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# Home Office Statistical Bulletin

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## Crime in England and Wales 2003/2004

Tricia Dodd, Sian Nicholas, David Povey, Alison Walker

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*The views expressed in this report are those of the authors,  
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# 1 Summary

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

## Levels and trends (Chapter 2)

**Overall crime has fallen by five per cent according to the BCS. There has been an increase of one per cent in the number of crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03.**

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

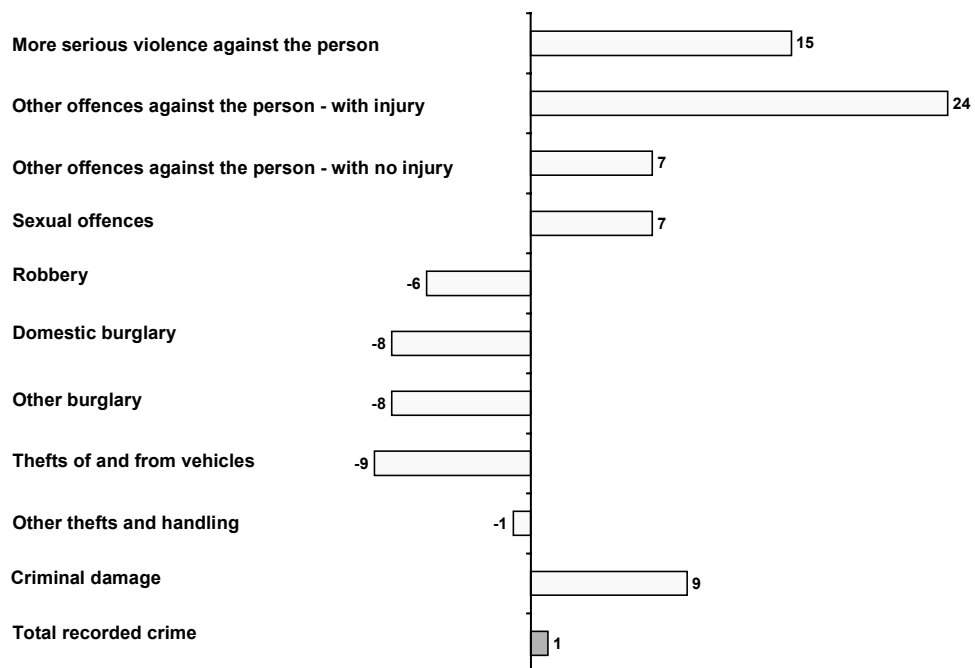
Police statistics provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, and are an important indicator of police workload. They can also be used for local crime pattern analysis. For the offences it covers, and the victims within its scope, the BCS gives a more complete estimate of crime in England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

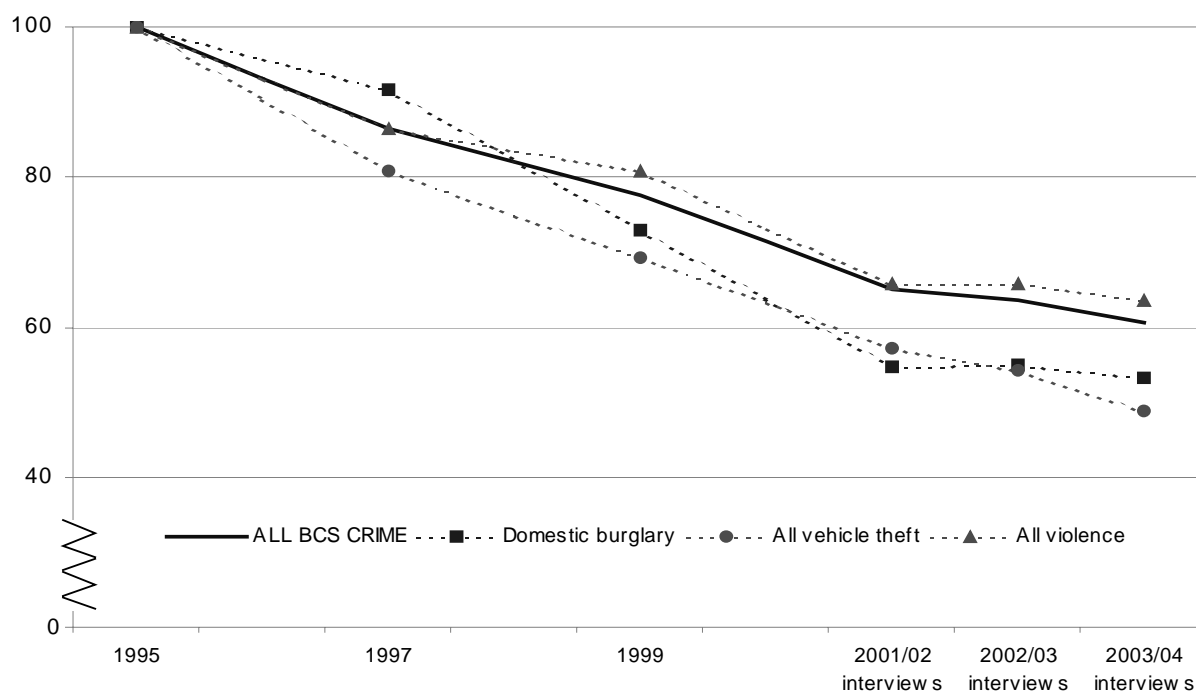
- Since the peak in 1995, BCS crime has fallen by 39 per cent, with vehicle crime and burglary falling by roughly half and violent crime falling by over a third during this period.
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2003/04, the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981.
- According to the BCS, there has been a fall in the proportion of people believing that crime has increased over the past two years, both in their local area and in the country as a whole, compared with the previous year.
- Levels of worry about the main crime types have fallen compared with the previous year, as has the level of perceived anti-social behaviour. The latter has fallen from 21% to 16%.
- Levels of confidence in most aspects of the criminal justice system (CJS) have improved compared with the previous year.

**Figure 1.1 Percentage changes in the main crime types according to BCS interviews in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03**



**Figure 1.2 Percentage changes in recorded crime, 2002/03 to 2003/04**



**Figure 1.3 Trends in BCS crime, 1995 to 2003/04 (indexed 1995)****Reporting and recording crime (Chapter 3)**

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

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

- The public's willingness to report crime varies considerably by type of offence. Thefts of vehicles are the most likely to be reported (95%), and attempted vehicle theft, vandalism and common assault least likely (34%, 31% and 30% in 2003/04).
- The most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting incidents was that victims perceived them to be too trivial, there was no loss or they believed that the police would or could not do much about them (71% of incidents).

- The estimated recording rate of comparable reported offences increased from 68 per cent in the year ending September 2002 to 74 per cent for the year ending September 2003. Recording is at the highest rate it has been since 1981, when the introduction of the British Crime Survey first made this comparison possible.
- The proportion of reported violent crime that was recorded by the police continued to rise from 52 per cent in the year to September 2002 to 62 per cent in the year to September 2003. Common assault (without injury) saw a large increase in recording of around a half to stand at 68 per cent.

### Property crime (Chapter 4)

**Property crime has fallen considerably since 1995. Overall acquisitive crime, as measured by the BCS, fell by nearly half (46%) between 1995 and 2003/04 interviews.**

This chapter describes the main types of high volume property crime.

- The fall in domestic burglary has levelled off in recent periods according to the BCS, although police recorded crime in 2003/04 showed a fall of eight per cent compared to 2002/03.
- The fall in vehicle-related theft has continued in the most recent period. A fall of ten per cent was measured by the BCS and nine per cent by police recorded crime statistics between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- Criminal damage remained level between 2002/03 and 2003/04 as measured by the BCS (the fall of three per cent was not statistically significant). The police recorded a nine per cent rise in criminal damage between 2002/03 and 2003/04, although this rise is likely to be linked to improvements in recording practices.
- The risk of being a victim of either burglary or vehicle-related theft has halved since 1995 and is much reduced for other property crimes.
- For both burglary and vehicle-related crime, having security measures in place was strongly associated with lower levels of victimisation.

### Violent crime (Chapter 5)

**The number of violent incidents has fallen by 36 per cent since a peak in 1995 according to the BCS.**

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.

The continuing effect of the NCRS referred to above is most apparent in some types of violent crime.

- Comparison between 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews shows BCS violent crime to be stable (the apparent fall of three per cent was not statistically significant).
- Half of all violent incidents reported to the BCS and at least 52 per cent of all recorded violence against the person did not result in any injury to the victim.
- Only 30 per cent of incidents of domestic violence resulted in no injury, compared with 50 per cent of incidents of acquaintance violence, 52 per cent of stranger violence and 71 per cent of mugging (robbery and snatch theft).
- There was an increase of 12% in violent crimes (i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences and robberies) recorded by the police since 2002/03 though much of the increase is likely to be due to the continuing impact of changes in recording.
- Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk of being a victim of violent crime in 2003/04.
- The changes in both homicides and firearm offences were small in 2003/04: there was an increase of less than one per cent in firearm offences, and a fall of around two per cent in homicides (after excluding retrospectively recorded Harold Shipman murders from the 2002/03 total).

### Patterns of crime (Chapter 6)

**Personal victimisation rates are highest in London and lowest in Wales. Household victimisation rates are highest in Yorkshire and the Humber and lowest in Wales.**

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, your personal characteristics and the socio-economic characteristics of your neighbourhood.

- The eight metropolitan police forces accounted for 43 per cent of all offences recorded by the police. Thirty-five per cent of the population of England and Wales lives in these areas.
- BCS victimisation rates are lower in rural areas than either inner-city or urban areas, and are highest in the inner-city areas.
- The geographical concentration of crime varies between offences. Robbery is one of the most concentrated with 40 per cent of these offences occurring in just one police force area (Metropolitan Police).
- The gap is narrowing between the 25 per cent of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) with the highest combined levels of robbery, vehicle crime and domestic burglary and the remaining 75 per cent of CDRPs. This suggests that the risks of becoming a victim of crime are falling more quickly in higher crime areas than in lower crime ones.



### Detection of crime (Chapter 7)

**There were just under 1.4 million detected crimes in 2003/04. Some other crimes may have had a suspect identified, but not met the definition of detected crime. The number of recorded detections in 2003/04 was up very slightly on 2002/03 figures (an increase of less than half a per cent).**

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.

- Unadjusted for any effects of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), the detection rate in 2003/04 remained stable at around 23.5 per cent. However, the further bedding down of recording changes this year will have slightly depressed the current detection rate.
- The proportion of recorded crimes that were detected through an offender being charged or summoned, cautioned, having an offence taken into consideration or receiving a fixed penalty notice ('sanction' detections), was 18.8 per cent; 4.7 per cent of crimes detected were 'administrative', that is no further action was taken. The relative weight of sanction and administrative detections varied widely by force.
- There was a slight decrease in the proportion of crimes resulting in a sanction detection between 2002/03 and 2003/04, equivalent to a 0.3 percentage point fall in the sanction detection rate.

## 2 Levels and trends

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*Andrea Finney and Jacqueline Toofail*

### 2.1 SUMMARY

- Overall crime has fallen by five per cent according to the BCS. There has been an increase of one per cent in the number of crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03.
- Since 1995 BCS crime has fallen by 39 per cent, with vehicle crime and burglary falling by roughly half and violent crime falling by over a third during this period.
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2003/04, the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981.
- Property crime accounts for the majority (78%) of both BCS and recorded crime.
- According to the BCS, the proportion of people believing that crime has increased over the past two years, both in their local area and in the country as a whole, has fallen compared with the previous year.
- Levels of worry about the main crime types have fallen compared with the previous year, as has the level of perceived anti-social behaviour.
- Levels of confidence in most aspects of the criminal justice system (CJS) have improved compared with the previous year.
- Twenty-nine per cent of victims of vandalism and common assault (which includes violence with minimal or no injury) were victimised more than once according to 2003/04 BCS interviews, compared with just seven per cent of victims of theft from the person.

## 2.2 LEVELS OF CRIME

Police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey (BCS) 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 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.

- Based on BCS interviews taking place in 2003/04, it is estimated that there were approximately 11.7 million crimes against adults living in private households. This represents a decrease of five per cent compared with the estimate based on interviews in 2002/03 and a reduction of over half a million crimes (Table 2.01).
- There were 5.9 million crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04, an increase of one per cent compared with 2002/03 (Table 2.04).

**Table 2a Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in 2002/03 and 2003/04**

	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	% change	BCS Statistically significant change <sup>1</sup>
<b>Number of crimes (000s)</b>				
Domestic burglary	972	943	-3	
All vehicle thefts	2,361	2,121	-10	**
All household crime	7,578	7,181	-5	**
BCS violence	2,798	2,708	-3	
<i>With injury</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>n/a</i>	1,364	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>With no injury</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>n/a</i>	1,344	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
All personal crime	4,741	4,535	-4	
All BCS crime	12,319	11,716	-5	<i>n/a</i>
<b>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more</b>				
Domestic burglary	3.4	3.2		
All vehicle thefts <sup>3</sup>	10.8	9.7		**
All household crime	21.0	20.0		**
BCS violence	4.1	4.1		
<i>With injury</i>	<i>n/a</i>	2.2		
<i>With no injury</i>	<i>n/a</i>	2.2		
All personal crime	7.5	7.3		
All BCS crime	27.0	25.7		**
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>36,450</b>	<b>37,891</b>		

1. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at 10% level, or a double at the 5% level (two tail tests). Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS crime.

2. Figures for violence with injury and without injury are not available for 2002/03

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

- The risk of being a victim of crime once or more has fallen from 27 per cent to 26 per cent between BCS interviews in 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- Violent crime has remained stable according to BCS interviews in 2003/04. Recorded crime statistics show a 12 per cent increase in violent crime in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03, although this increase is partly due to the continuing effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) (see text box on 'Changes in recording practices' below).
- Within the recorded violent crime category, violence against the person has increased by 14 per cent, sexual offences have increased by seven per cent and robbery has fallen by six per cent compared with 2002/03.
- Vehicle thefts have declined, falling by ten per cent according to the 2003/04 BCS interviews and by nine per cent according to recorded crime figures for 2003/04 compared with the previous year. Domestic burglary has fallen by eight per cent according to police statistics, but has remained stable according to the BCS measure. The fall in recorded burglary may be partly due to a decline in reporting (see Chapter 3). The amount of criminal damage recorded by the police has increased by nine per cent.

**Table 2b Number of crimes recorded by the police in 2002/03 and 2003/04**

Offence group	Number of crimes (thousands) <sup>1</sup>		% change 2002/03 to 2003/04 <sup>2</sup>
	2002/03	2003/04	
Violence against the person (VAP)	834.9	955.8	14%
<i>More serious VAP</i> <sup>3</sup>	38.3	43.9	15%
<i>Other offences against the person - with injury</i> <sup>4</sup>	349.7	433.4	24%
<i>Other offences against the person - with no injury</i> <sup>5</sup>	447.0	478.5	7%
Sexual offences	48.6	52.1	7%
Robbery	108.0	101.2	-6%
<i>Total violent crime</i>	991.6	1,109.0	12%
Domestic burglary	437.6	402.3	-8%
Other burglary	451.3	416.3	-8%
Thefts of & from vehicles	975.8	889.2	-9%
Other thefts & handling	1,389.4	1,379.0	-1%
Fraud & forgery	330.1	317.9	-4%
Criminal damage	1,109.3	1,205.6	9%
<i>Total property crime</i>	4,693.4	4,610.3	-2%
Drug offences	141.1	141.1	0%
Other offences	72.5	74.2	2%
<b><i>Total recorded crime</i></b>	<b>5,898.6</b>	<b>5,934.6</b>	<b>1%</b>

1. The figures given in the table are the latest available. Therefore they may differ slightly from figures published in previous bulletins.

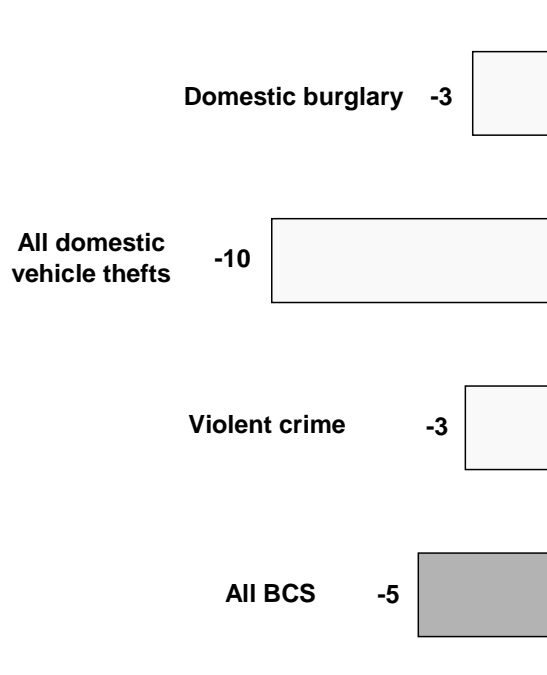
2. The percentage changes have not been adjusted for the effects of the NCRS. Improvements in recording practices may have had a continued impact on these figures, particularly on the less serious categories of violent crime and criminal damage. For further information see text box on 'Changes in recording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

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

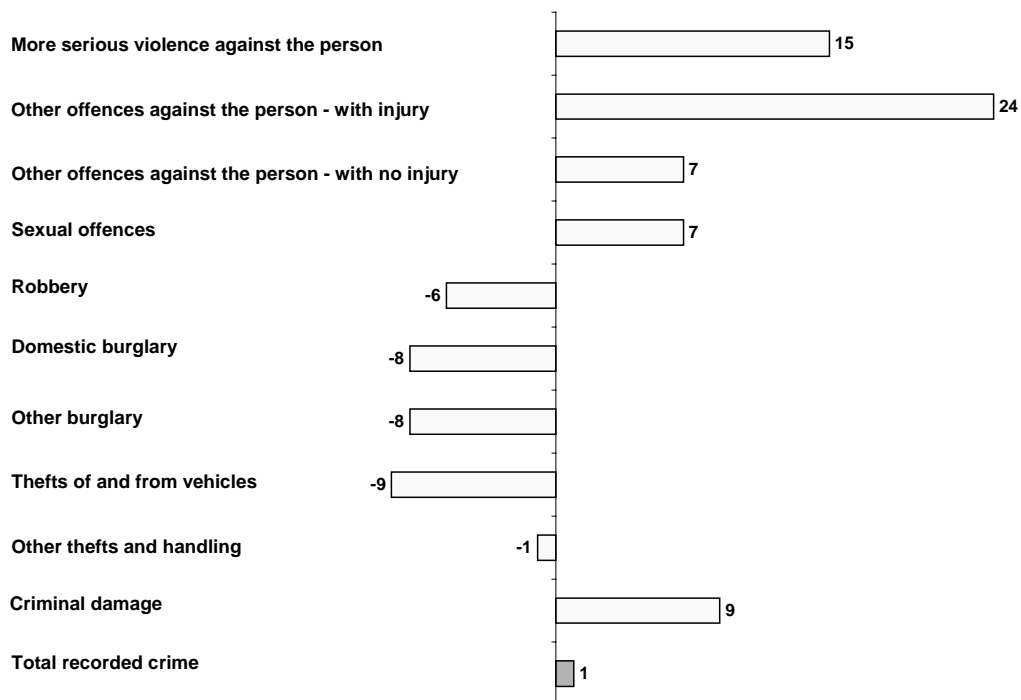
4. Other offences against the person - with injury comprises less serious wounding.

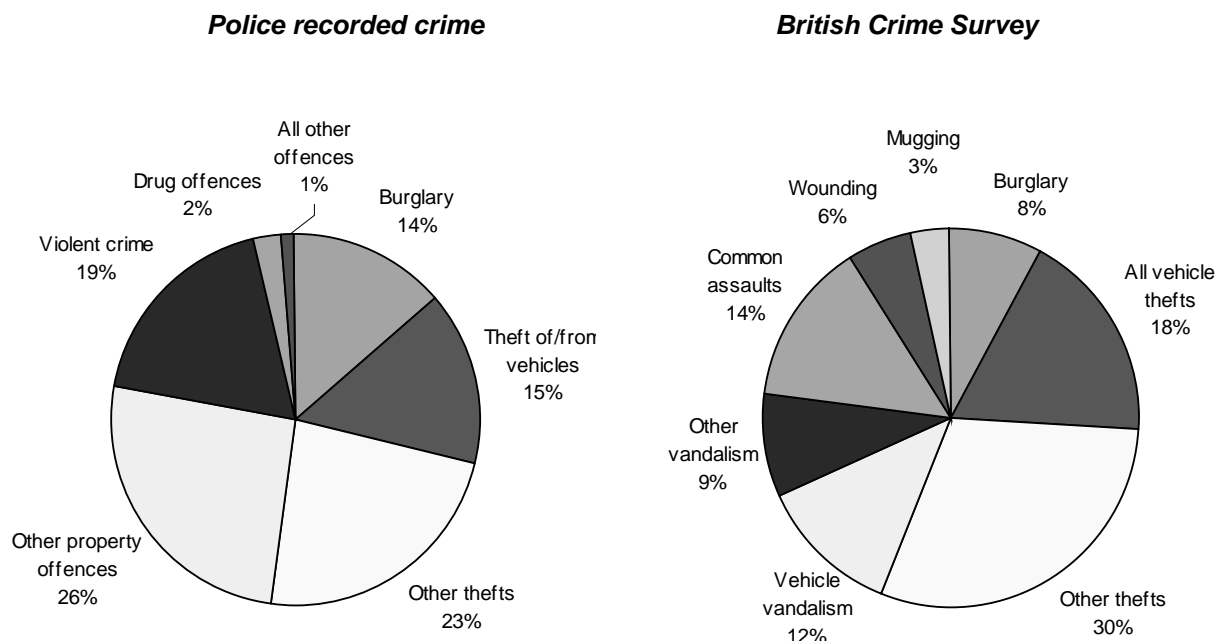
5. Other offences against the person - with no injury includes harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children, and common assault (where there is no injury).

**Figure 2.1 Percentage changes in the main crime types according to BCS interviews in 2003/04 compared with 2002/03**



**Figure 2.2 Percentage changes in recorded crime, 2002/03 to 2003/04**



**Figure 2.3 Police recorded crime and BCS crime by type of crime, 2003/04**

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

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

- Property crime accounts for the majority (78%) of both BCS and recorded crime. Theft of/from a vehicle accounts for 18 per cent of all BCS crime and 15 per cent of recorded crime and other thefts account for 30 per cent and 23 per cent of BCS and recorded crime respectively. Burglary accounts for eight per cent of BCS crime and 14 per cent of recorded crime (see Chapter 4).
- Violent crime represented 23 per cent of all BCS crime and 19 per cent of police recorded crimes in 2003/04. Half of the violent crimes recorded by the BCS and of violence against the person recorded by the police involved no injury to the victim<sup>1</sup> (Tables 2a and 2b; see Chapter 5).
- Mugging, which comprises robbery and snatch theft, accounts for three per cent of BCS crime while robbery accounts for two per cent of recorded crime (Figure 2.3 and Table 2b).

<sup>1</sup> The actual proportion for recorded crime may be higher as some offences classified under 'more serious violence against the person', such as threats or conspiracy to murder, may not involve an injury.

### **British Transport Police (BTP)**

The BTP is the national police force for the railways throughout England, Scotland and Wales. They also police the London Underground and a number of local transport systems. Crimes recorded by the BTP are shown below for 2002/03 and 2003/04. These figures are shown separately from the figures for the Home Office forces because, for operational reasons, there is a small amount of duplication between the two.

<b>Offence</b>	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>% change</b>
Violence against the person	10,292	11,554	12.3
Sexual	615	673	9.4
Robbery	2,240	2,541	13.4
Burglary	1,271	1,373	8.0
Theft and Handling	46,497	44,865	-3.5
Fraud and Forgery	1,714	1,696	-1.1
Criminal damage	11,370	12,937	13.8
Drugs	2,247	2,451	9.1
Other	1,216	1,213	-0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,462</b>	<b>79,303</b>	<b>2.4</b>

Of crimes recorded by the BTP, over half (56%) involved theft, 16 per cent were criminal damage and 14 per cent were offences involving violence against the person.

Robbery represented three per cent of BTP recorded violence but showed a 13 per cent increase compared to 2002/03 figures. Criminal damage showed a 14 per cent increase.

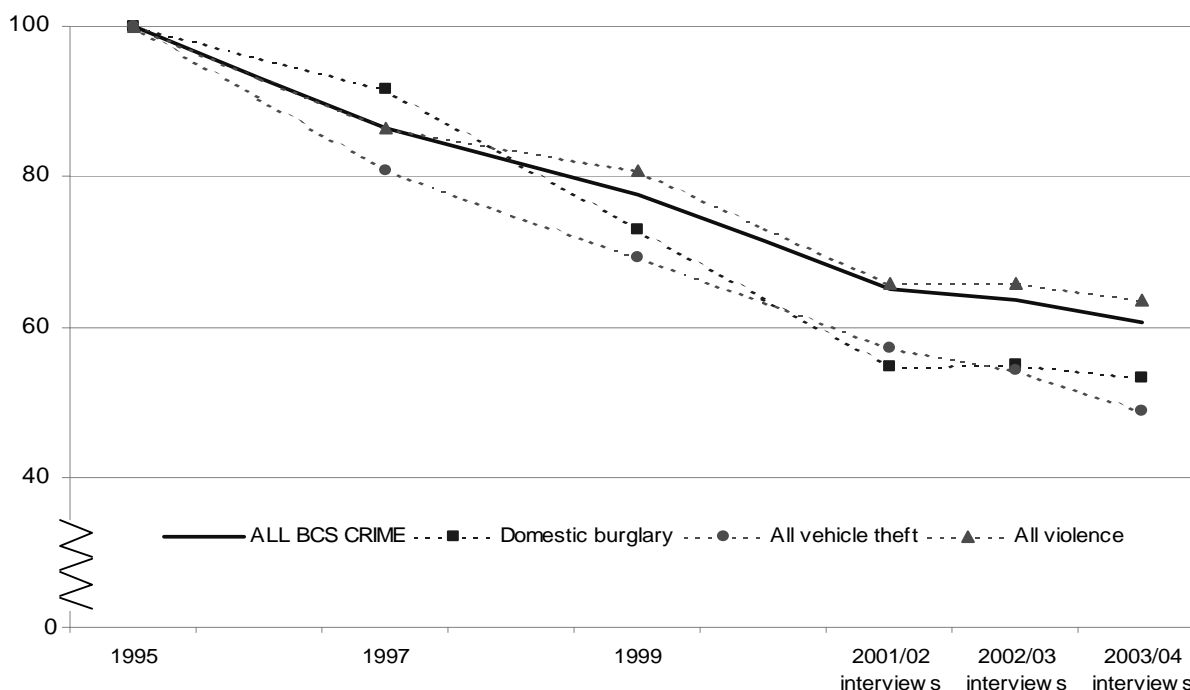
Theft and fraud both fell slightly in 2003/04.

## **2.3 TRENDS IN CRIME**

Trends in the crimes measured by the BCS now cover a time span of approximately 20 years. Nine surveys were carried out between 1982 and 2001; these surveys reported on victimisation in the preceding calendar year. Since 2001/02, interviews have been conducted throughout the year with respondents being asked about crime they had experienced in the 12 months preceding the interview. The incident recall period for the 2003/04 data is therefore centred around March 2003.

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

- BCS crimes rose steadily in the decade from 1981, and continued to rise during the early 1990s, peaking in 1995. Overall crime has fallen in each BCS survey since 1995 (Figure 2.4). Overall BCS crime has fallen by 39 per cent since 1995, and by 30 per cent since 1997 (Table 2.01).
- The risk of becoming a victim of crime has fallen from 40 per cent in 1995 to 26 per cent according to BCS interviews in 2003/04, the lowest level recorded since the BCS began in 1981 (Table 2.03).

**Figure 2.4 Trends in BCS crime, 1995 to 2003/04 (indexed 1995)**

- Recorded crime increased during most of the 1980s, reaching a peak in 1992. Recorded crime then fell each year until 1998/99 when there was a change in the Home Office Counting Rules. Since then there has been a general increase in recorded crime although trends in recorded crime in recent years should be interpreted with caution due to changes in recording practices (see text box on 'Changes in recording practices' and Chapter 3).

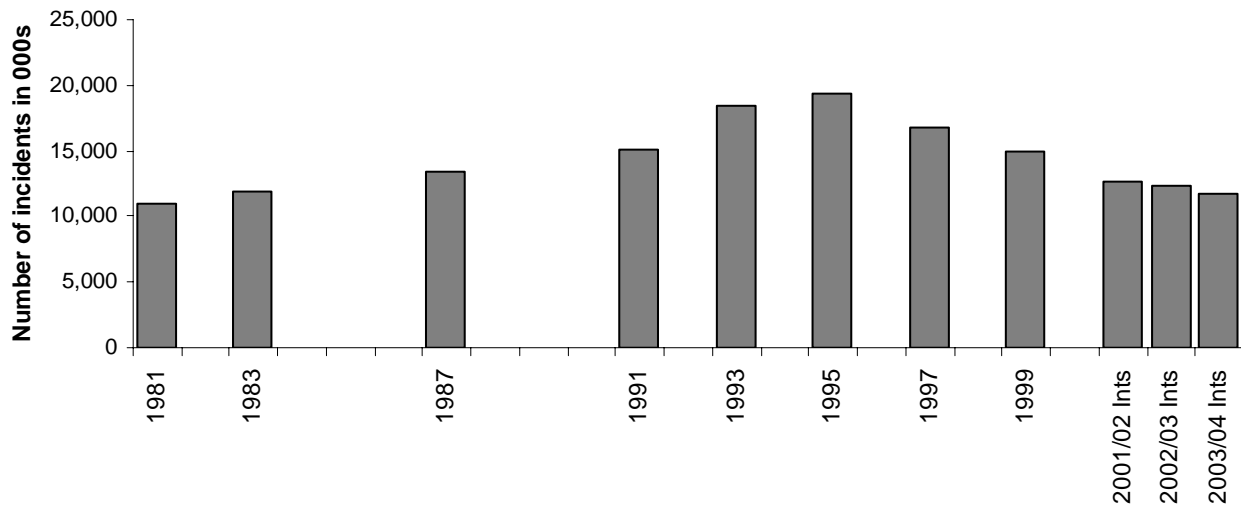
### ***Changes in recording practices***

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

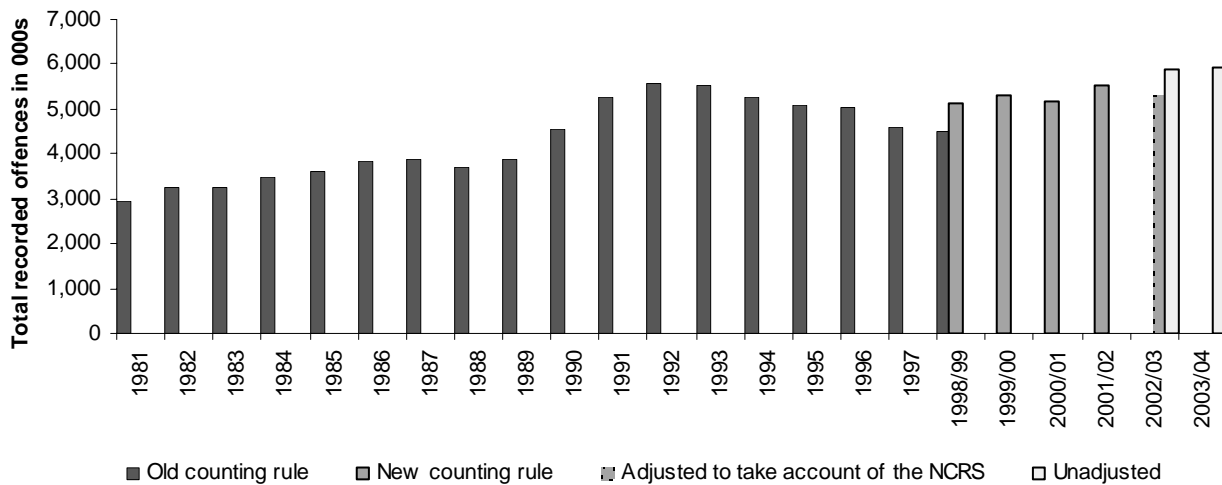
Both these changes resulted in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. Certain offences, such as minor violent crime, were more affected by these changes than others. It is likely there has been some continuing impact on the number of recorded crimes in 2003/04, as a result of audits to further improve recording. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime.



**Figure 2.5 Trends in all BCS crime, 1981 to 2003/04**



**Figure 2.6 Trends in recorded crime, 1981 to 2003/04**



Falls in both household and personal crime have contributed to the decline in BCS crime since it reached its highest point in 1995.

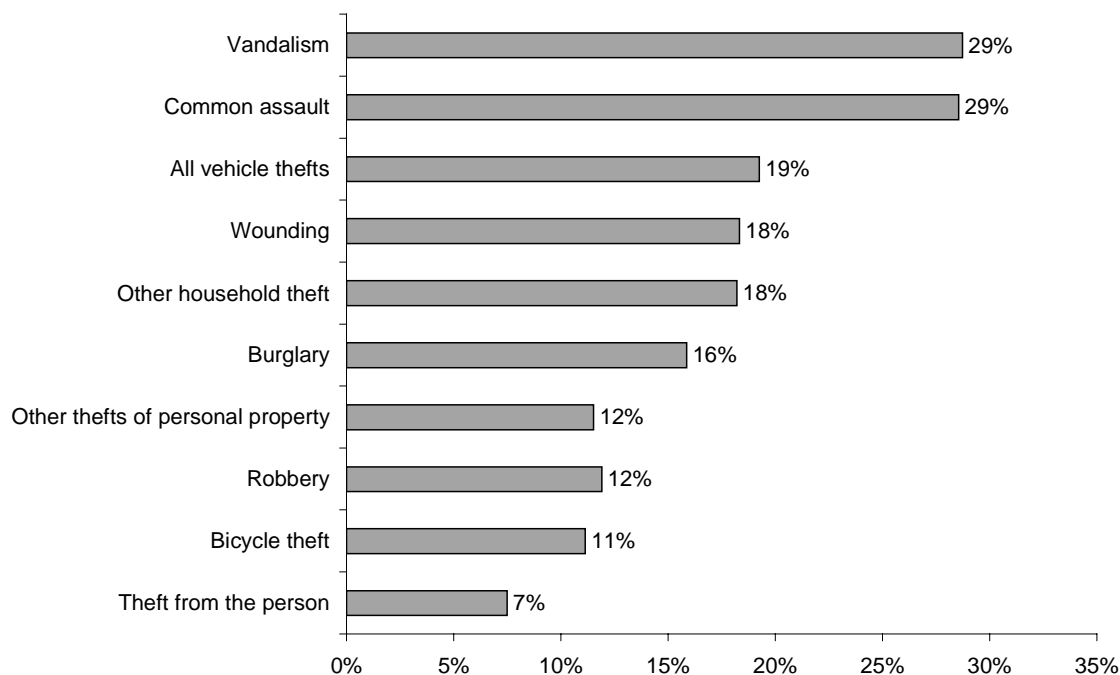
- Since 1995, vehicle theft and domestic burglary have each fallen by around a half (51% and 47% respectively), and vandalism has fallen by 27 per cent, according to the BCS. Theft from the person, as measured by the BCS, has remained stable since the mid 1990s. However, other thefts of personal property have fallen by 36 per cent since 1995 (Table 2.01).
- Violent crime has fallen by over one-third (36%), with common assault falling by 43 per cent since 1995 (Table 2.01).

- The number of burglaries recorded by the police has fallen by 34 per cent and theft of/from vehicles has fallen by 33 per cent since 1995. Over the same period there has been a marked increase in recorded violent crime, which was particularly affected by changes in recording practices in 1998 and 2002 (Table 2.04 and text box on 'Changes in recording practices'). Recorded robbery, however, has fallen in the last two years, following a marked increase between 1997/8 and 2001/02.

## 2.4 REPEAT VICTIMISATION

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 relatively lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rates. Repeat victimisation is defined here as those victims of a particular offence or group of offences who are victims of the same offence or group of offences two or more times within the same year.

**Figure 2.7 Proportion of victims who were victimised more than once, 2003/04 BCS interviews, by offence type**



- BCS interviews for 2003/04 indicated that victims of vandalism (29%) and violence (26%) were most likely to suffer repeat victimisation (Figure 2.7; Table 2.06).
- Twenty-four per cent of vehicle vandalism victims and 32 per cent of all other vandalism victims were victims twice or more in a 12-month period (Table 2.06).

- Of all violence, domestic violence had the highest rate of repeat victimisation, with 44 per cent of victims being victimised more than once, and almost one in five (18%) being victimised three or more times (Table 2.06; see Chapter 5 for more details). Theft from the person had the lowest repeat victimisation rates, with seven per cent of victims being victimised more than once in a 12-month period.
- The proportions of victims experiencing repeat victimisation by offence or offence type according to 2003/04 BCS interviews do not differ significantly from those found in the 2002/03 BCS.

**Table 2c Proportion of victims who were victimised twice or more, 1981 to 2003/04 BCS interviews by main offence groups**

Percentages									BCS
	1981	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	<i>Unweighted base</i>
Vandalism	33	31	30	33	31	32	30	29	2,651
Burglary	13	16	19	19	20	15	18	16	1,115
Vehicle thefts	21	25	28	24	25	21	19	19	2,627
All BCS violence	27	32	37	32	35	33	28	26	1,270

1. Base numbers for the interview years 2001/02 and 2002/03 are similar to current base numbers. Prior to this base numbers are around a quarter of those shown.

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

## 2.5 PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

### Perceptions of changing crime levels

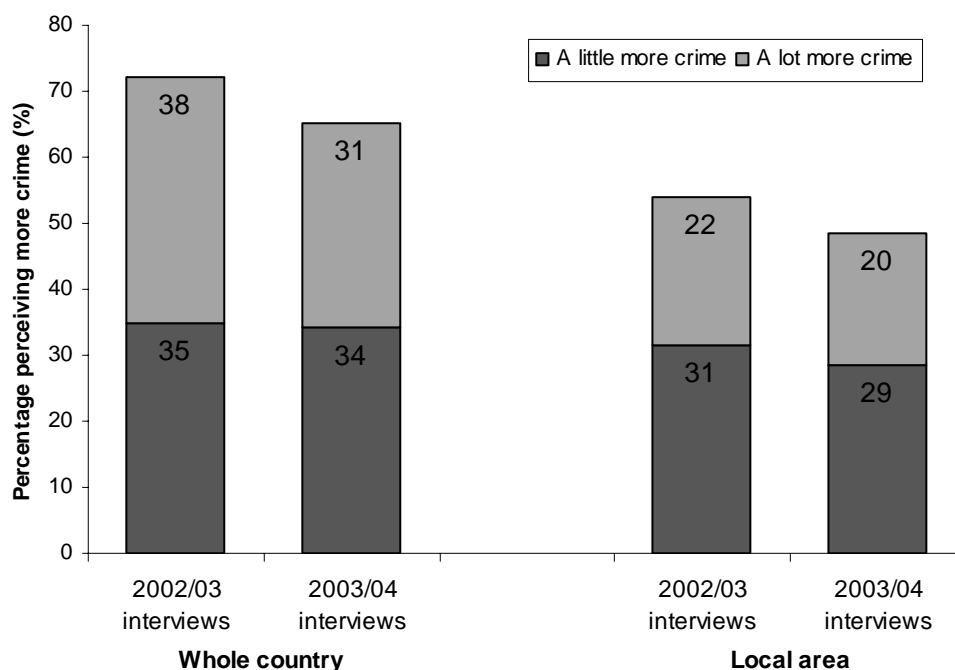
The BCS asks respondents how they think the level of crime in the country as a whole and the level of crime in their local area have changed over the previous two years. The proportions of people believing crime to have increased for each measure has fallen compared with the previous year.

- Two-thirds (65%) of the public thought crime in the country as a whole had increased in the previous two years, with about one-third (31%) believing that crime had risen 'a lot'.

This is despite the total number of crimes estimated by the BCS falling over recent years (Figure 2.4). However, these proportions are lower than for 2002/03 (73% and 38% respectively; Figure 2.8).

- People continue to show more positive perceptions of crime in their *own* area than nationally. Under a half (48%) of the public thought that local crime had increased, with one in five (20%) believing that local crime had increased 'a lot'. Again, these findings have fallen compared with 2002/03 (54% and 22% respectively).

**Figure 2.8 Public perceptions of changing crime levels, BCS 2002/03 to 2003/04**



## Fear of crime

Findings from the 2003/04 BCS show that fear of crime has fallen compared with the previous year, with falls in the proportions of people with high levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime.

- The proportion of adults who have a high level of worry about violent crime fell from 21 per cent to 16 per cent (Table 2d).
- These recent falls continue a trend in worry about crime, which has fallen steadily since 1998 for violent crime and car crime, and since 1994 for burglary when over a quarter of people (26%) had high levels of worry.

**Table 2d Fear of crime**

<i>Percentage very worried</i>									<b>BCS</b>
	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	Statistically significant change, 2002/03 to 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>
High level of worry about <sup>2</sup> :									
Burglary	19	26	22	19	19	15	15	13	**
Car crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	21	17	17	15	**
Violent crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	24	22	21	16	**
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>10,044</i>	<i>14,502</i>	<i>7,973</i>	<i>14,925</i>	<i>19,388</i>	<i>8,964</i>	<i>36,479</i>	<i>37,891</i>	

1. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at 10% level, or a double at the 5% level (two tail tests).

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

## Anti-social behaviour

The overall level of perceived anti-social behaviour has also fallen. The proportion of people estimated to perceive a high level of disorder in their local area fell from 21 per cent to 16 per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 (Table 2e).

- All of the seven individual anti-social behaviour measures show falls compared with the previous year.
- Notably, the proportion of adults perceiving abandoned or burnt-out cars to be a problem in their area has fallen from 25 per cent to 15 per cent. The proportion perceiving people using or dealing drugs to be a very or fairly big problem has fallen from 32 per cent to 25 per cent, and the proportion perceiving vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property to be a problem has fallen from 35 per cent to 28 per cent (Table 2e). The proportion of people perceiving people being drunk and rowdy in public places to be a problem has fallen from 23 per cent in 2002/03 to 19 per cent in 2003/04.
- In the longer-term, the proportions of people perceiving high levels of disorder across the individual strands have returned to levels seen in the mid to late 1990s, following higher levels between 2000 and 2002/03.

**Table 2e Anti-social behaviour indicators**

<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>									BCS
	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	Statistically significant change, 2002/03 to 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour <sup>2</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19 <sup>3</sup>	21 <sup>3</sup>	16	**
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	20 <sup>3</sup>	25 <sup>3</sup>	15	**
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	8	8	8	8	9	10	10	9	**
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	23	19	**
People using or dealing drugs	14	22	21	25	33	31	32	25	**
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	20	26	24	27	32	32	33	27	**
Rubbish or litter lying around	30	26	26	28	30	32	33	29	**
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	26	29	24	26	32	34	35	28	**
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>10,059</i>	<i>14,520</i>	<i>7,978</i>	<i>14,937</i>	<i>9,663</i>	<i>32,824</i>	<i>36,450</i>	<i>37,891</i>	

1. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level, or a double at the 5% level (two tail tests).

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

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

## Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

The BCS reports on public confidence in six different aspects of the criminal justice system (CJS). The 2003/04 BCS shows that confidence in the CJS has improved in most areas compared with the previous year.

- In 2003/04, more than three-quarters (77%) of the public were confident that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly, showing no change since 2002/03.
- There were small but statistically significant improvements for the five remaining measures of confidence in the CJS compared with the previous year, although levels of confidence in these aspects of the CJS still remain relatively low.
- One-third (35%) of the public were confident that the CJS is effective at reducing crime, compared with 31 per cent in 2002/03. Thirty-eight per cent felt that the CJS deals with cases promptly and efficiently compared with 36 per cent in 2002/03. Under a quarter (24 %) were confident that the CJS is effective in dealing with young people accused of crime compared with 21 per cent in 2002/03 (Table 2f).
- Despite these recent improvements, the proportions of people who were confident in these aspects of the CJS were lower in 2003/04 compared with 2001/02. However, confidence that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly has improved marginally during this period.

**Table 2f Public confidence in the criminal justice system**

<i>Percentage very/fairly confident</i>	<b>BCS</b>			
	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	Statistically significant change, 2002/03 to 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>
Respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly	76	77	77	
Effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice	44	39	41	**
Deals with cases promptly and efficiently	39	36	38	**
Effective at reducing crime	36	31	35	**
Meets the needs of victims of crime	34	30	32	**
Dealing with young people accused of crime	25	21	24	**
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>32,782</i>	<i>36,007</i>	<i>37,393</i>	

1. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at 10% level, or a double at the 5% level (two tail tests).

## Victim satisfaction with the police

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

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

Table 2.01 Trends in BCS incidents of crime 1981 and 1991 to interviews held in 2003/04, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews

Numbers (thousands) and percentage changes	BCS												
	1981	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	% change 1995 to 2003/04	% change 1997 to 2003/04	% change 1999 to 2003/04	% change 2001/02 to 2003/04	% change 2002/03 to 2003/04
PROPERTY CRIME													
Vandalism	2,713	2,759	3,366	2,866	2,861	2,600	2,530	2,465	-27 **	-14 **	-14 **	-5	-3
Vehicle vandalism	1,558	1,685	1,826	1,609	1,594	1,509	1,515	1,437	-21 **	-11 **	-10 **	-5	-5
Other vandalism	1,155	1,073	1,540	1,256	1,267	1,091	1,016	1,028	-33 **	-18 **	-19 **	-6	1
Burglary <sup>4</sup>	749	1,380	1,770	1,621	1,290	967	972	943	-47 **	-42 **	-27 **	-3	-3
Attempts	276	511	772	768	523	416	411	410	-47 **	-47 **	-22 **	-1	<-1
Attempts and no loss	376	668	979	970	739	572	565	526	-46 **	-46 **	-29 **	-8	-7
With entry	474	869	998	852	767	552	560	533	-47 **	-37 **	-30 **	-3	-5
With loss	373	712	791	651	551	395	406	417	-47 **	-36 **	-24 **	6	3
All vehicle thefts	1,751	3,845	4,350	3,511	3,009	2,491	2,361	2,121	-51 **	-40 **	-30 **	-15 **	-10 **
Theft from vehicle	1,286	2,424	2,544	2,200	1,849	1,494	1,422	1,337	-47 **	-39 **	-28 **	-11 **	-6 **
Theft of vehicles	285	522	510	378	336	315	278	241	-53 **	-36 **	-28 **	-23 **	-13 **
Attempts of and from	179	899	1,297	933	825	682	661	543	-58 **	-42 **	-34 **	-20 **	-18 **
Bicycle theft	216	569	673	541	400	367	358	370	-45 **	-32 **	-8	1	3
Other household theft	1,518	1,857	2,267	2,024	1,880	1,443	1,358	1,283	-43 **	-37 **	-32 **	-11 **	-6
Theft from the person	434	438	680	621	636	603	689	622	-9	<1	-2	3	-10
Snatch theft from person	86	79	80	83	58	74	88	116	46	40	101 **	57 **	32
Stealth theft from person	348	359	601	538	578	529	601	506	-16 **	-6	-12	-4	-16 *
Other thefts of personal property	1,586	1,739	2,069	1,935	1,554	1,405	1,342	1,321	-36 **	-32 **	-15 **	-6	-2
VIOLENCE													
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries) <sup>5</sup>	1,403	1,751	2,924	2,455	2,322	1,722	1,699	1,654	-43 **	-33 **	-29 **	-4	-3
Wounding	508	624	914	804	650	648	708	655	-28 **	-18	1	1	-8
Robbery	164	182	339	334	406	356	302	283	-17	-15	-30	-20	-6
All BCS violence <sup>6</sup>	2,160	2,635	4,256	3,675	3,436	2,799	2,798	2,708	-36 **	-26 **	-21 **	-3	-3
Domestic violence	292	534 <sup>7</sup>	989	814	774	626	505	446	-55 **	-45 **	-42 **	-29 **	-12
Acquaintance	774	1,043 <sup>7</sup>	1,816	1,642	1,226	861	948	905	-50 **	-45 **	-26 **	5	-5
Stranger	844	797 <sup>7</sup>	1,004	784	953	882	955	958	-5	22	1	9	<1
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	250	259 <sup>7</sup>	419	417	464	430	390	399	-5	-4	-14	-7	2
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME <sup>8</sup>	6,947	10,410	12,426	10,562	9,441	7,868	7,578	7,181	-42 **	-32 **	-24 **	-9 **	-5 **
ALL PERSONAL CRIME <sup>8</sup>	4,094	4,733	6,926	6,148	5,569	4,733	4,741	4,535	-35 **	-26 **	-19 **	-4	-4
Old comparable crime <sup>9 10</sup>	6,535	9,796	12,093	10,297	9,253	8,031	7,920	7,459	-38	-28	-19	-7	-6
Comparable crime <sup>9 10</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,575	9,753	9,619	9,113	n/a	n/a	-21	-7	-5
ALL BCS CRIME <sup>10</sup>	11,041	15,142	19,353	16,711	15,009	12,601	12,319	11,716	-39	-30	-22	-7	-5
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	19,398	32,787	36,450	37,891					

1. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the 2003/04 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,320,681 households in England and Wales. For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts, all BCS violence and other thefts of personal property the 2003/04 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 42,333,000 adults in England and Wales.

2. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2002/03 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 2003/04 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information on population and numbers of households estimates please see the Glossary.

3. 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Table 2.02 Trends in BCS victimisation rates 1981 and 1991 to interviews held in 2003/04, with percentage change and statistical significance of change between 1995, 1997, 1999 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews

Rates per 10,000 adults/households and percentage changes														BCS
	1981	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	% change 1995 to 2003/04	% change 1997 to 2003/04	% change 1999 to 2003/04	% change 2001/02 to 2003/04	% change 2002/03 to 2003/04	
PROPERTY CRIME														
Vandalism	1,481	1,356	1,588	1,330	1,304	1,185	1,145	1,104	-30 **	-17 **	-15 **	-7	-4	
Vehicle vandalism	850	829	862	747	727	687	685	644	-25 **	-14 **	-11 **	-6	-6	
Other vandalism	630	528	727	583	578	497	459	461	-37 **	-21 **	-20 **	-7	<1	
Burglary	409	678	835	752	588	441	439	422	-49 **	-44 **	-28 **	-4	-4	
Attempts	150	251	364	357	238	189	186	184	-50 **	-49 **	-23 **	-3	-1	
Attempts and no loss	205	328	462	450	337	261	256	236	-49 **	-48 **	-30 **	-10	-8	
With entry	258	427	471	396	350	251	253	239	-49 **	-40 **	-32 **	-5	-6	
With loss	204	350	373	302	251	180	184	187	-50 **	-38 **	-26 **	4	2	
All vehicle thefts	955	1,890	2,052	1,630	1,372	1,135	1,068	950	-54 **	-42 **	-31 **	-16 **	-11 **	
Theft from vehicle	702	1,192	1,200	1,021	843	681	643	599	-50 **	-41 **	-29 **	-12 **	-7 *	
Theft of vehicles	156	257	241	175	153	144	126	108	-55 **	-38 **	-29 **	-25 **	-14 *	
Attempts of and from	98	442	612	433	376	311	299	243	-60 **	-44 **	-35 **	-22 **	-19 **	
Bicycle theft	118	280	317	251	183	167	162	166	-48 **	-34 **	-9	-1	2	
Other household theft	828	913	1,070	940	857	658	614	575	-46 **	-39 **	-33 **	-13 **	-6	
Theft from the person	112	108	167	152	154	144	164	147	-12	-3	-5	2	-10	
Snatch theft from person	22	19	20	20	14	18	21	27	40	36	96 **	55 **	31	
Stealth theft from person	90	89	148	131	140	126	143	120	-19 **	-9	-15	-5	-16 *	
Other thefts of personal property	410	429	508	472	377	336	319	312	-39 **	-34 **	-17 **	-7	-2	
VIOLENCE														
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries) <sup>5</sup>	362	432	718	599	563	412	404	391	-46 **	-35 **	-31 **	-5	-3	
Wounding	131	154	225	196	157	155	168	155	-31 **	-21	-2	<-1	-8	
Robbery	42	45	83	82	98	85	72	67	-20	-18	-32	-21	-7	
All BCS violence <sup>6</sup>	558	651	1,046	897	832	669	665	640	-39 **	-29 **	-23 **	-4	-4	
Domestic violence	75	-	243	199	187	150	120	105	-57 **	-47 **	-44 **	-30 **	-12	
Acquaintance	200	-	446	401	297	206	225	214	-52 **	-47 **	-28 **	4	-5	
Stranger	218	-	247	191	231	211	227	226	-8	18	-2	7	<-1	
Mugging	65	64	103	102	112	103	93	94	-8	-7	-16	-8	2	
(robbery and snatch theft)														
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME <sup>7</sup>	3,791	5,118	5,863	4,903	4,304	3,586	3,428	3,217	-45 **	-34 **	-25 **	-10 **	-6 **	
ALL PERSONAL CRIME <sup>7</sup>	1,057	1,169	1,702	1,501	1,349	1,132	1,127	1,071	-37 **	-29 **	-21 **	-5	-5	
Unweighted base	10,905	10,059	16,337	14,937	19,398	32,787	36,450	37,891						

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

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

3. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2002/03 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in 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).

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

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

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

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

Percentages	1981	1991	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	BCS 2003/04 interviews
<i>Percentage victims once or more of:</i>								
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Vehicle vandalism	5.7	5.7	6.2	5.1	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6
Other vandalism	3.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Attempts	1.4	2.1	2.9	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.4
Attempts and no loss	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.3	2.6	2	1.9	1.8
With entry	2.2	3.5	3.7	3.2	2.5	2	2.0	1.9
With loss	1.8	2.9	3.1	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.6
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Theft from vehicle	5.6	8.8	9.1	7.9	6.4	5.3	5.2	4.8
Theft of vehicles	1.4	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0
Attempts of and from	0.8	3.6	4.8	3.6	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.1
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Snatch theft from person	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Stealth theft from person	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.1
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>10,059</b>	<b>16,337</b>	<b>14,937</b>	<b>19,398</b>	<b>32,787</b>	<b>36,450</b>	<b>37,891</b>
<i>Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:</i>								
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Theft from vehicle	8.2	11.8	12.3	10.5	8.3	7.0	6.8	6.2
Theft of vehicles	2.1	3.2	2.9	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.3
Attempts of and from	1.1	4.8	6.5	4.9	3.9	3.3	3.3	2.7
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>7,714</b>	<b>7,386</b>	<b>11,751</b>	<b>10,965</b>	<b>15,086</b>	<b>25,022</b>	<b>28,106</b>	<b>29,404</b>
<i>Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:</i>								
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>4,766</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>8,592</b>	<b>13,501</b>	<b>15,567</b>	<b>16,041</b>
<i>Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:</i>								
<b>Common assault (includes some with minor injuries)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Wounding</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Any BCS violence</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Domestic violence	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
Acquaintance	1.2	1.4	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.3
Stranger	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7
Mugging	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
(robbery and snatch theft)								
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>10,059</b>	<b>16,337</b>	<b>14,937</b>	<b>19,398</b>	<b>32,787</b>	<b>36,450</b>	<b>37,891</b>
<i>Percentage victims once or more of:</i>								
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>All BCS CRIME<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>25.7</b>
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>10,059</b>	<b>16,337</b>	<b>14,937</b>	<b>19,398</b>	<b>32,787</b>	<b>36,450</b>	<b>37,891</b>

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

2. Note that estimates for 1995 to 2002/03 vary from those previously published due to revisions to the weighting of the data (see 'calibration weighting' in Glossary).

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

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

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

**Table 2.04 Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2003/04 and percentage change between 2002/03 and 2003/04**

Numbers and percentage changes													Recorded crime	
Offence		1991 <sup>1</sup>	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>3</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	2003/04	% change between 2002/03 and 2003/04
1	Murder													
4.1	Manslaughter	725	745	679	739	748	750	750	766	850	891	1,043	853	-18
4.2	Infanticide													
2	Attempted murder	555	634	674	652	661	676	676	750	708	856	819	884	8
3	Threat or conspiracy to murder	4,712	7,044	8,533	9,340	9,661	11,112	11,212	13,434	14,064	13,651	18,060	22,232	23
4.3	Child destruction	2	8	2	5	6	9	9	1	2	-	2	8	300
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	414	445	7
37.1	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	..	21	34	12	18	30	30	37	35	35	55	63	15
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	16,547	17,875	19,358	8
6	Endangering railway passenger	11	12	12	11	7	15	15	7	10	16	6	7	17
	More serious offences	15,829	19,151	22,423	23,581	24,259	26,900	27,047	30,447	31,666	32,366	38,274	43,850	15
7	Endangering life at sea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	2	0
8A	Less serious wounding <sup>6</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	196,737	201,290	195,925	208,542	..	..	..
8A	Less serious wounding <sup>6</sup> (including any minor injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	345,345	428,521	24
8B	Possession of weapons <sup>7</sup>	174,245	193,016	216,467	226,795	231,360	203,313	23,635	23,792	24,552	28,787	32,097	34,975	9
8C	Harassment <sup>8</sup>							79,534	88,625	93,832	96,784	120,708	152,269	26
8D	Racially-aggravated less serious wounding <sup>6 9</sup>							..	2,687	3,176	3,463	4,352	4,840	11
8E	Racially-aggravated harassment <sup>9</sup>							..	10,758	12,468	14,975	16,696	20,584	23
11	Cruelty to or neglect of children <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,300	2,631	2,558	3,068	4,108	6,081	48
12	Abandoning a child under the age of two years	47	46	65	56	54	41	42	51	48	48	59	49	-17
13	Child abduction	196	355	374	390	391	490	502	577	546	584	843	921	9
14	Procuring illegal abortion	3	5	7	-	-	2	2	2	4	6	7	9	29
15	Concealment of birth	19	15	4	5	6	10	10	4	9	4	5	6	20
104	Assault on a constable <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,510	26,115	28,000	30,095	33,743	21,927	-35
105A	Common assault <sup>6 8</sup> (includes some minor injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	151,469	189,783	203,427	226,440	..	..	..
105A	Common assault <sup>6 8</sup> (no injury)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234,197	237,701	1
105B	Racially-aggravated common assault <sup>6 9</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,275	4,711	5,164	4,491	4,017	-11
	Less serious offences	174,510	193,437	216,917	227,246	231,811	203,856	475,741	550,591	569,256	617,964	796,653	911,902	14
	TOTAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	190,339	212,588	239,340	250,827	256,070	230,756	502,788	581,038	600,922	650,330	834,927	955,752	14

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2003/04 and percentage change between 2002/03 and 2003/04

Numbers and percentage changes														Recorded crime	
Offence		1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>3</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	2003/04	% change between 2002/03 and 2003/04	
16	Buggery	1,127	818	728	645	657	567	566	437	401	355	287	247	-14	
17	Indecent assault on a male	3,070	3,150	3,130	3,503	3,885	3,672	3,683	3,614	3,530	3,611	4,093	4,070	-1	
18	Gross indecency between males	965	727	553	520	483	353	354	286	167	163	198	244	23	
19A	Rape of a female	4,045	4,986	5,759	6,281	6,523	7,139	7,132	7,809	7,929	9,002	11,436	12,354	8	
19B	Rape of a male	..	150	231	347	375	502	504	600	664	732	851	893	5	
20	Indecent assault on a female	15,792	16,876	17,643	18,674	18,979	19,463	19,524	20,664	20,301	21,789	24,809	26,709	8	
21	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	315	178	171	148	156	153	153	181	155	169	184	212	15	
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	1,328	1,515	1,907	26	
23	Incest	389	185	157	183	189	139	139	121	80	92	99	105	6	
24	Procuration	138	207	132	131	142	155	215	138	129	129	127	183	44	
25	Abduction	411	364	313	277	258	242	240	251	262	262	291	402	38	
26	Bigamy	75	86	98	75	106	126	129	83	80	74	88	71	-19	
27	Soliciting or importuning by a man <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,107	973	1,028	1,655	2,108	1,939	-8	
73	Abuse of position of trust <sup>10</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	417	678	792	17	
74	Gross indecency with a child	1,147	1,287	1,215	1,269	1,314	1,271	1,293	1,365	1,336	1,654	1,880	1,942	3	
TOTAL SEXUAL OFFENCES		29,423	30,274	31,391	33,165	34,151	34,915	36,174	37,792	37,311	41,432	48,644	52,070	7	
34A	Robbery of business property	45,323	68,074	74,035	63,072	62,652	66,172	10,481	12,148	12,394	13,186	11,069	10,111	-9	
34B	Robbery of personal property							56,354	72,129	82,760	108,173	96,963	91,084	-6	
TOTAL ROBBERY		45,323	68,074	74,035	63,072	62,652	66,172	66,835	84,277	95,154	121,359	108,032	101,195	-6	
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME		265,085	310,936	344,766	347,064	352,873	331,843	605,797	703,107	733,387	813,121	991,603	1,109,017	12	

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2003/04 and percentage change between 2002/03 and 2003/04

Numbers and percentage changes							Recorded crime						
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>3</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	2003/04	% change between 2002/03 and 2003/04
28 Burglary in a dwelling	622,969	641,063	599,372	516,346	498,578	470,005	470,465	439,609	399,927	426,859	434,095	398,934	-8
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	3,476	3,399	-2
<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>430,347</b>	<b>437,571</b>	<b>402,333</b>	<b>-8</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	447,552	450,644	415,774	-8
31 Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	308	454	436	414	431	410	410	494	503	610	612	535	-13
<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>448,162</b>	<b>451,256</b>	<b>416,309</b>	<b>-8</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>878,509</b>	<b>888,827</b>	<b>818,642</b>	<b>-8</b>
37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking	..	6,170	7,794	8,031	8,143	9,811	10,098	10,416	10,759	11,794	11,532	11,546	0
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	316,321	305,618	279,111	-9
45 Theft from a vehicle	913,276	813,094	799,552	710,333	695,498	680,937	685,919	669,232	629,651	655,161	658,697	598,514	-9
<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>983,276</b>	<b>975,847</b>	<b>889,171</b>	<b>-9</b>
38 Proceeds of crime <sup>11</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	..
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	114,848	135,392	125,042	-8
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	46,859	56,443	61,097	8
41 Theft by an employee	17,264	14,357	16,314	17,156	17,476	17,872	17,900	17,468	17,487	17,120	17,414	17,571	1
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	9,665	13,453	20,527	53
43 Abstracting electricity	3,349	2,600	2,473	3,325	2,978	2,454	2,454	2,157	1,451	1,338	1,411	1,303	-8
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	102,713	95,018	102,520	8
46 Theft from shops	281,276	275,802	282,052	274,015	273,509	281,457	281,972	292,494	293,080	306,596	309,338	301,796	-2
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	19,544	23,253	28,373	22
49 Other theft or unauthorised taking	592,918	513,493	488,979	466,917	469,592	472,869	479,306	510,573	518,573	565,475	627,369	614,281	-2
54 Handling stolen goods	51,495	41,568	37,888	33,574	32,352	27,677	27,746	23,298	19,243	18,775	18,620	17,022	-9
126 Vehicle interference and tampering <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,011	56,521	62,696	80,755	91,648	89,371	-2
<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>1,283,688</b>	<b>1,389,359</b>	<b>1,378,972</b>	<b>-1</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>2,266,964</b>	<b>2,365,206</b>	<b>2,268,143</b>	<b>-4</b>
51 Fraud by company director	24	29	39	15	15	39	159	165	152	106	26	80	208
52 False accounting	1,623	1,295	1,728	1,820	1,711	1,203	1,304	1,103	1,043	1,033	847	665	-21
53A Cheque and credit card fraud <sup>12</sup>	159,136	120,699	125,609	124,389	126,790	165,221	141,948	173,857	148,252	153,646	142,280	130,240	-8
53B Other frauds <sup>12</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	122,437	145,448	155,647	144,436	169,140	170,524	1
55 Bankruptcy and insolvency offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	82	10	15	11	9	-18
60 Forgery or use of false drug prescription	968	844	1,071	941	799	838	842	871	821	762	871	794	-9
61 Other forgery	12,991	10,149	7,778	7,233	6,917	6,427	6,762	6,173	6,225	6,835	8,311	7,621	-8
814 Vehicle/driver document fraud <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,028	7,074	7,174	8,026	8,618	8,016	-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>314,859</b>	<b>330,104</b>	<b>317,949</b>	<b>-4</b>

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2003/04 and percentage change between 2002/03 and 2003/04

Numbers and percentage changes							Recorded crime						
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>3</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	2003/04	% change between 2002/03 and 2003/04
56 Arson	30,090	29,985	31,068	31,516	32,051	39,636	47,273	53,794	52,818	60,456	53,192	57,162	7
57 Criminal damage endangering life	246	373	316	372	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58 Other criminal damage <sup>13</sup>	789,153	881,558	917,448	842,415	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other criminal damage <sup>14</sup>	588,323	667,261	749,272	704,717	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
58A Criminal damage to a dwelling <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	216,590	234,575	238,896	269,456	291,999	321,613	10
58B Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	827,104	792,275	159,461	166,770	166,960	178,288	174,269	183,964	6
58C Criminal damage to a vehicle <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	357,152	374,218	378,903	419,403	432,122	455,926	6
58D Other criminal damage <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	95,777	108,318	113,628	126,076	146,061	172,756	18
58E Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling <sup>9</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,452	1,765	2,228	2,044	1,981	-3
58F Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling <sup>9</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	756	985	1,547	1,152	1,162	1
58G Racially-aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle <sup>9</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,232	1,399	1,885	1,524	1,602	5
58H Racially-aggravated other criminal damage <sup>9</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	590	612	822	776	836	8
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	4,334	6,119	8,574	40
<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>1,064,495</b>	<b>1,109,258</b>	<b>1,205,576</b>	<b>9</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>4,524,827</b>	<b>4,693,395</b>	<b>4,610,310</b>	<b>-2</b>
92A Trafficking in controlled drugs	11,379	21,272	22,122	23,153	23,336	21,306	21,788	19,956	19,820	19,686	22,325	24,510	10
92B Possession of controlled drugs <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	112,576	100,598	92,716	100,905	117,800	115,687	-2
92C Other drug offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,581	1,312	922	802	976	863	-12
<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>121,393</b>	<b>141,101</b>	<b>141,060</b>	<b>0</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	5,081	5,712	5,623	-2
35 Blackmail	954	856	957	877	927	1,036	1,038	1,137	1,086	1,072	1,324	1,475	11
36 Kidnapping	766	1,247	1,429	1,559	1,652	2,046	2,049	2,339	2,404	2,788	3,184	3,125	-2
62 High treason and other offences against Treason Acts	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100
63 Treason felony	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
64 Riot	9	12	4	6	6	3	2	6	2	12	8	6	-25
65 Violent disorder	1,517	1,669	2,027	2,060	2,113	2,460	2,500	2,804	2,753	2,602	2,768	2,709	-2
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	18,872	19,506	19,497	0
67 Perjury	312	287	246	309	348	314	329	217	183	143	186	205	10
68 Libel	5	-	-	5	3	3	3	4	2	3	2	0	-100
75 Betting, gaming and lotteries <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	23	27	17	5	1	-80
76 Aiding suicide	12	10	9	14	12	8	8	6	10	4	8	11	38

Table 2.04 (contd) Recorded crime by offence 1991 and 1995 to 2003/04 and percentage change between 2002/03 and 2003/04

Numbers and percentage changes							Recorded crime						
Offence	1991	1995	1996	1997	1997/98 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>2</sup>	1998/99 <sup>3</sup>	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>11</sup>	2003/04	% change between 2002/03 and 2003/04
78 Immigration offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	505	427	262	329	432	451	4
79 Perverting the course of justice	1,989	4,394	5,914	6,779	7,108	9,216	9,265	9,637	9,763	10,282	11,294	11,834	5
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	1,711	11
81 Firearms Acts offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,325	3,143	3,531	3,199	3,514	3,306	-6
82 Customs and Revenue offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	119	96	116	124	117	49	-58
83 Bail offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	143	107	133	133	125	-6
84 Trade descriptions, etc. <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	263	245	192	173	193	510	164
85 Health and Safety offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	5	5	3	4	33
86 Obscene publications etc. <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	603	643	665	852	2,118	2,881	36
87 Protection from eviction <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	68	66	71	56	63	75	19
89 Adulteration of food <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	46	94	117	80	34	-58
90 Knives Act 1997 offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	66	51	59	41	22	-46
91 Public health offences <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	12	10	17	20	86	330
94 Planning laws <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	5	3	1	3	200
95 Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements etc. <sup>15</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	22	38
99 Other indictable or triable-either-way offences	185	863	1,253	1,283	1,362	2,408	2,537	3,559	4,058	4,034	3,224	3,433	6
139 Indecent exposure <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,327	9,476	8,647	8,223	9,403	9,507	1
802 Dangerous driving <sup>8</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,589	5,205	5,287	6,126	7,559	7,487	-1
<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>65,683</b>	<b>72,461</b>	<b>74,193</b>	<b>2</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>5,525,024</b>	<b>5,898,560</b>	<b>5,934,580</b>	<b>1</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. The impact will vary for different types of offences.

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

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

14. The homicide figure for 2002/03 includes 173 murders committed by Harold Shipman in previous years but coming to light in the official inquiry in 2002. See also section 5.6.

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

16. Some forces have revised their 2002/03 data and totals may not therefore agree with those previously published.

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

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

1. Change from calendar year to financial year.

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

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

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

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

6. Some forces have revised their 2002/03 data and totals may not therefore agree with those previously published.



Table 2.06 Number of times victims were victimised, 2002/03 and 2003/04 BCS interviews

Percentages								BCS
		2002/03 interviews			2003/04 interviews			
		Once	Twice	Three or more times	Once	Twice	Three or more times	Unweighted base
PROPERTY CRIME								
Vandalism	%	70	16	14	71	16	13	2,651
Vehicle vandalism	%	75	16	10	76	14	10	1,686
Other vandalism	%	69	16	16	68	16	16	1,049
Burglary	%	82	13	5	84	9	7	1,115
Attempts	%	83	12	5	83	10	7	492
Attempts and no loss	%	81	13	6	83	9	8	630
With entry	%	86	9	5	89	6	6	656
With loss	%	89	8	3	90	7	3	526
All vehicle thefts	%	81	13	6	81	14	5	2,627
Theft from vehicle	%	84	11	5	83	12	5	1,697
Theft of vehicles	%	93	6	1	93	5	1	353
Attempts of and from	%	85	12	4	88	9	3	726
Bicycle theft	%	90	8	3	89	9	2	540
Other household theft	%	81	13	6	82	11	7	1,651
Theft from the person	%	92	6	2	93	7	1	451
Snatch theft from person	%	97	3	-	97	3	1	77
Stealth theft from person	%	93	5	2	94	5	1	382
Other thefts of personal property	%	90	7	3	88	8	3	845
VIOLENCE								
Common assault (includes some with minor injuries) <sup>2</sup>	%	69	15	16	71	15	14	765
Wounding	%	75	14	11	82	10	8	345
Robbery	%	91	7	2	88	11	1	163
ALL BCS VIOLENCE								
Domestic violence	%	56	22	23	56	26	18	229
Acquaintance	%	72	13	15	72	14	14	408
Stranger	%	79	12	9	83	9	8	479
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	%	91	8	2	90	9	1	237

1. Based on victims of specified offences.

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

## 3 Reporting and recording crime

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*Katharine Thorpe and Martin Wood*

### 3.1 SUMMARY

- There will always be a discrepancy between the number of crimes that are recorded by the police and the number that are measured by the BCS but, in recent periods, there has been a divergence between their trends. Comparisons between the series suggest that the increases seen in recorded crime continue to result largely from changes in recording practice. Although the NCRS recording rule changes were introduced in all police forces in April 2002, it appears that ongoing auditing and continuing improvements may be resulting in further inflation in the recording of crimes.
- The rate of victims' reporting of crimes has remained broadly stable since 1997, whereas the rate of recording of crimes by the police has been increasing, especially in the last two years, as a result of the national introduction of the NCRS.
- The public's willingness to report crime varies considerably by type of offence. Thefts of vehicles are the most likely to be reported (95%), followed by burglaries in which something was stolen (78%). Reporting rates are relatively low for crimes such as attempted vehicle theft, vandalism and common assault (34%, 31% and 30% in 2003/04).
- Between 2002/03 and 2003/04, statistically significant falls in reporting were observed for burglary with entry (down from 81% to 74%), burglary with loss (down from 87% to 78%) and bicycle theft (down from 50% to 43%). There were no statistically significant increases in reporting between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- The most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting incidents was that victims perceived them to be too trivial, there was no loss or they believed that the police would or could not do much about them (71% of incidents). In nearly a quarter of cases (24%), the victim felt the incident was a private matter to be dealt with themselves.
- The estimated recording rate of comparable reported offences increased from 68 per cent in the year ending September 2002 to 74 per cent for the year ending September 2003. Recording is at the highest rate it has been since 1981, when the introduction of the British Crime Survey first made this comparison possible.
- The proportion of reported violent crime that was recorded by the police continued to rise from 52 per cent in the year to September 2002 to 62 per cent in the year to September 2003. Common assault (without injury) saw a large increase in recording of around a half to stand at 68 per cent. This supports the evidence from the analyses of the impact of the NCRS, that the greatest increases in the recording of crime have been in low-level violence (Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003).

### 3.2 THE BRITISH CRIME SURVEY AND POLICE MEASURES OF CRIME

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

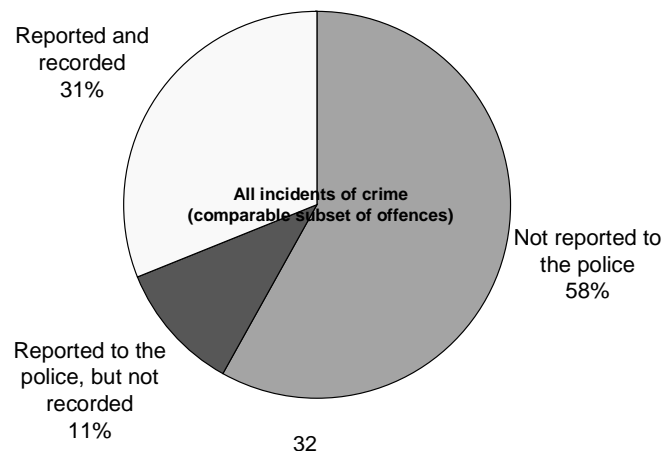
In broad terms, the BCS and recorded crime series display similar trends, with rises from the early 1980s to peaks in the early to mid 1990s before falling. However, more recent periods have shown considerable divergence in these trends (see Figures 2.5 and 2.6 in Chapter 2). Of particular interest have been the divergent trends in violent crime, an important category where recent years have seen recorded offences turning sharply upwards while the BCS shows falls with a recent levelling off of offences. The reasons for this divergence are discussed in the sections below.

There are differences in the type of offences that each series covers (see text box), and so a 'comparable subset' of offences is used to compare the trends in the two series. The number of crimes in this comparable subset estimated by the BCS in 2003/04 was over nine million compared with under three million offences recorded by the police (31% of the BCS total) (Figure 3.1 and Table 3.01).

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

In addition, the police only record a proportion of the crime reported to them (74% of the reported comparable subset of crimes) (Table 3.01). Although the National Crime Recording Standard has introduced a more victim-focused approach to recording, the police are not required to record incidents that they deem to be unsubstantiated. Variations in recording are discussed below.

**Figure 3.1 Proportion of BCS estimate of all crime reported to the police and recorded by them (comparable subset of crimes), year to September 2003**



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

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

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

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

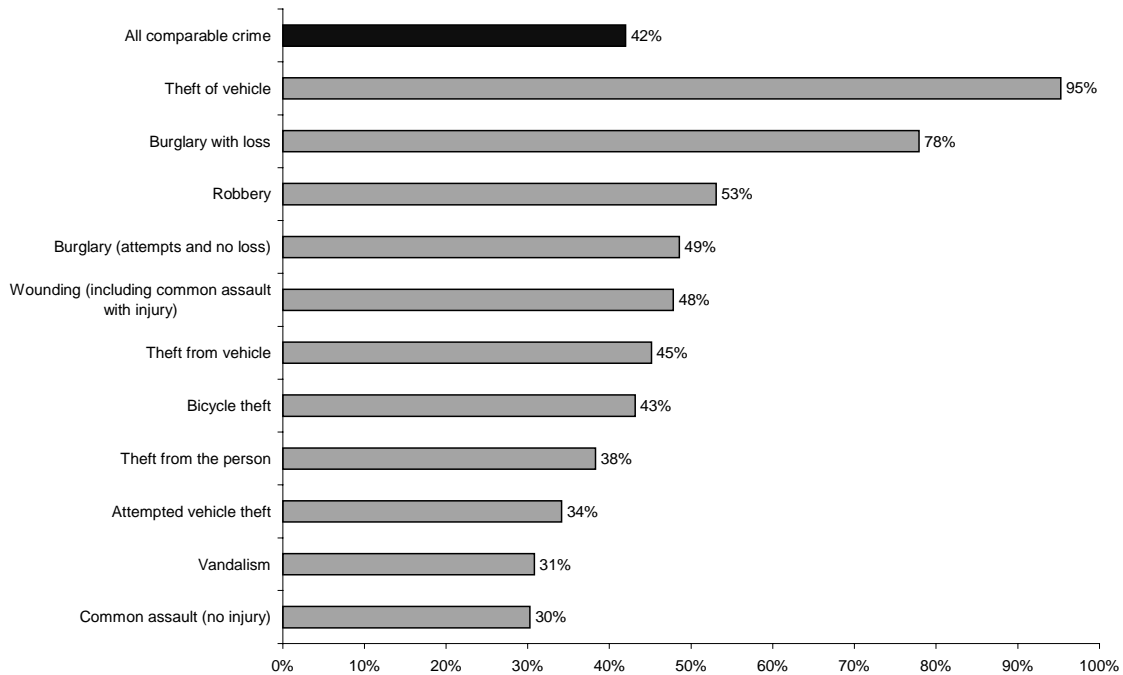
- BCS thefts involving household and personal property also cannot be compared because while they might be included in police figures they would fall into a miscellaneous category of thefts, which will also include thefts of business property, shoplifting and other crimes.
- In 1998/99 there were changes to the police counting rules and extensions to the offences covered that influenced comparisons (e.g. common assault only became a police recorded crime in 1998/99 and so is not in the comparable subset for longer-term comparisons). The Glossary gives definitions of the various offence categories, and highlights those where comparisons can be made.
- Various adjustments are also made to police figures to take account of the fact that the BCS does not cover offences against non-domestic targets (e.g. businesses), those living in institutions and those under 16. Full details of the adjustments are posted at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0304.html>

### 3.3 REPORTING CRIME

For victims interviewed during 2003/04, 42 per cent said that the incident had been reported to the police or was known to them<sup>1</sup>. This figure is similar to the figure for 2002/03 and shows that most crimes (58% of all comparable crimes) are never reported to the police. This gap is the main reason why the BCS estimate is higher than the recorded crime figure and represents a more complete picture of crime within England and Wales (Figure 3.2 and Table 3.01).

**Figure 3.2 Reporting rates based on 2003/04 BCS interviews, comparable subset**



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

- Thefts of vehicles are most likely to be reported (95%) and the latest estimates are consistent with previous years.
- Burglaries in which something was stolen had the second highest reporting rate (78%).
- Reporting rates are relatively low for crimes such as attempted vehicle theft, common assault<sup>23</sup> and vandalism (34%, 30% and 31% in 2003/04).

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

<sup>1</sup> Based on comparable crime only.

<sup>2</sup> Police recording rule changes from April 2002 moved assaults with minor injury into 'less serious woundings'. The BCS definition of common assault and wounding has been changed to reflect this from 2002/03 interviews.

- As in previous years, the most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting incidents was that victims perceived them to be too trivial, there was no loss or they believed that the police would or could not do much about them (71% of incidents). In nearly a quarter of cases (24%) the victim felt the incident was a private matter to be dealt with themselves.
- For violent crime, however, almost half of the incidents were not reported because victims considered the issue to be a private matter and dealt with it themselves (46%). This may reflect the personal relationships involved with some of these offences.
- The majority of crimes that go unreported are relatively minor offences (the more serious offences in the comparable subset – wounding, robbery, theft of vehicles and burglary with loss – only accounted for 17% of incidents that were not reported in 2003/04) (Table 3.01).

### Trends in reporting

- 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 relatively stable since 1997. For the 2003/04 interviews, 44 per cent of these crimes were reported to the police (Table 3.02).
- Between 1991 and 1995, after rising considerably over the previous decade, the proportion of incidents reported to the police fell slightly. However, as can be seen in Figure 3.3, the actual *number* of incidents reported was still rising due to the increases in the total number of offences that the BCS was finding.
- Although reporting rates have been relatively stable in recent years, between 2002/03 and 2003/04 there has been some variation within crime types. Statistically significant falls in reporting can be observed for burglary with entry (down from 81% to 74%), burglary with loss (down from 87% to 78%) and bicycle theft (down from 50% to 43%).
- There have been no statistically significant increases in reporting between 2002/03 and 2003/04.

#### ***Home Office and police initiatives and reporting rates***

Home Office and police initiatives to encourage the reporting of particular types of crime such as domestic violence and sexual assault (for instance through the introduction of Third Party Reporting and Sexual Assault Referral Centres) may have had some impact on reporting rates. However, the concentration on more serious crimes in these initiatives probably means they will not have a significant impact on the overall reporting rates discussed here as these are driven by less serious crime.

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the two comparable subsets of crimes used in this section, see 'Old comparable subset of crimes' and 'Comparable subsets of crimes' in the Glossary.

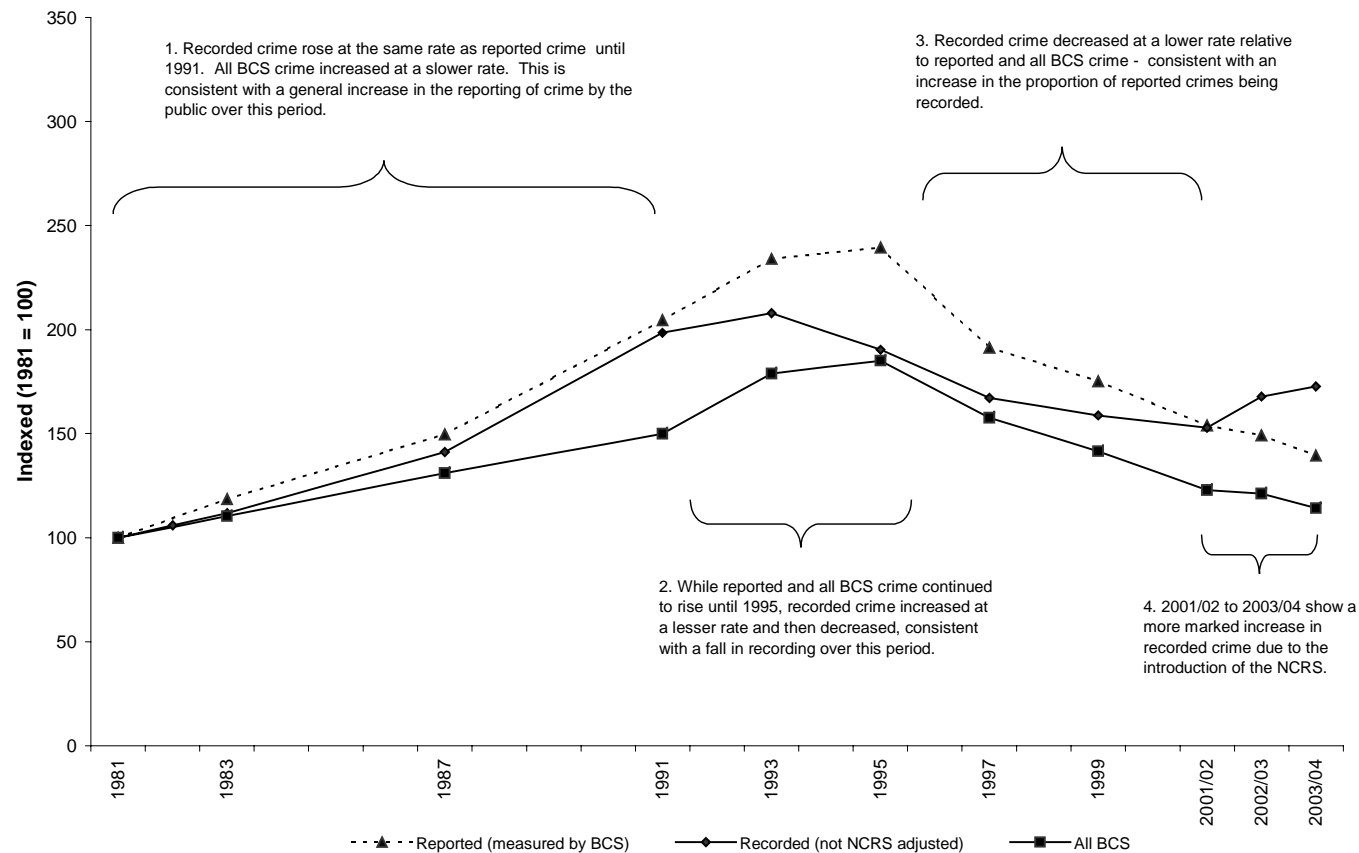
Although reporting rates for crime overall have been generally stable in recent years, the pattern is slightly different for violent crime, resulting in a sharper divergence between the survey and police statistics. For violent crime, there is some evidence that reporting of incidents increased in the recent period. A Home Office report concluded that around a third of the increase in recorded violent crime in 2002/03 was due to increased reporting of incidents (Smith and Allen, 2004).

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

### ***Comparisons of reported and recorded crime***

The BCS provides estimates for the number of incidents said to have been reported to the police. Precise comparisons, based on calendar year estimates, between BCS reported incidents and police recorded incidents are no longer possible due to the BCS adopting continuous sampling, with a moving previous 12-month recall period. In Table 3.01 comparisons are made between the annual estimates of reported crimes based on BCS interviews during 2003/04 and police recorded crime figures for the year to the end of September 2003. This period of recorded crime data is selected because it is the most closely comparable period to the overlapping recall periods used during these BCS interviews. This generates a more approximate measure of police recording as a proportion of reported crime than in the past but results should give a reasonable indication as to the crimes where police recording has changed the most.

**Figure 3.3 Indexed trends in the reporting and recording of crime, and all BCS crime, 1981 to 2003/04 (1981 = 100)**



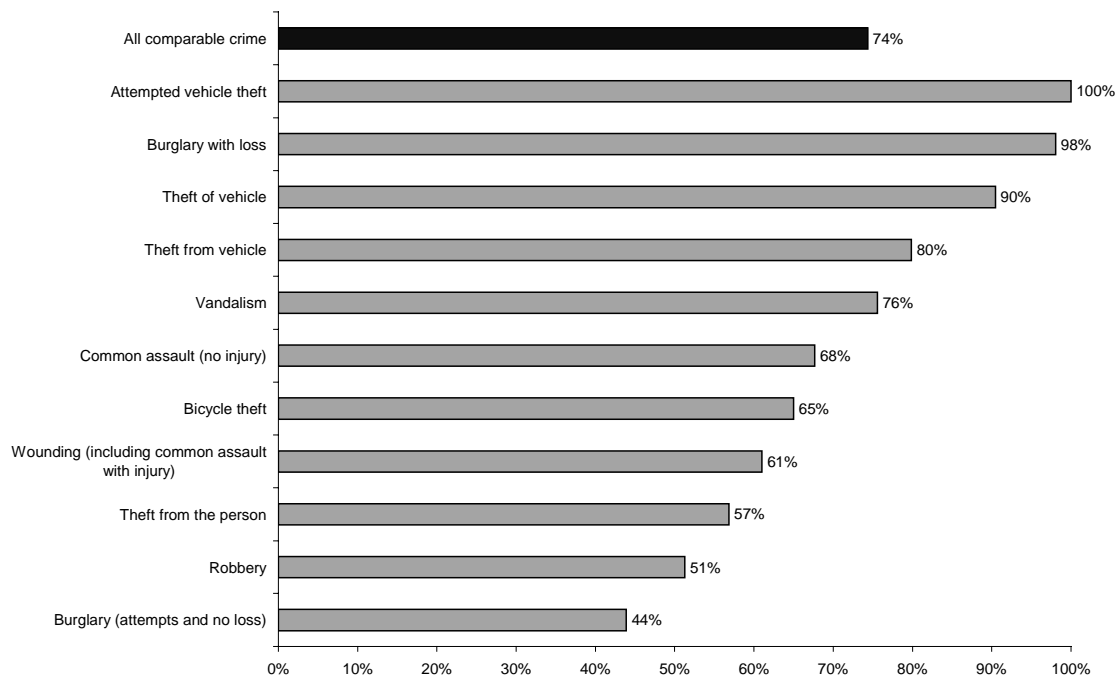
1. BCS estimates of incidents for 1991 to 2003/04 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales that have been revised in light of the 2001 Census. For more information please see the Glossary.
2. From 2001/02, reported and all BCS crime relate to interviews carried out in that financial year and incidents experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Recorded crimes relate to incidents in the 12 months up to the end of September of that financial year. This is so that the recorded crime data are centred on the same period as reported and all BCS crime.



### 3.4 RECORDING CRIME

- Overall, the estimated recording rate of comparable reported offences has increased from 68 per cent in the year ending September 2002 to 74 per cent for the year ending September 2003 (Table 3.04).
- Police recording of crime is at its highest rate since the BCS began in 1981.
- It is estimated that the police recorded 62 per cent of reported crime in 1981 *within the old comparable subset* (Table 3.04). Sharp falls from 1991 followed by rises from 1995, inversely mirrored the rise in crime. The proportion of recording in the year to September 2003 continued the sharp upward trend from September 2001 to a historically high 77 per cent *for the old comparable subset*.

**Figure 3.4 Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police (the recording shortfall) for comparable crime, year to September 2003**



- However, there is still considerable variation in the recording rates between offence types (Figure 3.4). For some offences the proportion recorded has always tended to be high – thefts of vehicles (90%) for example. However, the police are now also recording 98 per cent of all burglaries with loss that are reported to them. Over three-quarters of the crimes of vandalism reported to the police are now being recorded, compared to less than one-third in 1981. Recording of reported thefts from the person (57%) is more than double the rate in 1981 (Table 3.04).

- The recording rates for certain crimes are still quite low, suggesting that there may still be considerable scope for increased recording, in particular for violent crimes where it is estimated that only 62 per cent of the reported crimes are recorded.

### Recent trends in recording

As discussed above, the number of crimes recorded by the police are influenced both by changes in the reporting of crime by the public and changes in the rules and practice for recording crimes by the police. Indexed trends (Figure 3.3) show that the numbers of offences being recorded increased noticeably in the last two years despite both numbers of crimes and numbers of reported crimes (as measured by the BCS) falling. This suggests that changes to recording practice have been the main reason for the increase in recorded crime rather than increases in actual crime.

Although the proportion of reported crime recorded by the police has been rising consistently since 1995 (as crime as measured by the BCS has been falling), the size of the rise between the year to September 2001 and the year to September 2003 is striking at 15 percentage points for the *old comparable subset* (from 62% to 77%).

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

Data from individual police forces and anecdotal evidence suggest that the first year of data audits following the introduction of the NCRS has led to further increases in recording, particularly for minor violence. However, the BCS estimates would suggest that there is still some scope for further increases in recording in certain categories of crime.

- Focusing on the new comparable subset (which takes account of the 1998 change in counting rules and includes common assault and vehicle interference), there has been an increase of 20 percentage points from 2000 (the period prior to any police forces adopting the NCRS). The proportion now stands at 74 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'. Adjusting for these differences suggests that the recording of both common assaults and woundings rose, with the greater rise in the less serious category of common assault from 46 per cent to 68 per cent. Overall comparable violent crime shows a rise in the recording of reported crimes from 52 per cent in the year to September 2002 to 62 per cent in the year to September 2003 (Table 3.04).

- Vandalism saw an increase of six percentage points in the proportion recorded from the year to September 2002 to stand at 76 per cent. This is a category that was also expected to rise as a result of the NCRS.
- Recording of burglary continues to rise modestly, and this is in line with a smaller anticipated NCRS impact. Levels of recording of reported crime are now very high for burglary with loss, at 98 per cent.

Table 3.01 Comparison of the 2003/04 BCS and recorded crime for year to September 2003<sup>1</sup>

	Numbers (thousands) and percentages		Recorded crime and BCS				
	Crimes recorded by the police - comparable offences only (thousands)	Crimes recorded by the police adjusted for comparison <sup>2</sup> (thousands)	BCS estimate of crimes committed (thousands)	BCS estimate of crimes reported (thousands)	Percentage of all BCS crimes recorded by the police	Percentage of BCS crimes reported to the police	Percentage recorded of reported
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(b)/(c)	(d)/(c)	(b)/(d)
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>ALL COMPARABLE PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>74%</b>
Attempts and no loss	112	112	526	255	21%	49%	44%
Burglary with loss	319	319	417	325	76%	78%	98%
<b>All vehicle thefts<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>92%</b>
Thefts from vehicles	542	482	1,337	603	36%	45%	80%
Thefts of vehicles	225	208	241	230	86%	95%	90%
Attempted vehicle theft	270	248	543	185	46%	34%	100% <sup>6</sup>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>VIOLENCE<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>781</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>62%</b>
Common assault (BCS adjusted) <sup>7</sup>	272	216	1,054	319	20%	30%	68%
Wounding (BCS adjusted) <sup>7</sup>	414	366	1,255	600	29%	48%	61%
Robbery	95	77	283	150	27%	53%	51%
<b>ALL COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>9,113</b>	<b>3,825</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>74%</b>

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS interviews and recorded crime for year to September 2003. The police recorded crime figures used in this comparison relate to the year to September 2003 as this is the period most closely comparable with the recall periods covered by BCS interviews in 2003/04.

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

3. All comparable property crime comprises all 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 2.01, the violence category here does not include snatch theft.

6. The number of recorded offences of attempted vehicle theft was higher than the number estimated to have been reported. This is the result of estimates having to be made 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 definitions of common assault and wounding have been changed to reflect this.

Table 3.02 Percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1981 to 2003/04 interviews

Percentages	BCS											
	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001/02 interviews	2002/03 interviews	2003/04 interviews	Statistical significance of changes from 2002/03 to 2003/04
PROPERTY CRIME												
Vandalism	22.2	22.0	23.7	27.0	26.5	29.9	26.2	30.4	31.6	31.0	30.8	
Vehicle vandalism	10.3	16.1	21.7	24.5	22.5	25.6	23.0	23.6	25.9	27.1	26.3	
Other vandalism	36.4	31.6	26.2	30.9	31.0	35.0	30.2	39.0	39.6	36.8	37.1	
Burglary	66.2	67.8	62.8	73.0	67.8	65.7	63.5	63.3	61.2	64.8	61.5	
Attempts	42.0	48.1	37.9	48.1	47.5	45.0	47.0	47.5	40.7	42.5	44.7	
Attempts and no loss	48.4	50.2	43.7	53.0	51.6	51.0	49.4	49.7	45.1	49.1	48.5	
With entry	81.2	82.3	81.9	87.9	82.9	81.8	78.4	74.1	76.6	81.1	74.5	**
With loss	84.7	86.6	86.3	92.2	86.8	84.0	84.5	81.6	84.5	86.6	77.9	**
All vehicle thefts	40.8	43.1	46.4	55.9	53.1	51.1	46.1	50.3	51.6	49.7	48.0	
Theft from vehicle	30.0	38.2	39.9	52.6	50.3	50.1	41.7	47.0	48.2	46.9	45.1	
Theft of vehicles	94.9	96.4	94.9	98.6	96.3	97.7	95.9	94.6	93.4	96.6	95.3	
Attempts of and from	30.7	18.0	33.9	41.2	40.0	34.9	36.3	39.6	39.9	36.0	34.1	
Bicycle theft	63.9	68.2	62.4	69.0	71.9	61.6	63.0	54.7	53.0	50.0	43.1	*
Other household theft	25.2	21.8	23.8	29.2	31.9	30.2	32.8	32.4	32.9	30.0	30.1	
Theft from the person	31.3	31.2	33.6	34.6	25.6	40.6	33.2	31.9	34.1	32.6	38.3	
Snatch theft from person	24.1	47.2	48.8	37.5	38.7	74.9	49.8	46.4	54.2	39.5	50.1	
Stealth theft from person	32.9	28.8	31.1	33.9	23.4	36.0	30.7	30.4	31.3	31.6	35.6	
Other thefts of personal property	22.7	29.8	31.2	38.0	30.2	28.6	30.7	31.4	31.9	36.0	34.5	
VIOLENCE												
Common assault (no injury) <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.5	30.3	
Wounding (including common assault with injury) <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.8	47.8	
Common assault (including some with minor injuries) <sup>6</sup>	25.1	30.5	32.5	25.5	23.2	34.3	29.6	29.5	25.8	34.1	33.0	
Wounding	40.2	59.6	43.3	47.7	53.2	39.7	45.8	58.2	55.8	51.0	57.1	
Robbery	46.5	39.0	43.9	47.2	48.3	55.1	56.6	29.7	44.4	52.8	53.1	
OLD COMPARABLE VIOLENCE <sup>7</sup>	41.5	54.7	43.4	47.6	52.0	43.9	49.0	47.3	51.8	51.5	55.9	
COMPARABLE VIOLENCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.1	35.4	40.6	41.3	
All BCS violence <sup>8</sup>	29.7	37.8	35.0	32.4	31.5	37.9	36.1	35.2	35.9	40.6	41.6	
Domestic violence	19.6	13.3	46.3	23.4	21.6	27.3	25.8	30.7	34.8	34.6	40.2	
Acquaintance	25.2	35.3	34.0	29.1	32.0	37.4	31.8	36.5	36.4	41.9	39.8	
Stranger	35.2	46.8	30.3	37.5	39.1	40.0	45.6	39.8	31.1	38.6	39.6	
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	52.2	
OLD COMPARABLE CRIME <sup>9</sup>	36.0	38.7	41.1	49.4	47.1	46.6	43.7	44.5	45.1	44.3	44.0	
COMPARABLE CRIME <sup>9</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5	41.7	42.5	42.0	
ALL BCS CRIME <sup>9</sup>	31.2	34.2	36.7	43.0	40.1	40.9	38.8	39.3	39.6	40.4	39.8	

1. Source 1982 to 2003/04 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 2003/04 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 22,320,681 households in England and Wales. For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts, all BCS violence and other thefts of personal property the 2002/03 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 42,333,000 adults in England and Wales. Figures for 1991 to 2003/04 are based on estimates of population and the number of households in England and Wales, that have been revised in the light of the 2001 Census. For more information please see the Glossary.

4. 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 from 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 3.03 Reasons for not reporting crime to the police, 2003/04**

Percentages								BCS
	Vandalism	Burglary	Thefts from vehicles & attempts 2	Other household theft	Other personal theft	BCS violence	Comparable subset 3	All BCS
Trivial/no loss/police would not/ could not do anything <sup>4</sup>	82	72	85	78	71	47	71	72
Private/dealt with ourselves	16	20	12	19	16	46	24	22
Inconvenient to report	5	4	8	6	9	5	6	6
Reported to other authorities	2	4	1	2	17	8	4	5
Police-related reasons <sup>5</sup>	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	2
Fear of reprisal	2	4	1	1	0	6	3	2
Other	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,377</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>926</i>	<i>818</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>545</i>	<i>3,544</i>	<i>4,739</i>

1. Source 2003/04 BCS. More than one reason could be given.

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

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

4. Too trivial/no loss/would not have been interested/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

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

Table 3.04 Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to year ending September 2003

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	Year to Sep 2003 <sup>3</sup> old	Year to Sep 2003 <sup>3</sup> new
<b>PROPERTY</b>																	
<b>Vandalism</b>	33	37	43	56	51	46	59	53	56	49	52	59	62	66	70	72	76
<b>Burglary</b>	70	69	64	62	60	55	50	55	55	58	58	70	70	71	71	74	74
Attempts and no loss	40	39	36	41	38	34	29	32	32	29	29	42	42	42	42	44	44
With loss	87	87	83	74	76	71	69	74	74	91	91	92	92	94	94	98	98
<b>All vehicle thefts</b>	91	75	71	65	60	54	63	62	66	65	69	67	72	76	84	72	92
Theft from vehicle	88	64	67	61	59	52	60	58	58	58	59	66	66	75	75	79	80
Theft of vehicle	100 <sup>8</sup>	100 <sup>8</sup>	89	95	94	81	87	88	88	76	76	75	75	84	84	90	90
Attempts of and from	51	54	47	34	27	33	45	49	64	74	98	60	84	71	100 <sup>8</sup>	88	100 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	91	73	54	62	48	44	44	60	62	56	58	55	56	55	57	63	65
<b>Theft from the person<sup>5</sup></b>	26	21	37	26	33	22	29	37	37	44	44	45	45	58	58	57	57
<b>VIOLENCE</b>																	
Common assault (no injury from April 2002) <sup>6,7</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	25	-	47	-	46	-	68
Wounding (any injury from April 2002) <sup>7</sup>	41	37	48	53	42	48	56	53	49	73	68	59	55	62	57	66	61
Robbery	24	35	38	48	45	31	27	53	53	47	48	48	48	53	53	51	51
<b>Comparable violence</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	38	-	50	-	52	-	62
<b>OLD COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	62	59	59	60	55	50	54	56	-	58	-	62	-	70	-	77	-
<b>COMPARABLE CRIME</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	-	54	-	62	-	68	-	74

1. Source: 1982 to 2003/04 BCS and recorded crime from 1981 to the year ending in September 2003.

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

3. From 2001/02 the comparable recorded crime periods for BCS interviews are the year to the September within that financial year.

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

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

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

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

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

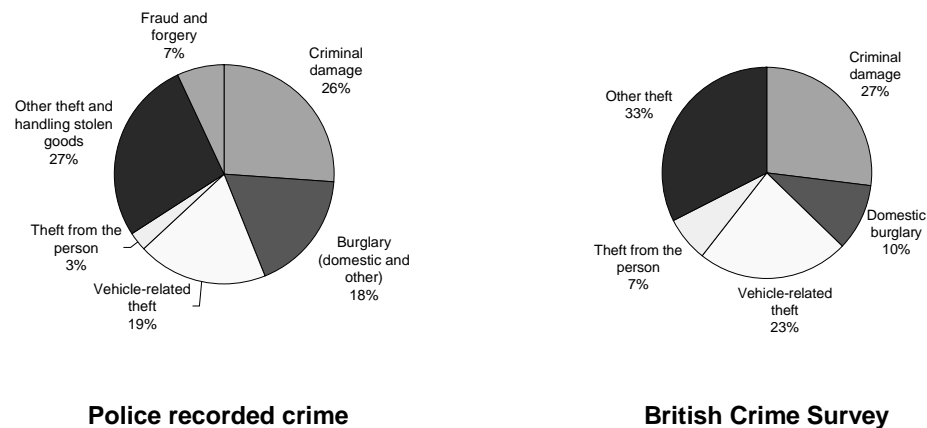
## 4 Property crime

*Laura Ringham and Martin Wood*

### 4.1 SUMMARY

- Property crime has fallen considerably since 1995. Overall acquisitive crime, as measured by the BCS, fell by nearly half (46%) between 1995 and 2003/04 interviews.
- The fall in domestic burglary has levelled off in recent periods according to the BCS, although police recorded crime in 2003/04 showed a fall of eight per cent compared to 2002/03. Both recorded burglaries in a dwelling and those not in a dwelling fell by eight per cent.
- The fall in vehicle-related theft has continued in the most recent period. A fall of ten per cent was measured by the BCS and nine per cent by police recorded crime statistics between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- Criminal damage remained level between 2002/03 and 2003/04 as measured by the BCS (the fall of three per cent was not statistically significant). The police recorded a nine per cent rise in criminal damage between 2002/03 and 2003/04, although this rise is likely to be linked to improvements in recording practices.
- The risk of being a victim of either burglary or vehicle-related theft has halved since 1995 and is much reduced for other property crimes.
- For both burglary and vehicle-related crime, having security measures in place was strongly associated with lower levels of victimisation. While 82 per cent of all homes had window locks in 2003/04, this was the case in only 33 per cent of homes where a burglar got into the property. Similarly, while three-quarters (75%) of main household cars had some kind of immobiliser, this was the case in only a third (32%) of cars that were stolen.

**Figure 4.1 Police recorded and BCS property crime broken down by offence, 2003/04**





### **Coverage of British Crime Survey and police recorded crime**

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

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

*Key elements of **burglaries** (as defined by the Theft Act 1968) are entry (or attempted entry) to a building as a trespasser with intent to steal property from it, and actually stealing (or attempting to steal) or vandalising property whilst 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, including break-ins (regardless of intent) to all inhabited dwellings.*

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

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

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

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

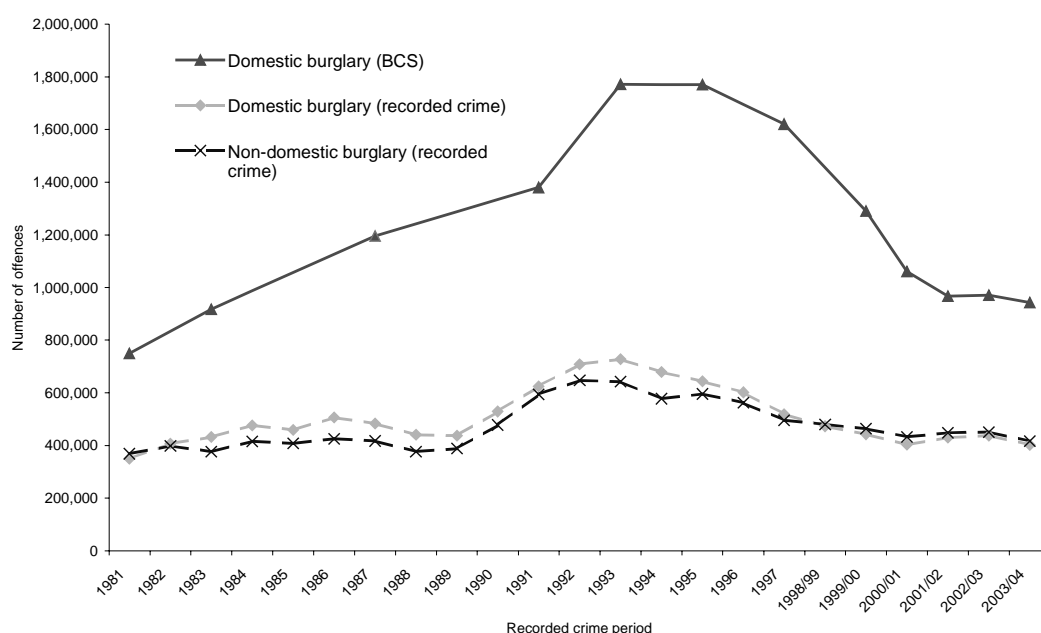
***Theft from the person** comprises both snatch theft and stealth theft. There may be an element of force in snatch theft just to snatch the property away and victims are usually aware of the incident. No force is used in stealth thefts and victims are often unaware of incidents.*

## 4.2 BURGLARY

### Extent and trends

- The number of domestic burglaries in England and Wales was estimated by the BCS in 2003/04 to be 943,000, of which 533,000 were burglaries with entry and 410,000 were attempts (Table 2.01). The police recorded totals of 402,333 domestic burglaries and 416,309 non-domestic burglaries in 2003/04 (Table 2.04).

**Figure 4.2 Trends in BCS and police recorded burglary, 1981 to 2003/04**



- BCS and police recorded crime both showed considerable falls in burglary levels since peaks in the mid 1990s. The number of domestic burglaries estimated by the BCS fell by nearly half (47%) from 1,770,000 in 1995 to 943,000 in the 2003/04 BCS (Figure 4.2).
- Domestic burglary, as measured by the BCS, remained at broadly the same level between the 2002/03 and 2003/04 surveys (the fall of three per cent was not statistically significant). The fall of five per cent for burglary where there was entry to the property was not statistically significant, and attempted burglaries also remained stable.
- Police recorded burglary showed a decrease of eight per cent on 2002/03 and a resumption of falls following a small rise during the period when the NCRS counting rule changes were introduced (Table 2.04).
- Since 1981, non-domestic and domestic burglary trends have closely followed one another with both experiencing falls since their peaks in the early 1990s. In previous years domestic burglary

has fallen more sharply than non-domestic burglary. In 2003/04 non-domestic burglary fell at the same rate as domestic burglary with an eight per cent fall in the number recorded by the police (Figure 4.2 and Table 2.04).

- The 2003/04 BCS estimated that 62 per cent of domestic burglaries were reported to the police, and of these 74 per cent were recorded. Where there was loss as a result of burglary the reporting rate rose to 78 per cent, 98 per cent of these being recorded (Tables 3.02 and 3.04).

### **Risks of becoming a victim of burglary**

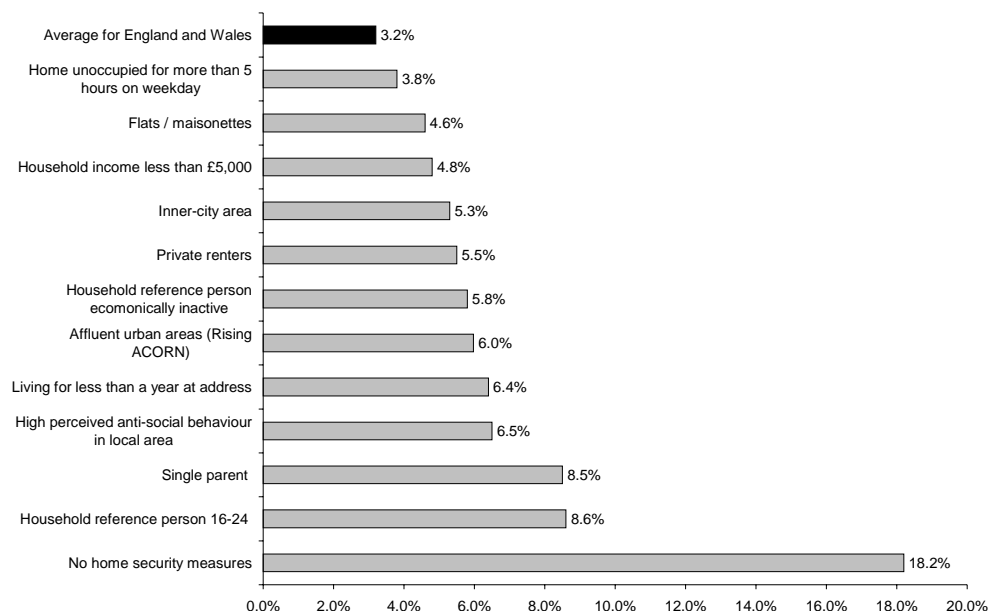
- Overall, 3.2 per cent of households in England and Wales interviewed in the 2003/04 BCS had experienced at least one domestic burglary in the previous 12 months. This was not significantly different from the 2002/03 level (3.4%), but substantially below the 1995 level of 6.4 per cent (Table 2.03). Within this, 1.9 per cent of households were victims of burglary with entry and 1.4 per cent were victims of attempts in 2003/04.

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

- Households where there were no home security measures were far more likely to have been victims of burglary than those where there were simple security measures such as deadlocks on doors and window locks (18.2% compared with 2.6%). Although only a small proportion of homes had no security measures (4%), they were the victims of 28 per cent of all burglaries.
- Households where the head of household was aged between 16 and 24 were significantly more likely (at 8.6%) to have experienced burglary than those living in households where the head of household was older. This in part may reflect the findings of Barberet *et al.* (2003) that there was a considerably higher prevalence of burglary among students than in the general population.
- Lone parent families were also more likely to have been victimised (8.5%). Further to this, households with an overall income of less than £5,000 were also more likely to have experienced at least one burglary in the past year (4.8%).
- In addition to household characteristics, certain types of area were also more at risk of burglary. In particular, households in inner-city areas were more likely to have experienced the crime in the previous year (5.3%) than those in urban (3.3%) or rural areas (1.9%). Households in council estate areas were at higher risk (4.3%), but so too were those in certain affluent urban areas (6%).
- Certain areas of the country also appear to be more at risk. In particular, the Yorkshire and Humber region had experienced significantly higher levels of burglary than the national average in the last year, whilst the Eastern region and Wales had experienced lower levels than the national average (BCS incidence rates, Table 4.09).
- Other risk factors included the number of years spent at an address, with people who had lived at an address for less than a year more likely to experience victimisation (6.4%). Again, this may be influenced by the more highly victimised and highly mobile student population (Barberet *et al.*, 2003). The level of anti-social behaviour perceived in the local area also showed a significant

relationship, with those perceiving high levels in their area being more likely to experience burglary (6.5%).

**Figure 4.3 Households most at risk of burglary, 2003/04 interviews**



Many of the risk factors mentioned here are inter-related. For instance, income tends to rise with age until retirement. Multivariate analysis<sup>1</sup> was carried out in order to look at which factors were the most important predictors of becoming a victim of burglary independent of other variables.

- Overall, the level of home security was the most important predictor of whether a household experienced burglary or not, with those in households with no security being far more likely to become victims.
- Illustrating this, eighty-two per cent of the general population had window locks compared to 38 per cent of burglary victims (Table 4.02).
- Differences between homes where the burglar had gained entry to the property and those where the attempt failed were also evident. Households that had experienced an attempted burglary were more likely to have a burglar alarm (26% compared with 17% of victims of burglary with entry), have window locks (47% compared with 33%), security chains on doors (22% compared with 15%) and also use outdoor sensor or timer lights (24% and 14%).
- While the level of home security was the strongest predictive factor, other factors were also significantly associated with burglary victimisation, independent of other variables. These are listed in the box below in order of the strength of their prediction.

<sup>1</sup> Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

### Predictors of households experiencing burglary:

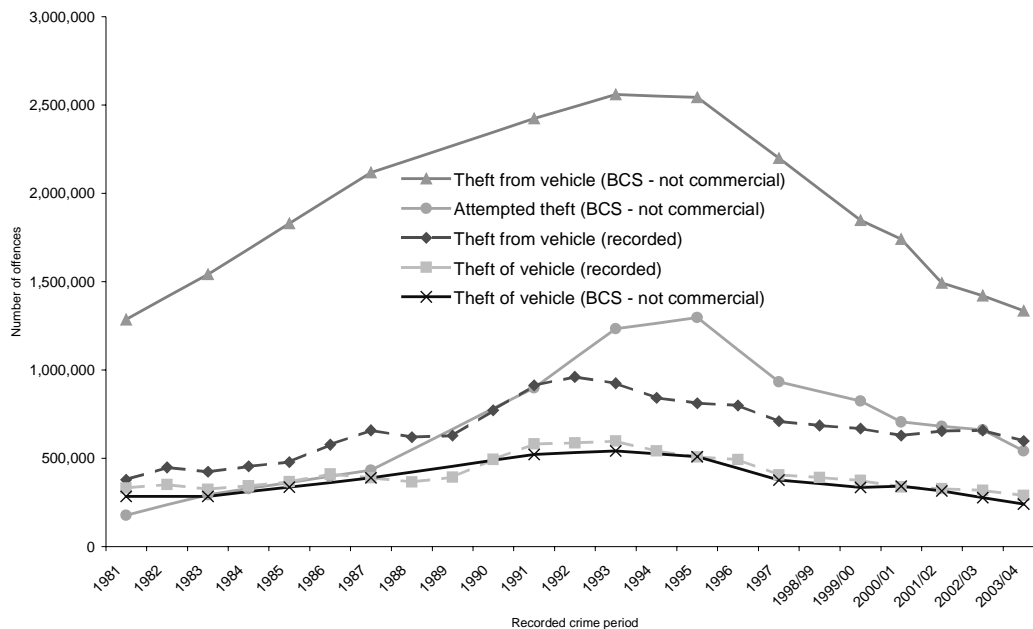
- No home security
- Households in areas where high levels of anti-social behaviour are perceived
- Living at an address for less than one year
- Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)<sup>2</sup>
- Single adult households

## 4.3 VEHICLE-RELATED THEFT

### Extent and trends

- Vehicle-related theft has fallen considerably since 1995 and the fall has continued in the latest period. The number of offences as measured by the BCS fell ten per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 2,121,000 crimes. Offences have halved (falling 51%) since the peak in 1995 (Table 2.01 and Figure 4.4).

**Figure 4.4 Trends in BCS and police recorded vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2003/04**



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

- Police recorded crime figures reflected this, with a fall of nine per cent to 889,171 thefts of and from vehicles between 2002/03 and 2003/04. This fall in the most recent period represents a resumption of a downward trend following increases resulting from the NCRS police recording rule changes. Recorded offences have fallen by a third since 1995 (Table 2.04 and Figure 4.4).
- Within the categories of vehicle-related theft, the BCS showed a fall of 18 per cent in attempted thefts of and from vehicles. Estimates also suggested that there were falls in the number of thefts of vehicles (13%) and thefts from vehicles (6%), although these were not statistically significant changes. Offences in each of the individual categories are around half the level they were at in 1995 (Table 2.01).
- Recorded crime showed falls of nine per cent in both thefts of and from vehicles between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- The BCS estimates that 48 per cent of vehicle-related thefts were reported to the police in 2003/04 (92% of which were recorded). Within this, 95 per cent of thefts of vehicles were reported to the police (of which 90% were recorded) and 45 per cent of thefts from vehicles were reported (with 80% of these being recorded). (Tables 3.02 and 3.04).

### Risks of vehicle-related theft

- Overall, 9.7 per cent of vehicle-owning households interviewed in the 2003/04 BCS had experienced one or more vehicle-related thefts in the previous 12 months. This is down from 10.8 per cent in the 2002/03 BCS and is less than half of the 1995 prevalence (19.7%) (Table 2.03).

Several factors interact to mean that the risk of experiencing vehicle-related theft is not even across the population. Socio-demographic factors will influence usage and ownership patterns and levels of offending will vary between different types of area. Particularly important for thefts of vehicles are the security measures with which vehicles are equipped<sup>3</sup>.

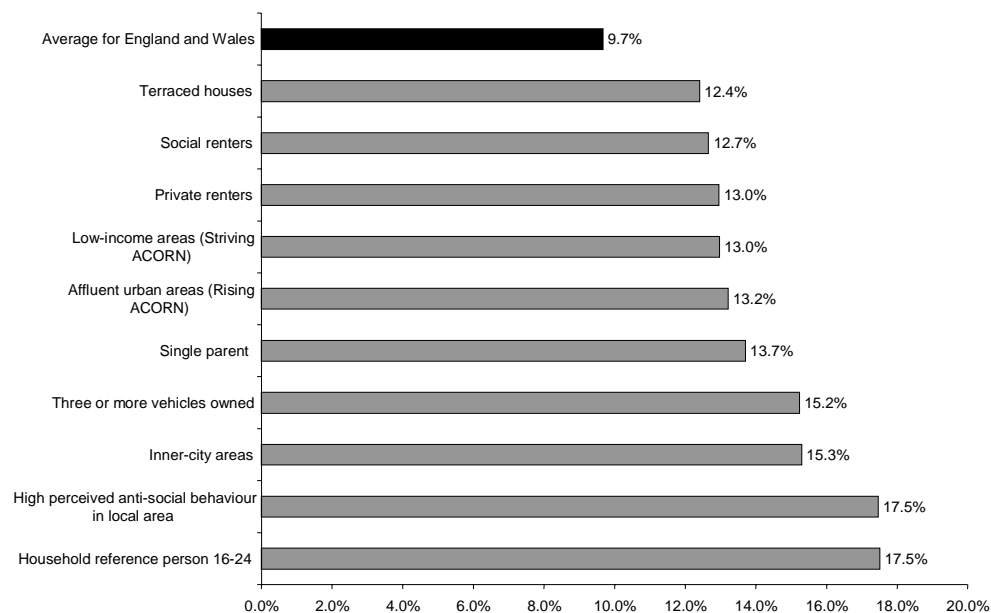
- Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft were those where the head of household was under 25 years old and those living in areas where they perceived anti-social behaviour to be high (17.5% of both of these groups experienced vehicle-related theft compared with the national average of 9.7%) (Figure 4.5).
- Among those living in inner-city areas, 15.3 per cent had experienced this crime. This was further reflected in high prevalence of victimisation among both affluent urban and low-income areas (13.2% and 13.0% respectively).<sup>4</sup>
- Both the London and Yorkshire and Humber regions experienced higher levels of vehicle-related theft in the last year than the national average. The North East and Eastern regions and also Wales experienced lower levels than the national average (BCS incidence rates, Table 4.10).
- The number of vehicles that a household owned was clearly a factor in the risk of a household experiencing vehicle-related theft.

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

<sup>4</sup> These classifications are based on ACORN groups (see Table 4.08).

- Those living in flats or terraced housing were at greater risk of vehicle-related theft, perhaps as a result of being more likely to need to park their cars on the street rather than in private areas.
- Risk factors were similar between thefts of and from vehicles. However, lower income households and those living in council estate areas were more likely to have experienced thefts of vehicles whereas those on higher incomes were more likely to have experienced thefts from vehicles (Table 4.03).

**Figure 4.5 Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft, 2003/04 interviews**



Many of these factors will be interrelated. Multivariate analysis<sup>5</sup> was carried out among the socio-demographic factors to draw out which were the underlying predictors of vehicle theft. The box below lists the factors that were most strongly related to vehicle-related theft independently of other variables (these are listed in order of their strength of prediction).

**Predictors of households experiencing vehicle-related theft:<sup>6</sup>**

- Young head of household
- Households in areas where high levels of anti-social behaviour are perceived
- Living in particular geographical areas (no distinct pattern)<sup>7</sup>
- Multiple vehicle ownership
- Living in flats or terraced houses

<sup>5</sup> Logistic regression. See glossary for more details.

<sup>6</sup> The effect of security devices could not be included in this analysis.

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

In addition to these socio-demographic factors, an important element of risk is how secure the vehicle itself is. The considerable falls in vehicle-related theft described above are closely linked to the increasing security measures available on more modern vehicles that make them more resistant to theft (particularly in the case of theft of vehicles). The Car Theft Index 2003<sup>8</sup> shows the age of vehicles to be a significant risk factor that will interact with household characteristics. This point is illustrated in Table 4.04.

- Vehicles that were stolen were far less likely to have a car alarm (31%) or some kind of immobiliser (32%) compared with the main cars of the general population (58% and 75% respectively). The greater proportion of security measures to be found on vehicles subject to attempted thefts compared with those on vehicles that were stolen may reflect the effectiveness of those measures in thwarting those attempts (Table 4.04).

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

- Two thirds (65%) of vehicle-related thefts occurred in areas around the home. The street outside the home is where the highest volume of incidents occur, with 40 per cent reported to have occurred in this location by the 2003/04 BCS. Twenty per cent of all vehicle thefts occurred in a car park (Table 4.05).
- However, in assessing the relative risk of different locations, the length of time that vehicles are in those locations needs to be considered. Work by Clarke and Mayhew (1996) found that cars in car parks were at much greater risk than those parked outside the home when length of time parked there is taken into account. Table 4.05 shows that half (49%) of vehicle-related thefts that occur during the day take place in car parks.

## 4.4 THEFTS AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

### Extent and trends

- The 2003/04 BCS estimated that there were 3,596,000 thefts from adults living in private households in England and Wales (excluding burglaries and vehicle-related thefts), of which 370,000 were bicycle thefts, 1,283,000 other household thefts, 622,000 thefts from the person and 1,321,000 other thefts of personal property (Table 2.01).
- The BCS suggested a ten per cent fall in the number of thefts from the person between 2002/03 (689,000) and 2003/04 (622,000), although the ten per cent fall in this single year was still not statistically significant (Table 2.01).
- Declines seen in both other thefts of personal property (for example thefts of unattended property in the workplace) and other household thefts (including theft of property immediately outside the home) between 2002/03 and 2003/04 were not statistically significant (2% and 6% respectively). However, looking at longer-term trends in these categories, other household thefts have fallen by 43 per cent between 1995 and 2003/04 interviews while other thefts of personal property fell by 36 per cent during the same period (Table 2.01).

<sup>8</sup> The Car Theft Index 2003 based on 2002 theft data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC), and on information provided by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on the number of cars on the road.



- In terms of recorded crime, there was a one per cent fall in thefts and handling stolen goods (excluding vehicle-related thefts) between 2002/03 and 2003/04 (Table 2.04).
- 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 fell by two per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 301,796, are highly dependent on whether the shops themselves, and particularly the larger chains, apprehend suspects or involve the police.

### Risks of theft from the person

- The BCS estimated that, overall, 1.4 per cent of adults in England and Wales had been a victim of theft from the person in 2003/04. Women were significantly more likely than men to have been victims, and those in younger age groups were also more at risk. Of young women aged 16 to 24, 3.3 per cent had been a victim of theft from the person compared with 2.5 per cent of men the same age and even lower risks for older men (Table 4.06).
- Living arrangements also appeared to affect the risk of being a victim of theft from the person, with single people more likely to have been victimised than married or cohabiting adults. This perhaps reflects differences in lifestyle as thefts are more likely in particular types of location.
- Multivariate analysis<sup>9</sup> confirmed that living arrangements were an important predictor of experiencing theft from the person. Other factors found to be important are presented in the box below.

#### Predictors of adults experiencing theft from the person:

- Being single, widowed, separated or divorced
- Living in particular geographical areas (no distinct pattern)<sup>10</sup>
- Households in areas where high levels of anti-social behaviour are perceived
- Being female

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<sup>9</sup> Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

<sup>10</sup> Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of theft from the person across different parts of the country independent of other factors including the *type* of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

## 4.5 CRIMINAL DAMAGE (VANDALISM) AND ARSON

### Extent and trends

- The 2003/04 BCS estimated that there were 2,465,000 offences of vandalism against private household property in England and Wales. Although the change between 2002/03 and 2003/04 represents a three per cent fall, this is not statistically significant. Under a third of these incidents were reported to the police (31%) (Tables 2.01 and 3.02).
- The trend appears to have levelled off after falls in the number of incidents of vandalism since the high point in 1995 when the BCS estimated there were 3,366,000 incidents.
- Looking at recorded crime, there was a nine per cent rise in total criminal damage between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 1,205,576 offences. Of these, 38 per cent (457,528) were to a vehicle, and 27 per cent to a dwelling (323,594) (Table 2.04).

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.

- There was a seven per cent increase in the number of arson offences recorded by the police between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 57,162 offences (Table 2.04).
- The number of deliberate fires recorded by the fire brigades in England and Wales fell for the first time since 1997, from 123,300 in 2001 to 121,800 in 2002. Data for 2003 are not yet available.
- As with the previous year, fires in vehicles accounted for a large proportion of all deliberate fires in 2002 (a total of 66%). The number of deliberate fires in a vehicle rose by one per cent in 2002, a continuation of the 12 per cent rise seen in 2001. Deliberate fires in road vehicles have increased by 68 per cent in the last ten years rising from 47,800 in 1992 to 80,200 in 2002. Deliberate fires in buildings (i.e. dwellings and other buildings) have also increased by 24 per cent in the same period (ODPM, 2004, latest available data).

### Risks of criminal damage

- Overall, 7.1 per cent of households in England and Wales had experienced some form of criminal damage in the previous 12 months. This risk was not uniform across the population (Table 4.07).
- Multivariate analysis<sup>11</sup> was used to establish those factors most predictive of a household experiencing criminal damage. Since criminal damage is comprised of both vehicle vandalism and vandalism to the home, two separate analyses were performed<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

Predictors of households experiencing criminal damage to the home:

- Living in urban areas and low-income areas
- Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)<sup>13</sup>
- Living in a household where the head of household was aged between 16 and 24
- Living in a terraced house or maisonette

Predictors of households experiencing criminal damage to a vehicle:

- Owning more than one vehicle
- Living in a maisonette or converted flat
- Living in a household where the head of household was aged between 25 and 44
- Living in urban areas and low-income areas

## 4.6 FRAUD AND FORGERY

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

The recorded statistics of fraud are therefore a poor indication of real levels and trends. The banking and credit card industry itself records a considerable amount of information on fraudulent misuse of its services, and this may provide a better indication of the high volume crimes of this nature.

- For the first time since 1995 the Association of Payment Clearing Services (APACS) reported a decrease in plastic card fraud. APACS reported total plastic card fraud losses of £402.4 million in the UK in 2003, a decrease of five per cent from 2002 (£424.6m). According to APACS, this decrease is mainly driven by a reduction in the amount of fraud committed abroad on UK cards while there has been a slight increase on UK based transactions.
- A total of 317,949 offences of fraud and forgery were recorded by the police in 2003/04, a decrease of four per cent on 2002/03. Of these, a total of 130,240 offences were cheque and

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<sup>12</sup> Although perceptions of anti-social behaviour have been shown to be strongly associated with this type of victimisation, it has not been included in the multivariate analysis. This is because experiences of criminal damage are likely to be a component of these perceptions.

<sup>13</sup> Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of criminal damage across different parts of the country independent of other factors including the type of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

credit card frauds, a fall of eight per cent and a continuation of the seven per cent fall seen in 2002/03 (Table 2.04).

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

#### **4.7 DRUG 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 in this volume. The total number for this group of 'other offences' was 74,193 in 2003/04 (Table 2.04).

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

Statistics on drug offending are published annually by the Home Office (the latest information is available in Corkery, 2002).

Table 4.01 Proportion of households victims of burglary by household type, 2003/04

Percentages	BCS			
	All burglary	With entry % victims once or more	Attempts	Unweighted n
<b>Age of head of household</b>				
16-24	8.6	6.1	3.0	1,319
25-44	4.0	2.4	1.8	12,930
45-64	2.8	1.5	1.4	13,748
65-74	1.9	0.9	1.0	5,224
75+	1.8	1.4	0.4	4,657
<b>Head of household under 60</b>				
Single adult & child(ren)	8.5	4.9	4.3	2,060
Adults & child(ren)	3.0	1.8	1.3	8,395
No children	3.8	2.2	1.6	14,574
<b>Head of household over 60</b>				
	1.9	1.2	0.8	12,849
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than £5,000	4.8	3.1	1.8	2,824
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.0	2.4	1.8	4,932
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.6	1.9	1.8	6,968
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.5	1.2	1.3	5,346
£30,000 or more	2.7	1.6	1.2	9,559
<b>Tenure</b>				
Owner occupiers	2.3	1.4	1.0	27,110
Social renters	5.1	2.9	2.5	7,043
Private renters	5.5	3.5	2.2	3,518
<b>Head of household employment status<sup>2</sup></b>				
In employment	3.2	1.9	1.4	21,541
Unemployed	5.5	3.0	3.2	407
Economically inactive	5.8	3.5	2.5	4,839
<b>Accommodation type</b>				
Houses	3.0	1.8	1.3	31,896
Detached	2.3	1.4	1.0	9,306
Semi-detached	2.7	1.7	1.1	12,418
Terraced	3.8	2.3	1.6	10,172
Flats/maisonettes	4.6	2.7	2.1	4,352
<b>Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday</b>				
Never	3.0	2.1	1.0	4,676
Less than 3 hours	2.7	1.5	1.2	12,126
3 but less than 5 hours	3.1	1.8	1.4	7,024
5 hours or more	3.8	2.2	1.7	14,018
<b>Area type</b>				
Inner-city	5.3	3.2	2.3	3,395
Urban	3.3	2.0	1.5	24,972
Rural	1.9	1.2	0.8	9,564
Council estate <sup>3</sup>	4.3	2.6	1.9	7,096
Non-council estate	3.0	1.8	1.3	30,824
<b>Number of years at address</b>				
Less than 1 year	6.4	4.2	2.5	3,476
1 to 2 years	3.5	2.3	1.2	2,750
2 to 5 years	3.7	2.2	1.6	6,968
5 to 10 years	3.3	1.7	1.7	6,321
Longer	2.3	1.3	1.0	18,308
<b>Level of anti-social behaviour</b>				
High	6.5	3.3	3.5	5,084
Low	2.7	1.7	1.1	29,274
<b>Level of home security<sup>4</sup></b>				
High	2.0	0.7	1.3	2,943
Some	2.6	1.2	1.5	1,668
None	18.2	11.8	7.4	183
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>37,931</b>

1. Source 2003/04 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. 'High' home security includes those homes with burglar alarms, internal or external security lights, or bars on windows. 'Some' security includes homes with deadlocks on doors, window locks or security chains on doors.

**Table 4.02 Ownership of home security devices among victims of burglary and the general population, 2003/04**

Percentages	Victims <sup>2</sup>			BCS
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts	General population
	%	%	%	%
Burglar alarm	21	17	26	28
Double/deadlocks	41	38	45	79
Outdoor sensor/timer lights	18	14	24	43
Indoor sensor/timer lights	11	9	14	27
Window locks	38	33	47	82
Window bar/grilles	3	3	3	3
Security chains on door	18	15	22	37
<i>Unweighted n</i>	896	563	361	4,794

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

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

**Table 4.03 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts by household type, 2003/04**

Percentages					BCS
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle % victims once or more	Theft from vehicle	Attempted vehicle theft	Unweighted n
<b>Age of head of household</b>					
16-24	17.5	2.6	11.2	5.0	729
25-44	11.7	1.7	7.5	3.2	11,027
45-64	9.8	1.1	6.4	2.8	11,809
65-74	4.6	0.7	2.9	1.2	3,750
75+	2.3	0.2	1.3	0.7	2,131
<b>Head of household under 60</b>					
Single adult & child(ren)	13.7	3.4	8.5	3.4	1,186
Adults & child(ren)	11.5	1.8	7.2	3.1	7,757
No children	11.2	1.3	7.4	3.2	12,242
<b>Head of household over 60</b>	4.6	0.5	2.9	1.4	8,261
<b>Household income</b>					
Less than £5,000	8.6	2.3	4.0	3.3	975
£5,000 less than £10,000	8.5	1.5	5.1	2.6	2,407
£10,000 less than £20,000	8.8	1.8	5.3	2.5	5,433
£20,000 less than £30,000	9.8	1.0	6.6	2.6	4,981
£30,000 or more	11.0	1.1	7.3	3.1	9,253
<b>Tenure</b>					
Owner occupiers	8.8	1.0	5.8	2.5	23,774
Social renters	12.7	3.2	7.3	3.2	3,058
Private renters	13.0	1.5	8.6	3.7	2,445
<b>Head of household employment status<sup>3</sup></b>					
In employment	11.2	1.4	7.4	3.1	20,614
Unemployed	12.0	4.2	4.8	3.8	213
Economically inactive	9.6	2.0	5.8	2.9	8,495
<b>Accommodation type</b>					
Houses	9.4	1.3	6.1	2.6	26,118
<i>Detached</i>	6.6	0.6	4.4	1.9	8,709
<i>Semi-detached</i>	9.3	1.3	6.0	2.5	10,192
<i>Terraced</i>	12.4	1.9	7.9	3.5	7,217
Flats/maisonettes	12.0	1.6	8.3	3.2	2,061
<b>Area type</b>					
Inner-city	15.3	2.8	8.5	4.8	1,828
Urban	10.3	1.4	6.7	2.9	19,087
Rural	6.5	0.5	4.5	1.7	8,568
Council estate <sup>4</sup>	11.9	2.6	6.7	3.4	4,282
Non-council estate	9.3	1.1	6.2	2.6	25,191
<b>Number of vehicles owned by household</b>					
One	7.9	1.1	5.0	2.3	16,300
Two	11.0	1.3	7.2	3.0	10,177
Three or more	15.2	2.0	10.6	4.1	2,636
<b>Perceived anti-social behaviour in area</b>					
High	17.5	2.7	11.2	5.0	3,779
Not high	8.2	1.1	5.3	2.2	23,200
<b>ALL VEHICLE-OWNING HOUSEHOLDS</b>	9.7	1.3	6.2	2.7	29,483

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. Based on vehicle-owning households.

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

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

**Table 4.04 Vehicle security precautions on cars targeted in thefts, 2003/04**

Percentages					BCS
	Thefts of and from car/ van	Thefts of car/ van	Thefts from car/ van	Attempted thefts	All main cars <sup>4</sup>
	%	%	%	%	%
Car alarm <sup>2</sup>	37	31	38	41	58
Central locking	64	46	68	59	81
Any immobiliser	54	32	59	61	75
- Electronic	42	22	46	46	62
- Mechanical	27	15	30	29	37
Tracking device	2	1	2	1	3
Window security etching	60	57	60	62	60
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,134	219	907	430	3,357
Audio security <sup>3</sup>	72	79	78	79	80
- Removable stereo	53	42	56	47	45
- Security pin number	51	52	51	58	64
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,027	195	832	373	3,200

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

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

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

4. Base is all main cars for households (not just those involved in thefts) in 2003/04.

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

**Table 4.05 Location and timing of vehicle-related thefts, 2003/04**

Percentages			BCS
	Morning or afternoon <sup>3</sup>	Evening or night <sup>4</sup>	Total
	%	%	%
<b>Home</b>			
Private	1	2	2
Semi-private <sup>2</sup>	12	26	23
Street	12	49	40
<b>Work</b>			
Car park	11	2	4
Street	5	1	2
<b>Other</b>			
Car park	37	10	16
Street	18	10	12
Other	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted n</i>	682	2,032	2,997

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

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

3. From 6am to 6pm.

4. From 6pm to 6am.



**Table 4.06 Proportion of adult victims of theft from the person by personal characteristics, 2003/04**

Percentages	BCS	
	% victims once or more	Unweighted n
<b>Men</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>17,003</b>
16-24	2.5	1,476
25-44	1.1	5,733
45-64	0.6	5,801
65-74	0.4	2,253
75+	0.0	1,727
<b>Women</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>20,928</b>
16-24	3.3	1,734
25-44	1.5	7,188
45-64	1.5	6,545
65-74	1.3	2,731
75+	1.3	2,703
<b>Living arrangements</b>		
Married	0.7	18,668
Cohabiting	0.9	2,781
Single	2.7	7,458
Separated	2.1	1,154
Divorced	1.8	3,275
Widowed	1.6	4,573
<b>Respondents' employment status</b>		
In employment	1.3	19,754
Unemployed	2.2	530
Economically inactive	1.9	6,391
<b>Hours out of home on an average weekday</b>		
Less than 3 hours	1.0	11,638
3 but less than 7 hours	1.5	10,058
7 hours or more	1.5	16,159
<b>Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month</b>		
None	1.2	18,045
Less than 3 times a week	1.2	10,973
More often	1.9	8,907
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>37,931</b>

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

**Table 4.07 Proportion of households victims of criminal damage by household type**

Percentages	BCS			
	Criminal damage to a vehicle <sup>2</sup>	Criminal damage to the home and other property	All criminal damage	Unweighted <i>n</i>
% victims once or more				
<b>Age of head of household</b>				
16-24	6.6	3.7	7.3	1,319
25-44	7.9	3.1	9.5	12,930
45-64	5.4	2.8	7.2	13,748
65-74	3.3	2.9	5.0	5,224
75+	1.6	1.5	2.1	4,657
<b>Head of household under 60</b>				
Single adult & child(ren)	10.3	4.5	10.0	2,060
Adults & child(ren)	7.1	2.9	9.2	8,395
No children	6.5	2.9	8.0	14,574
<b>Head of household over 60</b>	3.2	2.4	4.2	12,849
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than £5,000	7.3	2.9	5.2	2,824
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.8	2.8	5.0	4,932
£10,000 less than £20,000	5.2	3.3	7.1	6,968
£20,000 less than £30,000	6.2	2.7	8.2	5,346
£30,000 or more	6.7	2.8	9.0	9,559
<b>Tenure</b>				
Owner occupiers	5.6	2.7	7.3	27,110
Social renters	7.3	3.4	6.4	7,043
Private renters	7.3	2.3	7.1	3,518
<b>Head of household employment status<sup>3</sup></b>				
In employment	6.7	2.8	8.6	21,541
Unemployed	5.9	2.0	4.6	407
Economically inactive	6.5	3.7	7.3	4,839
<b>Accommodation type</b>				
Houses	5.8	2.9	7.3	31,896
Detached	3.5	2.6	5.6	9,306
Semi-detached	5.5	2.5	6.9	12,418
Terraced	8.4	3.5	9.2	10,172
Flats/maisonettes	8.2	2.5	6.4	4,352
<b>Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday</b>				
Never	5.3	2.7	6.2	4,676
Less than 3 hours	5.0	2.4	5.6	12,126
3 but less than 5 hours	5.6	3.1	7.2	7,024
5 hours or more	6.9	2.9	8.6	14,018
<b>Area type</b>				
Inner-city	7.5	3.3	7.0	3,395
Rural	3.7	1.8	5.0	9,564
Urban	6.7	3.0	7.9	24,972
Council estate <sup>4</sup>	7.8	3.6	8.1	7,096
Non-council estate	5.6	2.6	6.9	30,824
<b>Number of cars owned in household</b>				
None	n/a	3.1	3.3	8,710
One	5.4	2.9	7.9	16,300
Two	6.3	2.5	8.6	10,177
Three or more	9.0	2.1	10.9	2,636
<b>Level anti-social behaviour</b>				
High	14.0	7.3	16.8	5,084
Low	4.5	1.9	5.4	29,274
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>37,931</b>

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

2. Based on vehicle-owning households.

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

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

5. 'n/a' = not applicable.

**Table 4.08 Proportion of households victims by type of area (ACORN), 2003/04**

Percentages						BCS
	All burglary	Vehicle-related theft <sup>3</sup>	Theft from the person	Criminal damage		Unweighted n
	% victims once or more					
<b>Wealthy Achievers</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>		10,000
Wealthy Executives	2.3	6.3	0.6	4.8		3,265
Affluent Greys	1.4	5.3	1.0	4.3		3,418
Flourishing Families	1.8	8.3	1.1	5.6		3,317
<b>Urban Prosperity</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>9.3</b>		2,963
Prosperous Professionals	4.2	10.6	0.9	8.2		689
Educated Urbanites	5.0	14.0	4.5	7.4		1,179
Aspiring Singles	6.3	14.9	2.2	12.0		1,095
<b>Comfortably Off</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>		11,408
Starting Out	3.5	12.7	2.5	8.7		945
Secure Families	2.5	9.3	0.9	6.4		6,385
Settled Suburbia	1.7	6.4	0.8	5.9		3,027
Prudent Pensioners	2.5	8.6	1.1	7.9		1,051
<b>Moderate Means</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>10.3</b>		5,248
Asian Communities	6.0	16.2	1.2	9.7		266
Post Industrial Families	2.6	11.3	1.6	11.0		1,444
Blue Collar Roots	4.1	12.6	1.3	10.1		3,538
<b>Hard Pressed</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7.2</b>		8,231
Struggling Families	4.3	11.0	1.0	8.2		5,464
Burdened Singles	4.7	14.7	1.5	5.9		1,679
High Rise Hardship	5.3	17.5	2.4	5.8		482
Inner City Adversity	5.2	17.0	4.5	4.6		606
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>		37,931

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

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

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

Table 4.09 Burglaries recorded by the police and BCS rates by police force area and region

Numbers and rates									
Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME						BCS		
	Total burglary in a dwelling	Burglary in a dwelling per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households	Total burglary other than in a dwelling	Burglary other than in a dwelling per 10,000 population	All burglary per 10,000 households	Burglary with entry per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households
Cleveland	6,484	287	977	43	6,911	128			
Durham	2,843	114	n/a	n/a	4,240	72			
Northumbria	10,223	171	1,652	28	9,860	71			
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>19,550</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21,011</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>203</b>
Cheshire	5,780	139	758	18	7,339	74			
Cumbria	1,799	85	204	10	2,814	58			
Greater Manchester	37,762	361	6,914	66	28,783	115			
Lancashire	8,821	149	1,161	20	10,750	76			
Merseyside	12,760	225	1,223	22	12,111	89			
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>66,922</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>10,260</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>61,797</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>200</b>
Humberside	10,410	283	1,420	39	13,351	153			
North Yorkshire	4,936	155	435	14	6,126	81			
South Yorkshire	13,465	252	1,923	36	13,098	103			
West Yorkshire	30,127	344	4,389	50	29,672	142			
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>58,928</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>8,167</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>62,247</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>646 *</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>324 *</b>
Derbyshire	7,680	190	1,220	30	8,372	87			
Leicestershire	6,514	172	1,125	30	6,281	67			
Lincolnshire	3,438	124	477	17	5,614	85			
Northamptonshire	5,284	201	665	25	6,947	109			
Nottinghamshire	15,980	372	n/a	n/a	15,355	150			
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>38,896</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>42,569</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>164 *</b>	<b>162</b>
Staffordshire	6,165	144	1,053	25	7,907	75			
Warwickshire	3,192	149	393	18	4,469	87			
West Mercia	5,925	122	934	19	9,090	78			
West Midlands	26,636	255	4,336	41	26,480	103			
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>41,918</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>6,716</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>47,946</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>213</b>
Bedfordshire	5,006	213	928	40	4,039	71			
Cambridgeshire	4,290	145	642	22	5,967	83			
Essex	7,055	103	1,000	15	9,412	58			
Hertfordshire	5,649	131	4,548	106	7,134	69			
Norfolk	2,944	85	348	10	5,225	65			
Suffolk	2,385	84	219	8	4,011	60			
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>27,329</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35,788</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>290 *</b>	<b>167 *</b>	<b>123 *</b>
London, City of	33	+	1	+	421	+			
Metropolitan Police	67,996	212	7,336	23	37,365	51			
<b>London Region</b>	<b>68,029</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37,786</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>191</b>
Hampshire	7,030	94	967	13	10,984	61			
Kent	7,510	114	1,050	16	10,320	65			
Surrey	3,914	88	500	11	5,786	55			
Sussex	7,920	120	n/a	n/a	8,510	57			
Thames Valley	14,505	169	2,333	27	15,571	74			
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>40,879</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>51,171</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>151</b>
Avon & Somerset	10,966	174	1,792	28	13,598	91			
Devon & Cornwall	6,027	88	597	9	7,997	50			
Dorset	3,099	101	447	15	4,516	65			
Gloucestershire	3,335	139	86	4	5,737	101			
Wiltshire	2,553	101	362	14	3,376	55			
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>25,980</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>35,224</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>155</b>
Dyfed-Powys	944	46	118	6	1,759	36			
Gwent	3,199	141	387	17	4,342	78			
North Wales	2,484	89	270	10	4,817	72			
South Wales	7,275	147	1,090	22	9,852	82			
<b>Wales</b>	<b>13,902</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20,770</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>213 *</b>	<b>117 *</b>	<b>96 *</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>402,333</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>56,280</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>416,309</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>334,304</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>48,943</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>378,523</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>182</b>

1. Source: Recorded crime and 2003/04 BCS.

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

3. Statistical significance at the 5% level of the differences from the national average is indicated by a single asterisk.

4. n/a Not available.

5. + Data for London Region includes the City of London

Table 4.10 Vehicle-related theft recorded by the police and BCS rates by region and police force area

Numbers and rates									
Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS			
	Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle	Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle per 10,000 population	Theft from a vehicle	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 population	Attempted theft of motor vehicle	All motor vehicle theft per 10,000 households	Theft of a vehicle per 10,000 households	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 households	Attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle per 10,000 households
Cleveland	4,463	82	8,030	148	105				
Durham	2,369	40	4,704	80	n/a				
Northumbria	6,445	47	11,644	84	100				
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>13,277</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24,378</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>691 *</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>464 *</b>	<b>125 *</b>
Cheshire	3,994	41	8,850	90	227				
Cumbria	1,060	22	3,054	63	17				
Greater Manchester	21,870	87	37,414	149	816				
Lancashire	5,231	37	11,468	81	96				
Merseyside	11,403	84	14,961	110	131				
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>43,558</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>75,747</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>166 *</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>283</b>
Humberside	7,619	88	13,810	159	n/a				
North Yorkshire	2,672	35	6,844	91	2,096				
South Yorkshire	9,621	76	19,573	154	85				
West Yorkshire	19,473	93	36,287	174	133				
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>39,385</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>76,514</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>1,244 *</b>	<b>211 *</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>320</b>
Derbyshire	3,571	37	10,787	112	110				
Leicestershire	3,986	43	10,030	107	120				
Lincolnshire	1,932	29	4,571	69	155				
Northamptonshire	3,642	57	9,069	142	12				
Nottinghamshire	8,014	78	20,303	198					
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>21,145</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>54,760</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>71 *</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>226</b>
Staffordshire	4,209	40	9,576	91	14				
Warwickshire	2,125	41	5,131	100	6				
West Mercia	3,432	29	8,702	74	36				
West Midlands	23,217	90	33,894	132	363				
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>32,983</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>57,303</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>258</b>
Bedfordshire	2,834	50	7,337	129	98				
Cambridgeshire	3,307	46	7,365	103	132				
Essex	7,283	45	13,757	85	42				
Hertfordshire	4,323	42	11,916	115	50				
Norfolk	2,173	27	6,223	78	20				
Suffolk	1,459	22	4,323	64	64				
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>21,379</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>50,921</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>721 *</b>	<b>67 *</b>	<b>466 *</b>	<b>187</b>
London, City of	226	+	357	+	8				
Metropolitan Police	55,158	75	103,899	141	1,432				
<b>London Region</b>	<b>55,384</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>104,256</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,205 *</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>797 *</b>	<b>298</b>
Hampshire	5,822	33	14,947	84	366				
Kent	6,749	42	12,492	79	104				
Surrey	2,947	28	6,973	66	89				
Sussex	5,313	35	13,463	90	n/a				
Thames Valley	8,753	42	26,710	127	250				
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>29,584</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>74,585</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>229</b>
Avon & Somerset	8,705	58	20,303	136	129				
Devon & Cornwall	3,396	21	13,205	83	26				
Dorset	2,199	32	6,404	92	55				
Gloucestershire	2,264	40	6,143	108	17				
Wiltshire	1,265	21	4,185	68	90				
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>17,829</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50,240</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>52 *</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>202</b>
Dyfed-Powys	795	16	1,530	31	7				
Gwent	3,507	63	5,416	98	9				
North Wales	2,038	30	5,575	83	47				
South Wales	9,793	81	17,289	144	100				
<b>Wales</b>	<b>16,133</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>29,810</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>726 *</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>437 *</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>290,657</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>598,514</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>7,757</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>235,273</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>494,258</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6,317</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>234</b>

1. Source: Recorded crime and 2003/04 BCS.

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

3. Statistical significance at the 5% level of the differences from the national average is indicated by a single asterisk.

4. n/a Not available.

5. + Data for London Region includes the City of London

## 5 Violent crime

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*Anna Upson, David Povey and Alan Gray*

### 5.1 SUMMARY

- The 2003/04 British Crime Survey (BCS) estimated that there were 2,708,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales.
- The number of violent incidents has fallen by 36 per cent since a peak in 1995 according to the BCS. Comparison between 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews shows BCS violent crime to be stable (the apparent fall of three per cent was not statistically significant).
- Half of all violent incidents reported to the BCS did not result in any injury to the victim. Thirty-nine per cent of all BCS violent incidents were common assault with no injury.
- Only 30 per cent of incidents of domestic violence resulted in no injury, compared with 50 per cent of incidents of acquaintance violence, 52 per cent of stranger violence and 71 per cent of mugging (robbery and snatch theft).
- Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk of being a victim of violent crime in 2003/04; 15.5 per cent experienced a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to their BCS interview.
- There were 1,109,017 violent crimes (i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences and robberies) recorded by the police in 2003/04, an increase of 12 per cent since 2002/03 though much of the increase is likely to be due to the continuing impact of changes in recording. The number of recorded violence against the person offences increased by 14 per cent, robberies fell by six per cent and sexual offences increased by seven per cent.
- At least 52 per cent of all recorded violence against the person involved no injury in 2003/04.
- Twenty-four per cent of police recorded violent crime was common assault<sup>1</sup> and 16 per cent harassment, both of which involve no physical injury to the victim. Many of the 'less serious woundings' (39% of violent crime) will have resulted in only minor injuries, such as bruising, grazes and black eyes.
- The changes in both homicides and firearm offences were small in 2003/04: there was an increase of less than one per cent in firearm offences, and a fall of around two per cent in homicides (after excluding retrospectively recorded Harold Shipman murders from the 2002/03 total).

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<sup>1</sup> Including assault on a constable.

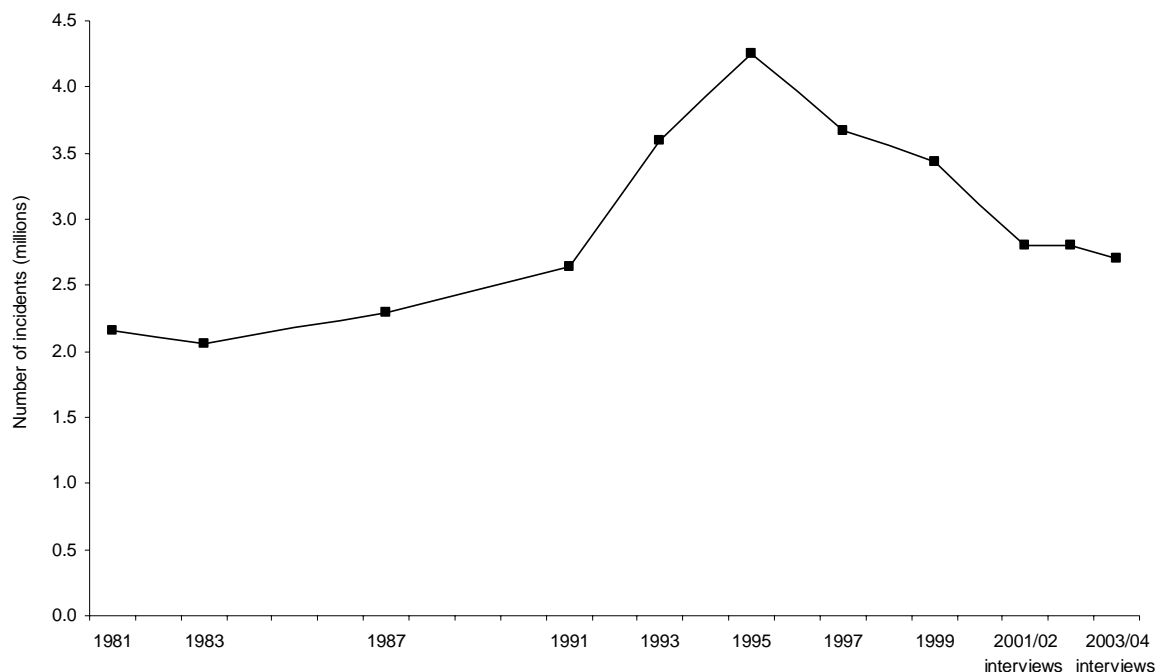
## 5.2 EXTENT AND TRENDS

- The latest BCS results estimated that there were 2,708,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales, based on incidents reported to the 2003/04 survey.
- There were 1,109,017 violent crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04, 955,752 of which were incidents of violence against the person.

The British Crime Survey and recorded crime statistics present contrasting trends in violent crime. Estimates from the BCS show large falls in violent crime since a peak of 4,256,000 in 1995, while police recorded violent crime has increased every year apart from one since 1995. Part of the explanation for these differences will lie in the changes in reporting and recording of crime that have taken place over the last decade (Smith and Allen, 2004).

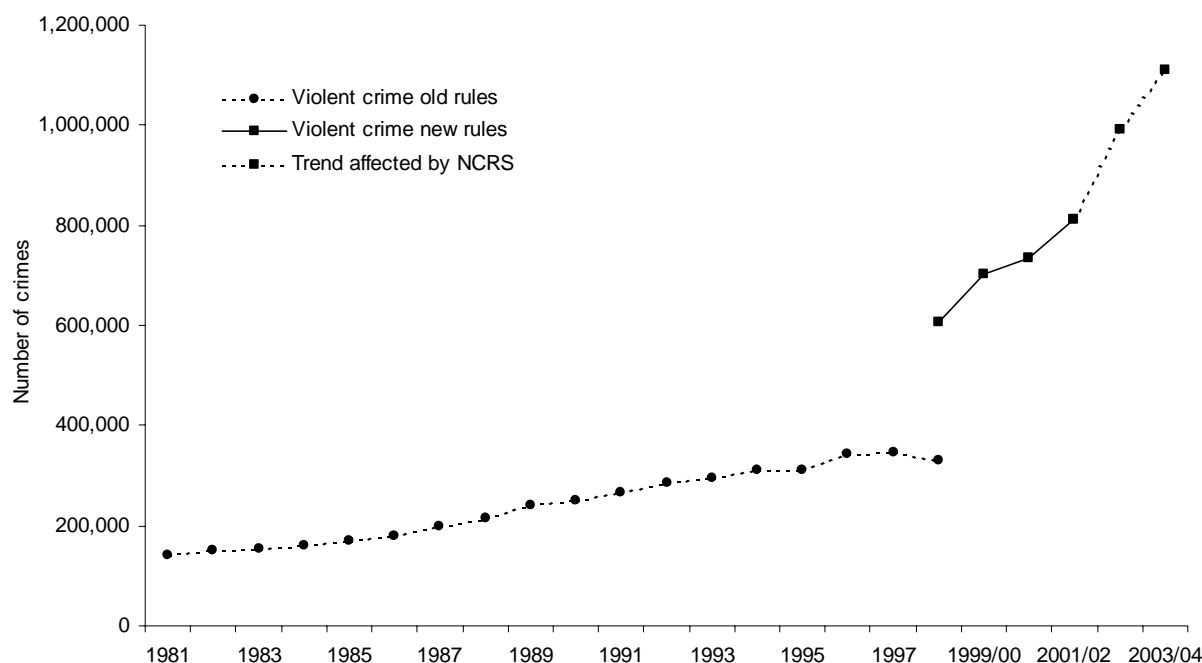
- Longer-term trends in BCS violence show significant declines. Violent crime reported to the BCS fell by 36 per cent from the peak in 1995 to the current level and by 26 per cent since 1997 (Figure 5.1, Table 2.01).
- The 2003/04 BCS suggests that since 2001/02 the incidence of violent crime has levelled off. The number of violent crimes experienced by adults living in private households was stable between the 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews (the apparent fall of three per cent from the 2002/03 survey, and that from 2001/02, was not statistically significant) (Figure 5. 1, Table 2.01).

**Figure 5.1 All BCS violent crime, 1981 to 2003/04**



- In contrast, police recorded violent crime figures show substantial increases in recent years, almost double the number in 1998/99 following changes to the counting rules in that year requiring the police to record crimes of common assault and harassment for the first time. Factoring out the effect of the 1998 counting rule changes, recorded violent crime increased by a further 95 per cent between 1995 and 2003/04. About a quarter of this is due to increases in recording of violent crime following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. The remainder of the increase is likely to be largely due to increased reporting of violent crime by the public, increased police activity and other improvements in recording by the police in previous years (Figure 5.2, Table 2.04).
- Between 2002/03 and 2003/04 overall recorded violent crime rose by 12 per cent. Within this total, violence against the person increased by 14 per cent. There is still thought to be some residual NCRS effect in this area, as follow-up audits identified under-recording in some forces. As with the NCRS itself, this is thought to be concentrated in the more minor offences that the BCS shows to have been under-reported in the past (Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003) (Table 2.04).
- The contrasting trends in BCS and recorded violent crime can be largely explained by the increase in violence reported to and recorded by the police, which will have affected a wide range of types of offence (see also Chapter 2) (Simmons, 2001; Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003; Smith and Allen, 2004).

**Figure 5.2 Violent crime recorded by the police, 1981 to 2003/04<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.

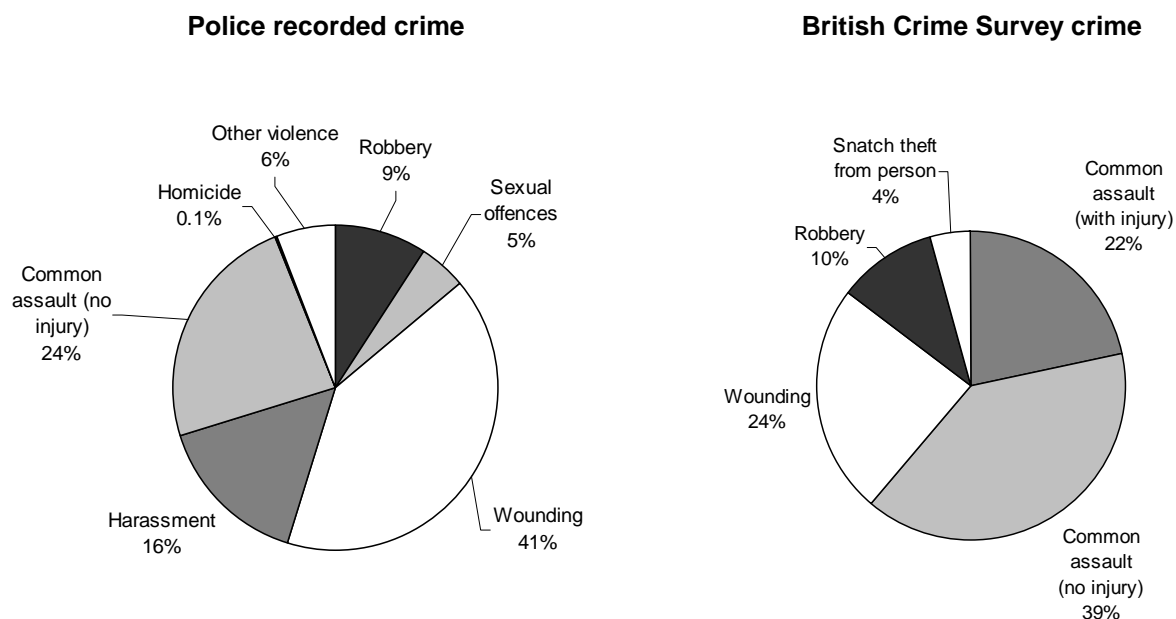


- The number of homicides fell by 18 per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 853, but most of the difference is accounted for by the inclusion of retrospectively recorded Harold Shipman murders in the 2002/03 figures. After excluding these offences the fall between the two years was around two per cent (see Section 5.6 for more details).
- Within the broad category of recorded violent crime, the number of recorded robberies fell by six per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 101,195, the lowest number for three years (see Section 5.8).
- Provisional figures estimate that there were 10,340 firearm offences in 2003/04, an increase of less than one per cent since 2002/03. Firearm offences accounted for less than 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime in 2003/04 (see Section 5.9).

### 5.3 TYPES OF VIOLENT CRIME

The category of violent crime covers a wide range of different types of incidents. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents within the same crime classification and, as noted in Section 5.4 below, only 50 per cent of violent incidents involved injury.

**Figure 5.3 Police recorded and BCS violence broken down by offence, 2003/04**



## **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). The 'less serious wounding' category includes less serious injury (such as assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)) or GBH without intent. It also includes offences that are generally viewed less seriously by the courts, such as common assault (see text box on p.72), 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 procuration (e.g. pimping), but excludes prostitution and indecent exposure. Not all offences included are violent: e.g. bigamy.*

*The number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS is too small to provide reliable estimates; therefore these figures are not presented in this publication.*

### **Robbery**

*Robbery is included as a violent crime, although the category can include a wide variety of different events including, in police recorded robbery, 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 there is no threat of force, an offence of theft from the person is recorded.*

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

### **BCS violence typology**

*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.

- Common assaults accounted for 61 per cent of BCS violence. Of these, 39 per cent involved no injury at all and the remaining 22 per cent involved minor injury.
- In police recorded crime common assault and assault on a constable involve no injury (see text box below), and accounted for 24 per cent of recorded violence in 2003/04. This lower proportion, in comparison with BCS common assault with no injury, 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 (Figure 5.3).
- Sixteen per cent of recorded violence comprised harassment, which (like recorded common assault) resulted in no physical injury to the victim.
- Wounding accounted for just under a quarter of BCS violence, compared with 41 per cent of police recorded 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 previous recorded crime definition). However, it is possible to separate out BCS assaults involving no injury, and this narrower measure is used in the text, where stated, for comparative purposes.*

*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.*

- Between 2002/03 and 2003/04 police recorded violent crime showed substantial increases in most offence types; recent recording changes are continuing to have an effect. However, there were also some falls (Table 2.04). Within the category of more serious violence, the majority of offences were 'threat or conspiracy to murder' (22,232 offences) and 'more serious wounding or other act endangering life' (19,358). The former offence, while not involving injury, is nevertheless serious. However, there is evidence of some NCRS effect since 2002, which has resulted in some less serious threats being recorded in this category (Simmons, 2001).
- In the less serious violence category, within recorded violence against the person, the most numerous offence type was less serious wounding (including racially and religiously

aggravated offences) which rose by 24 per cent from 2002/03 to 433,361 offences in 2003/04 (Table 2.04). Common assault (also including racially and religiously aggravated offences) also accounted for a large number of offences of less serious violence, with 241,718 offences recorded in 2003/04, an increase of one per cent on the previous year.

- There were 172,853 cases of harassment recorded by the police in 2003/04, with 12 per cent of recorded harassment being racially or religiously aggravated in 2003/04. This compares with two per cent of common assaults and one per cent of less serious woundings.
- As noted above, the continuing effects of the NCRS and the subsequent audits of police recording make recent trends in types of recorded violence difficult to interpret.
- The 2003/04 BCS suggests that incidents of common assault declined by three per cent compared with the previous year, but this fall was not statistically significant. However, there have been significant falls in BCS common assault since 1997 (33%) and 1995 (43%) (Table 2.01).
- Incidents of wounding, as estimated by the BCS, have generally been decreasing over the last decade, with a significant fall of 28 per cent since 1995. Although incidents of robbery have also shown an apparent downward trend these differences were not statistically significant, mainly due to the relatively small number of victims of these crimes identified by the survey (Table 2.01).

## Types of BCS violence

- Just over one-third of the 2,708,000 violent incidents reported to the BCS in 2003/04 were incidents of stranger violence, and a further third were incidents of acquaintance violence. Sixteen per cent of violent incidents were incidents of domestic violence (see text box on p.71) (Table 5.01).
- Differences can be seen between men and women in the experience of the different violence types within the BCS typology. Sixty-seven per cent of victims of domestic violence were women and 81 per cent of victims of stranger violence were men (Table 5.01).
- Men were more likely than women to experience stranger violence: 44 per cent of incidents against men were stranger violence, compared with 19 per cent of incidents against women. Thirty-one per cent of violent incidents against women were domestic violence, compared with nine per cent of incidents against men (Table 5.01).
- Although there are apparent regional differences in the level of violent crime, few of the regions differed significantly from the national average. There were, for example, significantly fewer incidents of stranger violence per 10,000 adults in the West Midlands (146 incidents per 10,000 adults), compared with the national average (226 incidents). However, none of the regions had significantly different rates of domestic or acquaintance violence (Table 5.02). (See Chapter 6 for more information on regional trends).

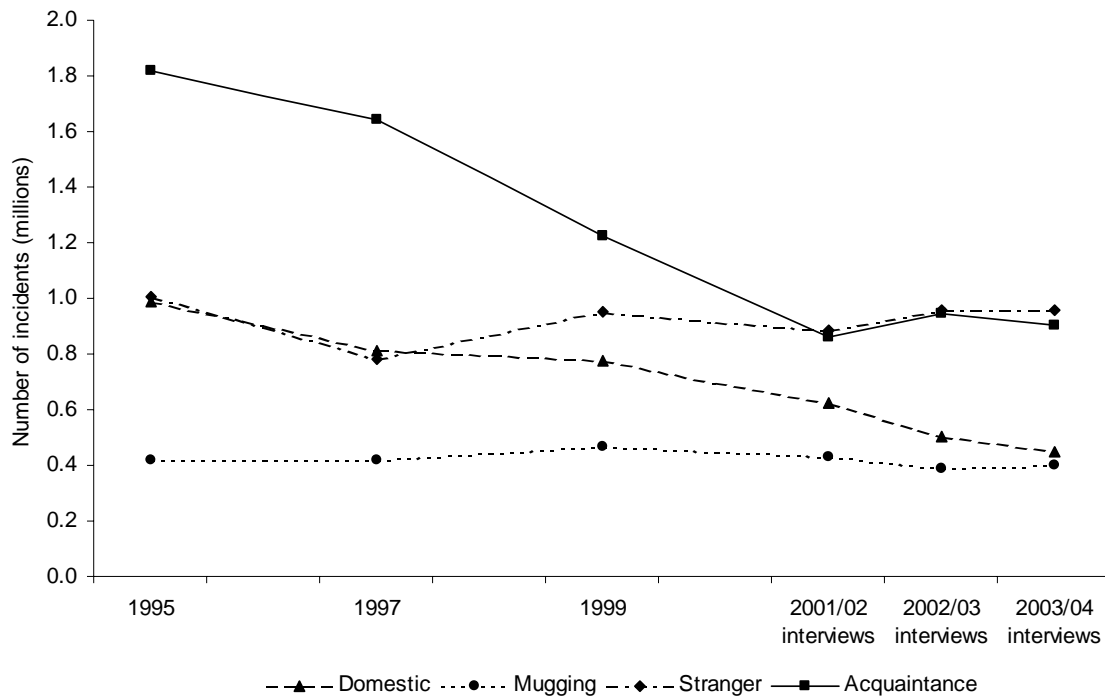
### Interpreting BCS statistics on violent crime

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. A decrease in the tolerance of aggressive behaviour may increase violent crime figures over time. The relative rarity of some types of violent crime also means that trends are difficult to track reliably through the BCS.

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

When interpreting changes in domestic violence in this report some caution is required as results only relate to those incidents reported face-to-face to BCS interviewers.

Figure 5.4 Trends in BCS violent crime, by type of violence, 1995 to 2003/04



- Since 1995 there have been large and statistically significant falls in both domestic and acquaintance violence. Between 1995 and 2003/04 there was a 55 per cent fall in domestic violence and a 50 per cent fall in acquaintance violence. Muggings and stranger violence have remained relatively stable over this period, leading to a change in the composition of violent crime, with a decrease in the proportion of incidents committed by someone known to the victim (Figure 5.4, Table 2.01).

## 5.4 SERIOUSNESS AND INJURY

Both police recorded crime and the BCS cover a wide range of violent offences, of varying levels of seriousness (see text box on p.71). It is important to remember that the majority of the incidents categorised as violent crimes do not involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of these crimes may still be traumatic for their victims. Assaults can vary considerably in the level of violence and also the involvement of victims, ranging from drunken brawls to unprovoked acts of extreme violence.

- In half (50%) of all BCS violent incidents (from 2003/04 interviews) there was no injury, with the proportion rising to 60 per cent and 64 per cent for robbery and common assault respectively (Table 5.03).
- There was also no injury in at least half (52%) of all recorded violence against the person in 2003/04<sup>2</sup>.
- 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 2.04).
- Twenty-seven per cent of all BCS violent incidents involving injury resulted in minor bruising or a black eye and 14 per cent in cuts, while more than half of incidents of wounding resulted in cuts, and half in severe bruising.
- Victims in 11 per cent of BCS violent incidents received medical attention from a doctor, with this rising to 32 per cent for wounding. Victims in only four per cent of incidents of common assault saw a doctor.
- One per cent of all BCS violent incidents resulted in a hospital stay; in four per cent of incidents of wounding victims had to stay in hospital, while in less than one per cent of incidents of common assault victims had to stay in hospital.
- Within the BCS violence typology (see text box on p.71), only 30 per cent of incidents of domestic violence resulted in no injury, compared with 50 per cent of incidents of

<sup>2</sup> These 'no injury' offences comprise common assault, assault on a constable, harassment, possession of weapons, and the specific offences against children within less serious violence. The percentage is likely to be higher if one also includes threats to kill, which is currently included within threat or conspiracy to murder in more serious violence.

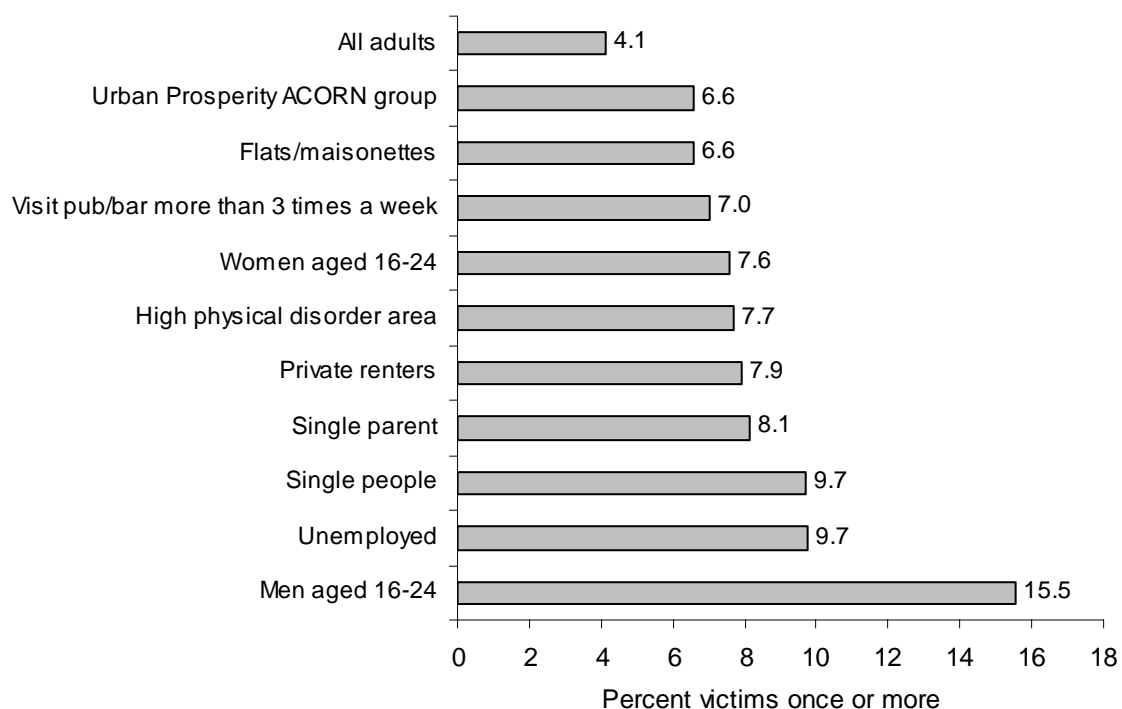
acquaintance violence, 52 per cent of stranger violence and 71 per cent of mugging (robbery and snatch theft).

- There was relatively little difference in the proportion of incidents requiring medical attention from a doctor across the BCS violence typology. Fifteen per cent of domestic violence incidents resulted in medical attention from a doctor, compared with 13 per cent of acquaintance violence and nine per cent of both muggings and stranger violence (Table 5.03).

### 5.5 RISKS OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

- The risk of being a victim of violent crime for people interviewed in the 2003/04 BCS was 4.1 per cent. Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk, with 15.5 per cent experiencing a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to interview (Table 5.04).
- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime was considerably lower for the older age groups across all types of violence. For men, the risk of suffering any violent crime decreased to 2.5 per cent for those aged 45 to 64 years old, and to 0.2 per cent for men aged 75 and over. For women the risk of suffering violent crime was lower overall; the risk of becoming a victim was 7.6 per cent for women aged 16-24, reducing to 1.7 per cent for women aged 45-64 and 0.5 per cent for those women aged 75 and over.

**Figure 5.5 Adults most at risk of violence, 2003/04 BCS interviews**



- Other particularly high-risk groups were unemployed people (9.7% of this group experienced one or more violent incidents); single people (9.7%); single parents (8.1%); private renters (7.9%); those living in areas categorised as having a high level of disorder (7.7%); and women aged 16 to 24 (7.6%) (Figure 5.5). This pattern is broadly consistent with results from the 2002/03 BCS.
- ACORN is A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods, which groups areas according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the neighbourhood (see glossary for more information). People living in urban prosperity ACORN areas (prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas) were most at risk of victimisation of violent crime in the 2003/04 BCS. While people living in wealthy achiever areas (wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families) were least at risk (6.6% and 2.4% respectively) (Table 5.05).
- The risk of being mugged for adults aged 16 and over was 0.8 per cent and the risk of being a victim of domestic violence 0.6 per cent. The risks of experiencing acquaintance violence and stranger violence were higher, at 1.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively.
- Domestic violence was the only category of violence where the risks for women (0.7%) were higher than for men (0.4%). Risks of stranger and acquaintance violence were substantially greater for men than for women; for example 2.7 per cent of men were victims of stranger violence in 2003/04, compared with 0.8 per cent of women (Table 5.04).
- People who had visited a pub or wine bar more than three times a week in the month before their 2003/04 BCS interview had a higher risk of victimisation of all types of violence. These respondents were particularly likely to experience stranger violence: 3.5 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent of respondents who had not visited a pub or wine bar (Table 5.04).

Many socio-demographic characteristics relate to risk of victimisation of violence; however, these characteristics themselves may be inter-related. Multivariate analysis<sup>3</sup> showed that once the influence of other characteristics was taken into account many of the relationships between the socio-demographic factors and risk of victimisation held true. The strongest predictors of victimisation of all BCS violence were:

- *being young, particularly aged 16-24<sup>4</sup>;*
- *being divorced, separated or single; and*
- *being male.*

<sup>3</sup> Logistic regression (see Glossary for more information).

<sup>4</sup> The odds of victimisation increased with the decreasing age of the respondent.



## 5.6 HOMICIDE

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

- There were 853 deaths initially recorded as homicide by the police in 2003/04.
- The 2003/04 figure was 18 per cent lower than that recorded in 2002/03. This represents 190 fewer homicides, but most of these can be accounted for by the inclusion of 172 Harold Shipman murders in 2002/03. Although committed in previous years they came to light in the official inquiry and were therefore recorded by Greater Manchester Police in 2002/03. Excluding these offences, the fall was two per cent.
- Further analysis of 2003/04 homicides based on the more detailed information collected on the Home Office Homicide Index will be published when the full data are available.

## 5.7 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 numbers of such incidents reported to the police, and therefore recorded by them. The introduction of the NCRS in 2002 is likely to have further increased the recording rate, and the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act in May 2004 will have a further impact on the 2004/05 figures. Trends in the number of recorded sexual offences are therefore unlikely to reflect real experience of such crimes.

- Within the 2003/04 total of 52,070 sexual offences, the police recorded 26,709 indecent assaults on a female and 1,942 offences of gross indecency with a child.
- The number of recorded rapes was 13,247, 93 per cent of which were rapes of a female. There were also 4,070 recorded indecent assaults on a male.
- The total number of recorded sexual offences rose by seven per cent in 2003/04, to account for five per cent of total recorded violence and 0.9 per cent of all police recorded crime in 2003/04.

The number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS is too small to provide reliable estimates; therefore these figures are not presented in this publication. The 2001 BCS included a self-completion module on interpersonal violence, which comprises domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; the results of this module are published in Walby and Allen, 2004.

## 5.8 ROBBERY

Although all crime tends to be geographically concentrated, this is particularly the case for robberies. Around half of all recorded robberies occur in just 20 local authorities, largely in city-centre or metropolitan areas (see Chapter 6 for more information on regional trends).

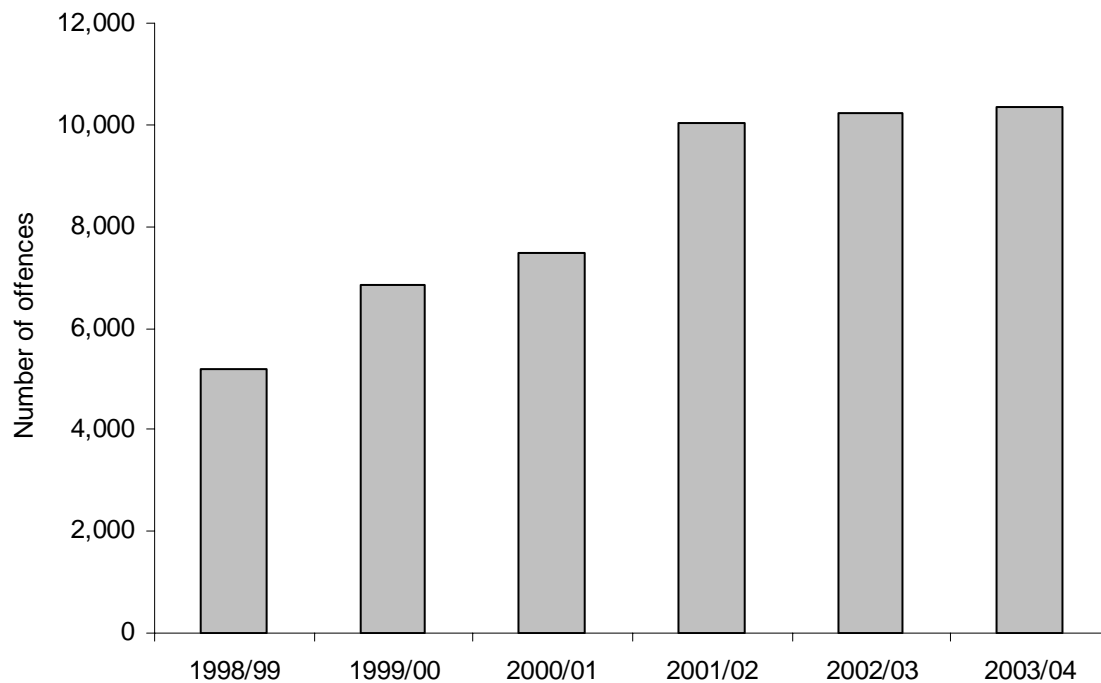
- The police recorded 101,195 robberies in England and Wales in 2003/04, the lowest total for three years and a fall of six per cent on 2002/03. Of these, 90 per cent were robberies of personal property, and the remainder robberies of business property.
- In 2003/04 robbery accounted for two per cent of total recorded crime and nine per cent of recorded violence. Robbery accounted for two per cent of all BCS crime and ten per cent of BCS violence.
- The number of robbery and snatch theft victims interviewed by the BCS is generally too small to provide reliable estimates in these categories. However, BCS estimates suggest a general decrease over the last decade, although none of these falls was statistically significant.

## 5.9 FIREARM OFFENCES

Provisional statistics are available for recorded crimes in 2003/04 involving firearms other than air weapons (referred to as 'firearm offences' in the remainder of this section). Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used in a threat. A large majority of offences with these weapons are violent crimes, mainly in the categories of violence against the person and robbery. Around two-thirds of firearm offences occur in just three metropolitan forces: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.

- In 2003/04 there were a provisional 10,340 firearm offences in England and Wales. This was an increase of less than one per cent since 2002/03 (Figure 5.6). The number of offences has risen each year since 1997/98, but the 2003/04 rise is the smallest.
- Three per cent of serious incidents of violence against the person (other than homicide) involved firearms in 2003/04 (1,210 offences). In addition, 0.4 per cent of other offences of violence against the person involved firearms (3,490 offences).
- The number of serious crimes of violence against the person involving firearms increased by six per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04, while other offences of violence against the person involving firearms increased by 16 per cent over the same period.
- There were 68 homicides involving firearms in 2003/04, 12 fewer (15%) than the previous year. Eight per cent of all homicides in 2003/04 involved firearms.
- The number of firearm robberies in 2003/04 was 4,030, four per cent of all robbery offences in 2003/04 and a reduction of 13 per cent from the previous year.

**Figure 5.6 Recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, 2003/04**



- There were 440 firearm offences that resulted in a serious injury in 2003/04 and 1,860 in slight injury. These represent a five per cent increase in firearm offences with serious injury compared with the previous year and an 11 per cent increase in firearm offences with slight injury.
- In 2003/04 there were 5,140 offences where handguns were used, a decrease of seven per cent from 2002/03. Imitation weapons were used in 2,150 offences in 2003/04, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year, and there were 720 offences where shotguns were used, a seven per cent increase.

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

Numbers and percentages							BCS		
	Number of incidents (thousands)			Percentage of incidents by violence type <sup>2</sup>			Percentage of incidents by sex		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
Domestic	150	298	446	9	31	16	33	67	100
Mugging	221	177	399	13	18	15	55	45	100
Stranger	764	183	958	44	19	35	81	19	100
Acquaintance	599	300	905	35	31	33	67	33	100
<b>All violence</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
Wounding	449	201	655	26	21	24	69	31	100
Robbery	182	99	283	10	10	10	65	35	100
Common assault	1,063	581	1,654	61	61	61	65	35	100
<b>All violence</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

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

Table 5.02 Violent crime recorded by the police and BCS, by police force area and region 2003/04

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

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS <sup>1</sup>				
	Total violent crime	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	11,321	209	9,199	767	1,355					
Durham	7,194	122	6,565	362	267					
Northumbria	27,381	198	24,798	1,360	1,223					
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>45,896</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>40,562</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>44 *</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>204</b>
Cheshire	15,417	156	14,074	696	647					
Cumbria	7,291	149	6,874	293	124					
Greater Manchester	66,418	264	53,972	3,200	9,246					
Lancashire	29,298	206	26,676	1,337	1,285					
Merseyside	30,077	221	26,446	1,284	2,347					
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>148,501</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>128,042</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>13,649</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>273</b>
Humberside	28,482	327	25,317	1,269	1,896					
North Yorkshire	10,507	139	9,610	502	395					
South Yorkshire	15,837	125	13,499	938	1,400					
West Yorkshire	51,945	249	45,864	2,343	3,738					
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>106,771</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>94,290</b>	<b>5,052</b>	<b>7,429</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>204</b>
Derbyshire	18,336	191	16,397	920	1,019					
Leicestershire	20,069	215	17,593	1,000	1,476					
Lincolnshire	11,088	169	10,148	636	304					
Northamptonshire	12,834	201	11,070	544	1,220					
Nottinghamshire	22,242	217	18,631	1,055	2,556					
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>84,569</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>73,839</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>6,575</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>55 *</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>201</b>
Staffordshire	24,708	236	22,774	1,025	909					
Warwickshire	7,671	150	6,866	349	456					
West Mercia	23,505	201	21,867	949	689					
West Midlands	69,434	270	55,856	3,207	10,371					
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>125,318</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>107,363</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>12,425</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>146 *</b>	<b>149</b>
Bedfordshire	10,316	181	8,807	516	993					
Cambridgeshire	15,185	212	13,663	736	786					
Essex	28,782	177	26,010	1,296	1,476					
Hertfordshire	13,972	135	12,356	644	972					
Norfolk	12,819	160	11,586	774	459					
Suffolk	10,460	156	9,529	641	290					
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>91,534</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>81,951</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>4,976</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60 *</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>205</b>
London, City of	929	+	849	30	50					
Metropolitan Police	237,028	323	186,188	10,200	40,640					
<b>London Region</b>	<b>237,957</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>187,037</b>	<b>10,230</b>	<b>40,690</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>243 *</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>198</b>
Hampshire	38,222	214	35,148	2,034	1,040					
Kent	22,904	144	20,512	1,220	1,172					
Surrey	10,858	102	9,654	585	619					
Sussex	22,126	148	19,500	1,201	1,425					
Thames Valley	32,492	155	28,588	1,618	2,286					
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>126,602</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>113,402</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>225</b>
Avon and Somerset	30,954	208	26,530	1,516	2,908					
Devon and Cornwall	27,867	175	25,969	1,336	562					
Dorset	10,171	146	9,147	579	445					
Gloucestershire	9,248	163	8,304	403	541					
Wiltshire	7,214	117	6,302	584	328					
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>85,454</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>76,252</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>4,784</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>34 *</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>227</b>
Dyfed Powys	8,397	170	7,909	434	54					
Gwent	13,609	246	12,931	404	274					
North Wales	11,749	176	10,979	569	201					
South Wales	22,660	188	21,195	714	751					
<b>Wales</b>	<b>56,415</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>53,014</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>29 *</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>238</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>1,109,017</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>955,752</b>	<b>52,070</b>	<b>101,195</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>871,060</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>768,715</b>	<b>41,840</b>	<b>60,505</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>216</b>

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

2. Statistical significance at the 5% level of the differences from the national average is indicated by a single asterisk.

+ Data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 5.03 Injuries sustained in violent incidents

Percentages		BCS						
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Wounding	Robbery	Common assault
<b>Physical injury<sup>2</sup></b>								
No injury	50	30	71	52	50	1	60	64
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,539	260	258	549	472	374	177	907
Minor bruise/black eye	27	42	15	28	25	28	19	30
Severe bruising	14	22	8	14	13	53	12	1
Scratches	12	19	5	13	11	29	6	7
Cuts	14	14	8	12	18	54	11	<1
Broken bones	2	3	1	2	2	8	1	-
Broken nose	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	-
Broken or lost teeth	1	1	-	1	<1	3	-	-
Chipped teeth	1	<1	-	1	<1	3	-	-
Concussion or loss of consciousness	3	2	2	3	4	12	3	<1
Other	3	3	2	2	4	7	3	2
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,539	260	258	549	472	374	177	907
<b>Medical response<sup>3</sup></b>								
Medical attention from a doctor	11	15	9	9	13	32	8	4
Some form of medical attention	15	17	12	13	17	41	12	5
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,453	260	183	543	467	371	170	899
Hospital stay <sup>4</sup>	1	<1	1	2	1	4	1	<1
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,413	258	172	525	458	363	161	878

1. Source 2003/04 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. Results for muggings should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

6. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries.

7. <1 indicates less than 0.5%.

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

Percentages	% victims once or more					BCS
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Unweighted base
<b>Men</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>17,003</b>
16-24	15.5	0.8	3.6	7.1	6.1	1,476
25-44	6.0	0.6	0.8	3.1	2.0	5,733
45-64	2.5	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.8	5,801
65-74	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	2,253
75+	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	1,727
<b>Women</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>20,928</b>
16-24	7.6	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,734
25-44	3.4	1.1	0.5	0.9	1.1	7,188
45-64	1.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	6,545
65-74	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	2,731
75+	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2,703
<b>Ethnic group</b>						
White	4.0	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.4	35,705
Non-white	5.0	0.5	1.7	1.8	1.3	2,222
<b>Living arrangements</b>						
Married	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.6	18,668
Cohabiting	5.3	0.9	0.9	2.2	1.5	2,781
Single	9.7	1.1	2.3	4.1	3.3	7,458
Separated	5.4	1.8	0.3	1.7	1.7	1,154
Divorced	4.6	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.3	3,275
Widowed	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	4,573
<b>Respondents' employment status<sup>2</sup></b>						
In employment	4.8	0.5	1.0	2.2	1.5	19,754
Unemployed	9.7	1.5	2.0	4.5	3.5	530
Economically inactive	5.3	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.9	6,391
<b>Highest qualification</b>						
None	2.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9	12,908
O level/GCSE	5.7	0.9	1.0	2.2	2.0	7,021
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	5.1	0.5	1.0	2.4	1.7	6,011
Degree or diploma	4.1	0.4	0.9	2.0	1.1	10,010
Other	2.6	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1,767
<b>Disability/illness</b>						
No disability/illness	4.3	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.4	27,315
Non-limiting disability/illness	3.2	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.9	2,983
Limiting disability/illness	3.5	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.3	7,444
<b>Hours out of home on an average weekday</b>						
Less than 3 hours	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	11,638
3 hours less than 5 hours	2.6	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.9	6,319
5 hours or longer	5.5	0.6	1.1	2.4	1.8	19,898
<b>Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month</b>						
None	2.5	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	18,045
Less than three times a week	4.0	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.3	10,973
More often	7.0	0.8	1.3	3.5	2.1	8,907
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>37,931</b>

1. Source 2003/04 BCS. Risks based on adults.

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

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

Percentages	% victims once or more					BCS
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Unweighted base
<b>Head of household under 60</b>						
Single adult & child(ren)	8.1	3.4	1.4	1.4	2.8	2,060
Adults & child(ren)	4.7	0.7	0.9	1.8	1.8	8,395
No children	5.5	0.6	1.1	2.5	1.6	14,574
<b>Head of household over 60</b>	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	12,849
<b>Household income</b>						
Less than £5,000	4.2	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.7	2,824
£5,000 less than £10,000	3.6	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.2	4,932
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.7	0.5	0.8	1.6	1.3	6,968
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.7	0.4	0.5	1.5	1.5	5,346
£30,000 or more	4.1	0.4	0.7	1.9	1.3	9,559
<b>Tenure</b>						
Owner occupiers	3.1	0.3	0.6	1.4	1.1	27,110
Social renters	5.5	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.8	7,043
Private renters	7.9	1.1	1.9	3.5	2.2	3,518
<b>Accommodation type</b>						
Houses	3.8	0.5	0.7	1.6	1.3	31,896
Detached	2.5	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.0	9,306
Semi-detached	3.9	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.3	12,418
Terraced	4.9	0.7	1.0	2.0	1.6	10,172
Flats/maisonettes	6.6	0.8	2.1	2.5	1.8	4,352
<b>ACORN category</b>						
Wealthy Achievers	2.4	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.8	10,000
Urban Prosperity	6.6	0.5	2.3	2.9	1.5	2,963
Comfortably Off	3.5	0.5	0.6	1.4	1.2	11,408
Moderate Means	5.2	0.7	0.9	2.1	1.9	5,248
Hard Pressed	5.1	0.9	1.0	1.9	1.8	8,231
<b>Area type</b>						
Rural	2.7	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.1	9,577
Non-rural	4.6	0.6	1.0	1.9	1.4	28,354
Inner-city	5.8	0.6	1.7	2.2	1.8	3,395
Rural	2.7	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.1	9,564
Urban	4.4	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.4	24,972
Council estate <sup>2</sup>	5.0	0.9	0.9	1.9	1.7	7,096
Non-council estate	3.9	0.5	0.8	1.7	1.3	30,824
<b>Level of physical disorder<sup>3</sup></b>						
High	7.7	1.3	1.9	2.8	2.6	33,599
Low	3.9	0.5	0.8	1.6	1.3	2,492
<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>37,931</b>

1. Source 2003/04 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.





## 6 Patterns of crime

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*Louise Moore and Helen Yeo*

### 6.1 SUMMARY

- BCS victimisation rates vary between and within the regions and Wales, particularly for household victimisation. Personal victimisation rates are highest in London and lowest in Wales. Household victimisation rates are highest in Yorkshire and the Humber and lowest in Wales.
- The eight metropolitan police forces recorded some of the highest rates of crime, accounting for 43 per cent of all offences recorded by the police. Thirty-five per cent of the population of England and Wales lives in these areas.
- BCS victimisation rates are lower in rural areas than either inner-city or urban areas, but are highest in the inner-city areas.
- The geographical concentration of crime varies between offences. Robbery is one of the most concentrated with 40 per cent of these offences occurring in just one police force area (Metropolitan Police).
- The gap between the 25 per cent of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) with the highest combined levels of robbery, vehicle crime and domestic burglary and the remaining 75 per cent of CDRPs is narrowing. This suggests that the risks of becoming a victim of crime are falling more quickly in higher than in lower crime areas.

### 6.2 GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATIONS

The geographic distribution of crime is similar to last year (Simmons and Dodd, 2003). There is considerable variation in patterns of crime across England and Wales. The distribution of crime varies both geographically and between crime types. Geographical fluctuations in crime at the regional and police force area level are discussed in this chapter. Chapters four and five examine the variations in property and violent crime at a lower level using ACORN, A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (see Glossary). Many of these differences reflect variations in the socio-economic make-up of different locations.

#### *Variation by region*

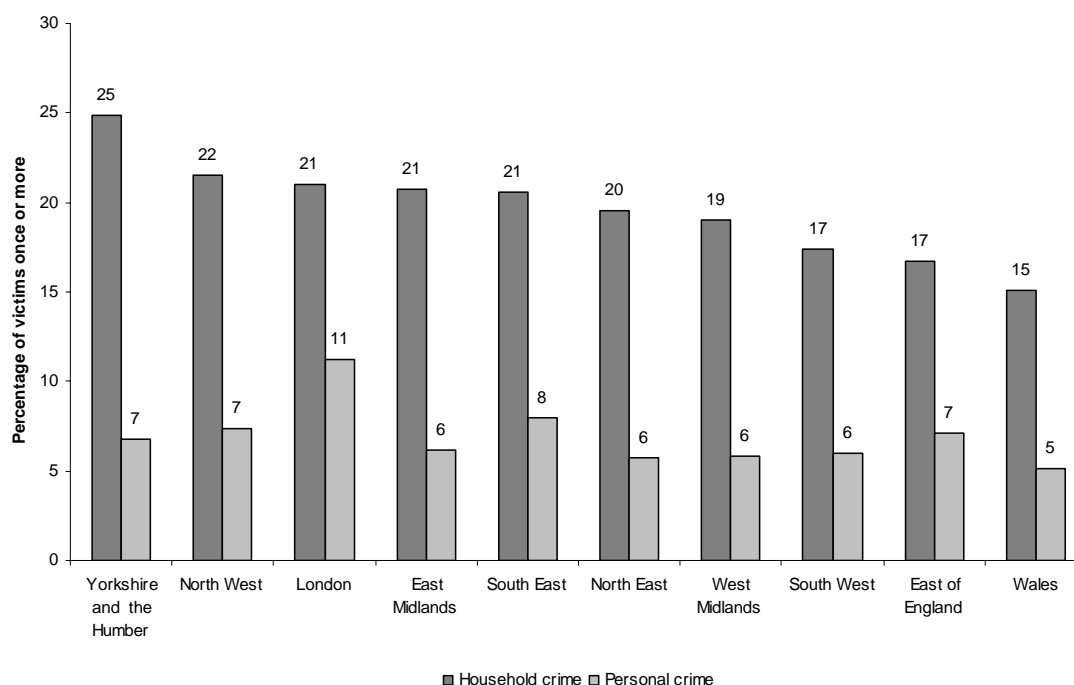
- BCS victimisation rates showed household crime to vary by ten per cent from 25 per cent of households in the Yorkshire and the Humber region to 15 per cent in Wales (Table 6.01).
- There was a six per cent variation in personal crime. In the London region, 11 per cent of people had been a victim of personal crime compared with five per cent of people in Wales (Table 6.01).
- The highest rate of recorded crime was in the London region with 145 offences per 1,000 population compared to 113 per 1,000 population across England and Wales. The South East region had the lowest rate of crime at 91 offences per 1,000 population. The apparent disparity

between BCS and police measures is largely explained by differences in the collation of these statistics (see box below).

### ***Differences in recording practices between BCS and recorded crime***

*There are differences in the way that crime is collated by the police and the British Crime Survey, which might explain some of the variations between BCS and recorded crime data and disparities relating to violence in particular.*

- BCS incidents are always related back to where respondents live rather than the precise location of an incident. Therefore BCS rates for personal crimes in areas where the resident population commute to other areas to work or spend leisure time will tend to be higher than those based on recorded crime.*
  - For example, the number of violent crimes per population is relatively high in the South East as measured by the BCS, but very low for recorded crime. This is because many of those victims responding to the BCS will have been victimised away from their home, either at work, travelling or whilst engaged in leisure activities. Many of the BCS crimes reported by individuals living in the South East will have been recorded by the police in the London region.*
- 
- Rates of burglary as measured by the BCS were higher in Yorkshire and the Humber than in any other region at 646 offences per 10,000 households compared to 422 offences per 10,000 households across England and Wales (Table 4.09).
  - Recorded burglary offences were also highest in the Yorkshire and the Humber region with 24 offences per 1,000 population compared with 16 per 1,000 population in England and Wales as a whole. The lowest rate of 11 offences per 1,000 population was recorded by police in the South East region (Table 6.03).
  - Levels of worry about burglary, with the exception of London, generally reflected patterns of victimisation by region. The highest levels of worry about burglary were in the London and Yorkshire and the Humber regions.
  - Incidence of vehicle thefts, as measured by the BCS, was highest in Yorkshire and the Humber region followed by London (Table 4.10).
  - Yorkshire and the Humber had the highest recorded crime rate for vehicle crime with 23 offences per 1,000 population compared with 17 per 1,000 population in England and Wales. The lowest recorded rate of 13 offences per 1,000 population was recorded by police in the South East region.
  - Worry about vehicle crime broadly reflected patterns of victimisation by region. The London region showed the highest levels of worry about car crime followed by Yorkshire and the Humber.

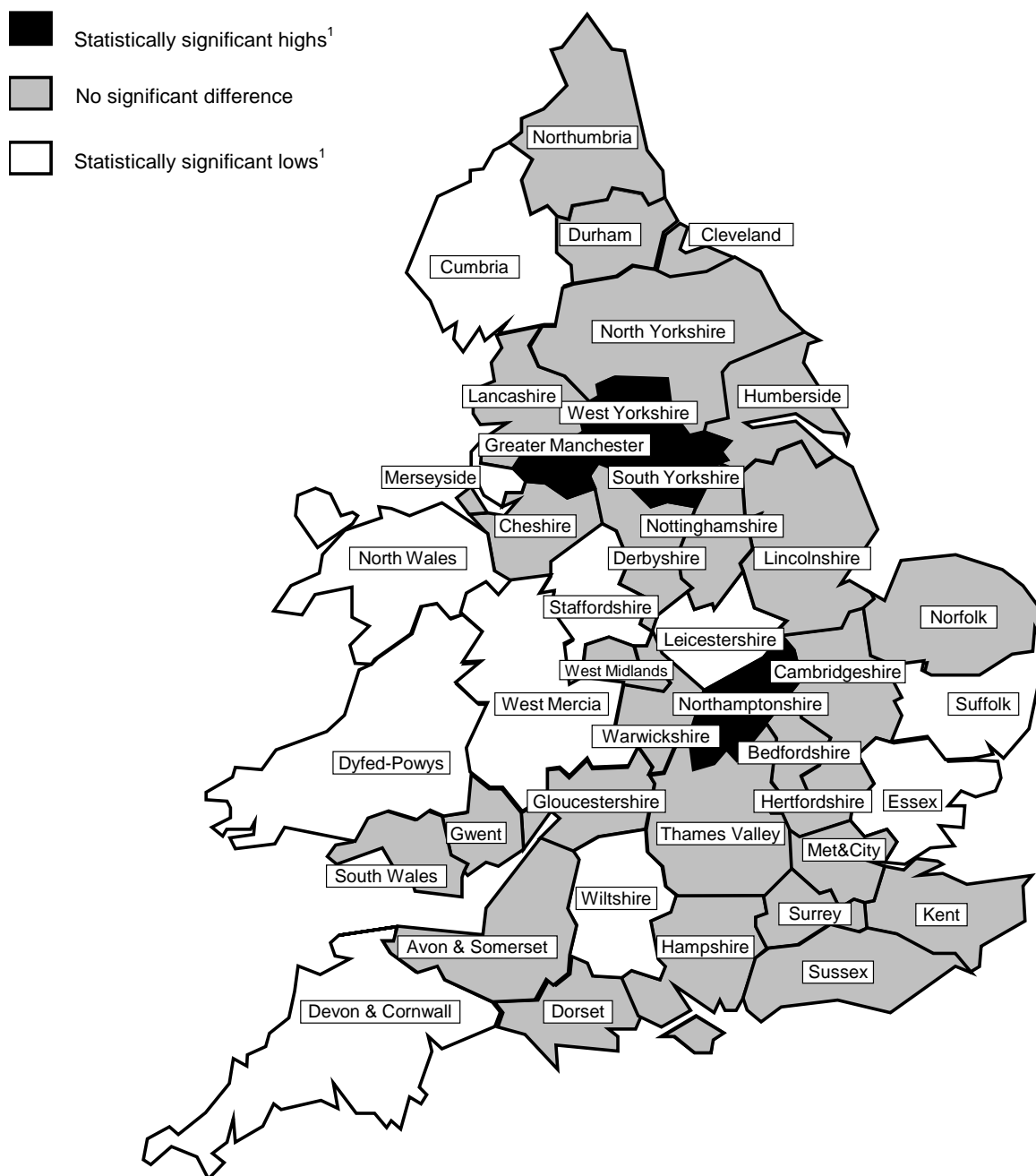
**Figure 6.1 BCS victimisation rates by region, 2003/04**

- The highest BCS rates of violent crime were in the London region showing 772 incidents per 10,000 adults as opposed to 640 over England and Wales as a whole. The second highest incidence rate was for the South East region at 704 incidents per 10,000 (Table 5.02).
- Recorded violent crime was highest in the London region (32 offences per 1,000 population) and lowest in the South East region (16 offences per 1,000 population). There were 21 offences for every 1,000 individuals across England and Wales (Table 6.03). The differences between police and BCS measures of violence reflect variations in the collation of this information (see box above 'Differences in recording practices between BCS and recorded crime').
- The level of worry about violent crime often did not reflect the likelihood of victimisation by region, although London displayed higher levels of worry about this crime type than any other region (Table 6.01).

#### *Variation by police force area*

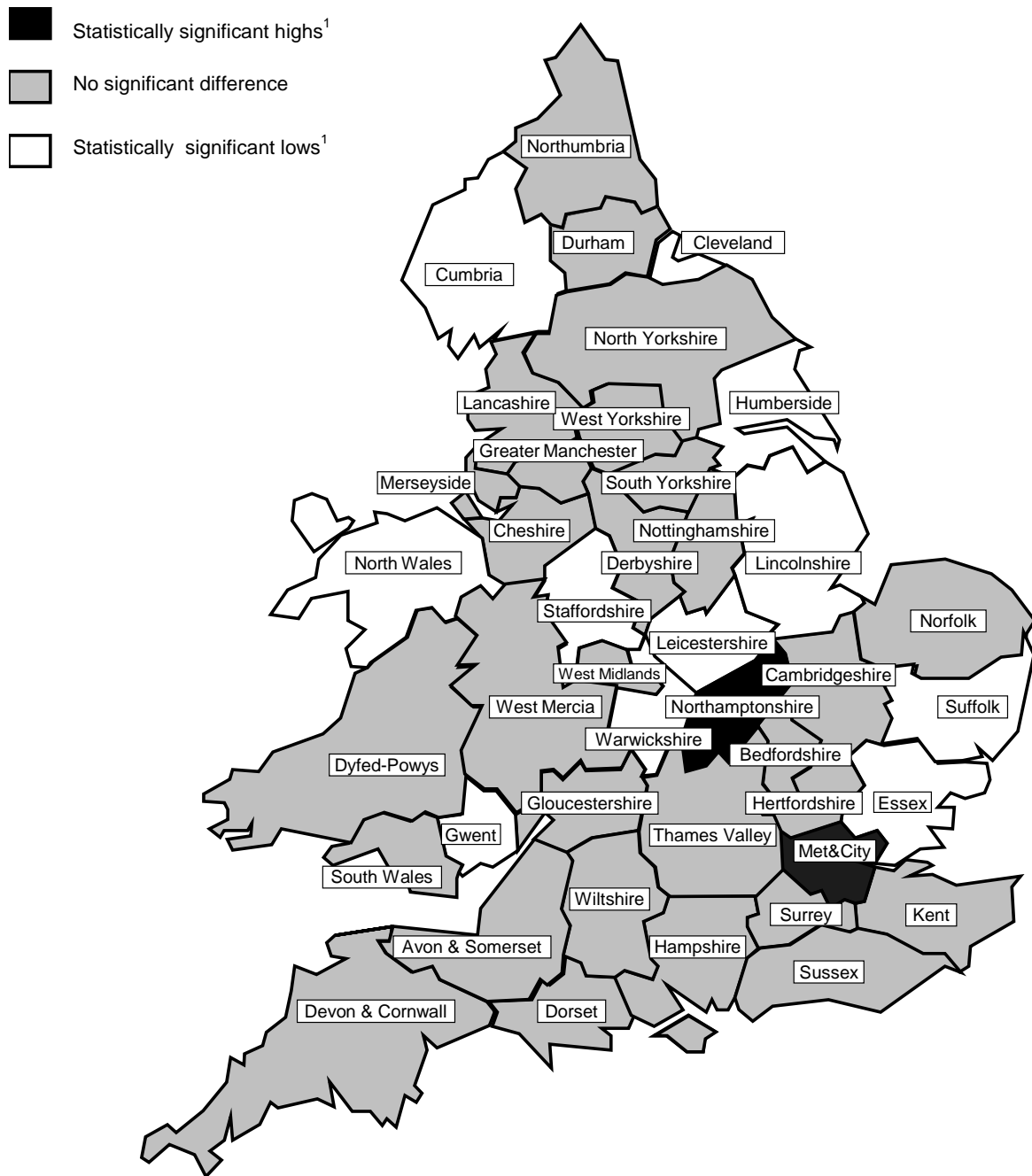
- Victimization rates as measured by the British Crime Survey demonstrate considerable variation between police force areas. Household prevalence was highest in Northamptonshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, and lowest in Dyfed-Powys and Essex (Figure 6.2).
- Between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, a number of police forces saw a change in their household victimisation rates. However the only statistically significant change (at the five per cent level) was in Essex, where rates decreased from 16 per cent of households being a victim of a household crime in 2002/03 to 11 per cent of households in 2003/04.

**Figure 6.2 Levels of household victimisation by police force area, 2003/04 BCS compared to England and Wales**



<sup>1</sup> Statistically significant at the 5% level

**Figure 6.3 Levels of personal victimisation by police force area, 2003/04 BCS compared to England and Wales**

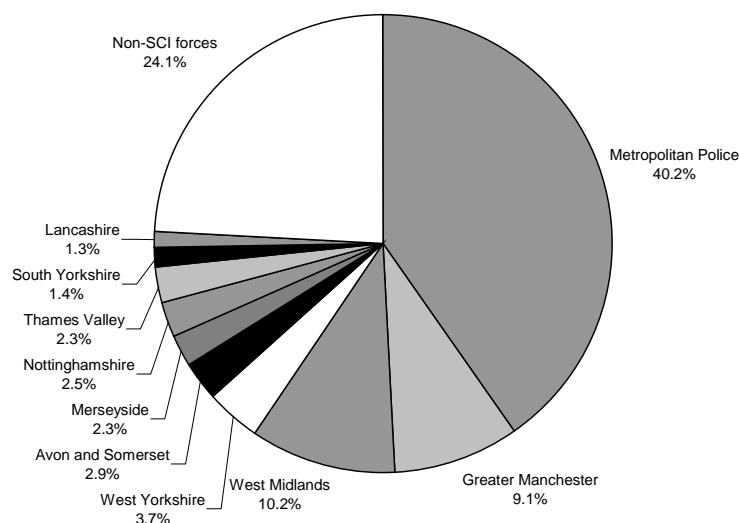


<sup>1</sup> Statistically significant at the 5% level.

## Crime in England and Wales 2003/04

- As at a regional level, there was less variation in prevalence of personal crime. In London and Northamptonshire, 11 per cent of people had been a victim of personal crime compared with three per cent in Gwent and Humberside (Figure 6.3).
- Between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, a number of police forces saw a change in their personal victimisation rates. Humberside police force area saw a significant decrease in its personal prevalence rate falling from eight per cent of people in 2002/03 to three per cent in 2003/04. Conversely, Northamptonshire police force saw a significant increase rising from six per cent of people in 2002/03 to 11 per cent in 2003/04.
- Prior to the introduction of the NCRS, variation in recorded crime between forces will have partly reflected differences in recording practices<sup>1</sup>. There were signs in 2003/04 that the variation had reduced somewhat. For example, excluding the City of London, the ratio between the highest and lowest forces for violent crime had fallen from 3.7 in 2002/03 to 3.2 in 2003/04.

**Figure 6.4 Recorded robbery in the ten Street Crime Initiative forces, 2003/04**



- In 2003/04, although the variation had reduced, there were still differences between the total number of offences recorded by police force areas, ranging from 63 offences per 1,000 population in Dyfed-Powys to 163 offences per 1,000 in Humberside<sup>2</sup>. The highest recorded crime rates were mostly in the metropolitan police forces<sup>3</sup>. Some of this variation will reflect the

<sup>1</sup> Recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. In April 1998, the counting rules were expanded to include certain additional summary offences. In April 1999, the rules on counting detections were amended. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 to ensure greater consistency between forces in recording crime and to take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording, resulting in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. There is likely to be some further impact on the number of recorded crimes as a result of audits to further improve recording in 2003/04. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime.

<sup>2</sup> This excludes the City of London.

<sup>3</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.

lower resident population in city centres and large numbers of potential victims who visit these areas either for work or leisure. Nonetheless, together the eight metropolitan forces accounted for 43 per cent of all crime (Table 6.03).

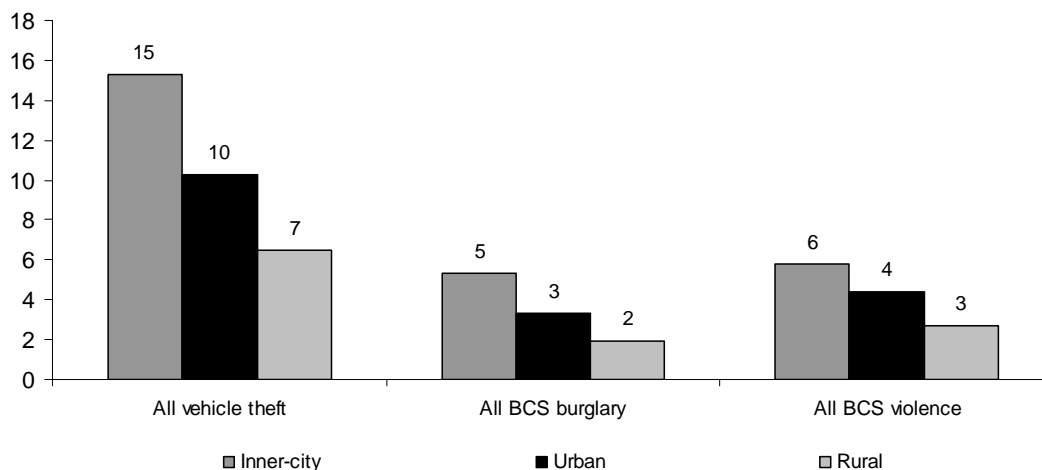
- The ratio between the highest and lowest recorded crime rates for burglary was greater than for other offence types at 5.6. The highest rate for a police force, excluding the City of London, was recorded for Nottinghamshire at 31 offences per 1,000 population; the lowest was for Dyfed-Powys at five per 1,000.
- Nottinghamshire also recorded the highest crime rate of all police forces, excluding the City of London, for vehicle crime (28 offences per 1,000 population). The lowest rate was again recorded in Dyfed-Powys (five offences per 1,000 population).
- The concentration of crime is particularly evident for robbery (see Figure 6.4). Three-fifths of all recorded robberies take place in just three police force areas: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands. The Metropolitan Police Service is responsible for recording 40 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales. The ten police forces covered by the government's Street Crime Initiative accounted for 76 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales in 2003/04 compared to 77 per cent in 2002/03.
- Recorded rates of violent crime also varied widely within each region. The highest rate for a police force, excluding the City of London, was 33 crimes per 1,000 population in the Humberside area. The lowest rates were recorded in Surrey (ten crimes per 1,000 population) (Table 6.03).



### 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 in 2002 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 2003/04 indicated that households in rural areas continued to be at less risk of burglary (2%) than those in non-inner-city urban areas (3%) and inner-city areas (5%). The higher levels of victimisation in inner cities and lower levels in rural areas can also be observed in relation to vehicle-related thefts and violent crime (Table 6.04).

**Figure 6.5 Percentage of household victims of burglary, vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime by area type, 2003/2004 BCS**



### 6.4 GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF CRIME

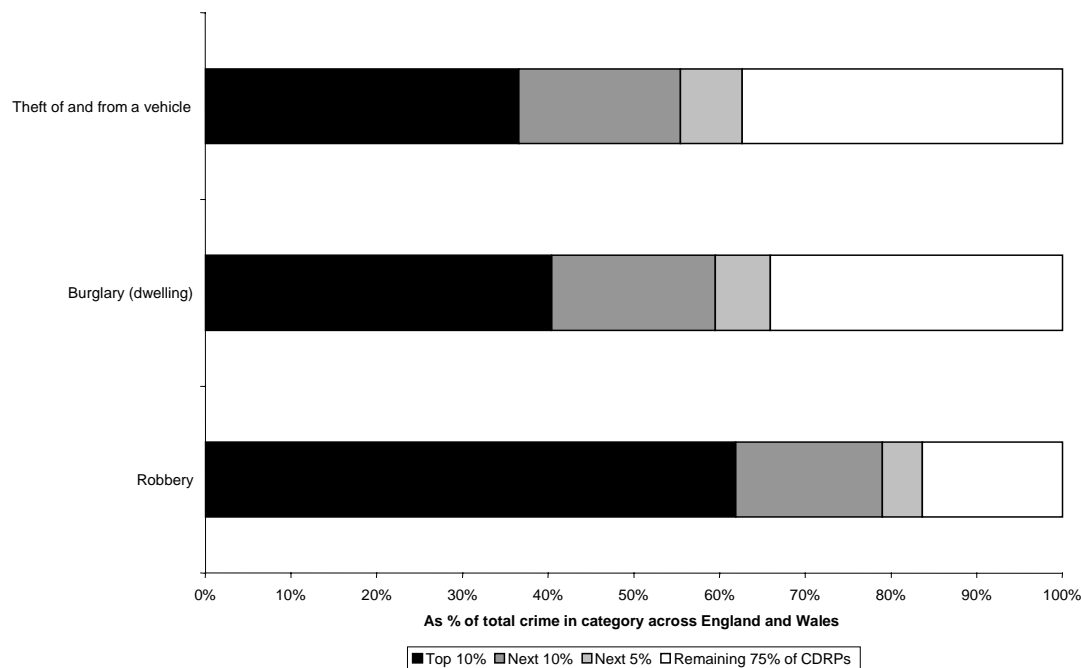
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as partnerships between police forces and local authorities (together with police authorities, health authorities, probation committees and other partners) to tackle crime within local authority boundaries. In Wales, the 22 CDRPs have 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.

Analysis of the recorded crime data for the 376 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships shows different levels of geographic concentration for different crime types.

- The 38 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. The 75 per cent of all CDRPs with the lowest numbers of robberies accounted for just 16 per cent of robberies recorded in England and Wales.

- The ten per cent of all CDRPs with the highest level of burglary offences accounted for 40 per cent of all burglaries in England and Wales. Similarly, 37 per cent of all recorded vehicle crimes took place in just 38 CDRPs.

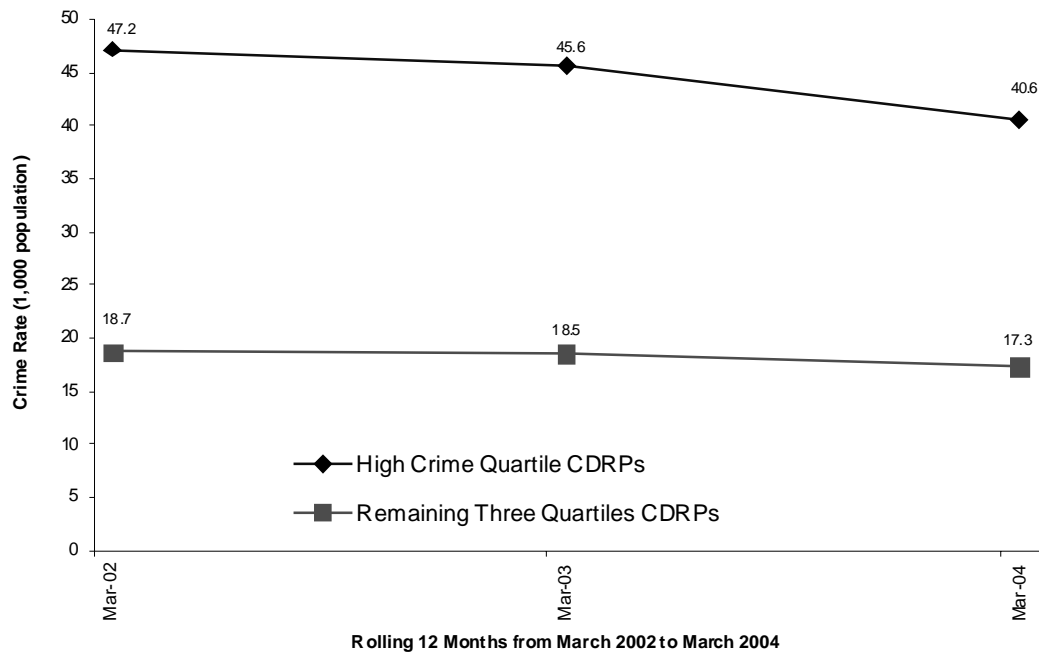
**Figure 6.6 Concentration of selected crimes in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2003/04**



Analysis of the combined recorded crime rate for vehicle crime, domestic burglary and robbery shows that the gap between the 25 per cent of CDRPs with the highest rates of these offences and the remaining 75 per cent of CDRPs is narrowing<sup>4</sup>. The difference in rates between these two groups decreased from 28.5 offences per 1,000 population in 2001/02, to 27.1 in 2002/03 and 23.3 per 1,000 in 2003/04. This suggests that the risk of becoming a victim of crime is falling more quickly in higher-crime than lower-crime areas.

<sup>4</sup> Both this analysis and Figure 6.7 are based on the CDRPs with the highest crime rates in 2002/03.

**Figure 6.7 Narrowing of crime rates for selected offences in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2003/04**



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

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

Table 6.01 BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region, 2003/04 interviews

Percentages and numbers																		BCS
Police force and region	BCS household crime % victim at least once <sup>2</sup>			BCS personal crime % victim at least once <sup>2</sup>			Very worried about burglary % <sup>3</sup>			High level of worry about car crime % <sup>3</sup>			High level of worry about violent crime % <sup>3</sup>			High levels of perceived disorder % <sup>4</sup>		
	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>7</sup>
Cleveland	21		815	4 **		816	15		816	18		515	17		383	21		770
Durham	18		774	7		776	11		776	15		542	16		396	19		725
Northumbria	20		826	6		826	15		826	17		461	18		448	23 **		787
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>2,415</b>	<b>6 **</b>		<b>2,418</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>2,418</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>1,518</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>1,227</b>	<b>21 **</b>		<b>2,282</b>
Cheshire	20		770	6		774	13		774	17		606	18		574	15		723
Cumbria	14 **		776	5 **		777	9 **		777	10 **		603	10 **		708	13 **		766
Greater Manchester	27 **		1,553	8		1,556	16 **		1,556	19 **		1,035	22 **		1,129	21		1,494
Lancashire	22		901	8		901	13		900	13		665	16		419	18		840
Merseyside	15 **		856	6		858	13		857	20 *		518	16		604	21		796
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>22 *</b>		<b>4,856</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>4,866</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>4,864</b>	<b>17 *</b>		<b>3,427</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>3,434</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>4,619</b>
Humberside	20		763	3 **		763	12		763	12		563	13		474	10 **		730
North Yorkshire	19		728	6		729	8 **		729	9 **		577	10 **		578	10 **		691
South Yorkshire	27 **		808	6		810	17 **		808	24 **		527	22 **		534	20		770
West Yorkshire	28 **		1,092	9		1,095	16 **		1,095	19 **		735	20 *		961	16		1,027
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>25 **</b>		<b>3,391</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>3,397</b>	<b>15 **</b>		<b>3,395</b>	<b>17 **</b>		<b>2,402</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>2,547</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>3,218</b>
Derbyshire	22		732	7		733	13		732	17		555	14		703	17		714
Leicestershire	14 **		738	4 **		738	18 **		737	15		589	17		663	15		709
Lincolnshire	18		754	5 **		754	8 **		754	9 **		625	8 **		688	7 **		738
Northamptonshire	28 **		692	11 **		692	13		692	15		513	12 *		655	25 **		609
Nottinghamshire	24		757	6		759	15		759	19		516	18		679	20		734
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>3,673</b>	<b>6 **</b>		<b>3,676</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>3,674</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>2,798</b>	<b>14 *</b>		<b>3,388</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>3,504</b>
Staffordshire	14 **		716	4 **		718	13		717	14		552	14		536	14		674
Warwickshire	19		775	5 **		775	12		775	15		619	14		599	14		750
West Mercia	17 **		809	6		811	10 *		809	12		667	13		589	12 *		788
West Midlands	22		1,446	7		1,449	16 **		1,449	20 **		931	21 **		1,167	19		1,364
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>3,746</b>	<b>6 **</b>		<b>3,753</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>3,750</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>2,769</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>2,891</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>3,576</b>
Bedfordshire	22		758	8		758	12		757	14		603	16		622	18		711
Cambridgeshire	24 *		733	11 *		734	11		734	15		565	24 **		444	17		693
Essex	11 **		914	5 **		915	7 **		915	8 **		727	11 **		575	7 **		852
Hertfordshire	19		717	9		719	9 **		719	13		568	16		610	20		678
Norfolk	17 *		836	7		836	9 **		836	12 **		682	14		504	9 **		798
Suffolk	14 **		722	5 **		723	6 **		723	9 **		570	14		393	8 **		667
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>17 **</b>		<b>4,680</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>4,685</b>	<b>9 **</b>		<b>4,684</b>	<b>11 **</b>		<b>3,715</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>3,148</b>	<b>12 **</b>		<b>4,399</b>
Metropolitan/City of London	21		3,421	11 **		3,434	16 **		3,429	19 **		2,129	22 **		2,645	25 **		3,004
<b>London Region</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>3,421</b>	<b>11 **</b>		<b>3,434</b>	<b>16 **</b>		<b>3,429</b>	<b>19 **</b>		<b>2,129</b>	<b>22 **</b>		<b>2,645</b>	<b>25 **</b>		<b>3,004</b>

Table 6.01 (continued) BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region, 2003/04 interviews

Percentages and numbers																		BCS
Police force and region	BCS household crime % victim at least once <sup>2</sup>			BCS personal crime % victim at least once <sup>2</sup>			Very worried about burglary % <sup>3</sup>			High level of worry about car crime % <sup>3</sup>			High level of worry about violent crime % <sup>3</sup>			High levels of perceived disorder % <sup>4</sup>		
	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Base number <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Base number <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Base number <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Base number <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Base number <sup>7</sup>	Indicator value <sup>5</sup>	Statistical sig <sup>6</sup>	Base number <sup>7</sup>
Hampshire	21		1,005	8		1,009	11		1,009	13		765	12 **		802	19		933
Kent	21		883	9		883	12		882	15		675	13		629	18		859
Surrey	18		824	8		826	9 **		826	11 **		699	13 *		733	15		788
Sussex	22		688	8		691	10 *		691	14		525	11 **		614	17		663
Thames Valley	21		1,208	7		1,210	11		1,210	13		1,005	15		983	14 *		1,154
South East Region	21		4,608	8		4,619	11 **		4,618	13 **		3,669	13 **		3,761	17		4,397
Avon and Somerset	20		889	6		890	12		890	14		692	10 **		723	16		856
Devon and Cornwall	16 **		834	6		834	7 **		834	10 **		668	13 **		721	13 *		815
Dorset	19		788	6		788	7 **		788	14		625	12 **		503	13		768
Gloucestershire	17		762	6 *		763	8 **		763	10 **		610	12		437	13		743
Wiltshire	14 **		754	6		755	8 **		755	11 **		567	11 **		466	11 **		726
South West Region	17 **		4,027	6 **		4,030	9 **		4,030	12 **		3,162	12 **		2,850	14 **		3,908
Dyfed Powys	11 **		682	8		685	8 **		682	9 **		510	11 *		379	9 **		644
Gwent	17		821	3 **		821	10 *		821	13		613	10 **		547	13 **		789
North Wales	14 **		770	4 **		771	13		771	13		596	12 **		532	13 **		737
South Wales	17		736	6		736	10		736	16		508	9 **		368	15		692
Wales	15 **		3,009	5 **		3,013	10 **		3,010	13		2,227	11 **		1,826	13 **		2,862
ENGLAND AND WALES	20		37,826	7		37,891	13		37,872	15		27,816	16		27,717	17		35,769
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	20		34,405	7		34,457	12		34,443	14		25,687	15		25,072	16		32,765

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. Best Value Performance Indicator 120 (See Glossary for explanation).

3. Best Value Performance Indicator 121 (See Glossary for explanation).

4. Best Value Performance Indicator 122 (See Glossary for explanation).

5. Estimated risk of being a victim once or more in a 12 month period, percentage of respondents worried about certain types of crime or percentage perceiving high levels of disorder.

6. Statistical significance of differences is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and by a double asterisks at the 5% level.

7. The number of respondents on which the figures are based. Respondents who answer don't know or refuse to answer are excluded.

Table 6.02 Recorded crime by offence group by police force area and region, 2003/04

Numbers		Recorded crime								
Police force area and region	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drugs and other offences	Theft of and from vehicles <sup>1</sup>
Cleveland	74,579	9,199	767	1,355	13,395	28,421	2,401	16,958	2,083	12,493
Durham	48,432	6,565	362	267	7,083	16,752	1,294	14,244	1,865	7,073
Northumbria	157,051	24,798	1,360	1,223	20,083	53,590	5,698	42,523	7,776	18,089
North East Region	280,062	40,562	2,489	2,845	40,561	98,763	9,393	73,725	11,724	37,655
Cheshire	92,223	14,074	696	647	13,119	34,098	4,128	22,556	2,905	12,844
Cumbria	39,539	6,874	293	124	4,613	13,210	1,118	11,629	1,678	4,114
Greater Manchester	367,959	53,972	3,200	9,246	66,545	129,331	13,577	81,123	10,965	59,284
Lancashire	151,835	26,676	1,337	1,285	19,571	50,660	7,157	39,447	5,702	16,699
Merseyside	169,181	26,446	1,284	2,347	24,871	59,520	6,966	39,966	7,781	26,364
North West Region	820,737	128,042	6,810	13,649	128,719	286,819	32,946	194,721	29,031	119,305
Humberside	141,644	25,317	1,269	1,896	23,761	52,068	5,117	28,635	3,581	21,429
North Yorkshire	71,473	9,610	502	395	11,062	29,406	3,330	14,732	2,436	9,516
South Yorkshire	141,794	13,499	938	1,400	26,553	57,001	6,239	30,933	5,231	29,194
West Yorkshire	325,556	45,864	2,343	3,738	59,799	120,030	16,916	68,476	8,390	55,760
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	680,467	94,290	5,052	7,429	121,175	258,505	31,602	142,776	19,638	115,899
Derbyshire	98,741	16,397	920	1,019	16,052	36,709	5,373	18,932	3,339	14,358
Leicestershire	96,355	17,593	1,000	1,476	12,795	34,837	5,829	19,480	3,345	14,016
Lincolnshire	60,377	10,148	636	304	9,052	20,665	2,320	15,176	2,076	6,503
Northamptonshire	78,582	11,070	544	1,220	12,231	29,507	4,908	17,295	1,807	12,711
Nottinghamshire	159,228	18,631	1,055	2,556	31,335	67,533	7,228	26,308	4,582	28,317
East Midlands Region	493,283	73,839	4,155	6,575	81,465	189,251	25,658	97,191	15,149	75,905
Staffordshire	109,396	22,774	1,025	909	14,072	36,493	5,395	24,447	4,281	13,785
Warwickshire	45,714	6,866	349	456	7,661	17,452	2,240	9,318	1,372	7,256
West Mercia	106,899	21,867	949	689	15,015	35,286	5,683	23,615	3,795	12,134
West Midlands	339,292	55,856	3,207	10,371	53,116	121,616	21,280	59,150	14,696	57,111
West Midlands Region	601,301	107,363	5,530	12,425	89,864	210,847	34,598	116,530	24,144	90,286
Bedfordshire	62,382	8,807	516	993	9,045	26,121	4,011	11,065	1,824	10,171
Cambridgeshire	79,960	13,663	736	786	10,257	31,402	4,584	16,534	1,998	10,672
Essex	144,512	26,010	1,296	1,476	16,467	53,653	7,470	34,253	3,887	21,040
Hertfordshire	95,117	12,356	644	972	12,783	37,976	7,875	19,887	2,624	16,239
Norfolk	69,846	11,586	774	459	8,169	26,123	3,005	17,462	2,268	8,396
Suffolk	53,443	9,529	641	290	6,396	18,205	2,725	12,817	2,840	5,782
Eastern Region	505,260	81,951	4,607	4,976	63,117	193,480	29,670	112,018	15,441	72,300
London, City of	9,250	849	30	50	454	5,471	1,163	319	914	583
Metropolitan Police	1,060,930	186,188	10,200	40,640	105,361	448,818	78,133	147,465	44,125	159,057
London Region	1,070,180	187,037	10,230	40,690	105,815	454,289	79,296	147,784	45,039	159,640
Hampshire	178,543	35,148	2,034	1,040	18,014	63,250	8,557	43,557	6,943	20,769
Kent	137,313	20,512	1,220	1,172	17,830	51,230	6,312	34,537	4,500	19,241
Surrey	73,252	9,654	585	619	9,700	28,986	4,561	16,571	2,576	9,920
Sussex	134,557	19,500	1,201	1,425	16,430	55,419	7,279	28,792	4,511	18,776
Thames Valley	210,256	28,588	1,618	2,286	30,076	90,256	12,640	37,320	7,472	35,463
South East Region	733,921	113,402	6,658	6,542	92,050	289,141	39,349	160,777	26,002	104,169
Avon & Somerset	164,943	26,530	1,516	2,908	24,564	67,159	8,218	29,949	4,099	29,008
Devon & Cornwall	131,453	25,969	1,336	562	14,024	47,156	5,993	30,116	6,297	16,601
Dorset	62,657	9,147	579	445	7,615	25,139	4,276	13,428	2,028	8,603
Gloucestershire	58,097	8,304	403	541	9,072	22,990	3,970	10,847	1,970	8,407
Wiltshire	42,956	6,302	584	328	5,929	16,546	2,326	9,446	1,495	5,450
South West Region	460,106	76,252	4,418	4,784	61,204	178,990	24,783	93,786	15,889	68,069
Dyfed-Powys	31,105	7,909	434	54	2,703	8,514	1,379	7,032	3,080	2,325
Gwent	59,296	12,931	404	274	7,541	20,310	1,954	13,681	2,201	8,923
North Wales	61,749	10,979	569	201	7,301	21,075	2,114	17,036	2,474	7,613
South Wales	137,113	21,195	714	751	17,127	58,159	5,207	28,519	5,441	27,082
Wales	289,263	53,014	2,121	1,280	34,672	108,058	10,654	66,268	13,196	45,943
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,934,580	955,752	52,070	101,195	818,642	2,268,143	317,949	1,205,576	215,253	889,171
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	4,864,400	768,715	41,840	60,505	712,827	1,813,854	238,653	1,057,792	170,214	729,531

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

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

Table 6.03 Recorded offences by offence group by police force area and region, number per '000 population in 2003/04

Numbers per '000 population										Recorded crime	
Police force area and region	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drugs and other offences	Theft of and from vehicles
Cleveland	138	17	1	3	21	25	53	4	31	4	23
Durham	82	11	1	0	12	12	28	2	24	3	12
Northumbria	114	18	1	1	20	15	39	4	31	6	13
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
Cheshire	94	14	1	1	16	13	35	4	23	3	13
Cumbria	81	14	1	0	15	9	27	2	24	3	8
Greater Manchester	146	21	1	4	26	26	51	5	32	4	24
Lancashire	107	19	1	1	21	14	36	5	28	4	12
Merseyside	124	19	1	2	22	18	44	5	29	6	19
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
Humberside	163	29	1	2	33	27	60	6	33	4	25
North Yorkshire	95	13	1	1	14	15	39	4	20	3	13
South Yorkshire	112	11	1	1	12	21	45	5	24	4	23
West Yorkshire	156	22	1	2	25	29	57	8	33	4	27
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>
Derbyshire	103	17	1	1	19	17	38	6	20	3	15
Leicestershire	103	19	1	2	21	14	37	6	21	4	15
Lincolnshire	92	15	1	0	17	14	31	4	23	3	10
Northamptonshire	123	17	1	2	20	19	46	8	27	3	20
Nottinghamshire	156	18	1	2	22	31	66	7	26	4	28
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
Staffordshire	104	22	1	1	24	13	35	5	23	4	13
Warwickshire	89	13	1	1	15	15	34	4	18	3	14
West Mercia	92	19	1	1	20	13	30	5	20	3	10
West Midlands	132	22	1	4	27	21	47	8	23	6	22
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>
Bedfordshire	109	15	1	2	18	16	46	7	19	3	18
Cambridgeshire	112	19	1	1	21	14	44	6	23	3	15
Essex	89	16	1	1	18	10	33	5	21	2	13
Hertfordshire	92	12	1	1	13	12	37	8	19	3	16
Norfolk	87	14	1	1	16	10	33	4	22	3	10
Suffolk	80	14	1	0	16	10	27	4	19	4	9
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
London, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Metropolitan Police	144	25	1	6	32	14	61	11	20	6	22
<b>London Region</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>
Hampshire	100	20	1	1	21	10	35	5	24	4	12
Kent	86	13	1	1	14	11	32	4	22	3	12
Surrey	69	9	1	1	10	9	27	4	16	2	9
Sussex	90	13	1	1	15	11	37	5	19	3	13
Thames Valley	100	14	1	1	15	14	43	6	18	4	17
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
Avon & Somerset	111	18	1	2	21	16	45	6	20	3	19
Devon & Cornwall	83	16	1	0	18	9	30	4	19	4	10
Dorset	90	13	1	1	15	11	36	6	19	3	12
Gloucestershire	102	15	1	1	16	16	41	7	19	3	15
Wiltshire	70	10	1	1	12	10	27	4	15	2	9
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>
Dyfed-Powys	63	16	1	0	17	5	17	3	14	6	5
Gwent	107	23	1	0	25	14	37	4	25	4	16
North Wales	92	16	1	0	18	11	32	3	25	4	11
South Wales	114	18	1	1	19	14	48	4	24	5	23
<b>Wales</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</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 crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording.

\* Data for London Region includes the City of London.

**Table 6.04 Percentage of household victims of burglary and vehicle-related theft and adult victims of violent crime 2003/04 interviews by area type**

Percentages			BCS
Area type	% victims once or more		
	All vehicle theft	All BCS burglary	All BCS violence
Inner-city	15.3	5.3	5.8
Urban	10.3	3.3	4.4
All non-rural	10.8	3.6	4.6
Rural	6.5	1.9	2.7
ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS <sup>2</sup>	9.7	3.2	4.1

1. Source 2003/04 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.





## 7 Detection of crime

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*Nerys Thomas and Andy Feist*

### 7.1 SUMMARY

- There were just under 1.4 million detected crimes in 2003/04. Some other crimes may have had a suspect identified, but not met the definition of detected crime. The number of recorded detections in 2003/04 was up very slightly on 2002/03 figures (an increase of less than half a per cent).
- Unadjusted for any effects of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), the detection rate in 2003/04 remained stable at around 23.5 per cent. However, the further bedding down of recording changes this year will have slightly depressed the current detection rate.
- Detection rates by offence group remained largely unchanged over the previous year. The main exceptions to this were sexual offences (which saw a fall in the detection rate of four percentage points between 2002/03 and 2003/04), and violence against the person (which saw a similar drop in detection rate). However, the *number* of detections for violence against the person increased by six per cent over the period. (The detection *rate* fell because there was a greater increase in the number of violence against the person offences recorded.)
- The proportion of recorded crimes that were detected through an offender being charged or summoned, cautioned, having an offence taken into consideration or receiving a fixed penalty notice ('sanction' detections), was 18.8 per cent; 4.7 per cent of crimes detected were 'administrative', that is no further action was taken. The relative weight of sanction and administrative detections varied widely by force.
- There was a slight decrease in the proportion of crimes resulting in a sanction detection between 2002/03 and 2003/04, equivalent to a 0.3 percentage point fall in the sanction detection rate.
- Not all officers are involved in the investigation of crime – but the average number of detections per officer fell very slightly to just over 10 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 detected. It may be by:*

- A Charging or issuing a summons to an offender.
- B Issuing a caution, reprimand, or final warning to the offender.
- C Having the offence 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.
- E A penalty notice has been issued.

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

*Only some detections involve a judicial sanction. Some forces are now concentrating on 'sanction' detections (A to C and E 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 been declining since 1980. 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. Since 2001/02, the detection rate has remained broadly stable at around 23.5 per cent of all crimes.

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. 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.
- Finally, there is the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced nationally in April 2002. This will have had the effect of depressing the detection rate somewhat – see discussion 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 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 in the detection rate from 75 to 71 per cent, due to the number of common assaults.*

#### *Guidance on counting detections*

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

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

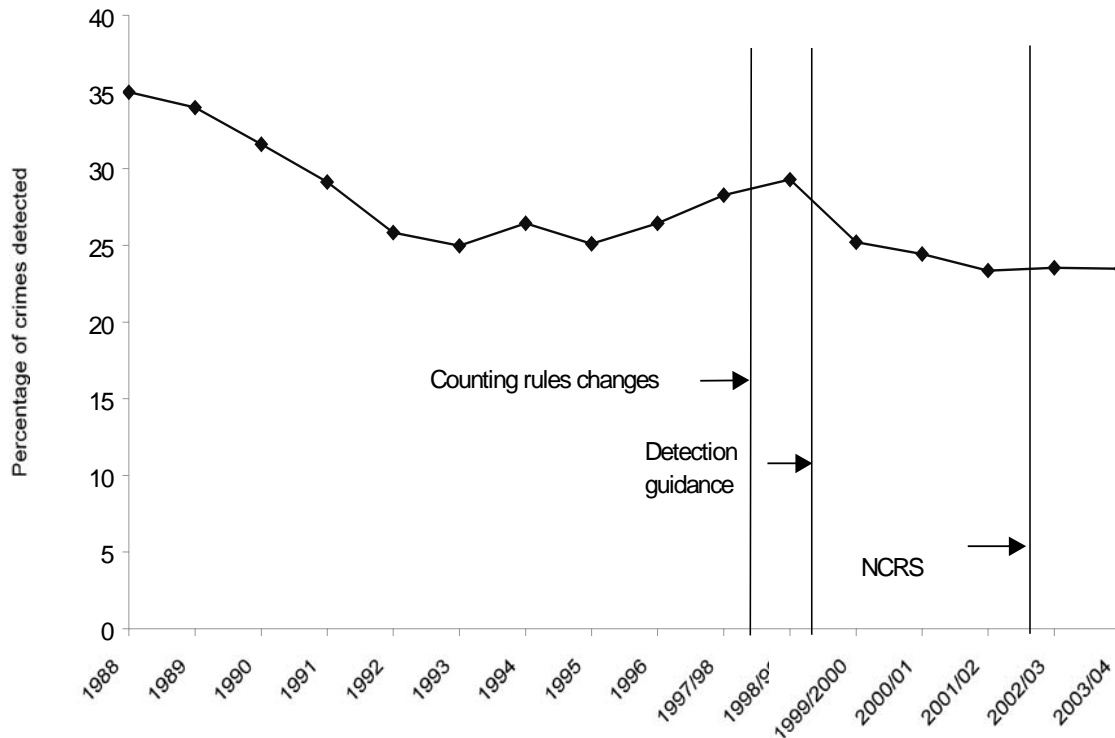
*In April 2003, the so-called 'inflammatory consequences' detections rule was removed. This meant that detections in which the injured party had asked the police not to speak to a named perpetrator could no longer be counted as administrative detections (see footnote 5).*

#### *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, which may be harder to detect.*

Where possible, the graphs in the rest of this chapter cover the period 1988 to 2003/04, in order to give ten years' data prior to the changes in crime counting rules.

**Figure 7.1 Overall detection rates, 1988 to 2003/04**



Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 and 2003/04 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

Figure 7.1 shows the picture since 1988. Broadly:

- The detection rate fell in the first half of the 1990s, as the number of crimes recorded increased faster (or fell less slowly) than the number detected.
- This was followed by an upturn in detection rates, although the increase in 1998/99 was attributable to the changes to the counting rules.
- The fall in the following year coincided with the tightening up of the detection guidance, and there were further slight falls in the next two years, which may have reflected a 'bedding down' of the guidance changes.
- The recorded detection rate has remained stable in 2003/04. In some forces, the continued bedding in of NCRS may have slightly depressed the overall detection rate.

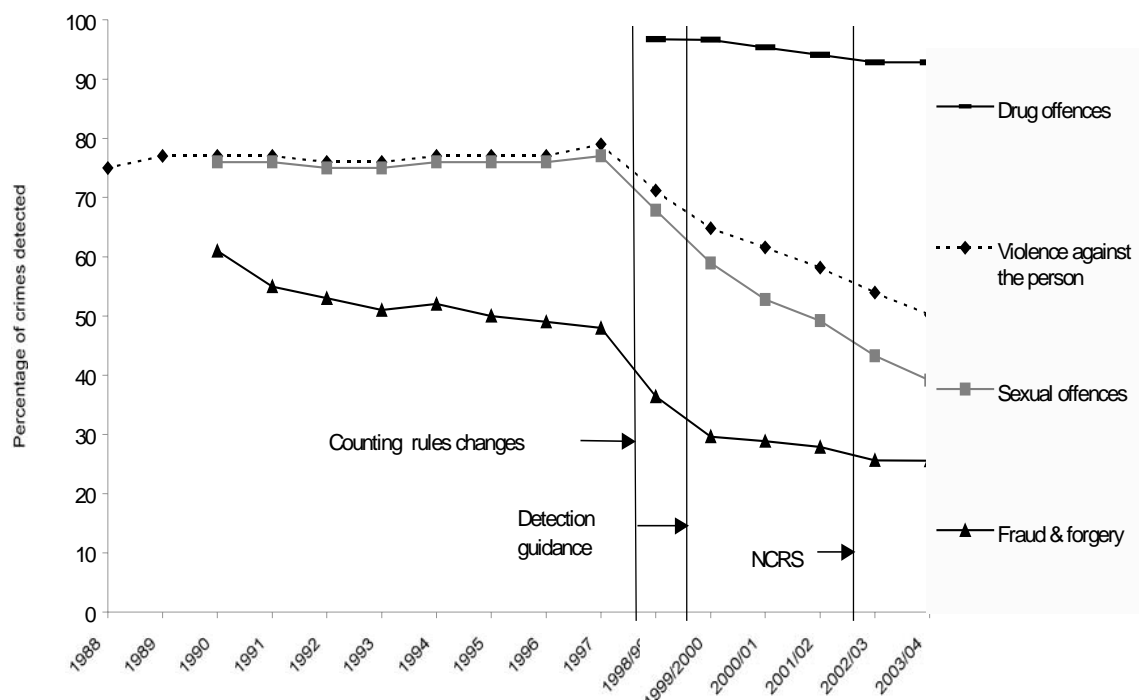
### Changes in detection rates for different offence types

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 and drug offences – where there is a high likelihood of the victim being able to identify the offender, or because knowledge of the offence directly identifies the offender. (Possession of drugs, for example, requires an offender to be present when the offence is reported. This is quite unlike burglary, where sometimes evidence of an offence can be discovered long after it was committed, and the offender may be far away.)

Figure 7.2 shows changes in detection rates since 1988 in 'higher detection' offence 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 long-term 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 2003/04**

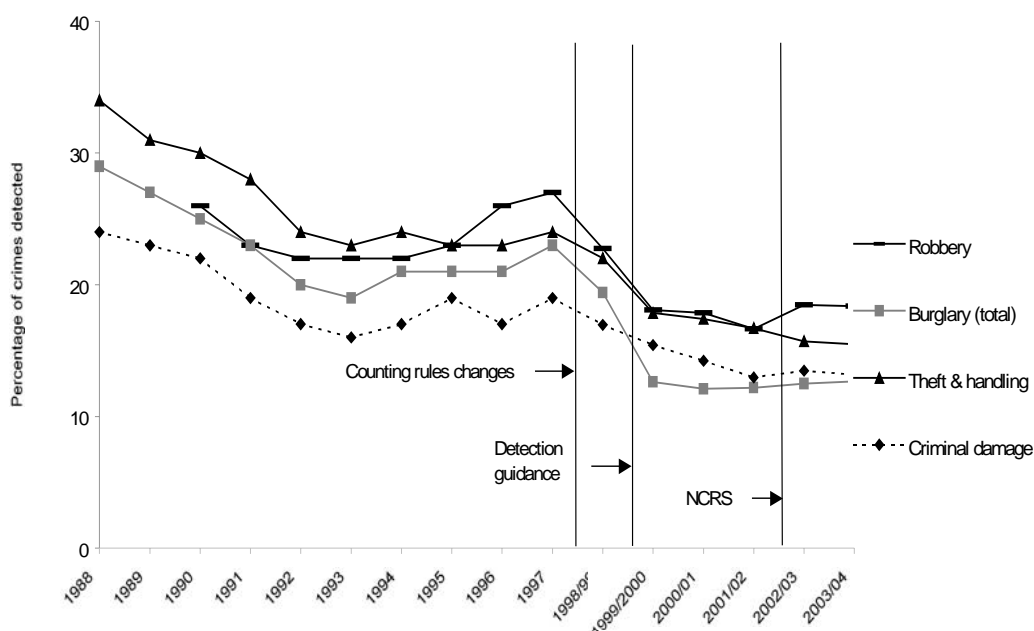


Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 and 2003/04 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

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, there may be increased recording of some crimes that, by their very nature are less likely to be cleared up. The reduction in the detection rate for sexual offences represents a continuation of a trend that began in the late 1990s. Here recent falls in detection rates may well be influenced by the NCRS effect (in 2002/03 and to some extent in 2003/04). Simmons, Legg and Hosking (2003) noted that sexual offences were one of the crime categories most affected by the NCRS, although no estimate of the numerical impact on recording could be made.

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 2003/04**



Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 and 2003/04 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 fell between 2002/03 and 2003/04 for most offences. The most marked falls were for robbery, burglary, and theft and handling. This parallels a decrease in the number of offences recorded.
- The *number* of detections increased for violence against the person and criminal damage; this is in tandem with a rise in recorded offences, primarily due to the changes in recording.
- Within this broader landscape, the overall detection *rate* has remained stable at around 23.5 per cent (there was a very slight decrease of 0.1 percentage points between 2002/03 and 2003/04), but the trend varies by offence. Rates between 2002/03 and 2003/04 fell most for violence against the person, sexual offences, and 'other' offences. There were also small falls for robbery, theft and handling and criminal damage. The biggest falls were for violence against the person and sexual offences, where the continued effects of the NCRS in some forces may be implicated.

- The detection rate for burglary was subject to a very small increase (less than half a percentage point), while the rate for fraud and forgery and drugs remained broadly static.

**Table 7a Change in the number of offences detected, 2002/03 and 2003/04**

	Number of detections 2002/03	Number of detections 2003/04	% change in number of detections	Detection rate %, 2002/03	Detection rate %, 2003/04	% point change in detection rate
Violence against the person	450,349	479,594	6	54	50	-3.8
Sexual offences	21,042	20,393	-3	43	39	-4.1
Robbery	19,953	18,588	-7	18	18	-0.1
<i>Violent crime</i>	<i>491,344</i>	<i>518,575</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>-2.8</i>
Burglary	111,022	103,714	-7	12	13	0.2
Theft and handling stolen goods	371,976	351,425	-6	16	15	-0.2
Fraud and forgery	84,701	81,337	-4	26	26	-0.1
Criminal damage	149,329	158,496	6	13	13	-0.3
Drug offences	130,950	130,916	0	93	93	0.0
Other offences	49,992	49,553	-1	69	67	-2.2
Total recorded crime	1,389,314	1,394,016	0	23.6	23.5	-0.1

Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 and 2003/04 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

Table 7.01 shows the change in the number of offences and detections between 2002/03 and 2003/04, for each offence type as well as offence group.

### Changes in the 'crime mix'

There have been changes in the 'crime mix' between 1990 and 2003/04. In 2003/04, 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 reduction in burglary and theft). Since burglary and theft have relatively low detection rates, and violence against the person a much higher one, one would expect the overall detection rate in 2003/04 to be higher than in 1990 if investigative performance had remained the same. However, this is not the case. The 'observed' detection rate in 2003/04 is 23 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> The adjustment applies the proportion of different types of crime within total crime in 1990 to total crime in 2003/04, with the present detection rate then applied to the revised number of different types of crime. For instance, theft and handling in 1990 was over 50 per cent of total crime with a detection rate of 30 per cent; this proportion (i.e. 50 per cent), is applied to the 2003/04 data, using the present detection rate of 15 per cent. Applying the 1990 'crime mix' to 2003/04 detection rates would give an overall detection rate of 16.8 per cent.



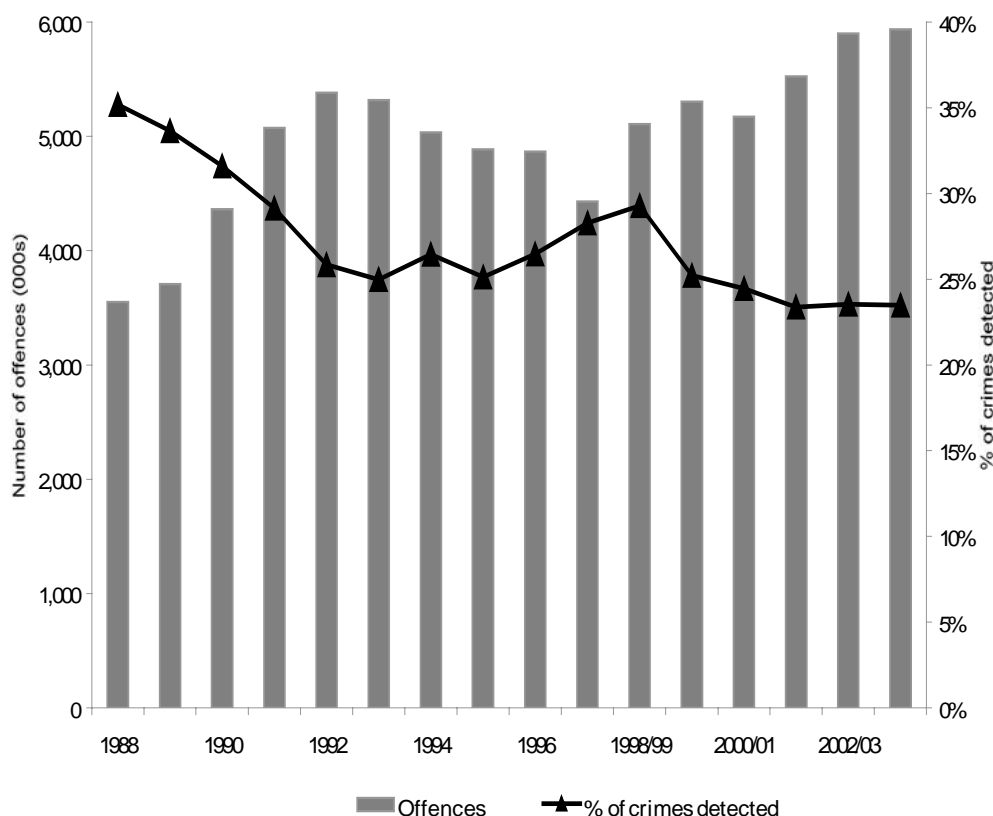
instance the inclusion of common assaults, which are less likely to be detected than more serious violence).

The change in 'crime mix' over the last two years is of course much smaller, although there has been a slight change. Violence against the person (14% of total last year; 16% this year) and criminal damage (19% of total last year; 20% this year) were a proportionally larger share in 2003/04 than in 2002/03. If the 2002/03 'crime mix' was applied to the 2003/04 data, then the 'observed' detection rate of 23.49 per cent would change to 22.83 per cent.

### **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 2003/04**

Note: The detection rate in 2002/03 and 2003/04 is based on the number of recorded crimes unadjusted for any NCRS effect.

### Trends in detection rates by police force area

Table 7.02 shows annual detection rates by police force area and region, from 1998/99 to 2003/04. The changes need to be viewed with some caution. There are variations in the particular 'mix' of crimes with which different forces have to deal, so that the effect of the counting rules changes may have varied from force to force. In addition, 2002/03 witnessed the national introduction of the NCRS, with variable consequences for individual forces. This too will have affected detection rate comparisons between forces, for which it has not been possible to make adjustments. Furthermore, improvements in detection rates may be present for certain crimes and not others. Finally there may be variations over time in the types of detections different forces secure (see below).

In 2003/04 the main points are:

- Overall, ten forces recorded no change in their detection rate for all crime from 2002/03 to 2003/04. Nineteen forces recorded a decrease and 14 forces recorded an increase.
- The biggest falls in the detection rate have been in Dyfed-Powys, Durham and Leicestershire, all of which recorded drops of five percentage points or more. A further five forces recorded falls of three percentage points on the previous year. The marked fall in Dyfed-Powys was influenced by their increasing compliance with the NCRS, inflating the number of recorded offences.

- Over the last year, the biggest increases in detection rates have been in North Wales, South Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Hertfordshire, Merseyside and Norfolk – where the detection rate was two percentage points or more above that of the previous 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, and levels of satisfaction with the police response.

At present, there is no centrally collected information on these. For now, a better alternative measure to the overall detection rate is the percentage of crimes which are cleared up by an offender being cautioned, charged or summoned, or receiving a fixed penalty notice – so-called ‘sanction’ detections.<sup>2</sup> These contrast with what can be seen as ‘administrative detections’, comprising those where no further action is taken. Leaving cautions aside, not all sanction 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. Finally, it is worth pointing out that since the public are often important in helping the police detect crime, the willingness or otherwise of different communities to assist the police in their investigations may also be a factor influencing detection rates.

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

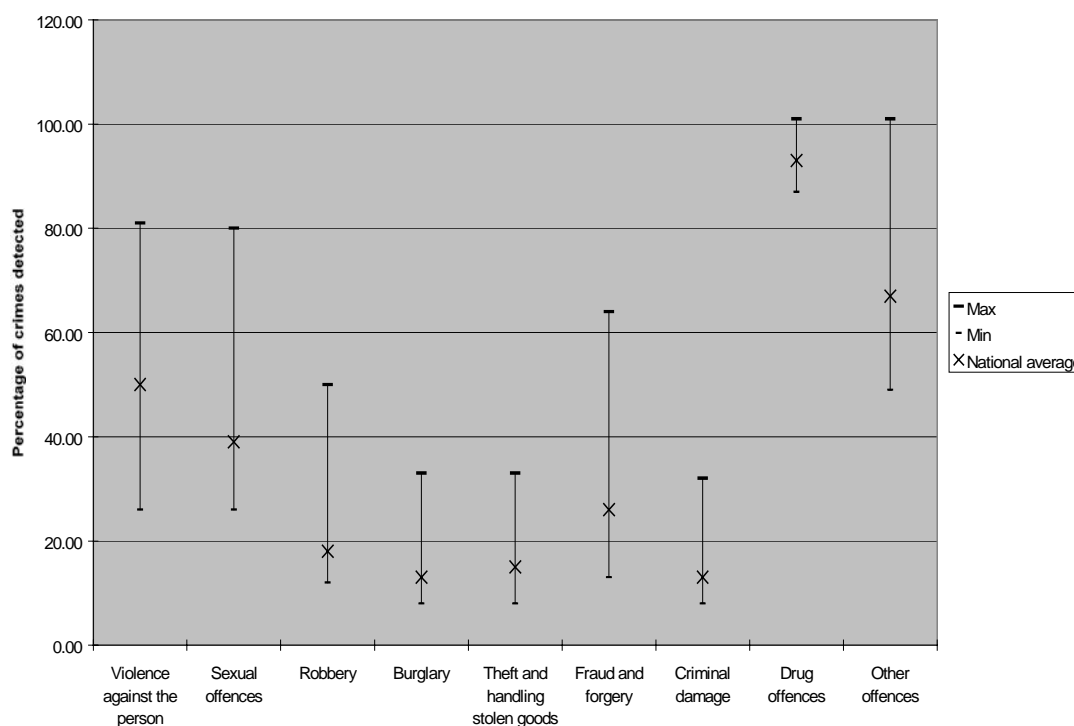
- for violence against the person from 26 per cent to 81 per cent (average 50%);
- for burglary from eight per cent to 33 per cent (average 13%);
- for theft and handling from eight per cent to 33 per cent (average 15%).

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 availability and deployment of resources.

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<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 ‘sanction’ detections. There should be sufficient evidence to charge the suspect with the offence.

**Figure 7.5 Maximum, minimum, and national average detection rates among police forces for different offence groups, 2003/04**



## 7.4 DETECTION METHOD

The government target for narrowing the 'justice gap' aims to increase the number of offences brought to justice.<sup>3</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, and in this context narrowing the 'justice gap' involves increasing the number of 'sanction' detections, and close co-operation between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that offences charged or summoned can be successfully prosecuted.<sup>4</sup>

Table 7.04 shows detection rates by method of detection, by police force area for 2003/04. Variations in detection rates are, in part, due to differing use of detection methods – particularly 'administrative' detections. Figure 7.6 illustrates force variations in the proportion of crimes detected by sanction or administrative detections.

In terms of the overall balance between sanction and administrative detections, more than one-third of detections were administrative in Essex, Cambridgeshire, North Wales and Northamptonshire. At

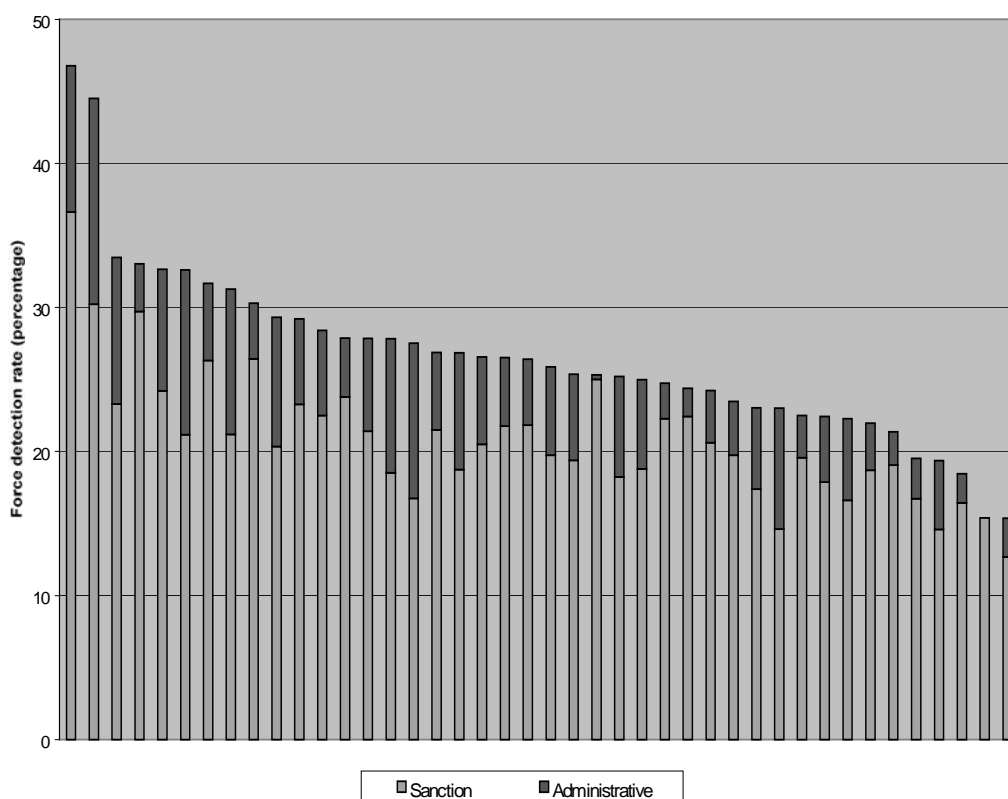
<sup>3</sup> That is to say, where an offender has been cautioned, convicted or had an offence previously recorded taken into consideration by the court, or a penalty notice issued. There are some differences, then, in the definition of 'brought to justice' compared with 'sanction' detections.

<sup>4</sup> During 2003/04, and as a prelude to introduction of the joint ACPO/CPS Statutory Charging Scheme in 2004/05, the CPS and the police have operated a 'shadow scheme' in most force areas where CPS Duty Prosecutors have provided advice to police officers on how an offender should be charged. The Statutory Scheme will see CPS determine the charge in all but the most routine cases. An earlier evaluation of the Charging Scheme in pilot areas indicated that these changes did not influence detection rates.

the other extreme, Avon and Somerset do not count administrative sanctions as detections, and West Midlands currently so, but record very few (less than two per cent of all detections). This is principally to reduce the overheads involved in securing a higher detection rate through these means. Table 7.05 gives sanction detection rates by force and region for burglary dwelling, robbery, theft of and from vehicles and violence against the person. Using only sanction detections as a measure of investigative performance paints a somewhat different picture of relative force performance, as well as narrowing the range of detection rates across forces. For example, while force detection rates for violence against the person range from 26 to 81 per cent (Table 7.03), violence against the person *sanction* detection rates range from 18 to 52 per cent.

There was a slight decrease in the proportion of crimes resulting in a sanction detection between 2002/03 and 2003/04, equivalent to a 0.3 percentage point fall in the sanction detection rate. By contrast there was a 0.3 percentage point increase in the administrative detection rate over the period.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 7.6 Force detection rates by sanction and administrative detections, 2003/04**



Note: Durham is not included.

Table 7.06 gives an overview of method of detection by offence group and selected crime types, 2003/04. Those detections which are 'taken into consideration' (TICs) – i.e. offences that are admitted by an offender who will have been arrested and charged for another crime – account for

<sup>5</sup> The removal of the so-called 'inflammatory consequences' rule in April 2003 may have contributed to a reduction in the proportion of violence against the person offences resulting in administrative detections in 2003/04 compared to the previous year (down from 18.1 per cent in 2002/03 to 16.5 per cent in 2003/04).

eight per cent of all detections. However, the distribution of TICs varies widely by crime type. Just under half of detections for theft from a motor vehicle (part of the theft and handling category) are due to TICs, compared to around one-third of all burglary detections and one-quarter of fraud and forgery detections. Overall, 13 per cent of theft and handling detections were accounted for by TICs. By contrast, detections for violence, sexual offences and drug offences are rarely achieved through TICs.

Cautions account for 16 per cent of all detections, although as with TICs, their distribution by crime type is variable.<sup>6</sup> Perhaps unsurprisingly, a relatively high proportion of detections for drug offences and criminal damage result in a caution (35% and 21% respectively). Cautions feature strongly in less serious violence and theft and handling detections.

Figure 7.7 illustrates the proportion of detections by method for a number of offence groups across the two most recent years. Overall there appears to be limited change across the two years for most of these offence groups. The most notable change has been small percentage point increases in the proportion of detections from cautions across all the selected offence groups.

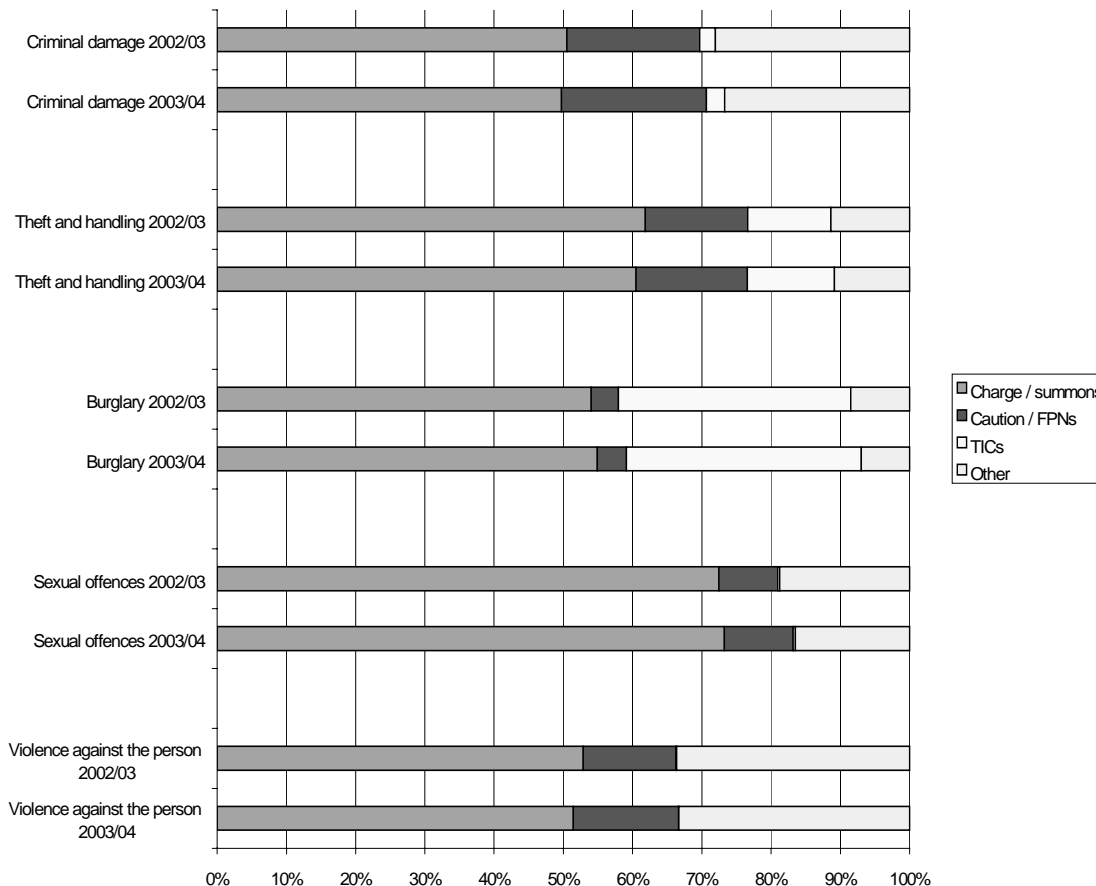
Fixed penalty notices for some recordable offences were introduced in several forces in 2003/04.<sup>7</sup> Of the 3,044 fixed penalty notice detections, the vast majority (99%) were for harassment offences.

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<sup>6</sup> A caution may be given by, or on the instructions of, a senior police officer when an offender admits guilt, where there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction, where the offender consents, and where it does not seem in the public interest to instigate criminal proceedings.

<sup>7</sup> Police Operational Guidance on Penalty Notices for disorder was issued by the Home Office in October 2002. A detection is counted if the penalty notice is not contested, is contested, but the Crown Prosecution Service proceeds with the case, or, in discontinued cases, the designated decision-maker reviews the case and stands by the original decision.

**Figure 7.7 Detections by method of detection, selected offence groups, 2002/03 and 2003/04**



## 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/index.htm>.

## 7.6 DETECTIONS PER OFFICER

The number of detections per officer has fallen slightly. In 1995, there were 9.8 detections per officer. This rose to 10.7 in 2002/03, and then fell to 10.4 in 2003/04. Excluding the Metropolitan Police and the City of London (the two forces which had the lowest number of detections per officer), there were 11.7 detections per officer. Four forces had 14 detections or more per officer, but otherwise the figures were within a relatively narrow range.

**Table 7.01 Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2002/03 and 2003/04**

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime						
Offence	Number of offences		Change in number of offences	Percentage change in offences	Detections 2002/03 <sup>1</sup>		Detections 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>	
	2002/03	2003/04			Number of detections	Detection rate	Number of detections	Detection rate
1 Murder	928	716	-212	-23%	831	90%	662	92%
4.1 Manslaughter	112	136	24	21%	80	71%	97	71%
4.2 Infanticide	3	1	-2	-67%	1	33%	0	0%
2 Attempted murder	819	884	65	8%	603	74%	627	71%
3 Threat or conspiracy to murder	18,060	22,232	4,172	23%	9,322	52%	10,228	46%
4.3 Child destruction	2	8	6	300%	1	50%	3	38%
4.4/6 Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (inc under influence)	414	445	31	7%	355	86%	423	95%
37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	55	63	8	15%	31	56%	35	56%
5 Wounding or other act endangering life	17,875	19,358	1,483	8%	10,051	56%	10,003	52%
6 Endangering railway passenger	6	7	1	17%	4	67%	6	86%
<b>More serious violence</b>	<b>38,274</b>	<b>43,850</b>	<b>5,576</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21,279</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>22,084</b>	<b>50%</b>
7 Endangering life at sea	2	2	0	0%	3	150%	2	100%
8A Other wounding	345,345	428,521	83,176	24%	181,038	52%	214,376	50%
8B Possession of weapons	32,097	34,975	2,878	9%	28,358	88%	30,131	86%
8C Harassment	120,708	152,269	31,561	26%	77,357	64%	88,401	58%
8D Racially or religiously aggravated other wounding	4,352	4,840	488	11%	1,738	40%	1,965	41%
8E Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	16,696	20,584	3,888	23%	6,434	39%	7,524	37%
11 Cruelty to or neglect of children	4,108	6,081	1,973	48%	2,472	60%	2,945	48%
12 Abandoning a child under the age of two years	59	49	-10	-17%	40	68%	32	65%
13 Child abduction	843	921	78	9%	313	37%	328	36%
14 Procuring illegal abortion	7	9	2	29%	4	57%	5	56%
15 Concealment of birth	5	6	1	20%	4	80%	2	33%
104 Assault on a constable	33,743	21,927	-11,816	-35%	32,930	98%	21,334	97%
105A Common assault	234,197	237,701	3,504	1%	97,013	41%	89,291	38%
105B Racially or religiously aggravated common assault	4,491	4,017	-474	-11%	1,366	30%	1,174	29%
<b>Less serious violence</b>	<b>796,653</b>	<b>911,902</b>	<b>115,249</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>429,070</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>457,510</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>	<b>834,927</b>	<b>955,752</b>	<b>120,825</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>450,349</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>479,594</b>	<b>50%</b>



Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2002/03 and 2003/04

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime							
		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	Percentage change in offences	Detections 2002/03 <sup>1</sup>		Detections 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>	
		2002/03	2003/04			Number of detections	Detection rate	Number of detections	Detection rate
16	Buggery	287	247	-40	-14%	156	54%	117	47%
17	Indecent assault on a male	4,093	4,070	-23	-1%	1,740	43%	1,664	41%
18	Gross indecency between males	198	244	46	23%	118	60%	124	51%
19A	Rape of a female	11,436	12,354	918	8%	4,116	36%	3,793	31%
19B	Rape of a male	851	893	42	5%	317	37%	271	30%
20	Indecent assault on a female	24,809	26,709	1,900	8%	9,740	39%	9,508	36%
21	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	184	212	28	15%	92	50%	106	50%
22	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	1,515	1,907	392	26%	818	54%	909	48%
23	Incest	99	105	6	6%	47	47%	34	32%
24	Procuration	127	183	56	44%	78	61%	114	62%
25	Abduction	291	402	111	38%	71	24%	91	23%
26	Bigamy	88	71	-17	-19%	46	52%	52	73%
27	Soliciting or importuning by a man	2,108	1,939	-169	-8%	2,051	97%	1,906	98%
73	Abuse of position of trust	678	792	114	17%	628	93%	705	89%
74	Gross indecency with a child	1,880	1,942	62	3%	1,024	54%	999	51%
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>		<b>48,644</b>	<b>52,070</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>21,042</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>20,393</b>	<b>39%</b>
34A	Robbery of business property	11,069	10,111	-958	-9%	3,262	29%	2,878	28%
34B	Robbery of personal property	96,963	91,084	-5,879	-6%	16,691	17%	15,710	17%
<b>ROBBERY</b>		<b>108,032</b>	<b>101,195</b>	<b>-6,837</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>19,953</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18,588</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME</b>		<b>991,603</b>	<b>1,109,017</b>	<b>117,414</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>491,344</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>518,575</b>	<b>47%</b>
28	Burglary in a dwelling	434,095	398,934	-35,161	-8%	62,426	14%	59,090	15%
29	Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	3,476	3,399	-77	-2%	1,405	40%	1,300	38%
30	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	450,644	415,774	-34,870	-8%	47,003	10%	43,142	10%
31	Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	612	535	-77	-13%	188	31%	182	34%
<b>BURGLARY</b>		<b>888,827</b>	<b>818,642</b>	<b>-70,185</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>111,022</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>103,714</b>	<b>13%</b>

Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2002/03 and 2003/04

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime							
		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	Percentage change in offences	Detections 2002/03 <sup>1</sup>		Detections 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>	
						Number of detections	Detection rate	Number of detections	Detection rate
Offence		2002/03	2003/04						
37.2	Aggravated vehicle taking	11,532	11,546	14	0%	5,439	47%	5,252	45%
38	Proceeds of crime <sup>2</sup>	..	69	..	..	..	..	53	77%
39	Theft from the person	135,392	125,042	-10,350	-8%	5,888	4%	5,463	4%
40	Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine/meter	56,443	61,097	4,654	8%	13,237	23%	12,788	21%
41	Theft by an employee	17,414	17,571	157	1%	10,489	60%	10,016	57%
42	Theft or unlawful taking of mail	13,453	20,527	7,074	53%	660	5%	572	3%
43	Abstracting electricity	1,411	1,303	-108	-8%	1,024	73%	892	68%
44	Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	95,018	102,520	7,502	8%	4,162	4%	4,270	4%
45	Theft from vehicle	658,697	598,514	-60,183	-9%	40,445	6%	37,890	6%
46	Theft from a shop	309,338	301,796	-7,542	-2%	185,165	60%	177,925	59%
47	Theft from automatic machine or meter	23,253	28,373	5,120	22%	3,166	14%	3,294	12%
48	Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	305,618	279,111	-26,507	-9%	41,037	13%	36,577	13%
49	Other theft or unauthorised taking	627,369	614,281	-13,088	-2%	38,603	6%	35,905	6%
54	Handling stolen goods	18,620	17,022	-1,598	-9%	16,597	89%	14,892	87%
126	Vehicle interference and tampering	91,648	89,371	-2,277	-2%	6,064	7%	5,636	6%
THEFT & HANDLING		2,365,206	2,268,143	-97,063	-4%	371,976	16%	351,425	15%
51	Fraud by company director	26	80	54	208%	31	119%	69	86%
52	False accounting	847	665	-182	-21%	583	69%	606	91%
53A	Cheque and credit card fraud	142,280	130,240	-12,040	-8%	39,551	28%	38,971	30%
53B	Other fraud	169,140	170,524	1,384	1%	31,661	19%	29,789	17%
55	Bankruptcy and insolvency	11	9	-2	-18%	8	73%	6	67%
60	Forgery or use of false drug prescription	871	794	-77	-9%	543	62%	501	63%
61	Other forgery	8,311	7,621	-690	-8%	4,571	55%	4,284	56%
814	Vehicle/driver document fraud	8,618	8,016	-602	-7%	7,753	90%	7,111	89%
FRAUD AND FORGERY		330,104	317,949	-12,155	-4%	84,701	26%	81,337	26%
56	Arson	53,192	57,162	3,970	7%	4,642	9%	4,817	8%
58A	Criminal damage to a dwelling	291,999	321,613	29,614	10%	45,370	16%	47,866	15%
58B	Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	174,269	183,964	9,695	6%	26,105	15%	27,345	15%
58C	Criminal damage to a vehicle	432,122	455,926	23,804	6%	42,747	10%	44,814	10%
58D	Other criminal damage	146,061	172,756	26,695	18%	26,334	18%	29,025	17%
58E	Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling	2,044	1,981	-63	-3%	273	13%	244	12%
58F	Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	1,152	1,162	10	1%	298	26%	322	28%
58G	Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle	1,524	1,602	78	5%	352	23%	309	19%
58H	Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage	776	836	60	8%	145	19%	195	23%
59	Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage	6,119	8,574	2,455	40%	3,063	50%	3,559	42%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE		1,109,258	1,205,576	96,318	9%	149,329	13%	158,496	13%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME		4,693,395	4,610,310	-83,085	-2%	717,028	15%	694,972	15%

**Table 7.01 (contd) Recorded crime: detection rates by individual offence, 2002/03 and 2003/04**

Numbers and percentages		Recorded crime							
		Number of offences		Change in number of offences	Percentage change in offences	Detections 2002/03 <sup>1</sup>		Detections 2003/04 <sup>1</sup>	
		2002/03	2003/04			Number of detections	Detection rate	Number of detections	Detection rate
92A	Trafficking in controlled drugs	22,325	24,510	2,185	10%	20,859	93%	22,205	91%
92B	Possession of controlled drugs	117,800	115,687	-2,113	-2%	109,300	93%	107,964	93%
92C	Other drug offences	976	863	-113	-12%	791	81%	747	87%
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>		<b>141,101</b>	<b>141,060</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>130,950</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>130,916</b>	<b>93%</b>
33	Going equipped for stealing, etc.	5,712	5,623	-89	-2%	4,869	85%	4,485	80%
35	Blackmail	1,324	1,475	151	11%	432	33%	387	26%
36	Kidnapping	3,184	3,125	-59	-2%	1,443	45%	1,414	45%
62	Treason	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0%
63	Treason felony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
64	Riot	8	6	-2	-25%	4	50%	8	133%
65	Violent disorder	2,768	2,709	-59	-2%	2,063	75%	1,744	64%
66	Other offences against the State or public order	19,506	19,497	-9	0%	14,865	76%	14,216	73%
67	Perjury	186	205	19	10%	99	53%	139	68%
68	Libel	2	0	-2	-100%	0	0%	0	0%
75	Betting, gaming and lotteries	5	1	-4	-80%	3	60%	4	400%
76	Aiding suicide	8	11	3	38%	2	25%	21	191%
78	Immigration offences	432	451	19	4%	400	93%	410	91%
79	Perverting the course of justice	11,294	11,834	540	5%	8,705	77%	8,478	72%
80	Absconding from lawful custody	1,547	1,711	164	11%	1,428	92%	1,581	92%
81	Firearms Acts offences	3,514	3,306	-208	-6%	2,850	81%	2,811	85%
82	Customs and Revenue offences	117	49	-68	-58%	109	93%	46	94%
83	Bail offences	133	125	-8	-6%	130	98%	109	87%
84	Trade descriptions etc.	193	510	317	164%	159	82%	350	69%
85	Health and Safety offences	3	4	1	33%	3	100%	5	125%
86	Obscene publications etc.	2,118	2,881	763	36%	1,434	68%	2,383	83%
87	Protection from eviction	63	75	12	19%	15	24%	11	15%
89	Adulteration of food	80	34	-46	-58%	76	95%	27	79%
90	Knives Act 1997 offences	41	22	-19	-46%	43	105%	20	91%
91	Public health offences	20	86	66	330%	22	110%	44	51%
94	Planning laws	1	3	2	200%	1	100%	2	67%
95	Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements etc.	16	22	6	38%	32	200%	16	73%
99	Other notifiable offences	3,224	3,433	209	6%	1,983	62%	1,935	56%
139	Indecent exposure	9,403	9,507	104	1%	1,892	20%	1,930	20%
802	Dangerous driving	7,559	7,487	-72	-1%	6,930	92%	6,977	95%
<b>OTHER OFFENCES</b>		<b>72,461</b>	<b>74,193</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>49,992</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>49,553</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL OFFENCES</b>		<b>5,898,560</b>	<b>5,934,580</b>	<b>36,020</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1,389,314</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>1,394,016</b>	<b>23%</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 from 1 April 2003.

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

4. Some forces have revised their 2002/03 data and totals may not therefore agree with those previously published. 120

.. Not available

Table 7.02 Recorded crime: annual detection rates by police force area and region, 2003/04

Percentages				Recorded crime		
Police force area and region	1998/99 <sup>1</sup>	1999/2000 <sup>2</sup>	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Cleveland	23	22	21	20	23	21
Durham	33	32	34	33	34	29
Northumbria	30	31	31	31	31	30
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>
Cheshire	37	31	30	26	26	27
Cumbria	44	39	34	32	31	32
Greater Manchester	25	23	22	21	22	22
Lancashire	34	29	27	26	27	27
Merseyside	31	26	28	24	25	27
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Humberside	22	19	21	20	20	19
North Yorkshire	33	31	30	26	26	28
South Yorkshire	32	25	25	23	21	24
West Yorkshire	27	25	23	19	20	20
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
Derbyshire	31	28	26	25	26	25
Leicestershire	34	30	28	28	27	22
Lincolnshire	40	28	25	27	23	22
Northamptonshire	33	33	33	31	28	28
Nottinghamshire	25	21	20	18	16	18
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>
Staffordshire	32	22	23	20	31	33
Warwickshire	26	22	22	25	26	25
West Mercia	34	29	27	28	33	31
West Midlands	30	27	28	29	26	25
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
Bedfordshire	33	25	27	25	26	23
Cambridgeshire	29	25	24	22	22	23
Essex <sup>3</sup>	29	30	26	26	27	28
Hertfordshire <sup>3</sup>	34	27	24	24	23	25
Norfolk	37	30	26	25	24	26
Suffolk	41	36	35	33	34	33
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>
London, City of	33	32	27	34	36	33
Metropolitan Police <sup>3</sup>	22	16	15	14	14	15
<b>London Region</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Hampshire	35	32	29	29	30	27
Kent	34	33	28	28	28	25
Surrey <sup>3</sup>	40	32	28	25	22	22
Sussex	25	25	23	25	24	24
Thames Valley	25	20	22	24	25	23
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>
Avon & Somerset	24	22	22	14	15	15
Devon & Cornwall	36	35	34	32	29	29
Dorset	31	26	25	27	25	26
Gloucestershire	31	30	31	30	29	28
Wiltshire	38	33	30	30	28	28
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Dyfed-Powys	69	65	63	64	68	47
Gwent	55	53	57	55	48	45
North Wales	43	36	31	28	29	33
South Wales	39	31	32	33	29	29
<b>Wales</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>

1. Percentage detected using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

2. Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.

3. Forces affected by boundary changes in April 2000.

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

Table 7.03 Recorded crime: detection rates by offence group and police force area and region, 2003/04

Percentages									Recorded crime	
Police force area and region	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences
Cleveland	21	46	54	17	11	18	32	11	97	76
Durham	29	73	75	33	13	20	59	16	95	101
Northumbria	30	61	44	26	15	23	48	15	99	79
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>82</b>
Cheshire	27	66	44	27	15	18	23	15	96	79
Cumbria	32	66	46	31	16	24	52	15	99	76
Greater Manchester	22	58	43	17	8	15	29	12	94	70
Lancashire	27	50	45	32	17	20	29	14	96	71
Merseyside	27	64	45	26	14	18	24	11	94	70
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>72</b>
Humberside	19	38	30	17	10	15	23	11	90	55
North Yorkshire	28	67	51	32	13	19	46	15	100	89
South Yorkshire	24	64	50	31	13	19	37	12	94	90
West Yorkshire	20	47	37	28	10	14	19	10	94	65
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>72</b>
Derbyshire	25	57	45	19	11	16	26	16	95	70
Leicestershire	22	38	32	18	12	17	29	13	95	74
Lincolnshire	22	46	37	23	11	16	36	13	92	53
Northamptonshire	28	64	55	19	16	23	28	15	101	81
Nottinghamshire	18	50	41	18	9	13	14	11	89	70
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>70</b>
Staffordshire	33	70	48	23	16	22	31	18	100	75
Warwickshire	25	60	31	28	12	17	26	14	99	71
West Mercia	31	66	46	31	12	22	33	16	94	69
West Midlands	25	51	36	23	15	18	24	12	89	68
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>70</b>
Bedfordshire	23	52	27	15	11	18	26	14	89	66
Cambridgeshire	23	52	27	19	16	15	23	12	95	59
Essex	28	69	37	21	12	17	24	15	95	66
Hertfordshire	25	64	54	34	17	17	21	14	93	67
Norfolk	26	56	38	23	13	18	38	15	98	78
Suffolk	33	68	36	31	13	20	47	19	92	73
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>68</b>
London, City of	33	55	30	14	17	19	45	32	96	69
Metropolitan Police	15	26	34	12	12	8	13	9	87	49
<b>London Region</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>49</b>
Hampshire	27	51	41	26	15	19	34	14	96	61
Kent	25	54	40	23	12	18	29	15	96	68
Surrey	22	61	42	28	10	13	20	13	96	57
Sussex	24	60	37	21	13	14	35	13	96	73
Thames Valley	23	51	31	25	13	16	27	14	93	62
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>64</b>
Avon & Somerset	15	26	26	15	13	10	24	8	91	49
Devon & Cornwall	29	54	34	27	14	19	40	16	98	67
Dorset	26	52	29	19	14	17	40	18	94	60
Gloucestershire	28	55	35	27	17	22	47	15	96	67
Wiltshire	28	62	41	28	13	19	48	16	95	69
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>60</b>
Dyfed-Powys	47	68	45	50	26	30	64	29	92	82
Gwent	45	81	80	38	33	33	44	25	99	90
North Wales	33	71	41	36	17	22	49	17	98	90
South Wales	29	69	53	36	14	18	39	16	95	85
<b>Wales</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>70</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. Numbers of recorded crimes and detections will be affected by changes in reporting and recording. For more information see Chapter 3 in 'Crime in England and Wales 2002/03'.

Table 7.04 Recorded crime: detection rates by method of detection by police force area and region, 2003/04

Numbers and percentages				Recorded crime					
Police force area and region	Recorded offences	Percentage detected	Percentage detected (sanction detections) <sup>1</sup>	Method of detection					
				Charge/ Summons	Cautions	TIC (previously recorded)	TIC (not previously recorded)	Fixed penalty notice	Other
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cleveland	74,579	21	19	15	3	1	0	0	2
Durham <sup>2</sup>	48,432	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	157,051	30	26	17	7	2	0	0	4
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>280,062</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
Cheshire	92,223	27	19	14	3	1	1	0	8
Cumbria	39,539	32	26	20	5	1	0	0	5
Greater Manchester	367,959	22	17	13	3	1	0	0	6
Lancashire	151,835	27	22	16	5	1	0	0	5
Merseyside	169,181	27	21	16	3	1	0	0	6
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>820,737</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
Humberside	141,644	19	15	11	2	1	0	0	5
North Yorkshire	71,473	28	21	18	2	1	1	0	6
South Yorkshire	141,794	24	22	16	4	2	0	0	2
West Yorkshire	325,556	20	17	12	3	2	0	0	3
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>680,467</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Derbyshire	98,741	25	18	14	3	2	0	0	7
Leicestershire	96,355	22	20	15	3	1	0	0	3
Lincolnshire	60,377	22	18	14	3	1	0	0	5
Northamptonshire	78,582	28	19	11	3	4	0	0	9
Nottinghamshire	159,228	18	16	13	3	1	0	0	2
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>493,283</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Staffordshire	109,396	33	23	17	4	2	0	0	10
Warwickshire	45,714	25	19	11	5	3	0	0	6
West Mercia	106,899	31	21	14	5	2	0	0	10
West Midlands	339,292	25	25	18	4	2	0	0	0
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>601,301</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Bedfordshire	62,382	23	20	12	4	2	0	0	4
Cambridgeshire	79,960	23	15	10	2	2	0	0	8
Essex	144,512	28	17	11	4	2	0	1	11
Hertfordshire	95,117	25	19	12	3	3	1	0	6
Norfolk	69,846	26	22	16	4	1	0	0	5
Suffolk	53,443	33	24	17	6	1	0	0	8
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>505,260</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
London, City of	9,250	33	30	20	9	0	1	0	3
Metropolitan Police	1,060,930	15	13	9	3	1	0	0	3
<b>London Region</b>	<b>1,070,180</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Hampshire	178,543	27	22	16	5	1	0	0	5
Kent	137,313	25	22	14	6	2	0	0	2
Surrey	73,252	22	19	11	7	1	0	0	3
Sussex	134,557	24	21	12	6	2	0	0	4
Thames Valley	210,256	23	17	11	4	3	0	0	6
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>733,921</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Avon & Somerset	164,943	15	15	10	3	2	0	0	0
Devon & Cornwall	131,453	29	20	13	5	2	0	0	9
Dorset	62,657	26	20	12	3	5	0	0	6
Gloucestershire	58,097	28	23	12	4	6	0	0	6
Wiltshire	42,956	28	24	17	5	1	1	0	4
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>460,106</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Dyfed-Powys	31,105	47	37	21	14	1	1	0	10
Gwent	59,296	45	30	19	6	5	1	0	14
North Wales	61,749	33	21	15	5	1	0	0	11
South Wales	137,113	29	23	18	3	2	0	0	6
<b>Wales</b>	<b>289,263</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>5,934,580</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>4,864,400</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

1. Sanction detections include charge/summons, cautions, TICs and FPNs.

2. Figures for method of detection and sanction detection exclude Durham.

n/a Not available.

**Table 7.05 Sanction detection rates for selected offences by police force area and region, 2003/04**

Police force area and region	Percentages	Recorded crime		
	Violence against the person	Robbery	Burglary in a dwelling	Theft of and from vehicles
Cleveland	36	16	12	7
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northumbria	45	23	16	11
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>
Cheshire	34	22	20	10
Cumbria	48	29	19	11
Greater Manchester	35	15	9	6
Lancashire	35	28	19	11
Merseyside	40	19	13	9
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
Humberside	24	15	10	6
North Yorkshire	47	31	13	8
South Yorkshire	52	30	15	8
West Yorkshire	36	26	12	7
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>
Derbyshire	33	18	13	8
Leicestershire	31	17	12	10
Lincolnshire	31	21	12	6
Northamptonshire	29	15	13	15
Nottinghamshire	39	17	11	5
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
Staffordshire	37	18	19	10
Warwickshire	32	25	16	13
West Mercia	32	27	18	11
West Midlands	50	22	19	12
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>
Bedfordshire	41	15	11	10
Cambridgeshire	21	17	22	11
Essex	30	17	14	9
Hertfordshire	38	30	20	9
Norfolk	41	21	15	8
Suffolk	43	28	17	8
<b>Eastern Region</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>
London, City of	39	14	12	22
Metropolitan Police	18	12	10	4
<b>London Region</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
Hampshire	34	23	18	11
Kent	45	22	16	8
Surrey	47	26	12	7
Sussex	47	20	15	8
Thames Valley	31	23	14	9
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>
Avon & Somerset	26	15	17	6
Devon & Cornwall	32	24	16	10
Dorset	29	18	16	10
Gloucestershire	32	23	23	15
Wiltshire	50	27	12	7
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Dyfed-Powys	44	48	25	21
Gwent	35	29	41	31
North Wales	32	32	21	8
South Wales	47	32	17	12
<b>Wales</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>

n/a Not available

Table 7.06 Method of detection by offence, 2003/04

Numbers and percentages		Number detected				
Offence	Number detected	Method of detection <sup>1</sup>				
		Charge/ Summons	Caution	TIC	Fixed penalty notice	Other
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>479,594</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>
More serious violence	22,084	78	5	0	0	17
Less serious violence	457,510	50	15	0	1	34
Common assault	89,291	28	10	0	0	62
Harassment	88,401	63	18	0	3	16
Other wounding	214,376	47	16	0	0	38
<b>Sexual offences</b>	<b>20,393</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>
Indecent assault on a female	9,508	71	9	0	0	19
Rape of a female	3,793	84	3	0	0	13
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>18,588</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>103,714</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
Burglary in a dwelling	60,390	53	3	36	0	8
Burglary in other building	43,324	57	6	31	0	6
<b>Theft and handling stolen goods</b>	<b>351,425</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
Theft from vehicle	37,890	39	6	48	0	7
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	41,829	63	8	20	0	9
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>	<b>81,337</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Criminal damage</b>	<b>158,496</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Drug offences</b>	<b>130,916</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>49,553</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,394,016</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>

1. Method of detection figures exclude Durham.





## Appendix 1 Glossary of terms

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**ACORN** – ‘A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods’, developed by CACI Ltd., classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is most useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The new 2001 ACORN has been used in the 2003/04 BCS. The original ACORN categories were developed through the use of cluster analysis of variables from the 1991 Census. The new version used 2001 Census data and has been introduced to take account of changes in characteristics of the population, such as ageing and the decrease in unemployment, over the last decade. Although there are a total of 56 ACORN types, the five-group and 17-group breakdowns have been used in this report (these groups are constructed from the 56 types). The main ACORN groups are characterised as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

**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. Recorded crime figures for six key offences for each BCU 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.

**BVPI 120** 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.

**BVPI 121** 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 car 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.

**Black and minority ethnic groups** – Results from the 2003/04 BCS combine the 16-point census classification into the five groups, White, Black, Asian, mixed and Chinese or other. Respondents were asked to make a choice from a card to identify their cultural background. Adopting the census definition, however, means ethnic group is not comparable to sweeps of the BCS prior to 2001/02.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Common assault** – In the BCS, a common assault (or attempted assault) is one where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but the incident did not result in an injury, or the injury was negligible (e.g. a black eye). This definition is the same as that used for police recorded crime between 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002. However, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 where battery results in injury, this is recorded by the police as 'other wounding' providing the injury amounts to no more than grazes, scratches, abrasions, minor bruising, swellings, reddening of the skin, superficial cuts, or a 'black eye'. In this report, BCS common assault includes minor injury except where explicitly stated. The BCS does not measure assaults against those aged under 16 years old and those not living in private households, this being a caveat on all personal crimes. Assault on a constable is a separate category within recorded crime, however, such 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 **2003/04 interview sample** fall into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded under the new police coverage of offences adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998. The new comparable subset includes common assaults (and assaults on a constable), and vehicle interference and tampering. As with the old comparable subset, the new comparable subset is used to observe differences between police and BCS figures (see also **old comparable subset of crimes**).

**Comparable violence** – This comprises wounding, robbery and common assault – the violent crimes measured by the BCS which, since 1998, can be compared with violent crimes

recorded by the police. It excludes the small category of snatch theft that is not separately identified in police recorded crime figures but is part of the police recorded crime category of theft from the person (see also **old comparable violence**).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

**National Crime Recording Standard** – Instigated by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), with Home Office support, it aims to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim-orientated approach to crime recording. Although some forces adopted the Standard early, it was officially introduced across England and Wales on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002. A copy is attached as an Annex to the counting rules, which are available on the Home Office website.

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



**Old comparable subset of crimes** – Sixty-four per cent of offences reported via interviews in the **2003/04 interview sample** fall into the old comparable subset. This is the subset used, up to and including, the 1998 BCS, to make comparisons with police figures. This excludes common assaults, 'other household theft' and 'other theft of personal property'. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the BCS. Comparable crime is used to compare trends in police and BCS figures, and to identify the amount of crime that is not reported to the police and not recorded by them. Trends for 'old comparable' police recorded crime have been continued to the 2003/04 BCS by applying adjustments to take account of changes in police counting rules.

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

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

The harmonised variables used in this publication are:

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

*Employment status:*

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

*GOR* – Government Office Regions: North East; North West; Yorkshire and 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). This category is not in either the **comparable subset** or **old comparable subset**. In principle, it could be in the comparable subset, but the number of offences is small and therefore changes over time are unreliable. The category of **theft in a dwelling** is included here.

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

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

**Physical disorder** – Two measures are used in the BCS. The first is based on the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. The interviewer has to make their own assessment as to whether each of these problems is very or fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The second measure is based on the respondent's perception of local problems; for the definition of this measure see **BVPI 122**.

**Population figures** – The BCS uses population figures in the calibration weighting and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes. Following the 2001 Census, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued interim revised estimates of population involving the total numbers of people and the distribution by age and sex; fully revised estimates have not yet been issued. Calibration weighting for the 2003/04 BCS and previous years has been calculated using population distributions, which have not fully incorporated the interim census

revisions. For the calculation of the numbers of crimes, population figures based on interim census-revised mid-year estimates have been used for figures up to and including 2002/03 and census-revised population projections have been used for 2003/04. Figures relating to the estimated numbers of adults in the population were supplied by the ONS and household estimates were supplied by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Some of the tables in this volume use population figures with recorded crime figures to calculate the number of crimes per 1,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2002 population estimates provided by the ONS.

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

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

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

**Recall period** – This is the time over which BCS respondents are asked to report offences they had experienced. Following the introduction of continuous sampling in 2001/02 the BCS recall period for offences relates to the 12 calendar months prior to interview. Prior to this the recall period was between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

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

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

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

**Rural areas** – Defined in the BCS as those areas falling into 1991 ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27 (more information available from 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 that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of the error depends on the sample size, the size of the estimate, and the design of the survey. It can be computed and used to construct **confidence intervals**. Sampling error is also taken into account in tests of **statistical significance**.

**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 sexual offences picked up by the BCS the figures are too unreliable to report. The 1994 BCS, however, included a computerised self-completion component on sexual victimisation to improve estimates (Percy and Mayhew, 1997), and similar modules were included in the 1998 and 2000 BCS (Myhill and Allen, 2002) and the 2001 BCS (Walby and Allen, 2004). 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 chance. In this publication tests at the five per cent significance levels have been applied (the level at which there is a one in 20 chance of incorrectly identifying a difference solely due to chance variation), unless otherwise stated.

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

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

**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**.

**2003/04 interview sample** – This is the sample on which latest BCS results are based. It consists of all respondents interviewed by the BCS in the 2003/04 financial year who were asked to recall their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

**Urban areas** – All 1991 **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 doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs for example. It also includes incidents involving arson. See **vehicle vandalism** for details of what this covers.

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

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

**Vehicle interference and tampering** – This includes recorded crime offences where there is evidence of intent to commit either theft of or from a vehicle or taking without consent (TWOC), but there is either (i) no evidence of intent to commit one of these three offences specifically, or (ii) there is evidence of intent to commit TWOC (TWOC is a summary offence

but, under the provisions of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence). The BCS cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the BCS it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

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

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

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

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

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



## Appendix 2 Recorded crime list

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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.



## Less serious offences

- 7. Endangering life at sea.
- 8A. Less serious wounding.  
*Includes, amongst other offences, wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 and assault occasioning actual bodily harm (section 47 of the same Act). This means that non-intentional GBH is included as well as all assaults involving minor injury (as from 1 April 2002).*
- 8B. Possession of weapons.  
*The police record this offence only if it is thought to be the only offence or the most serious committed by the suspect at that time.*
- 8C. Harassment.  
*Includes the summary offences of harassment; harassment, alarm or distress; and fear or provocation of violence. They are closely associated with the offence of 'putting people in fear of violence' also included here.*
- 8D. Racially or religiously aggravated 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).*
- 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.*
- 38. Proceeds of crime (new offence classification from April 2002).
- 39. Theft from the person of another.  
*Includes snatch theft, but if this involves the use or threat of force (e.g. if the victim resists), then it is recorded as robbery. See also glossary entry in Appendix 1.*

- 40. Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter.
- 41. Theft by an employee.
- 42. Theft or 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.
- 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>