglary with loss, 1994 to 1998 BCS

<i>Proportion of burglaries with loss involving theft of:</i>			
	<b>1994</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>
Jewellery	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>
Video	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>
Cash	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>
Stereo/Hi-Fi equipment	24	27	<b>25</b>
Television	21	21	<b>16</b>
Camera	17	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
Clothes	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Documents	<b>9</b>	7	<b>6</b>
Computer equipment	<b>8</b>	7	<b>9</b>
Purse/wallet	7	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>
Briefcase/bag	7	5	5
Credit cards	<b>6</b>	7	<b>13</b>
Tools	4	<b>6</b>	7
Bicycle	<b>3</b>	4	<b>3</b>
Cheque book	<b>3</b>	4	5
Car/van	2	1	1
Mobile phone	1	1	2
Car/van accessories/parts	<1	1	<1
Motorcycle/moped	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	521	549	<b>394</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1994 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.13 Trends in items stolen in burglary with loss, 1984 to 1998 BCS

<i>Proportion of burglaries with loss involving theft of:</i>						
	<b>1984</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>
Cash	<b>39</b>	37	41	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>
Video	<b>18</b>	24	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>
Stereo/Hi-Fi equipment	14	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	24	27	<b>25</b>
Television	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	21	21	<b>16</b>
Camera	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	12	17	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
Credit cards/cheque book	4	7	7	7	<b>8</b>	15
<i>Unweighted N</i>	270	<b>298</b>	346	521	549	<b>394</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1984 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.14 Costs of items stolen in burglary with loss, 1996 and 1998 BCS

	Burglary with loss	
	1996	1998
<i>Value of property stolen:</i>		
Less than £50	12	14
£50 to £99	6	8
£100 to £249	12	17
£250 to £499	17	11
£500 to £999	20	15
£1,000 to £4,999	27	28
£5,000 or more	6	8
Mean cost	£1,181	£1,416
Median cost	£500	£500
<u>Unweighted N</u>	530	394

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. There are slight differences in the question wording in the 1998 and 1996 surveys.
3. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.15 Damage in burglaries, 1994 to 1998 BCS

	All burglary			Burglary with entry			Attempted burglary		
	1994	1996	1998	1994	1996	1998	1994	1996	1998
% with damage:	72	66	67	70	63	61	76	69	74
<u>Unweighted N</u>	1254	1381	1105	730	762	563	524	619	542
<i>Type of damage:</i>									
Damage to premises to effect entry	81	87	85	81	82	81	80	92	89
Soiling	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
Graffiti	<1	<1	2	<1	<1	3	0	0	<1
Other damage to inside of premises	10	11	8	15	19	15	3	2	1
Damage to fences or gardens	1	2	4	1	1	4	2	4	4
Other damage to outside of premises	9	5	7	5	4	6	15	5	8
Damage to specific items	3	3	4	5	6	8	1	<1	<1
Damage to motor vehicle to effect theft	1	1	<1	2	1	<1	0	1	<1
Other damage to motor vehicle	<1	<1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Other	4	2	2	6	3	4	1	2	1
<u>Unweighted N</u>	801	828	660	448	437	305	353	397	355

Notes:

1. Source 1994 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A4.16 Costs of items damaged in burglary, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Value of property damaged:</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than £50	65	64	59	60	73	68
£50 to £99	8	10	7	9	9	13
£100 to £249	12	11	15	10	8	11
£250 to £499	6	5	8	5	4	4
£500 to £999	5	5	6	6	3	3
£1,000 to £4,999	4	5	5	8	3	2
£5,000 or more	<1	1	1	1	0	0
Mean cost	£154	£254	£203	£389	£90	£101
Median cost	£10	£10	£20	£7	£5	£10
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1140	899	644	471	496	428

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. There are slight differences in the question wording in the 1998 and 1996 surveys.
3. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.17 Emotional impact of burglary, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<b>Was anyone in the household emotionally affected</b>						
No-one in household was emotionally affected	14	13	11	10	18	17
Someone in household was emotionally affected	86	87	90	90	82	83
Respondent was emotionally affected	80	82	83	85	76	79
<b>Type of emotional response<sup>3</sup></b>						
Respondent experienced:						
Anger	63	65	71	70	54	58
Shock	38	37	46	44	28	29
Fear	29	30	31	34	27	26
Difficulty sleeping	29	29	32	32	25	26
Crying/tears	15	16	22	24	7	7
Other	4	3	4	3	4	4
<b>Degree of emotional upset</b>						
Respondent not affected	20	18	17	15	24	22
Respondent was affected:						
Very much	29	29	37	37	18	21
Quite a lot	29	27	29	28	28	27
Just a little	23	25	17	20	30	31
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1246	1005	690	519	556	486

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. More than one response was allowed.

Table A4.18 Emotional impact of burglary, by sex, 1998BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>Respondent affected</b>	78	84	83	86	74	82
<b>Type of emotional response<sup>2</sup></b>						
Respondent experienced:						
Anger	66	64	71	70	61	56
Shock	33	39	43	45	23	33
Fear	21	36	28	38	15	34
Difficulty sleeping	22	34	29	34	16	33
Crying/tears	7	23	11	32	3	11
Other	3	4	4	3	2	6
<b>Degree of emotional upset</b>						
Respondent not affected	22	16	17	14	26	18
Respondent affected:						
Very much	24	33	33	40	16	24
Quite a lot	25	29	25	29	25	28
Just a little	29	23	25	17	33	30
<i>Unweighted N</i>	408	597	198	321	210	276

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. More than one response was allowed.

Table A4.19 Victim assessment of seriousness, 1996 and 1998 BCS

Mean seriousness score	1996	1998
<b>Home vandalism</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Attempts	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>
With entry	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Other household thefts</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Theft inside the home	<b>7.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Theft outside the home	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Vehicle thefts</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Thefts of	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Thefts from	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Attempts	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Violence</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>

Notes.

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Victims are asked to place the incident on a scale ranging from 0 to 20. 0 represents the most minor crime (e.g., theft of milk bottles) and 20 the most serious (e.g., murder).

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A4.20 Victim assessment of the seriousness of burglaries, 1998 BCS

Mean seriousness score	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
<b>Contact with offenders</b>			
No-one at home	7.4	8.8	5.6
Someone at home	7.0	7.3	6.8
Force or threats used	8.8	See note 3	See note 3
Someone in household upset	7.6	8.4	6.5
<b>Value of property stolen</b>			
Nothing	6.3	7.2	6.1
Less than £500	7.0	7.0	na
£500 or more	9.9	9.9	na
<b>Value of property damaged:</b>			
Nothing	6.5	6.9	6.1
Less than £100	6.5	8.3	5.3
£100 or more	8.8	9.9	6.8
<b>All</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Numbers too low for reliable results.
4. See note 3 to Table A4.19.

Table A4.21 Proportion of incidents reported to the police, 1982 to 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	1982	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998
<b>Burglary</b>	66	68	63	<b>73</b>	70	66	62
Attempts	42	48	38	48	47	46	45
With entry	81	82	82	88	86	82	78
With loss	85	87	86	92	90	85	84
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	44	43	45	<b>55</b>	53	50	50
<b>Other home based thefts</b>	22	19	20	<b>23</b>	24	22	25
Theft outside the home	22	17	19	22	23	20	21
<b>Home vandalism</b>	35	31	24	<b>28</b>	29	29	29
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	10	16	22	<b>25</b>	21	25	22
<b>Vehicle thefts</b>	41	43	46	<b>56</b>	53	51	47
Theft of vehicle	95	96	95	99	97	97	96
Theft from vehicle	30	38	40	53	51	50	43
Attempts of/from	31	18	34	41	40	36	35
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	64	68	62	<b>69</b>	72	62	64
<b>All violence</b>	30	38	36	<b>32</b>	31	37	37

Notes:

1. Source 1982 to 1998 BCS.
2. For thefts inside the home the number of incidents is below 100. The figures should thus be treated with caution.
3. Based on the full recall period.



Table A4.22 Reasons for not reporting to the police, 1996 and '1998 BCS

	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<i>Reason:</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Incident related reasons</b>	46	51	29	35	54	58
Too trivial/no loss	45	49	25	33	53	56
Fear of reprisal	2	2	4	2	<1	2
<b>Police-related reasons</b>	48	46	48	35	47	52
Couldn't do anything	33	33	33	26	33	37
Would not be interested	21	18	22	12	21	21
Dislike/fear the police	1	1	2	<1	<1	1
<b>Other reasons</b>	27	24	40	<b>40</b>	21	16
Private/dealt with ourselves	16	12	28	25	10	5
Reported to other authorities	3	2	2	1	4	3
Inconvenient to report	2	4	<1	<b>4</b>	2	3
Other	7	7	12	10	5	5
<i>Unweighted N</i>	413	349	118	102	295	247

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.23 Reasons for reporting to the police, 1996 and 1998 BCS

	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<i>Reason:</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
You should	59	51	62	56	50	41
Punish/catch offender	44	45	48	49	35	37
Recover property	24	20	35	30	<1	2
Serious crime	21	23	25	27	14	14
Stop repeats to self	18	18	17	14	21	25
For insurance claim	17	22	20	25	11	16
Stop repeats to others	17	13	15	11	21	16
Reported to other authorities	4	3	3	1	7	5
Needed assistance	3	2	3	2	4	3
Police on the spot	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other	7	8	5	8	11	9
<i>Unweighted N</i>	775	614	535	398	240	216

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table A4.24 Proportion who reported to the police, by seriousness, 1996 and 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentage reported to the police</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
<b>Seriousness score</b>						
Low seriousness (0 to 6)	52	51	70	70	36	35
Medium seriousness (7 to 13)	76	75	89	85	56	61
High seriousness (14 to 20)	80	76	90	82	56	62
All	66	62	82	78	46	45

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

**Table A4.25 Help victims of burglary wanted and received, 1998 BCS**

	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
	%	%	%
<b>Help, advice or support victims wanted following the incident</b>			
None of these/did not want support	44	37	52
Advice about security/crime prevention	23	24	22
Information from the police about case progress	21	28	13
Someone to talk to/moral support	19	23	15
Protection from further victimisation/harassment	14	15	14
Practical help (e.g. clearing up)	8	9	7
Help in reporting the incident/dealing with the police	6	7	5
Help with insurance/compensation claim	7	11	8
Other	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1004	518	486
<b>Victim asked for or was offered help from</b>	%	%	%
No-one	48	39	59
Family, friends, relatives or neighbours	41	49	33
Victim Support Scheme	14	21	6
Police (other than in relation to investigation)	7	9	5
Housing Department	4	4	4
Neighbourhood Watch	3	4	1
Social Services	8	3	<1
Medical staff	8	3	1
Employer	8	3	1
School/education Department	1	1	0
Trade Union/professional body	<1	0	<1
Citizen's Advice Bureau	0	0	0
Other	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1004	518	486

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A5.1 Proportion of households with home contents insurance<sup>2</sup>, by household type, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998		1996	1998
<b>Age of head of household</b>			<b>Income</b>		
16-24	48	47	Less than £5,000	58	57
25-44	79	80	£5,000<£10,000	74	72
45-64	87	87	£10,000<£20,000	88	86
65-74	85	86	£20,000<£30,000	94	92
75+	81	85	£30,000 or more	95	96
<b>Household structure</b>			<b>Tenure</b>		
Head of household under 60			Owner occupiers	94	95
Single adult & child(ren)	47	49	Social renters	51	51
Adults & child(ren)	84	85	Private renters	57	62
No children	82	82			
Head of household over 60	84	86	<b>Head of household's employment status</b>		
			In employment	89	88
<b>Marital status of head of household</b>			Unemployed	46	42
Married	90	90	Retired	90	86
Cohabiting	79	80	Other economically inactive	57	59
Divorced	66	69			
Separated	58	64	<b>Vehicle ownership</b>		
Widowed	80	81	No vehicles	61	62
Single	63	65	One vehicle	86	85
			Two or more vehicles	94	95
<b>Accommodation type</b>			<b>Number of security devices<sup>4</sup></b>		
Houses	86	87	None or one	69	69
Detached	95	97	Two	83	80
Semi-detached	87	87	Three	90	92
Terraced	78	79	Four or five	95	94
Flats/maisonettes	58	59			
<b>Ethnicity<sup>3</sup></b>			<b>Home left unoccupied overnight in previous year</b>		
White	83	83	Never	73	72
Afro-Caribbean	52	53	1 to 11 nights	78	80
Asian	67	67	12 to 32 nights	88	89
			More than one month	88	87
<b>Length of residence</b>			<b>Hours home unoccupied on weekdays</b>		
Less than one year	63	66	Never	na.	78
One to two years	73	74	Less than 3 hours	na.	81
Two to five years	78	79	3 but less than 5 hours	na.	83
Five to ten years	85	84	5 hours or more	na.	84
Ten years or longer	86	88			
<b>All households</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>			

## Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. The questions was "Are the contents of your home insured against theft?" Excludes don't knows.
3. Respondents ethnic group.
4. Includes the following security measures: burglar alarms; security lights; deadlocks; window locks and window bars or grilles at time of interview.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A5.2 Proportion of households with home contents insurance<sup>2</sup>, by area type, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998		1996	1998
<b>Region</b>			<b>Type of area<sup>1</sup></b>		
North East	78	79	Inner city	61	61
North West	84	84	Urban	82	82
Merseyside	70	64	Rural	92	92
Yorkshire/Humber	83	82			
East Midlands	85	85	Council estate area <sup>4</sup>	65	65
West Midlands	80	85	Non-council area	86	86
Eastern	85	87			
London	69	68	<b>Level of physical disorder<sup>5</sup></b>		
South East	88	87	High	na.	65
South West	84	87	Low	na.	84
Wales	80	82			
			<b>All households</b>	81	82

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. The questions was "Are the contents of your home insured against theft?" Excludes don't knows.
3. Rural areas are those that fall into the ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27. Inner city areas are defined according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure and social class profile. The remaining areas are urban.
4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.
5. Areas in which the interviewer said that litter/rubbish or vandalism/graffiti or both were 'very' or 'fairly' big problems. Further details in the Glossary.

**Table A5.3 Proportion of households with home contents insurance<sup>2</sup>, by ACORN, 1996 and 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998
<b>Thriving</b>	92	93
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	93	94
Affluent greys, rural communities	88	89
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	87	89
<b>Expanding</b>	93	93
Affluent executives, family areas	92	93
Well-off workers, family areas	94	93
<b>Rising</b>	71	71
Affluent urbanites, town and city	74	76
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	75	81
Better-off executives, inner city areas	64	63
<b>Settling</b>	88	89
Comfortable middle-agers, mature home-owning areas	90	89
Skilled workers, home owning areas	85	88
<b>Aspiring</b>	79	79
New home-owners, mature communities	81	79
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	75	77
<b>Striving</b>	62	63
Older people, less prosperous areas	75	74
Council estates, better off homes	66	66
Council estates, high unemployment	50	57
Council estates, greatest hardship	51	51
Multi-ethnic, low-income areas	45	41
<b>All households</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. The questions was "Are the contents of your home insured against theft?" Excludes don't knows.
3. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods'. Further details in the Glossary.

**Table A5.4 Reason for not having home contents insurance, 1994 to 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentages</i>	1994	1996	1998
Too expensive to insure	51	48	42
Have not got around to arranging/renewing policy	17	25	26
Don't think property is at risk	9	10	11
Can't be bothered	8	8	9
Refused by insurance company	1	1	1
Other	14	9	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,376	3,283	2,956

Notes:

1. Source 1994 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A5.5 Proportion of incidents of burglary involving property loss or damage in which the household was insured, 1996/1998 BCS

<b>Age of head of household</b>		<b>Income</b>	
16-24	45	Less than £5,000	<b>29</b>
25-44	51	£5,000<£10,000	<b>38</b>
45-64	61	£10,000<£20,000	<b>61</b>
65-74	60	£20,000<£30,000	<b>81</b>
75+	48	£30,000 or more	<b>80</b>
<b>Household structure</b>		<b>Tenure</b>	
Head of household under 60		Owner occupiers	<b>75</b>
Single adult & child(ren)	24	Social renters	<b>21</b>
Adults & child(ren)	63	Private renters	<b>46</b>
No children	58		
Head of household over 60	56	<b>Head of household employment status</b>	
		In employment	68
		Unemployed	17
<b>Marital status of head of household</b>		Retired	56
Married	67	Other economically inactive	31
Cohabiting	59	<b>Vehicle ownership</b>	
Divorced	<b>39</b>	No vehicles	32
Separated	<b>41</b>	One vehicle	63
Widowed	<b>51</b>	Two or more vehicles	74
Single	<b>43</b>	<b>Type of area<sup>3</sup></b>	
<b>Accommodation type</b>		Inner city	40
Houses	<b>58</b>	Urban	55
Detached	<b>81</b>	Rural	68
Semi-detached	<b>61</b>	Council estate area <sup>4</sup>	<b>37</b>
Terraced	<b>50</b>	Non-council area	<b>61</b>
Flats/maisonettes	<b>37</b>	<b>All incidents</b>	
			<b>54</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS combined data.
2. Based on incidents of burglary involving loss of property or damage.
3. Rural areas are those that fall into the ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27. Inner city areas are defined according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure and social class profile. The remaining areas are urban.
4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

**Table A5.6 Proportion of incidents covered by insurance, by offence type, 1996 and 1998 BCS**

	% of incidents covered by insurance	
	1996	1998
<b>Home vandalism</b>	27	29
<b>Burglary</b>	53	54
Attempts	52	52
With entry	54	56
<b>Outhouse burglary</b>	48	57
<b>Other home based thefts</b>	19	24
<b>Bicycle thefts</b>	38	38
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	70	72
Theft of vehicle	87	87
Theft from vehicle	64	66
Attempts of/from	76	80
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	64	69
<b>All property offences<sup>3</sup></b>	51	54

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on incidents in which property was stolen or damaged.
3. Burglary in a dwelling, outhouse burglary, theft in a dwelling, theft outside a dwelling, bicycle theft, vehicle-related theft and vandalism.

**Table A5.7 Proportion of burglary victims who claimed on their insurance, 1996 and 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1996	1998	1996	1998	1996	1998
Not insured	47	46	46	45	48	49
Insured	53	54	54	56	52	52
Claimed, and paid in full	18	25	22	33	10	12
Claimed, and paid in part	10	4	13	6	4	1
Claimed, waiting payment	5	2	7	3	1	1
Claimed, not paid	1	<1	1	<1	0	0
Not yet claimed	1	2	2	3	<1	1
Did not claim	19	21	10	11	36	37
<i>Unweighted N</i>	994	785	625	450	369	335

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on incidents in which property was stolen or damaged.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table A5.8** Proportion of burglary victims with insurance who claimed, by value of loss and damage, 1996/1998 BCS

Total value of property stolen and/or damaged	% of insured victims who claimed	Unweighted N
£1 to £99	10	251
£100 to £249	46	121
£250 to £499	81	104
£500 to £999	88	112
£1,000 or more	91	313
<b>All</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>959</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS combined data. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on incidents in which property was stolen or damaged and victim was insured.

**Table A5.9** Why victims of burglary did not claim on their insurance, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Reason insurance not claimed</i>	<u>1996</u> %	<u>1998</u> %
Excess meant it was not worth it	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>
Couldn't be bothered/too much paperwork	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>
Thought premiums would increase	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Did not want to lose no claims bonus	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
Thought claim would be unsuccessful	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Too embarrassed	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Thought insurer would make me increase security	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Other	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	194	176

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.



Table A5.10 Trends in home security, 1992 to 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	1992	1994	1996	1998
<i>Proportion of households with</i>				
Burglar alarm	13	18	20	24
Dummy alarm	na.	na.	na.	3
Double/dead locks <sup>3</sup>	61	70	70	72
Security chains/bolts	na.	na.	na.	59
Window locks <sup>4</sup>	52	62	68	71
Light timers/sensors <sup>5</sup>	22	32	40	48
Internal	na.	na.	na.	23
External	na.	na.	na.	38
Window bars/grilles	na.	7	9	8
Organised security activity <sup>6</sup>	na.	1	2	1
Security survey by the police	6	7	7	na.
Postcode on bicycles <sup>7</sup>	17	27	25	20
Security marks on property	17	19	19	na.

## Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 1998 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Double or deadlocks on the outside doors of the house.
4. Windows with locks that need keys to open them.
5. Between 1992 and 1996 respondents were asked whether or not they had a light which operated on a timer or sensor, regardless of whether it was inside or outside. In 1998 there were separate questions for inside and outside security lights.
6. Security activity which the respondent pays towards as a resident.
7. Based on bicycle owning households.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

Table A5.11 Proportion of households with less than two security devices, by household type, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998		1996	1998
<b>Age of head of household</b>			<b>Income</b>		
16-24	43	44	£5,000	48	41
25-44	33	28	£5,000<£10,000	41	34
45-64	28	24	£10,000<£20,000	31	28
65-74	32	24	£20,000<£30,000	25	21
75+	45	36	£30,000 or more	17	15
<b>Household structure</b>			<b>Tenure</b>		
Head of household under 60			Owner occupiers	25	20
Single adult & child(ren)	51	43	Social renters	50	46
Adults & child(ren)	28	24	Private renters	54	42
No children	31	27			
Head of household over 60	35	28	<b>Head of household employment status</b>		
			In employment	28	24
<b>Marital status of head of household</b>			Unemployed	50	38
Married	25	20	Retired	36	28
Cohabiting	37	31	Other economically inactive	<b>44</b>	37
Divorced	45	38			
Separated	45	40	<b>Vehicle ownership</b>		
Widowed	42	33	No vehicles	47	42
Single	45	39	One vehicle	31	26
			Two or more vehicles	22	17
<b>Accommodation type</b>			<b>Home contents insurance</b>		
Houses	30	24	Yes	28	23
Detached	20	14	<b>No</b>	55	48
Semi-detached	29	24			
Terraced	39	32			
Flats/maisonettes	46	43			
<b>Ethnicity</b>			<b>Home left unoccupied overnight in previous year</b>		
White	33	27	Never	40	33
Afro-Caribbean	42	39	1 to 11 nights	37	30
Asian	43	25	12 to 32 nights	27	24
			More than one month	27	21
<b>Length of residence</b>			<b>Hours home unoccupied on average weekdays:</b>		
Less than one year	43	36	Never	na.	30
One to two years	31	33	Less than 3 hours	na.	28
Two to five years	34	27	3 but less than 5 hours	na.	27
Five to ten years	31	25	5 hours or more	na.	26
Ten years or longer	32	26			
<b>All households</b>	33	<b>28</b>			

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Security devices included were burglar alarms; security lights; double/deadlocks; window locks and window bars/grilles.

Table A5.12 Proportion of households with less than two security devices, by area type, 1996 and 1998 BCS

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998		1996	1998
<b>Region</b>			<b>Type of area</b>		
North East	33	33	Inner city	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>
North West	22	19	Urban	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>
Merseyside	20	18	Rural	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>
Yorkshire/Humber	32	25			
East Midlands	35	25	Council estate area <sup>4</sup>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>
West Midlands	32	24	Non-council area	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>
Eastern	43	32			
London	30	29			
South East	30	27	<b>Level of physical disorder<sup>5</sup></b>		
South West	41	31	High	na.	<b>32</b>
Wales	43	39	Low	na.	<b>27</b>
			<b>All households</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>

## Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Security devices included were burglar alarms; security lights; double/deadlocks; window locks and window bars/grilles.
3. Rural areas are those that fall into the ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27. Inner city areas are defined according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure and social class profile. The remaining areas are identified as urban.
4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.
5. Areas in which the interviewer said that litter/rubbish or vandalism/graffiti or both were 'very' or 'fairly' big problems. Further details in the Glossary.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table A5.13 Proportion of households with less than two security devices, by ACORN, 1996 and 1998 BCS**

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998
<b>Thriving</b>	27	22
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	23	19
Affluent greys, rural communities	45	46
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	35	23
<b>Expanding</b>	23	21
Affluent executives, family areas	21	23
Well-off workers, family areas	24	20
<b>Rising</b>	35	33
Affluent urbanites, town and city	37	32
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	29	23
Better-off executives, inner city areas	38	40
<b>Settling</b>	33	26
Comfortable middle-agers, mature home-owning areas	30	26
Skilled workers, home-owning areas	36	26
<b>Aspiring</b>	38	30
New home-owners, mature communities	37	33
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	40	24
<b>Striving</b>	39	35
Older people, less prosperous areas	34	37
Council estates, better off homes	38	31
Council estates, high unemployment	43	40
Council estates, greatest hardship	44	37
Multi-ethnic, low-income areas	43	38
<b>All households</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>

Notes:

1. Source 1996 and 1998 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Security devices included were burglar alarm, security lights, double/deadlocks, window locks and window bars/grilles.
3. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods'. Further details in the Glossary.

## **Appendix B      Logistic regression**

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Multivariate techniques allow one to assess which of a selection of relevant independent variables are statistically related to a given dependent variable when all other variables under consideration have been taken into account.<sup>1</sup>

Logistic regression is used in this report as the dependent variable is binary (victim of burglary versus non-victim). The logistic regression models are based on combined 1996 and 1998 sweeps of the BCS to improve the robustness of the results. For each year, only the random half-sample who were asked about security devices are included. Weights are not used in the modelling procedure, but those variables used in the construction of weights (number of adults and inner city) are included. For simplicity, only main effects models are presented in the report.<sup>2</sup> The full set of relevant independent variables included in the modelling procedure are listed below. Some variables examined in the bivariate analysis were not included. Road type, weekday occupation and physical disorder were excluded because they were only measured in the 1998 BCS. Council area and insurance were excluded as they were highly correlated with variables already included. Region was excluded because of the high level of aggregation. It was felt ACORN provided a better measure of area type.

### **INDEPENDENT VARIABLES**

#### **Household structure**

Age of head of household (16-24/25-44/45-64/65-74/75+)

Household structure (adult(s) with no children/two adults with child(ren)/one adult with child(ren)/head of household over 60)

Head of household marital status (married or cohabiting/single/widowed/separated or divorced)

Respondents' ethnicity (White/Afro-Caribbean/Asian)

Length of residence (less than 1 year/1-2 years/2-5 years/5-10 years/longer)

1. Multivariate techniques allow one to explore the associations between variables. However, evidence of an association does not necessarily imply a causal relationship. The results presented here therefore identify factors associated with a high risk of burglary but should not be interpreted as indicating a causal link.
2. Main effect models assume that the effect of a given factor is the same for all cases. No account is taken of possible variations in how a factor may operate for different sub-groups. It is possible to test for interactions between the risk factors to see if they operate differently for different sub-groups, but interaction models are often difficult to interpret.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

### **Socio-economic characteristics**

Household income (less than £5,000/£5,000-£9,999/£10,000-£19,999/£20,000-£29,999/£30,000+)

Head of household employment status (employed/unemployed/retired/other inactive)

Tenure (owner occupier/social renter/private renter)

Accommodation type (detached/semi-detached/mid-terrace/end-terrace/flat)

Car ownership (none/one/two)

### **Household occupation and security**

Number of times home left unoccupied overnight in previous year (never/1-11 nights/12-32 nights/more often)

Home security (no security/low level security/high level security)<sup>3</sup>

### **Area characteristics**

Inner city area (yes/no)

ACORN categories (Thriving/Expanding/Rising/Settling/Aspiring/Striving)

## **INTERPRETATION OF MODELS**

The results presented here only include those variables which are statistically related to victimisation after the other factors have been controlled for. The tables present the exponential of the coefficients, EXP (B), and significance levels.

- EXP (B): interpreted as the change in the *odds* of victimisation associated with a one unit change in the independent variable, controlling for all other independent variables. The most appropriate way to interpret EXP (B) is to think of two households which are identical except in respect of the factor under consideration. If EXP (B) is greater than one this means the odds of victimisation are increased, if EXP (B) is less than one the odds are decreased. For categorical variables the coefficients indicate the effect of being in the category compared to
3. Households with low level security are those with only window locks or deadlocks. Those with high security have a burglar alarm, security lights or window grilles. Security was at time of interview for non-victims and at time of incident for victims.

## Logistic regression

being in the pre-defined base category. The coefficients can be interpreted as the percentage increase/decrease in the odds of victimisation compared to the base category.

- Significance: all coefficients are tested to see if they are statistically different to zero. \*\* indicates the factor is significant at the 5% level and \* at the 10% level.
- The model chi-square is also given. This tests the null hypothesis that the coefficients for all of the terms in the model, except the constant, are 0. If the significance is less than 0.05 the null hypothesis is rejected - i.e., all the coefficients are non-zero.
- For ease of interpretation those factors significantly associated with increased risk are shaded.

Further details on logistic regression can be found in Dobson, 1990 and Demaris, 1992.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table B.1 Logistic regression model of burglary victimisation**

Factor	EXP(B)	Significance
<b>Age of head of household</b>		
16-24	2.65	**
25-44	1.94	**
45-64	1.43	
65-74	1.28	
75 or older (Base)	1.00	
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
White (Base)	1.00	
Afro-Caribbean	1.08	
Asian	1.56	**
<b>Household structure</b>		
Head of household over 60 (Base)	1.00	
Head of household under 60		
Two or more adults, no children	1.06	
Two or more adults, children	1.03	
Single adult, children	1.52	**
<b>Accommodation type</b>		
Detached (Base)	1.00	
Semi-detached	0.75	**
Mid-terrace	0.65	**
End-terrace	0.72	*
Flats/maisonettes/bedsits	0.54	**
<b>Household occupation</b>		
Never left unoccupied over night (Base)	1.00	
1-11 nights left unoccupied	1.16	
12-32 nights left unoccupied	1.30	**
More often	1.43	**
<b>Security devices</b>		
High level security (Base)	1.00	
Low level security	1.77	**
No security	7.28	**
<b>Area type</b>		
Non-inner city	0.66	**
Inner city (Base)	1.00	
<b>ACORN group</b>		
Thriving (Base)	1.00	
Expanding	0.98	
Rising	1.77	**
Settling	1.35	**
Aspiring	1.18	
Striving	1.68	**

N=15,640      Model Chi square = 608.16, \*\*

Notes:

1. Source combined 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Exp (B) greater than one indicates risks are higher relative to the base category; exp (B) below one indicates risks are lower relative to the base category.
3. \* indicates statistical significance at the 10% level, \*\* at the 5% level.
4. Shaded factors are those with significantly higher risks.



**Table B.2** Logistic regression model of burglary victimisation with entry

Factor	EXP(B)	Significance
<b>Age of head of household</b>		
16-24	2.95	**
25-44	1.79	**
45-64	1.28	
65-74	1.30	
75 or older (Base)	1.00	
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
White (Base)	1.00	
Afro-Caribbean	1.08	
Asian	1.64	**
<b>Head of household marital status</b>		
Married/cohabiting (Base)	1.00	
Single	1.06	
Widowed	0.84	
Divorced/separated	1.65	**
<b>Household income</b>		
Less £5,000 (Base)	1.00	
£5,000 to £9,999	0.72	**
£10,000 to £19,999	0.86	
£20,000 to £29,999	1.02	
£30,000 or more	1.28	
<b>Accommodation type</b>		
Detached (Base)	1.00	
Semi-detached	0.65	**
Mid-terrace	0.53	**
End-terrace	0.56	**
Flats/maisonettes/bedsits	0.44	**
<b>Security devices</b>		
High level security (Base)	1.00	
Low level security	1.81	**
No security	9.99	**
<b>Area type</b>		
Non-inner city	0.68	**
Inner city (Base)	1.00	
<b>ACORN group</b>		
Thriving (Base)	1.00	
Expanding	0.83	
Rising	1.65	**
Settling	1.37	*
Aspiring	1.21	
Striving	1.64	**
<b>Length of residence</b>		
Less than one year	1.49	**
One year but less than two years	0.99	
Two years but less than five years	0.88	
Five years but less than ten years	1.04	
Ten years or longer (Base)	1.00	

N=15,766

Model Chi square = 521.32, \*\*

Notes:

1. Source combined 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Exp (B) greater than one indicates risks are higher relative to the base category; exp (B) below one indicates risks are lower relative to the base category.
3. \* indicates statistical significance at the 10% level, \*\* at the 5% level.
4. Shaded factors are those with significantly higher risks.

## Burglary of domestic dwellings

**Table B.3 Logistic regression model of attempted burglary victimisation**

Factor	EXP(B)	Significance
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
White (Base)	1.00	
Afro-Caribbean	1.01	
Asian	1.58	**
<b>Household structure</b>		
Head of household over 60 (Base)	1.00	
Head of household under 60		*
Two or more adults, no children	1.30	
Two or more adults, children	1.60	**
Single adult, children	2.36	**
<b>Security devices</b>		
High level security (Base)	1.00	
Low level security	1.02	**
No security	4.67	**
<b>Household occupation</b>		
Never left unoccupied over night (Base)	1.00	
1-11 nights left unoccupied	1.31	*
12-32 nights left unoccupied	1.25	
More often	1.77	**
<b>Area type</b>		
Non-inner city	0.53	**
Inner city (Base)	1.00	
N=15,711      Model Chi square = 197.31, **		

Notes:

1. Source combined 1996 and 1998 BCS.
2. Exp (B) greater than one indicates risks are higher relative to the base category; exp (B) below one indicates risks are lower relative to the base category.
3. \* indicates statistical significance at the 10% level, \*\* at the 5% level.
4. Shaded factors are those with significantly higher risks.

# Appendix C      Survey design and methodology

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Both the 1996 and 1998 sweeps of the British Crime Survey (BCS) were conducted on behalf of the Home Office by Social & Community Planning Research (SCPR). The design of the surveys was shared between the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate and SCPR. Previous sweeps were conducted in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1994.

## THE COVERAGE OF THE SURVEY

The primary purpose of the BCS is to provide an alternative measure of crime to that provided by the recorded crime statistics. The BCS asks adults in private households about their experiences of criminal victimisation since the beginning of the previous year, regardless of whether or not they reported the incident to the police. The 1998 BCS asks about experiences of crime from 1 January 1997 to the date of the interview - a period of about 14 months. To enable comparisons between sweeps, the core questions on victimisation have remained unchanged since the first survey. As well as measuring crime, the BCS covers a number of other crime-related issues on an ad hoc basis and collects demographic and lifestyle information about both the respondents and their household.

## SAMPLING

The BCS sample is designed to give, after appropriate weighting, both a representative cross-section of private households in England and Wales, and of individuals aged 16 and over living in them.<sup>1</sup>

In the 1996 and 1998 sweeps the Small Users Postcode Address File (PAF) was used as the sampling frame.<sup>2</sup> The PAF, listing all postal delivery points in the country, represents the fullest available register of household addresses as almost all households have one delivery point, or letterbox.

A stratified multi-stage random probability design was used to select the sample of addresses.<sup>3</sup> Where one address had more than one household, a single household was selected using random

1. The 1996 BCS included an ethnic minority booster sample in addition to the core sample. The ethnic booster increased the number of ethnic minorities in the sample beyond their actual proportion in the general population to allow separate analysis of the victimisation experiences of these groups. The 1998 BCS included a core sample only. All analysis of the 1996 data in this Bulletin, with the exception of the logistic regression and any analysis by ethnicity, is based on the core samples only.
2. PAF has been used as the sampling frame for the BCS since the 1992 sweep.
3. Inner city areas were over-sampled by a factor of about two (in analysis the data is weighted to take this into account) as in all previous sweeps.

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selection procedures. One adult aged 16 or over in each selected household was then selected for interview, again using random-selection procedures. No substitution of respondents was allowed. Further details on the sampling procedure are covered in the 1996 and 1998 BCS Technical Reports (Hales and Stratford, 1997; Hales and Stratford, forthcoming).

## INTERVIEWS

Interviews were carried out during the first six months of the survey year. Respondents were interviewed face-to-face in their own home by a professional survey interviewer.

Since 1994 the BCS has been a CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) survey. The questionnaire is a computer program which specifies the questions, the range and structure of permissible answers, and the routing instructions. Responses to questions are entered directly into the laptop by the interviewer. CAPI improves the quality of the data.

## RESPONSE RATE

In all sweeps the BCS has achieved a relatively high response rate. In 1996 the response rate was 83% and in 1998 79%. The main reasons for non-response at eligible addresses were (a) refusal either by the selected person or by the household before a respondent was selected and (b) non-contact.

## WEIGHTING

Data is weighted in a number of ways for analysis. Weighting serves two purposes: to correct for different sampling rates; and to take account of 'series' of similar incidents. In the 1996 and 1998 BCS, the components of the weights are:

- an **inner city weight** to correct for the over-representation of inner city residents;
- a **dwelling unit weight** to correct for cases where more than one household was at an address on the PAF file;
- an **individual weight** to correct for the under-representation of individuals living in households with more than one adult (the chance of an adult being selected for interview is inversely related to the number of adults in the household);
- a **series** weight equal to the number of incidents in the series, applied to Victim Forms representing a series of incidents.

Analysis based on households requires the use of the inner city and dwelling unit weights. That based on persons additionally requires the use of the individual weight. The series weight is used in Victim Form analysis, together with the weights appropriate for a household or personal offence.

## THE BCS MEASURE OF CRIME

The main function of the BCS is to provide a measure of the extent of crime.

The procedure used in the BCS is as follows:

- Respondents are asked a series of victimisation screening questions which are designed to ascertain whether or not they or their household had been a victim of crime since January 1 of the preceding year.<sup>4</sup> Respondents are asked about their own experience and that of others in their household for **household offences** (e.g., burglary, vehicle-related offences), and about their own personal experience for **personal offences** (e.g., common assault, robbery and wounding).<sup>5</sup>
  - Details of each separate incident revealed by the screener questions are then collected on Victim Forms. Victim Forms ask respondents a detailed series of questions about the incident and provide the basis for classifying incidents. In the 1996 and 1998 surveys there was a limit of six Victim Forms per respondent.<sup>6</sup> In a very small proportion of interviews the number of separate incidents elicited from the screener questions exceeded six. In such cases six incidents were selected following a procedure which gave priority to less common offences.
  - Although most Victim Forms correspond to one incident, some victims experience a number of very similar offences which are difficult to separate into discrete events. Offences of this kind are called *series incidents*. In the BCS, interviewers treat incidents as a series if they are all very similar in type, carried out under the same circumstances and probably committed by the same person(s). For crimes classified as series offences, full details are collected only about the most recent incident. This avoids repetitive questioning of the victim and Victim Forms being 'used up' on very similar offences. In calculating offence rates, series incidents are given a score equal to the number of incidents in the series, with an arbitrary top limit of five.
  - Key details collected on the Victim Form are used to classify incidents into offence categories. The BCS applies legal definitions in coding incidents into offences. Rules for classification were agreed for the 1982 survey in consultation with the then Home Office Statistical Department and the statistical officers of a number of police forces. These rules have been applied consistently in all sweeps of the BCS.
4. The 'screening' questions are in everyday language and do not use legal terms; e.g., "In the 13 to 14 months since the first January 1997, has anyone got into this house/flat without permission and stolen or tried to steal anything?".
  5. This distinction is because for some crimes the household is a natural unit of analysis, whereas for others the individual is a better choice.
  6. In the surveys until 1992, the maximum number of Victim Forms was four. In 1992 this was increased to five to reflect increases in repeat victimisation, and increased again, to six, for the 1996 and 1998 surveys.

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- The BCS count of crime in England and Wales in a given year is estimated by grossing up sample offence rates. The offence rates are the number of incidents per 10,000 adults for personal offences and per 10,000 households for household offences. Household offence rates are multiplied by the estimated number of households in England and Wales and personal offence rates by the estimated number of adults (see Mirrlees-Black et al, 1998 for further details).

## METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

As a sample survey the BCS estimates are subject to sampling error and a range of other methodological limitations. These are summarised below.

- **Sampling error**

As only a sample of the population is questioned, findings are subject to sampling error. That is the results may differ to those which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The error depends on the size and design of the sample, and the size of the estimate. Although, the BCS is large by the standards of most surveys, its estimates will be imprecise, particularly for rare crimes such as robbery and serious assault.

- **Non-response**

As in any sample survey, it is difficult to represent the population adequately. Some respondents are impossible for interviewers to locate at home, and others refuse to be interviewed. Non-response has implications for the measurement of crime if non-respondents have different experiences of victimisation to respondents. For example, young men tend to be less likely to respond but have higher than average risks of victimisation. Conversely, non-victims may be less likely to respond because they have less interest in the survey than victims. To explore the implications of non-response on survey estimates those who refused to participate in the 1996 BCS were asked a short set of questions about their experiences of crime. The balance of the evidence is that, if anything, non-respondents face slightly lower crime risks (Lynn, 1997).

- **Recall**

The BCS asks respondents to recall their experiences of crime since January 1 of the preceding year - a period of about 14 months. The BCS crime measure is thus dependent on respondents' ability to accurately remember their experiences in the reference period. There are several problems which could prevent accurate recall:

- > respondents could simply forget a relevant incident;
- > respondents could remember an incident, but think it happened before the reference period and therefore not report it in the interview; conversely, respondents may

remember an earlier incident as happening within the reference period and thus erroneously report it;<sup>7</sup>

- > non-victims may feel obliged to report an offence to the interviewer and therefore invent an incident to report.

A qualitative follow-up study of 35 1996 BCS respondents explored the accuracy with which respondents reported incidents to the survey. The study found that respondents put a great deal of effort into recalling when incidents occurred (White and Lewis, 1998).

- **Unwillingness to report**

Respondents may not wish to report incidents to the survey for a variety of reasons. A particularly problematic offence is domestic violence. Victims may not want to divulge their experiences, particularly if the offender is in the room during the interview.<sup>8</sup>

- **Definitions of crime**

Incidents which are legally offences may not be reported to the survey if the respondent does not view them as such.<sup>9</sup> The definitional problem is particularly relevant to minor incidents and some forms of violence. Moreover, different social groups may have different perceptions of what does and does not constitute a crime. Evidence suggests that better-off groups have a lower threshold of tolerance and are therefore more likely to report minor incidents to the survey (Sparks et al, 1977).

Overall methodological studies suggest that victimisation surveys are likely to undercount more trivial offences (e.g., vandalism and some assaults) and sensitive offences (e.g. sexual offences and domestic violence). Generally though, more serious incidents are likely to be over counted, as more salient events tend to be pulled forward in time.

The evidence in relation to burglary suggests it is relatively well measured by victim surveys (Schneider, 1981). Burglaries are frequently highly salient, clearly defined, discrete events which the interviewee is likely to both recall and report to the interviewer.<sup>10</sup> However, it is likely to be more problematic measuring attempted burglaries than those in which entry is gained to the home.

7. The full 'recall period' in the BCS is from the 1st January of the year preceding the interview until the date of the interview - about 14 months. In calculating the number of incidents within a given year, only those incidents which happened in the previous calendar year are counted.
8. Procedures are used to try to overcome this problem. The question is on a show card and interviewers are instructed that this section of the interview can be postponed if others are present during the interview.
9. In an attempt to overcome this problem the BCS screener questions ask whether the respondent has experienced certain types of event and do not use legal terminology or refer to specific offences.
10. A technique known as 'reverse record checks' can be used to assess the accuracy of recall in victim surveys. Reverse record checks involve interviewing victims identified from police recorded crime data to see if they report their victimisation in the interview. Sparks et al., 1977 found that 97% of recorded burglaries were recalled by victims during the interview.

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# Glossary of terms

**ACORN** - 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' - classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN was developed by CACI Ltd, through the use of cluster analysis of variables from the 1991 Census. ACORN is most useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. Although there are a total of 54 ACORN types, the 17-group and 6-category breakdown has been mainly used in this report. Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd, CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS.

## **Area type** -

- Inner city areas are defined at the sampling stage as those postcode sectors with high population density, low owner-occupation and low proportion of professionals (see Hales and Stratford, forthcoming, for further details).
- Rural areas are those areas falling into Acorn types 1 to 9 and 27 (See ACORN).
- Urban areas - All ACORN types which are not classified as rural or inner-city.

**Attempted burglary** - Burglary in a dwelling where there is clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to the property, but was unsuccessful. See **Burglary in a dwelling**.

**Attempted outhouse burglary** - Burglary to any outhouse (e.g., shed, garage) which is not directly connected to the dwelling where there is clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to the property, but was unsuccessful. See **Outhouse burglary**.

**Bicycle theft** - Theft of pedal cycles. This offence category does not include all bicycle thefts picked up by the survey, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary) and are therefore classified as such. The survey covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any member of the household.

**Burglary in a dwelling** - Any incident in which someone enters, or tries to enter, a dwelling as a trespasser with the intention of committing theft, rape, 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 a meter reader). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g. hallways) are also included if usually secure. See also **attempted burglary**, **burglary with entry**, and **burglary with loss**.

**Burglary with entry** - This comprises burglary in a dwelling where a house was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

**Burglary with loss** - This comprises burglary in a dwelling where a house was successfully entered and something was stolen.

**Calendar year** - Although the BCS asks respondents about all crimes from January 1 of the preceding year to the time of interview, it is possible to restrict the count of crime to the calendar year 1 January to 31 December (see also **Recall period**).

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**Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)** - Since the 1994 the BCS has been a CAPI survey. Interviewers enter 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 routing instructions.

### **Council estates** -

- Council estates are ACORN types 33, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51.
- All other ACORN types are non-council.

### **Employment status** - Employment status of head of household

- Employed - those 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.
- Retired
- Other economically inactive - those who are going to school or college full time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

### **Government Office Region (GOR)** - An administrative division of England and Wales.

**Home vandalism** - Intentional and malicious damage to household property. Cases where there is nuisance only are not included. Incidents in which criminal damage occurs in combination with burglary are coded as burglaries.

**Household offences** - For household offences, all members of the household can be regarded as victims, so the respondent answers on behalf of the whole household. Household offences covered in this report include: burglary in a dwelling, outhouse burglary, theft in a dwelling, theft outside a dwelling, home vandalism, bicycle thefts, vehicle-related thefts, and vehicle vandalism.

**Household structure** - A grouping of households on the basis of age of head of household, number of adults in the 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 sub-divided 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 related to the child in a sibling or grandparent relationship;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16);
- more than one adult with no children (under 16).

**Incidence rates** - The number of incidents of a given offence experienced per 10,000 households or adults. See also **prevalence rates**.

**Logistic regression** - See Appendix B.

**Outhouse burglary** - Covering thefts and attempted thefts from domestic garages, outhouses, sheds, etc. not directly linked to the dwelling. See also **attempted outhouse burglary**, **outhouse burglary with entry**, and **outhouse burglary with loss**.

**Outhouse burglary with entry** - This comprises outhouse burglary where an outhouse was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

**Outhouse burglary with loss** - This comprises outhouse burglary where an outhouse was successfully entered and something was stolen.

**Personal offences** - 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 Bulletin as few meet the criteria of an offence.

**Physical disorder** - The level of physical disorder based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, and (b) rubbish and litter in the area. Each of these problems was coded 1 if it was a very or fairly big problem or 0 if it was not a very big problem or not a problem at all. A scale was constructed ranging from 0 (neither were a very or fairly big problem) to 2 (both were a very or fairly big problem). In the report, low refers areas coded 0 on the scale, high to areas coded 1 or 2.

**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 **incidence rates** they take no account of the number of victimisations experienced.

**Recall period** - This is the time between the 1 January of the previous year (e.g., for 1998 BCS from 1 January 1997) and the date of the interview. As most interviews take place between January and April of the survey year, the average recall period is about 14 months. Only those incidents occurring within the calendar year are counted when computing annual rates. Other information about victims and their experiences is usually derived from incidents occurring during the full recall period. See **calendar year**.

**Recorded crime** - The count of notifiable offences which the police are required to notify to the Home Office for statistical purposes.

**Repeat victimisation** - The recurrence of the same offence against those who have already been victimised once in a given period.

**Sample** - The BCS sample is, after appropriate weighting, both a representative cross-section of private households in England and Wales and of individuals aged 16 and over living in private households. The 1998 BCS had a sample size of 14,947; the 1996 BCS sample was 16,348. See Appendix C for further details on the sample design.

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

**Security level** - Security level is at time of interview for households not burgled and at time of the burglary for victims. Comprises:

- No security - households without any of the following security devices: burglar alarms, security lights; double or deadlocks; window locks and window bars/grills.
- Low level security - Households with only double/deadlocks or window locks.
- High level security - Households with burglar alarms, security lights or window bars/grilles.

**Statistical significance** - Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, changes in estimates between sweeps of the survey may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which changes are unlikely to have occurred by chance.

**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.

**Theft in a dwelling** - This 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.).

**Theft from outside a dwelling** - Theft of property which is outside the dwelling but on the same premises (e.g., in the garden). Theft from outhouses are not included (see **outhouse burglary**).

**Vehicle-related thefts** - These cover 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 o/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.

**Vehicle vandalism** - This includes 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 vehicle by fire.

**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 - this is a popular rather than a legal term, comprising robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person.
- Domestic violence - this includes woundings and common assaults, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives.
- Acquaintance violence - this comprises woundings and common assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.
- Stranger violence - includes woundings and common assaults, in which the victim did not know any of the offenders in any way.

**Weighted data** - Raw data from the survey is adjusted in various ways at the data processing stage to correct for imbalances introduced in sampling and by the design of the interview.

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Issue No	Date	Title
21/97	09.10.97	Police complaints and discipline, deaths in police custody, England and Wales, April 1996 to March 1997.
22/97	14.10.97	Statistics of drug addicts notified to the Home Office, United Kingdom, 1996.
23/97	14.10.97	Notifiable offences, England and Wales, July 1996 to June 1997.
24/97	22.10.97	Betting licensing, Great Britain, June 1996 - May 1997.
25/97	23.10.97	Liquor licensing - children's certificates, England and Wales, July 1996-June 1997.
26/97	23.10.97	Control of immigration: statistics, United Kingdom, first half 1997.
27/97	04.12.97	Operation of certain police powers under PACE, England and Wales, 1996.
1/98	21.01.98	Summary fire statistics, United Kingdom 1996.
2/98	29.01.98	Revised projections of long term trends in the prison population to 2005.
3/98	19.02.98	Criminal appeals, England and Wales, 1995 and 1996.
4/98	03.03.98	Statistics on the operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation, Great Britain 1997.
5/98	26.03.98	The prison population in 1997.
6/98	03.04.98	Ethnicity and victimisation: findings from the 1996 British Crime Survey.
7/98	07.04.98	Notifiable offences, England and Wales, 1997.
8/98	09.04.98	Motoring offences, England and Wales, 1996.
9/98	09.04.98	Persons granted British citizenship, United Kingdom, 1997.
10/98	09.04.98	Statistics of drug seizures and offenders dealt with, United Kingdom, 1996.
11/98	23.04.98	Statistics of deaths reported to Coroners: England and Wales 1997.
12/98	20.05.98	Summary probation statistics, England and Wales 1997.
13/98	21.05.98	Control of immigration: statistics, United Kingdom, second half and year 1997.
14/98	21.05.98	Asylum statistics, United Kingdom, 1997.
15/98	28.05.98	Breath test statistics, England and Wales, 1997.
16/98	29.06.98	Fire statistics estimates, United Kingdom, 1997.
17/98	03.09.98	Police service personnel, England and Wales, as at 31 March 1998.
18/98	17.09.98	Cautions, court proceedings and sentencing, England and Wales, 1997.
19/98	25.09.98	Statistics of mentally disordered offenders in England and Wales, 1997.
20/98	24.09.98	Police complaints and discipline, England and Wales, April 1997 to March 1998.
21/98	13.10.98	The 1998 British Crime Survey, England and Wales.
22/98	13.10.98	Notifiable offences, England and Wales, April 1997 to March 1998.

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