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# Home Office Statistical Bulletin

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003

Editors: Jon Simmons and Tricia Dodd

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Communication Development Unit  
Room 264,  
Home Office,  
50 Queen Anne's Gate,  
London  
SW1H 9AT.

Tel: 020 7273 2084  
Fax 020 7222 0211  
[publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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**This is the second edition of 'Crime in England and Wales' bringing together statistics from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and the numbers of crimes recorded by the police. It provides a comprehensive account of the latest patterns and trends in the main high volume crimes.**

The main points in this 2002/03 edition are:

- Crimes against adults in England and Wales decreased by two per cent in 2002/03, according to the British Crime Survey.
- There has been a 25 per cent fall in crime measured by the BCS in the five years between 1997 and 2002/03.
- Crimes recorded by the police decreased by three per cent in 2002/03, after taking into account the impact of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) on recording practices.
- Police recording of those crimes reported to them is now at an historic high of 70 per cent, according to the BCS.
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime remains at an historic low (around 27%) according to the BCS, one-third lower than the risk in 1995 (40%).
- There has been a 39 per cent fall in burglary as measured by the BCS since 1997. The trend in domestic burglary appears to have levelled out this year, with a small non-statistically significant increase in the BCS (up 1%) and a small fall in recorded crimes (down 2%), once the effects of the NCRS have been accounted for.
- Vehicle-related thefts fell by five per cent this year according to the BCS, and by nine per cent according to recorded crime (adjusted for the NCRS).
- Violent crimes experienced by adults living in private households in 2002/03 remained stable, following falls in each survey since 1995. BCS violence has fallen by 24 per cent since 1997. The numbers of recorded violent crimes have been heavily affected by the introduction of the NCRS, but once adjusted for this there was a two per cent increase.
- Within this total there have been an increases in the BCS estimate for woundings, although this increase is not statistically significant. Last January the Home Office reported an increase of 27 per cent in recorded firearm offences in 2001/02, and the statistics for 2002/03 will be published later this year.
- Recorded robberies fell by 14 per cent in 2002/03 (adjusted for the NCRS), following the introduction of the Street Crime Initiative in ten forces at the beginning of the year.
- The number of detections recorded by the police in 2002/2003 was eight per cent higher than in 2001/2002.
- In spite of the significant falls in the main volume crimes in recent years, almost three-quarters of the public still believe that the national crime rate has been rising.

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Editors: Jon Simmons and Tricia Dodd

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*The views expressed in this report are those of the authors,  
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For further information about crime statistics please email the Measuring and Analysing Crime Programme in the Research Development and Statistics Directorate, at **crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**, or write to the Measuring and Analysing Crime Programme at Room 840 at the above address.

# Contents

	Page
Contents	
List of tables and figures	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	
<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Jon Simmons and Tricia Dodd</i>	
<b>Chapter 2</b>	
<b>The extent of crime.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Celia Smith</i>	
2.1 Summary.....	9
2.2 The extent of crime according to police and BCS figures.....	11
2.3 Repeat victimisation.....	17
<b>Chapter 3</b>	
<b>Trends in crime.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>Heather Salisbury</i>	
3.1 Summary.....	25
3.2 Overall trends in crime.....	26
3.3 Trends by offence type.....	28
3.4 The proportion of crime reported to the police by the public.....	29
3.5 The proportion of reported crime recorded by the police.....	32
<b>Chapter 4</b>	
<b>Property crime.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<i>Sian Nicholas and Martin Wood</i>	
4.1 Correlates of recent property crime trends.....	50
4.2 Burglary and vehicle-related theft.....	51

	4.3 Thefts and handling of stolen goods.....	62
	4.4 Arson and criminal damage (vandalism).....	62
	4.5 Fraud and forgery.....	63
	4.6 Drug use and other offences.....	64
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Violent crime.....</b>	<b>75</b>
	<i>David Povey and Jonathan Allen</i>	
	5.1 Summary.....	75
	5.2 Seriousness and injury.....	77
	5.3 Extent and trends.....	78
	5.4 Homicide.....	81
	5.5 Sexual offences.....	82
	5.6 Robbery.....	82
	5.7 Risks of becoming a victim of violent crime.....	84
	5.8 Repeat victimisation.....	85
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Patterns of crime.....</b>	<b>91</b>
	<i>Andy Aitchison and James Hodgkinson</i>	
	6.1 Variation by type of area.....	91
	6.2 Geographical variations.....	92
	6.3 Variation across rural and urban England and Wales.....	97
	6.4 Geographical concentration of crime.....	98
	6.5 Family values-grouping similar areas for comparison.....	100
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Detection of crime.....</b>	<b>109</b>
	<i>Pat May hew</i>	
	7.1 Summary.....	109
	7.2 Trends overtime.....	110

## Contents

	7.3 Detection rates and investigative performance.....	117
	7.4 Detection method.....	118
	7.5 Basic Command Units.....	119
	7.6 Detections per officer.....	119
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Perceptions of and concern about crime.....</b>	<b>127</b>
	<i>Gemma Fletcher and Jonathan Allen</i>	
	8.1 Summary.....	127
	8.2 Perceptions of crime.....	128
	8.3 Worry about victimisation.....	133
	8.4 Concern about personal safety.....	136
	8.5 Factors affecting concern about crime.....	137
	8.6 The impact of concern about crime.....	138
Appendix 1	Glossary.....	155
Appendix 2	Recorded crime offence list.....	169
Appendix 3	Bibliography.....	175

# **List of tables and figures**

## **Chapter 1**

- Figure 1.1 Percentage changes in the main offence categories, 2001/02 to 2002/03
- Figure 1.2. Trends in crime as measured by the British Crime Survey, 1997 to 2002/03 (indexed, 1997)

## **Chapter 2**

- Figure 2.1 Reporting rates based on 2002/03 BCS interviews, comparable subset
- Figure 2.2 Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police (the recording shortfall) for comparable crime, year to September 2002
- Figure 2.3 Police recorded crime and BCS crime by type of crime, 2002/03
- Figure 2.4 Proportion of victims that were victimised more than once, 2002/03 BCS interviews
- Table 2.01 Comparison of the 2002/03 BCS and recorded crime for year to September 2002
- Table 2.02 Range of BCS estimates of number of crimes and statistical significance of changes between 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews
- Table 2.03 Victim assessment of seriousness 1999 to 2002/03 interviews
- Table 2.04 Grouped victim assessment of seriousness 1999 to 2002/03 interviews
- Table 2.05 Number of times victims were victimised, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews

## **Chapter 3**

- Figure 3.1 Trends in all BCS crime, 1981 to 2002/03
- Figure 3.2 Trends in recorded crime, 1981 to 2002/03
- Figure 3.3 Percentage changes in the main offence categories, 2001/02 to 2002/03
- Figure 3.4 Proportion of BCS crimes reported to the police, 1981 to 2002/03 (old comparable subset)

## List of tables and figures

- Figure 3.5 Indexed trends in the reporting and recording of crime, and all BCS crime, 1981 to 2002/03 (1981 = 100)
- Figure 3.6 Proportion of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police (old comparable subset)
- Figure 3.7 National estimates of the NCRS impact for the full year 2002/03 by offence type
- Table 3.01 Trends in BCS incidents of crime 1991 to interviews held in 2002/03, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1997, 1999, 2001/02 and 2002/03
- Table 3.02 Trends in BCS victimisation rates 1991 to interviews held in 2002/03, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1997, 1999, 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews
- Table 3.03 Trends in percentage of households/adults who were victims once or more, 1991 to 1999 and 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews (prevalence risks)
- Table 3.04 Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2002/03 and percentage change between 2000/01 and 2001/02 (including adjustment for NCRS effect where available)
- Table 3.05 Recorded crime and number per 100,000 population for violent crime, property crime and vehicle-related crime
- Table 3.06 Percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police 1981 to 2002/03 interviews
- Table 3.07 Reasons for not reporting crime to the police 2002/03 BCS interviews
- Table 3.08 Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to year ending September 2002

## Chapter 4

- Figure 4.1 Police recorded and BCS property crime broken down by offence, 2002/03
- Figure 4.2 Change in male youth and all unemployment, recorded vehicle crime and domestic burglary compared to the same quarter in the previous year, 1999Q1-2003Q1
- Figure 4.3 Trends in BCS burglary and vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2002/03
- Figure 4.4 Trends in burglary and vehicle-related theft offences recorded by the police, 1981 to 2002/03 (unadjusted for NCRS)

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Table 4a	Type of burglary within total burglary and type of vehicle theft within all vehicle-related theft 1981 to 2002/03 interviews
Figure 4.5	Households most at risk of burglary, 2002/03 interviews
Figure 4.6	Vehicle-owning households most at risk of vehicle-related theft, 2002/03 interviews
Table 4b	Location of vehicle-related thefts 1999 to 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4c	Percentage of victims victimised two or more times, 1991 to 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4d	Victim assessment of seriousness of burglary and vehicle theft 2000, 2001, 2001/02 and 2002/03
Table 4e	Emotional impact of burglary 2002/03
Table 4f	Emotional impact of vehicle-related theft 2002/03
Table 4.01	Burglaries and vehicle-related theft recorded by the police 1991 to 2002/03
Table 4.02	BCS trends in household burglary and vehicle-related theft, incidents and rates of victimisation 1991 to 2002/03 interviews
Table 4.03	Proportion of households victims of burglary by household type 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4.04	Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related theft by household type 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4.05	Burglaries recorded by the police and BCS by police force area and region 2002/03
Table 4.06	Theft of and from vehicles recorded by the police and BCS by police force area 2002/03
Table 4.07	Items stolen in household burglaries 1995 to 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4.08	Items stolen in vehicle-related thefts 1995 to 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4.09	Estimated value of items stolen in household burglaries and vehicle-related thefts 2002/03 BCS interviews
Table 4.10	Proportions of incidents covered by insurance 1997 to 2002/03 BCS interviews

## List of tables and figures

### Chapter 5

- Figure 5.1 Police recorded and BCS violence broken down by offence, 2002/03
- Figure 5.2 All violent crime from the BCS, 1991 to 2002/03
- Figure 5.3 Violent crime recorded by the police, 1995 to 2002/03
- Figure 5.4 Trends in BCS violent crime by type of violence, 1995 to 2002/03
- Table 5a Number of violent incidents against men and women by BCS typology of violence, 2002/03
- Figure 5.5 Adults most at risk of violence based on 2002/03 BCS interviews
- Table 5b Number of times victims were victimised, 1999, 2001/02 and 2002/02 BCS interviews
- Table 5.01 Proportion of adult victims of violence by personal characteristics and BCS typology of violence 2002/03
- Table 5.02 Proportion of adults victims of violence, by household and area characteristics 2002/03
- Table 5.03 Violent crime recorded by the police and BCS, by police force area and region 2002/03
- Table 5.04 Injuries sustained in violent incidents (2002/03 BCS interviews)

### Chapter 6

- Figure 6.1 Percentage of household victims of burglary, vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime by ACORN area category 2002/03 BCS
- Figure 6.2 BCS victimisation rates by region 2002/03
- Figure 6.3 Percentage of respondents perceiving high levels of disorder (BVPI 122) 2002/03 BCS
- Figure 6.4 Percentage of household victims of burglary, vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime by area type, 2002/03 BCS
- Figure 6.5 Recorded crime in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, per 1,000 population
- Figure 6.6 Recorded robbery in the 10 Street Crime Initiative forces, 2002/03

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Figure 6.7	Concentration of selected crimes in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2002/03
Table 6.01	Percentage of household victims of burglary and vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime 2002/03 interviews by ACORN
Table 6.02	Fear of crime and perceived disorder 2002/03 interviews by ACORN
Table 6.03	Percentage of household victims of burglary and vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime 2002/03 interviews by area type
Table 6.04	Recorded crime by offence group by police force area and region 2002/03
Table 6.05	Recorded offences by offence group by police force area and region, number per '000 population in 2002/03
Table 6.06	BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region

## Chapter 7

Figure 7.1	Overall detection rates, 1988 to 2002/03
Figure 7.2	Detection rates for violence against the person, sexual offences and fraud and forgery, 1988 to 2002/03
Figure 7.3	Detection rates for robbery, theft and handling, criminal damage and burglary, 1988 to 2002/03
Table 7a	Change in the number of offences detected, 2001/02 to 2002/03
Figure 7.4	Offences and detection rates, 1988 to 2002/03
Figure 7.5	Maximum, minimum, and national average detection rates amongst police forces for different offence groups, 2002/03
Figure 7.6	Force detection rates by sanctioned and administrative detections, 2002/03
Table 7.01	Recorded crime: annual detection rates by police force area and region, 1997/98 to 2002/03
Table 7.02	Recorded crime: detection rates by method of detection by police force area and region 2002/03
Table 7.03	Recorded crime: detection rate by offence group and police force area and region 2002/03

## List of tables and figures

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence 2001/02 and 2002/03

### Chapter 8

Figure 8.1 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate, 1996 to 2002/03

Figure 8.2 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate, 1992 to 2002/03

Figure 8.3 Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Table 8a Fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder

Figure 8.4 Percentage thinking it likely they will be a victim in the following year, 2002/03

Figure 8.5 Worry about crime, 2002/03

Table 8b Worry about crime

Table 8c Worry about crime types by newspaper readership

Figure 8.6 Trend in worry about property crime, 1984 to 2002/03

Figure 8.7 Trend in worry about violent crime, 1984 to 2002/03

Table 8d The impact of crime and fear of crime on quality of life, 2001/02 and 2002/03

Figure 8.8 Effect of fear of crime on quality of life for different age groups, 2002/03

Table 8.01 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate over the previous two years 1996 to 2002/03

Table 8.02 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate over the previous two years 1992 to 2002/03

Table 8.03 Trends in worry about crime 1984 to 2002/03

Table 8.04 Worry about crime and personal safety, by personal characteristics 2002/03

Table 8.05 Worry about crime and personal safety, by experiences of crime 2002/03

Table 8.06 Worry about crime and personal safety, by perceptions of risk 2002/03

Table 8.07 Worry about crime and personal safety, by type of area 2002/03

Table 8.08 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation 2002/03

Table 8.09 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by personal characteristics 2002/03

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Table 8.10	Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by experiences of crime 2002/03
Table 8.11	Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by type of area 2002/03
Table 8.12	Trends in disorder perceived to be a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem 1992 to 2002/03
Table 8.13	Experience of antisocial behaviour by type of area 2002/03
Table 8.14	Confidence in the Criminal Justice System with high levels of worry about crime, 2002/03

# 1 Summary

*Jon Simmons and Tricia Dodd*

This is the second edition of 'Crime in England and Wales' bringing together statistics from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and the numbers of crimes recorded by the police to provide a comprehensive account of the latest patterns and trends in the main high volume crimes.

When reading this bulletin there are two important factors to remember:

- Changes in police recording practice have inflated the numbers of crimes in police statistics, in particular for violent offences, this year. The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) had the effect of increasing the number of recorded crimes. The impact of the new standard is discussed in more detail in Chapter 3 and in the companion on-line report on the NCRS (Simmons et al, 2003). Where possible, results have been adjusted to take into account these recording changes.
- Although the sample size for the BCS is at its largest ever, the results reported in this volume are subject to sampling variation and therefore those results that are based on small numbers of respondents will be less precise. Table 2.02 provides the statistical range within which the reported best estimates fall.

## **The extent of crime in England and Wales (Chapter 2)**

There were small decreases in crime between 2001/02 and 2002/03, as measured by the BCS and police recorded crime (after adjusting for the recording changes)

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

Police statistics provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, and are an important indicator of police workload. They can also be used for local crime pattern analysis. For the offences it covers, and the victims within its scope, the BCS gives a more complete estimate of crime in England and Wales since it covers both unreported and unrecorded crime and provides more reliable data on trends.

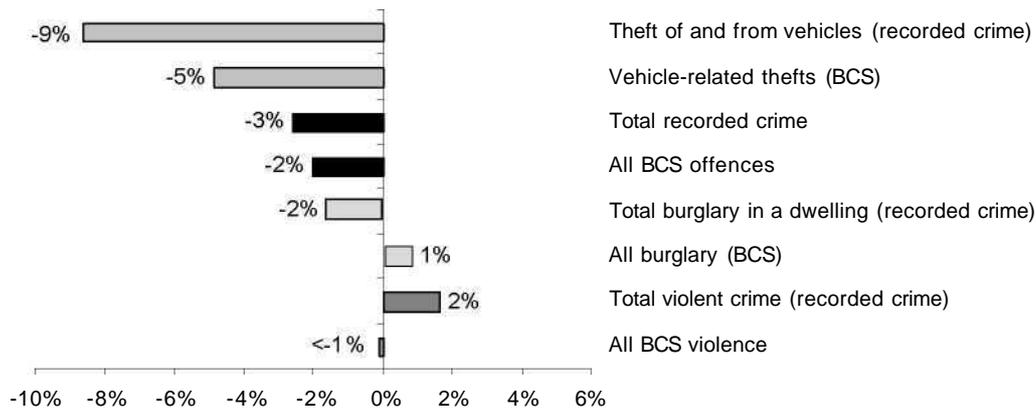
The main findings are:

- Crimes against adults living in private households decreased by two per cent in 2002/03, according to the British Crime Survey.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- The BCS estimate for crimes against adults living in private households was approximately 12.3 million, based on interviews conducted in 2002/03.
- The total number of crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03 was just under 5.9 million. This represented a decrease of three per cent after accounting for the effects of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

**Figure 1.1 Percentage changes in the main offence categories, 2001/02 to 2002/03**



Recorded crime adjusted for NCRS effect

## Trends in Crime in England and Wales (Chapter 3)

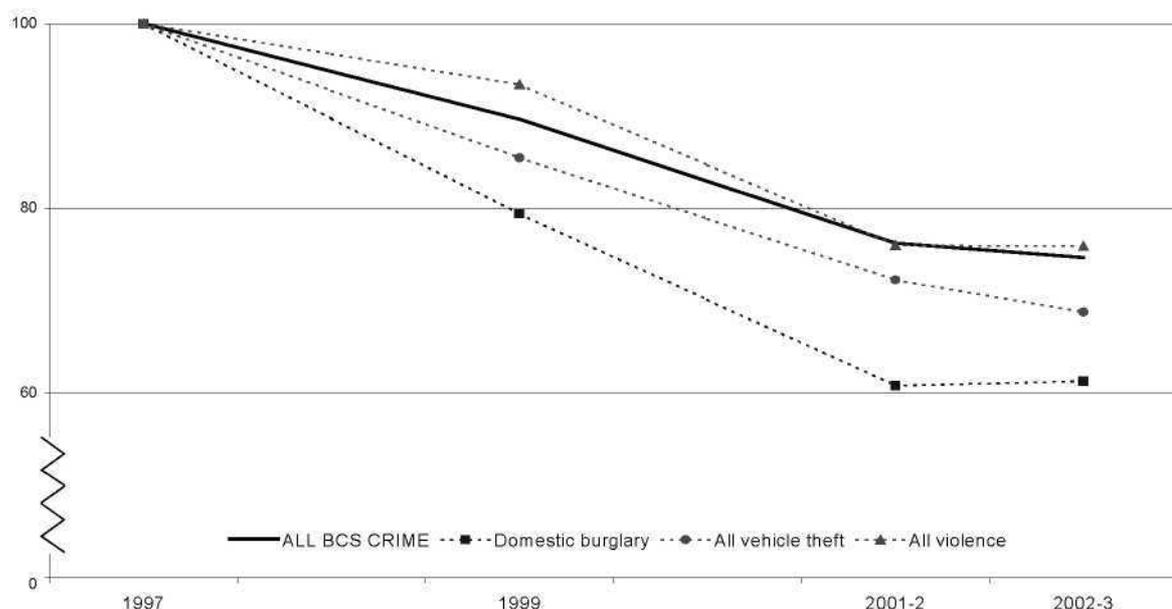
Crime measured by the BCS has fallen in every survey since the peak in 1995. There has been a 25 per cent fall since 1997. Since 1981, the BCS has provided a consistent and unchanged measure of crimes against adults living in private households.

This chapter describes the trends in crime over recent years, from both the British Crime Survey and the recorded crime statistics. The chapter looks at the most recent BCS results, and also compares the latest estimates from the BCS with 1997 and 1999 in order to provide an assessment of statistically significant changes. The changes in reporting and recording of crime over the past 20 years are described, and in particular the impact of the new National Crime Recording Standard and the considerable impact this has had on the number of recorded crimes is assessed.

The main findings include:

- Since 1995, the BCS has reported a fall in crime at each successive survey. There has been a 25 per cent fall in the crime measured by the BCS over the last five years, between 1997 and the 2002/03 BCS (see chart).

**Figure 1.2. Trends in crime as measured by the British Crime Survey, 1997 to 2002/03 (indexed, 1997)**



- The risk of becoming a victim of crime is still historically low at 27%, around the same level as 1981, and one-third lower than the risk in 1995 (40%).
- The proportion of crimes that were reported to the police has been stable since the mid-1990s (at around 44%), considerably higher than the reporting rate in the early 1980s (36% in 1981).
- Using the same subset of comparable crimes, in 2002/03 the proportion of reported crimes that were recorded by the police was the highest since the BCS began (70%), a clear reflection of the introduction of the new recording standard this year.

#### **Property crime in England and Wales (Chapter 4)**

Burglary has fallen by 39 per cent since 1997, and vehicle related thefts by 31 per cent according to the BCS. There was a statistically significant reduction of 5 per cent in vehicle thefts compared to last year.

This chapter describes the main types of high volume property crime, the relative risks and changes overtime as well as the impact on victims. It reports that:

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- There has been a 39 per cent fall in burglary since 1997, as measured by the BCS. The one per cent rise between the 2001/02 interviews and 2002/03 interviews is not statistically significant, but suggests a levelling off of the steep falls since 1995.
- Overall, 3.4 per cent of households in England and Wales interviewed in 2002/03 had experienced at least one domestic burglary or attempted burglary in the previous 12 months. This is similar to levels in recent years, but substantially below the figure of 6.5 per cent in 1993.
- The average household in England and Wales might expect to become a victim of a completed burglary once every 50 years. This, of course, is the risk across the whole of England and Wales, in some types of areas and for different groups of people, the risks are considerably higher.
- Burglaries resulting in the loss of video recorders (14%) were much less common in 2002/03 than in 1997 (34%), and there have been similar falls over time for televisions, hi-fis, and jewellery. However, burglaries of computer equipment were twice as common in 2002/03 (14%) as they were in the mid-1990s, and similarly burglaries resulting in the loss of items such as bags, credit cards and cheque books, and mobile phones, became more common in 2002/03.
- Vehicle-related theft has fallen by 31 per cent since 1997, as measured by the BCS. It has continued to fall, and the fall between the 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews was a statistically significant five per cent.

## Violent crime in England and Wales (Chapter 5)

After steep falls in violent crime measured by the BCS, the trend appears to have levelled off. Police recorded violence has been greatly affected by recording changes, but there has been an estimated two per cent increase once these impacts have been accounted for.

This chapter describes the main types of violent crime, the numbers reported by the BCS and those recorded by the police, and the relative risks of becoming a victim. Violent crimes can involve actual violence, the threat of violence or simple harassment. One half (49%) of all violent crime reported to the BCS did not result in any injury to the victim.

The trends in the different types of violence are reported, including the significant impact of the new National Crime Recording Standard on the numbers of less serious violent crimes recorded by the police, and the impact of the Street Crime Initiative in 2002/03 on robbery.

- The BCS estimate for the number of violent incidents experienced by adults in England and Wales (2.8 million) is unchanged from 2001/02.
- BCS violence has fallen by 19 per cent since 1999 and by 24 per cent since 1997, both statistically significant, due to reductions in domestic and acquaintance violence rather than stranger assaults.

- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime for those interviewed by the BCS in 2002/03 was 4.1 per cent. Young men aged 16 to 24 were most at risk, with 15.1 per cent experiencing a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to interview.
- In the police statistics, violent crime was one of the crime types most affected by the new crime recording standard (where the recording changes are estimated to have led to a 23 per cent rise in the number of violence against the person offences in 2002/03). There were just under one million violent crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03, an increase of two per cent since 2001/02, after adjusting for changes in police recording practice.
- Of the one million recorded violent crimes, 27 per cent were common assaults and 14 per cent harassment, both of which involve no physical injury to the victim. Furthermore, many of the 'less serious woundings' (35% of violent crime) will have resulted in minor injuries, such as bruising, grazes and black eyes (see Chapter 5 for definitions).
- The number of recorded robberies fell by 14 per cent in 2002/03 (adjusted for the NCRS effect).

### **Patterns of crime in England and Wales (Chapter 6)**

Household crime is highest in Yorkshire and Humberside region, and lowest in Wales, according to the BCS.

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

- BCS victimisation rates show household crime to be highest in the Yorkshire and Humberside region and lowest in Wales.
- The highest levels of worry about burglary are in Yorkshire and Humberside, North West, West Midlands and London regions. Levels of burglary as recorded by the police were also higher in Yorkshire and Humberside than in any other region.
- Yorkshire and Humberside and London region have the highest levels of worry about car crime and are the two regions with the highest incidence of vehicle theft as measured by the BCS.
- London displays the highest level of worry about violent crime.
- The concentration of crime is particularly evident for robbery. Two-thirds of all recorded robberies take place in just five police force areas - the Metropolitan Police, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Avon and Somerset. These five police force areas include large cities and highly populated areas. The Metropolitan Police Service is responsible for recording 39 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### Detection of crime (Chapter 7)

Of those crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03, 23.5 per cent were detected. The number of detections in 2002/2003 was eight per cent higher than in 2001/2002, though the detection rate was similar (unadjusted for any possible NCRS effect).

There have been a variety of changes to the count of detections over recent years. Detection statistics are only one measure of police effectiveness, and it should be noted that detection rates can vary considerably depending on the type of crime and the manner in which a crime is brought to police attention. Not all crimes in which a suspect is identified will necessarily be reflected in the count of detected crimes. Nonetheless:

- There were 1.4 million detected crimes in 2002/02. The number of detections in 2002/2003 was eight per cent higher than in 2001/2002.
- The detection rate in 2002/03 was 23.5 per cent, very slightly higher than the rate in 2001/02 (23.4 per cent). However, the full introduction of the NCRS this year may have depressed the current detection rate.

### Perceptions of and concerns about crime in England and Wales (Chapter 8)

Despite decreasing levels of crime in England and Wales, more people think that crime has increased over the last two years.

The public's concern about crime encompasses a variety of different attitudes, feelings and reactions. This chapter addresses the level of worry about crime, which has been falling since the mid-1990s, concerns about personal safety, beliefs about the level of crime and anti-social behaviour, perceptions of local disorder, victim satisfaction with the police and also confidence in the criminal justice system. It should be noted that:

- Over one-third of the public (38%) believed that crime had risen 'a lot', and a further 35 per cent felt that crime had risen 'a little' over the previous two years. This despite the total number of crimes reported to the BCS falling by 17 per cent since 1999.
- Readers of the national tabloid papers are much more likely to consider the national crime rate to have increased a lot over this period, compared to broadsheet readers (43% compared with 26%).

## Summary

- Levels of public confidence in most aspects of the Criminal Justice System have tended to decline from 2001/02 levels, except for the confidence in the CJS respecting the rights of people accused of committing crimes, which has increased.
- The percentage of respondents perceiving a high level of disorder in their local area increased slightly between the 2001/02 and 2002/03. There were small but significant rises in proportions considering teenagers hanging around, rubbish or litter lying around, and people being drunk or rowdy in public places, a problem. However, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion considering racial attacks and racial harassment a problem in their local area.
- Worry about burglary has remained generally level since the last survey year; however, worry about car crime and violent crime have decreased during this period.



## 2 The extent of crime in England and Wales

*Celia Smith*

### 2.1 SUMMARY

Police recorded and British Crime Survey (BCS) figures are complementary series that together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

Police recorded crime figures provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, and are an important indicator of police workload. They can also be used for local crime pattern analysis. For the offences it covers, and the victims within its scope, the BCS gives a more complete estimate of crime in England and Wales since it covers both unreported and unrecorded crime. It also gives a more reliable indication of trends in crime as BCS estimates are unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, or in police recording.

- The BCS estimate for crimes against adults living in private households, based on interviews taking place in 2002/03, was approximately 12.3 million. This represents a decrease of two per cent compared with the estimate for 2001/02 (Table 3.01).
- Police recorded crime has been affected by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) this year. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03 was just under 5.9 million, which once the impact of the NCRS has been taken into account, suggests an underlying fall of three percent<sup>1</sup> (Table 3.04).
- Just over 9.5 million BCS crimes are *comparable* with those recorded by police statistics, of which an estimated 43 per cent were reported to the police, and of those reported an estimated 68 per cent were recorded by the police. The recording rate has risen by six percentage points over the past 12 months, further evidence of the impact of the NCRS<sup>2</sup> (Table 2.01 and Table 3.08).
- The most common offences against adults living in private households as measured by the BCS involved some type of theft, 57 per cent of the total. Nineteen per cent of BCS crimes were vehicle-related thefts and eight per cent burglaries (Figure 2.3).
- Of the crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03, 80 per cent were offences against property. Forty per cent of recorded crime is accounted for by theft and handling offences, 15 per cent by burglary and 19 per cent by criminal damage. Seventeen per cent of police recorded crime was accounted for by thefts of or from vehicles (Table 3.04).
- Results from 2002/03 BCS interviews showed general decreases in victims' assessment of the seriousness of their crime compared to 2001/02 interviews (Tables 2.03 and 2.04).
- Thirty-one per cent of victims of common assault (includes violence with minimal or no injury) were victimised more than once according to 2002/03 BCS interviews compared to just eight per cent of victims of theft from the person (Table 2.05).

For further information on the NCRS see Chapter 3, and in the detailed internet report: *Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003*. Using the 'new' comparable subset of crimes rather than the 'old' used in chapter 3 when analysing trends over time.

### **Comparing the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime**

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

- The BCS excludes so-called victimless crimes (e.g. drug dealing), crimes such as murder, where a victim is no longer available for interview and fraud. BCS estimates also exclude sexual offences (due to the small number reported to the survey and concerns about willingness of respondents to disclose such offences).
- BCS thefts involving household and personal property also cannot be compared because while they might be included in police figures they would fall into a miscellaneous category of thefts, which will also include thefts of business property, shoplifting and other crimes.
- The Glossary gives definitions of the various offence categories, and highlights those where comparisons can be made. In 1998/99 there were changes to the police counting rules and extensions to the offences covered that influenced comparisons (e.g. common assault only became a police recorded crime in 1998/99 and so is not in the comparable subset for longer-term comparisons).

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

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

The latest BCS figures published here relate to interviews conducted throughout 2002/03, with a recall period for crime incidents in **the 12 months preceding the interview**. Averaging over this moving recall period generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures for the **12 months up to the end of September 2002, about six months behind the recorded crime figures for 2002/03 in this volume**.

There are some more general points to note in making comparisons between the two series:

- The police have recorded crime figures since 1857 and the BCS started in 1982. The BCS measures both reported and unreported crime. As such the BCS provides a measure of trends in crime that is not affected by changes in public reporting to the police or police recording.
- BCS measures are based on estimates from a sample of the population. The estimates are therefore subject to sampling error, though the move to a larger annual sample from 2001 has reduced sampling variation.
- Police recorded crime provides data at the level of 43 police force areas and for their Basic Command Units (as well as Local Authorities). The BCS can now provide limited information at the police force area level, but not for smaller geographical units.

## 2.2 THE EXTENT OF CRIME ACCORDING TO POLICE AND BCS FIGURES

- Around three-quarters of the BCS crimes and half of recorded crimes are captured within the set of comparable crimes<sup>3</sup> (Table 2.01).
- The BCS count in the comparable subset is over three times higher than the recorded crimes that are adjusted for comparison. Put another way, this means that only a third of crimes against private individuals and their households end up in the recorded crime count (Table 2.01).

There are two main reasons for the difference between the BCS and the recorded crime counts. First, many crimes are not reported to the police; and second, not all those that are, are recorded in equivalent offence categories or recorded at all. Because reporting and recording rates vary across offence types, so do the resulting gaps between the BCS and police counts.

Furthermore, unlike police recorded crimes the BCS estimates of crimes are derived from a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling error. From January 2001 the BCS moved to continuous sampling, with respondents being asked about their experience of crime in the previous 12 months. Results reported here are based on around 36,500 interviews that took place during 2002/03. Table 2.02 indicates the range within which there is a 90 per cent probability that the true value lies, based on this sample of the population. Estimates that are based on small samples of the population, for example some of the rarer crimes, can give rise to wide confidence intervals and few statistically significant changes.

### *BCS fieldwork and response rates*

*The BCS fieldwork was organised by BMRB Social Research. One adult aged 16 or over in each selected household was identified for interview using random-selection procedures. No substitution of respondents was allowed. Respondents were questioned at home by interviewers using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). The Small Users Postcode Address File (PAF) was used as the sampling frame. The sample was stratified by police force area. Further details on sampling procedures are contained in Boiling et al., 2002.*

*Recent survey results show a response rate of 75 per cent (based on BCS interviews issued during the year ending December 2002). This was slightly higher than the 74 per cent response rate for interviews issued during 2001.*

## Reporting

For victims interviewed during 2002/03, 43 per cent said that the incident had been reported to, or become known to the police.<sup>4</sup> This figure is broadly unchanged since 2001/02. The majority of crimes (57% of the comparable crimes) are not reported to the police at all. This is the main reason

<sup>3</sup> Using the 'new' comparable subset of crimes rather than the 'old' used in chapter 3 when analysing trends over time.

<sup>4</sup> Reported crimes are those which the victim said the police came to know about. This includes incidents reported by the victim, those reported by someone else, and those which the police came to know about in some other way - for instance because they were already on the scene.

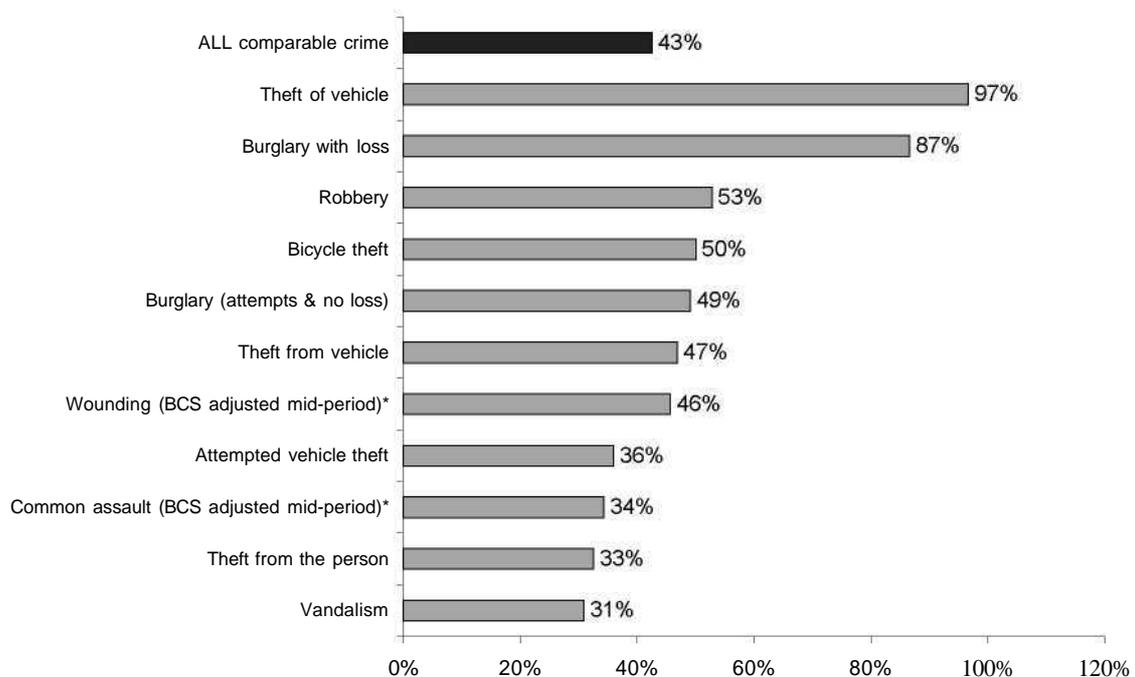
## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

why the BCS estimate is so much higher than the recorded crime figure, and a truer picture of crime as a whole (Table 2.01).

The BCS asked victims why they did not report incidents to the police.

- For most crimes the main reason for not reporting was that the incident was too trivial, there was no loss or the victim believed the police could not do much about it (69% for all comparable crime), followed by the incident being considered a private matter and dealt with by the victim (28% of comparable crime) (Table 3.07).
- For violent crime many victims did not report a crime as they considered the issue to be a private matter and dealt with it themselves (47%).

**Figure 2.1 Reporting rates based on 2002/03 BCS interviews, comparable subset**



- Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. In order to ensure comparability, the BCS definitions of common assault and wounding have been changed to reflect this for half of the comparable reference period for 2002/03 interviews.

The public's willingness to report crime varied considerably by type of offence (see Figure 2.1 and Table 2.01).

- As in previous years, theft of vehicles was most likely to be reported (97%).
- Burglaries in which something was stolen also had relatively high reporting rates (87%).

## The extent of crime in England and Wales

- Reporting rates were relatively low for crimes such as common assault<sup>5</sup> and vandalism (34% and 31%).

Although many crimes go unreported because victims feel it is not worth bothering the police, even for more serious crimes, the police count does not provide a complete measure. Many incidents that would commonly be thought of as serious in terms of their offence classification are not reported, such as robbery (53% reporting rate) and wounding<sup>5</sup> (46%) (Table 2.01). This will, in part, be because legal definitions do not necessarily capture the circumstances of the crime, or its impact and so the victim may not regard the crime as seriously as the legal classification would suggest.

The BCS includes a measure to assess seriousness in terms of impact on the victims. Respondents were asked to rate the incident using a 'seriousness scale' where zero represented a very minor offence, and 20 represented murder. The results of this question are shown in Table 2.03 and Table 2.04.

- Results from 2002/03 interviews show general decreases in victim's assessments of the seriousness of their crime compared to 2001/02 interviews but increases compared to 1999 interviews (Table 2.03).
- Wounding was considered to be the most serious offence, with a mean score of nine in 2002/03 interviews (Table 2.03).
- Other household theft was considered least serious, attracting a mean seriousness score of four in 2002/03 interviews (Table 2.03).

### Comparisons of reported and recorded crime

The BCS provides estimates for the number of incidents said to have been reported to the police. The change to continuous sampling, with a moving previous 12-month recall period means that the precise comparisons, based on calendar year estimates, of BCS reported incidents and police recorded incidents are no longer possible. In Table 2.01 comparisons are made between the annual estimates of reported crimes based on BCS interviews during 2002/03 and police recorded crime figures for the year to the *end of September 2002*, this being the most closely comparable period to the overlapping recall periods used during BCS interviews in 2002/03. This is a more approximate measure of police recording as a proportion of reported crime than in the past. Results should, however, give a reasonable indication as to those crimes where police recording has changed the most.

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

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- Overall the estimated recording rate of comparable offences has increased from 62 per cent in 2001/02 to 68 per cent for the 2002/03 interviews (Table 3.08).

### ***Factors influencing police recording of crime***

*The number of crimes that are recorded by the police are dependent on two factors. Firstly, whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time). Secondly, whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.*

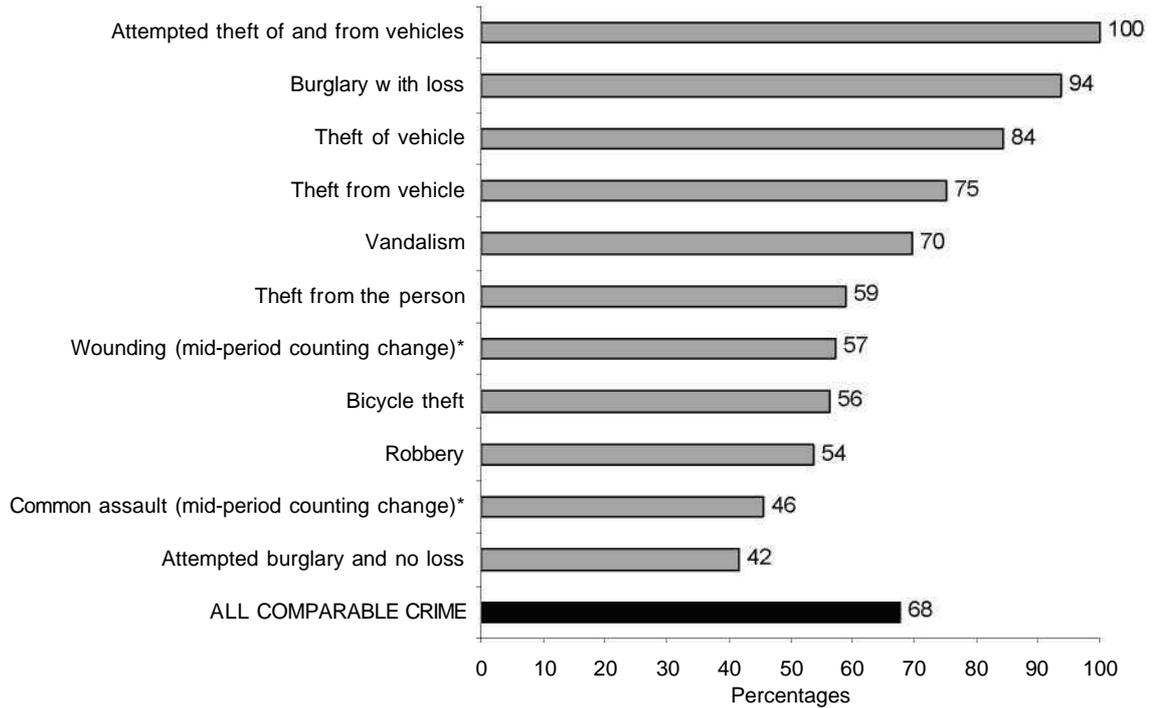
*The Home Office Counting Rules were amended in 1998, adding a large number of crimes to the total recorded by the police, particularly in the categories of less serious violent crimes, frauds and drug offences.*

*The Home Office Counting Rules were revised again last year in order to incorporate the new National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), which aims to introduce a greater degree of consistency to the ways in which crime is recorded in different police forces and to ensure that there is a comprehensive record of all crimes that are reported to the police by victims. These changes were fully introduced across all police forces from April 2002, and so have had an impact on the recorded crime statistics reported on here. There has also been a more general impetus over recent years, both from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and from the Home Office, to increase the recording of crimes reported to the police which will also have impacted on the recorded crime figures. The impact of these changes is discussed further in Chapter 3 (see also Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003), but as with the 1998 counting rule changes, it may take several years for the changes to bed down.*

- Increases in recording were particularly pronounced for vandalism and theft from the person, as might be anticipated as a result of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard whose impact would tend to focus on the recording of less serious offences. The changes this year may be overstated as the basis for comparison is not exact (see above paragraph). These increases are, however, consistent with the analysis of recording changes from the police statistics over the past year, and are summarised in Chapter 3.

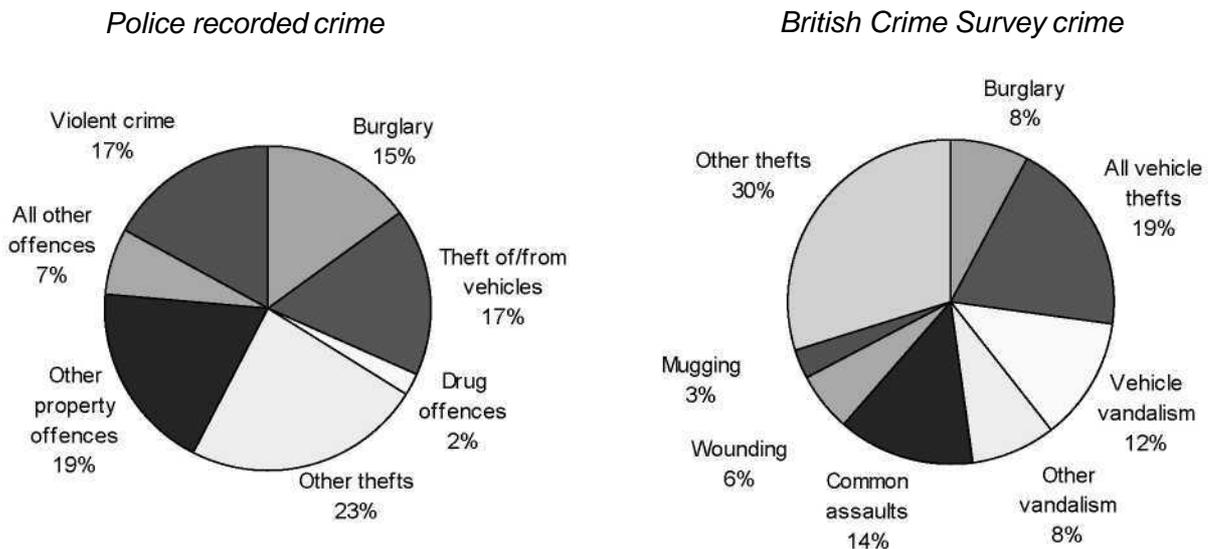
Both reporting and recording rates vary across offence types and therefore the overall gap between BCS and police statistics is much wider for some offences than others (see Table 2.01). For some offence types, the figures are not dissimilar: a high proportion of thefts of vehicles (81%) are recorded, as are burglaries with loss (81%). The greatest discrepancy is for common assault, only 16 per cent of which end up in police records. The proportion is also low for vandalism (22%), no loss attempted burglaries (21%), and theft from the person (19%)(Table 2.01).

Figure 2.2 Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police (the recording shortfall) for comparable crime, year to September 2002



\*Adjusted for change in recorded crime counting rules in April 2002

Figure 2.3 Police recorded crime and BCS crime by type of crime, 2002/03



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

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

The composition of the crime counts provided by the police recorded statistics and the BCS will vary considerably due to the different coverage of the two series.

- The majority of offences against adult victims living in private households, as measured by the BCS, involved some type of theft (57%). Nineteen per cent of BCS crimes were vehicle-related thefts and eight percent burglaries (Figure 2.3).
- Violent crimes comprised 23 per cent of offences reported to BCS interviewers. Sixty-one per cent of these were common assaults that involved at most minimal injury, of which 63 per cent involved no injury (Figure 5.1). Forty-nine per cent of *all* BCS violent incidents did not result in any injury to the victim (Table 5.04).
- The majority of crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03 were offences against property (80%). Forty per cent of recorded crime was accounted for by theft and handling offences, 15 per cent by burglary and 19 per cent by criminal damage. Seventeen per cent of police recorded crime was accounted for by thefts of or from vehicles (Table 3.04).
- Violent crime accounted for 17 per cent of police recorded crimes. Eighty per cent of these violent crimes recorded by the police comprised the less serious types of violence, of which 30 per cent were common assaults (assaults with no injury), 17 per cent crimes of harassment and a further 44 per cent less serious wounding where only minor injury was involved.<sup>6</sup> Robbery accounted for 11 per cent of police recorded violence, compared to 15 per cent last year, and accounted for two per cent of all police recorded crime. A further five per cent of police recorded violence was accounted for by sexual offences, and four per cent by the more serious violence (such as serious wounding) (Table 3.04).

<sup>6</sup> The counting rules for violent crime were amended this year to produce greater clarity in distinguishing between common assaults resulting in no injury and those violent crimes where a victim receives minor injury or more serious wounding. For further information, see Chapter 5.

### Changes to the British Crime Survey methodology

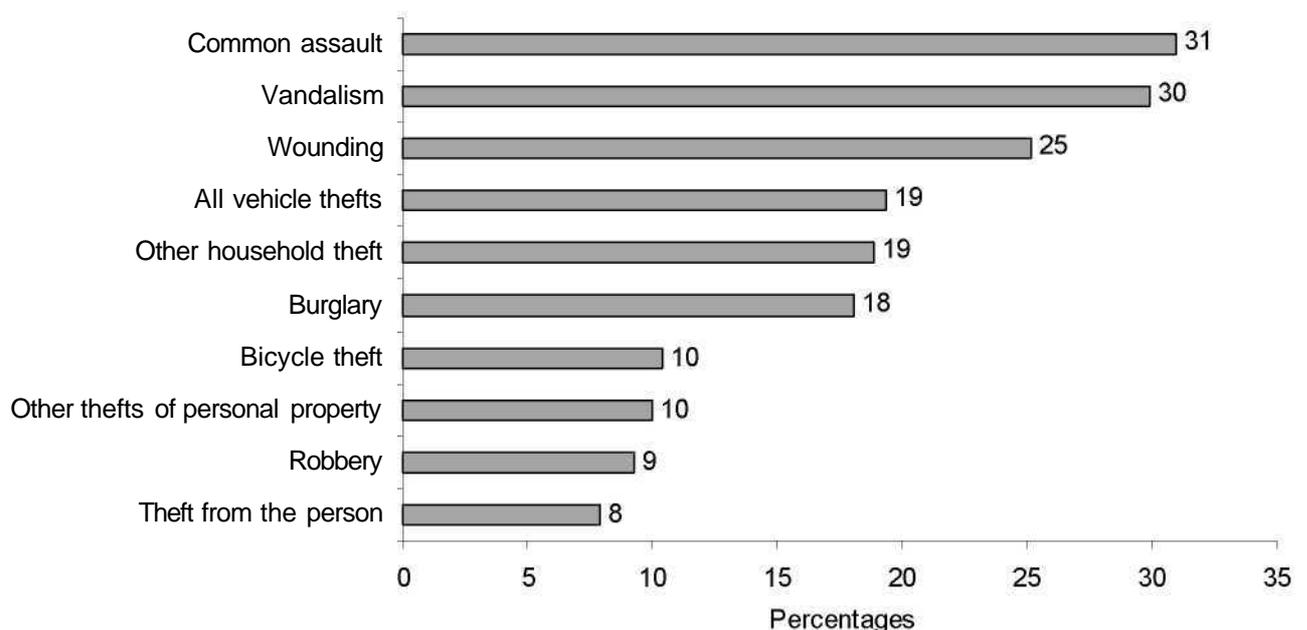
In 2000 the Home Office commissioned a methodological review (Lynn and Elliot, 2000). The most important review recommendation was to sample respondents **continuously** throughout the year. The review also recommended that the recall period for victimisation should be the 12 months prior to the interview, rather than relate back to the previous calendar year, and that a "spliced design", to allow comparison of the old and new methodology should be adopted initially.

Results of work undertaken by Professor Lynn have indicated that the introduction of a life events calendar may have assisted respondents in recall of household offences and that for crimes against the person, such as violence, respondents appear to readily recollect incidents under both the old and new methodology.

The review also recommended adoption of a new system of **calibration weighting** (see Glossary). This counters the effect of differential response rates between age and gender subgroups. The added weight that this gives to young people in the sample boosts estimates of numbers of personal offences, but has a much more limited effect on household offences. Results for BCS sweeps from the 1996 BCS sweep onwards have been reweighted using this technique. The effect on BCS trends in crime since 1995 is fairly limited.

## 2.3 REPEAT VICTIMISATION

Figure 2.4 Proportion of victims that were victimised more than once, 2002/03 BCS interviews



## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Repeat victimisation is at the centre of the interplay between incidence rates (total numbers of offences) and prevalence rates (the proportion of the population victimised once or more). High levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in lower prevalence rates, other things being equal, since there are fewer individual victims, albeit some who are frequently targeted. Repeat victimisation is defined here as those victims of a particular offence or group of offences who are victims two or more times within the same year.

- BCS interviews for 2002/03 indicated that just under a third of victims of violence (28%) were victimised more than once in a 12-month period, with half of these victimised three times or more. Of all violence, domestic violence had the highest rate of repeat victimisation, but 2002/03 interviews show fewer victims were repeatedly victimised compared to 2001/02 interviews (Table 2.05).
- Vandalism also had a high rate of repeat victimisation (30%) with 26 per cent of vehicle vandalism victims and 32 per cent of all other vandalism victims being victims twice or more in a 12-month period (Table 2.05).
- Robbery and theft from the person had the lowest repeat victimisation rates. There was a significant change from 2001/02 interviews when robbery had a repeat victimisation rate of 23 per cent compared with just nine per cent in 2002/03 (Table 2.05). This fall is likely to be an effect of the general fall in the number of robberies in 2002/03 compared to 2001/02.

Table 2.01 Comparison of the 2002/03 BCS and recorded crime for year to September 2002<sup>1</sup>

Numbers and percentages	Recorded crime and BCS					
	Crimes recorded by the police - comparable figures only (Thousands)	Crimes recorded by the police adjusted for comparison <sup>2</sup> (Thousands)	BCS best estimate of number committed (Thousands) Interviews 2002/03	Best estimate of percentage recorded (of all BCS crime)	Percentage of BCS crimes reported to the police	Percentage recorded of reported
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>ALL COMPARABLE PROPERTY CRIME<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>71%</b>
Attempts and no loss	116	116	566	21%	49%	42%
Burglary with loss	331	331	<b>407</b>	81%	87%	94%
<b>All vehicle thefts<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>84%</b>
Thefts from vehicles	<b>567</b>	502	1,425	35%	47%	75%
Thefts of vehicles	246	227	278	81%	97%	84%
Attempted vehicle theft	<b>279</b>	<b>255</b>	663	38%	36%	100% <sup>6</sup>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	100	101	359	28%	50%	56%
<b>Thefts from the person</b>	142	131	685	19%	33%	59%
<b>VIOLENCE<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>676</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Common assault (BCS adjusted mid-period) <sup>7</sup>	271	216	1,381	16%	34%	46%
Wounding (BCS adjusted mid-period) <sup>7</sup>	297	265	1,012	26%	46%	57%
Robbery	107	85	300	28%	53%	54%
<b>ALL COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>9,614</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>68%</b>

1. Source: 2002/03 BCS interviews and recorded crime for year to September 2002. The police recorded crime figures used in this comparison relate to the year to September 2002 as this is the period most closely comparable with the recall periods covered by BCS interviews in 2002/03.

2. Adjustments are necessary because of the sampling structure and coverage of the BCS. Recorded crime figures are adjusted to account for under 16's, and commercial property and vehicles which are not covered by the BCS.

3. All comparable property crime comprises all acquisitive crime: all burglary, all vehicle thefts, bicycle theft and theft from the person.

4. Vehicle interference and tampering became a comparable crime from 1 April 1998; this has been added to attempted thefts of and from, but in some instances may be coded as a nuisance incident or vehicle vandalism when reported to the BCS.

5. Unlike the 'All BCS violence' category in Table 3.01, the violence category here does not include snatch theft.

6. The number of recorded offences of attempted vehicle theft was higher than the number estimated to have been reported. This is the result of estimates having to be made of the proportion of recorded vehicle thefts that are attempts as this is not recorded by the police.

7. Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. In order to ensure comparability, the BCS

Table 2.02 Range of BCS estimates of number of crimes and statistical significance of changes between 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews

Numbers (thousands)				BCS
	Best estimate Interviews 2002/03	Lower estimate Interviews 2002/03	Higher estimate Interviews 2002/03	Statistical significance of changes from 2001/02 to 2002/03 BCS
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>				
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>2,412</b>	<b>2,660</b>	
Vehicle vandalism	1,518	1,436	1,601	
Other vandalism	1,018	937	1,099	
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,047</b>	
Attempts	412	368	456	
Attempts and no loss	566	503	629	
With entry	561	512	611	
With loss	407	372	442	
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>2,463</b>	*
Theft from vehicle	1,425	1,355	1,495	
Theft of vehicles	278	253	304	
Attempts of and from	663	615	711	
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>390</b>	
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,434</b>	
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>758</b>	
Snatch theft from person	88	67	108	
Stealth theft from person	598	530	665	
<b><u>Other thefts of personal property</u></b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,430</b>	
<b>VIOLENCE</b>				
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,843</b>	
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>794</b>	
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>346</b>	
<b>ALL BCS VIOLENCE<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>2,982</b>	
Domestic violence	501	419	584	
Acquaintance	942	830	1,055	
Stranger	949	833	1,066	
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	388	337	439	

1. Source 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews.

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

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

4. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,157,372 households in England and Wales (see Glossary). For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts and other thefts of personal property the numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 41,836,000 adults in England and Wales (see Glossary).

5. Statistical significance of changes are indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and double at the 5% level (two tailed tests). Tests are based on comparing rates of victimisation per household or per number in the adult population (i.e. account is taken of shifts in household and population numbers before comparisons are made). The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval (margin of error) around the 2002/03 sample estimates. The best estimate is the estimate from the sample. The lower and higher estimates are for the 90% confidence interval. There is 90% certainty that the estimate for 2002/03 number lies between these two figures. It is not possible to construct confidence ranges for all BCS/comparable 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).

**Table 2.03 Victim assessment of seriousness 1999 to 2002/03 interviews**

<b>Mean seriousness score</b>	1999	2001/02	<b>BCS</b> 2002/03
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>			
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Vehicle vandalism	4.2	5.1	4.9
Other vandalism	4.4	5.2	5.1
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Attempts	6.0	6.8	6.9
Attempts and no loss	6.5	7.2	7.4
With entry	8.4	9.0	8.8
With loss	8.5	9.2	8.8
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Theft from vehicle	4.7	5.3	5.3
Theft of vehicles	8.8	9.3	8.6
Attempts of and from	5.0	5.9	5.6
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Snatch theft from person	6.1	6.4	5.9
Stealth theft from person	5.0	5.7	5.2
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>VIOLENCE</b>			
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<hr/>			
<b>ALL BCS VIOLENCE</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Domestic violence	7.2	8.4	7.5
Acquaintance	5.7	6.5	7.1
Stranger	5.8	7.2	7.0
<u>Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)</u>	<u>7.3</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>7.9</u>

1. Source 2000, 2001, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews. 2001 interviews are Type A (old methodology) interviews, mostly conducted in the first quarter of 2001.

2. Excludes don't knows.

3. Victims were 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 (murder).

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

Table 2.04 Grouped victim assessment of seriousness 1999 to 2002/03 interviews

	<b>Percentages</b>								
	<b>1999</b>			<b>2001/02</b>			<b>2002/03</b>		
	0-6	7-13	14-20	0-6	7-13	14-20	0-6	7-13	14-20
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>									
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>18</b>	6
Vehicle vandalism	81	17	2	73	22	5	76	19	5
Other vandalism	78	17	5	74	20	7	75	16	8
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	15
Attempts	65	27	8	57	33	11	54	37	9
Attempts and no loss	59	31	9	54	33	13	51	37	12
With entry	40	44	16	39	39	22	39	40	20
With loss	39	44	17	37	40	23	38	42	20
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>28</b>	6
Theft from vehicle	78	19	4	72	22	6	71	24	5
Theft of vehicles	31	56	13	30	50	20	35	52	13
Attempts of and from	75	22	3	66	29	5	69	26	4
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>21</b>	3
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>15</b>	4
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>22</b>	5
Snatch theft from person	63	31	7	58	32	10	60	35	5
Stealth theft from person	73	24	4	69	25	6	75	20	5
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>18</b>	3
<b>VIOLENCE</b>									
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>70</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	25
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	15
<b>ALL BCS VIOLENCE</b>									
Domestic violence	54	28	18	43	35	23	48	38	14
Acquaintance	65	26	9	58	29	13	57	26	17
Stranger	68	23	9	57	27	16	58	28	14
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	51	31	17	40	41	19	45	42	13

1. Source 2000, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS.

2. Excludes don't knows.

3. 0-6 represents the least serious assessment and 14-20 represents the most serious.

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

Table 2.05 Number of times victims were victimised, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews

Percentages	2001/02			2002/03			BCS
	Once	Twice	Three or more times	Once	Twice	Three or more times	
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>							
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>68</b>	17	15	<b>70</b>	16	14	
Vehicle vandalism	73	16	11	75	16	10	
Other vandalism	67	16	17	69	16	16	
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>85</b>	10	6	<b>82</b>	13	5	
Attempts	86	9	5	83	12	5	
Attempts and no loss	84	9	6	81	13	6	
With entry	87	8	5	86	9	5	
With loss	90	6	4	89	8	3	
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>79</b>	14	7	<b>81</b>	13	6	
Theft from vehicle	80	13	6	84	11	5	
Theft of vehicles	92	6	2	93	6	1	
Attempts of and from	83	11	6	85	12	4	
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>89</b>	10	1	<b>90</b>	8	3	
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>81</b>	11	8	<b>81</b>	13	6	
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>92</b>	7	1	<b>92</b>	6	2	
Snatch theft from person	97	3	0	97	3	0	
Stealth theft from person	91	7	1	93	5	2	
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>86</b>	10	3	<b>90</b>	7	3	
<b>VIOLENCE</b>							
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>66</b>	17	17	<b>69</b>	15	16	
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>74</b>	13	13	<b>75</b>	14	11	
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>77</b>	16	8	<b>91</b>	7	2	
<b>ALL BCS VIOLENCE</b>							
Domestic violence	44	22	34	56	22	23	
Acquaintance	71	17	12	72	13	15	
Stranger	80	11	8	79	12	9	
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	81	13	6	91	8	2	

1. Source 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews.

2. Based on victims of specified offences.

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



## 3 Trends in crime in England and Wales

*Heather Salisbury*

Trends in the crimes measured by the BCS now cover a time span of approximately 20 years. Nine sweeps of the survey were carried out between 1982 and 2001: these sweeps reported on victimisation in the preceding calendar year. Interviews in the 2001/02 financial year sweep reported on a range of victimisation recall periods centred on March 2001. The latest statistics cover interviews in 2002/03, which, similarly, report on a recall period centred around March 2002.

Recorded crime statistics have been collated since 1857 but this chapter will focus on the period since 1981 to enable comparisons to be made with the BCS. The recorded crime statistics in most of this chapter are based on crimes recorded during the 2002/03 financial year and are therefore centred around September 2002. However, in estimating the proportion of BCS crimes reported to the police that are recorded in Section 3.5, the 12 months up to the end of September 2002 (i.e. with the mid-point of March 2002) has been used as the time period that most closely matches the range of recall periods covered by BCS interviews during 2002/03.

Where BCS and recorded crime are directly compared in order to calculate the proportions of crimes reported to, and recorded by, the police, the group of incidents identified by the BCS are adjusted to produce a comparable subset of offences to ensure comparability with the police data. Comparisons between police figures and BCS estimates can be made from 1999 using the new comparable subset, which reflects the changes introduced in the counting rules for recorded crime in 1998/99. Prior to 1999, the old comparable subset is used.

In 2001, an important change was made to the way police crime figures are recorded, via the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). Information about this change is included at the end of this chapter, and full details in Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003, which can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr3103.pdf>. Broadly, the NCRS had the effect of increasing the amount of crime recorded, particularly for certain subgroups of crime. For the analysis of trends, therefore, it is necessary to make an adjustment to the figures to take account of this. In addition, clarifications to the counting rules from April 2002 have meant that police recording of common assault now only includes incidents where there was no injury, with the effect that any assault involving minor injury has now been pushed into 'less serious woundings'. The comparisons for this year have therefore taken this into account.

### 3.1 SUMMARY

- Following an initially substantial downward trend since 1995, there have been small falls in overall crime in the last year, with crime measured by the BCS falling by two per cent and recorded crime, after adjustment for the NCRS effect, falling by three per cent.
- Vehicle thefts have fallen (by a statistically significant 5% according to the BCS and 9% according to recorded crime figures), domestic burglary has remained broadly stable

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

(burglary measured by the BCS rose by 1% and recorded domestic burglary fell by 2%) and violent crime has remained stable (BCS) or shown an increase (recorded total violent crime has increased by 2%).

- Victims' reporting of crimes to the police has remained broadly stable since 1997, whereas the recording of crimes by the police has been increasing, especially in the last year, as a result of the national introduction of the NCRS.

### 3.2 OVERALL TRENDS IN CRIME

- Looking at BCS and recorded crime together, the general picture is one of small falls in the last year.
- BCS crimes rose steadily over the decade between the 1982 BCS (which measured crime in 1981) and the 1992 BCS (which measured crime in 1991), with an average increase close to three per cent a year, and continued to rise until 1995.
- The total number of crimes estimated by the BCS for interviews in 2002/03 fell by two per cent to 12,308,000 from 12,563,000 in 2001/02 (Table 3.01). This fall incorporates a statistically significant reduction in all household crime (down 3% to 7.6 million), and a stabilisation of all personal crime (which remains at 4.7 million).
- After allowing for the effects of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) (see box at the end of this chapter), the total number of notifiable offences recorded by the police decreased by three per cent<sup>1</sup> (Table 3.04).
- As shown in Figure 3.1, since 1995, there has been a fall in BCS crime in every survey. Over the last six years, from 1997 to 2002/03, there has been a 25 per cent fall (Table 3.01).
- The decrease in crime has slowed down in recent years: the BCS has shown that all crime fell by a much larger amount - 15 per cent - between 1999 and 2001/02, than between 2001/02 and 2002/03.
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime over the past two sweeps of the survey is still historically low, around the same level as the first BCS in 1982 (which measured crime in 1981).
- For recorded crime, there have been significant changes in recording practice since 1981. There were changes to the counting rules in 1998, and the introduction of the NCRS in 2001. The total number of recorded crimes now stands at just under 5.9 million<sup>2</sup> for 2002/03 (Table 3.04).

The adjusted figure is calculated to show the figures in 2002/03 allowing for the NCRS effect. As the NCRS was introduced in some forces earlier than April 2002 this is, in fact, a cumulative effect over two years.

This figure is not adjusted to take account of the NCRS.

## Trends in Crime in England and Wales

Figure 3.1 Trends in all BCS crime, 1981 to 2002/03

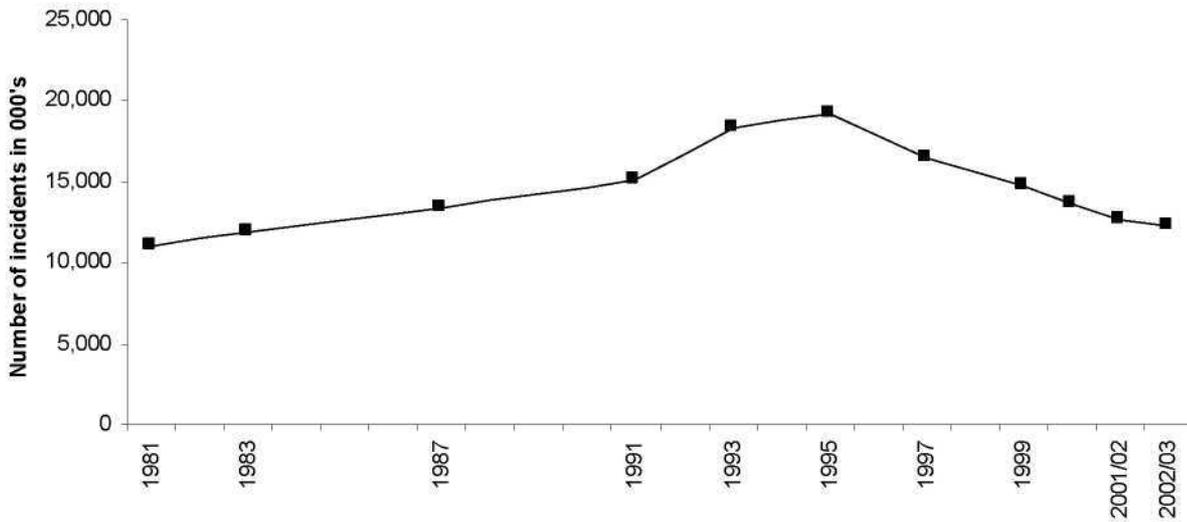
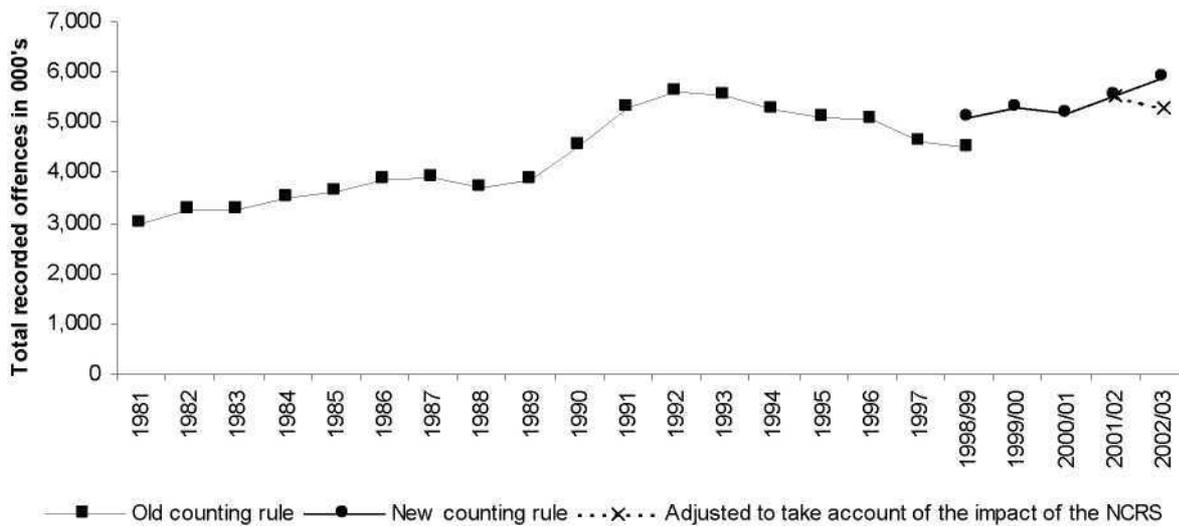


Figure 3.2 Trends in recorded crime, 1981 to 2002/03



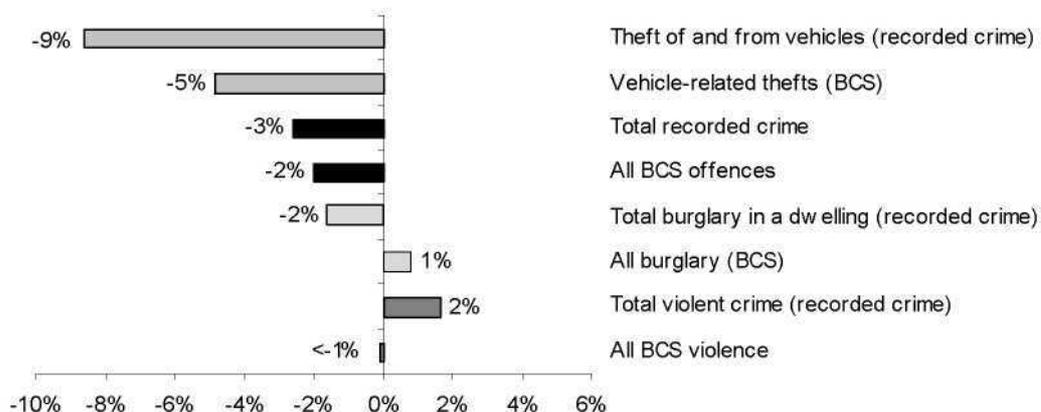
- To interpret the trend in recorded crime since 1998/99 and also back to 1981, two factors need to be considered: changes in reporting rates and changes in recording practice by the police. Changes in reporting are discussed in more detail in Section 3.4 and changes in recording in Section 3.5. These two changes in relation to changes in the overall level of crime measured by the BCS are illustrated in Figure 3.5, at the end of Section 3.4.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### 3.3 TRENDS BY OFFENCE TYPE

- Although there were significant decreases in all the main offence groups measured by the BCS between 1999 and 2002/03, the only statistically significant changes between 2001/02 and 2002/03 were for vehicle-related theft (which fell by 5%) and all household crime (which fell by 3%) (Table 3.01). Recorded crime figures for theft of and theft from vehicles (after adjusting for the NCRS) show a nine per cent fall between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (Table 3.04).
- Between 2001/02 and 2002/03, domestic burglary measured by the BCS rose by one per cent (not statistically significant), while recorded domestic burglaries fell by two per cent (after adjusting for the NCRS) and violence measured by the BCS remained stable, while total recorded violent crime rose by two per cent (after adjusting for the NCRS). The differences between BCS and recorded crime figures are explained by the differences in coverage (for more information see text box 'Comparing the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime' in Chapter 2) and by the fact that BCS figures are calculated from sample estimates that are subject to sampling error (for more information see the Glossary).

**Figure 3.3 Percentage changes in the main offence categories, 2001/02 to 2002/03**

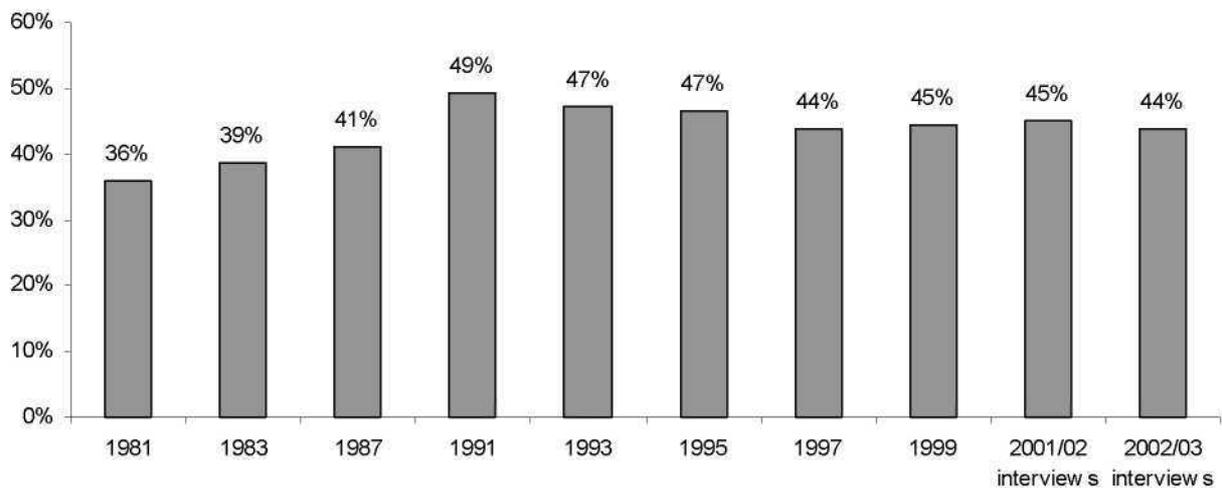


1. Recorded crime figures in Figure 3.3 have been adjusted for the effects of the NCRS.
2. <-1 indicates less than -0.5.

### 3.4 THE PROPORTION OF CRIME REPORTED TO THE POLICE BY THE PUBLIC

Recorded crime levels will be affected by variations in the proportion of crime reported to the police - since these will obviously increase or decrease the number of crimes available for the police to record. Figure 3.4 shows the proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police from 1981 to 2002/03.

**Figure 3.4 Proportion of BCS crimes reported to the police, 1981 to 2002/03 (old comparable subset)**



- The proportion of crimes experienced by adults living in private households that were reported to the police (using the old comparable subset<sup>3</sup>) has been very stable since 1997. For the 2002/03 interviews, 44 per cent of these crimes were reported to the police. During the 1980s, the proportion of crimes reported to the police increased steadily. In 1981, just over one-third of BCS crimes were reported, compared to almost half by 1991.
- Between 1991 and 1995, the proportion of incidents reported to the police fell slightly. However, as can be seen in Figure 3.5, the actual *number* of incidents reported was still rising. The concurrent rise in the total number of BCS incidents needs to be considered in order to explain the falling *proportion* of incidents reported, as below.
- Rises in both the total number of incidents and the number reported to the police can be seen between 1991 and 1993, and then again between 1993 and 1995. Between 1991 and 1995 the rise in total number of incidents was slightly greater than the rise in the number reported,

For more information on the two comparable subsets of crimes used in this section, please see 1) 'Old comparable subset of crimes' and 2) 'Comparable subsets of crimes' in the Glossary.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

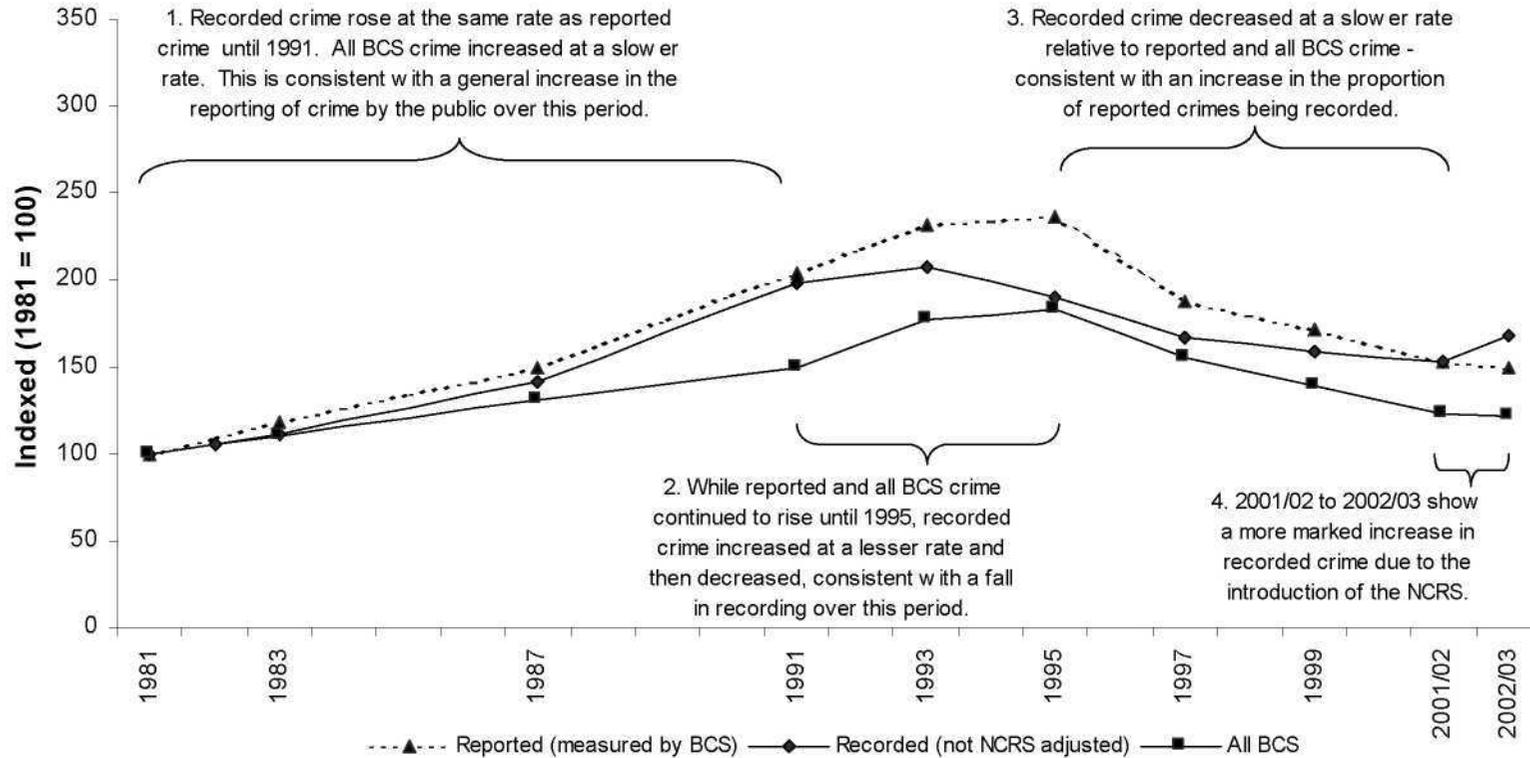
resulting in a slightly lower proportion of all incidents being reported to the police in 1995 than 1991. The reverse can be seen between 1995 and 1997, where the number of incidents reported to the police fell at a greater rate than the fall in the total number of incidents, resulting in a decrease in the reporting rate between 1995 and 1997.

- Between 2001/02 and 2002/03 there has been considerable variation within crime types. Statistically significant falls in reporting can be observed for all attempted thefts of and from a vehicle (down from 40% to 36%) and other household theft (down from 33% to 30%). There were, however, statistically significant rises in reporting for burglary with entry (up from 77% to 81%), theft of a motor vehicle (up from 93% to 97%), common assault<sup>4</sup> (up from 26% to 34%), stranger violence (up from 31% to 39%) and comparable and all BCS violence (up from 35% and 36% respectively to 41%) (Table 3.06).
- For most crimes the main reason for not reporting was that the incident was too trivial, there was no loss or victims believed the police could not do much about it (69% for all comparable crime), followed by the incident being considered a private matter and dealt with by the victim (28% of comparable crime) (Table 3.07).

<sup>4</sup>

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

Figure 3.5 Indexed trends in the reporting and recording of crime, and all BCS crime, 1981 to 2002/03 (1981 = 100)



31

1. BCS estimates of incidents for 1991 to 2002/03 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information please see the Glossary.  
 2. For 2001/02 and 2002/03, reported and all BCS crime relate to interviews carried out in the 2001/02 and 2002/03 financial years respectively, and incidents experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Recorded crimes relate to incidents in the 12 months up to the end of September 2001 and September 2002 respectively (with most of the impact of the NCRS in the first quarter of the 02/03 financial year). This is so that the recorded crime data are centred on the same period as reported and all BCS crime - i.e. centred on March 01 and March 02.

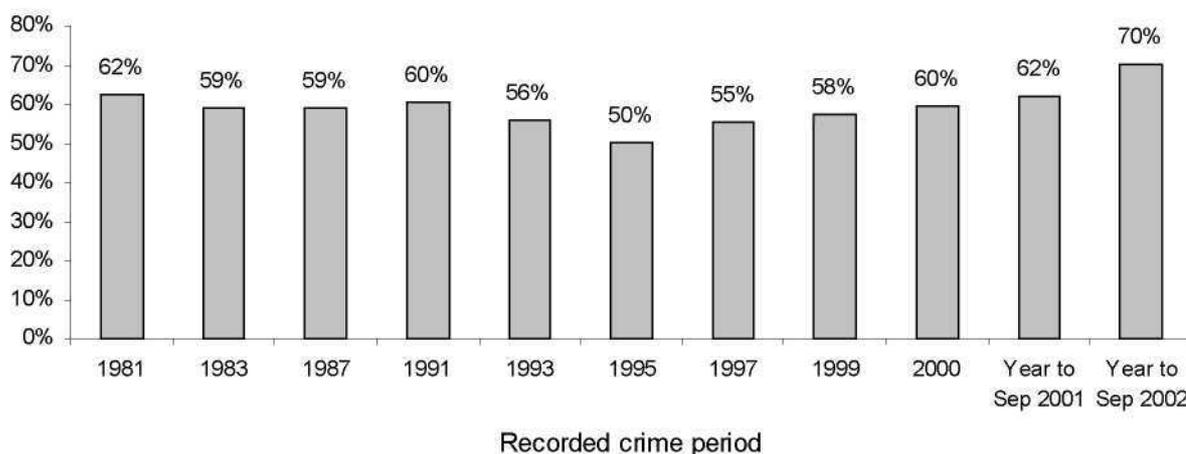
### 3.5 THE PROPORTION OF REPORTED CRIME RECORDED BY THE POLICE

The impact of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in the latest year is evident when looking at the proportion of reported crime that is recorded. Although this proportion has been rising consistently since 1995 (as crime as measured by the BCS has been falling), the size of the rise between the year to September 2001 and the year to September 2002 is striking at eight percentage points for the old comparable subset (from 62% to 70%). The proportion of crime recorded by the police is the highest it has been since 1981 when the comparison became possible.

Although the methodology used to calculate these figures provides a useful assessment of the gap between crimes committed and their recording by the police, some care needs to be taken with interpretation. The more recent time periods being compared between the BCS and recorded crime are not identical, with BCS interviews in 2002/03 providing a range of 12-month recall periods over two years that centre on March 2002 and recorded crime being taken for the year to September 2002 (in order to provide data also centred on March 2002). In addition, assumptions have had to be made based on imperfect data in the development of a subset of crimes for comparison (see text box 'Comparing the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime' in Chapter 2).

However, the movements in the recording to reporting proportions for the individual crime types clearly reflect changes resulting from the NCRS (see the next section for a detailed discussion of the impacts). As the comparisons effectively cover only half of the full year of national NCRS adoption we might see further increases in recording over the next year.

**Figure 3.6 Proportion of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police (old comparable subset)**



- Looking at the old comparable subset of crimes, it is estimated that the police recorded 62 per cent of reported crime in 1981. Sharp falls from 1991 followed by rises from 1995 back to 1981 levels in the year to September 2001 inversely mirror the rise in crime. The proportion

## Trends in Crime in England and Wales

of recording in the year to September 2002 represents a sharp rise in the trend to a historically high 70 per cent.

- Focusing on the expanded new comparable subset (which takes account of the 1998 change in counting rules and includes common assault and vehicle interference), there was a nine per cent increase in the proportion of reported crime recorded from the year ending September 2001. The increase was 23 per cent from 2000 (the period prior to any police forces adopting the NCRS), and the proportion now stands at 68 per cent (Table 3.08).
- The largest movements in the recording rates for individual crime types as a result of the NCRS were expected to be in those that might be regarded as less serious. Theft from the person saw a large increase in recording of around a third to stand at 59 per cent (for both the old and new counting rules) from a low of 21 per cent in 1983.
- There were higher than average increases too in the categories of vehicle-related theft (theft from, theft of and attempted theft of and from vehicles). Across the three categories the recording rate now stands at 84 per cent for the new comparable subset (which includes vehicle interference). The recording of reported thefts of vehicles has recovered to 84 per cent from its low point in the year to September 2001 of 75 per cent.
- Vandalism saw an increase of 13 per cent in the proportion recorded from the year to September 2001 to stand at 70 per cent. This was another category expected to see a relatively large rise as a result of the NCRS.
- Recording of burglary saw a more modest rise overall, and this was in line with a smaller anticipated NCRS impact. Levels of recording of reported crime are already high for burglary with loss, at 94 per cent.
- Changes in counting rules introduced in April 2002 moved violent offences involving minor injury from the common assault category into 'less serious wounding'. This breaks the trend in the individual common assault and wounding categories, but the overall comparable violence trend is maintained and shows a rise in crimes recorded of reported from 50 per cent to 52 per cent (Table 3.08).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### CHANGES IN POLICE RECORDING PRACTICE - THE NATIONAL CRIME RECORDING STANDARD

*In April 2002, all police forces in England and Wales adopted the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). It was developed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with assistance from the Home Office, following the investigations into crime recording variation by ACPO, the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). The NCRS aims:*

- *To promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime.*
- *To take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording.*

*For many police forces the introduction of the NCRS required a move to a more prima facie approach to crime recording, that is recording based more on the victim's perception of a crime occurring rather than the police satisfying themselves that a crime had indeed taken place. It was anticipated that such a move would result in more crimes being recorded than would have been the case had the NCRS not been introduced. The companion volume to this report available on the Home Office website provides the full details of how the Home Office has measured the impact of the NCRS on total crime in England and Wales, main offence categories and the impact on individual police forces. Below are the main findings.*

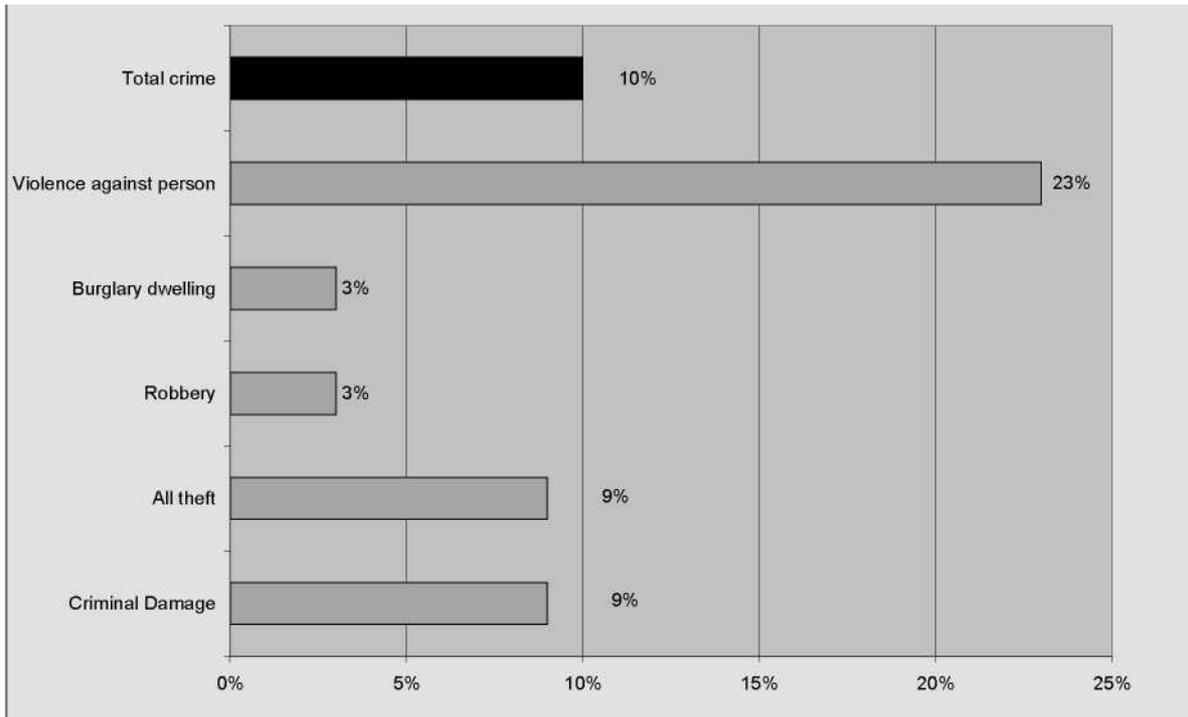
#### *The NCRS impact on total crime and main offence categories*

*Estimates of the percentage impact of the NCRS on recorded crime vary considerably between offence types (see Figure 3.7). A similar degree of variation is likely to exist between the different crimes that make up each of these groups, although it has not been possible to estimate the effect of the recording changes on each of the individual crime types that make up the full list of notifiable offences.*

*The national picture for total crime demonstrates **an overall NCRS impact of 10 per cent** on the recorded crime statistics for 2002/03. In other words, the crimes counted in 2002/03 were 10 per cent higher than they would have been under pre-NCRS recording, reflecting a change in recording practice not a real increase in crime.*

- *The violence against the person offence grouping demonstrated the largest NCRS impact (23% in 2002/03). Whilst most of the impact occurred in the first quarter of 2002/03, a subsequent rise in the ratio of crimes to incidents in the latter part of the year may indicate that the NCRS impact is not yet complete for this offence type.*
- *The national picture demonstrates that domestic burglary figures were three per cent higher because of the NCRS effect, with no indication of any continuing effect beyond the second quarter of 2002/03.*

**Figure 3.7 National estimates of the NCRS impact for the full year 2002/03 by offence type**



- *The NCRS effect on robbery is estimated to have been in the region of three per cent, although the comparatively small numbers of robberies mean that small changes in the number of crimes and incidents can result in disproportionately large estimated effects. Once again, there is little evidence of any enduring NCRS effect post 2002/03.*
- *The national picture for theft shows an NCRS impact of nine per cent. The data suggest this effect has now levelled off.*
- *The impact on vehicle theft was estimated using a different method from other offences because most forces were unable to provide incident numbers relating specifically to these types of theft. The result is an adjustment to the change in recorded vehicle thefts from 2001/02 to 2002/03 from minus one per cent to minus nine per cent. Most of this impact occurred in the first two quarters of the year.*
- *The national picture demonstrates that criminal damage figures were nine per cent higher because of the NCRS effect.*

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### **Adjusting changes in crime**

Table 3a shows how adjusting for the NCRS effect impacts on the change in recorded crime from 2001/02 to 2002/03. It has not been possible to adjust all individual offence types in this way because of the lack of availability of lower-level incident data and problems in estimating the impact for offences with a numerically small base. However, the impact on total crime is clear: from a seven per cent increase using unadjusted figures to a fall of three per cent using NCRS adjusted figures.

**Table 3a Trends in recorded crime from 2001/02 to 2002/03: unadjusted and NCRS adjusted figures**

Offence group	2002/03 compared to 2001/02	
	Unadjusted % change	Adjusted % change
Violent crime (1)	22	2
<i>(inc) Violence against person</i>	28	5
<i>Robbery</i>	-11	-14
All burglary	1	-1
<i>Burglary dwelling</i>	2	-2
<i>Burglary other</i>	1	-1
All theft (2)	4	-4
<i>(inc) Vehicle theft</i>	-1	-9
Criminal damage	4	-4
<b>Total recorded crime (3)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-3</b>

1. *Violent crime includes the offences of violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences. An adjustment to the number of sexual offences has not been included owing to difficulties in calculating the NCRS effect.*
2. *All theft includes other offences as well as vehicle theft (the only single offence group for which an NCRS effect was estimated and an adjusted figure was calculated).*
3. *The figures for total recorded crime include all notifiable offences - not just those listed in the table.*

Table 3.01 Trends in BCS incidents of crime 1991 to interviews held in 2002/03, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1997,1999, 2001/02 and 2002/03

	Numbers (thousands) and percentage changes						BCS		
	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 Interviews	% change 1997 to 2002/03	% change 1999 to 2002/03	% change 2001/02 to 2002/03
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>									
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>-10 **</b>	<b>-9 **</b>	<b>-2</b>
Vehicle vandalism	1,674	1,799	1,578	1,558	1,506	1,518	-4	-3	1
Other vandalism	1,066	1,517	1,232	1,239	1,089	1,018	-17 **	-18 **	-7
<b>Burglary<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>-39 **</b>	<b>-23 **</b>	<b>1</b>
Attempts	507	760	753	511	415	412	-45 **	-19 **	-1
Attempts and no loss	663	965	951	723	571	566	-40 **	-22 **	-1
With entry	863	983	836	750	551	561	-33 **	-25 **	2
With loss	708	779	638	539	395	407	-36 **	-24 **	3
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>3,820</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>3,442</b>	<b>2,942</b>	<b>2,486</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>-31 **</b>	<b>-20 **</b>	<b>-5 *</b>
Theft from vehicle	2,408	2,505	2,157	1,807	1,491	1,425	-34 **	-21 **	-4
Theft of vehicles	519	502	370	328	315	278	-25 **	-15 **	-12
Attempts of and from	893	1,277	915	806	681	663	-28 **	-18 **	-3
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>-32 **</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>1,984</b>	<b>1,838</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>-31 **</b>	<b>-26 **</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
Snatch theft from person	79	80	83	58	74	88	6	52	19
Stealth theft from person	359	599	537	576	526	598	11	4	14
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>-31 **</b>	<b>-14 **</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>VIOLENCE</b>									
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>2,447</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>-31 **</b>	<b>-27 **</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>All BCS violence<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>4,248</b>	<b>3,665</b>	<b>3,423</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>-24 **</b>	<b>-19 **</b>	<b>&lt;-1</b>
Domestic violence	534 <sup>8</sup>	987	812	771	622	501	-38 **	-35 **	-19
Acquaintance	1,043 <sup>8</sup>	1,813	1,637	1,221	857	942	-42 **	-23 **	10
Stranger	797 <sup>8</sup>	1,002	782	949	878	949	21	<1	8
Mugging	259 <sup>8</sup>	418	416	462	428	388	-7	-16	-9
(robbery and snatch theft)									
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>10,342</b>	<b>12,239</b>	<b>10,355</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>7,854</b>	<b>7,595</b>	<b>-27 **</b>	<b>-18 **</b>	<b>-3 *</b>
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>4,733</b>	<b>6,913</b>	<b>6,130</b>	<b>5,547</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>4,713</b>	<b>-23 **</b>	<b>-15 **</b>	<b>&lt;-1</b>
<b>Old comparable crime<sup>10 11</sup></b>	<b>9,740</b>	<b>11,935</b>	<b>10,125</b>	<b>9,077</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>7,925</b>	<b>-22</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Comparable crime<sup>10 11</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,391</b>	<b>9,725</b>	<b>9,614</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>ALL BCS CRIME<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>15,075</b>	<b>19,152</b>	<b>16,486</b>	<b>14,777</b>	<b>12,563</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-2</b>

1. Source 1992 to 2002/03 BCS.

2. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the 2002/03 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,157,372 households in England and Wales. For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts, all BCS violence and other thefts of personal property the 2002/03 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 41,836,000 adults in England and Wales.

3. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2001/02 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary) and revisions to population and numbers of household estimates. Figures for 1991 to 2002/03 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information on population and numbers of households estimates please see the Glossary.

4. Statistical significance of changes are indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and double at the 5% level (two tailed tests). Tests are based on comparing rates of victimisation per household or per number in the adult population (i.e. account is taken of shifts in household and population numbers before comparisons are made).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. <1 indicates less than 0.5, <-1 indicates less than -0.5.

Table 3.02 Trends in BCS victimisation rates 1991 to interviews held in 2002/03, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1997, 1999, 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews.

	Rates per 10,000 adults/households and percentage changes						BCS		
	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	% change 1997 to 2002/03	% change 1999 to 2002/03	% change 2001/02 to 2002/03
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>									
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>-14 **</b>	<b>-12 **</b>	<b>-3</b>
Vehicle vandalism	829	862	747	727	687	685	-8	-6	<-1
Other vandalism	528	727	583	578	497	459	-21 **	-20 **	-8
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>-42 **</b>	<b>-25 **</b>	<b>&lt;-1</b>
Attempts	251	364	357	238	189	186	-48 **	-22 **	-2
Attempts and no loss	328	462	450	337	261	256	-43 **	-24 **	-2
With entry	427	471	396	350	251	253	-36 **	-28 **	1
With loss	350	373	302	251	180	184	-39 **	-27 **	2
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>2,052</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>-34 **</b>	<b>-22 **</b>	<b>-6 *</b>
Theft from vehicle	1,192	1,200	1,021	843	681	643	-37 **	-24 **	-6
Theft of vehicles	257	241	175	153	144	126	-28 **	-18 **	-13
Attempts of and from	442	612	433	376	311	299	-31 **	-20 **	-4
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>-35 **</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>-35 **</b>	<b>-28 **</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
Snatch theft from person	19	20	20	14	18	21	3	50	18
Stealth theft from person	89	148	131	140	126	143	9	2	13
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>-32 **</b>	<b>-15 **</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>VIOLENCE</b>									
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>432</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>-33 **</b>	<b>-28 **</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>All BCS violence<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>651</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>-26 **</b>	<b>-20 **</b>	<b>-1</b>
Domestic violence	-	243	199	187	150	120	-40 **	-36 **	-20
Acquaintance	-	446	401	297	206	225	-44 **	-24 **	9
Stranger	-	247	191	231	211	227	19	-2	8
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	64	103	102	112	103	93	-9	-17	-10
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>5,863</b>	<b>4,903</b>	<b>4,304</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>-30 **</b>	<b>-20 **</b>	<b>-4 *</b>
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>-25 **</b>	<b>-16 **</b>	<b>&lt;-1</b>

1. Source 1992 to 2002/03 BCS.

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

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

4. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2001/02 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary).

5. Statistical significance of changes are indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and double at the 5% level (two tailed tests).

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

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

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

9. <1 indicates less than 0.5, <-1 indicates less than -0.5.

**Table 3.03 Trends in percentage of households/adults who were victims once or more, 1991 to 1999 and 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews (prevalence risks)**

<u>Percentages</u>	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	BCS 2002/03 interviews
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>						
<b>Vandalism</b>	8.6	10.1	8.2	7.9	7.3	7.3
Vehicle vandalism	5.7	6.2	5.1	5.1	4.7	4.8
Other vandalism	3.4	4.3	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.8
<b>Burglary</b>	5.3	6.4	5.6	4.3	3.4	3.4
Attempts	2.1	2.9	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.5
Attempts and no loss	2.7	3.6	3.3	2.6	2.0	1.9
With entry	3.5	3.7	3.2	2.5	2.0	2.0
With loss	2.9	3.1	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.6
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	13.5	14.5	12.0	9.9	8.5	8.2
Theft from vehicle	8.8	9.1	7.9	6.4	5.3	5.2
Theft of vehicles	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2
Attempts of and from	3.6	4.8	3.6	2.9	2.5	2.5
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	2.4	2.7	2.2	1.6	1.5	1.4
<b>Other household theft</b>	6.4	7.6	6.6	6.2	4.8	4.7
<b>Theft from the person</b>	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.5
Snatch theft from person	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Stealth theft from person	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	3.3	4.1	3.8	3.1	2.8	2.8
<i>Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:</i>						
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	18.2	19.7	16.0	12.9	11.3	10.8
Theft from vehicle	11.8	12.3	10.5	8.3	7.0	6.8
Theft of vehicles	3.2	2.9	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.5
Attempts of and from	4.8	6.5	4.9	3.9	3.3	3.3
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	7.6	8.5	6.8	6.7	6.4	6.3
<i>Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:</i>						
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	5.5	6.1	4.8	3.4	3.7	3.4
<i>Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:</i>						
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>4</sup></b>	2.3	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.4	2.4
<b>Wounding</b>	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1
<b>Robbery</b>	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
<hr/>						
<b>Any BCS violence</b>	3.6	5.5	5.2	4.6	3.9	4.1
Domestic violence	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6
Acquaintance	1.4	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.4
Stranger	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8
<hr/>						
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME<sup>5</sup></b>	29.0	32.5	27.8	24.7	21.6	21.0
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME<sup>5</sup></b>	7.3	10.4	9.5	8.5	7.3	7.5
<hr/>						
<b>All BCS CRIME<sup>6</sup></b>	34.9	39.7	34.6	31.1	27.5	27.0

1. Source 1992 to 2002/03 BCS.

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

3. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2001/02 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary).

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

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

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

Table 3.04 Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2002/03 and percentage change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (including adjustment for NCRS effect where available)

Numbers and percentage changes													Recorded crime	
Offence	1991 <sup>12</sup>	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 adjusted for NCRS effect	
1 Murder														
4.1 Manslaughter	725	745	679	739	748	750	750	766	850	891	1,048	18		
4.2 Infanticide														
2 Attempted murder	555	634	674	652	661	676	676	750	708	857	818	-5		
3 Threat or conspiracy to murder	4,712	7,044	8,533	9,340	9,661	11,112	11,212	13,434	14,064	13,662	18,068	32		
4.3 Child destruction	2	8	2	5	6	9	9	1	2	-	2	-		
4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving														
4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs	416	242	320	291	325	348	349	317	335	370	413	12		
37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	..	21	34	12	18	30	30	37	35	35	55	57		
5 More serious wounding or other act endangering life	9,408	10,445	12,169	12,531	12,833	13,960	14,006	15,135	15,662	16,556	17,882	8		
6 Endangering railway passenger	11	12	12	11	7	15	15	7	10	14	5	-64		
More serious offences	15,829	19,151	22,423	23,581	24,259	26,900	27,047	30,447	31,666	32,385	38,291	18		
7 Endangering life at sea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	-50		
8A Less serious wounding <sup>13</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	196,737	201,290	195,925	208,583	..	..		
8A Less serious wounding <sup>13</sup> (including any minor injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	345,390	..		
8B Possession of weapons <sup>3</sup>	174,245	193,016	216,467	226,795	231,360	203,313	23,635	23,792	24,552	28,796	32,104	11		
8C Harassment <sup>4</sup>							79,534	88,625	93,832	96,840	120,761	25		
8D Racially-aggravated less serious wounding <sup>5 13</sup>								2,687	3,176	3,463	4,351	26		
8E Racially-aggravated harassment <sup>5</sup>								10,758	12,468	14,963	16,699	12		
11 Cruelty to or neglect of children <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,300	2,631	2,558	3,067	4,109	34		
12 Abandoning a child under the age of two years	47	46	65	56	54	41	42	51	48	49	59	20		
13 Child abduction	196	355	374	390	391	490	502	577	546	584	846	45		
14 Procuring illegal abortion	3	5	7	-	-	2	2	2	4	6	7	17		
15 Concealment of birth	19	15	4	5	6	10	10	4	9	4	5	25		
104 Assault on a constable <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,510	26,115	28,000	30,092	33,742	12		
105A Common assault <sup>4 13</sup> (includes some minor injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	151,469	189,783	203,427	226,472	..	..		
105A Common assault <sup>4 13</sup> (no injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234,244	..		
105B Racially-aggravated common assault <sup>5 13</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,275	4,711	5,166	4,491	-13		
Less serious offences	174,510	193,437	216,917	227,246	231,811	203,856	475,741	550,591	569,256	618,089	796,810	29		
<b>TOTAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>	<b>190,339</b>	<b>212,588</b>	<b>239,340</b>	<b>250,827</b>	<b>256,070</b>	<b>230,756</b>	<b>502,788</b>	<b>581,038</b>	<b>600,922</b>	<b>650,474</b>	<b>835,101</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	

Table 3.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2002/03 and percentage change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (including adjustment for NCRS effect where available)

Numbers and percentage changes												Recorded crime	
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 adjusted for NCRS effect
16 Buggery	1,127	818	728	645	657	567	566	437	401	356	287	-19	
17 Indecent assault on a male	3,070	3,150	3,130	3,503	3,885	3,672	3,683	3,614	3,530	3,605	4,096	14	
18 Gross indecency between males	965	727	553	520	483	353	354	286	167	164	198	21	
19A Rape of a female	4,045	4,986	5,759	6,281	6,523	7,139	7,132	7,809	7,929	8,990	11,441	27	
19B Rape of a male	..	150	231	347	375	502	504	600	664	730	852	17	
20 Indecent assault on a female	15,792	16,876	17,643	18,674	18,979	19,463	19,524	20,664	20,301	21,790	24,811	14	
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	315	178	171	148	156	153	153	181	155	169	187	11	
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	1,949	1,260	1,261	1,112	1,084	1,133	1,135	1,270	1,237	1,331	1,514	14	
23 Incest	389	185	157	183	189	139	139	121	80	94	99	5	
24 Procuration	138	207	132	131	142	155	215	138	129	130	127	-2	
25 Abduction	411	364	313	277	258	242	240	251	262	262	291	11	
26 Bigamy	75	86	98	75	106	126	129	83	80	74	88	19	
27 Soliciting or importuning by a man <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,107	973	1,028	1,655	2,107	27	
73 Abuse of position of trust <sup>6</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	416	676	63	
74 Gross indecency with a child	1,147	1,287	1,215	1,269	1,314	1,271	1,293	1,365	1,336	1,661	1,880	13	
<b>TOTAL SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>	<b>29,423</b>	<b>30,274</b>	<b>31,391</b>	<b>33,165</b>	<b>34,151</b>	<b>34,915</b>	<b>36,174</b>	<b>37,792</b>	<b>37,311</b>	<b>41,427</b>	<b>48,654</b>	<b>17</b>	
34A Robbery of business property	45,323	68,074	74,035	63,072	62,652	66,172	10,481	12,148	12,394	13,304	11,178	-16	
34B Robbery of personal property							56,354	72,129	82,760	108,066	96,867	-10	
<b>TOTAL ROBBERY</b>	<b>45,323</b>	<b>68,074</b>	<b>74,035</b>	<b>63,072</b>	<b>62,652</b>	<b>66,172</b>	<b>66,835</b>	<b>84,277</b>	<b>95,154</b>	<b>121,370</b>	<b>108,045</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-14</b>
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME</b>	<b>265,085</b>	<b>310,936</b>	<b>344,766</b>	<b>347,064</b>	<b>352,873</b>	<b>331,843</b>	<b>605,797</b>	<b>703,107</b>	<b>733,387</b>	<b>813,271</b>	<b>991,800</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 3.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2002/03 and percentage change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (including adjustment for NCRS effect where available)

Numbers and percentage changes		Recorded crime											
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 adjusted for NCRS effect
28 Burglary in a dwelling	622,969	641,063	599,372	516,346	498,578	470,005	470,465	439,609	399,927	426,884	434,169	2	
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	1,977	2,582	2,756	2,919	3,015	2,955	2,884	2,993	3,057	3,488	3,475	<1	
<b>Total burglary in a dwelling</b>	<b>624,946</b>	<b>643,645</b>	<b>602,128</b>	<b>519,265</b>	<b>501,593</b>	<b>472,960</b>	<b>473,349</b>	<b>442,602</b>	<b>402,984</b>	<b>430,372</b>	<b>437,644</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-2</b>
30 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	594,210	595,385	562,019	495,396	486,408	478,508	479,425	463,372	432,540	447,565	450,694	1	
31 Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	308	454	436	414	431	410	410	494	503	610	613	<1	
<b>Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling</b>	<b>594,518</b>	<b>595,839</b>	<b>562,455</b>	<b>495,810</b>	<b>486,839</b>	<b>478,918</b>	<b>479,835</b>	<b>463,866</b>	<b>433,043</b>	<b>448,175</b>	<b>451,307</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>TOTAL BURGLARY</b>	<b>1,219,464</b>	<b>1,239,484</b>	<b>1,164,583</b>	<b>1,015,075</b>	<b>988,432</b>	<b>951,878</b>	<b>953,184</b>	<b>906,468</b>	<b>836,027</b>	<b>878,547</b>	<b>888,951</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>
37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking	..	6,170	7,794	8,031	8,143	9,811	10,098	10,416	10,759	11,798	11,530	-2	} -7
48 Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	581,901	502,280	485,695	399,208	392,381	381,080	381,709	364,270	328,037	316,349	305,654	-3	
45 Theft from a vehicle	913,276	813,094	799,552	710,333	695,498	680,937	685,919	669,232	629,651	655,150	658,740	1	
<b>Theft of and from vehicles</b>	<b>1,495,177</b>	<b>1,321,544</b>	<b>1,293,041</b>	<b>1,117,572</b>	<b>1,096,022</b>	<b>1,071,828</b>	<b>1,077,726</b>	<b>1,043,918</b>	<b>968,447</b>	<b>983,297</b>	<b>975,924</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-9</b>
39 Theft from the person of another	35,432	59,692	59,331	57,767	57,894	63,054	63,118	76,254	87,332	114,866	135,406	18	
40 Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	44,795	36,471	37,955	38,301	38,765	44,199	44,375	44,764	43,045	46,869	56,481	21	
41 Theft by an employee	17,264	14,357	16,314	17,156	17,476	17,872	17,900	17,468	17,487	17,129	17,416	2	
42 Theft or unauthorised taking of mail	7,692	4,641	3,902	3,638	3,692	4,919	4,931	5,856	6,890	9,621	13,455	40	
43 Abstracting electricity	3,349	2,600	2,473	3,325	2,978	2,454	2,454	2,157	1,451	1,337	1,413	6	
44 Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	212,169	169,476	148,970	139,092	140,031	125,178	128,557	131,240	108,509	102,725	95,048	-7	
46 Theft from shops	281,276	275,802	282,052	274,015	273,509	281,457	281,972	292,494	293,080	306,619	309,397	1	
47 Theft from automatic machine or meter	19,552	12,465	13,041	13,595	12,662	15,211	15,343	19,077	18,619	19,542	23,256	19	
49 Other theft or unauthorised taking	592,918	513,493	488,979	466,917	469,592	472,869	479,306	510,573	518,573	565,544	627,473	11	
54 Handling stolen goods	51,495	41,568	37,888	33,574	32,352	27,677	27,746	23,298	19,243	18,763	18,613	-1	
126 Vehicle interference and tampering <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,011	56,521	62,696	80,751	91,653	14	
<b>Other theft and handling stolen goods</b>	<b>1,265,942</b>	<b>1,130,565</b>	<b>1,090,905</b>	<b>1,047,380</b>	<b>1,048,951</b>	<b>1,054,890</b>	<b>1,113,713</b>	<b>1,179,702</b>	<b>1,176,925</b>	<b>1,283,766</b>	<b>1,389,611</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>TOTAL THEFT AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS</b>	<b>2,761,119</b>	<b>2,452,109</b>	<b>2,383,946</b>	<b>2,164,952</b>	<b>2,144,973</b>	<b>2,126,718</b>	<b>2,191,439</b>	<b>2,223,620</b>	<b>2,145,372</b>	<b>2,267,063</b>	<b>2,365,535</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-4</b>
51 Fraud by company director	24	29	39	15	15	39	159	165	152	106	28	-74	
52 False accounting	1,623	1,295	1,728	1,820	1,711	1,203	1,304	1,103	1,043	1,031	861	-16	
53A Cheque and credit card fraud <sup>7</sup>	159,136	120,699	125,609	124,389	126,790	165,221	141,948	173,857	148,252	153,960	142,514	-7	} -7
53B Other frauds <sup>7</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	122,437	145,448	155,647	144,241	168,958	17	
55 Bankruptcy and insolvency offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	82	10	15	11	-27	
60 Forgery or use of false drug prescription	968	844	1,071	941	799	838	842	871	821	763	869	14	
61 Other forgery	12,991	10,149	7,778	7,233	6,917	6,427	6,762	6,173	6,225	6,841	8,334	22	
814 Vehicle/driver document fraud <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,028	7,074	7,174	7,970	8,553	7	
<b>TOTAL FRAUD AND FORGERY</b>	<b>174,742</b>	<b>133,016</b>	<b>136,225</b>	<b>134,398</b>	<b>136,232</b>	<b>173,728</b>	<b>279,503</b>	<b>334,773</b>	<b>319,324</b>	<b>314,927</b>	<b>330,128</b>	<b>5</b>	

Table 3.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2002/03 and percentage change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (including adjustment for NCRS effect where available)

Numbers and percentage changes		Recorded crime											
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 adjusted for NCRS effect
56 Arson	30,090	29,985	31,068	31,516	32,051	39,636	47,273	53,794	52,818	60,470	53,200	-12	
57 Criminal damage endangering life	246	373	316	372	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58 Other criminal damage <sup>8</sup>	789,153	881,558	917,448	842,415	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other criminal damage <sup>9</sup>	588,323	667,261	749,272	704,717	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58A Criminal damage to a dwelling <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	216,590	234,575	238,896	276,540	299,493	8	
58B Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	827,104	792,275	159,461	166,770	166,960	176,444	172,305	-2	
58C Criminal damage to a vehicle <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	357,152	374,218	378,903	415,711	428,110	3	
58D Other criminal damage <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	95,777	108,318	113,628	124,570	144,649	16	
58E Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling <sup>5</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,452	1,765	2,232	2,050	-8	
58F Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling <sup>5</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	756	985	1,542	1,151	-25	
58G Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle <sup>5</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,232	1,399	1,882	1,521	-19	
58H Racially-aggravated other criminal damage <sup>5</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	590	612	821	771	-6	
59 Threat etc. to commit criminal damage	1,652	2,075	2,442	2,739	2,691	2,459	3,333	3,977	4,121	4,336	6,120	41	
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>821,141</b>	<b>913,991</b>	<b>951,274</b>	<b>877,042</b>	<b>861,846</b>	<b>834,370</b>	<b>879,586</b>	<b>945,682</b>	<b>960,087</b>	<b>1,064,548</b>	<b>1,109,370</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>4,976,466</b>	<b>4,738,600</b>	<b>4,636,028</b>	<b>4,191,467</b>	<b>4,131,483</b>	<b>4,086,694</b>	<b>4,303,712</b>	<b>4,410,543</b>	<b>4,260,810</b>	<b>4,525,085</b>	<b>4,693,984</b>	<b>4</b>	
92A Trafficking in controlled drugs	11,379	21,272	22,122	23,153	23,336	21,306	21,788	19,956	19,820	19,645	22,324	14	
92B Possession of controlled drugs <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	112,576	100,598	92,716	100,930	117,815	17	
92C Other drug offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,581	1,312	922	802	977	22	
<b>TOTAL DRUG OFFENCES</b>	<b>11,379</b>	<b>21,272</b>	<b>22,122</b>	<b>23,153</b>	<b>23,336</b>	<b>21,306</b>	<b>135,945</b>	<b>121,866</b>	<b>113,458</b>	<b>121,377</b>	<b>141,116</b>	<b>16</b>	
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc.	9,721	6,754	6,275	6,132	6,006	5,852	5,866	5,208	4,634	5,078	5,718	13	
35 Blackmail	954	856	957	877	927	1,036	1,038	1,137	1,086	1,074	1,325	23	
36 Kidnapping	766	1,247	1,429	1,559	1,652	2,046	2,049	2,339	2,404	2,792	3,187	14	
62 High treason and other offences against Treason Acts	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
63 Treason felony	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
64 Riot	9	12	4	6	6	3	2	6	2	12	8	-33	
65 Violent disorder	1,517	1,669	2,027	2,060	2,113	2,460	2,500	2,804	2,753	2,603	2,770	6	
66 Other offences against the State or public order	5,504	11,794	14,112	16,240	16,736	17,334	18,638	19,600	17,834	18,832	19,514	4	
67 Perjury	312	287	246	309	348	314	329	217	183	143	188	31	
68 Libel	5	-	-	5	3	3	3	4	2	3	2	-33	
75 Betting, gaming and lotteries <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	23	27	17	5	-71	
76 Aiding suicide	12	10	9	14	12	8	8	6	10	4	8	100	

Table 3.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2002/03 and percentage change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (including adjustment for NCRS effect where available)

Numbers and percentage changes													Recorded crime	
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	% change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 <small>2002/03</small> adjusted for NCRS effect	
78	Immigration offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	505	427	262	329	432	31	
79	Perverting the course of justice	1,989	4,394	5,914	6,779	7,108	9,216	9,265	9,637	9,763	10,287	11,295	10	
80	Absconding from lawful custody	2,269	1,547	1,410	1,379	1,372	1,294	1,301	1,559	1,389	1,357	1,547	14	
81	Firearms Acts offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,325	3,143	3,531	3,247	3,572	10	
82	Customs and Revenue offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	119	96	116	124	117	-6	
83	Bail offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	143	107	133	133	-	
84	Trade descriptions, etc. <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	263	245	192	173	193	12	
85	Health and Safety offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	5	5	4	-20	
86	Obscene publications etc. <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	603	643	665	845	2,118	151	
87	Protection from eviction <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	66	71	56	63	13	
89	Adulteration of food <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	46	94	118	80	-32	
90	Knives Act 1997 offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	66	51	59	41	-31	
91	Public health offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	12	10	16	18	13	
94	Planning laws <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	5	3	1	-67	
95	Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements etc <sup>10</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	
99	Other indictable or triable-either-way offences	185	863	1,253	1,283	1,362	2,408	2,537	3,559	4,058	3,960	3,240	-18	
139	Indecent exposure <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,327	9,476	8,647	8,188	9,404	15	
802	Dangerous driving <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,589	5,205	5,287	6,125	7,551	23	
	<b>TOTAL OTHER OFFENCES</b>	<b>23,243</b>	<b>29,433</b>	<b>33,636</b>	<b>36,643</b>	<b>37,645</b>	<b>41,974</b>	<b>63,635</b>	<b>65,671</b>	<b>63,188</b>	<b>65,583</b>	<b>72,550</b>	<b>11</b>	
	<b>TOTAL RECORDED CRIME</b>	<b>5,276,173</b>	<b>5,100,241</b>	<b>5,036,552</b>	<b>4,598,327</b>	<b>4,545,337</b>	<b>4,481,817</b>	<b>5,109,089</b>	<b>5,301,187</b>	<b>5,170,843</b>	<b>5,525,316</b>	<b>5,899,450</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-3</b>

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

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

3. Included within 'less serious wounding' prior to 1 April 1998.

4. These offences were added to the series from 1 April 1998.

5. These offences were added to the series from 1 April 1999, prior to that they would have been included in the original classifications. Also includes Religiously Aggravated offences from April 2002.

6. These offences were added to the series from 1 January 2001.

7. Offence classification split with effect from 1 April 1998.

8. Including offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under.

9. Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under.

10. This offence was added to the series from 1 April 2002.

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

12. A summary of recorded crime data from 1898 to 2002/03 is available in Excel format on the RDS website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/100years.xls>.

13. The change in definition relating to resultant injury in common assaults and less serious wounding, which applies from 1 April 2002, is described in the 'Common Assault' text box in Chapter 5.

14. <1 indicates less than 0.5.

**Table 3.05 Recorded crime and number per 100,000 population for violent crime, property crime and vehicle-related crime**

<b>Numbers and numbers per 100,000 population</b>							<b>Recorded crime</b>	
Year	<b>Total recorded violent crime (thousands)</b>	Number of violent offences per 100,000 population	<b>Total recorded property crime (thousands)</b>	Number of property crime offences per 100,000 population	<b>Total recorded vehicle-related crime<sup>4</sup> (thousands)</b>	Number of vehicle-related offences per 100,000 population	<b>Total recorded offences (thousands)</b>	<b>Number of offences per 100,000 population</b>
1950	20	47	435	993	39	90	<b>461</b>	<b>1,053</b>
1960	38	82	699	1,513	110	237	<b>744</b>	<b>1,610</b>
1970	72	146	1,471	2,994	323	657	<b>1,556</b>	<b>3,166</b>
1980	133	271	2,547	5,171	619	1,258	<b>2,688</b>	<b>5,459</b>
1981	140	282	2,815	5,671	712	1,435	<b>2,964</b>	<b>5,971</b>
1982	151	305	3,102	6,253	800	1,613	<b>3,262</b>	<b>6,577</b>
1983	154	310	3,079	6,208	750	1,512	<b>3,247</b>	<b>6,546</b>
1984	159	321	3,325	6,696	800	1,611	<b>3,499</b>	<b>7,047</b>
1985	171	343	3,424	6,882	846	1,701	<b>3,612</b>	<b>7,258</b>
1986	178	357	3,653	7,316	988	1,980	<b>3,847</b>	<b>7,707</b>
1987	199	397	3,674	7,337	1,048	2,093	<b>3,892</b>	<b>7,773</b>
1988	216	430	3,477	6,920	987	1,965	<b>3,716</b>	<b>7,396</b>
1989	240	476	3,603	7,150	1,022	2,029	<b>3,871</b>	<b>7,681</b>
1990	250	494	4,263	8,430	1,267	2,506	<b>4,544</b>	<b>8,986</b>
1991	265	523	4,976	9,812	1,495	2,948	<b>5,276</b>	<b>10,403</b>
1992	284	556	5,268	10,310	1,549	3,032	<b>5,592</b>	<b>10,943</b>
1993	294	574	5,191	10,124	1,523	2,971	<b>5,526</b>	<b>10,777</b>
1994	310	603	4,895	9,516	1,384	2,691	<b>5,253</b>	<b>10,212</b>
1995	311	602	4,739	9,180	1,322	2,560	<b>5,100</b>	<b>9,880</b>
1996	345	665	4,636	8,946	1,293	2,495	<b>5,037</b>	<b>9,719</b>
1997	347	667	4,191	8,059	1,118	2,149	<b>4,598</b>	<b>8,841</b>
1997/98 <sup>1,2</sup>	353	678	4,131	7,944	1,096	2,107	<b>4,545</b>	<b>8,739</b>
1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	332	636	4,087	7,827	1,072	2,053	<b>4,482</b>	<b>8,584</b>
1998/99 <sup>3</sup>	606	1,160	4,304	8,243	1,078	2,064	<b>5,109</b>	<b>9,785</b>
1999/00	703	1,341	4,411	8,413	1,044	1,991	<b>5,301</b>	<b>10,111</b>
2000/01	733	1,392	4,261	8,087	968	1,838	<b>5,171</b>	<b>9,814</b>
2001/02	813	1,536	4,525	8,552	983	1,857	<b>5,525</b>	<b>10,440</b>
2002/03	992	1,904	4,694	9,012	976	1,874	<b>5,899</b>	<b>11,327</b>

1. Change from calendar year to financial year.

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

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

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

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

Table 3.06 Percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police 1981 to 2002/03 interviews

Percentages	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	BCS Statistical significance of changes from 2001/02 to 2002/03
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>											
<b>Vandalism</b>	22.2	22.0	23.7	27.0	26.5	29.9	26.2	30.4	31.6	31.0	
Vehicle vandalism	10.3	16.1	21.7	24.5	22.5	25.6	23.0	23.6	25.9	27.0	
Other vandalism	36.4	31.6	26.2	30.9	31.0	35.0	30.2	39.0	39.6	36.8	
<b>Burglary</b>	66.2	67.8	62.8	73.0	67.8	65.7	63.5	63.3	61.2	64.8	
Attempts	42.0	48.1	37.9	48.1	47.5	45.0	47.0	47.5	40.7	42.6	
Attempts and no loss	48.4	50.2	43.7	53.0	51.6	51.0	49.4	49.7	45.1	49.1	
With entry	81.2	82.3	81.9	87.9	82.9	81.8	78.4	74.1	76.6	81.1	*
With loss	84.7	86.6	86.3	92.2	86.8	84.0	84.5	81.6	84.5	86.6	
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	40.8	43.1	46.4	55.9	53.1	51.1	46.1	50.3	51.6	49.7	
Theft from vehicle	30.0	38.2	39.9	52.6	50.3	50.1	41.7	47.0	48.2	46.9	
Theft of vehicles	94.9	96.4	94.9	98.6	96.3	97.7	95.9	94.6	93.4	96.6	**
Attempts of and from	30.7	18.0	33.9	41.2	40.0	34.9	36.3	39.6	39.9	36.0	*
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	63.9	68.2	62.4	69.0	71.9	61.6	63.0	54.7	53.0	50.0	
<b>Other household theft</b>	25.2	21.8	23.8	29.2	31.9	30.2	32.8	32.4	32.9	30.0	*
<b>Theft from the person</b>	31.3	31.2	33.6	34.6	25.6	40.6	33.2	31.9	34.1	32.6	
Snatch theft from person	24.1	47.2	48.8	37.5	38.7	74.9	49.8	46.4	54.2	39.5	
Stealth theft from person	32.9	28.8	31.1	33.9	23.4	36.0	30.7	30.4	31.3	31.5	
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>31.4</b>	31.9	<b>36.0</b>	
<b>VIOLENCE</b>											
<b>Common assault (adjusted BCS 2002/03)<sup>5</sup></b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.5	
<b>Wounding (adjusted BCS 2002/03)<sup>6</sup></b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.8	
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>6</sup></b>	25.1	30.5	32.5	25.5	23.2	34.3	29.6	29.5	25.8	34.1	**
<b>Wounding</b>	40.2	59.6	43.3	47.7	53.2	39.7	45.8	58.2	55.8	51.0	
<b>Robbery</b>	46.5	39.0	43.9	47.2	48.3	55.1	56.6	29.7	44.4	52.8	
<b>OLD COMPARABLE VIOLENCE<sup>7</sup></b>	41.5	54.7	43.4	47.6	52.0	43.9	49.0	47.3	51.8	51.5	
<b>COMPARABLE VIOLENCE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.1	35.4	40.6	**
<b>All BCS violence<sup>8</sup></b>	29.7	37.8	35.0	32.4	31.5	37.9	36.1	35.2	35.9	40.6	*
Domestic violence	19.6	13.3	46.3	23.4	21.6	27.3	25.8	30.7	34.8	34.7	
Acquaintance	25.2	35.3	34.0	29.1	32.0	37.4	31.8	36.5	36.4	41.9	
Stranger	35.2	46.8	30.3	37.5	39.1	40.0	45.6	39.8	31.1	38.6	*
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	37.8	41.6	44.9	47.2	45.7	58.9	55.3	31.8	46.1	49.8	
<b>OLD COMPARABLE CRIME<sup>9</sup></b>	36.0	38.7	41.1	49.4	47.1	46.6	43.7	44.5	45.1	44.3	
<b>COMPARABLE CRIME<sup>9</sup></b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5	41.7	42.5	
<b>ALL BCS CRIME<sup>9</sup></b>	31.2	34.2	36.7	43.0	40.1	40.9	38.8	39.3	39.6	40.4	

1. Source 1982 to 2002/03 BCS.

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

3. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the 2002/03 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,157,372 households in England and Wales. For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts, all BCS violence and other thefts of personal property the 2002/03 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 41,836,000 adults in England and Wales. Figures for 1991 to 2002/03 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information please see the Glossary.

4. Statistical significance of changes are indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and double at the 5% level (two tailed tests). Tests are based on comparing rates of victimisation per household or per number in the adult population (i.e. account is taken of shifts in household and population numbers before comparisons are made). Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS/comparable crime.

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

6. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries.

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

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

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

Table 3.07 Reasons for not reporting crime to the police 2002/03 BCS interviews

<b>Percentages</b>							<b>BCS</b>
	Burglary	Thefts from vehicles & attempts	Other household theft	Other personal theft	BCS violence	Comparable subset <sup>2</sup>	All BCS
Trivial/no loss/police could not do anything <sup>4</sup>	74	81	78	62	46	69	69
Fear of reprisal	3	1	<1	<1	7	3	2
Police related reasons <sup>5</sup>	6	2	1	<1	3	2	2
Private/dealt with ourselves	23	19	20	20	47	28	26
Reported to other authorities	3	2	3	17	8	4	6
Inconvenient to report	4	6	6	8	5	5	5
Other	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>391</i>	<i>1,451</i>	<i>1,255</i>	<i>538</i>	<i>832</i>	<i>5,180</i>	<i>6,973</i>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Don't knows excluded from the base. More than one reason could be given.

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

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

4. Too trivial/no loss/police could have done nothing/would not have been interested/attempt at offence was unsuccessful are merged due to the similarity in their definition, for example: A respondent who thinks the incident was too trivial may code the incident as too trivial, no loss or the police would not be interested! as these two codes may be understood as meaning the same.

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

6. <1 indicates less than 0.5.

Table 3.08 Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to year ending September 2002

Percentages	Recorded crime and BCS																
	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999 <sup>2</sup> old	1999 <sup>2</sup> new	2000 old	2000 new	Year to Sep 2001 old	Year to Sep 2001 new	Year to Sep 2002 <sup>3</sup> old	Year to Sep 2002 <sup>3</sup> new		
<b>PROPERTY</b>																	
<b>Vandalism</b>	33	37	43	56	51	47	60	54	57	50	53	59	62	66	70		
<b>Burglary</b>	70	69	64	62	61	56	51	57	57	60	60	70	70	71	71		
Attempts and no loss	40	39	36	41	38	34	30	33	33	30	30	42	42	42	42		
With loss	87	87	83	74	77	73	70	76	76	93	93	92	92	94	94		
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	91	75	71	65	61	55	64	64	67	67	71	67	72	76	84		
Theft from vehicle	88	64	67	61	60	52	61	59	59	60	60	66	66	75	75		
Theft of vehicle	100 <sup>8</sup>	100 <sup>8</sup>	89	95	95	82	89	90	90	78	78	75	75	84	84		
Attempts of and from	51	54	47	34	27	34	46	50	66	75	100 <sup>8</sup>	60	84	71	100 <sup>8</sup>		
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	91	73	54	62	48	45	45	62	64	57	59	55	56	55	56		
<b>Theft from the person<sup>5</sup></b>	26	21	37	26	33	22	29	37	37	44	44	45	45	59	59		
<b>VIOLENCE</b>																	
<i>Common assault (adjusted BCS 2002/03)<sup>7</sup></i>													-	-	-	46	
<i>Wounding (adjusted BCS 2002/03)<sup>7</sup></i>																	57
Common assault (some with minor injury) <sup>6</sup>									26		25		47			na	
Wounding	41	37	48	53	42	48	56	53	49	74	69	59	55	79	na		
Robbery	24	35	38	48	45	31	28	53	54	48	48	48	48	53	54		
<b>Comparable violence</b>									36		38		50	-	52		
<b>OLD COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	62	59	59	60	56	50	55	58	-	60	-	62	-	70	-		
<b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	55	-	62	-	68		

1. Source: 1982 to 2002/03 BCS and recorded crime from 1981 to the year ending in September 2002.

2. Counting rule changes in 1998 meant a new subset of crimes was comparable between recorded crime and the BCS. The old comparable subset is included here in order to continue the trend.

3. For the 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews the comparable recorded crime periods are the years to September 2001 and September 2002 respectively.

4. Estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to the population estimates used in calculations (see glossary for details).

5. Theft from the person includes snatch and stealth thefts from the person.

6. Common assault became a comparable crime from 1 April 1998.

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

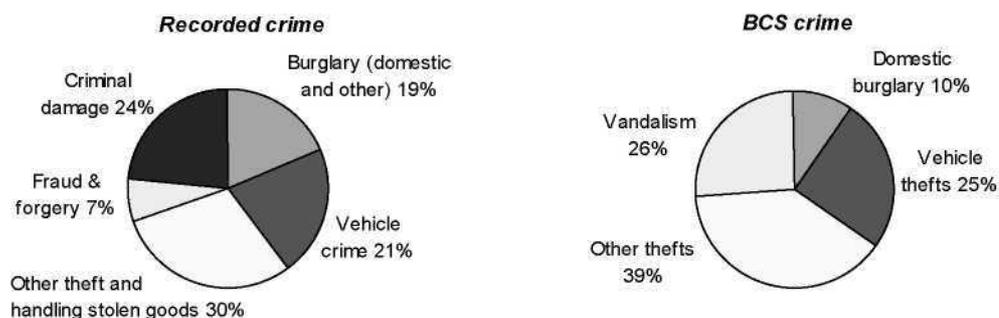
8. The number of recorded offences in places is higher than the number estimated to have been reported. This is the result of estimates having to be made where reliable data is not recorded centrally.

## 4 Property crime in England and Wales

*Sian Nicholas and Martin Wood*

- The British Crime Survey (BCS), in interviews conducted during 2002/03, showed that 78 per cent of all BCS crimes were property crimes. Around a quarter of these were offences of vandalism, a quarter were vehicle-related thefts, 10 per cent were burglaries with the remainder being other thefts (Table 3.01 and Figure 4.1).
- For police recorded crime, the property crime share was 80 per cent, with similar proportions to the BCS accounted for by thefts (30%) and vandalism (24%). Burglary accounted for a larger proportion at 19%, although recorded offences include commercial targets (Table 3.04).
- There has been a 39 per cent fall in burglary since 1997, as measured by the BCS. The one per cent rise between the 2001/02 interviews and 2002/03 interviews is not statistically significant, but represents a levelling off of the steep downward trend (Table 3.01).
- Vehicle-related theft has fallen by 31 per cent since 1997, as measured by the BCS. It has continued to fall, and the fall between 2001/02 and 2002/03 was a statistically significant five per cent. Within vehicle theft, thefts of vehicles fell faster in 2002/03 than the previous sweep, and also fell faster than thefts from vehicles. Theft of vehicles fell by 12 per cent compared with four per cent for thefts from vehicles from 2001/02 to 2002/03 (Table 3.01).
- Theft from the person, as measured by the BCS, saw an increase of 14 per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03, although this increase was not statistically significant.

**Figure 4.1 Police recorded and BCS property crime broken down by offence, 2002/03**



### **Coverage of BCS and recorded crime**

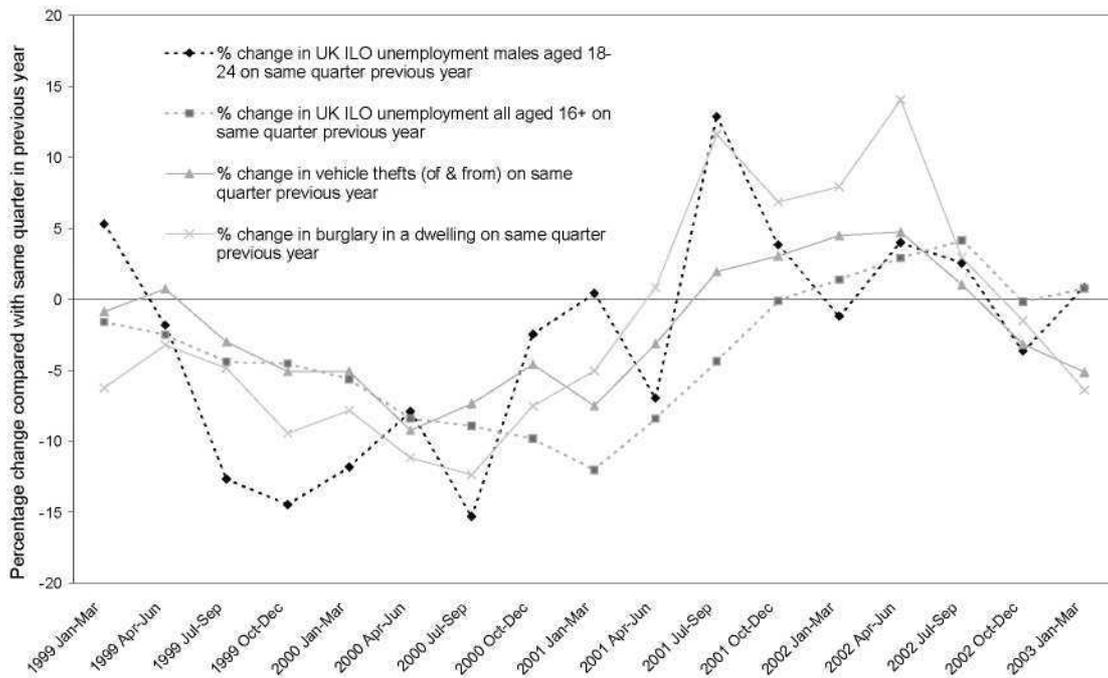
*This chapter looks at the various ways that individuals or corporate bodies are deprived of their property by illegal means (or there is intent to do so). It comprises burglaries, thefts and handling stolen goods, criminal damage and fraud. Robbery involves deprivation of property, but as there is a violent element too, it is included in Chapter 5 as a violent crime.*

*Recorded crime figures include crimes in all these categories, provided that they have been reported to and recorded by the police. The degree to which crimes are reported and recorded varies according to crime type. Key for whether property crime is reported are perceived seriousness and whether the property is insured. The BCS does not look at frauds, or at crimes against corporate bodies (see Chapter 2).*

**4.1 CORRELATES OF RECENT PROPERTY CRIME TRENDS**

Numerous economic models suggest that economic factors play a significant role in determining property crime levels through time. Unemployment has been found to be a highly significant variable, and its strong correlation with property crime is illustrated in Figure 4.2. Analysis of this figure suggests that the change in total unemployment is highly correlated with the change in vehicle crime, while the change in male youth unemployment is highly correlated with the change in burglary in a dwelling. The figure also suggests a consistent seasonal variation through time.

**Figure 4.2 Change in male youth and all unemployment, recorded vehicle crime and domestic burglary compared to the same quarter in the previous year, 1999Q1-2003Q1**



## 4.2 BURGLARY AND VEHICLE-RELATED THEFT

### Coverage

*Burglary and vehicle-related theft are discussed together in this section as major categories of acquisitive crime affecting domestic and commercial property.*

### Burglary

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

*The BCS covers domestic burglaries only, which means break-ins (regardless of intent) to all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (i.e. by a connecting door).*

### Vehicle-related crime

*Police recorded vehicle-related crime comprises:*

- **Thefts and attempted thefts of vehicles** (where there is intent to permanently deprive the owner);
- **Unauthorised taking of a vehicle** (where intent to permanently deprive the owner is not evident - this would typically include 'joyriding' where the car is later found abandoned and recovered);
- **Aggravated vehicle taking** (where a vehicle once taken is known to have been driven dangerously, damaged or caused an accident);
- **Thefts and attempted thefts from a vehicle** (here the offenders have targeted property left inside or on the vehicle, or component parts of the vehicle, rather than the vehicle itself);
- **Vehicle interference** (which includes attempts to drive a vehicle away without apparent intent to permanently deprive the owner- mostly included as attempts in BCS); and
- **Criminal damage to a vehicle (vehicle vandalism)** (where there is no apparent ulterior motive to commit any of the crimes already mentioned).

*The motive or intent is determined by the police at the time the crime is recorded, and usually before it is investigated. Figures for thefts of vehicles and unauthorised taking are collected together, because of the difficulty in establishing intent to permanently deprive the owner at the time of recording.*

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

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### Extent and trends

#### British Crime Survey:

- Following significant falls in domestic burglary since a peak in 1995, the trend has now flattened. There was a single percentage point rise (not statistically significant) in burglary between the 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews, with burglary with entry rising by two per cent and attempts falling by one per cent (Figure 4.3).
- The number of domestic burglaries in England and Wales was estimated by the BCS to be 974,000, of which 561,000 were burglaries with entry and 412,000 were attempts. In 1993, the total stood at 1,755,000 (Table 4.02).
- Vehicle-related theft continued to fall from 1993 levels, although the rate of that fall has slowed (Table 4.02). Nonetheless, there was a statistically significant decrease of five per cent between the 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews (Table 3.01).
- Looking within the vehicle theft trend, the rates of fall for thefts from vehicles and thefts of vehicles differ. The fall in thefts from vehicles has been driving the overall fall in vehicle theft since 1993 (both because of higher rates of fall and the larger absolute numbers of these offences) but the rate of fall has now slowed. The decrease in thefts from vehicles between 1999 and 2001/02 was 17 per cent, and was four per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (Tables 4.02 and 3.01).
- Thefts of vehicles have been falling since 1993, and the rate of that fall has increased between 2001/02 and 2002/03. The fall between 2001/02 and 2002/03 was 12 per cent. Attempted thefts of and from vehicles continued a steady decline, with a three per cent fall in 2002/03 from 2001/02 (Tables 4.02 and 3.01).
- The BCS estimated the number of vehicle-related thefts in England and Wales to be 2,366,000 in 2002/03, down from a high in 1993 of 4,296,000 (Table 4.02). Within this, 1,425,000 were thefts from vehicles, 278,000 were thefts of vehicles and 663,000 were attempts.
- The trends since 1981 for both burglary and vehicle theft are broadly similar. Thefts from vehicles saw the steepest increase in the early part of that period, with burglary, thefts of vehicles and attempts of both staying at similar levels and rates of gradual increase until the early 1990s. Attempts of and from vehicles increased sharply from that point, followed by burglary attempts shortly afterwards. There have been similarly sharp declines in these offences since the mid-1990s.

#### Recorded crime:

- As with the BCS, the trend for police recorded burglary appears to have flattened after the small increase seen in the year to 2001/02 (the first rise since 1993). Although there was a two per cent rise in recorded numbers of domestic burglaries in 2002/03, this represents a two per cent fall when the impact of the NCRS is taken into account (Table 3.04).

Figure 4.3 Trends in BCS burglary and vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2002/03

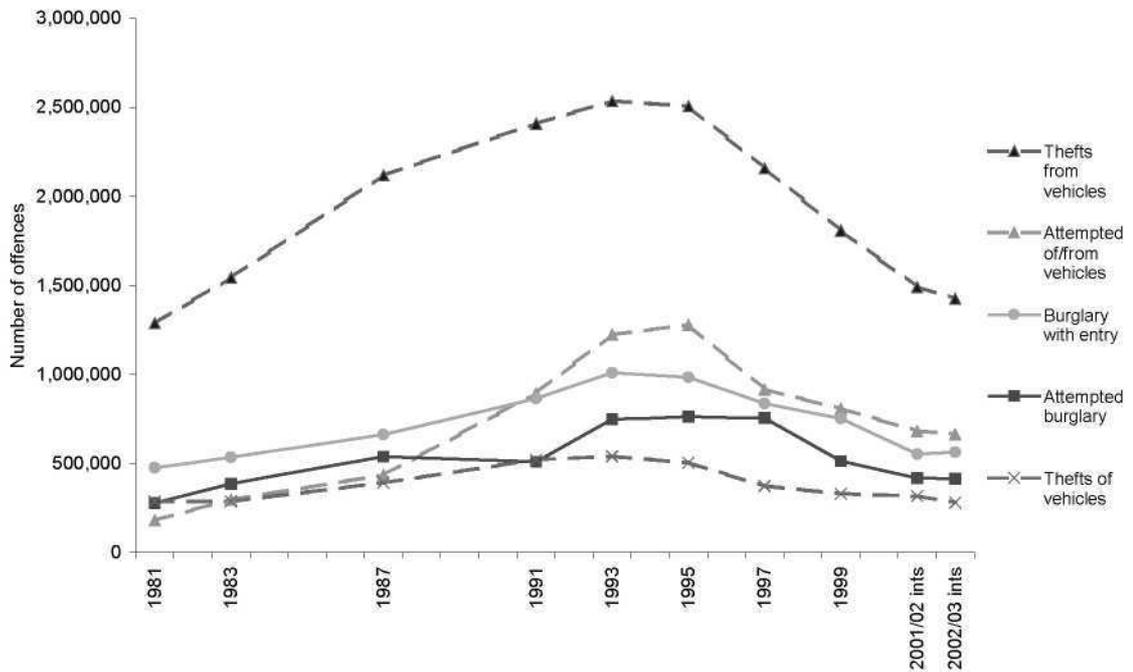
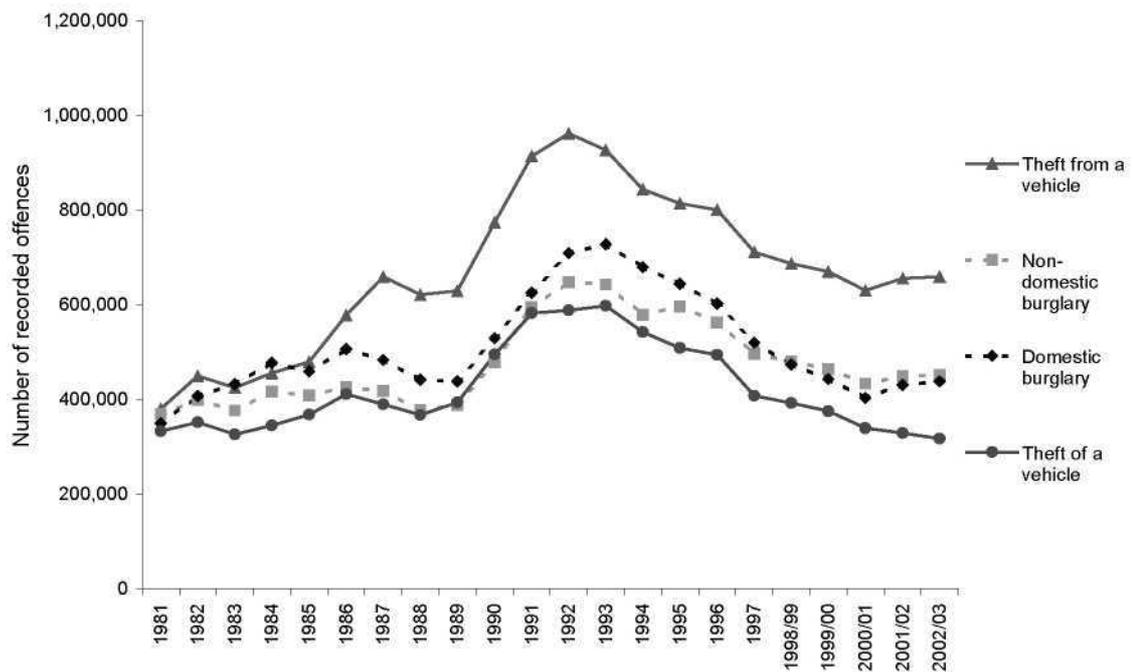


Figure 4.4 Trends in burglary and vehicle-related theft offences recorded by the police, 1981 to 2002/03 (unadjusted for NCRS)



## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- It is estimated that 65 per cent of domestic burglaries are reported to the police, and of these 71 per cent are recorded. Where there is loss as a result of burglary the reporting rate rises to 87 per cent, 94 per cent of these being recorded (Tables 3.06 and 3.08).
- The trend in non-domestic burglaries has also flattened. Looking at the trend since 1981, non-domestic and domestic burglary have closely followed one another, although domestic burglary rose to a higher level in the 1990s before subsequently falling more sharply than non-domestic burglary. They end the period at similar levels to each other, around a quarter above the 1981 levels (Figure 4.4).
- The number of recorded vehicle-related thefts was similar between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (a one per cent fall was recorded). However, the NCRS effect has been estimated to be larger than that in the burglary category, and the adjusted change between 2001/02 and 2002/03 was a nine per cent fall. Thefts of and thefts from vehicles showed similar falls in this period at seven and 10 per cent respectively (Table 3.04).
- Trends since 1981 in recorded domestic and non-domestic burglary and vehicle-related theft mirror each other closely. Sharp increases in all categories in the early 1990s brought levels to a peak in 1992 and 1993, just prior to the BCS peaks in the equivalent categories in 1993 and 1995. Trends in recorded crime from that point have been downwards until the increases observed with the introduction of the NCRS.

**Table 4a Type of burglary within total burglary and type of vehicle theft within all vehicle-related theft 1981 to 2002/03 interviews**

Percentages							BCS	
	1981	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	
<i>Burglary in a dwelling</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Attempts	37	37	44	<b>47</b>	41	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	
With entry	63	63	56	<b>53</b>	59	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<i>Burglary in a dwelling</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
With loss	50	52	45	40	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	
No loss	50	48	55	60	<b>57</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<i>All vehicle thefts</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Theft from vehicle	73	63	58	63	<b>61</b>	60	<b>60</b>	
Theft of vehicle	16	14	12	11	<b>11</b>	13	<b>12</b>	
Attempted theft of/from	10	23	30	27	<b>27</b>	27	<b>28</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

1. Source 1982, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS.

- Turning again to BCS measures, looking at the composition of the overall burglary and vehicle-related theft categories there was a rise in the relative proportion of attempts between 1981 and 2002/03 (Table 4a). This has coincided with improved security measures over the period.

### Risks of becoming a victim of burglary or vehicle-related theft

- Overall, 3.4 per cent of households in England and Wales interviewed in the 2002/03 BCS had experienced at least one domestic burglary in the previous 12 months. This is the same as in 2001/02, but substantially below the high of 6.5 percent in 1993 (Table 4.02).
- Two per cent of households were victims of burglary with entry and 1.5 per cent were victims of attempts. This means that the average household in England and Wales might expect to become the victim of a burglary with entry once every 50 years. This, of course, is the risk across the whole of England and Wales, and in some types of area and for some groups of people the risks are considerably higher, as the analysis below shows (Figures 4.5 and 4.6).
- The prevalence of vehicle-related theft has also seen a decrease between 2001/02 and 2002/03, from 11.3 per cent of vehicle-owning households to 10.8 per cent. This continues a downward trend although at a lower rate of decrease from 1995 levels.
- The risk of having a vehicle stolen has seen a relatively greater decline over the period between 1991 and 2002/03 than theft from vehicles (from 3.2% of vehicle-owning households to 1.5% compared with 11.8% to 6.8%). The average vehicle-owning household might therefore expect to have their car stolen roughly once every 70 years.
- The BCS has consistently shown that the risk of burglary and vehicle-related theft victimisation varies considerably across households with different characteristics and situated in different localities (Budd, 1999).
- Figures 4.5 and 4.6 show household groups that are more than 20 per cent above the average risk of burglary and vehicle-related theft. These are similar to those found on previous sweeps of the survey. Many of the same groups are at high risk for both crime types, in particular those in areas of high physical disorder, those where the Household Reference Person<sup>1</sup> is aged 16 to 24, single parent households and those in particular localities (council estate or inner cities).<sup>2</sup>
- In addition, risks of burglary are higher for those households where the Household Reference Person is unemployed or economically inactive or where the annual household income is less than £5,000. There is a different pattern in relation to income for thefts from vehicles, where the higher income bands are at greater risk (although this is not the case for thefts of vehicles) (Tables 4.03 and 4.04).
- People living in flats and maisonettes were at greater risk of vehicle-related thefts, perhaps due to the need very often to park cars somewhere other than a domestic garage (where it is at relatively much less risk - Table 4b).

See Glossary for definition of Household Reference Person.

These results are based on bivariate analysis. However, many of the factors overlap and it is difficult to distinguish the individual impact of each. For example, low-income households are more likely to be found in poorer urban and inner-city areas. See Budd (1999) for a multivariate analysis of individual factors against risk.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Figure 4.5 Households most at risk of burglary, 2002/03 interviews

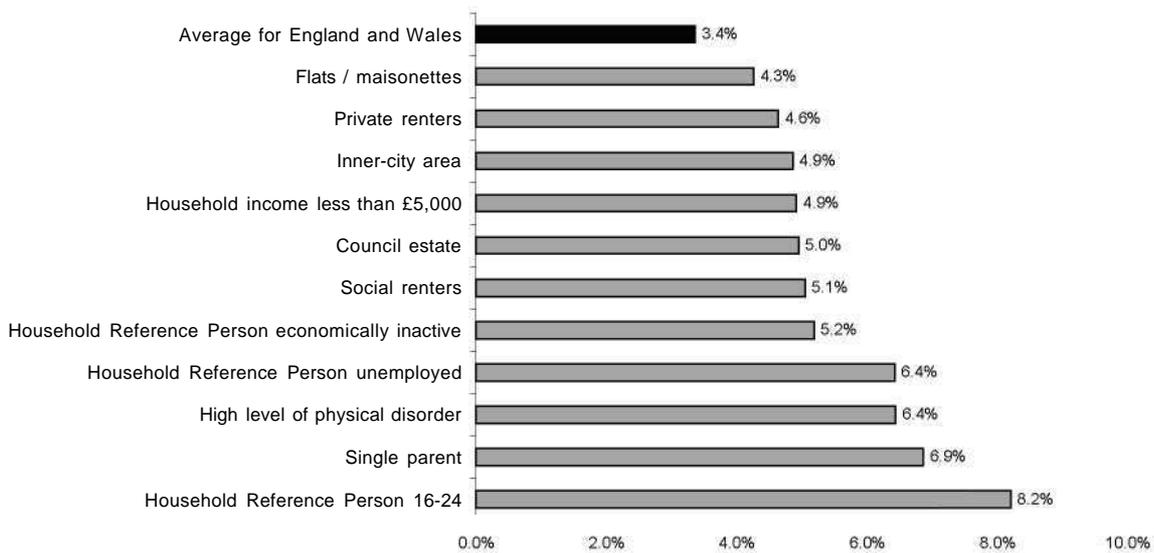
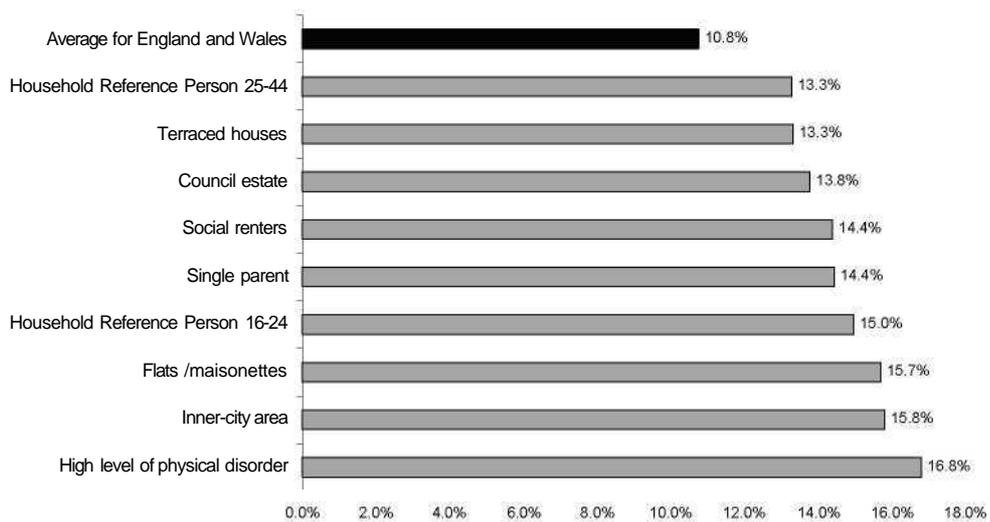


Figure 4.6 Vehicle-owning households most at risk of vehicle-related theft, 2002/03 interviews



## Property crime in England and Wales

The Car Theft Index 2002 shows the age of vehicles to be a significant risk factor that will interact with household characteristics. Newer cars generally include improved security measures that make them more resistant to theft.

- A consistent finding of the BCS is that most vehicle-related thefts occur in the area around the home. The street outside the home is where the highest volume of incidents occur, with over a third of offences of each type (theft of, theft from and attempted theft) reported to have occurred there in the 2002/03 sweep. Nineteen per cent of all vehicle thefts occur in a car park (Table 4b).
- However, in assessing the relative risk of different locations, the length of time that vehicles are in those locations needs to be considered. Work by Clarke and Mayhew (1996) found that cars in car parks were at much greater risk than those parked outside the home when length of time parked there is taken into account.

Table 4b Location of vehicle-related thefts 1999 to 2002/03 BCS interviews

	Percentages												BCS		
	All vehicle thefts			Thefts of vehicles			Thefts from vehicles			Attempted theft					
	1999	2001/02	2002/03	1999	2001/02	2002/03	1999	2001/02	2002/03	1999	2001/02	2002/03	1999	2001/02	2002/03
<b>Home</b>															
Private	2	2	1	5	3	4	1	2	1	3	3	0			
Semi-private	26	25	26	26	24	31	24	24	24	28	27	26			
Street	37	41	40	33	40	33	37	41	40	36	41	44			
<b>Work</b>															
Car park	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	3			
Street	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1			
<b>Other</b>															
Car park	17	13	15	18	12	11	17	14	16	17	12	15			
Street	11	11	11	12	12	13	12	11	12	9	11	9			
Other	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	1			
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2,509	3,079	3,261	331	421	421	1,507	1,850	1,966	671	808	874			

1. Source 2000 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS.
2. 'All vehicle thefts' includes thefts of, from and attempts.
3. Excludes 'don't knows'.

Repeat victimisation is at the centre of the interplay between incidence rates (total numbers of offences) and prevalence rates (the proportion of the population victimised once or more). High levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in lower prevalence rates, other things being equal, since there are fewer individual victims, albeit some who are frequently targeted. Repeat victimisation is defined here as those victims of a particular offence or group of offences who are victims two or more times within the same year.

- Repeat victimisation for vehicle theft has fallen since 1991 according to the BCS (Table 4c). There has been a decrease in repeat victimisation for all vehicle theft from a high of 28 per cent of victims in 1995 to 19 per cent in 2002/03.
- Repeat victimisation for burglary has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years, with the proportion of victims victimised twice or more fluctuating between 15 and 20 per cent. There were no clear longer-term trends in either attempted burglary or burglary with entry.

The Car Theft Index 2002 is based on police and DVLA records and estimates the risk of theft per thousand vehicles on the road for each make and model of car in Great Britain in 2001, by year of registration.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Table 4c Percentage of victims victimised two or more times, 1991 to 2002/03 BCS interviews

Percentages						BCS
	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews
<b>All burglary</b>	16	19	19	20	15	18
Attempts	12	17	20	15	14	17
With entry	13	16	14	19	13	14
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	25	28	24	25	21	19
Theft from vehicle	22	23	20	21	20	16
Theft of vehicle	7	11	6	8	8	7
Attempted theft of/from vehicle	15	21	13	19	17	15

1. Source 1992, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS.

2. Base is victims of specified offences.

### Loss to victims as a result of burglary and vehicle crime

- The most commonly stolen items in burglaries, according to the 2002/03 BCS interviews, were cash (in 39% of domestic burglaries where there was loss); jewellery (23%); CDs, tapes, videos and DVDs (19%); purses or wallets, and credit cards or cheque books (each stolen in 18% of domestic burglaries) (Table 4.07).
- Burglaries of video recorders (14%) were much less common in 2002/03 than in 1997 (34%), and there have been similar falls over time for burglary of televisions, hi-fis, and jewellery. However, burglaries of computer equipment were twice as common in 2002/03 (14%) as they were in 1995 and similarly burglaries resulting in the loss of items such as bags, credit cards and cheque books, and mobile phones have become more common. Thefts of car keys have also increased (from 2% in 2001/02 to 5% in 2002/03), perhaps representing a response by offenders to increasingly secure vehicles (Table 4.07).
- The most commonly stolen items in thefts from vehicles, according to the 2002/03 BCS interviews, were exterior fittings (stolen in 32% of thefts), car radios (23%) and valuables (16%) (Table 4.08).

Changes overtime in burglaries of particular items are partly a reflection of the changing popularity of these items over that period, in terms both of levels of ownership and the markets for stolen goods. The General Household Survey for 2001 (Walker *et al.*, 2002), for instance, reported that ownership of home computers doubled over the period 1995 to 2001 (from 25% to 50%), which matches the doubling of the proportion of burglaries that resulted in the loss of these items seen on the BCS.

## Property crime in England and Wales

- The average<sup>4</sup> loss in a domestic burglary with loss<sup>5</sup> was £500 according to 2002/03 interviews. Actual costs vary widely. In 29 per cent of burglaries the estimated value of items stolen lay between £1,000 and £4,999. However, in a fifth (21%) of burglaries the value of that loss was less than £100 (Table 4.09).
- The average gross value of vehicles stolen was £900 in 2002/03 (although some of this value may have been recouped if the vehicle was recovered). The average value of other property stolen in the same incident was £75. The average loss incurred during thefts from vehicles where the vehicle itself was not stolen was £80 (Table 4.09).
- Around a half (52%) of domestic burglaries reported in 2002/03 were covered by insurance. However, not all insured victims made a claim, with only just over half doing so (54%), although this rises to 70 per cent of victims of burglary with entry (Table 4.10).
- Levels of insurance cover for vehicle thefts were higher than for burglaries, with losses being covered by insurance policies in 71 per cent of vehicle thefts reported in 2002/03. This is roughly the same proportion as in 1997 (72%). Insurance cover was more common in incidents of theft of a vehicle (87%) than attempted theft (76%) and theft from a vehicle (65%) (Table 4.10).
- Although levels of insurance cover were higher for vehicle-related thefts than burglaries in 2002/03, claims were less likely to be made by victims of vehicle-related theft (34% compared with 54%). Looking at thefts of vehicles, the proportion making a claim was 68 per cent, compared with 31 per cent for thefts from vehicles (Table 4.10).
- Victims often need to report a burglary to the police in order to claim on their insurance, and the insurance claim is one of the main reasons cited in interviews for reporting a burglary to the police. Both the proportion of burglaries covered by insurance and the reporting rates for burglary fell gradually over the 1990s, but small increases in both were observed in 2002/03 (Tables 4.10 and 3.06).

### Impact of burglary and vehicle crime on victims

- Burglaries tended to be regarded by victims as more serious than vehicle-related theft (Table 4d). The mean score out of 20 (where 20 was the most serious crime) was 8.8 for both burglary with entry and burglary with loss. Thefts of vehicles were close to this level at 8.6 (wounding, the offence regarded as most serious by victims of the offences covered, was only slightly higher than these levels at 9.2) (Table 2.03).

<sup>4</sup>

The average is presented as the median as values here are not normally distributed. The median is the point at which exactly half the sample are above and half below.

<sup>5</sup> Based on the victim's estimate of the replacement value of the stolen property.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

**Table 4d Victim assessment of seriousness of burglary and vehicle theft 2000, 2001, 2001/02 and 2002/03**

Mean seriousness score	BCS		
	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews
<b>All burglary</b>	7.4	8.1	8.0
Attempts	6.0	6.8	6.9
Attempts and <b>no</b> loss	6.5	7.2	7.4
<b>With</b> entry	8.4	9.0	8.8
<b>With</b> loss	8.5	9.2	8.8
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	5.2	6.0	5.8
Theft from vehicle	4.7	5.3	5.3
Theft of vehicle	8.8	9.3	8.6
Attempted theft of/from vehicle	5.0	5.9	5.6

1. Source 2000, 2001/02, 2002/03 BCS.

2. Excludes don't knows.

3. Victims were asked to place the incident on a scale ranging from 0 to 20. 0 represents the most minor crime and 20 the most serious.

- In 83 per cent of incidents of burglary in 2002/03, respondents stated that they had been emotionally affected. An emotional reaction was more likely if entry was successfully gained (burglary with entry 85%; attempted burglary 81%) (Table 4e).
- The proportion of victims of vehicle-related thefts who were emotionally affected was similar to that of burglary victims (81% of victims of vehicle-related theft were affected overall, including 87% of victims of thefts of vehicles) (Table 4f).
- Anger and annoyance were the most common emotions experienced in response to being a victim of burglary (49% and 39% respectively), with fear and related feelings of loss of confidence and difficulty sleeping felt by around a quarter of victims (Table 4e).
- This was more pronounced in the case of victims of vehicle-related theft. Nearly two-thirds felt anger following the theft of their car, as did well over half of victims of thefts from and attempts. Fear, at four per cent, was at a much lower level for vehicle-related theft than for burglary (Table 4f).
- The proportion of victims saying they had been affected 'very much' by incidents stood at 37 per cent for burglary with entry. The figure for thefts of vehicles was 34 per cent (Tables 4e and 4f).

**Table 4e Emotional impact of burglary 2002/03**

Percentages	BCS		
	All burglary	Burglary with entry	Attempted burglary
<b>Respondent was emotionally affected</b>	83	85	81
<b>Type of emotional response<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Respondent experienced:</i>			
Anger	49	57	39
Shock	32	40	21
Fear	24	25	24
Difficulty sleeping	25	29	20
Crying/tears	14	19	6
Depression	11	15	5
Anxiety or panic attacks	12	15	10
Loss of confidence or feeling vulnerable	25	29	21
Annoyance	39	38	41
Other	1	2	0
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,240	754	486
<b>Degree of emotional upset</b>			
Respondent not affected	17	15	19
<i>Respondent was affected:</i>			
Very much	28	37	16
Quite a lot	31	31	30
Just a little	24	17	35
<u><i>Unweighted N</i></u>	<u>1,240</u>	<u>754</u>	<u>486</u>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. More than one response was allowed.

**Table 4f Emotional impact of vehicle-related theft 2002/03**

Percentages	All vehicle thefts	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	BCS
				Attempts
<b>Respondent was emotionally affected</b>	81	87	80	80
<b>Type of emotional response<sup>2</sup></b>				
<i>Respondent experienced:</i>				
Anger	57	65	55	57
Shock	16	34	14	11
Fear	4	5	4	3
Difficulty sleeping	5	9	4	4
Crying/tears	3	8	3	1
Depression	5	11	4	4
Anxiety or panic attacks	2	5	2	2
Loss of confidence or feeling vulnerable	7	10	7	7
Annoyance	48	51	47	49
Other	1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,055	372	1,850	833
<b>Degree of emotional upset</b>				
Respondent not affected	19	13	20	20
<i>Respondent was affected:</i>				
Very much	18	34	17	14
Quite a lot	25	32	24	25
Just a little	38	22	39	42
<u><i>Unweighted N</i></u>	<u>3,054</u>	<u>372</u>	<u>1,850</u>	<u>832</u>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. More than one response was allowed.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### 4.3 THEFTS AND HANDLING OF STOLEN GOODS

- Thefts from the person, as measured by the BCS, increased 14 per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (although this was not statistically significant). At 685,000 crimes in 2002/03, it is now above the previous peak of 679,000 in 1995 (Table 3.01).
- The BCS estimated that the category of other household thefts fell by 26 per cent between 1999 and 2002/03. Other thefts of personal property fell by 14 per cent during the same period. More recent BCS trends in other categories of non-vehicle thefts were not statistically significant (Table 3.01).
- The BCS estimated from its 2002/03 interviews that there were 3,739,000 thefts from adults living in private households in England and Wales (excluding burglaries and vehicle-related thefts), of which 359,000 were bicycle thefts; 1,361,000 other household thefts; 685,000 thefts from the person; and 1,334,000 other thefts of personal property. Half of vehicle thefts and bicycle thefts were reported to the police and only about a third of the other theft categories (Tables 3.01, 3.06).
- In terms of recorded crime, there was an eight per cent rise in thefts and handling stolen goods (excluding vehicle-related thefts) between 2001/02 and 2002/03. Within this group of offences, the largest increases were in thefts of mail (up 40%), theft in a dwelling (both from automatic machine or meter, up 19%, and other thefts in a dwelling, up 21%) and thefts from the person (up 18%). In contrast, there was a fall of seven per cent in bicycle theft (Table 3.04). However, it should be noted that some of these changes may be accounted for by changes in recording practices due to the adoption of the National Crime Recording Standard.
- As with other offences, the reliability of recorded crime as a measure of underlying trends in non-vehicle thefts needs to be considered. Levels of recorded shop thefts, which rose by one per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03 to 309,397, are highly dependent on whether the shops themselves, and particularly the larger chains, apprehend suspects or involve the police. The industry's own Retail Crime Survey (BRC, 2003) indicates that customer shop thefts per outlet rose by 18 per cent between 2001 and 2002.

### 4.4 ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE (VANDALISM)

- The BCS estimated from its 2002/03 interviews that there were 2,536,000 offences of vandalism against private household property in England and Wales. Under a third were reported to the police (31%) (Tables 3.01 and 3.06).
- Trends have been downwards since the high point in 1995 (when the BCS estimated there were 3,315,000 incidents), although the two per cent fall from 2001/02 to 2002/03 is not statistically significant.
- Looking at recorded crime, there was a four per cent fall in total criminal damage between 2001/02 and 2002/03 to 1,109,370 offences. Of these, 39 per cent (429,631) were to a vehicle - a rise of three per cent (some of this rise may be attributable to NCRS changes), and 27 per cent were to a dwelling (301,543) (Table 3.04).

## Property crime in England and Wales

- The number of arson offences recorded by the police fell by 12 per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03 to 53,200 offences. This followed a doubling of the number of offences between 1995 and 2001/02 (some of which will be due to counting rule changes) (Table 3.04). This is consistent with a rise of 46 per cent in malicious fires recorded by fire brigades from 1994 to 2001 (ODPM, 2003, latest available data).
- Within this rise, the number of malicious fires recorded by fire brigades in England and Wales rose by 11 per cent from 111,200 in 2000 to a provisional 123,200 in 2001. Most of this increase was in vehicle fires, which accounted for 64 per cent of all malicious fires in 2001. This may be related to the outcome of thefts of vehicles - the proportion of stolen vehicles recovered dropped from 60 per cent to 53 per cent between 2001/02 and 2002/03 according to the BCS (although this fall was not statistically significant) (Table 4.02).

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

### 4.5 FRAUD AND FORGERY

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

- The Association of Payment Clearing Services (APACS) reported total plastic card fraud losses of £424.6 million in the UK in 2002, a rise of three per cent from 2001 (£411.5m). The British Bankers Association (BBA) reported total payment fraud losses of £82.5 million in the UK in 2002, a rise of nearly 11 per cent from 2001. For more information on trends and type of fraud and forgery see Flood-Page and Taylor (2003).
- There were 330,128 recorded offences of fraud and forgery in 2002/03 (an increase of 5% on 2001/02). Just under half of them, or 142,514 offences, were cheque and credit card frauds (a decrease of 7%) (Table 3.04).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### 4.6 DRUG USE AND OTHER OFFENCES

There is a diverse range of offences recorded by the police, from libel to immigration offences, that fall outside the subject of the main chapters of this volume. The total number of this group of 'other offences' was 72,550 in 2002/03 (Table 3.04).

Drug offences are more relevant here, as a large proportion of property crime is drug-related.

- The New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) programme has reported that 65 per cent of arrestees tested positive for one or more illegal drugs. Whilst users of both heroin and cocaine/crack represented just under one quarter of all arrestees interviewed, they were responsible for more than three-fifths of the illegal income reported, most of which was from property crime. (Bennett, Holloway and Williams, 2001).
- The link between property crime and drug use was further underlined by an evaluation of drug testing in the Criminal Justice System that involved the testing of a specific category of arrestees (namely those aged 18 and over who have been charged or convicted of property crime, robbery and specified Class A drug offences). Testing in nine pilot sites found that between 36 and 66 per cent of test results were positive for specified Class A drugs.

Extending the picture of drug usage in England and Wales, the number of 16 to 59 year-olds who had used Class A drugs within a year of the interview was estimated to be around one million using a self-completion method on the 2001/02 BCS (Aust, Sharp and Goulden, 2002).

The recorded crime figures for drug possession and trafficking are thought to seriously understate the true extent of offending in those areas. The statistics will also be heavily influenced by local policing priorities in response to local drug problems, and may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime rather than real changes in its incidence. Statistics on drug offending are published annually by the Home Office (Corkery, 2002).

Table 4.01a: Burglaries recorded by the police 1991 to 2002/03

Numbers, rates and percentages	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>^</sup>	1998/99 <sup>^</sup>	Recorded crime				
										1998/99 <sup>^</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
<b>Burglary in a dwelling</b>	622,969	705,924	724,573	676,412	641,063	599,372	516,346	498,578	470,005	470,465	439,609	399,927	<b>426,884</b>	434,169
<b>Burglary in a dwelling per 10,000 households</b>	309	347	353	326	306	283	242	233	218	218	202	182	<b>193</b>	200
<b>Aggravated burglary in a dwelling</b>	1,977	2,307	2,703	2,470	2,582	2,756	2,919	3,015	2,955	2,884	2,993	3,057	<b>3,488</b>	3,475
<b>Attempts as a percentage of burglary in a dwelling<sup>3,6</sup></b>	10.1	11.7	12.5	12.9	12.7	12.9	13.1	n/a	n/a	13.6	13.4	13.6	n/a	12.7
<b>Burglary other than in a dwelling</b>	594,210	646,733	641,946	577,444	595,385	562,019	495,396	486,408	478,508	479,425	463,372	432,540	447,565	450,694
<b>Burglary other than in a dwelling per 10,000 population</b>	117	127	125	112	115	108	95	94	92	92	88	82	<b>85</b>	87
<b>Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling</b>	308	310	362	356	454	436	414	<b>431</b>	<b>410</b>	410	494	503	<b>610</b>	613
<b>Attempts as a percentage of burglary other than in a dwelling<sup>3,6</sup></b>	7.8	8.6	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.2	9.4	n/a	n/a	9.7	10.0	9.8	n/a	9.7

1. Source: recorded crime 1991 to 2002/03.

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

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

4. Attempts do not include data from all forces.

5. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. The estimated impact of the National Crime Recording Standard on 2002/03 figures can be seen in Table 3.04.

6. Figures for 2002/03 are based on data provided by 34 forces. Data for 2001/02 are not currently available due to forces resubmission of figures for this financial year.

Table 4.01b: Theft of and from vehicles recorded by the police 1991 to 2002/03

Numbers and numbers per 10,000 households	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>1</sup>	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	Recorded crime				
										1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
<b>Theft and unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle<sup>4</sup></b>	581,901	587,856	597,519	541,749	508,450	493,489	407,239	400,524	390,891	391,807	374,686	338,796	328,147	317,184
Theft and unauthorised taking of a vehicle per 10,000 households	289	289	291	261	242	233	191	188	181	182	172	154	148	146
<b>Theft from a motor vehicle</b>	913,276	961,340	925,819	842,680	813,094	799,552	710,333	695,498	680,937	685,919	669,232	629,651	655,150	658,740
Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 households	454	473	451	406	388	377	333	326	316	318	308	287	296	304
<b>Attempted theft of a motor vehicle (included in theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle figures)<sup>5,6</sup></b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	57,237	47,737	n/a	n/a	37,907	35,113	21,335	13,347	9,327
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,495,177	1,549,196	1,523,338	1,384,429	1,321,544	1,293,041	1,117,572	1,096,022	1,071,828	1,077,726	1,043,918	968,447	983,297	975,924

1. Source: recorded crime 1991 to 2002/03

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

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

4. Includes aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (48).

5. Data not received from a few forces from 1998/99 onwards.

6. Figure for 2002/03 is based on data provided by 33 forces.

7. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. The estimated impact of the National Crime Recording Standard on 2002/03 figures can be seen in Table 3.04.

8. 'N/a' = Not available. Attempts data not collected before 1996.

Table 4.02 BCS trends in household burglary and vehicle-related theft, incidents and rates of victimisation 1991 to 2002/03 interviews

Numbers, rates per 10,000 households and percentage victims once or more

	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	BCS 2002/3 interviews
<b>Burglary</b>	1,371,000	1,755,000	1,743,000	1,589,000	1,261,000	966,000	974,000
Burglary per 10,000 households	678	855	835	752	588	441	439
Percentage of households victims once or more	5.3%	6.5%	6.4%	5.6%	4.3%	3.4%	3.4%
<b>Burglary with entry</b>	863,000	1,008,000	983,000	836,000	750,000	551,000	561,000
Burglary with entry per 10,000 households	427	491	471	396	350	251	253
Percentage of households victims once or more	3.5%	4.0%	3.7%	3.2%	2.5%	2.0%	2.0%
<b>Burglary attempts</b>	507,000	747,000	760,000	753,000	511,000	415,000	412,000
Burglary attempts per 10,000 households	251	364	364	357	238	189	186
Percentage of households victims once or more	2.1%	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.0%	1.5%	1.5%
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	3,820,000	4,296,000	4,285,000	3,442,000	2,942,000	2,486,000	2,366,000
All vehicle thefts per 10,000 households	1,890	2,092	2,052	1,630	1,372	1,135	1,068
Percentage of vehicle-owning households victims once or more	18.2%	19.7%	19.7%	16.0%	12.9%	11.3%	10.8%
<b>Theft from a vehicle</b>	2,408,000	2,535,000	2,505,000	2,157,000	1,807,000	1,491,000	1,425,000
Theft from of a vehicle per 10,000 households	1,192	1,234	1,200	1,021	843	681	643
Percentage of vehicle-owning households victims once or more	11.8%	12.3%	12.3%	10.5%	8.3%	7.0%	6.8%
<b>Theft of a vehicle</b>	519,000	538,000	502,000	370,000	328,000	315,000	278,000
Theft of a vehicle per 10,000 households	257	262	241	175	153	144	126
Percentage of vehicle-owning households victims once or more	3.2%	3.3%	2.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%
<b>Attempted theft of and from a vehicle</b>	893,000	1,223,000	1,277,000	915,000	806,000	681,000	663,000
Attempted theft of and from a vehicle per 10,000 households	442	595	612	433	376	311	299
Percentage of vehicle-owning households victims once or more	4.8%	6.4%	6.5%	4.9%	3.9%	3.3%	3.3%
<i>BCS estimate of the proportion of stolen vehicles recovered</i>	-	-	61%	61%	58%	60%	53%

1. Source: 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews

2. Prevalence percentages for vehicle-related theft here are provided for vehicle-owning households. All other figures in the table refer to all households in England and Wales

**Table 4.03 Proportion of households victims of burglary by household type 2002/03 BCS interviews**

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>% victims once or more</b>		<b>BCS</b>
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
<b>Age of head of household</b>			
16-24	8.2	5.7	3.3
25-44	4.1	2.3	1.9
45-64	3.1	1.8	1.3
65-74	1.8	1.1	0.7
75+	1.9	1.4	0.5
<b>Head of household under 60</b>			
Single adult & child(ren)	<b>6.9</b>	4.0	3.2
Adults & child(ren)	<b>3.7</b>	2.2	1.5
No children	<b>3.9</b>	2.3	1.7
<b>Head of household over 60</b>			
	<b>2.0</b>	1.3	0.8
<b>Household income</b>			
Less than £5,000	4.9	3.0	2.1
£5,000 less than £10,000	3.6	2.2	1.6
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.4	1.9	1.5
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.2	1.8	1.6
£30,000 or more	3.4	2.2	1.4
<b>Tenure</b>			
Owner occupiers	2.7	1.6	1.2
Social renters	5.1	3.0	2.2
Private renters	4.6	2.8	2.0
<b>Head of household employment status</b>			
In employment	3.5	2.1	1.5
Unemployed	6.4	3.2	4.4
Economically inactive	5.2	3.0	2.5
<b>Accommodation type</b>			
Houses	3.2	1.9	1.4
<i>Detached</i>	2.4	1.6	0.9
<i>Semi-detached</i>	2.9	1.6	1.4
<i>Terraced</i>	4.1	2.6	1.7
Flats/maisonettes	4.3	2.7	1.8
<b>Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday</b>			
Never	2.7	1.6	1.1
Less than 3 hours	3.0	1.9	1.2
3 but less than 5 hours	3.3	1.8	1.5
5 hours or more	4.0	2.4	1.7
<b>Area type</b>			
Inner-city	4.9	2.8	2.3
Rural	2.5	1.7	0.8
Urban	3.5	2.0	1.5
Council estate	5.0	2.6	2.5
Non-council estate	3.0	1.9	1.2
<b>Level of physical disorder</b>			
High	6.4	3.7	3.0
Low	3.0	1.9	1.3
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

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

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

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

**Table 4.04 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts by household type 2002/03 BCS interviews**

Percentages	% victims once or more			BCS
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted vehicle theft
<b>Age of head of household</b>				
16-24	15.0	2.1	9.1	5.0
25-44	13.3	2.0	8.4	3.9
45-64	10.7	1.3	6.8	3.3
65-74	4.9	0.7	3.0	1.5
75+	3.6	0.6	2.0	1.1
<b>Head of household under 60</b>				
Single adult & child(ren)	14.4	3.6	8.5	3.4
Adults & child(ren)	12.3	1.9	7.5	3.7
No children	12.7	1.6	8.3	3.8
<b>Head of household over 60</b>				
	5.2	0.6	3.0	1.7
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than £5,000	9.8	1.6	5.1	4.0
£5,000 less than £10,000	9.2	2.1	5.2	2.9
£10,000 less than £20,000	9.6	1.8	5.8	2.8
£20,000 less than £30,000	11.8	1.7	7.4	3.8
£30,000 or more	12.3	1.2	8.3	3.6
<b>Tenure</b>				
Owner occupiers	10.0	1.3	6.4	3.0
Social renters	14.4	3.1	7.9	5.0
Private renters	12.2	1.4	8.4	3.5
<b>Head of household employment status<sup>2</sup></b>				
In employment	12.5	1.7	7.9	3.7
Unemployed	12.5	0.6	9.4	4.2
Economically inactive	10.6	1.9	6.5	3.1
<b>Accommodation type</b>				
Houses	10.2	1.4	6.5	3.0
<i>Detached</i>	7.5	0.7	5.1	2.1
<i>Semi-detached</i>	9.9	1.4	6.1	3.0
<i>Terraced</i>	13.3	2.1	8.4	3.9
Flats/maisonettes	15.7	2.6	9.1	5.7
<b>Area type</b>				
Inner-city	15.8	2.8	9.6	5.0
Rural	7.7	0.8	5.2	2.1
Urban	11.4	1.6	7.1	3.5
Council estate <sup>3</sup>	13.8	2.4	7.9	4.5
Non-council estate	10.3	1.3	6.6	3.0
<b>Level of physical disorder<sup>4</sup></b>				
High	16.8	3.1	9.4	6.5
Low	10.3	1.4	6.6	3.0
<b>ALL VEHICLE-OWNING HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

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

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

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

**Table 4.05 Burglaries recorded by the police and BCS by police force area and region 2002/03**

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME						BCS <sup>1</sup>		
	Total burglary in a dwelling	Burglary in a dwelling per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary <sup>3</sup>	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households <sup>3</sup>	Total burglary other than in a dwelling	Burglary other than in a dwelling per 10,000 population	All Burglary per 10,000 households	Burglary with entry per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households
Cleveland	7,321	328	1,057	47	7,535	139			
Durham	3,083	123	n/a	n/a	4,573	77			
Northumbria	11,179	188	1,635	28	11,525	83			
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>21,583</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>2,692</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23,633</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>158</b>
Cheshire	6,409	158	30	1	7,785	79			
Cumbria	2,152	103	220	11	2,746	56			
Greater Manchester	42,396	408	7,512	72	32,971	133			
Lancashire	9,513	162	1,344	23	10,974	78			
Merseyside	14,608	256	2,195	38	11,348	83			
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>75,078</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>11,301</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65,824</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>260</b>
Humberside	12,213	334	n/a	n/a	14,914	172			
North Yorkshire	4,804	153	n/a	n/a	6,791	90			
South Yorkshire	17,836	336	2,603	49	16,632	131			
West Yorkshire	36,406	426	5,702	67	33,401	161			
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>71,259</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>8,305</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>71,738</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>293</b>
Derbyshire	8,551	213	1,363	34	9,914	104			
Leicestershire	6,450	174	1,120	30	6,382	69			
Lincolnshire	4,290	158	596	22	6,541	101			
Northamptonshire	4,871	188	722	28	6,510	103			
Nottinghamshire	16,418	382	n/a	n/a	16,772	165			
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>40,580</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>46,119</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>133</b>
Staffordshire	6,458	150	1,070	25	8,714	83			
Warwickshire	3,070	146	332	16	4,367	86			
West Mercia	6,239	130	1,210	25	10,136	87			
West Midlands	26,942	261	4,458	43	29,589	116			
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>42,709</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>7,070</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>52,806</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>186</b>
Bedfordshire	3,784	168	700	31	4,552	80			
Cambridgeshire	5,457	189	801	28	7,318	103			
Essex	7,138	106	1,239	18	9,771	60			
Hertfordshire	5,294	126	n/a	n/a	6,419	62			
Norfolk	3,820	111	n/a	n/a	5,861	73			
Suffolk	2,284	81	n/a	n/a	3,964	59			
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>27,777</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37,885</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>137</b>
London, City of	46	106	1	2	398	553			
Metropolitan Police	72,237	240	9,379	31	41,190	57			
<b>London Region<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>72,283</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41,588</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>230</b>
Hampshire	6,793	93	885	12	11,424	64			
Kent	7,655	118	1,096	17	10,716	68			
Surrey	4,140	96	572	13	5,587	53			
Sussex	8,209	126	n/a	n/a	9,112	61			
Thames Valley	13,809	167	2,089	25	15,623	75			
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>40,606</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>4,642</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>52,462</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>166</b>
Avon and Somerset	14,561	234	2,183	35	15,621	105			
Devon and Cornwall	7,207	107	836	12	8,493	54			
Dorset	2,947	98	n/a	n/a	4,408	64			
Gloucestershire	3,369	142	478	20	5,325	94			
Wiltshire	2,724	108	427	17	3,518	57			
<b>SouthWest Region</b>	<b>30,808</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37,365</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>112</b>
Dyfed Powys	666	32	35	2	1,438	29			
Gwent	3,001	131	382	17	4,585	83			
North Wales	3,234	116	315	11	5,309	80			
South Wales	8,060	163	1,148	23	10,555	88			
<b>Wales</b>	<b>14,961</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,880</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21,887</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>437,644</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>55,735</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>451,307</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>365,361</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>46,355</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>409,719</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>179</b>

1. Regional figures only are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level.  
 2. The BCS does not identify City of London and Metropolitan areas within the London Region.  
 3. The figures for recorded attempted burglary are based on data from 34 forces.  
 4. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2001/02'. The national impact of recording changes in 2001/02 was estimated to be 3 per cent for recorded domestic burglary.  
 n/a Not available.

Table 4.06 Theft of and from vehicles recorded by the police and BCS by region and police force area 2002/03

Numbers and rates

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS <sup>1</sup>			
	Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle - number of offences	Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle per 10,000 population	Theft from a motor vehicle - number of offences	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 population	Attempted theft of motor vehicle - number of offences <sup>3</sup>	All motor vehicle theft per 10,000 households	Theft of a vehicle per 10,000 households	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 households	Attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle per 10,000 households
Cleveland	4,468	83	9,826	182	93				
Durham	2,423	41	5,023	85	n/a				
Northumbria	6,981	50	13,283	96	n/a				
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>13,872</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>28,132</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>221</b>
Cheshire	4,503	46	9,400	96	2,336				
Cumbria	1,246	26	3,506	72	19				
Greater Manchester	26,252	106	41,022	165	1,018				
Lancashire	5,585	39	13,289	94	93				
Merseyside	13,081	96	14,973	110	678				
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>50,667</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82,190</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>301</b>
Humberside	7,616	88	14,875	171	n/a				
North Yorkshire	2,642	35	7,000	93	n/a				
South Yorkshire	10,241	81	20,948	165	79				
West Yorkshire	22,867	110	41,340	199	149				
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>43,366</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>84,163</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>373</b>
Derbyshire	4,062	42	12,730	133	170				
Leicestershire	4,576	49	11,410	123	396				
Lincolnshire	2,101	32	5,756	89	139				
Northamptonshire	3,817	61	8,051	128	39				
Nottinghamshire	8,782	86	22,227	219	n/a				
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>23,338</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60,174</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>330</b>
Staffordshire	4,463	43	10,094	96	18				
Warwickshire	2,282	45	6,195	122	17				
West Mercia	3,371	29	9,705	84	32				
West Midlands	23,598	92	37,240	146	429				
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>33,714</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63,234</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>295</b>
Bedfordshire	3,111	55	8,323	147	100				
Cambridgeshire	3,638	51	9,707	137	89				
Essex	7,664	47	13,906	86	50				
Hertfordshire	4,287	41	12,315	119	n/a				
Norfolk	2,288	29	8,451	106	n/a				
Suffolk	1,606	24	4,676	70	n/a				
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>22,594</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>57,378</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>277</b>
London, City of	334	464	360	500	3				
Metropolitan Police	58,405	81	114,987	160	1,867				
<b>London Region<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>58,739</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>115,347</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>357</b>
Hampshire	6,278	35	15,985	90	378				
Kent	7,138	45	13,676	87	90				
Surrey	3,110	29	6,879	65	123				
Sussex	5,992	40	15,116	101	n/a				
Thames Valley	9,111	44	28,518	136	434				
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>31,629</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80,174</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>284</b>
Avon and Somerset	11,983	81	24,266	164	63				
Devon and Cornwall	3,907	25	15,470	98	34				
Dorset	2,276	33	7,141	103	n/a				
Gloucestershire	1,977	35	5,763	102	114				
Wiltshire	1,308	21	4,243	69	27				
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>21,451</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>56,883</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>261</b>
Dyfed Powys	833	17	1,195	24	11				
Gwent	3,046	55	5,286	96	13				
North Wales	2,091	32	6,005	91	26				
South Wales	11,844	99	18,579	155	200				
<b>Wales</b>	<b>17,814</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>31,065</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>317,184</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>658,740</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>9,327</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>258,445</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>543,393</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>7,457</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>290</b>

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

2. The figures in this column are considered to be unreliable and must be treated with caution. Alternative measures are available from the BCS.

3. The figures for recorded attempted theft of motor vehicle are based on data from 33 forces.

4. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information see Chapter 3 in Crime in England and Wales 2001/02. The national impact of recording changes in 2001/02 was estimated to be 1 per cent for recorded vehicle theft.

5. 'n/a' = Not available.

Table 4.07 Items stolen in household burglaries 1995 to 2002/03 BCS interviews

<u>Percentages</u>	<b>BCS</b>				
	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews
<i>Proportion of burglaries with loss involving theft of:</i>					
Cash	32	42	36	35	39
Jewellery	36	33	29	28	23
CDs/tapes/videos/DVDs	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	19
Credit cards/cheque books	7	15	9	11	18
Purse/wallet	10	16	11	14	18
Stereo/Hi-Fi equipment	28	24	21	21	17
Computer equipment	7	9	14	14	14
Mobile phone	1	2	9	11	14
Video	33	34	28	17	14
Camera	13	13	11	12	12
Television <sup>J</sup>	21	16	12	13	10
Briefcase/bag	5	5	6	10	10
Clothes	9	9	10	9	8
Documents	7	6	6	10	8
Household items or gadgets	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	8
House keys	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	7
Car keys	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	5
Tools	6	7	7	7	5
Car/van	1	1	0	2	4
Bicycle	5	3	4	4	2
Garden furniture, ornaments, plants or equipment	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2
Motorcycle/moped	0	0	0	0	1
Car/van accessories/parts	1	0	2	0	1
Sports equipment	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1
Children's toys	n/a	n/a	n/a	<1	1
Wheely bin or dustbin	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>548</i>		<i>405</i>	<i>482</i>	<i>584</i>

1. Source 1996 to 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. 'n/a' indicates that the question was not asked in that particular sweep.
3. For 2001/02 the television category includes DVD players.

Table 4.08 Items stolen in vehicle related thefts 1995 to 2002/03 BCS interviews

Proportion of vehicle related thefts:	BCS									
	1995		1997		1999		2001/02 interviews		2002/03 interviews	
	theft of	theft from	theft of	theft from	theft of	theft from	theft of	theft from	theft of	theft from
Exterior fittings	3	29	4	37	2	29	3	29	1	32
Car radio	17	30	23	28	16	23	11	24	9	23
Valuables <sup>2</sup>	14	15	23	13	17	16	11	18	6	16
CDs/tapes/videos/DVDs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	9	6	12
Tools	14	8	19	6	18	8	9	9	6	9
Telephone	1	3	3	2	1	4	3	4	0	5
Fuel	1	<1	1	2	0	3	2	1	1	3
Wheels	3	4	7	5	3	2	2	5	2	3
Various household items/gadgets	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	4	1	2
Electrical equipment	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	<1	2
Tax disc	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	1	2	1
Camera	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
House keys	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	1	<1	1
Car keys	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	<1	1	<1
Bicycle	1	0	1	0	0	<1	0	<1	0	<1
Other-vehicle parts	4	6	7	4	6	7	4	5	4	5
Other - not vehicle parts <sup>3</sup>	18	20	23	15	21	23	6	14	3	10
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>1629</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>1291</i>	<i>266</i>	<i>7339</i>	<i>333</i>	<i>7682</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>1804</i>

1. Source: 2002/03 BCS interviews.

2. The valuables category includes jewellery, luggage, purses/wallets, cash, cheque books, credit cards, clothes and documents. Electrical equipment includes television, video, DVD players and computer equipment.

3. The content of the 'other - not vehicle parts' category will have changed over the period as items have been added to the question code list.

Table 4.09 Estimated value of items stolen in household burglaries and vehicle-related thefts 2002/03 BCS interviews

Percentages/ £s	Burglary with loss	Theft of vehicle		Theft from vehicle		BCS
		Vehicle	Other property	Property	Damage	
<b>Value of property stolen</b>						
Less than £50	<b>12</b>	5	40	38	55	
£50 to £99	<b>9</b>	1	11	13	13	
£100 to £249	<b>15</b>	6	21	23	17	
£250 to £499	<b>11</b>	10	4	14	8	
£500 to £999	<b>14</b>	30	13	6	6	
£1,000 to £4,999	<b>29</b>	39	10	6	2	
£5,000 or more	<b>10</b>	10	1	<1	<1	
<b>Median value<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>£500</b>	£900	<b>£75</b>	£80	<b>£25</b>	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	556	358	85	1760	1756	

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. Excludes don't knows.

3. The average used here is the median as values here are not normally distributed. The median is the value at which exactly half the sample are above and half below.

Table 4.10 Proportions of incidents covered by insurance 1997 to 2002/03 BCS interviews

	BCS											
	All burglary				Burglary with entry				Attempted burglary			
	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews
% insured	55	49	48	52	56	48	49	52	53	51	47	52
% claim made (insured incidents)	56	54	56	54	76	70	71	70	26	26	27	22
% claim made (all incidents)	30	26	27	28	42	34	34	36	13	13	13	11
% claim met <sup>2</sup>	93	87	88	89	93	86	87	88	93	95	98	95

	BCS															
	All vehicle theft				Theft of vehicle				Theft from vehicle				Attempted theft of/from vehicle			
	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews
% insured	72	67	67	71	87	87	85	87	66	61	61	65	80	74	72	76
% claim made (insured incidents)	32	36	38	34	74	76	69	68	29	34	35	31	20	21	25	23
% claim made (all incidents)	23	24	25	24	64	66	59	59	19	21	21	20	16	16	18	17
% claim met <sup>2</sup>	93	93	92	93	90	90	92	86	93	93	91	96	97	98	97	97

1. Source 1998, 2000, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews.

2. Insurance claim paid in full or part. Based on those who made a claim. Figures for attempted burglary should be treated with caution due to small base numbers.

3. Excludes don't knows.

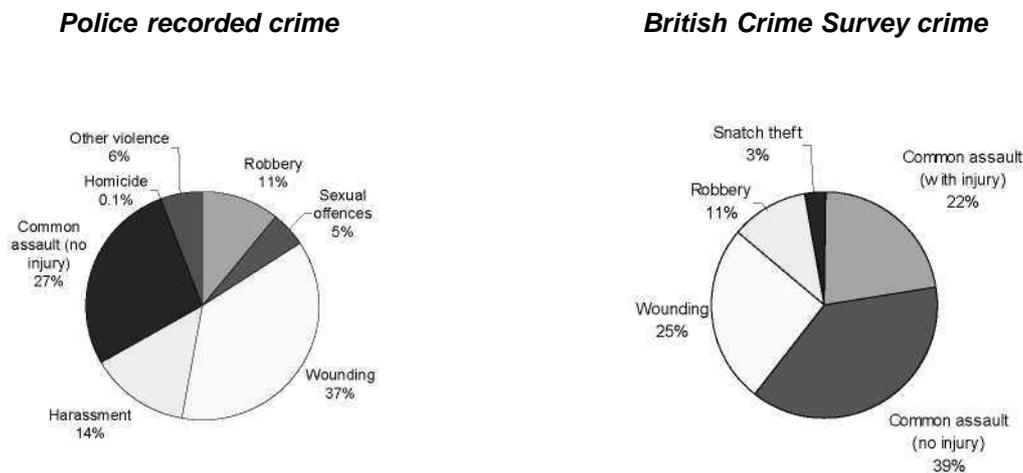
# 5 Violent crime in England and Wales

David Povey and Jonathan Allen

## 5.1 SUMMARY

- The British Crime Survey (BCS) estimated that there were 2,781,000 violent incidents experienced by adults in England and Wales, based on incidents reported to the survey in 2002/03 (Table 3.01).
- Thirty-nine per cent of all BCS violent incidents were common assault with no injury. In total, 49 per cent of all BCS violent incidents did not result in any injury to the victim (Figure 5.1, Table 5.04).
- The BCS estimate for the number of violent incidents was unchanged from 2001/02. BCS violence has fallen by 19 per cent since 1999 and by 24 per cent since 1997, both falls being statistically significant (Table 3.01).
- There were 991,800 violent crimes (i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences and robberies) recorded by the police in 2002/03, an increase of two per cent since 2001/02, after adjusting for changes in police recording practice. The numbers of recorded violence against the person offences increased by an adjusted five per cent (Table 3.04).
- Of the 991,800 recorded violent crimes, 27 per cent were common assaults (including assault on a constable) and 14 per cent harassment, both of which involve no physical injury to the victim. Furthermore, many of the 'less serious woundings' (35% of violent crime) will have resulted in minor injuries, such as bruising, grazes and black eyes (see text box for definitions).
- Within the broad category of recorded violent crimes, the number of robberies fell by an adjusted 14 per cent in 2002/03 (Table 3.04).

Figure 5.1 Police recorded and BCS violence broken down by offence, 2002/03



## **Types of violent crime**

*Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings:*

**Violence against the person** - recorded crime includes a wide range of offences. The more serious offences include homicide, threat or conspiracy to murder, and serious wounding inflicted intentionally (i.e. grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent). Then there is the less serious wounding' category, involving less serious injury (such as assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)) or GBH without intent. It also includes offences that are generally viewed less seriously by the courts, such as common assault (see separate box), harassment and possession of weapons. Among these offences the BCS covers wounding and common assault. As for all personal offences, coverage is restricted to adults living in private households.

**Sexual offences** - recorded crime covers most unlawful sexual activity, including rape, buggery, indecent assault, incest, unlawful sexual intercourse with an under-age girl, and gross indecency with a child. It also includes kerb crawling and procurement (e.g. pimping), but excludes prostitution and indecent exposure. Not all offences included are violent: e.g. bigamy.

*Due to the very small number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS, results are too unreliable to report.*

**Robbery** - Robbery is included as a violent crime, although that category can include a wide variety of different events, including a bank robbery, mobile phone robbery, street mugging and violence between schoolchildren over small amounts of money or property. Recorded crime offences distinguish between robbery of personal property and business property. A robbery of business property is where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. If the use or threat of force is not there, an offence of theft from the person is recorded (this would be classified in the BCS as snatch theft, which together with robbery and attempted robbery comprises the BCS mugging category).

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

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

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

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

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

### 5.2 SERIOUSNESS AND INJURY

Both police recorded crime and the BCS cover a wide range of violent offences, of varying levels of seriousness (see above). The category of violent crime covers a wide range of different types of incidents, and in general all that they have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence will vary considerably, even between incidents within the same crime classification.

It is important to remember that the large majority of the incidents categorised as violent crimes do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims: for example threats to kill. Police recorded violence also includes murders and sexual offences, although the latter are notoriously under-reported. Assaults can vary considerably in the level of violence and also the complicity of victims, including as they do both drunken brawls and unprovoked acts of extreme violence.

#### **Common assault**

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

*The BCS definition did not change in April 2002, and includes assaults involving at most minimal injury (which is broadly in line with the the previous recorded crime definition). However, it is possible to separate out BCS assaults involving no injury, and this narrower measure is used in the text for comparative purposes.*

*BCS common assaults include those on a police officer. There is a separate offence of assault on a constable in recorded crime, but when comparing results in the text, this is combined with common assault.*

- Common assaults involving no injury accounted for 39 per cent of BCS violence, and those involving minimal injury accounted for a further 22 per cent. In police recorded crimes, from April 2002, common assaults involve no injury at all (see above), and accounted for only 27 per cent of police recorded violence in 2002/03. The much lower proportion is a reflection of the relatively low recording and reporting rates for common assault, and the wider range of offences included in recorded violent crime.
- A further 14 per cent of recorded violence comprised harassment, which like recorded common assault resulted in no physical injury to the victim.
- At the other end of the spectrum, the category of 'more serious offences' of violence against the person (such as serious wounding, homicide and threat or conspiracy to murder) accounted for four per cent of recorded violence (Table 3.04).
- In 49 per cent of all BCS violent incidents there was no injury, with the proportion rising to 63 per cent and 64 per cent for common assault and robbery respectively (Table 5.04).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- Eleven per cent of BCS violent incidents (from 2002/03 interviews) resulted in medical attention from a doctor, with this percentage rising to 33 per cent of victims of wounding. However, only nine per cent of robbery victims and two per cent of victims of common assault were seen by a doctor (Table 5.04).
- Two per cent of BCS violent incidents overall resulted in a hospital stay, with this percentage ranging from six per cent of victims of wounding to one per cent for robbery victims. Not surprisingly, none of the victims of common assault had a hospital stay (Table 5.04).
- There is relatively little difference in the proportion of incidents requiring medical attention from a doctor across the four main BCS categories of violent crime (see coverage box). Twelve per cent of domestic violence incidents resulted in medical attention from a doctor, compared with nine per cent of muggings (robbery and snatch theft), and 11 per cent of both stranger and acquaintance violence incidents (Table 5.04).

### 5.3 EXTENT AND TRENDS

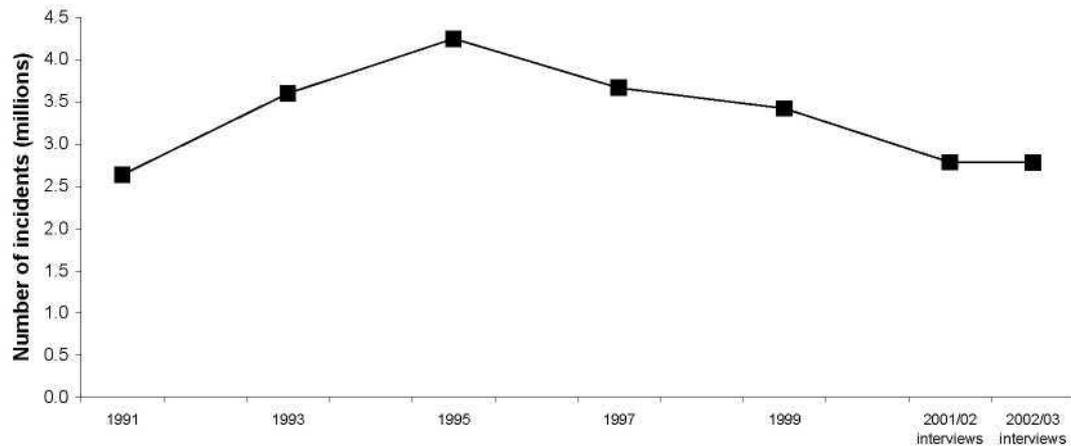
The British Crime Survey and recorded crime statistics suggest very different trends in the level of violent crime in England and Wales in recent years. Estimates from the British Crime Survey reveal large falls in violent crime overall since 1995. The introduction of new calibration weighting (see Glossary) for the British Crime Survey has increased the estimated number of incidents, but has not affected the trend substantially.

- The latest BCS results, based on interviews during 2002/03, suggest that violence as a whole has levelled off. The number of violent crimes being experienced by adults living in private households was unchanged from the 2001/02 sweep (Table 3.01).
- Longer-term trends in BCS violence show significant declines. Comparison of results reported to the BCS in 2002/03 with those for earlier years show falls in overall violence of 19 per cent since 1999 and 24 per cent since 1997, both falls being statistically significant (Table 3.01).
- In contrast, police recorded violent crime has increased substantially in recent years, but much of this is due to increases in reporting and recording of violent crime. Between 2001/02 and 2002/03 violent crime rose by two per cent, after accounting for the effects of the NCRS (Table 3.04).
- Within overall recorded violent crime, violence against the person rose by an adjusted five per cent in 2002/03. The NCRS effect in this area has been substantial, and is thought to be concentrated in the more minor offences that the BCS shows to have been under-reported in the past. However, it is important to note that the actual NCRS effects for the individual offences and levels of seriousness are not known, and so adjusted percentage changes cannot be provided.
- The BCS suggested that incidents of common assault declined by one per cent compared to the previous survey, but this is not statistically significant. The much more substantial falls since 1999 (27%) and 1997 (31%) are statistically significant (Table 3.01).

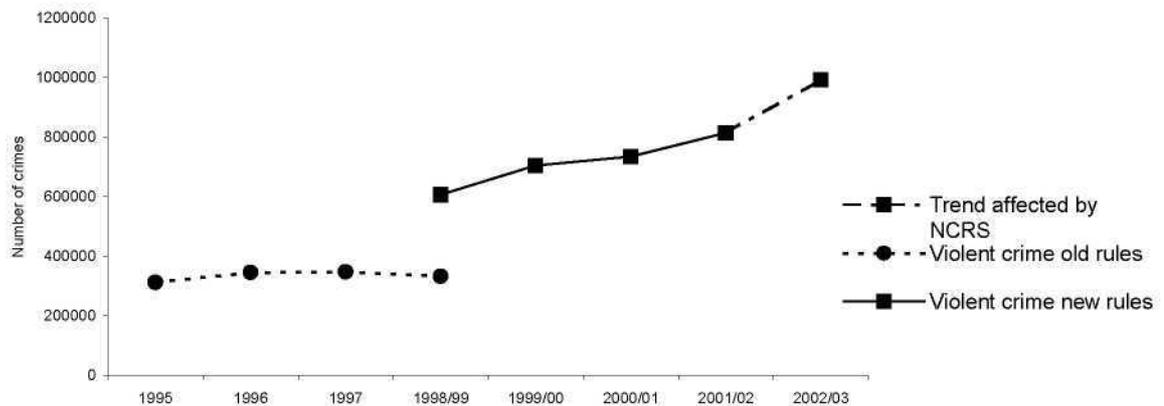
## Violent crime in England and Wales

- For the more serious category of wounding, there was a nine per cent increase in the BCS number of incidents, compared with both 2001/02 and 1999, although it is 12 per cent down on 1997. None of these changes is statistically significant.

**Figure 5.2 All violent crime from the BCS, 1991 to 2002/03**



**Figure 5.3 Violent crime recorded by the police, 1995 to 2002/03<sup>1</sup>**



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

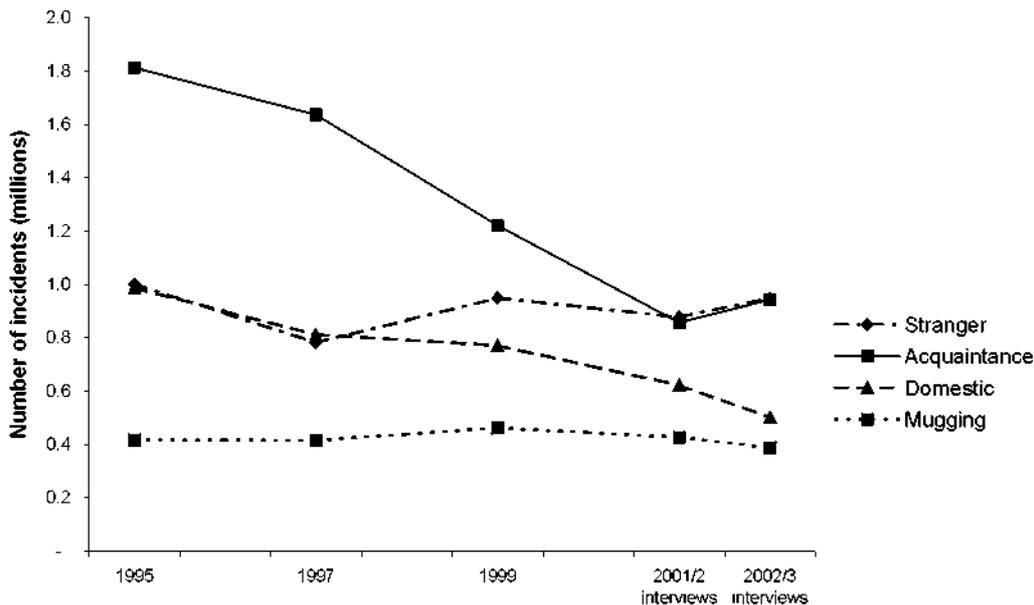
- Police recorded violent crime showed substantial increases in most offence types, but much of this is likely to be down to recording changes this year. The homicide trends are covered in section 5.4 below. Elsewhere within 'more serious' violence, most were concentrated in threat

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

or conspiracy to murder (18,068 offences) and more serious wounding (17,882). The unadjusted increase of eight per cent in serious wounding in 2002/03 is likely to be relatively unaffected by NCRS changes, as a high proportion of these offences would have been recorded prior to the introduction of the new standard. However, the 32 per cent increase in threat/conspiracy to murder was shown to be susceptible to NCRS effects in an analysis of forces which adopted the standard in 2001/02 (Simmons, 2001). This is because the offence, while serious and traumatic to the victim, does not actually involve injury (Table 3.04).

- In the less serious category within violence against the person, the most numerous offence type was less serious wounding (including racially-aggravated offences) which rose 65 per cent to 349,741 offences, although a large proportion of the rise was due to both NCRS effects and an increase in the coverage in 2002/03 to include minor injuries previously recorded as common assault. With this coverage change, it is not surprising that the increase in common assault (238,735 offences) was much smaller at three per cent (Table 3.04).
- Harassment rose 23 per cent to 137,460, again with much of the rise likely to be due to the NCRS. Twelve per cent of recorded harassment was racially or religiously aggravated in 2002/03, down from 13 per cent in 2001/02. This compares with two per cent of common assaults and one per cent of less serious wounding in 2002/03.
- For the different types of violent incidents, there were no statistically significant differences between BCS results for 2001/02 and 2002/03 interviews (Table 3.01).

**Figure 5.4 Trends in BCS violent crime by type of violence, 1995 to 2002/03**



- Since 1995 there have been large and statistically significant falls in both domestic and acquaintance violence. Between 1997 and the 2002/03 interviews there was a 38 per cent fall in domestic violence, and a 42 per cent fall in acquaintance violence. The trends in muggings and stranger violence were, however, not statistically significant (Table 3.01).

### *Interpreting BCS statistics on violent crime*

*Estimates of the number of violent crimes can be compromised by changes in the willingness of victims to draw incidents to the attention of both interviewers and the police. Any greater intolerance of unacceptable aggressive behaviour may increase violent crime figures over time. The relative rarity of some types of violent crime also means that trends are difficult to track reliably through the BCS. (The police statistics are additionally affected by changes in recording practices, and the degree to which more inclusive recording has inflated the violence count.)*

*The issue of willingness to disclose incidents is very important for domestic violence. The 1996 BCS included a self-completion module on domestic violence that is viewed as providing a more complete measure of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). Prevalence rates for domestic assault in 1995 derived from the self-completion module were around three times higher for women and 10 times higher for men. The 2001 BCS contained a special self-completion module on inter-personal violence (domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking) and a report on results from this module is in preparation.*

*In interpreting changes for domestic violence some caution is in order as results only relate to those incidents reported face-to-face to BCS interviewers. Respondents may not wish to disclose such sensitive information face-to-face.*

## 5.4 HOMICIDE

The most serious violent crime is homicide. The police statistics for numbers of homicides include murders, manslaughter and infanticides that come to the attention of the police. Deaths which are not initially believed to be suspicious but which are later categorised as homicide are counted in the year in which they have been recorded. Examples of this are the Harold Shipman murders, some of which are included in the 2002/03 total (see below).

- There were 1,048 deaths initially recorded as homicide by the police in 2002/03, of which 172 related to the further offences by Harold Shipman in earlier years that Greater Manchester recorded in 2002/03, after new evidence came to light through the official inquiry (The Shipman Inquiry, 2002).
- The total number of homicides was 18 per cent or 157 higher than in 2001/02. However, the extra Shipman offences exceeded the overall increase and it is likely that the number of homicides actually committed was lower than in the previous year (Table 3.04).
- A further analysis of 2002/03 homicides based on the more detailed information collected on the Home Office Homicide Index will be made available in due course.

### 5.5 SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual offences are significantly under-reported to the authorities. Police and government action to support the victims of sexual assaults is likely to have increased the number of such incidents being brought to the attention of the police, and therefore recorded by them. The introduction of the NCRS has further increased the recording rate. Trends in the number of recorded sexual offences are therefore unlikely to reflect real experience of such crimes.

- Within the 2002/03 total of 48,654 offences, the police recorded 24,811 cases of indecent assault on a female, and 1,880 cases of gross indecency with a child (Table 3.04).
- The number of recorded rapes was 12,293, 93 per cent of which were rapes of a female. There were also 4,096 recorded cases of indecent assault on a male (Table 3.04).
- The number of recorded sexual offences was thought to be largely unchanged in 2002/03, after accounting for the effects of the NCRS (reliable estimates for this effect are not available due to the relatively small number of occurrences) (Table 3.04).
- Sexual offences accounted for five per cent of police recorded violence and 0.8 per cent of all police recorded crime in 2002/03 (Table 3.04).

### 5.6 ROBBERY

Although all crime tends to be geographically concentrated, robberies are more so. Around half of all recorded robberies occur in just 20 local authorities, largely in city centre or metropolitan areas. Over three-quarters are concentrated in 10 predominantly urban forces: Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire. These forces were targeted by the Government's Street Crime Initiative, introduced in the Metropolitan Police in February 2002 and in the other nine forces in April 2002.

- The police recorded 108,045 robberies in England and Wales in 2002/03, a fall of 14 per cent on the previous year, after accounting for the NCRS. Of these, 90 per cent were robberies of personal property, and the remainder robberies of business property (Table 3.04).
- In 2002/03 robbery accounted for two per cent of police recorded crime and 11 per cent of police recorded violence. Robbery also accounted for two per cent of all BCS crime and 11 per cent of BCS violence (Tables 3.01 and 3.04).
- BCS estimates showed a similar fall of 15 per cent, but this is not statistically significant. The fall in mugging (i.e. robbery and snatch theft combined) was smaller at nine per cent, as snatch theft rose by 19 per cent, but again these were not statistically significant changes (Table 3.01).

The number of robbery and snatch theft victims interviewed by the BCS is generally too small to provide reliable estimates in these categories, and our analysis of trends in robbery is therefore based on recorded data.

### **Results from a Home Office Research Study on Personal Robbery**

*The BCS provides limited information on robbery as such offences are relatively rare and the survey does not collect information on crimes against those aged under 16. A special analysis of police files on 2,000 personal robbery cases was undertaken by RDS and published as a Home Office Research Study in January 2003 (Smith, 2003). These cases were drawn in the Spring and Summer 2001 from nine police Basic Command Units. From this analysis the following observations can be made:*

- *A high proportion of robberies involved young persons as victims and offenders. One in five (22%) personal robberies involved victims aged between 11-15 years, with a similar proportion (23%) aged 16-20 years. Victims over the age of 60 accounted for just five per cent of all victims. Just over half of all offenders were aged between 16 and 20 years.*
- *There was a marked increase in the numbers of younger victims and offenders prior to 2001/02. The number of 11-15 and 16-20 year old victims increased around three-fold. Information obtained from the Metropolitan Police shows that since 1993, the number of suspects aged 11-15 years old charged with an offence of robbery in the Metropolitan Police Service increased five-fold during this same period. Since this analysis was undertaken, and since the onset of the Street Crime Initiative (SCI), there are indications that the fall in robbery has been greatest among young offenders, particularly in the Metropolitan Police.*
- *School-aged and retired victims were most likely to be offended against during the daytime (67% and 61% respectively), in marked contrast to the overall picture of victims typically being targeted at night. Over half (54%) of school-aged victims were robbed during the afternoon period between 2 p.m and 6 p.m.*
- *Offenders and victims are predominantly male and offences are typically committed by two or more offenders, particularly when the victim is under the age of 20: three-quarters of victims were male, although there were some variations between different BCUs. Suspects are consistently and overwhelmingly male (94%). Multiple offending, that is robbery committed by two or more persons, occurred in six out of 10 robberies in this sample*
- *While cash is most likely to be stolen from the victim during personal robbery, over one-third of the personal robberies in this sample involved the theft of a mobile phone (35%). A separate analysis undertaken during the SCI shows that mobile phones still account for a similar proportion of robberies, and almost 60 per cent of snatch thefts and theft from the person. Half of all mobile phone related robberies involved victims under the age of 20 years. An analysis of victim statements suggests that involvement in mobile phone robbery is as much to do with the desirability of the handset as a fashion item, as any other possible motivation. A separate study on mobile phone theft (Harrington and Mayhew, 2001), based on figures from six police force areas, indicated that there has been an increase in the proportion of robberies involving phones - from around eight per cent in 1998/99 to 28 per cent in 2000/01.*

## 5.7 RISKS OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

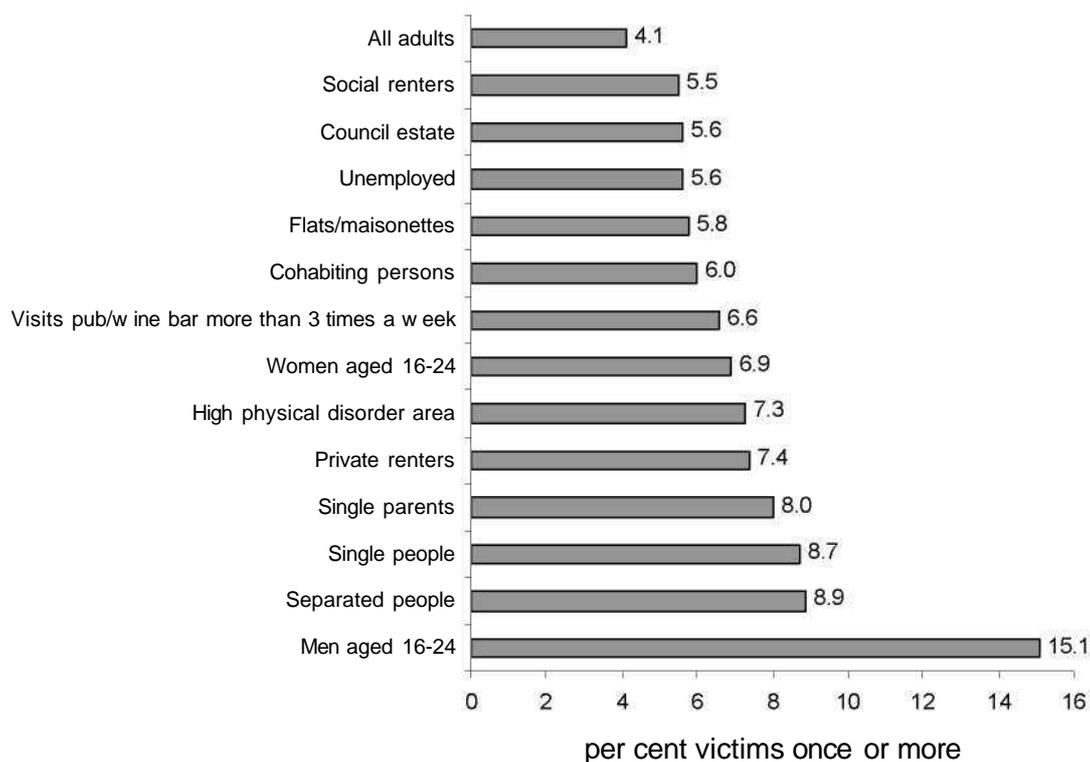
- The risk of being a victim of violent crime for those interviewed by the BCS in 2002/03 was 4.1 per cent. Young men aged 16 to 24 were most at risk, with 15.1 per cent experiencing a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to interview. Other particularly high-risk groups were separated and single people (8.9% and 8.7% respectively); single parents (8.0%); private renters (7.4%); those living in highly disordered areas (7.3%); and women aged 16 to 24 (6.9%) (Tables 5.01 and 5.02). This pattern is broadly consistent with last year's results.
- The risk of being mugged for those aged 16 and over was 0.8 per cent and the chance of being a victim of domestic violence 0.6 per cent. The risk of experiencing acquaintance violence (1.4%) and stranger violence (1.6%) were higher. These risks have remained stable from the 2001/02 interviews, the small increases not being statistically significant. Domestic violence was the only category of violence where the risks for women (0.7%) were higher than for men (0.4%); however, the magnitude of this difference has narrowed in comparison with the results from the last survey year (Table 5.01). Risks of stranger violence remained substantially greater for men than for women (2.5% compared to 0.6%).
- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime was considerably lower for the older age groups. For men, the risk of suffering any violent crime was 15.1 per cent for the 16-24 age group, but only 2.7 per cent for those aged 45 to 64 years old, and only 0.4 per cent for men aged 75 and over. For women, the risk of suffering violent crime was lower overall, 6.9 per cent for women aged 16-24, reducing to only 2.0 per cent for women aged 45-64 and 0.6 per cent for those women aged 75 and over (see also Chivite-Matthews and Maggs, 2002).

**Table 5a Number of violent incidents against men and women by BCS typology of violence, 2002/03**  
**Numbers and percentages** **BCS**

	All (thousands)	% of all incidents	% against men within violence type	% against women within violence type
<b>ALL VIOLENCE</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>38</b>
Domestic	501	18	27	73
Mugging	388	14	59	41
Stranger	949	34	83	17
Acquaintance	942	34	60	40

1. Source 2002/03 BCS interviews.

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

**Figure 5.5 Adults most at risk of violence based on 2002/03 BCS interviews**

## 5.8 REPEAT VICTIMISATION

- Considering victims of any BCS violence, the proportion becoming a victim of another violent crime in the same year has decreased over recent sweeps of the survey, from 35 per cent in 1999 to 28 per cent for 2002/03 financial year interviews.
- The pattern in the number of times an individual is the victim of the same type of violent crime varies depending on the type of violence considered. Domestic violence is characterised by its repetitive nature, with only just over half (56%) of victims victimised once, and around one-quarter (23%) victimised three or more times. The proportion victimised more than once has, however, decreased since the last sweep (44% compared to 56%). This decrease is primarily in the proportion of victims suffering more than three occurrences, down from one-third (34%) to one-quarter (23%).
- For victims of stranger and acquaintance violence the trend has remained consistent over recent years, with currently 79 per cent and 72 per cent respectively victimised only once. As stranger violence is by its nature a more random event, this finding is unsurprising.
- Victims of robbery have shown a marked reduction in their level of repeat victimisation, with only nine per cent in 2002/03 suffering the same type of incident more than once compared to 23 per cent in the 2001/02 interviews (Table 5b).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Table 5b Number of times victims were victimised, 1999, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS Interviews

	Percentages									BCS
	1999			2001/02			2002/03			
	Once	Twice	Three +	Once	Twice	Three +	Once	Twice	Three +	
<b>ALL BCS VIOLENCE</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>72</b>	14	14	
Domestic violence	44	26	30	44	22	34	56	22	23	
Acquaintance	72	13	15	71	17	12	72	13	15	
Stranger	79	13	8	80	11	8	79	12	9	
Mugging	79	13	8	81	13	6	91	8	2	
Common assault (includes some minor injuries) <sup>2</sup>	66	17	18	66	17	17	69	15	16	
Wounding	75	11	13	74	13	13	75	14	11	
Robbery	74	16	10	77	16	8	91	7	2	

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS interviews.
2. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries. From 2002/03 the recorded crime definition does not include minor injuries.

**Table 5.01 Proportion of adult victims of violence by personal characteristics and BCS typology of violence 2002/03**

	All violence	% victims once or more		BCS	
		Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance
<b>Percentages</b>					
<b>Men</b>	5.3	0.4	1.0	2.5	1.7
16-24	15.1	0.9	3.2	7.1	5.6
25-44	5.5	0.5	1.1	2.7	1.5
45-64	2.7	0.2	0.4	1.3	0.8
65-74	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.4
75+	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
<b>Women</b>	2.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.1
16-24	6.9	1.9	1.3	1.5	2.8
25-44	3.4	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.2
45-64	2.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.8
65-74	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0
75+	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	0.1	0.1
<b>Living arrangements</b>					
Married	2.1	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.7
Cohabiting	6.0	0.9	1.3	2.0	2.0
Single	8.7	1.0	2.0	3.5	3.0
Separated	8.9	4.2	1.0	2.1	1.8
Divorced	4.8	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.8
Widowed	0.9	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.2
<b>Respondents' employment status<sup>2</sup></b>					
In employment	4.8	0.6	0.9	2.1	1.6
Unemployed	5.6	0.5	1.2	1.5	3.2
Economically inactive	5.0	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.7
<b>Hours out of home average weekday</b>					
Less than 3 hours	2.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.7
3 hours less than 5 hours	3.5	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.1
5 hours or longer	5.1	0.6	1.0	2.2	1.7
<b>No. visits pub/wine bar in evening during last month</b>					
None	2.7	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0
Less than three times a week	3.8	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.4
More often	6.6	0.8	1.2	3.2	2.0
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	4.1	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	1.6	1.4

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Risks based on adults.

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

**Table 5.02 Proportion of adults victims of violence, by household and area characteristics 2002/03**

	<b>Percentages</b>					<b>BCS</b>
	<b>All violence</b>	<i>% victims once or more</i>			<b>Stranger</b>	<b>Acquaintance</b>
		<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Mugging</b>			
<b>Head of household under 60</b>						
Single adult & child(ren)	<b>8.0</b>	3.3	1.3	1.0		2.7
Adults & child(ren)	<b>4.7</b>	0.7	0.8	1.8		1.8
No children	<b>5.1</b>	0.6	1.0	2.1		1.7
<b>Head of household over 60</b>						
	<b>1.3</b>	0.1	0.5	0.4		0.3
<b>Household income</b>						
Less than £5,000	<b>4.9</b>	0.9	1.5	1.6		1.3
£5,000 less than £10,000	<b>3.6</b>	0.7	0.8	1.1		1.1
£10,000 less than £20,000	<b>3.9</b>	0.7	1.0	1.3		1.2
£20,000 less than £30,000	<b>3.5</b>	0.5	0.5	1.4		1.3
£30,000 or more	<b>4.3</b>	0.4	1.0	1.9		1.4
<b>Tenure</b>						
Owner occupiers	<b>3.1</b>	0.3	0.6	1.3		1.1
Social renters	<b>5.5</b>	1.2	1.2	1.4		2.1
Private renters	<b>7.4</b>	1.1	1.8	3.1		2.0
<b>Accommodation type</b>						
Houses	<b>3.8</b>	0.5	0.7	1.5		1.4
<i>Detached</i>	<b>2.6</b>	0.3	0.5	1.2		0.9
<i>Semi-detached</i>	<b>3.6</b>	0.5	0.6	1.3		1.5
<i>Terraced</i>	<b>5.1</b>	0.8	0.9	2.0		1.6
Flats/maisonettes	<b>5.8</b>	0.9	1.7	1.9		1.5
<b>Area type</b>						
Rural	<b>2.9</b>	0.4	0.6	1.2		1.0
Non-rural	<b>4.4</b>	0.6	0.9	1.7		1.5
<b>Inner-city</b>						
Rural	<b>2.9</b>	0.4	0.6	1.2		1.0
Urban	<b>4.3</b>	0.6	0.8	1.7		1.5
<b>Council estate<sup>2</sup></b>						
Council estate <sup>2</sup>	<b>5.6</b>	1.1	0.9	1.7		2.2
Non-council estate	<b>3.7</b>	0.5	0.8	1.5		1.2
<b>Level of physical disorder<sup>3</sup></b>						
High	<b>7.3</b>	1.1	2.2	2.3		2.2
Low	<b>3.7</b>	0.5	0.7	1.5		1.3
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>4.1</b>	0.6	0.8	1.6		1.4

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Risks based on all adults.

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

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

Table 5.03 Violent crime recorded by the police and BCS, by police force area and region 2002/03

## Numbers and rates per 10,000 population or adults

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS <sup>1</sup>				
	Total violent crime numbers	Total violent crime per 10,000 population	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total BCS violence per 10,000 adults	Domestic per 10,000 adults	Mugging per 10,000 adults	Stranger per 10,000 adults	Acquaintance per 10,000 adults
Cleveland	8,236	152	6,283	519	1,434					
Durham	8,339	141	7,711	341	287					
Northumbria	27,984	202	25,171	1,371	1,442					
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>44,559</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>39,165</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>211</b>
Cheshire	11,870	121	10,702	537	631					
Cumbria	6,104	125	5,753	221	130					
Greater Manchester	62,168	250	48,604	2,819	10,745					
Lancashire	18,262	129	15,784	1,069	1,409					
Merseyside	26,965	198	22,694	1,277	2,994					
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>125,369</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>103,537</b>	<b>5,923</b>	<b>15,909</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>284</b>
Humberside	19,420	223	16,526	1,081	1,813					
North Yorkshire	8,993	120	8,170	461	362					
South Yorkshire	15,251	120	12,288	851	2,112					
West Yorkshire	37,903	182	30,850	2,106	4,947					
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>81,567</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>67,834</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>9,234</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>258</b>
Derbyshire	17,343	181	15,413	882	1,048					
Leicestershire	17,917	194	15,504	960	1,453					
Lincolnshire	10,128	156	9,238	583	307					
Northamptonshire	11,431	181	9,808	608	1,015					
Nottinghamshire	19,737	194	15,960	978	2,799					
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>76,556</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>65,923</b>	<b>4,011</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>208</b>
Staffordshire	22,053	211	20,190	963	900					
Warwickshire	6,318	125	5,687	277	354					
West Mercia	21,499	185	19,848	923	728					
West Midlands	65,077	255	51,795	3,033	10,249					
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>114,947</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>97,520</b>	<b>5,196</b>	<b>12,231</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>245</b>
Bedfordshire	9,560	169	8,098	465	997					
Cambridgeshire	14,174	200	12,574	694	906					
Essex	24,583	152	22,090	1,165	1,328					
Hertfordshire	9,082	88	7,667	553	862					
Norfolk	11,862	149	10,607	676	579					
Suffolk	8,786	131	7,949	588	249					
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>78,047</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>68,985</b>	<b>4,141</b>	<b>4,921</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>274</b>
London, City of	1,007	1,399	928	34	45					
Metropolitan Police	231,725	323	178,802	10,427	42,496					
<b>London Region</b>	<b>232,732</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>179,730</b>	<b>10,461</b>	<b>42,541</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>103</b>
Hampshire	24,947	140	22,171	1,810	966					
Kent	20,548	130	18,359	947	1,242					
Surrey	9,718	92	8,515	598	605					
Sussex	20,590	138	18,123	1,148	1,319					
Thames Valley	29,201	140	25,326	1,469	2,406					
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>105,004</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>92,494</b>	<b>5,972</b>	<b>6,538</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>249</b>
Avon and Somerset	25,816	174	20,742	1,570	3,504					
Devon and Cornwall	25,581	162	23,722	1,149	710					
Dorset	9,084	131	8,149	498	437					
Gloucestershire	8,664	153	7,734	409	521					
Wiltshire	7,313	119	6,419	558	336					
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>76,458</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>66,766</b>	<b>4,184</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>196</b>
Dyfed Powys	6,531	134	6,217	274	40					
Gwent	15,835	287	15,020	486	329					
North Wales	12,268	185	11,484	559	225					
South Wales	21,927	183	20,426	717	784					
<b>Wales</b>	<b>56,561</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>53,147</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>991,800</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>835,101</b>	<b>48,654</b>	<b>108,045</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>759,068</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>655,371</b>	<b>38,193</b>	<b>65,504</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>245</b>

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

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

Table 5.04 Injuries sustained in violent incidents (2002/03 BCS interviews)

Percentages						BCS		
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Wounding	Robbery	Common assault
<b>Physical injury<sup>2</sup></b>								
No injury	49	36	72	51	49	<1	64	63
<i>Unweighted N</i>	7,537	440	269	495	333	373	199	895
Minor bruise/black eye	31	41	15	28	29	39	18	31
Severe bruising	13	18	10	10	13	43	13	2
Scratches	12	15	11	11	12	26	14	7
Cuts	14	16	11	16	12	50	14	<1
Broken bones	3	3	1	3	4	11	1	0
Broken nose	3	2	3	3	5	10	4	<1
Broken or lost teeth	1	<1	1	2	1	3	1	0
Chipped teeth	2	1	1	3	1	6	1	<1
Concussion or loss of consciousness	3	4	4	4	1	11	5	<1
Other	3	4	3	3	2	7	4	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	7,537	440	269	495	333	373	799	895
<b>Medical response<sup>3</sup></b>								
Medical attention from a doctor	11	12	9	11	11	33	9	2
Some form of medical attention	16	14	13	18	17	48	14	3
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,464	438	204	491	331	373	793	887
Hospital stay <sup>4</sup>	2	1	1	3	2	6	1	0
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,420	419	198	473	330	368	787	854

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. More than one type of physical injury may have occurred.

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

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

5. <1 indicates less than 0.5%.

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

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

## 6 Patterns of crime in England and Wales

*Andy Aitchison and James Hodgkinson*

There is considerable variation in patterns of crime across England and Wales, both geographically and by type of area. Many of these differences reflect the variation in the socio-economic make-up of these populations, both in terms of victims and offenders.

### 6.1 VARIATION BY TYPE OF AREA

- Areas can be classified into types using ACORN coding (see box below). The findings of the 2002/03 BCS on victimisation in ACORN areas were broadly consistent with those from the 2001/02 BCS (see Simmons and colleagues, 2002).

#### **ACORN**

*ACORN is A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods produced by CACI Ltd. This provides a grouping of postcodes in England and Wales according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. The groups were created using cluster analysis of 1991 census variables. There are 54 types of ACORN area that can be grouped into six main groups and 17 smaller groups. The groups describe the social environment in which the households are located.*

*The main ACORN groups are characterised as follows:*

**Thriving** - *wealthy, affluent home-owning areas. Commuters and prosperous older people.*

**Expanding** - *affluent working couples and families with mortgages, plus homeowners.*

**Rising** - *well-off professional singles and couples, living in town and city areas.*

**Settling** - *established home-owning areas, skilled workers.*

**Aspiring** - *mature communities, new homeowners and multi-ethnic areas.*

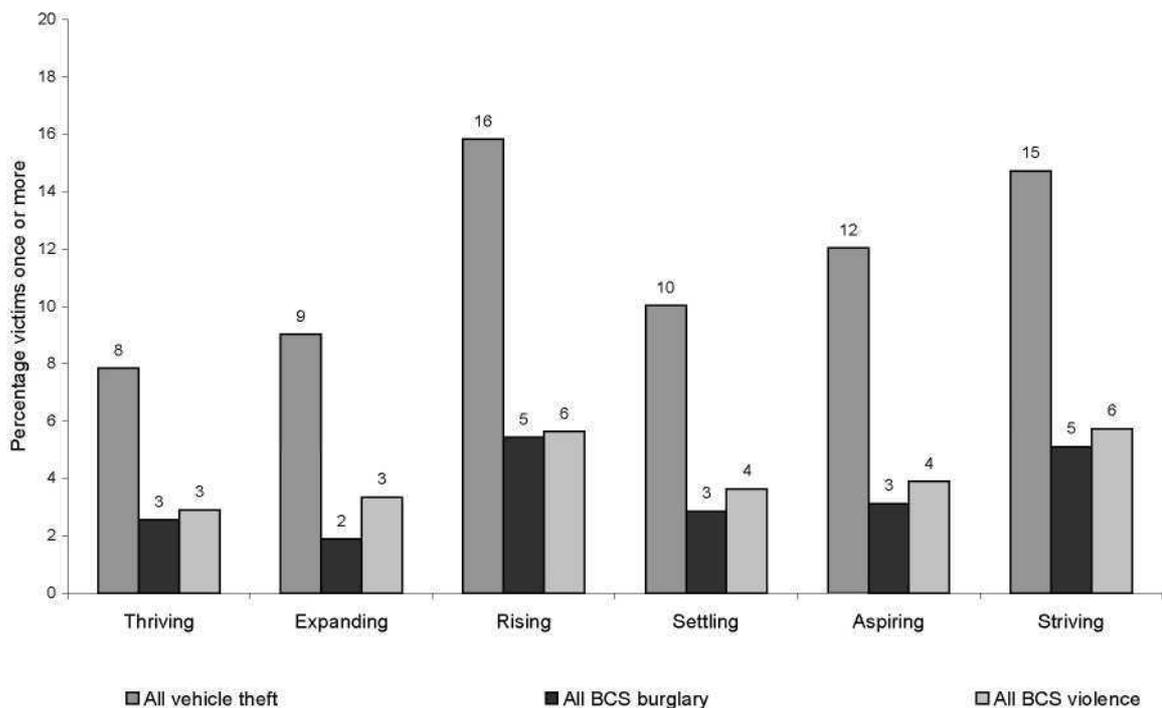
**Striving** - *council estates with elderly, lone parent or unemployed residents. Multi-ethnic, low-income areas.*

- Interviews in 2002/03 showed that the risk of becoming a victim of burglary was greatest in rising and striving areas (5% in each). This compared with three per cent of households across England and Wales as a whole. Households in expanding areas were least at risk of burglary with two per cent of households becoming victims once or more in 2002/03 (Table 6.01).
- Of the main ACORN categories, households in rising areas had the highest chance of becoming victims of vehicle-related thefts. BCS estimates, from 2002/03 interviews, showed that 16 per cent of vehicle-owning households in rising areas were victim of vehicle-related thefts, compared with 11 per cent of all vehicle-owning households in England and Wales. Among the sub-categories of the ACORN classification, vehicle-owning households in multi-ethnic low-income areas showed a particularly high level of victimisation with 21 per cent being victims of vehicle-related theft (Table 6.01).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- The chance of being a victim of violence was greatest among those living in striving and rising areas, where six per cent in both types of area were victims of violence. Within striving areas it was adults in multi-ethnic, low-income areas that experienced the greatest risk (7%). Within rising areas, those in areas classified as inner-city areas with better-off executives were most at risk; six per cent became victims of violence compared to four per cent of all adults in England and Wales (Table 6.01).

Figure 6.1 Percentage of household victims of burglary, vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime by ACORN area category 2002/03 BCS



Around two in every five respondents in striving areas (39%) perceived disorder levels in their area as high, compared with around one in five (22%) across the whole of England and Wales (Table 6.02).

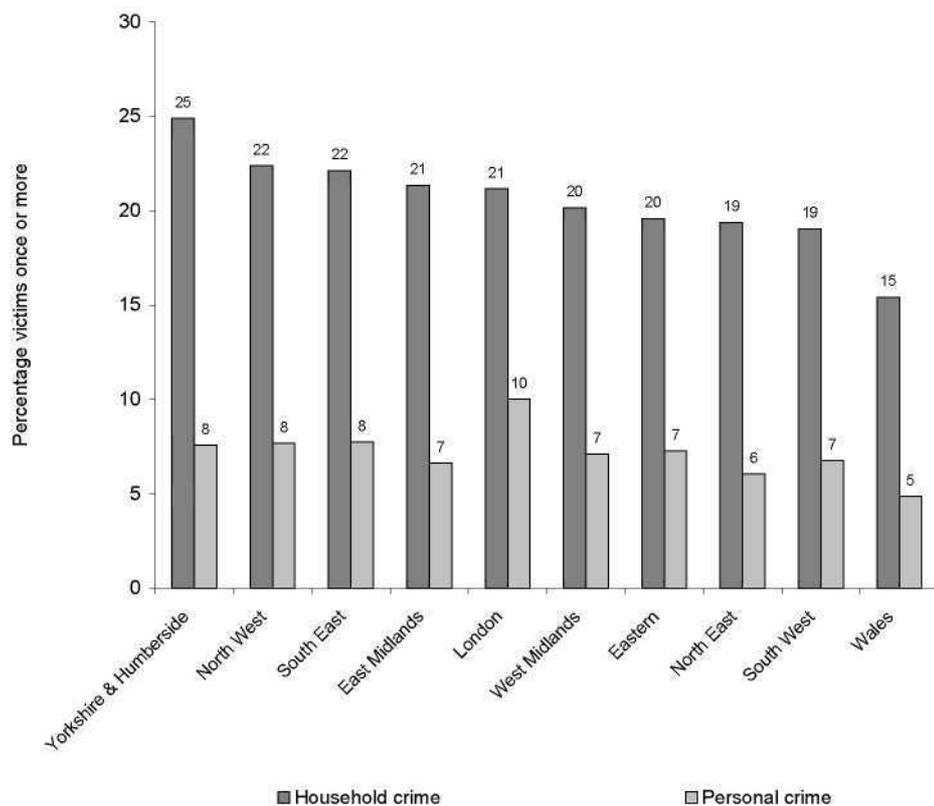
## 6.2 GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATIONS

- BCS victimisation rates showed household crime to be highest in Yorkshire and the Humber region and lowest in Wales (Table 6.06). In Yorkshire and the Humber, 25 per cent of households had been victim of such a crime at least once compared to 15 per cent in Wales (and 21% in England and Wales as a whole).
- There were not large regional variations in personal crime as measured by the BCS although it was highest in the London region, where 10 per cent had been a victim and lowest in Wales and the North East, where five per cent and six per cent respectively had been victimised (Table 6.06).

## Patterns of crime in England and Wales

- The London region had the highest rate of recorded crime per 1,000 population at 152 offences compared to 107 offences per 1,000 population for the remainder of England and Wales. The South East region had the lowest rate of recorded crime with 86 offences recorded for every 1,000 people in 2002/03. The recorded crime figures will be affected by changes in recording practices in the constituent forces in each region (Table 6.05).

Figure 6.2 BCS victimisation rates by region 2002/03



- The highest levels of worry about burglary were in Yorkshire and the Humber, London, North West and West Midlands regions. Levels of burglary as measured by the BCS were also higher in Yorkshire and Humberside than in any other region (Tables 4.05 and 6.06).
- Levels of burglary recorded by the police were highest in Yorkshire and the Humber region at 29 offences per 1,000 population. The England and Wales recorded burglary rate was 17 per 1,000 population and the lowest rates were in the East and South East of England, both recording 12 burglaries per 1,000 population (Table 6.05).
- Yorkshire and the Humber and London regions showed the highest levels of worry about car crime, and were the two regions with the highest incidence of vehicle thefts as measured by the BCS (Tables 4.06 and 6.06).
- London displayed the highest level of worry about violent crime. The highest incidence rate was displayed by the South East region where BCS estimates indicated 826 incidents per 10,000 adults compared to 665 over England and Wales as a whole (Tables 6.06 and 5.06).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- Recorded violent crime was highest in the London region (32 offences per 1,000 population) and lowest in the South East region (13 offences per 1,000 population). This compared to 19 offences for every 1,000 people in England and Wales (Table 6.05).
- The apparent disparity between BCS and police measures of violent crime, for example in the South East region, may be related to the fact that BCS incidents are always related back to where respondents live rather than the precise location of an incident. While this will have little or no impact on a household crime such as burglary, the BCS rates for personal crimes in areas where the resident population commute to other areas to work or spend leisure time will tend to have higher rankings in BCS tables than in those based on recorded crime (Table 5.06).
- Recorded rates of violent crime also varied widely within each region. The highest rate for a police force, excluding the City of London, was 32 crimes per 1,000 population in the Metropolitan Police area. The lowest rates were recorded in Hertfordshire and Surrey (both recording nine crimes per 1,000 population) (Table 6.05).
- Some of the variation across the forces reflects differing recording practices, which the NCRS seeks to address. There were signs in 2002/03 that the variation had reduced somewhat. For example, excluding the City of London, the ratio between the highest and lowest forces had fallen from 5.6 in 2001/02 to 3.7 in 2002/03.

### **British Crime Survey Best Value Performance Indicators (Table 6.06)**

*Table 6.06 sets out Best Value Performance Indicators 120, 121 and 122 by police force area (see Glossary for explanation). The columns marked 'Unweighted N' give the number of respondents on which the figures are based. Respondents who answer 'don't know' or who refuse to answer are excluded. The columns headed 'Indicator value' give the estimated percentage risk of being a victim once or more in a 12-month period, or the percentage of respondents saying they are worried about certain types of crime. The results are weighted to reflect the sampling design and population distribution.*

*The statistical significance of each indicator value is represented by a single asterisk (\*) for results that are significantly different from the average for England and Wales at the 10 per cent significance level, while a double asterisk (\*\*) indicates statistical significance at the five per cent level. The statistical significance levels are provided for information, though it should be recognised that much variation between police force areas will be due to the differing composition of their socio-economic make-up.*

- Changes in recorded crime this year will have been affected by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard, making comparisons of year-on-year changes unreliable for many crimes. The majority of forces adopted the NCRS from April 2002 but a small number had implemented it by April 2001.
- The three largest declines in total recorded crime were observed in forces that had implemented the NCRS prior to the start of the last counting year (April 2001 to March 2002). Staffordshire, which recorded the largest decrease in crime (7%), introduced the Standard in October 1999; the West Midlands, where recorded crime was down six per cent, was the first to adopt the Standard in January 1999; and Lancashire, which recorded a five per cent decrease in crime,

## Patterns of crime in England and Wales

began implementation of the NCRS in August 2000. Further information on the changes at police force area level can be found in Simmons, Legg and Hosking (2003).

- In 2002/03 there was considerable variation between police force areas in the number of offences recorded per head of population, ranging from 51 offences per 1,000 population in Dyfed-Powys to 159 offences per 1,000 in Nottinghamshire.<sup>1</sup> The highest recorded crime rates were mostly in the metropolitan police forces<sup>2</sup> and other forces that include large conurbations; the lowest were mainly in more rural areas (Table 6.05).

### **British Crime Survey measures of disorder**

*Answers to five questions on how much of a problem certain disorder issues are in the respondent's local area are used to construct a scale of perceived levels of disorder (BVPI 122). The questions used to construct this scale cover teenagers hanging around, vandalism, racial attacks and harassment, people using or dealing drugs and drunken or rowdy behaviour in public places. See Glossary entry for Best Value Performance Indicators for full details.*

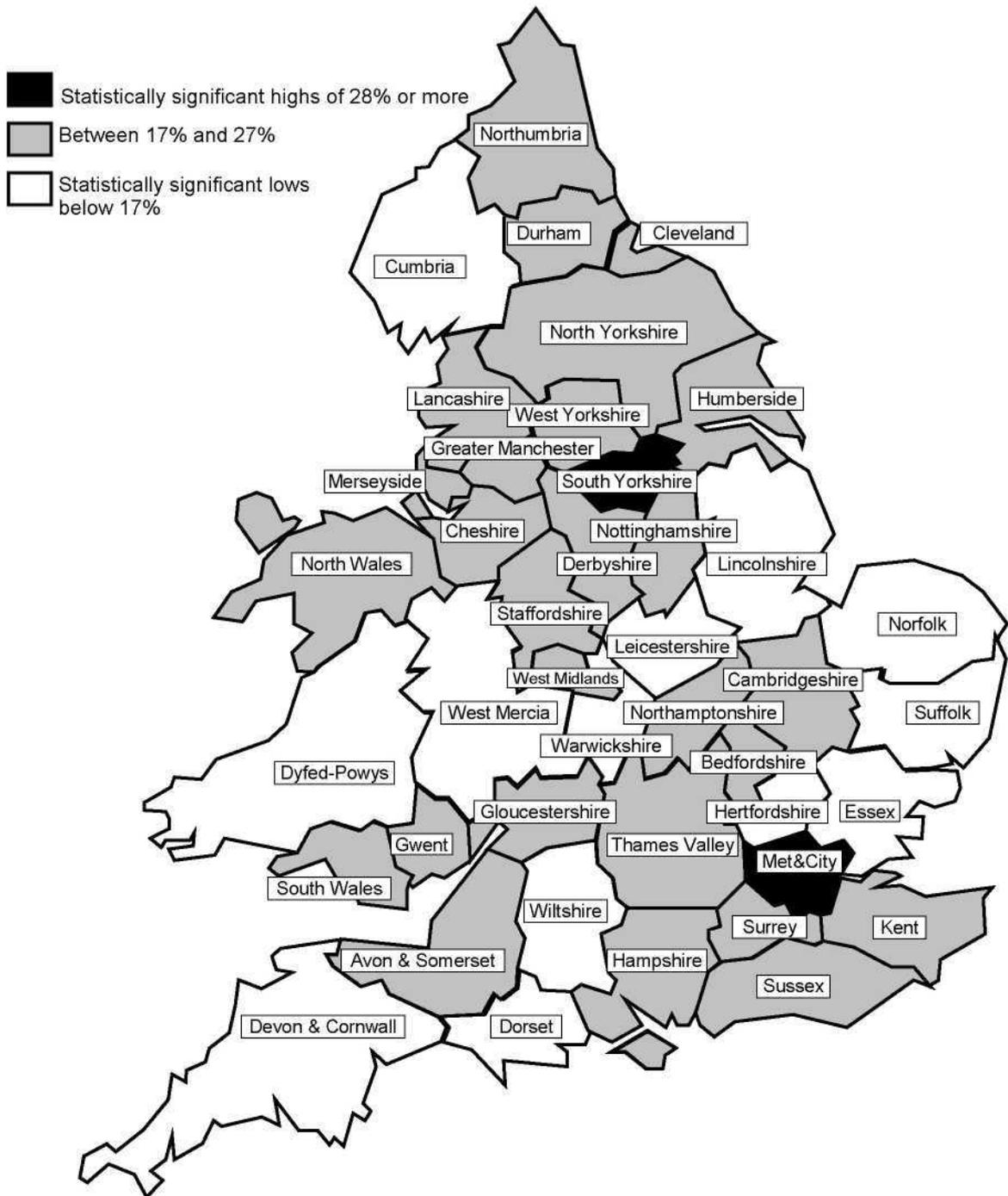
- Figure 6.3 shows the percentage of respondents perceiving high levels of disorder in police force areas across England and Wales. Both areas in which statistically significant highs of 28 per cent or above were recorded were metropolitan areas: South Yorkshire and London including the Metropolitan Police Service and the City of London (Table 6.06).

<sup>1</sup> This excludes the City of London, discussed in section 6.4.

<sup>2</sup> The metropolitan police forces are taken to be the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.

# Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

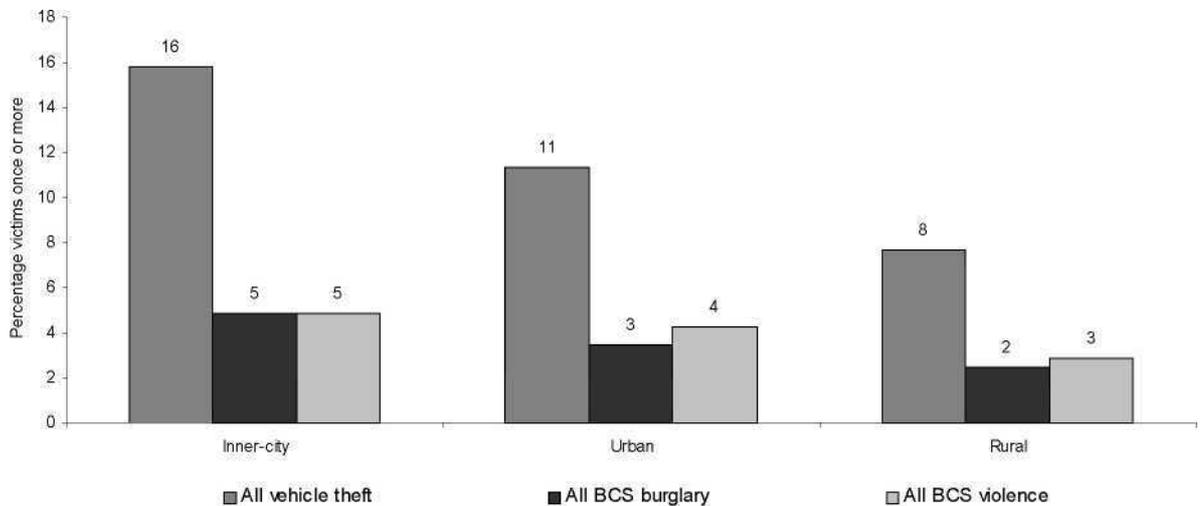
Figure 6.3 Percentage of respondents perceiving high levels of disorder (BVP1122) 2002/03 BCS



### 6.3 VARIATION ACROSS RURAL AND URBAN ENGLAND AND WALES

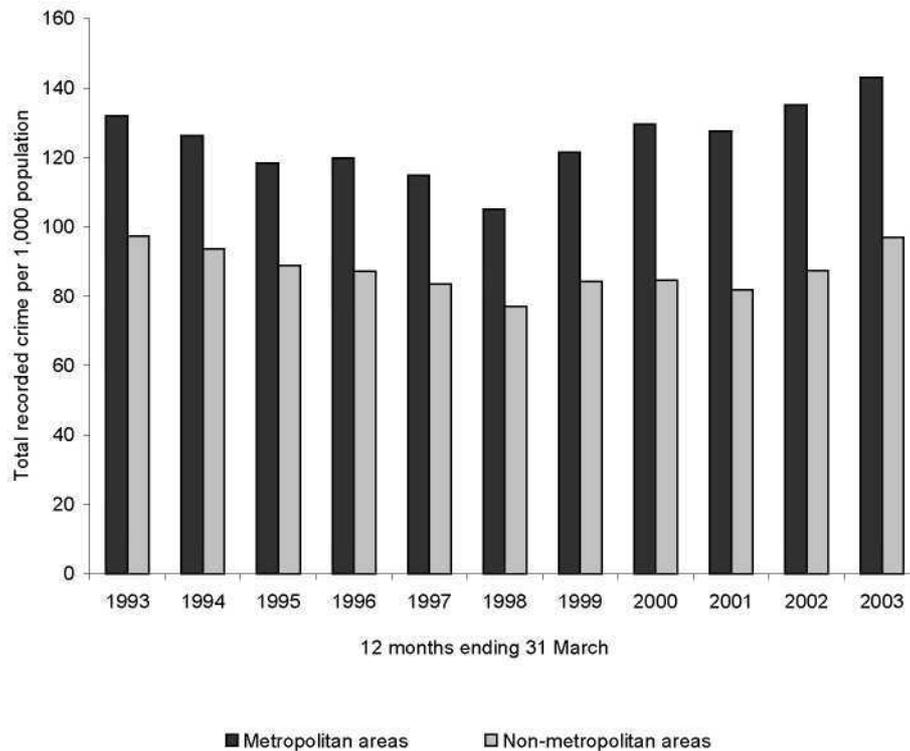
- Both the BCS and police statistics suggest that crime is lower in rural areas. Statistics published last year showed that less than three per cent of people living in rural areas became victims of burglary in 1999, compared to almost five per cent in non-rural areas (Aust and Simmons, 2002). Over the past two decades, levels of burglary, vehicle-related thefts and violence in rural areas have been consistently lower than in non-rural areas.
- The BCS results from 2002/03 indicated that households in rural areas continued to be at less risk of burglary (2%) than their counterparts in non-inner-city urban areas (3%) and inner-city areas (5%). This pattern of heaviest levels of victimisation in inner cities and lowest levels in rural areas can also be observed in relation to vehicle-related thefts and violent crime (Table 6.03).

Figure 6.4 Percentage of household victims of burglary, vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime by area type, 2002/03 BCS



## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

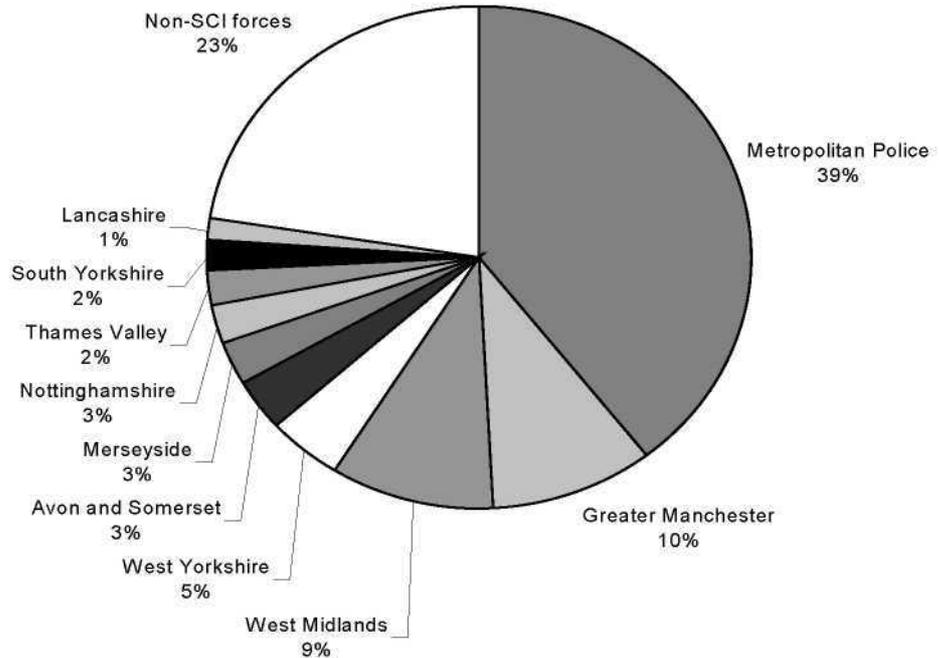
Figure 6.5 Recorded crime in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, per 1,000 population



### 6.4 GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF CRIME

- The concentration of crime is particularly evident for robbery. Two-thirds of all recorded robberies take place in just five police force areas: the Metropolitan Police, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Avon and Somerset. The Metropolitan Police Service is responsible for recording 39 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales. The 10 police forces covered by the government's Street Crime Initiative accounted for 77 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales in 2002/03 compared to 83 per cent in 2001/02.

Figure 6.6 Recorded robbery in the 10 Street Crime Initiative forces, 2002/03



Different crimes show different levels of geographic concentration, and the concentration of other crime types in certain areas, though not as evident as for robbery, is still significant.

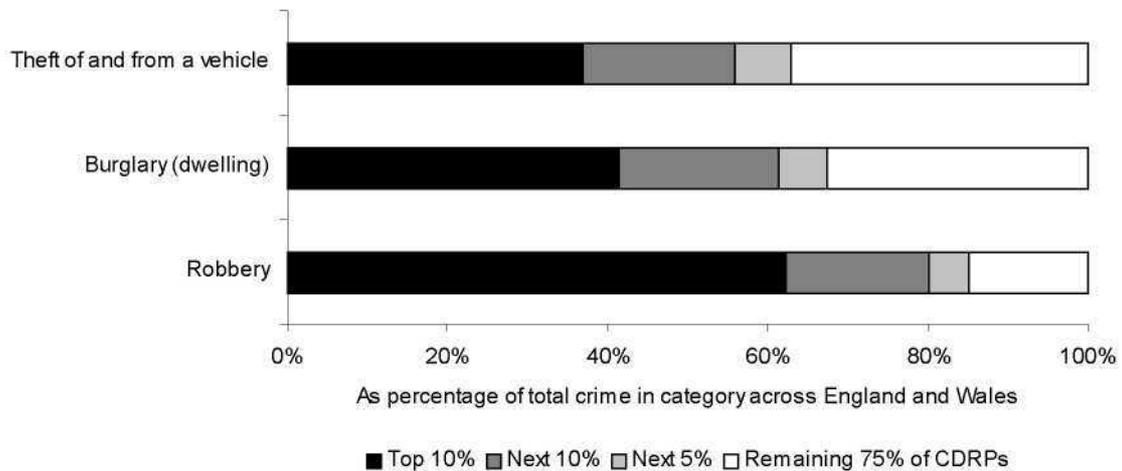
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as partnerships between police forces and local authorities (together with police authorities, health authorities, probation committees and other partners) to tackle crime within local authority boundaries. In Wales, the 22 CDRPs recently changed to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to reflect their new identity subsequent to merging with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams. Basic Command Units (BCUs) are the units into which police forces divide their areas for management and accounting purposes.

- The 37 CDRPs with the highest numbers of recorded robberies (the top 10% of all CDRPs) accounted for 62 per cent of all recorded robberies in England and Wales. Conversely, only 15 per cent of recorded robbery in England and Wales occurred in the 75 per cent of all CDRPs with the lowest numbers of robberies.
- Of all burglary recorded in England and Wales, 41 per cent was recorded in the 37 CDRPs with the highest levels of recorded burglary. Similarly, 37 per cent of all recorded vehicle crime took place in the 37 CDRPs with the highest numbers of crimes in that category.

<sup>1</sup> In the following analysis, Blaenau Gwent and Spelthorne have had to be excluded owing to technical difficulties.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

Figure 6.7 Concentration of selected crimes in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2002/03



Tables showing the detailed recorded crime figures for the 354 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and 22 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales and figures for Basic Command Units (BCUs) are available online at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb703sup1.pdf> and  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb703sup2.pdf> respectively.

### 6.5 FAMILY VALUES - GROUPING SIMILAR AREAS FOR COMPARISON

The web tables also group the CDRPs and CSPs and BCUs into 13 'families' of similar partnership areas or BCUs, similar in terms of socio-economic and demographic characteristics that have been found to correlate with observed crime rates. Further information can be found in two Home Office briefing notes: 'Family Origins: Developing Groups of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Police Basic Command Units' (Harper *et al.*, 2002) and 'Maintaining Police Basic Command Unit and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Families for comparative purposes' (Sheldon *et al.*, 2002).

As with the police force area comparisons of crime rates, caution needs to be taken when considering crime rates per head of population by CDRP and BCU. The very high reported crime rates in city centres are partly due to the use of small resident population and household figures which do not take into account the high level of 'transient' population migrating to these areas daily, either for work or leisure. For example, the City of London has a resident population of 7,186 according to the 2001 Census, but provides policing services to many more commuters and visitors each weekday. Crime rates based on resident population (Table 6.05) produce an unrealistic picture of a high level of crime, which does not reflect the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime for the residents of these city centres or those who visit them.

**Table 6.01 Percentage of household victims of burglary and vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime 2002/03 interviews by ACORN**

Percentages ACORN'	BCS		
	% victims once or more		
	All vehicle theft	All BCS burglary	All BCS violence
<b>Thriving</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Wealthy Achievers	8.4	2.7	3
Affluent Greys - rural	5.1	1.3	1.4
Prosperous Pensioners	6.4	2.6	3.1
<b>Expanding</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Affluent Executives - family areas	8.2	1.8	3.4
Well-off Workers - family areas	9.6	1.9	3.3
<b>Rising</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Affluent Urbanites - town & city	12	2.6	4.3
Prosperous Professionals - metropolitan areas	15.9	7	5.7
Better-off Executives - inner city	18.4	6	6.3
<b>Settling</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Comfortable Middle Agers	8.2	2.1	3
Skilled Workers, homeowners	11.9	3.5	4.2
<b>Aspiring</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>
New Homeowners, mature communities	11.2	3	3.1
White Collar Workers	13.7	3.3	5.5
<b>Striving</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Older people, less prosperous	11.6	3.8	4
Council Estates, better-off	14.3	5	5.9
Council Estates, high unemployment	18	5.9	4.3
Council Estates, greatest hardship	14.1	6.9	6.8
Multi Ethnic low income	20.9	5.3	7.3
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS^</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

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

**Table 6.02 Fear of crime and perceived disorder by 2002/03 interviews by ACORN**

<b>Percentages ACORN'</b>	Very worried about burglary	High level of worry about car crime	High level of worry about violent crime	<b>BCS</b> High levels of perceived disorder
<b>Thriving</b>	9.0	10.5	12.3	8.6
Wealthy Achievers	9.2	10.4	12.2	8.4
Affluent Greys - rural	7.8	10.6	9.1	3.7
Prosperous Pensioners	8.2	11.3	15.5	13.7
<b>Expanding</b>	10.9	13.1	16.8	14.7
Affluent Executives - family areas	9.5	11.1	15.4	11
Well-off Workers - family areas	11.9	14.5	17.7	17.2
<b>Rising</b>	12.5	16.3	20.2	25.6
Affluent Urbanites - town & city	10.2	10.6	16.6	20.5
Prosperous Professionals - metropolitan areas	10.2	13.5	20.9	18.3
Better-off Executives - inner city	15.2	22.9	21.6	33.1
<b>Settling</b>	13.6	16.5	19	19.2
Comfortable Middle Agers	11.7	13.8	16.6	13.3
Skilled Workers, homeowners	15.5	19.3	21.3	24.9
<b>Aspiring</b>	17.8	20	23.9	26.5
New Homeowners, mature communities	17.5	20.1	21.6	23.4
White Collar Workers	18.3	19.9	28.2	33
<b>Striving</b>	23.5	27.5	31.8	38.9
Older people, less prosperous	19.2	21.6	27.1	28.5
Council Estates, better-off	22.5	25	29.7	36.3
Council Estates, high unemployment	24.3	28.7	34.9	44.7
Council Estates, greatest hardship	24.3	30.8	32.2	46
Multi Ethnic low income	32.5	48.5	45.2	55
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	14.7	16.6	<b>20.6</b>	21.7

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

**Table 6.03 Percentage of household victims of burglary and vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime 2002/03 interviews by area type**

<b>Percentages</b> <b>Area type</b>	<b>BCS</b>		
	<b>% victims once or more</b>		
	All vehicle theft	All BCS burglary	All BCS violence
Inner-city	15.8	4.9	4.9
Urban	11.4	3.5	4.3
All non-rural	11.8	3.7	4.4
Rural	7.7	2.5	2.9
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS<sup>2</sup></b>	10.8	3.4	4.1

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

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

Table 6.04 Recorded crime by offence group by police force area and region 2002/0:

Police force area and region	Recorded crime									
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	All burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug and other offences	Theft of and from a vehicle (1)
Cleveland	73,817	6,283	519	1,434	14,856	30,813	2,893	14,591	2,428	14,294
Durham	51,177	7,711	341	287	7,656	17,572	1,463	14,067	2,080	7,446
Northumbria	165,496	25,171	1,371	1,442	22,704	58,049	5,963	42,222	8,574	20,264
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>290,490</b>	<b>39,165</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>45,216</b>	<b>106,434</b>	<b>10,319</b>	<b>70,880</b>	<b>13,082</b>	<b>42,004</b>
Cheshire	84,574	10,702	537	631	14,194	33,388	3,257	18,921	2,944	13,903
Cumbria	37,651	5,753	221	130	4,898	13,826	972	10,305	1,546	4,752
Greater Manchester	379,126	48,604	2,819	10,745	75,367	139,550	14,912	76,960	10,169	67,274
Lancashire	130,507	15,784	1,069	1,409	20,487	49,223	5,839	30,733	5,963	18,874
Merseyside	163,166	22,694	1,277	2,994	25,956	62,911	2,333	37,455	7,546	28,054
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>795,024</b>	<b>103,537</b>	<b>5,923</b>	<b>15,909</b>	<b>140,902</b>	<b>298,898</b>	<b>27,313</b>	<b>174,374</b>	<b>28,168</b>	<b>132,857</b>
Humberside	132,734	16,526	1,081	1,813	27,127	53,519	5,077	24,362	3,229	22,491
North Yorkshire	67,798	8,170	461	362	11,595	28,590	3,038	13,253	2,329	9,642
South Yorkshire	152,057	12,288	851	2,112	34,468	60,620	6,393	29,861	5,464	31,189
West Yorkshire	322,794	30,850	2,106	4,947	69,807	128,631	17,483	61,447	7,523	64,207
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>675,383</b>	<b>67,834</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>9,234</b>	<b>142,997</b>	<b>271,360</b>	<b>31,991</b>	<b>128,923</b>	<b>18,545</b>	<b>127,529</b>
Derbyshire	103,180	15,413	882	1,048	18,465	40,927	5,196	17,789	3,460	16,792
Leicestershire	96,143	15,504	960	1,453	12,832	37,284	5,700	19,210	3,200	15,986
Lincolnshire	61,949	9,238	583	307	10,831	22,745	2,580	13,694	1,971	7,857
Northamptonshire	73,509	9,808	608	1,015	11,381	28,291	4,872	15,687	1,847	11,868
Nottinghamshire	161,404	15,960	978	2,799	33,190	71,590	8,575	23,980	4,332	31,009
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>496,185</b>	<b>65,923</b>	<b>4,011</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>86,699</b>	<b>200,837</b>	<b>26,923</b>	<b>90,360</b>	<b>14,810</b>	<b>83,512</b>
Staffordshire	108,626	20,190	963	900	15,172	38,404	5,803	23,271	3,923	14,557
Warwickshire	44,196	5,687	277	354	7,437	18,552	2,177	8,514	1,198	8,477
West Mercia	105,077	19,848	923	728	16,375	37,007	5,388	21,258	3,550	13,076
West Midlands	350,242	51,795	3,033	10,249	56,531	130,263	26,085	57,319	14,967	60,838
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>608,141</b>	<b>97,520</b>	<b>5,196</b>	<b>12,231</b>	<b>95,515</b>	<b>224,226</b>	<b>39,453</b>	<b>110,362</b>	<b>23,638</b>	<b>96,948</b>
Bedfordshire	60,895	8,098	465	997	8,336	26,726	4,496	10,050	1,727	11,434
Cambridgeshire	85,029	12,574	694	906	12,775	35,009	4,967	16,153	1,951	13,345
Essex	136,181	22,090	1,165	1,328	16,909	52,827	7,734	30,337	3,791	21,570
Hertfordshire	86,395	7,667	553	862	11,713	38,079	7,101	17,988	2,432	16,602
Norfolk	71,270	10,607	676	579	9,681	28,478	3,082	16,030	2,137	10,739
Suffolk	50,315	7,949	588	249	6,248	18,806	2,418	11,497	2,560	6,282
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>490,085</b>	<b>68,985</b>	<b>4,141</b>	<b>4,921</b>	<b>65,662</b>	<b>199,925</b>	<b>29,798</b>	<b>102,055</b>	<b>14,598</b>	<b>79,972</b>
London, City of	10,026	928	34	45	444	6,212	1,000	366	997	694
Metropolitan Police	1,080,741	178,802	10,427	42,496	113,427	463,710	82,898	144,374	44,607	173,392
<b>London Region</b>	<b>1,090,767</b>	<b>179,730</b>	<b>10,461</b>	<b>42,541</b>	<b>113,871</b>	<b>469,922</b>	<b>83,898</b>	<b>144,740</b>	<b>45,604</b>	<b>174,086</b>
Hampshire	152,664	22,171	1,810	966	18,217	61,429	6,982	34,736	6,353	22,263
Kent	130,597	18,359	947	1,242	18,371	51,784	5,662	29,068	5,164	20,814
Surrey	68,452	8,515	598	605	9,727	27,789	4,850	13,669	2,699	9,989
Sussex	130,887	18,123	1,148	1,319	17,321	56,798	6,195	25,548	4,435	21,108
Thames Valley	208,523	25,326	1,469	2,406	29,432	93,639	15,655	33,693	6,903	37,629
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>691,123</b>	<b>92,494</b>	<b>5,972</b>	<b>6,538</b>	<b>93,068</b>	<b>291,439</b>	<b>39,344</b>	<b>136,714</b>	<b>25,554</b>	<b>111,803</b>
Avon and Somerset	173,869	20,742	1,570	3,504	30,182	77,439	10,410	26,430	3,592	36,249
Devon and Cornwall	131,240	23,722	1,149	710	15,700	50,713	6,268	26,883	6,095	19,377
Dorset	62,297	8,149	498	437	7,355	26,073	5,624	12,229	1,932	9,417
Gloucestershire	55,775	7,734	409	521	8,694	22,145	4,168	10,103	2,001	7,740
Wiltshire	44,225	6,419	558	336	6,242	17,438	2,420	9,246	1,566	5,551
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>467,406</b>	<b>66,766</b>	<b>4,184</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>68,173</b>	<b>193,808</b>	<b>28,890</b>	<b>84,891</b>	<b>15,186</b>	<b>78,334</b>
Dyfed Powys	25,104	6,217	274	40	2,104	6,479	1,299	4,920	3,771	2,028
Gwent	61,237	15,020	486	329	7,586	19,343	2,811	13,126	2,536	8,332
North Wales	65,133	11,484	559	225	8,543	22,312	2,347	17,090	2,573	8,096
South Wales	143,372	20,426	717	784	18,615	60,552	5,742	30,935	5,601	30,423
<b>Wales</b>	<b>294,846</b>	<b>53,147</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>36,848</b>	<b>108,686</b>	<b>12,199</b>	<b>66,071</b>	<b>14,481</b>	<b>48,879</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>5,899,450</b>	<b>835,101</b>	<b>48,654</b>	<b>108,045</b>	<b>888,951</b>	<b>2,365,535</b>	<b>330,128</b>	<b>1,109,370</b>	<b>213,666</b>	<b>975,924</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>4,808,683</b>	<b>655,371</b>	<b>38,193</b>	<b>65,504</b>	<b>775,080</b>	<b>1,895,613</b>	<b>246,230</b>	<b>964,630</b>	<b>168,062</b>	<b>801,838</b>

1. Includes theft of motor vehicle (48), theft from a vehicle (45) and aggravated vehicle taking (37.2). These numbers are included in the totals for the theft and handling stolen goods offence group.

2. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003'. The national impact of recording changes in 2002/03 was estimated to be ten per cent for total recorded crime. This impact will vary for different types of offences.

Table 6.05 Recorded offences by offence group by police force area and region, number per '000 population in 2002/0;

Number per '000 population Police force area and region	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	All burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Recorded crime	
										Drug offences	Other offences
Cleveland	136	12	1	3	15	27	57	5	27	3	1
Durham	87	13	1	0	14	13	30	2	24	2	1
Northumbria	120	18	1	1	20	16	42	4	31	4	2
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
Cheshire	86	11	1	1	12	14	34	3	19	2	1
Cumbria	77	12	0	0	13	10	28	2	21	2	1
Greater Manchester	153	20	1	4	25	30	56	6	31	2	2
Lancashire	92	11	1	1	13	14	35	4	22	3	1
Merseyside	120	17	1	2	20	19	46	2	28	4	2
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Humberside	153	19	1	2	22	31	62	6	28	2	2
North Yorkshire	90	11	1	0	12	15	38	4	18	2	1
South Yorkshire	120	10	1	2	12	27	48	5	24	3	2
West Yorkshire	155	15	1	2	18	34	62	8	30	2	1
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Derbyshire	108	16	1	1	18	19	43	5	19	2	2
Leicestershire	104	17	1	2	19	14	40	6	21	2	2
Lincolnshire	96	14	1	0	16	17	35	4	21	2	1
Northamptonshire	117	16	1	2	18	18	45	8	25	2	1
Nottinghamshire	159	16	1	3	19	33	70	8	24	2	2
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Staffordshire	104	19	1	1	21	14	37	6	22	2	2
Warwickshire	87	11	1	1	12	15	37	4	17	1	1
West Mercia	91	17	1	1	19	14	32	5	18	2	1
West Midlands	137	20	1	4	25	22	51	10	22	3	2
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Bedfordshire	108	14	1	2	17	15	47	8	18	2	1
Cambridgeshire	120	18	1	1	20	18	49	7	23	1	1
Essex	84	14	1	1	15	10	33	5	19	1	1
Hertfordshire	83	7	1	1	9	11	37	7	17	2	1
Norfolk	89	13	1	1	15	12	36	4	20	2	1
Suffolk	75	12	1	0	13	9	28	4	17	3	1
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
London, City of	1,393	129	5	6	140	62	863	139	51	110	29
Metropolitan Police	150	25	1	6	32	16	65	11	20	5	2
<b>London Region</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Hampshire	86	12	1	1	14	10	35	4	20	2	1
Kent	83	12	1	1	13	12	33	4	18	2	1
Surrey	65	8	1	1	9	9	26	5	13	2	1
Sussex	88	12	1	1	14	12	38	4	17	2	1
Thames Valley	100	12	1	1	14	14	45	7	16	2	1
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Avon and Somerset	117	14	1	2	17	20	52	7	18	2	1
Devon and Cornwall	83	15	1	0	16	10	32	4	17	3	1
Dorset	90	12	1	1	13	11	38	8	18	2	1
Gloucestershire	99	14	1	1	15	15	39	7	18	2	1
Wiltshire	72	10	1	1	12	10	28	4	15	1	1
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Dyfed Powys	51	13	1	0	13	4	13	3	10	6	2
Gwent	111	27	1	1	29	14	35	5	24	3	2
North Wales	98	17	1	0	18	13	34	4	26	3	1
South Wales	120	17	1	1	18	16	51	5	26	3	1
<b>Wales</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

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

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

**Table 6.06 BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region**

Police force and region	Percentages and numbers <sup>a</sup>														BCS			
	BCS household crime % victim at least once		BCS personal crime % victim at least once		Very worried about burglary %		High level of worry about car crime %		High level of worry about violent crime %		High levels of perceived disorder %							
	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N			
Cleveland	21		761	6		763	17		763	19		493	25		371	26		722
Durham	18		736	5 **		737	16		735	21		498	23		489	26 *		701
Northumbria	19		867	6		867	13		866	16		499	21		513	24		837
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>2364</b>	<b>6 **</b>		<b>2367</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>2364</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>1490</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>1373</b>	<b>25 **</b>		<b>2260</b>
Cheshire	21		751	7		752	17		752	17		578	20		393	19		721
Cumbria	16 **		643	5 **		643	12		643	13 **		506	16 *		455	10 **		630
Greater Manchester	29 **		1413	10 **		1414	18 **		1413	19		957	25 **		897	27 **		1353
Lancashire	24		840	9		840	14		840	16		587	19		526	19		812
Merseyside	15 **		905	5 **		905	21 **		905	23 **		553	27 **		801	27		846
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>4552</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>4554</b>	<b>17 **</b>		<b>4553</b>	<b>18 *</b>		<b>3181</b>	<b>23 **</b>		<b>3072</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>4362</b>
Humberside	25 *		724	8		724	15		724	19		483	18		493	19		661
North Yorkshire	21		607	8		607	15		607	17		463	14 **		490	18		562
South Yorkshire	24 *		861	8		862	22 **		861	24 **		566	23		650	28 **		814
West Yorkshire	27 **		1108	7		1109	19 **		1108	24 **		751	26 **		906	25		1041
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>25 **</b>		<b>3300</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>3302</b>	<b>19 **</b>		<b>3300</b>	<b>22 **</b>		<b>2263</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>2539</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>3078</b>
Derbyshire	24		727	6 *		729	16		727	19		574	25 **		672	20		687
Leicestershire	19		651	6		652	14		652	15		501	20		528	12 **		628
Lincolnshire	18 *		817	7		817	12		817	13 *		660	13 **		749	11 **		786
Northamptonshire	22		678	6		682	13		682	15		505	20		626	26		609
Nottinghamshire	23		677	8		678	21 **		678	26 **		483	17		508	18		653
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>3550</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>3558</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>3556</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>2723</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>3083</b>	<b>17 **</b>		<b>3363</b>
Staffordshire	17 *		626	6		628	18		628	17		462	21		519	20		588
Warwickshire	19		698	6		698	13		698	16		550	17		605	16 **		649
West Mercia	17 *		766	7		766	9 **		766	13 **		595	14 **		554	16 **		738
West Midlands	23		1392	8		1394	21 **		1393	21 **		922	24 *		1237	22		1270
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>3482</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>3486</b>	<b>17 **</b>		<b>3485</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>2529</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>2915</b>	<b>20 *</b>		<b>3245</b>
Bedfordshire	24		622	7		623	16		622	15		482	20		565	22		577
Cambridgeshire	28 **		586	10 **		588	15		588	19		451	23		441	22		555
Essex	16 **		918	7		919	11 **		919	11 **		704	15 *		563	16 **		863
Hertfordshire	22		634	6		635	7 **		634	9 **		520	12 **		487	14 **		597
Norfolk	19		775	7		775	14		774	16		626	20		500	15 **		740
Suffolk	16 **		699	7		700	8 **		699	9 **		539	17		212	10 **		632
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>4234</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>4240</b>	<b>11 **</b>		<b>4236</b>	<b>12 **</b>		<b>3322</b>	<b>17 **</b>		<b>2768</b>	<b>16 **</b>		<b>3964</b>
Metropolitan/City of London	21		3295	10 **		3312	18 **		3306	19 **		2059	29 **		2653	34 **		2923
<b>London Region</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>3295</b>	<b>10 **</b>		<b>3312</b>	<b>18 **</b>		<b>3306</b>	<b>19 **</b>		<b>2059</b>	<b>29 **</b>		<b>2653</b>	<b>34 **</b>		<b>2923</b>

Table 6.06 (contd) BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region

Percentages and numbers\*

Police force and region	BCS																	
	BCS household crime % victim at least once			BCS personal crime % victim at least once			Very worried about burglary %			High level of worry about car crime %			High level of worry about violent crime %			High levels of perceived disorder %		
	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N	Indicator value	Sig	Unweighted N
Hampshire	23		999	7		1000	10 **		999	14		765	17		733	17 **		921
Kent	21		932	7		934	13 *		934	17		724	22		590	22		899
Surrey	19		796	7		797	9 **		797	11 **		669	16 **		649	19		745
Sussex	22		827	10 *		827	13		827	18		596	18		707	20		811
Thames Valley	24 **		1176	8		1178	13		1178	15		928	18 *		960	20		1092
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>4730</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>4736</b>	<b>12 **</b>		<b>4735</b>	<b>15 **</b>		<b>3682</b>	<b>18 **</b>		<b>3639</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>4468</b>
Avon and Somerset	23		919	8		921	12 **		921	16		741	13 **		733	21		897
Devon and Cornwall	18		881	6 *		882	8 **		881	12 **		661	14 **		727	15 **		838
Dorset	16 *		694	6		694	6 **		694	8 **		565	13 **		368	11 **		681
Gloucestershire	22		655	9		655	9 **		655	13 *		500	17		411	17		630
Wiltshire	12 **		741	5 **		741	9 **		741	9 **		578	16 *		534	15 **		727
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>19 *</b>		<b>3890</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>3893</b>	<b>9 «</b>		<b>3892</b>	<b>12 **</b>		<b>3045</b>	<b>14 «</b>		<b>2773</b>	<b>16 **</b>		<b>3773</b>
Dyfed Powys	12 **		718	4 ««		721	9 **		720	12 **		563	13 **		370	12 **		677
Gwent	16 **		779	5 **		779	10 **		778	11 **		556	13 **		437	17 *		724
North Wales	13 **		746	5 **		747	15		747	14		562	15 **		443	23		687
South Wales	18		755	5 *		755	14		755	20		530	14 **		360	21		722
<b>Wales</b>	<b>15 **</b>		<b>2998</b>	<b>5 **</b>		<b>3002</b>	<b>13 *</b>		<b>3000</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>2211</b>	<b>14 «</b>		<b>1610</b>	<b>19 *</b>		<b>2810</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>36395</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>36450</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>36427</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>26505</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>26425</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>34246</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (Excluding London Region)</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>33100</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>33138</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>33121</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>24446</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>23772</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>31323</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS, these are Best Value Performance Indicators 120, 121 and 122 (see Glossary).
2. Statistical significance of differences is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and double at the 5% level.



# 7 Detection of crime

*Pat Mayhew*

## 7.1 SUMMARY

- There were 1.4 million detected crimes in 2002/03. Some other crimes may have had a suspect identified, but not met the definition of detected crime. The number of detections in 2002/03 was eight per cent higher than in 2001/02.
- Unadjusted for the effect of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), the detection rate in 2002/03 was 23.5 per cent, very slightly higher than the rate in 2001/02 (23.4 per cent). However, the full introduction of the NCRS this year may have depressed the current detection rate. Precise quantification is not possible, but on a comparable basis to the pre-NCRS crime count, the 'real' detection rate this year is likely to have been between 24 and 26 per cent.
- There were different trends in detections since last year for different offences. The detection rate for robbery increased by two percentage points overall in the 10 forces in the Street Crime Initiative. (It fell in the remaining forces.)
- The proportion of detections that resulted in an offender being cautioned, charged or summoned was 21 per cent ('sanctioned' detections); four per cent of detections were 'administrative' in which no further action was taken. The relative weight of sanctioned and administrative detections varied widely by force, but there was no marked relationship between overall detection rates and the level of 'administrative' detections.
- Not all officers are involved in the investigation of crime - but the average number of detections per officer rose very slightly to just under 11 detections per officer per year.

### *Counting detections: offences and offenders*

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

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

### *Detected crimes*

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

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

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

*The police may use one of several methods to count a crime as 'cleared up'. It may be by:*

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

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

*Only some detections involve a judicial sanction. Some forces are now concentrating on 'sanctioned' detections (A to C above) or at least monitoring performance on the basis of those, separately from 'other' (D above), which are also called either 'no further action' or 'administrative' detections.*

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

## 7.2 TRENDS OVER TIME

In general, detection rates have declined since 1980, and earlier. In simple terms, the number of detections achieved has failed to keep pace with the rise in recorded crime over this period; or when crime numbers have fallen, the number of detections has fallen more.

However, there are three recent changes in recording that have had an effect on detection rates.

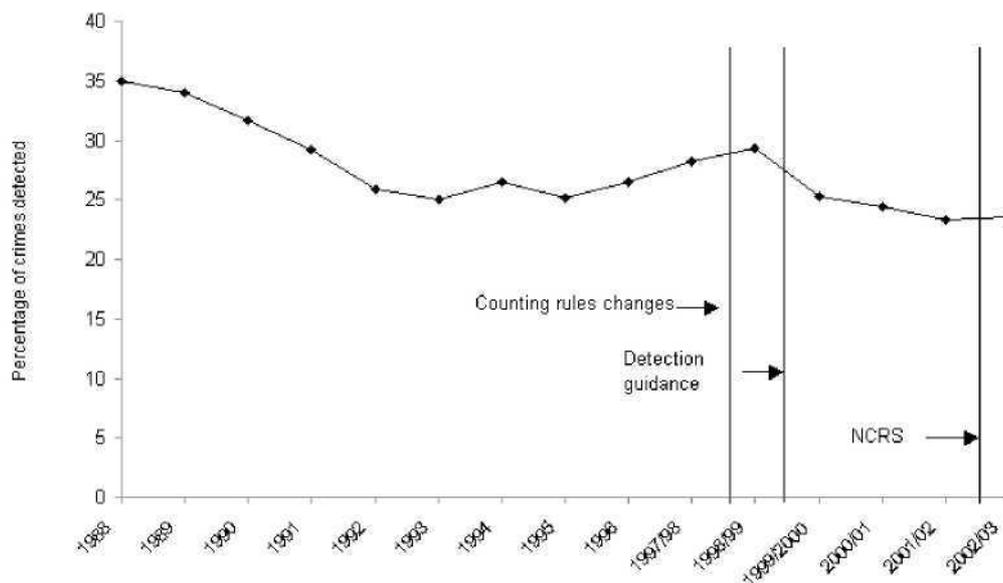
- The first is changes to crime counting rules introduced in April 1998 (see Chapter 3 and the box below). This had the effect of increasing the overall detection rate in 1998/99 despite a fall in the

detection rate for each offence group. The reason for this was that the changes in the counting rules meant that the 'new' crime count included proportionately more offences of violence against the person, which have a relatively high detection rate.

- The second change in 1999 affected what could be claimed as a detection - reducing the overall detection rate (see the box below).
- Finally, there is the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced nationally in April 2002. This is discussed in more detail later.

Where possible, the graphs in the rest of this chapter cover the period 1988 to 2002/03, in order to give 10 years' data prior to the changes in crime counting rules.

**Figure 7.1 Overall detection rates, 1988 to 2002/03**



Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

Figure 7.1 shows the picture since 1988. Broadly:

- The detection rate fell in the first half of the 1990s, as the number of crimes recorded increased faster (or fell less slowly) than the number detected.
- This was followed by an upturn in detection rates, although the increase in 1998/99 was attributed to the changes to the counting rules.
- The fall in the following year coincided with the tightening up of the detection guidance, and there were further slight falls in the next two years, which may have reflected a 'bedding down' of the guidance changes.
- The detection rate in 2002/03 stabilised, but it cannot be ruled out that it was affected by the NCRS, and that the 'real' detection rate was slightly higher. This is discussed more below.

## **Changes affecting recent detection figures**

### *Counting rules changes*

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

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

### *Guidance on counting detections*

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

*The effect of the April 1999 change is estimated overall as a one per cent decrease in detection rates - but the effect varies from crime to crime.*

### *The National Crime Recording Standard*

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

## **The NCRS effect**

The NCRS was expected to increase the number of crimes recorded. It was also generally assumed that it would depress the detection rate. This was because it was thought that the additional crimes counted after the NCRS would be less serious ones of the sort that the police, prior to NCRS, may not have recorded in part because there was a lack of information on suspects. In other words, the additional 'NCRS crimes' might be expected to have a lower probability of being detected.

In the initial analysis of the impact of the NCRS during 2001/02, when a handful of forces had adopted it, it was assumed that *none* of the additional crimes recorded due to the NCRS was detected. On the same assumption, the overall detection rate based on recorded offences adjusted downwards to account for the NCRS, would be 26 per cent compared to the observed 24 per cent on the basis of unadjusted figures. For offence types for which the NCRS effect can be estimated (see Chapter 3), the effect is most marked for violence against the person. In this category, the observed detection rate of 54 per cent would be 70 per cent if it is assumed that none of the 'NCRS crimes' were detected. For criminal damage, the observed detection rate of 13 per cent would rise to 15 per cent.

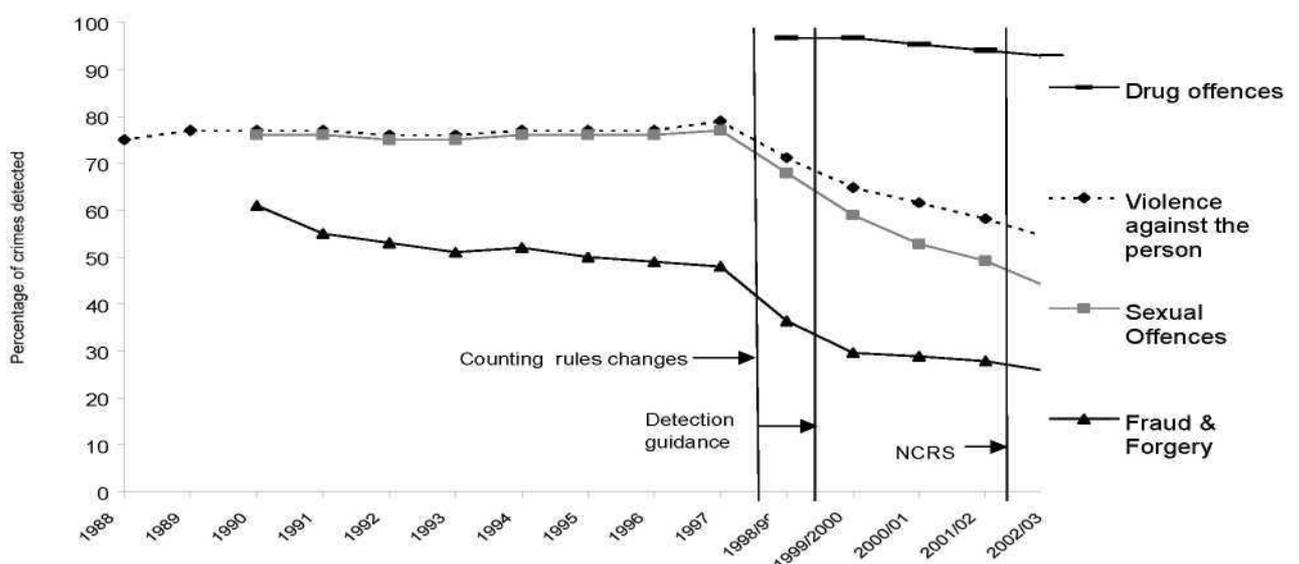
However, the assumption that none of the 'NCRS crimes' were detected is somewhat difficult to sustain (thus making the 'inflated' detection rates above optimistic). This is because there is an increase in the number of detections in 2002/03 compared to 2001/02, beginning in April when most forces started recording under the NCRS; the rise is commensurate with the increase in the number of crimes recorded, unadjusted for the NCRS. On the face of it, this suggests that a number of the additional crimes recorded because of the NCRS were also being detected. However, it is not certain that the increased number of detections this year is simply due to extra 'NCRS offences' being cleared up at a rate similar to other offences. It could be that the detection rate for 'NCRS offences' is lower than for offences counted prior to NCRS, and that other factors have played a part in improving detections in other ways. The most judicious conclusion is that the 'real' detection rates falls somewhere between the observed rate of 24 per cent and the upper bound of 26 per cent that would apply assuming that none of the 'NCRS crimes' were detected.

### Changes in detection rates for different offence types

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

Figure 7.2 shows changes in detection rates since 1988 in 'higher detection' offence types. (Drug offences, with a very high detection rate, are shown only since 1998/99 when possession offences became included in the count.) The most consistent decline is in fraud and forgery, where the changes in counting rules had a particularly significant impact.

**Figure 7.2 Detection rates for violence against the person, sexual offences and fraud and forgery, 1988 to 2002/03**



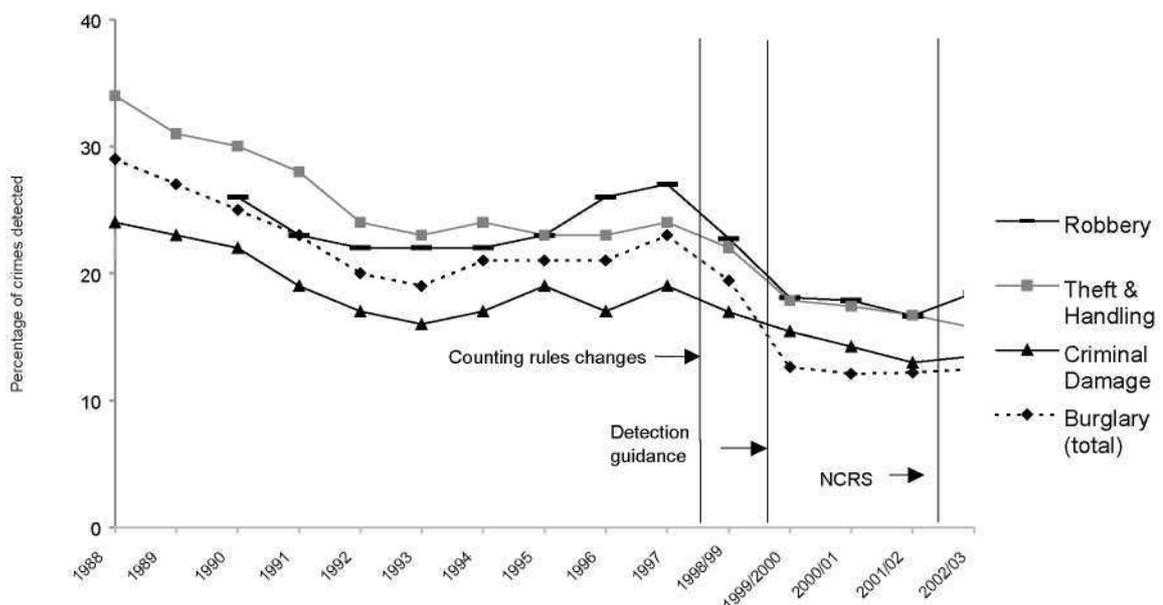
Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

The continuing decline in the detection rate for violence against the person since the counting rules change will reflect increasing numbers of common assaults, which have a lower detection rate than more serious violence. In tandem with this may be increased recording of crimes reported to the police that in their nature are less likely to be cleared up - a change that is likely to have been particularly evident following the NCRS. The BCS provides some evidence of this increased recording (Table 3.08).

Figure 7.3 shows trends for other offence types. (The scale on the left-hand axis differs from that in Figure 7.2.) The counting rules changes saw falls in detection rates for these offences, although rates were generally falling in the previous year. The changes in the detection guidance had less of an effect.

**Figure 7.3 Detection rates for robbery, theft and handling, criminal damage and burglary, 1988 to 2002/03**



Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

### The last two years

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

- The *number* of detections rose between 2001/02 and 2002/03 for most offences. The most marked increases were for violence against the person, drug offences, and the relatively small number of other offences. This reflects an increase in the number of offences recorded.
- The *number* of detection fell for theft and handling, fraud and forgery, and robbery. In the case of robbery, this is in tandem with a fall in recorded offences
- The overall detection *rate* has increased slightly, but the trend varies by offence. Rates between 2001/02 and 2002/03 fell for violence against the person, sexual offences, theft and handling,

fraud and forgery, drug offences, and 'other' offences. One of the biggest falls was for violence against the person, where - as reported previously - the NCRS may be implicated.

- The detection rate increased for robbery, and marginally for burglary - neither offence much affected by NCRS. The rate also increased slightly for criminal damage, even though the number of offences recorded was inflated by the NCRS, and the detection rate therefore might have been expected to decrease (see above).

**Table 7a Change in the number of offences detected, 2001/02 to 2002/03**

	Number of detections, 2001/02	Number of detections, 2002/03	% change in number of detections	Detection rate %, 2001/02	Detection rate %, 2002/03	% point change in detection rate
Violence against the person	378,075	450,390	19	58	54	-4.2
Sexual offences	20,379	21,040	3	49	43	-5.9
Robbery	20,199	19,953	-1	17	18	1.8
<i>Violent crime</i>	<i>418,653</i>	<i>491,383</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>-1.9</i>
Burglary	107,074	111,028	4	12	12	0.3
Theft and handling stolen goods	378,508	371,787	-2	17	16	-1.0
Fraud and forgery	88,417	84,380	-5	28	26	-2.5
Criminal damage	138,043	149,331	8	13	13	0.5
Drug offences	114,148	130,949	15	94	93	-1.2
Other offences	46,553	50,036	7	71	69	-2.0
Total recorded crime	1,291,396	1,388,894	8	23	24	0.2

Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

Table 7.04 shows the change in the number of offences and detections between 2001/02 and 2002/03, for each offence type as well as offence group.

### Changes in the 'crime mix'

As different offences tend to have considerably different detection rates, a change in the mix of crimes facing the police can also affect the detection rate. This needs to be borne in mind when comparing detection rates in different police forces, or over time. There have been changes in the 'crime mix' between 1990 and 2002/03. In 2002/03, burglary and theft made up a smaller part of total crime, and violence against the person a larger part (because of the inclusion of common assault in 1998 and the reductions in burglary and theft). Since burglary and theft have relatively low detection rates, and violence against the person a much higher one, one would expect the overall detection rate in 2002/03 to be higher than in 1990 if investigative performance had remained the same. However, this is not the case. The 'observed' detection rate in 2002/03 is 24 per cent as against 32 per cent in 1990. Moreover, if one were to adjust for changes in the 'crime mix' over time, the gap would widen. 1

Part of the explanation for this is that while 'higher detection' offence types now form a proportionately greater part of the total, and 'lower detection' types a proportionately smaller part, the

The adjustment applies the proportion of different types of crime within total crime in 1990 to total crime in 2002/03, with the present detection rate then applied to the revised number of different types of crime. For instance, theft and handling in 1990 was over 50 per cent of total crime with a clear up rate of 30 per cent; this proportion is applied in 2002/03, taking the present clear-up rate of 16 per cent.

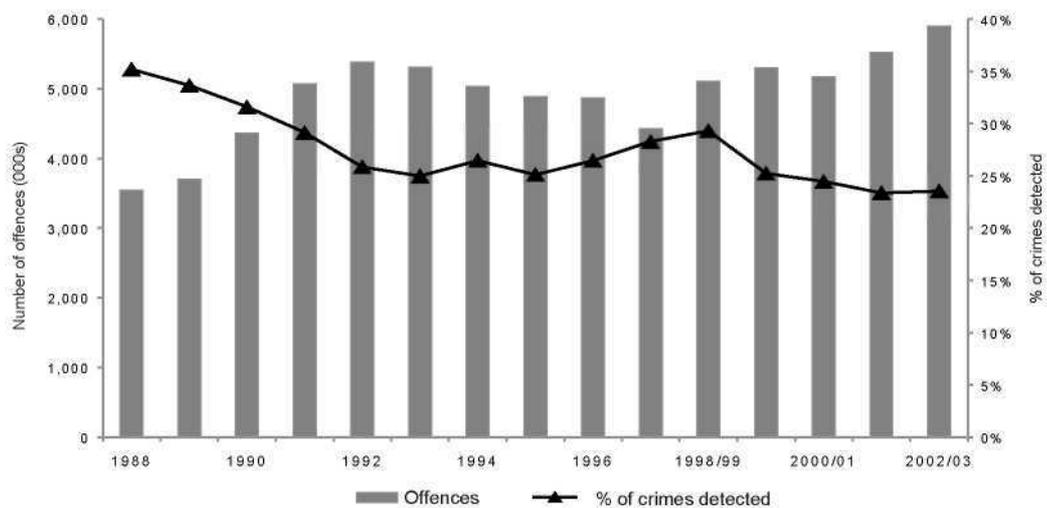
## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

former have seen bigger drops in detection rates than the latter. This will be partly due to the various changes in counting rules and guidance on recording detections in the late 1990s (for instance the inclusion of common assaults, which are less likely to be detected than more serious violence). But they may not be the whole story.

### Offences and detection rates

- There appears to be a link between recorded crime figures and detection rates - detection rates are higher when crime is lower, and vice versa (see Figure 7.4).
- In terms of absolute numbers rather than detection rates, the general pattern since 1990 has been that when there has been an increase in crime, there has also been an increase in the number of detections. This may be because a certain proportion of crime comes to police attention with an offender who is already known.

**Figure 7.4 Offences and detection rates, 1988 to 2002/03**



Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

### Trends in police force detection rates

Table 7.01 shows annual detection rates by police force area and region, from 1997/98 to 2002/03. The changes need to be viewed with some caution. As has been explained, there are variations in the particular 'mix' of crimes with which forces have to deal, so that the effect of the counting rules changes may have varied. In addition, this year witnessed the national introduction of the NCRS, with variable consequences for individual forces. This too will have affected detection rate comparisons, for which it has not been possible to make adjustments. Furthermore, improvements in detection rates may be present for certain crimes and not others. Or, certain methods of detections that more clearly help to bring an offender to justice might be regarded more favourably by police forces than increasing other detections - for instance, offences 'taken into consideration' (e.g. when an offender is already being prosecuted for other offences), or 'administrative detections' (where no further action is taken)

That said, in the year 2002/03 the main points are:

- The biggest falls in the raw detection rate have been in Gwent, Lincolnshire, South Wales, Northamptonshire, Surrey, West Midlands and Devon and Cornwall - where the detection rate is three percentage points or more below that of the previous year.
- Over the past year, West Midlands have virtually eliminated their use of 'administrative detections' (see below), whereas last year they accounted for around five per cent of the force's detections. This change alone accounts for fall in the detection rate in West Midlands this year.
- Over the last year, the biggest increases in detection rates have been in Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, West Mercia and Cleveland - where the detection rate was three percentage points or more above that of the previous year. Staffordshire and West Mercia also witnessed large increases in their use of administrative detections over the last year.

### 7.3 DETECTION RATES AND INVESTIGATIVE PERFORMANCE

Overall detection rates are often interpreted as a measure of the investigative performance of a force. However, sharper measures of performance might include the percentage of:

- crimes investigated which are detected;
- crimes with initially no named suspect which are detected; or
- crimes that the victim perceives as solved.

At present, there is no centrally collected information on these. For now, the best available measure which is sharper than the overall detection rate is the percentage of crimes which are cleared up by an offender being cautioned, charged or summoned - so-called 'sanctioned' detections. These contrast with what can be seen as 'administrative detections', comprising those where no further action is taken.<sup>2</sup> Leaving cautions aside, not all sanctioned detections will necessarily result in a subsequent conviction. The Crown Prosecution Service may not take forward proceedings; or the offender might be found not guilty.

Overall detection rates also fall short of being a good comparative measure of police performance because of 'crime mix' differences. Since detection rates vary by type of offence, as shown above, forces that have proportionately more offences with typically low clear-up rates (such as criminal damage or burglary) will have lower overall detection rates than others. For this reason, comparisons of force detection rates are best focused on detections for particular offence groups.

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

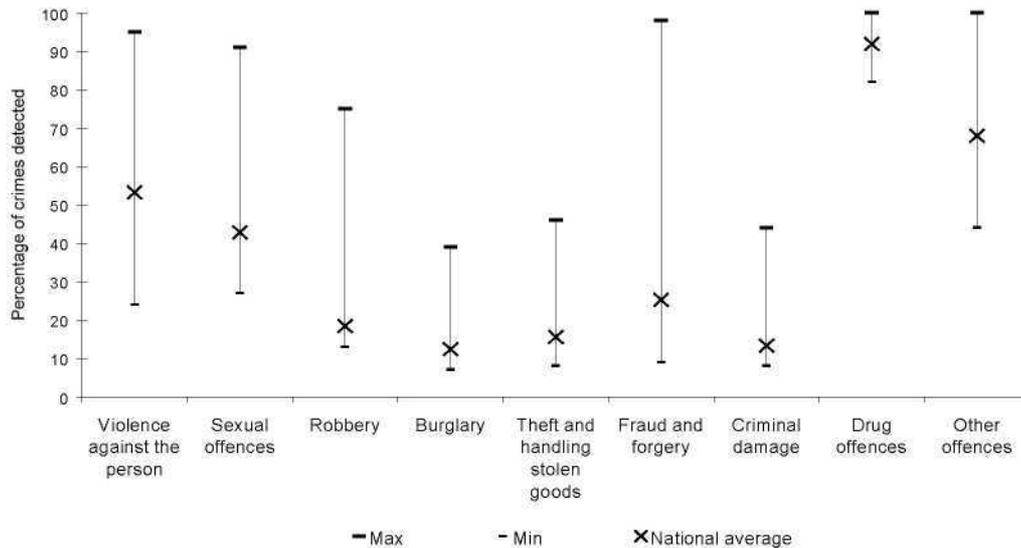
- for burglary from seven per cent to 39 per cent;
- for theft and handling from eight per cent to 46 per cent;
- for violence against the person from 24 per cent to 95 per cent.

<sup>2</sup> Offences taken into consideration (TICs) fall into those for which an offence was previously recorded, and those that were not. Both types are included within 'sanctioned' detections. There should be sufficient evidence to charge the suspect with the offence, although a charge may or may not be imposed. Some offences taken into consideration, therefore, do not directly result in a sanction.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

There was also a wide range of *overall* detection rates across England and Wales. Dyfed Powys and Gwent consistently have the highest detection rates; the Metropolitan Police the lowest. This may in part be due to differing deployment of resources - the former forces investigate a much larger proportion of crime than the Metropolitan Police.

**Figure 7.5 Maximum, minimum, and national average detection rates amongst police forces for different offence groups, 2002/03**



### Robbery

Over three-quarters of robbery offences are concentrated in 10 predominantly urban forces - Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire. These forces were targeted by the government's Street Crime Initiative (SCI), introduced in the Metropolitan Police in February 2002 and in the other nine forces in April 2002. Part of the SCI focused on better targeting of robbery offenders.

Between 2001/02 and 2002/03, the detection rate for robbery increased by two percentage points in the 10 SCI forces overall, whereas in the remaining forces it fell by three percentage points.<sup>3</sup> The biggest increases in the SCI forces were in Lancashire, West Yorkshire and Merseyside. The detection rate fell slightly in South Yorkshire, likely to have been affected by the NCRS.

## 7.4 DETECTION METHOD

The government target for narrowing the 'justice gap' aims to increase the number of offenders brought to justice.<sup>4</sup> Detections are the cornerstone of this work since no offence can be brought to justice without a detection. However, not all detections result in an offender being brought to justice,

Ninety per cent of robberies are personal robberies, with the remainder robberies of business property. The figures here refer to all robberies.

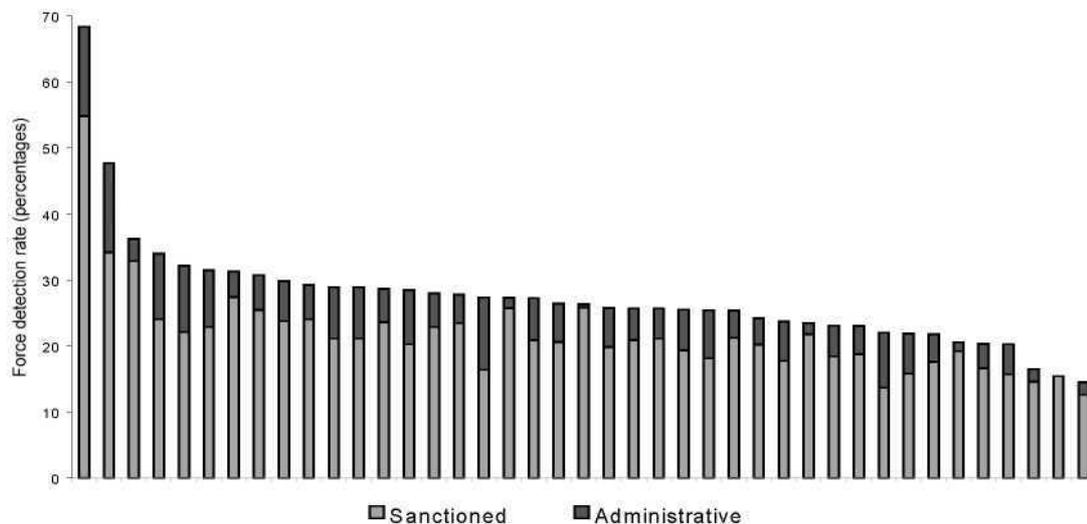
<sup>4</sup>

That is to say, where an offender has been cautioned, convicted or had an offence previously recorded taken into consideration by the court, or a Penalty Notice issued. There are some differences, then, in the definition of 'brought to justice' compared with 'sanctioned' detections.

and in this context narrowing the 'justice gap' involves increasing the number of 'sanctioned' detections, and close co-operation between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that offences charged or summoned can be successfully prosecuted.

Table 7.02 shows detection rates by method of detection, by police force area for 2002/03. Variations in detection rates are, in part, due to differing use of detection methods - particularly 'administrative' detections. The range, by force, of the proportion of all detections that were administrative was quite large (Figure 7.6). More than 30 per cent were administrative in Essex, Cambridgeshire and West Mercia. At the other extreme, Avon and Somerset do not count administrative sanctions as detections, and West Midlands now do so with only very few - principally to reduce the overheads involved in securing a higher detection rate through these means. However, there was no strong relationship between overall detection rates and the proportion of administrative detections. In other words, some forces with a relatively high proportion of administrative detections also had a relatively low overall detection rate. Conversely, some forces had a fairly small proportion of administrative detections, but also a relatively high overall detection rate.

**Figure 7.6 Force detection rates by sanctioned and administrative detections, 2002/03**



Note: Durham and North Yorkshire are not included.

## 7.5 BASIC COMMAND UNITS

Detection rates for key offences for each Basic Command Unit (BCU), split by family, are available on: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb703sup3.pdf>.

## 7.6 DETECTIONS PER OFFICER

The number of detections per officer has risen slightly. In 1995, there were 9.8 detections per officer. This rose to 10.3 in 2001/02, and then to 10.7 in 2002/03. Excluding the Metropolitan Police and the City of London (where detections per officer were lowest), there were 12.1 detections per officer. Five forces had 15 detections per officer or more, but otherwise the figures were within a relatively narrow range.

Table 7.01 Recorded crime: annual detection rates by police force area and region, 1997/98 to 2002/03

Police force area and region	<b>Percentages</b>					
	1997/98	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1999/2000 <sup>1</sup>	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Cleveland	23	23	22	21	20	23
Durham	30	33	32	34	33	34
Northumbria	26	30	31	31	31	31
<b>North East Region</b>	26	29	29	29	29	30
Cheshire	34	37	31	30	26	26
Cumbria	41	44	39	34	32	31
Greater Manchester	20	25	23	22	21	22
Lancashire	29	34	29	27	26	27
Merseyside	31	31	26	28	24	25
<b>North West Region</b>	26	29	26	25	23	24
Humberside	21	22	19	21	20	20
North Yorkshire	26	33	31	30	26	26
South Yorkshire	32	32	25	25	23	21
West Yorkshire	27	27	25	23	19	20
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	27	28	24	24	21	21
Derbyshire	26	31	28	26	25	26
Leicestershire	34	34	30	28	28	27
Lincolnshire	46	40	28	25	27	23
Northamptonshire	35	33	33	33	31	28
Nottinghamshire	26	25	21	20	18	16
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	31	31	27	25	24	23
Staffordshire	34	32	22	23	24	31
Warwickshire	29	26	22	22	25	26
West Mercia	27	34	29	27	29	32
West Midlands	25	30	27	28	29	26
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	28	31	26	27	28	28
Bedfordshire	35	33	25	27	25	26
Cambridgeshire	28	29	25	24	22	22
Essex <sup>4</sup>	28	29	30	26	26	27
Hertfordshire <sup>4</sup>	33	34	27	24	24	23
Norfolk	36	37	30	26	25	24
Suffolk	39	41	36	35	33	34
<b>East of England Region</b>	32	33	29	26	26	26
London, City of	28	33	32	27	34	36
Metropolitan Police <sup>4</sup>	25	22	16	15	14	14
<b>London Region</b>	25	22	16	15	14	15
Hampshire	30	35	32	29	29	30
Kent	31	34	33	28	28	28
Surrey <sup>4</sup>	35	40	32	28	25	22
Sussex	26	25	25	23	25	24
Thames Valley	25	25	20	22	24	25
<b>South East Region</b>	28	30	27	25	26	26
Avon and Somerset	26	24	22	22	14	15
Devon and Cornwall	34	36	35	34	32	29
Dorset	30	31	26	25	27	25
Gloucestershire	26	31	30	31	30	29
Wiltshire	32	38	33	30	30	28
<b>South West Region</b>	29	31	28	27	23	23
Dyfed-Powys	62	69	65	63	64	68
Gwent	51	55	53	57	55	48
North Wales	36	43	36	31	28	29
South Wales	36	39	31	32	33	29
<b>Wales</b>	41	46	40	41	39	36
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

1. Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under prior to March 1998.
2. Percentage detected using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.
3. Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.
4. Forces affected by boundary changes in April 2000.
5. Numbers of recorded crimes and detections will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For more information see Chapter 3.

Table 7.02 Recorded crime: detection rates by method of detection by police force area and region 2002/03

Police force area and region	Recorded offences	Percentage detected "	Charge/ Summons	Method of Detection			Recorded crime	
				Caution	TIC (previously recorded)	TIC (Not previously recorded)	Other	
				<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>%</u>
Cleveland	73,817	23	17	3	1	1	2	
Durham	51,177	34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Northumbria	165,496	31	18	7	2	0	4	
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>290,490</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
Cheshire	84,574	26	16	3	1	1	6	
Cumbria	37,651	31	20	4	1	0	5	
Greater Manchester	379,126	22	12	2	1	0	6	
Lancashire	130,507	27	20	4	1	0	2	
Merseyside	163,166	25	17	2	1	0	4	
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>795,024</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	
Humberside	132,734	20	12	3	1	0	5	
North Yorkshire	67,798	26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
South Yorkshire	152,057	21	15	3	1	0	1	
West Yorkshire	322,794	20	12	3	2	0	4	
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>675,383</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
Derbyshire	103,180	26	14	4	2	0	5	
Leicestershire	96,143	27	16	3	2	0	6	
Lincolnshire	61,949	23	15	3	1	0	4	
Northamptonshire	73,509	28	12	5	3	0	8	
Nottinghamshire	161,404	16	12	1	1	0	2	
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>496,185</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	
Staffordshire	108,626	31	15	5	2	0	9	
Warwickshire	44,196	26	11	5	4	0	6	
West Mercia	105,077	32	14	5	1	2	10	
West Midlands	350,242	26	19	4	3	0	0	
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>608,141</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
Bedfordshire	60,895	26	12	4	4	0	5	
Cambridgeshire	85,029	22	10	2	2	0	8	
Essex	136,181	27	11	3	2	0	11	
Hertfordshire	86,395	23	12	3	3	0	5	
Norfolk	71,270	24	16	4	1	0	4	
Suffolk	50,315	34	17	6	1	0	10	
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>490,085</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	
London, City of	10,026	36	22	10	1	1	3	
Metropolitan Police	1,080,741	14	9	3	1	0	2	
<b>London Region</b>	<b>1,090,767</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	
Hampshire	152,664	30	17	5	2	0	6	
Kent	130,597	28	16	5	2	0	5	
Surrey	68,452	22	11	6	1	0	4	
Sussex	130,887	24	12	5	1	0	6	
Thames Valley	208,523	25	12	4	4	0	6	
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>691,123</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	
Avon & Somerset	173,869	15	10	2	3	0	0	
Devon & Cornwall	131,240	29	14	5	2	0	8	
Dorset	62,297	25	13	3	2	0	7	
Gloucestershire	55,775	29	13	5	6	0	5	
Wiltshire	44,225	28	16	5	0	2	4	
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>467,406</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	
Dyfed Powys	25,104	68	33	17	3	2	13	
Gwent	61,237	48	23	6	4	1	13	
North Wales	65,133	29	15	5	1	0	8	
South Wales	143,372	29	18	3	2	0	5	
<b>Wales</b>	<b>294,846</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>					
	<b>5,899,450</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>					
	<b>4,808,683</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	

Table 7.03 Recorded crime: detection rate by offence group and police force area and region 2002/03

Police force area and region	Percentages								Recorded crime	
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences
Cleveland	23	55	63	19	11	21	34	11	97	84
Durham	34	80	61	29	16	24	65	18	101	95
Northumbria	31	64	47	28	14	24	49	15	97	78
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>83</b>
Cheshire	26	69	56	25	14	18	32	14	99	84
Cumbria	31	72	60	38	13	22	50	15	98	82
Greater Manchester	22	64	52	15	7	14	30	13	95	73
Lancashire	27	61	59	30	16	20	35	13	97	85
Merseyside	25	60	51	23	12	18	49	11	93	73
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>77</b>
Humberside	20	52	37	14	9	15	28	13	92	61
North Yorkshire	26	67	53	20	10	17	48	14	101	86
South Yorkshire	21	63	49	23	8	16	26	11	98	86
West Yorkshire	20	65	52	26	11	15	18	11	96	77
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>78</b>
Derbyshire	26	61	45	24	13	17	25	17	92	66
Leicestershire	27	54	33	23	16	20	39	15	93	78
Lincolnshire	23	48	35	28	13	17	35	13	94	61
Northamptonshire	28	70	53	24	13	22	32	17	94	81
Nottinghamshire	16	46	44	19	8	12	13	10	96	70
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>71</b>
Staffordshire	31	69	51	24	14	22	29	17	103	71
Warwickshire	26	70	43	27	14	17	29	14	93	74
West Mercia	32	70	46	25	13	22	39	18	98	77
West Midlands	26	57	43	23	15	19	23	12	92	71
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>72</b>
Bedfordshire	26	58	40	19	15	18	32	15	94	66
Cambridgeshire	22	58	36	20	13	14	21	12	96	61
Essex	27	71	40	21	13	17	22	15	93	63
Hertfordshire	23	66	53	31	15	18	23	12	97	68
Norfolk	24	56	33	23	11	16	41	14	97	66
Suffolk	34	78	50	34	15	22	44	19	94	73
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>66</b>
London, City of	36	58	50	24	38	21	54	37	97	78
Metropolitan Police	14	24	33	13	13	8	9	8	82	44
<b>London Region</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>45</b>
Hampshire	30	70	56	31	15	20	40	16	96	74
Kent	28	61	46	24	14	20	34	17	99	76
Surrey	22	58	40	26	9	13	23	12	97	63
Sussex	24	63	38	20	10	14	30	14	99	69
Thames Valley	25	61	33	29	15	18	27	16	96	63
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>70</b>
Avon & Somerset	15	28	27	13	12	11	23	9	93	57
Devon & Cornwall	29	55	43	23	14	19	44	17	95	69
Dorset	25	64	41	17	12	16	30	17	94	57
Gloucestershire	29	58	39	41	20	20	45	17	95	67
Wiltshire	28	60	41	25	16	18	48	16	92	58
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>63</b>
Dyfed-Powys	68	95	91	75	39	46	98	44	99	98
Gwent	48	78	82	41	35	35	62	25	100	84
North Wales	29	60	35	24	13	20	50	15	98	73
South Wales	29	69	60	31	15	17	44	16	99	87
<b>Wales</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>73</b>

1. Offences detected in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year, so some percentages may exceed 100.

2. Numbers of recorded crimes and detections will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For further information, see Chapter 3.

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence 2001/02 and 2002/03

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime							
		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	% change in offences	Detections 2001/02 <sup>(1)</sup>		Detections 2002/03 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Offence		2001/02	2002/03			Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of detections	Detection rate %
1	Murder								
4.1	Manslaughter	891	1,048	157	18%	768	86%	911	87%
4.2	Infanticide								
2	Attempted murder	857	818	-39	-5%	628	73%	603	74%
3	Threat or conspiracy to murder	13,662	18,068	4,406	32%	7,759	57%	9,323	52%
4.3	Child destruction		2					1	
4.4/6	Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (inc under influence)	370	413	43	12%	346	94%	356	86%
37.1	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	35	55	20	57%	27	77%	31	56%
5	Wounding or other act endangering life	16,556	17,882	1,326	8%	9,758	59%	10,054	56%
6	Endangering railway passenger	14	5	-9	-64%	10	71%	4	80%
	<b>More serious violence</b>	<b>32,385</b>	<b>38,291</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19,296</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>21,283</b>	<b>56%</b>
7	Endangering life at sea	4	2	-2	-50%	2	50%	3	150%
8A	Other wounding	208,583	345,390	136,807	66%	115,700	55%	181,057	52%
8B	Possession of weapons	28,796	32,104	3,308	11%	26,116	91%	28,362	88%
8C	Harassment	96,840	120,761	23,921	25%	67,528	70%	77,362	64%
8D	Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	3,463	4,351	888	26%	1,391	40%	1,739	40%
8E	Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	14,963	16,699	1,736	12%	6,059	40%	6,439	39%
11	Cruelty to or neglect of children	3,067	4,109	1,042	34%	2,169	71%	2,472	60%
12	Abandoning a child under the age of two years	49	59	10	20%	36	73%	40	68%
13	Child abduction	584	846	262	45%	290	50%	313	37%
14	Procuring illegal abortion	6	7	1	17%	4	67%	4	57%
15	Concealment of birth	4	5	1	25%	2	50%	4	80%
104	Assault on a constable	30,092	33,742	3,650	12%	29,390	98%	32,932	98%
105A	Common assault	226,472	234,244	7,772	3%	108,385	48%	97,014	41%
105B	Racially or religiously aggravated common assault	5,166	4,491	-675	-13%	1,707	33%	1,366	30%
	<b>Less serious violence</b>	<b>618,089</b>	<b>796,810</b>	<b>178,721</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>358,779</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>429,107</b>	<b>54%</b>
	<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>	<b>650,474</b>	<b>835,101</b>	<b>184,627</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>378,075</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>450,390</b>	<b>54%</b>

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence 2001/02 and 2002/03

Numbers and percentages Offence		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	% change in offences	Recorded crime Detections 2001/02 <sup>(1)</sup>		Detections 2002/03 <sup>(1)</sup>	
		2001/02	2002/03			Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of detections	Detection rate %
16	Buggery	356	287	-69	-19%	224	63%	156	54%
17	Indecent assault on a male	3,605	4,096	491	14%	1,947	54%	1,736	42%
18	Gross indecency between males	164	198	34	21%	103	63%	118	60%
19A	Rape of a female	8,990	11,441	2,451	27%	3,723	41%	4,117	36%
19B	Rape of a male	730	852	122	17%	342	47%	317	37%
20	Indecent assault on a female	21,790	24,811	3,021	14%	9,869	45%	9,741	39%
21	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	169	187	18	11%	91	54%	95	51%
22	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	1,331	1,514	183	14%	806	61%	815	54%
23	Incest	94	99	5	5%	51	54%	47	47%
24	Procuration	130	127	-3	-2%	86	66%	78	61%
25	Abduction	262	291	29	11%	79	30%	71	24%
26	Bigamy	74	88	14	19%	44	59%	46	52%
27	Soliciting or importuning by a man	1,655	2,107	452	27%	1,624	98%	2,050	97%
73	Abuse of position of trust	416	676	260	63%	360	87%	627	93%
74	Gross indecency with a child	1,661	1,880	219	13%	1,030	62%	1,026	55%
	<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>	<b>41,427</b>	<b>48,654</b>	<b>7,227</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20,379</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>21,040</b>	<b>43%</b>
34A	Robbery of business property	13,304	11,178	-2,126	-16%	3,567	27%	3,298	30%
34B	Robbery of personal property	108,066	96,867	-11,199	-10%	16,632	15%	16,655	17%
	<b>ROBBERY</b>	<b>121,370</b>	<b>108,045</b>	<b>-13,325</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>20,199</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19,953</b>	<b>18%</b>
	<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME</b>	<b>813,271</b>	<b>991,800</b>	<b>178,529</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>418,653</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>491,383</b>	<b>50%</b>
28	Burglary in a dwelling	426,884	434,169	7,285	2%	59,590	14%	62,436	14%
29	Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	3,488	3,475	-13	0%	1,361	39%	1,405	40%
30	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	447,565	450,694	3,129	1%	45,937	10%	46,999	10%
31	Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	610	613	3	0%	186	30%	188	31%
	<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>878,547</b>	<b>888,951</b>	<b>10,404</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>107,074</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>111,028</b>	<b>12%</b>

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence 2001/02 and 2002/03

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime							
		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	% change in offences	Detections 2001/02 <sup>(1)</sup>		Detections 2002/03 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Offence	2001/02	2002/03	Number of detections			Detection rate %	Number of detections	Detection rate %	
37.2	Aggravated vehicle taking	11,798	11,530	-268	-2%	5,581	47%	5,431	47%
39	Theft from the person of another	114,866	135,406	20,540	18%	5,843	5%	5,888	4%
40	Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine/meter	46,869	56,481	9,612	21%	11,862	25%	13,239	23%
41	Theft by an employee	17,129	17,416	287	2%	10,768	63%	10,381	60%
42	Theft or unlawful taking of mail	9,621	13,455	3,834	40%	599	6%	660	5%
43	Abstracting electricity	1,337	1,413	76	6%	1,083	81%	1,024	72%
44	Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	102,725	95,048	-7,677	-7%	4,629	5%	4,163	4%
45	Theft from a vehicle	655,150	658,740	3,590	1%	37,673	6%	40,450	6%
46	Theft from shops	306,619	309,397	2,778	1%	195,247	64%	185,129	60%
47	Theft from automatic machine or meter	19,542	23,256	3,714	19%	2,876	15%	3,157	14%
48	Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	316,349	305,654	-10,695	-3%	40,925	13%	41,024	13%
49	Other theft or unauthorised taking	565,544	627,473	61,929	11%	39,014	7%	38,601	6%
54	Handling stolen goods	18,763	18,613	-150	-1%	17,260	92%	16,578	89%
126	Vehicle interference and tampering	80,751	91,653	10,902	14%	5,148	6%	6,062	7%
	<b>THEFT &amp; HANDLING</b>	<b>2,267,063</b>	<b>2,365,535</b>	<b>98,472</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>378,508</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>371,787</b>	<b>16%</b>
51	Fraud by company director	106	28	-78	-74%	147	139%	31	111%
52	False accounting	1,031	861	-170	-16%	779	76%	583	68%
53A	Cheque and credit card fraud	153,960	142,514	-11,446	-7%	44,177	29%	39,551	28%
53B	Other fraud	144,241	168,958	24,717	17%	31,121	22%	31,401	19%
55	Bankruptcy and insolvency	15	11	-4	-27%	16	107%	8	73%
60	Forgery or use of false drug prescription	763	869	106	14%	518	68%	544	63%
61	Other forgery	6,841	8,334	1,493	22%	4,384	64%	4,564	55%
814	Vehicle/driver document fraud	7,970	8,553	583	7%	7,275	91%	7,698	90%
	<b>FRAUD AND FORGERY</b>	<b>314,927</b>	<b>330,128</b>	<b>15,201</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>88,417</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>84,380</b>	<b>26%</b>
56	Arson	60,470	53,200	-7,270	-12%	4,817	8%	4,643	9%
58A	Criminal damage to a dwelling	263,410	299,493	36,083	14%	39,786	15%	46,372	15%
58B	Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	154,907	172,305	17,398	11%	25,793	17%	25,806	15%
58C	Criminal damage to a vehicle	415,711	428,110	12,399	3%	40,110	10%	42,295	10%
58D	Other criminal damage	124,570	144,649	20,079	16%	24,032	19%	26,084	18%
58E	Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling	36,899	2,050	-34,849	-94%	239	1%	277	14%
58F	Racially or religiously aggravated c.d to a building other than a dwelling	1,542	1,151	-391	-25%	360	23%	298	26%
58G	Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle	1,882	1,521	-361	-19%	329	17%	352	23%
58H	Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage	821	771	-50	-6%	206	25%	141	18%
59	Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage	4,336	6,120	1,784	41%	2,371	55%	3,063	50%
	<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE</b>	<b>1,064,548</b>	<b>1,109,370</b>	<b>44,822</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>138,043</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>149,331</b>	<b>13%</b>
	<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>4,525,085</b>	<b>4,693,984</b>	<b>168,899</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>712,042</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>716,526</b>	<b>15%</b>

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence 2001/02 and 2002/03

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime							
		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	% change in offences	Detections 2001/02 <sup>(1)</sup>		Detections 2002/03 <sup>(1)</sup>	
		2001/02	2002/03			Number of detections	Detection rate %	Number of detections	Detection rate %
92A	Trafficking in controlled drugs	19,645	22,324	2,679	14%	18,259	93%	20,860	93%
92B	Possession of controlled drugs	100,930	117,815	16,885	17%	95,143	94%	109,297	93%
92C	Other drug offences	802	977	175	22%	746	93%	792	81%
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>		<b>121,377</b>	<b>141,116</b>	<b>19,739</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>114,148</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>130,949</b>	<b>93%</b>
33	Going equipped for stealing, etc	5,078	5,718	640	13%	4,332	85%	4,868	85%
35	Blackmail	1,074	1,325	251	23%	389	36%	432	33%
36	Kidnapping	2,792	3,187	395	14%	1,410	51%	1,443	45%
62	Treason	0	-	0	..	0	..	-	..
63	Treason felony	0	-	0	..	0	..	-	..
64	Riot	12	8	-4	-33%	6	50%	4	50%
65	Violent disorder	2,603	2,770	167	6%	2,083	80%	2,063	74%
66	Other offences against the State or public order	18,832	19,514	682	4%	14,540	77%	14,867	76%
67	Perjury	143	188	45	31%	104	73%	101	54%
68	Libel	3	2	-1	-33%	0	..	-	..
75	Betting, gaming and lotteries	17	5	-12	-71%	15	88%	3	60%
76	Aiding suicide	4	8	4	100%	3	75%	2	25%
78	Immigration offences	329	432	103	31%	305	93%	400	93%
79	Perverting the course of justice	10,287	11,295	1,008	10%	8,319	81%	8,705	77%
80	Absconding from lawful custody	1,357	1,547	190	14%	1,340	99%	1,428	92%
81	Firearms Acts offences	3,247	3,572	325	10%	2,765	85%	2,909	81%
82	Customs and Revenue offences	124	117	-7	-6%	122	98%	109	93%
83	Bail offences	133	133	0	0%	123	92%	130	98%
84	Trade descriptions etc	173	193	20	12%	165	95%	159	82%
85	Health and Safety offences	5	4	-1	-20%	6	120%	4	100%
86	Obscene publications etc	845	2,118	1,273	151%	733	87%	1,432	68%
87	Protection from eviction	56	63	7	13%	13	23%	15	24%
89	Adulteration of food	118	80	-38	-32%	106	90%	76	95%
90	Knives Act 1997 offences	59	41	-18	-31%	55	93%	43	105%
91	Public health offences	16	18	2	13%	7	44%	22	122%
94	Planning laws	3	1	-2	-67%	0	0%	1	100%
95	Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Sts.	..	16	..	..	..	..	15	94%
99	Other notifiable offences	3,082	3,240	158	5%	1,936	63%	1,983	61%
139	Indecent exposure	9,066	9,404	338	4%	1,824	20%	1,892	20%
802	Dangerous driving	6,125	7,551	1,426	23%	5,852	96%	6,930	92%
<b>OTHER OFFENCES</b>		<b>65,583</b>	<b>72,550</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>46,553</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>50,036</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL OFFENCES</b>		<b>5,525,316</b>	<b>5,899,450</b>	<b>374,134</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1,291,396</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1,388,894</b>	<b>24%</b>

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

2. These offences were added to the series on 1 January 2001.

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

4. •• not available.

## 8 Perceptions of and concern about crime in England and Wales

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*Gemma Fletcher and Jonathan Allen*

### 8.1 SUMMARY

- Over one-third of respondents (38%) believed the national crime rate had risen 'a lot', and a further 35 per cent believed it had risen 'a little' in the two years prior to interview. Fifty-three per cent of people thought there had been an increase in the level of crime in their local area over the past two years (22% a lot and 31% a little). This is despite the total number of crimes reported to the BCS falling by 17 per cent since 1999.
- Forty-three per cent of those that read tabloid newspapers thought that the national crime rate had increased a lot, compared to 26 per cent of broadsheet readers.
- Levels of confidence in aspects of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) have declined from the 2001/02 levels, except for confidence that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing crimes and treats them fairly, which has increased.
- Fifty-nine per cent of victims were satisfied with the way the police dealt with their incident.
- The percentage of respondents perceiving a high level of disorder in their local area increased slightly between the 2001/02 and 2002/03 survey years. There were small but significant rises in proportions considering teenagers hanging around, rubbish or litter lying around, and people being drunk or rowdy in public places, a problem. However, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion considering people being attacked or harassed because of their race or skin colour a problem in their local area.
- The level of worry about burglary has remained generally level since the last survey year, however worry about car and violent crime has decreased during this period.
- Thirteen per cent of respondents said that they felt 'very unsafe' walking alone in their area after dark, and a further 21 per cent felt 'a bit unsafe'.

The term 'concern about crime' encompasses a variety of different attitudes, feelings and reactions towards crime. The British Crime Survey (BCS) covers concern about crime in a number of ways, ranging from beliefs about trends in crime and personal risks of victimisation to more emotional responses such as worry about specific offences and feeling unsafe after dark (both in one's own home and also walking alone on the streets). All of these are covered here. This chapter also addresses confidence in the Criminal Justice System, victim satisfaction with the police, and perceptions of local disorder and anti-social behaviour.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

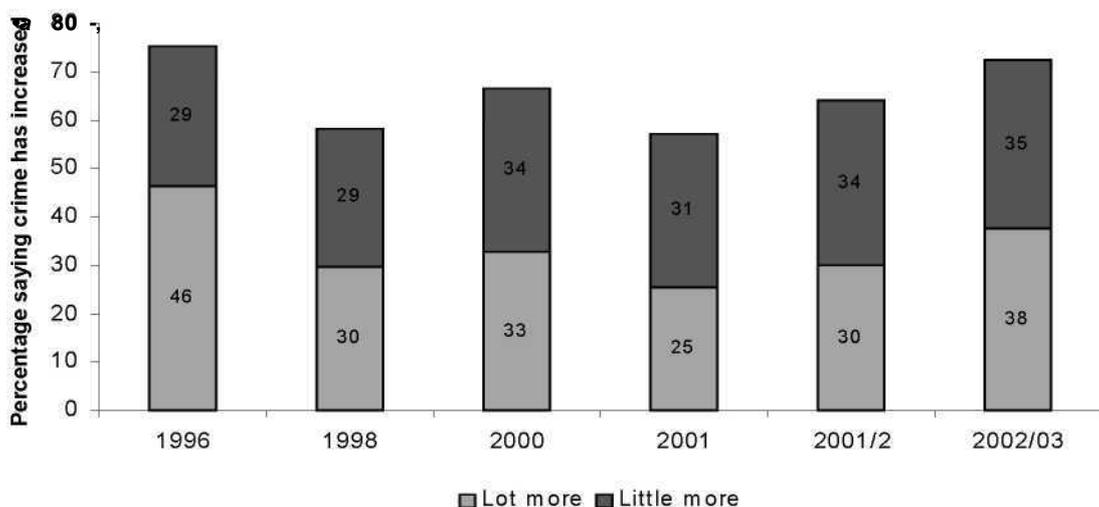
The 2002/03 results presented here relate to attitudes at the time of interview, for those conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003. The 2002/03 sweep of the survey is the second sweep to use continuous sampling throughout the year, the first being the 2001/02 survey (see Simmons et al., 2002). Previous sweeps of the BCS gathered attitudinal information mainly from interviews occurring in the first quarter of each respective year.

### 8.2 PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

#### National crime rate

- The BCS asks respondents how they think the level of crime in the country as a whole has changed over the previous two years. Figure 8.1 indicates that the public increasingly appear pessimistic as to the change in the national crime rate, with over one-third of respondents (38%) believing that crime had risen 'a lot', and a further 35 per cent feeling that crime had risen 'a little' over the previous two years. This is despite the total number of crimes reported to the BCS falling by 17 per cent since 1999.
- Changes in the perception of crime may in part reflect the prevalence and content of media portrayal of crime incidents. Forty-three per cent of those that read tabloid newspapers thought that the national crime rate was increasing a lot, compared with 26 per cent of broadsheet readers. This difference was less marked in peoples' belief about their local crime rates, with 24 per cent of tabloid newspaper readers thinking their local crime rate had increased a lot in the last two years, compared to 18 per cent of broadsheet readers.

**Figure 8.1 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate, 1996 to 2002/03**

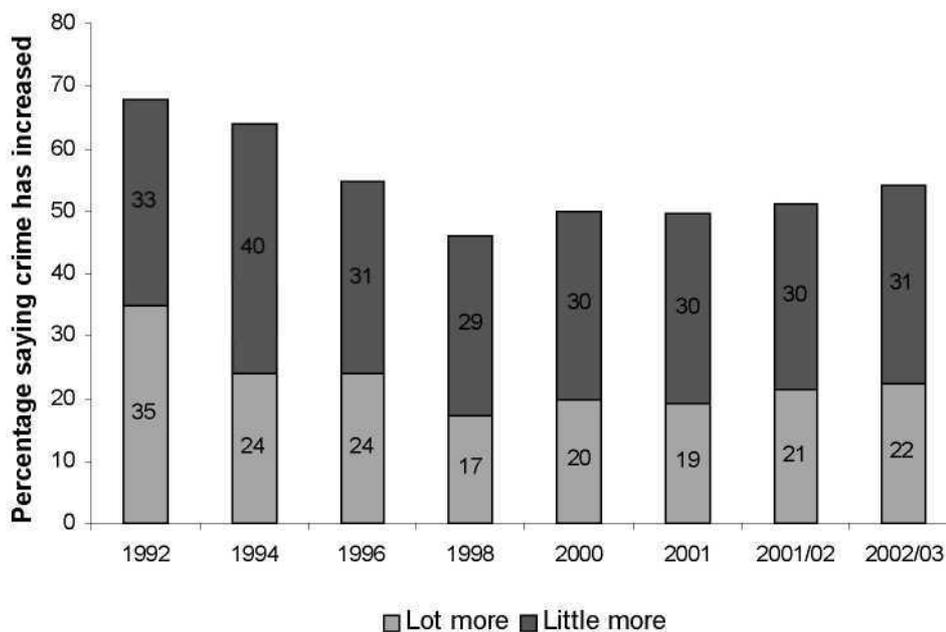


## Local crime rates

People continue to be more optimistic about crime in their *own* area than nationally<sup>1</sup>.

- Respondents were asked whether the local crime rate had changed compared to two years ago. Overall, 53 per cent thought there had been an increase. Twenty-two per cent believed it had increased a lot, with a further 31 per cent thinking it had increased a little.
- There are marginal increases in the number who believe crime in their locality to have gone up a lot compared to the last published results, but people are still more positive than they were in the early to mid 1990s (Figure 8.2; Table 8.02). In 1992, for example, two-thirds thought that crime in their area had increased.

**Figure 8.2 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate, 1992 to 2002/03**



## Confidence in the Criminal Justice System and victim satisfaction with the police

The BCS asks respondents how confident they are in certain aspects of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), and also about the effectiveness of the CJS.

- Overall, levels of confidence in the various aspects have tended to decline from 2001/02 levels (Figure 8.3); however, around three-quarters (77%) were confident that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing crimes and treats them fairly. This is a statistically significant increase from 76 per cent in 2001/02.

<sup>1</sup> Based on respondents who had lived in their area for more than three years.

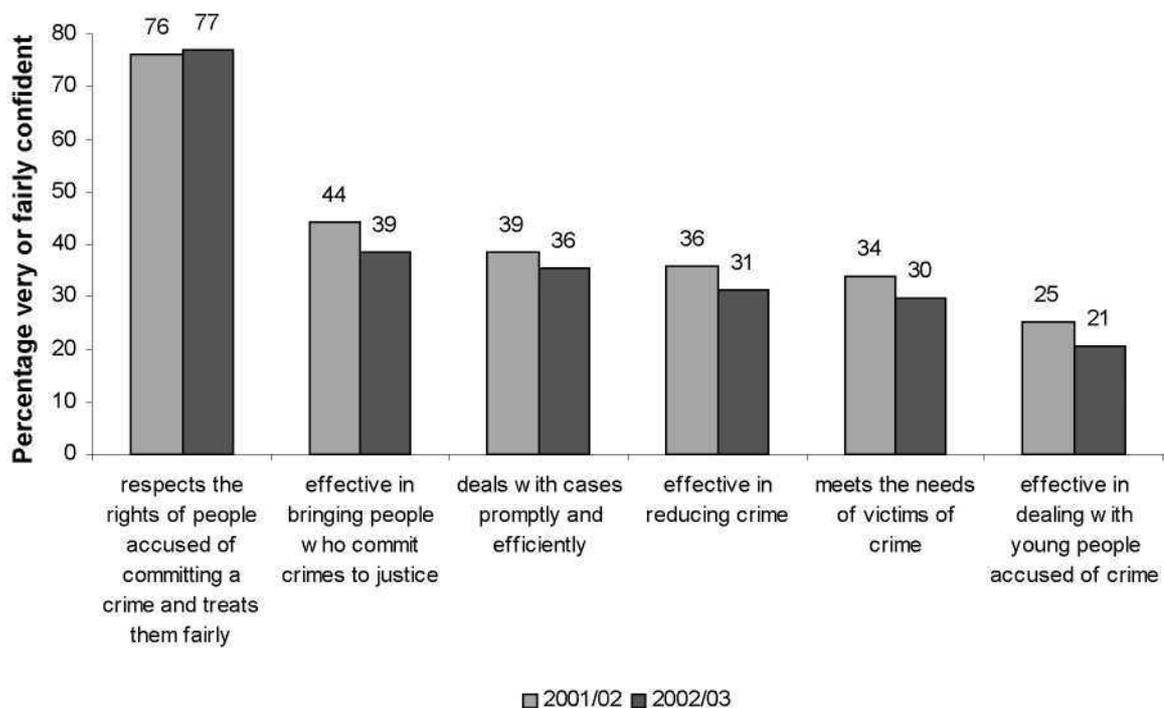
## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- Only 30 percent of the general public were confident that the CJS meets the needs of victims, a significant decrease from 34 per cent in 2001/02. Around one-fifth (21%) felt it is effective in dealing with young people accused of crime, a reduction from one-quarter (25%) in the last financial year (Figure 8.3).

Victims of crime are asked by the BCS how satisfied overall they were about the way the police handled the matter (if it came to their attention).

- Overall, 59 per cent of victims were satisfied with the way the police dealt with their incident, a quarter (25%) were very satisfied and a further third (34%) were fairly satisfied. Until now, victim's satisfaction with the way the police dealt with the matter has been gradually decreasing since the 1994 BCS (see Flood-Page and Taylor (eds). 2003, Figure 7.3).

**Figure 8.3 Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System**



## Local disorder and anti-social behaviour

- The percentage of respondents perceiving a high level of disorder in their local area increased slightly between the 2001/02 and the 2002/03 survey years (Table 8a, Table 8.12).

<sup>1</sup> The reductions indicated are all statistically significant.

## Perceptions of and concern about crime in England and Wales

There were small but significant rises in proportions considering teenagers hanging around, rubbish or litter lying around, and people being drunk or rowdy in public places, a very or fairly big problem. There was, however, a significant decrease (at the 10% level) in the proportion considering people being attacked or harassed because of their race or colour a problem in their local area. The biggest perceived problem remained vandalism and graffiti, with 35 per cent of respondents saying they felt it was a very or fairly big problem (Table 8a, Table 8.12). Anti-social behaviour was more likely to be considered a problem by people living in inner cities, council estate areas and where neighbourhood cohesion was considered low (Table 8.13).

Table 8a Fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder

Percentages	BCS		
	2001/02	2002/03	Statistically significant change?
High level of perceived disorder	20	22	** -
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10	10	-
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	32	33	**
Rubbish or litter lying around	34	35	-
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	9	8	*
People being attacked/harassed because of their race/colour	31	32	-
People using or dealing drugs	22	23	**
<u>People being drunk or rowdy in public places</u>			

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. Excludes don't knows.

3. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level, a double at the 5% level (two tail tests) or a '-' for non-significant change.

### The likelihood of victimisation

The BCS asks respondents how likely they think it is that various crimes will happen to them in the following year, specifically: being burgled; having their car/items from their car stolen; being mugged or robbed; or being attacked by a stranger.<sup>3</sup>

- Very few people thought that these crimes were 'very likely' to happen to them (between 2 to 5%), but around a quarter of respondents thought that it was 'fairly likely' that their car would be stolen or that items would be stolen from it, and a fifth (19%) thought it fairly likely that their home would be burgled.
- The actual risks of becoming a victim of car crime according to results from 2002/03 interviews for vehicle-owning households were 6.8 per cent for suffering a theft from a vehicle and 1.5 per cent having their vehicle stolen. The risk of a household being burgled was 3.4 per cent.
- People felt that it was less likely that they would be a victim of violent crime, for example 13 per cent thought it likely they would be a victim of stranger attack. To this extent views were rational given that violent crime is less likely than the other offences, the overall victimisation risk is 4.1 per cent, however this does vary considerably depending on who you are and where you live.

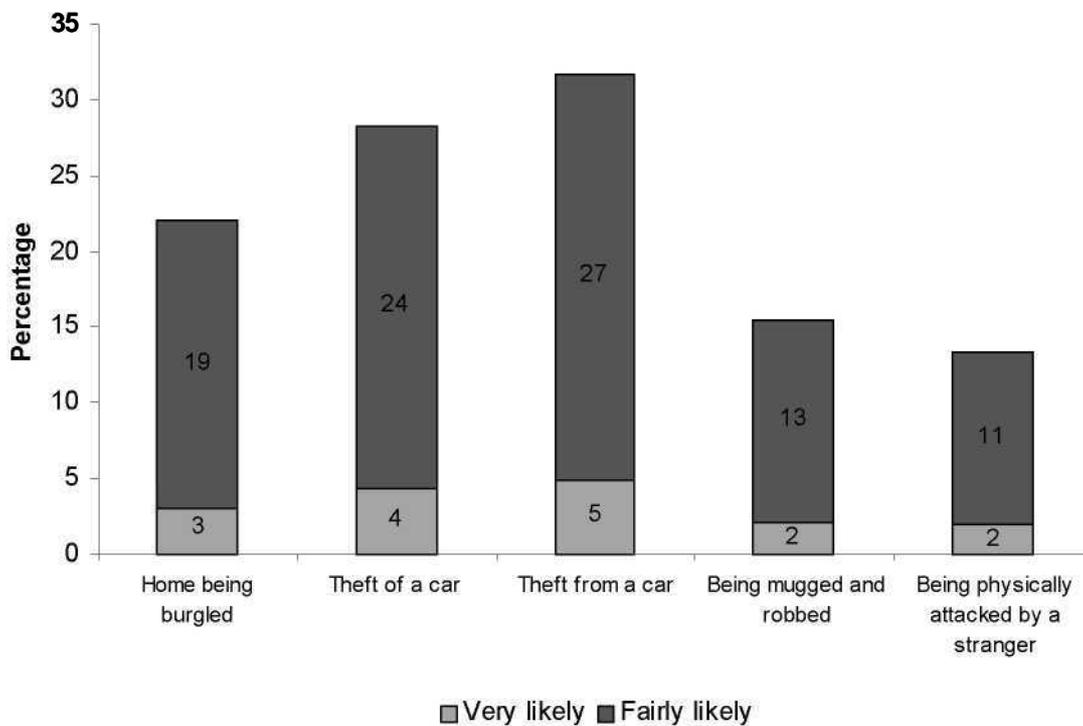
Respondents were given a four-point response scale in the latest sweep - 'very likely', 'fairly likely', 'fairly unlikely', and 'very unlikely'. This scale was also used in the 2000, 2001, and 2002 BCS; however earlier sweeps adopted a five-point scale, including a 'certain' code. This change means that results can not be compared to those prior to 2000.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

The BCS shows that perceptions are to some degree associated with actual levels of risk. People living in areas where the risk of victimisation was high according to the latest results were more likely to consider that they would be victimised. Residents in inner-city areas or council estates felt particularly vulnerable. Respondents living in areas with high levels of physical disorder were much more likely to believe they would be victimised. Other groups who were more likely to believe that they would be victimised were those with low household incomes, living in social rented accommodation and those living in neighbourhoods where people 'go their own way' (low neighbourhood cohesion) (Table 8.11). Personal experiences of crime are linked to perceptions of risk. For example, almost half of those who had been burgled in the previous year thought it likely they would be burgled in the following year (49%, see Table 8.10).

- The results for 2002/03 show general stability since the last survey year, with a slight decrease in the number of people who felt it was likely they would have either their car stolen, or something stolen from it, which reflects a fall in the level of actual vehicle theft in the same period.

**Figure 8.4 Percentage thinking it likely they will be a victim in the following year, 2002/03**

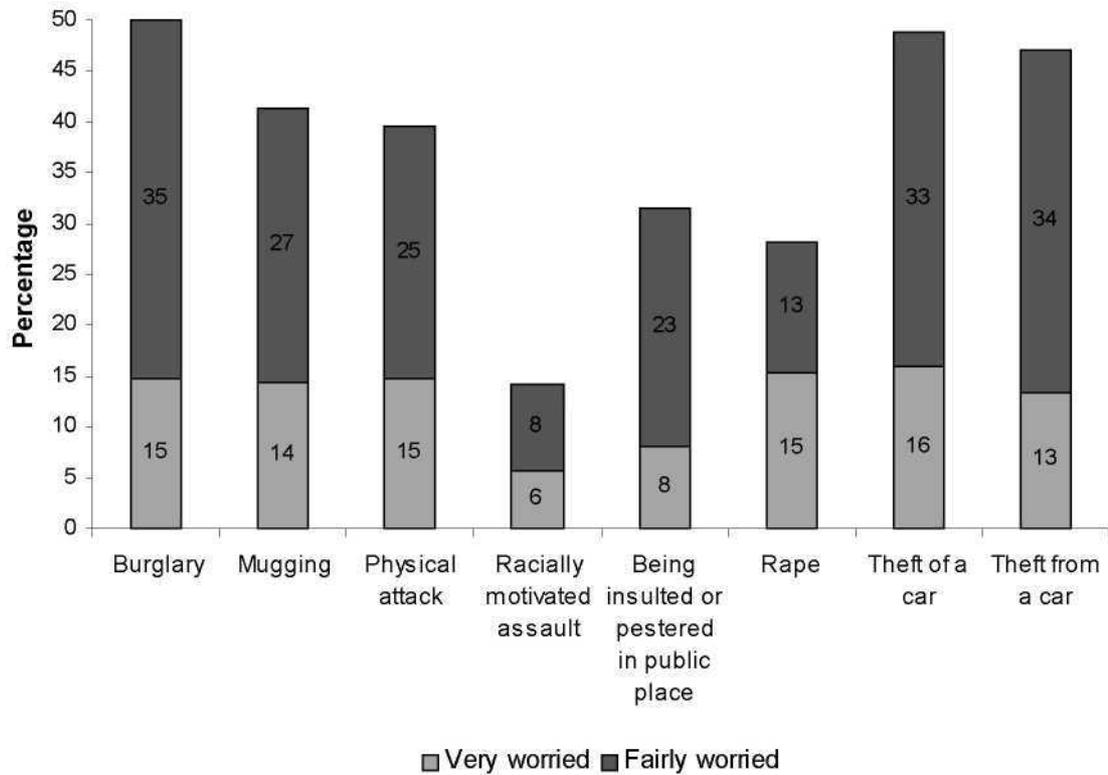


### 8.3 WORRY ABOUT VICTIMISATION

The BCS asks people how worried they are about various crimes.<sup>4</sup> Figure 8.5 shows the proportion who were either 'very' or 'fairly' worried for 2002/03.<sup>5</sup>

- Less than one-fifth of respondents considered themselves to be very worried for all of the crimes listed.
- For racially-motivated assaults and being insulted or pestered the figures were lower. Although, of course, these particular forms of behaviour will be more of a concern for some individuals than others. In fact, 22 per cent of ethnic minority respondents were very worried about racially-motivated assault, compared to four per cent of white respondents.

**Figure 8.5 Worry about crime, 2002/03**



Respondents are also asked how much they worry about being insulted or pestered which may fall short of being a criminal offence.

See Table 8.04 for separate male and female estimates on worry about rape.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

The BCS also provides information on Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI). BVPI 121 relates to worry about crime and consists of three components: a measure based on worry about burglary, one based on two questions on worry about car crime, and a further measure based on four questions on worry about violence (see Glossary for further details). The level of worry about burglary has remained generally level since the last survey year (following a statistically significant fall from 1998 to 2001/02), however worry about car and violent crime has decreased during this period (see Table 8b).

**Table 8b Worry about crime**

Percentages	2001/02	2002/03	Statistically significant change?	BCS
High level of worry about burglary	15.2	14.7	-	
High level of worry about car crime	17.5	16.6	*	
High level of worry about violent crime	21.8	20.6	**	

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. Excludes don't knows.

3. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level, a double at the 5% level (two tail tests) or a '-' for non-significant change.

## Worry about crime and newspaper readership

Worry about crime is associated with newspaper readership. For example, 17 per cent of people that read national tabloids most often were very worried about being a victim of physical attack by a stranger, compared to only six per cent of broadsheet readers. This relationship is consistent when looking at worry about other types of crime (Table 8c).

**Table 8c Worry about crime types by newspaper readership**

Percentages	BCS	
	<i>% very worried about:</i>	
	National tabloids	National broadsheets
Burglary	17	9
Mugging	16	7
Physical attack	17	6
Rape	18	7
Being insulted or pestered in a public place	9	5

1. Source 2002/03 BCS.

2. Excludes don't knows

**Trends over time**

The BCS has included questions on worry about different crimes since 1984. Figures 8.6 and 8.7 show the trends in levels of concern. Arguably the 'very' worried category provides a more discriminating measure and it is this that is used in the rest of this section to examine trends in worry and which groups are most concerned.

- The 1994 BCS saw levels of worry for all types of crime reach their highest level, but since then, levels of those very worried have generally continued to fall, mirroring the fall in crime. For example, the proportion very worried about burglary has fallen from 26 per cent in 1994 to 15 per cent currently; worry about theft of and from cars has also seen similar large decreases in this period. Worry about mugging and rape (for women) has fallen by one-third since 1994 and 1988 respectively. Between the last survey results and 2002/03 the proportion very worried about the varying crime types fell marginally, with the exception of burglary and physical attack which remained stable.

**Figure 8.6 Trend in worry about property crime, 1984 to 2002/03**

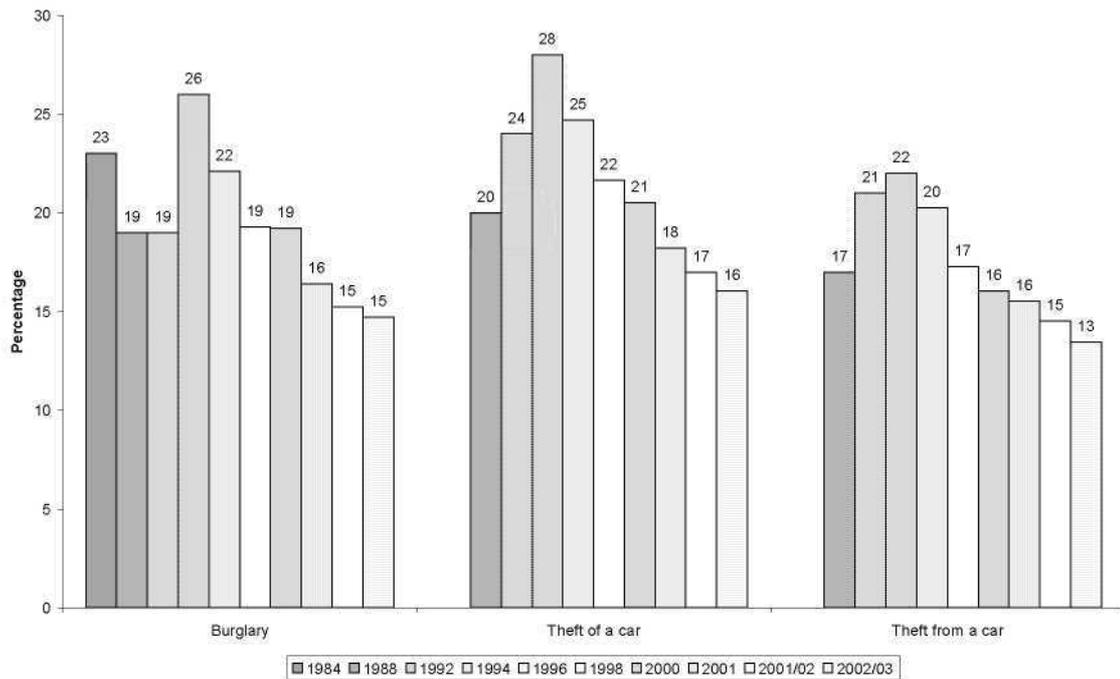
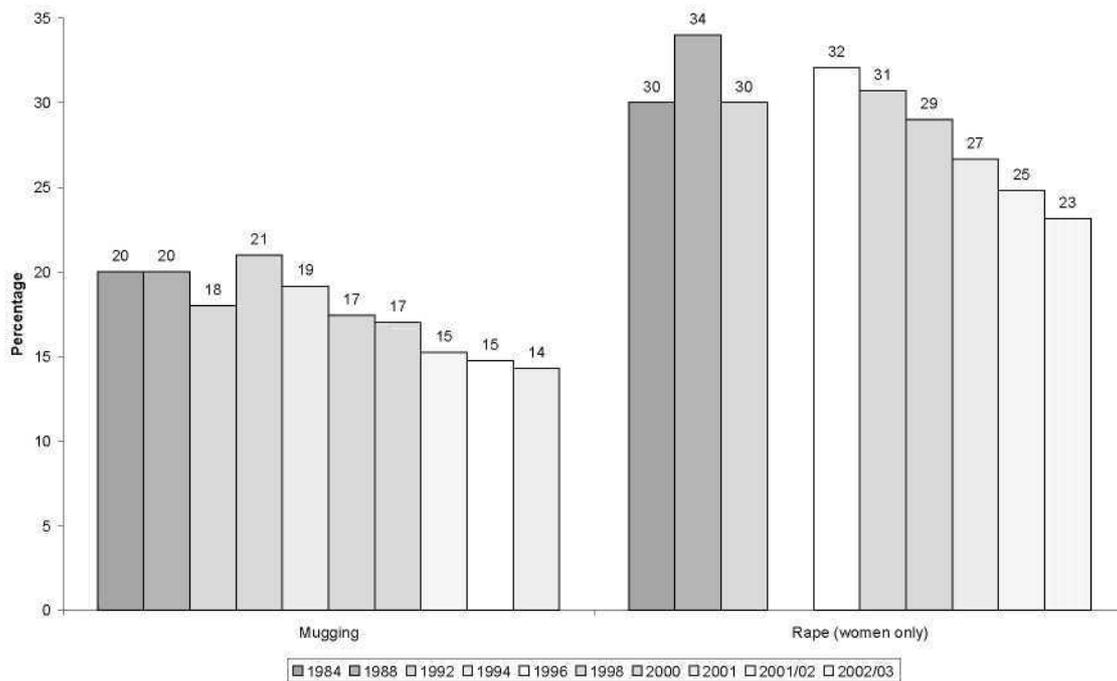


Figure 8.7 Trend in worry about violent crime, 1984 to 2002/03



#### 8.4 CONCERN ABOUT PERSONAL SAFETY

*Apart from asking people how worried they are about different crimes, the BCS also asks how safe they feel when (a) walking alone in their area after dark and (b) alone in their home at night. These questions are frequently used in surveys but it should be emphasised that they make no reference to crime. There could be many reasons why people feel unsafe in such circumstances (e.g. fear of the dark, fear of a fall etc.). Furthermore, for some people the questions will be hypothetical because they are never or infrequently in these situations.*

- For the survey year 2002/03, 13 per cent of respondents said that they felt 'very unsafe' walking alone in their area after dark and a further 21 per cent felt 'a bit unsafe' (Table 8.04).
- People were far less likely to feel unsafe alone in their own home, with only one per cent saying they felt 'very unsafe' and five per cent 'a bit unsafe'. This figure, however, varies depending on socio-demographic factors (see Table 8.04).
- The proportion feeling unsafe has remained relatively stable over time. Not surprisingly, people are more likely to feel worried if they have been a victim of crime. Those that had been burgled were much more likely to feel unsafe alone in their home at night, as were those who had been a victim of violence (Table 8.05).

The results for the question on rape in the 1994 BCS are not comparable to other sweeps. Worry about physical attack was only asked from 1998 onwards (see Table 8.03).

## 8.5 FACTORS AFFECTING CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

*All sweeps of the BCS have shown marked social and demographic variations in levels of concern. The correlates of fear based on bivariate analysis emerging here are: demographic factors, experience of crime, perceptions of crime risk, perceived levels of disorder and neighbourhood cohesion.*

- **Gender:** Women are far more worried about violent crime than men. Around a quarter of women said they were very worried about being raped or physically attacked, and one-fifth (19%) were very worried about being mugged. These findings are consistent with previous sweeps.
- **Age and gender:** In terms of concerns about personal safety, women were just over four times more likely to feel unsafe when walking alone at night than men, and older people were considerably more anxious than younger people (Table 8.04). Women aged 60 and over were by far the most likely to say they felt or would feel very unsafe in these circumstances (33%). Levels of worry about thefts of and from cars were largely comparable between the sexes, with the young most concerned about car-related theft.
- **Health:** The 2002/03 results, as earlier ones, show that those who consider themselves to be in poor health or who have a limiting illness or disability generally have heightened levels of concern (Table 8.04). For example, 25 per cent of those people considering themselves in bad or very bad health felt very worried about being mugged, compared to 13 per cent of those in good or very good health. It is difficult to know why those in poor health consider themselves more at risk, but there are several possible explanations. First, those who are in poor health may feel more vulnerable to a variety of misfortunes. Second, they may feel that they are seen to be an easy target by potential offenders. Third, those in poor health may feel that they would be less able to cope physically, emotionally or financially if they were to be victimised. Fourth, worrying about crime may itself be a causal factor in stress-related illness.
- **Locality:** Levels of concern vary considerably across different types of locality with, not surprisingly, those living in areas where victimisation risks are relatively high being more likely to say they are worried about crime. Those living in inner-city areas and council estate areas were particularly concerned (Table 8.07 and Table 8.11).
- **Prior victimisation:** Victims of any BCS crime in the previous year were more likely to be very worried than non-victims (Table 8.05).
- **Perceptions of disorder:** Levels of concern were high in areas where the interviewer assessed physical disorder to be commonplace. Respondents were also asked their views as to how much of a problem various physical and social disorders were in their area. Those who perceived high levels of disorder (defined here as teenagers hanging around, vandalism or drug misuse) in their area were more concerned about crime and their own safety (Table 8.07).

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- **Neighbourhood cohesion:** Respondents were asked whether they thought that their neighbourhood was one in which people did things together and tried to help each other or one in which people mostly went their own way. Levels of concern were higher among people who lived in areas where there was less sense of community (Table 8.07).

### 8.6 THE IMPACT OF CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

#### Never going out for fear of crime

- Overall, 29 per cent said that they never walked alone in their local area after dark during the spring and autumn periods and a further 11 per cent said they went out less than once a month. Women were more likely than men to say they never walked in their local area alone after dark (43%), particularly those aged 60 or over (68%).
- There are many reasons why people may not walk in their area after dark<sup>7</sup>. For those people who go out less than once a month or never, the most common reason why was that they drove or used a car (43% of respondents - 17% of whole sample) followed by a lack of inclination<sup>8</sup> (27% - 11% of whole sample). Fear of crime (either mugging, physical attack, burglary or vandalism) was cited by one-fifth (20%) of those respondents that went out less than once a month or never, that is eight per cent of the whole sample.

#### Quality of life

*Respondents are asked how much their own quality of life is affected by fear of crime on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is total effect on their quality of life. A scale was constructed from these responses, with scores 1 to 3 designated a minimal effect, 4 to 7 moderate, and 8 to 10 a great effect.*

- For 2002/03, over half (60%) of those asked felt that fear of crime had a minimal impact on their quality of life and a further third (33%) said it had a moderate impact. Only seven per cent considered that their quality of life was greatly affected because of their fear of crime, a slight increase on the last survey year results.
- The BCS also asked a different random sample of respondents about how much crime itself affected their quality of life. The results indicate that crime has less of an effect on respondents than fear of crime, possibly reflecting the fact that whilst victimisation is relatively rare (at least as far as the last year is concerned) and tends to be concentrated on certain groups or areas, it remains a potentiality for all.

Respondents were asked unprompted why they did not go out more/anymore, all responses given were recorded. People who said they had no reason to, were busy or content staying home or did not want to go out.

## Perceptions of and concern about crime in England and Wales

**Table 8d The impact of crime and fear of crime on quality of life, 2001/02 and 2002/03**

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>BCS</b>			
	<b>Fear of crime</b>		<b>Crime</b>	
	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03
Minimal (scores <b>1 to 3</b> )	63	60	71	69
Moderate (scores <b>4 to 7</b> )	31	33	24	25
Great (scores <b>8 to 10</b> )	6	7	5	6
<b>Mean</b>	<b>3.3</b>	3.4	2.9	<b>3.0</b>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3966	4492	4063	4590

1. Source 2002/03 BCS
2. Excludes don't knows.

- Older respondents are generally more likely than younger ones to report fear of crime having a great effect on their quality of life. There are some minor differences evident from the last sweep, that indicate a slight reduction in the effect of fear of crime on quality of life for 16-29 year olds and a marginal increase for those in the 30-59 age group.

**Figure 8.8 Effect of fear of crime on quality of life for different age groups, 2002/03**

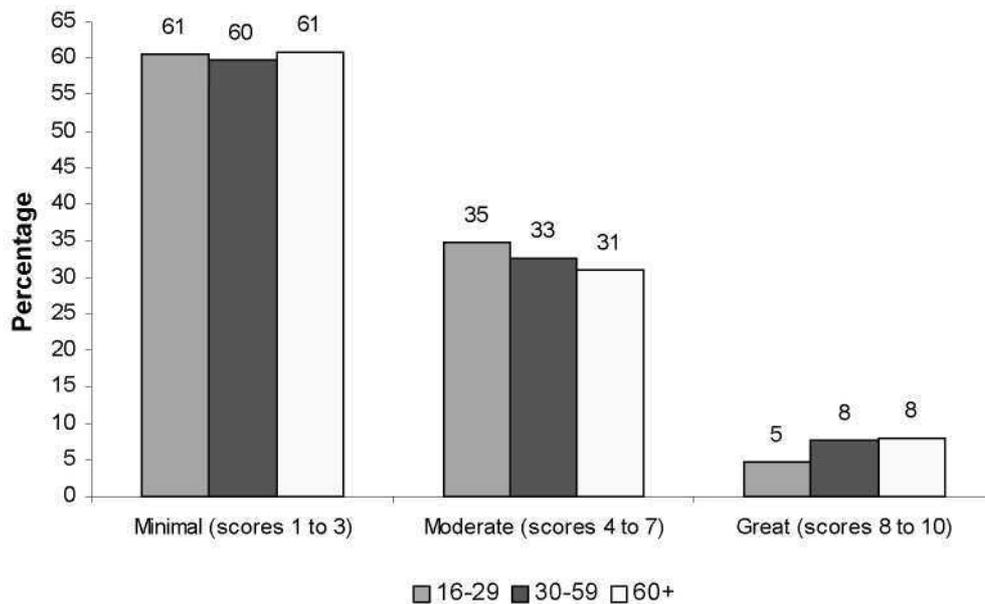


Table 8.01 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate over the previous two years 1996 to 2002/03

Percentages						BCS
	1996	1998	2000	2001	2001/02	2002/03
Lot more	46	30	33	25	30	38
Little more	29	29	34	31	34	35
Same	21	32	28	36	29	24
Little or lot less	4	10	6	8	6	4
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>8,235</i>	<i>7,248</i>	<i>9,369</i>	<i>2,190</i>	<i>8,138</i>	<i>8,958</i>

1. Source 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS.
2. Note that estimates for 1996 to 2001 may vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary).

Table 8.02 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate over the previous two years  
1992 to 2002/03

<b>Percentages</b>	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2001/02	<b>BCS</b> 2002/03
Lot more	35	24	24	17	20	19	21	22
Little more	33	40	31	29	30	30	30	31
Same	27	28	35	37	36	39	39	37
Little or lot less	5	8	10	17	14	12	10	9
<i><u>Unweighted N</u></i>	<i>7,986</i>	<i>12,714</i>	<i>7,297</i>		<i>7,816</i>	<i>1,796</i>	<i>6,765</i>	<i>7,338</i>

1. Source 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2001/02 and 2002/03 BCS.

2. 1992, 1994 and 1996 based on respondents who had been living in their area for more than two years. From 1998 onwards based on those who had been living in their area for three years or more.

Table 8.03 Trends in worry about crime 1984 to 2002/03

	Percentages									
	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2001/02	BCS 2002/03
<b>Burglary</b>										
Very worried	23	19	19	26	22	19	19	16	15	15
Fairly worried	35	37	37	39	39	39	38	36	36	35
Not very worried	33	34	34	28	31	34	35	37	38	39
Not at all worried	10	11	10	7	8	8	8	11	11	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	11,014	10,370	10,044	74,502	7,973	74,925	19,388	8,964	32,765	36,427
<b>Mugging</b>										
Very worried	20	20	18	21	19	17	17	15	15	14
Fairly worried	22	25	25	27	27	27	27	26	26	27
Not very worried	39	39	39	38	38	40	42	42	42	41
Not at all worried	19	16	18	14	15	15	14	17	18	17
<i>Unweighted N</i>	10,976	10,307	9,993	14,440	7,933	14,880	19,309	8,939	32,667	36,347
<b>Physical attack</b>										
Very worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18	18	16	15	15
Fairly worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	25	24	24	25
Not very worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38	39	39	38	40
Not at all worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	18	21	22	21
<i>Unweighted N</i>						14,887	19,332	8,937	32,683	36,366
<b>Racially motivated assault</b>										
Very worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	8	7	8	7	7	6
Fairly worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	10	9	9	9	9	8
Not very worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	30	27	31	29	29	31
Not at all worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	55	52	57	53	55	55	55
<i>Unweighted N</i>				72,735	6,955	73,275	77,453	7,793	26,467	29,024
<b>Being insulted or pestered in public place</b>										
Very worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a	9	9	9	8
Fairly worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	n/a	n/a	23	23	22	23
Not very worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	41	n/a	n/a	44	41	41	42
Not at all worried	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	n/a	n/a	24	27	28	27
<i>Unweighted N</i>				74,359			19,296	8,925	32,654	36,289
<b>Rape (women only)<sup>2</sup></b>										
Very worried	30	34	30	*	32	31	29	27	25	23
Fairly worried	18	21	21	*	21	21	21	18	19	20
Not very worried	34	31	32	*	31	32	33	35	34	36
Not at all worried	18	14	18	*	17	17	17	21	22	21
<i>Unweighted N</i>	5,708	5,415	5,457		4,305	8,360	10,420	4,857	17,874	19,878
<b>Theft of a car<sup>3</sup></b>										
Very worried	n/a	20	24	28	25	22	21	18	17	16
Fairly worried	n/a	31	34	34	36	35	36	34	34	33
Not very worried	n/a	35	30	28	30	33	33	35	36	37
Not at all worried	n/a	14	12	10	10	11	11	13	14	15
<i>Unweighted N</i>		7,029	4,089	9,632	5,245	10,177	74,724	6,532	23,540	26,534
<b>Theft from a car<sup>3</sup></b>										
Very worried	n/a	17	21	22	20	17	16	16	15	13
Fairly worried	n/a	32	35	36	37	36	37	35	34	34
Not very worried	n/a	37	31	32	33	35	36	36	37	37
Not at all worried	n/a	14	13	10	10	11	12	14	15	15
<i>Unweighted N</i>		7,027	4,086	9,676	5,235	70,759	14,093	6,517	23,577	26,509

1. Source 1984 to 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Prior to the 1998 BCS only asked of female respondents.

3. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

4. 'n/a' indicates that the question was not asked in that particular sweep.

5. '\*' indicates that the results for the question on rape in the 1994 BCS are not comparable to other sweeps.

**Table 8.04 Worry about crime and personal safety, by personal characteristics 2002/03**

Percentages	% feeling very worried about:							BCS % feeling very unsafe:	
	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Walking alone in area after dark	Being at home alone
<b>Men</b>	12	9	7	5	5	15	14	5	<1
16-29	11	10	9	9	5	20	18	3	<1
30-59	13	8	7	5	5	15	14	3	<1
60 or older	11	10	6	2	4	12	9	10	1
<b>Women</b>	17	19	22	23	12	17	13	21	2
16-29	18	21	28	30	14	21	17	16	3
30-59	17	18	22	24	12	17	13	17	2
60 or older	17	20	18	17	9	16	11	33	2
<b>Health</b>									
Very good or good	13	13	14	15	7	15	13	10	1
Fair	18	18	17	16	10	19	14	20	2
Very bad or bad	24	25	22	19	14	23	21	33	5
<b>Disability/illness</b>									
Limiting disability/illness	19	20	18	17	11	20	16	24	3
Non-limiting disability/illness	15	15	14	15	7	17	14	13	1
No disability or illness	14	13	14	15	7	15	13	10	1
<b>Household income<sup>3</sup></b>									
Less than £5,000	22	24	23	23	13	25	18	27	3
£5,000 less than £10,000	21	21	20	19	11	22	17	24	3
£10,000 less than £20,000	16	16	16	16	9	18	15	13	1
£20,000 less than £30,000	14	13	14	14	7	17	15	9	1
£30,000 or more	10	9	10	11	5	12	11	6	<1
<b>Tenure</b>									
Owner occupiers	13	12	13	14	7	14	12	11	1
Social renters	23	23	22	22	13	27	22	24	3
Private renters	13	14	16	16	8	17	16	11	1
<b>Social class</b>									
Professional	7	6	5	4	3	10	10	4	<1
Managerial	10	9	10	11	6	12	11	8	1
Skilled n non manual	14	16	17	18	9	16	13	16	1
Skilled n manual	16	14	12	12	7	19	16	10	1
Partly skilled	19	19	20	20	10	20	15	17	2
Unskilled	20	23	23	23	12	24	20	22	2
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	15	14	15	15	8	16	13	13	1

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

4. <1 denotes a value under 0.5.

Table 8.05 Worry about crime and personal safety, by experiences of crime 2002/03

Percentages	% feeling very worried about:							BCS % feeling very unsafe:	
	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in normal night
<b>Victim in the last year of:</b>									
Burglary	33	22	22	19	15	23	20	19	5
Motor-vehicle crime <sup>2</sup>	18	15	16	16	9	28	26	12	2
Violence	19	20	20	16	15	22	22	14	4
Any BCS crime	19	17	17	17	11	23	21	14	2
<b>Not a victim</b>	13	13	14	15	7	13	10	12	1
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	15	14	15	15	8	16	13	13	1

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

Table 8.06 Worry about crime and personal safety, by perceptions of risk 2002/03

	<b>% feeling very worried about:</b>							<b>% feeling very unsafe:</b>	
	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
<b>Think it is very/fairly likely will in the next year be a victim of:</b>									
Burglary	29	24	24	23	15	30	25	22	3
Mugging or robbery	32	37	35	32	23	36	34	30	4
Stranger assault	32	36	36	30	23	35	33	27	4
Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	23	22	22	22	13	33	29	17	2
Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	20	19	20	21	12	29	28	15	2
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	15	14	15	15	8	16	13	13	1

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

Table 8.07 Worry about crime and personal safety, by type of area 2002/03

Percentages	% feeling very worried about:							BCS % feeling very unsafe:	
	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
<b>Area type</b>									
Inner-city	26	25	24	23	13	29	25	21	2
Urban	15	15	15	16	8	17	14	13	1
Rural	9	8	9	10	5	10	9	8	1
Council estate	21	21	21	20	12	24	8	20	2
Non-council estate	13	13	13	14	7	15	8	11	1
<b>Level of physical disorder (interviewer)<sup>3</sup></b>									
High	25	24	25	24	14	29	25	22	4
Low	14	13	14	14	7	15	13	12	1
<b>Level of disorder (respondent)<sup>4</sup></b>									
High	35	32	33	30	22	8	34	26	4
Low	12	11	12	13	6	8	11	10	1
<b>Type of area</b>									
People help each other	12	12	13	13	6	14	12	11	1
People go their own way	17	17	18	19	11	20	17	18	2
Mixture	8	12	12	12	6	15	12	14	1
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.

4. Based upon respondents perception of how much of a problem the following were in their area (a) teenagers hanging around, (b) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property and (c) people using or dealing in drugs.

Table 8.08 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation 2002/03

Percentages					BCS
	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Fairly likely</u>	<u>Fairly unlikely</u>	<u>Very unlikely</u>	<u>Unweighted N</u>
<b>How likely respondents think the following will happen to them in the next year</b>					
Home being burgled	3	19	58	20	8,853
Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	4	24	55	16	6,823
Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	5	27	51	17	6,828
Being mugged and robbed	2	13	59	25	8,839
<u>Being physically attacked by a stranger</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>8,849</u>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

Table 8.09 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by personal characteristics 2002/03

<b>Percentages</b> <i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Mugging/Robbery	<b>BCS</b> Stranger attack
<b>Men</b>	21	26	31	13	13
16-29	18	21	28	14	18
30-59	22	29	34	12	13
60 or older	21	24	24	13	9
<b>Women</b>	23	30	33	18	13
16-29	25	31	38	24	18
30-59	24	32	34	17	13
60 or older	19	25	23	16	10
<b>Health</b>					
Very good or good	21	28	32	15	13
Fair	24	30	29	18	14
Very bad or bad	27	34	36	19	16
<b>Disability/illness</b>					
Limiting disability/illness	24	30	29	17	14
Non-limiting disability/illness	23	27	28	16	11
No disability or illness	22	28	33	15	13
<b>Household income<sup>3</sup></b>					
Less than £5,000	25	34	38	21	21
£5,000 less than £10,000	29	36	34	22	18
£10,000 less than £20,000	24	32	33	16	14
£20,000 less than £30,000	21	30	35	14	13
£30,000 or more	20	26	31	12	11
<b>Tenure</b>					
Owner occupier	21	28	31	13	11
Social renter	26	36	36	22	18
Private renter	22	24	32	21	19
<b>Social class</b>					
Professional	16	18	24	6	6
Managerial	21	26	31	13	11
Skilled n non manual	23	30	33	17	13
Skilled n manual	24	32	35	13	13
Partly skilled	23	32	34	18	16
Unskilled	22	29	29	22	19
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	15	13

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

Table 8.10 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by experiences of crime 2002/03

<b>Percentages</b> <i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Mugging/Robbery	BCS Stranger attack
<b>Victim in the last year of:</b>					
Burglary	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>
Motor-vehicle crime <sup>2</sup>	<b>32</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>
Violence <sup>3</sup>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>
Any BCS crime	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Not a victim</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. Figures for victims of violence in the last year should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table 8.11 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation, by type of area 2002/03

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>BCS</b>				
<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car <sup>2</sup>	Theft from a car <sup>2</sup>	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
<b>Area type</b>					
Inner-city	29	39	42	27	23
Urban	23	29	33	16	14
Rural	17	23	26	8	7
Council estate	26	35	37	19	17
Non-council estate	21	27	31	15	13
<b>Level of physical disorder (interviewer)<sup>3</sup></b>					
High	36	45	49	29	28
Low	21	27	31	14	12
<b>Type of area</b>					
People help each other	19	27	30	13	11
People go their own way	26	33	38	19	17
Mixture	20	24	28	14	12
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.

Table 8.12 Trends in disorder perceived to be a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem 1992 to 2002/03

Percentages	BCS							
	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2001/02	2002/03
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	8	8	8	8	9	9	10	10
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	20	26	24	27	32	31	32	33
Rubbish or litter lying around	30	26	26	28	30	32	32	33
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	26	29	24	26	32	34	34	35
People being attacked/harassed because of their race/colour	3	5	5	5	8	9	9	8
People using or dealing drugs	14	22	21	25	33	30	31	32
People being drunk or rowdy in public places <sup>2</sup>						22	22	23

1. Source 1992 to 2002/03 BCS.

2. The question relating to people being drunk or rowdy in public places was only introduced in the 2001 BCS.

Table 8.13 Experience of anti-social behaviour by type of area 2002/03

Percentages							BCS
<i>% saying very/fairly big problem in their area:</i>	Noisy neighbours or loud parties	Teenagers hanging around on the streets	Rubbish or litter lying around	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	People being attacked/harassed because of their race/colour	People using or dealing drugs	People being drunk or rowdy in public places
<b>Area type</b>							
Inner-city	18	48	52	54	18	50	33
Urban	10	36	36	37	9	34	26
Rural	5	19	19	20	2	17	12
Council estate	16	48	47	51	12	48	31
Non-council estate	9	30	31	32	7	28	22
<b>Level of physical disorder (interviewer)<sup>2</sup></b>							
High	22	55	64	64	19	56	41
Low	9	31	30	32	7	29	21
<b>Type of area</b>							
People help each other	5	25	26	25	5	23	15
People go their own way	14	39	40	40	13	36	30
Mixture	9	31	32	33	7	30	22
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	10	33	33	35	8	32	23

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

2. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.

Table 8.14 Confidence in the Criminal Justice System with high levels of worry about crime, 2002/03

<u>Percentages</u>	<u>BCS</u>		
<u>% with high levels of worry about:</u>	<u>Violence</u>	<u>Burglary</u>	<u>Car Crime</u>
<i>How confident are you that the Criminal Justice System:</i>			
<b>Is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice?</b>			
Very confident	35	28	26
Fairly confident	20	12	14
Not very confident	19	14	16
Not at all confident	24	21	23
<b>Meets the needs of victims of crime?</b>			
Very confident	40	32	25
Fairly confident	22	13	16
Not very confident	18	13	15
Not at all confident	21	19	21
<b>Respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly?</b>			
Very confident	20	18	19
Fairly confident	19	13	15
Not very confident	24	16	18
Not at all confident	24	21	25
<b>Deals with cases promptly and efficiently?</b>			
Very confident	38	28	26
Fairly confident	22	14	16
Not very confident	18	13	16
Not at all confident	21	18	21
<i>How effective do you think the Criminal Justice System as a whole is in:</i>			
<b>Reducing crime?</b>			
Very effective	42	30	32
Fairly effective	22	13	15
Not very effective	18	13	15
Not at all effective	23	20	22
<b>Dealing with young people accused of crime?</b>			
Very effective	43	33	36
Fairly effective	24	14	15
Not very effective	18	13	15
Not at all effective	21	18	21

1. Source 2002/03 BCS. Excludes don't knows.



## **Appendix 1 Glossary of terms**

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**ACORN** - 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' used in the British Crime Survey (BCS), which 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 breakdown has been used in this report (the 17 groups are constructed from the 54 types). (Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS.)

**Acquaintance violence** - A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It comprises woundings and common assault in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.

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

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

**Attempted vehicle theft** - see **vehicle crime**.

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

**Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)** - These are a suite of indicators developed for monitoring the performance of local authorities and police authorities. There are three indicators directly based on BCS data. These are BVPIs 120 (level of crime), 121 (fear of crime) and 122 (feelings of public safety). The BCS can generate indicator values at police force area level, but finer breakdowns are not available (e.g. to **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership** level). For consistency with the national indicator on fear of crime, those who give a 'don't know' response or refuse to answer questions on worry about crime are excluded from the calculation of BVPI 121 and 122.

**BVP1120** is made up of two components:

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

**BVP1121** consists of three components:

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

*The BVPI 121 component for burglary* is the percentage of respondents who say they are 'very worried' about having their home broken into and something stolen.

*The BVPI 121 component for car crime* is based on two questions on worry about 'having your car stolen' and 'having things stolen from your car'. It uses a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: 'very worried' = 2; 'fairly worried' = 1; 'not very worried' and 'not at all worried' = 0. Scores for individual respondents are calculated by summing the scores across each question, these ranging from 0 to 4. The percentage for BVPI 121 is based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle who score 3 or 4 on this scale.

*The BVPI 121 component for violence* is based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. The same coding system for question responses has been used as for the vehicle crime questions. Once results from the four questions are combined the scale ranges from 0 (i.e. all responses are either 'not very worried' or 'not at all worried') to 8 (i.e. all responses are 'very worried'). The percentage for BVPI 121 is based on respondents who score 4 or more on this scale.

**BVPI 122** consists of one indicator based on a scale constructed from questions on problems due to teenagers hanging around, vandalism, racial attacks, drug dealing and people being drunk or rowdy. It is based on a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: 'very big problem' = 3, 'fairly big problem' = 2, 'not a very big problem' = 1 and 'not a problem at all' = 0. The maximum score for the five questions is 15 and the BVPI 122 percentage is based on those who score 8 or more on this scale. This disorder scale can only be calculated for the 2001 BCS sweep onwards as the question on people being drunk or rowdy was only introduced in 2001.

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

**Burglary** - An offence of burglary is recorded by the police if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. Figures on recorded crime are provided separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and those which occur in commercial or other properties. In making comparisons with police recorded crime, **burglary with no loss** is used in the BCS comparisons as a proxy for attempted burglary, though there will be some instances with no loss where entry has been gained. Attempted burglaries figures are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. The BCS covers domestic burglary only, but it is possible to differentiate between attempted burglaries and burglaries with entry. Burglary does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

impersonating a meter reader). Burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be there at the time of the offence (see **theft in a dwelling**). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g. hallways) are also included if usually secure. See also: **attempted burglary, burglary-no loss, burglary with entry, burglary with loss, domestic burglary** and **theft in a dwelling**.

**Burglary-no loss** - Police recorded crime figures do not distinguish between burglary with entry and attempted burglary, only between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss. Burglary-no loss includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. This is used when comparing the BCS and recorded crime figures. Attempted burglaries figures are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. With effect from 1 April 2002, value of property stolen ceased to be collected via the police recorded crime collection so no BCS comparisons on value of property stolen are possible.

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

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

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

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

The calibration weighting method is now used on the General Household Survey (ONS), the Expenditure and Food Survey (ONS and DEFRA), the Family Resources Survey (DWP), Family and Children's Survey (DWP) and the Labour Force Survey (ONS). It is also being developed for the National Travel Survey (DfT). The method is also used on the 2000 ONS UK Time Use Survey and a number of other *ad hoc* surveys.

Work undertaken by Professor Peter Lynn (Professor of Survey Methodology in the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex) has indicated that the change in BCS methodology may, for some household offences, have *improved* recall of offences (i.e. may have

increased the household crime count). For crimes against the person, such as violence, no adjustments have been indicated as these appear to be quite readily recollected by victims.

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

**Comparable subset of crimes** - Seventy-eight per cent of BCS offences reported via interviews in the **2002/03 interview sample** fall into categories which can be compared with crimes recorded under the new police coverage of offences adopted from 1 April 1998. The new comparable subset includes common assaults (and assaults on a constable), and vehicle interference and tampering. As with the old comparable subset, the new comparable subset is used to observe differences between police and BCS figures (see also **old comparable subset of crime**).

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

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

**Confidence interval** - The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie (also referred to as margin of error). Surveys produce statistics, which are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. A 95 per cent confidence interval is the range within which one would expect the true value to lie in one out of every 20 times solely due to chance variation; a 90 per cent confidence interval relates to a one in 10 chance of the true value lying outside the range. Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between BCS sweeps. If a change is outside a range set by a 95 per cent confidence interval then one judges the change to be 'statistically significant at the five per cent level'; if a change is outside a 90 per cent confidence interval it is 'statistically significant at the 10 per cent level'. In this publication a 10 per cent significance level has been applied. See also the definition of **statistical significance**.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

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

**Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)** - Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are broadly Local Authority Areas. They include representatives from police, health, probation and other local agencies and provide strategies for reducing crime in the area. There are currently 376 CDRPs in England and Wales.

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

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

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

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

**Fraud** - Dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or a pecuniary advantage. Recorded crime statistics are collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; cheque and credit card fraud; other frauds; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery; vehicle/driver document fraud. Credit card fraud is covered to a small extent within the technology crimes module of the BCS, although fraud is mainly a crime against commercial organisations and therefore not thoroughly investigated by the BCS.

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

**Homicide** - Comprises the recorded crimes of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. The published figures do not separately identify between these categories since at the time an offence is recorded by the police the circumstances surrounding the offence may not necessarily be

## Glossary of terms

known. Whether an offence is murder or manslaughter may be decided once an offender has been apprehended and appeared in court. The BCS, by its nature (i.e. being reliant on victim interviews), cannot include homicide.

**Household crimes** - For household offences reported in the BCS, all members of the household can be regarded as victims. Therefore the respondent answers on behalf of the whole household in the offence categories of: bicycle theft; burglary; theft in a dwelling; other household theft; thefts of and from vehicles; and vandalism to household property and vehicles.

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

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

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

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

**Impact offences** - In this volume, these are the crimes which were identified in *An initial analysis of police recorded crime data to end of March 2001 to establish the effects of the introduction of the ACPO National Crime Recording Standard* as those crimes which appeared to be most affected by the introduction of the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard. See Simmons (2001) for details.

**Inner-city areas** - Inner-city areas are defined in the BCS at the sampling stage as those postcode sectors with high population density, low owner-occupation and low proportions of professionals. See Hales *et al.* (2000), for full details.

**2002/03 interview sample** - This is the sample on which latest BCS results are based. It consists of all respondents interviewed by the BCS in the 2002/03 financial year who were asked to recall their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

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

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

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

**National Crime Recording Standard** - Instigated by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with Home Office support, it aims to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim-orientated approach to crime recording. Although some forces adopted the Standard early, it was officially introduced across England and Wales on 1 April 2002. A copy is attached as an Annex to the counting rules, which are available on the Home Office website. Also see text box in Chapter 3.

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

**Old comparable subset of crimes** - Sixty-four per cent of offences reported via interviews in the **2002/03 interview sample** fall into the old comparable subset. This is the subset used, for BCS sweeps up to and including the 1998 sweep, to make comparisons with police figures. This excludes common assaults, 'other household theft' and 'other theft of personal property'. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the BCS. Comparable crime is used to compare trends in police and BCS figures, and to identify the amount of crime that is not reported to the police and not recorded by them. Trends for 'old comparable' police recorded crime have been continued to the 2002/03 sweep of the survey by applying adjustments to take account of changes in police counting rules.

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

**Old methodology sample** - This sample was used to generate BCS estimates of levels of crime in 2000 (see Kershaw *et al.*, 2000). This sample used precisely the same methodology that applied for previous BCS sweeps, with respondents asked to recall crime incidents in the previous *calendar* year (see **recall period**).

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

The harmonised variables used in this publication are:

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

*Employment status*:

- Economically inactive - includes respondents of working age (16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women) who are retired; going to school or

## Glossary of terms

college full time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

- Employed - includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed - actively seeking work, or waiting to take up work.

*GOR* - Government Office Regions: North East; North West; Yorkshire and Humberside; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West and Wales.

*Household accommodation type:*

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

*Living arrangements:*

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

*Tenure:*

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

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

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

**Personal crimes** - For personal offences, the respondent reports only on his/her experience to the BCS. This applies to the following offence categories: assault; sexual offences; robbery; theft from the person; and other personal theft. Information is also collected on threats, though not reported in this publication as few meet the criteria of an offence. The BCS does not cover personal crimes against those aged under 16 or not living in private households.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

**Physical disorder** - Two measures are used in the BCS. The first is based on the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. The interviewer has to make their own assessment as to whether each of these problems is very or fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The second measure is based on the respondent's perception of local problems; for the definition of this measure see **BVP1122**.

**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.

**Population figures** - The BCS uses population figures in the calibration weighting and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes. Following the 2001 Census, the Office for National Statistics issued revised estimates of population involving the total numbers of people and the distribution by age and sex. Revisions for 2002/03 were not available in time for the production of this report. Thus, calibration weighting for 2002/3 and previous years has been calculated using population distributions which have not incorporated census revisions. However, for the calculation of the numbers of crimes, population figures based on Census-revised mid-year estimates have been used for figures up to and including 2001/02 and census-revised population projections have been used for 2002/03. Figures relating to the estimated numbers of adults in the population were supplied by the Office for National Statistics and household estimates were supplied by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Some of the tables in this volume use population figures with recorded crime figures to calculate the number of crimes per 1,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2001 population estimates (the most recent data available at a local level) provided by the Office for National Statistics.

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

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

**Recall period** - This is the time over which BCS respondents are asked to report offences they had experienced. Other information about victims and their experiences is derived from incidents occurring during the full recall period. Following the introduction of continuous sampling in 2001/02 the BCS recall period for offences relates to the 12 months prior to interview. Prior to this the recall period was between 1 January 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## Glossary of terms

**Recorded crime** - Police recorded crime is those crimes which are recorded by the police and which are notified to the Home Office. All indictable and triable-either-way offences are included together with certain closely associated summary offences. Attempts are also included. A full list is included in Appendix 3 of the annual command paper 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales'.

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

**Robbery** - An incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. Recorded crime offences are distinguished between robbery of personal property and business property. Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. If the use or threat of force is not there, an offence of theft from the person is recorded (this would be classified in the BCS as **snatch theft**, which together with **robbery** comprises the BCS **mugging** category). The BCS excludes robberies against those not living in private households and those aged under 16. If a BCS respondent is assaulted or threatened in the course of a robbery of a business this would be coded as robbery or attempted robbery. A robbery would also be recorded if the BCS respondent was also a victim of theft in the course of the robbery or if the business is the respondent's business and they are a sole trader.

**Rural areas** - Defined in the BCS as those areas falling into Acorn types 1 to 9 and 27 (CACI Ltd.). See also: **ACORN**.

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

**Sexual offences** - There are 15 separate offences included in the recorded crime sexual offences group including the offences of rape and indecent assault. Due to the small number of these picked up by the BCS, results are too unreliable to report. The 1994 BCS, however, included a computerised self-completion component on sexual victimisation to improve estimates (Percy and Mayhew, 1997). Woundings with a sexual nature are included in **wounding**.

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

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

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

chance. In this publication tests at the 10 per cent and five per cent significance levels have been applied (the levels at which there is a one in 10 or one in 20 chance of incorrectly identifying a difference solely due to chance variation).

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

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

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

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

**Urban areas** - All **ACORN** types used in the BCS that are not classified as **rural** or **inner-city**.

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

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

**Vehicle crime** - Recorded vehicle crimes include offences of theft of or from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking, vehicle interference and tampering and criminal damage to a vehicle. **Theft of a vehicle** includes offences of theft of a vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking. Attempted thefts of a vehicle are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. **Theft from a vehicle** includes attempts if there is evidence of intent to commit theft from a vehicle. If such evidence does not exist then an offence of vehicle interference or tampering is recorded. Offences of **vehicle interference and tampering** and **criminal damage to a vehicle** are also included. The BCS focuses on a category called **vehicle-related thefts** that covers three categories: (i) theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered), (ii) theft from motor vehicles (i.e. theft of parts, accessories and contents) and (iii) attempts. No distinction is made between attempted thefts of

and attempted thefts *from* motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender's intention. If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft *of a* motor vehicle. The BCS only covers **vehicle-related thefts** against private households. Police recorded crime does not separately identify whether a theft is a **non-commercial vehicle-related theft** but estimates of the proportion of these are provided by the police in order to enable comparisons between BCS and police recorded crime figures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

severe injuries, and 'other wounding', involving less serious injury or severe injuries inflicted unintentionally.



# Appendix 2 Recorded crime offence list

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

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

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

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

## MAIN OFFENCE GROUPS

Offence sub groups

Other offence aggregations

*Explanatory notes on coverage and definition.*

## VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

### More serious offences

1. Murder.
- 4.1 Manslaughter.
- 4.2 Infanticide.  
*Applies to infants aged under 12 months killed by the mother while of disturbed mind.*

### Homicide

*Comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide.*

2. Attempted murder.
3. Threat or conspiracy to murder.
- 4.3 Child destruction.  
*Applies to the unborn child 'capable of being born alive'.*
- 4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving.
- 4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs.
5. More serious wounding.  
*Includes, amongst other offences, wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861).*
6. Endangering railway passengers.
- 37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

### Less serious offences

7. Endangering life at sea.
- 8A. Less serious wounding.  
*Includes, amongst other offences, wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 and assault occasioning actual bodily harm (section 47 of the same Act). This means that non-intentional GBH is included as well as all assaults involving minor injury (as from 1 April 2002; see text box on common assaults in Chapter 5).*
- 8B. Possession of weapons.  
*The police record this offence only if it is thought to be the only offence or the most serious committed by the suspect at that time.*
- 8C. Harassment.  
*Includes the summary offences of harassment; harassment, alarm or distress; and fear or provocation of violence. They are closely associated with the offence of 'putting people in fear of violence' also included here.*
- 8D. Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding (see 8A).
- 8E. Racially or religiously aggravated harassment (see 8C).
11. Cruelty to and neglect of children.
12. Abandoning a child under the age of two years.
13. Child abduction.
14. Procuring illegal abortion.
15. Concealment of birth.
104. Assault on a constable.  
*Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see 8A). Also includes resisting or obstructing constable in execution of his/her duty, although this offence is being excluded from 1 April 2003.*
- 105A. Common assault.  
*Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see 8A). Includes, amongst other offences, common assault and battery (section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988). From 1 April 2002, includes assaults involving no injury (see also text box on common assaults in Chapter 5).*
- 105B. Racially or religiously aggravated common assault (see 105A).

### SEXUAL OFFENCES

16. Buggery.
17. Indecent assault on a male.
18. Gross indecency between males.  
*Applies to consenting males over 16 in public.*
- 19A. Rape of a female.
- 19B. Rape of a male.  
*The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 introduced a specific offence of rape of a male. From 1995, male victims of forced buggery are classified as male rape.*
20. Indecent assault on a female.
21. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13.
22. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16.
23. Incest.

- 24. Procuration.  
*Includes, amongst other offences, living off earnings of prostitution and procuring a woman to have sexual intercourse (under the Sexual Offences Act 1956).*
- 25. Abduction.  
*Covers offences of taking away or detaining a woman against her will.*
- 26. Bigamy.
- 27. Soliciting or importuning by a man.  
*Also includes kerb-crawling and persistently soliciting of women for the purpose of prostitution.*
- 73. Abuse of position of trust.  
*Added to the list on 1 January 2001. Applies to certain offences where a person aged 18 or over is in a position of trust in relation to person under that age (e.g. in a children's home, institution or school).*
- 74. Gross indecency with a child.

## ROBBERY

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

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

## BURGLARY

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

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

## THEFT AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

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

- 37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking.  
*Part of section 1 of the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992. Applies to offences of unauthorised vehicle taking (see 48 below) with additional aggravating factors of dangerous driving, or causing an accident involving injury or damage.*
- 39. Theft from the person of another.  
*Includes snatch theft, but if this involves the use or threat of force (e.g. if the victim resists), then it is recorded as robbery. See also glossary entry in Appendix 1.*
- 40. Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

41. Theft by an employee.
42. Theft or unlawful taking of mail.
43. Abstracting electricity.
44. Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle.  
*Includes taking a pedal cycle without consent (section 12(5) of the Theft Act 1968.)*
45. Theft from a vehicle.
46. Theft from a shop.
47. Theft from an automatic machine or meter.
48. Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle.  
*Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (part of section 12 of the Theft Act 1968; also known as taking without consent or TWOC) is a summary offence. It is closely associated with theft of a motor vehicle (because at the time of recording it may not be known whether the intention is to permanently deprive the owner).*
49. Other theft or unauthorised taking.  
*Includes, amongst other offences, unauthorised taking of conveyance other than a motor vehicle or pedal cycle.*
54. Handling stolen goods.  
*Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968. Dishonestly receiving etc. goods, knowing them to have been stolen.*
126. Vehicle interference and tampering.  
*Summary offences, closely associated with theft of or from vehicles. The Home Office website (see above) contains detailed guidance for forces on distinguishing between these offences, and criminal damage, where a vehicle is reported damaged.*

### Thefts of and from vehicles

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

## FRAUD AND FORGERY

51. Frauds by company directors etc.
52. False accounting.
- 53A. Cheque and credit card fraud.  
*The initial theft or forgery of the cheque book or card is recorded additionally. The victims of subsequent fraudulent usage are the owners of goods and services deceived, rather than the issuing banks. The offences are counted according to the numbers of these victims.*
- 53B. Other fraud.  
*Includes, amongst other offences, unauthorised access to computer material (section 2 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990) and making off without payment (section 3 of the Theft Act 1978, e.g. driving off without paying for petrol).*
55. Bankruptcy and insolvency offences.
60. Forgery or use of false drug prescription (in respect of drugs listed in Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
61. Other forgery, etc.  
*Counterfeiting offences included here.*
814. Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records.  
*These records comprise driving licences, insurance certificates, registration and licensing documents, work records, operators' licences, and test certificates.*

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE

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

## DRUG OFFENCES

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

## OTHER OFFENCES

33. Going equipped for stealing, etc.  
35. Blackmail.  
36. Kidnapping.  
62. High treason and other offences against Treason Acts.  
63. Treason felony.  
64. Riot.  
65. Violent disorder.  
66. Other offences against the State and public order.  
67. Perjury.  
68. Libel.  
75. Betting, gaming and lotteries.  
76. Aiding suicide.  
78. Immigration Act offences.  
79. Perverting the course of justice.  
80. Absconding from lawful custody.  
81. Firearms Acts offences.  
82. Customs & Excise and Inland Revenue offences.

## Crime in England and Wales 2002/03

- 83. Bail offences.
- 84. Trade description offences.
- 85. Health and safety at work offences.
- 86. Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material.
- 87. Protection from eviction.
- 89. Adulteration of food.
- 90. Knives Act 1997 offences.
- 91. Public health offences.
- 94. Planning laws.
- 95. Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc.
- 99. Other indictable or triable-either-way offences.
- 139. Indecent exposure.
- 802. Dangerous driving.

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

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