



Home Office

BUILDING A SAFE, JUST
AND TOLERANT SOCIETY

Handling stolen goods: findings from the 2002/03 British Crime Survey and the 2003 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey

Andrea Finney
Debbie Wilson

With assistance from
Mike Levi
Mike Sutton
Sarah Forest

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Executive summary

This report presents findings from the 2002/03 British Crime Survey (BCS) and the 2003 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) on handling stolen goods in England and Wales. It examines:

- being offered stolen goods;
- buying stolen goods (including buying stolen mobile phones);
- selling stolen goods; and
- perceptions of stolen goods ownership.

The BCS and OCJS are the first large-scale national surveys to examine the buying and selling of stolen goods and related issues in England and Wales. Together they provide alternative measures of these crimes that are more comprehensive than administrative statistics because they include incidents that do not come to the attention of the authorities. The BCS additionally provides insight into issues related to handling stolen goods, such as perceptions of stolen goods ownership. This report does not directly compare the results of the two surveys. The topic coverage, methodologies, wording of questions and age coverage all differ. However, the results do provide insight into a range of issues relating to stolen goods.

Questions about stolen goods were previously asked in the 1994 BCS (reported in Sutton, 1998a and 1998b) and comparisons are made to the earlier survey wherever possible. However, due to changes in the method of administration of these questions direct comparisons to the 1994 survey should be interpreted with caution.

Key points

The 2002/03 BCS estimates that about one in ten adults (11%) had been offered stolen goods in the previous 12 months, similar to the finding of the 1994 BCS. However, the overwhelming majority had not bought stolen goods; only two per cent of adults had actually bought stolen goods in the same period. The 2003 OCJS found that less than three per cent of adults admitted to selling stolen goods in the past 12 months.

The surveys show that young males are among those most likely to have been offered, to have bought and to have sold stolen goods. Buyers and sellers of stolen goods were also more likely to have committed other type of offences, particularly fraudulent offences (OCJS).

Being offered stolen goods

- One in five people (21%) had been offered stolen goods in the last five years, and 11 per cent had been offered stolen goods in the previous 12 months (BCS).
- Among those most likely to have been offered stolen goods in the previous 12 months were younger males, people living in areas of relatively high physical disorder, frequent pub goers, and people holding less favourable attitudes towards the criminal justice system.

Buying stolen goods

- The BCS shows that less than two per cent of people had bought stolen goods in the previous 12 months. Five per cent admitted to buying stolen goods in the last five years, lower than found by the 1994 BCS (11%).

- One in five (20%) people who had been offered stolen goods on more than one occasion had bought stolen goods in the last 12 months compared with one in ten (9%) people who had been offered only once (BCS). People who had bought stolen goods in the last five years were more likely to be offered stolen goods in the past 12 months than those who had not, which could indicate that people who are known to have bought in the past are targeted by would-be sellers or that buyers and sellers move in the same circles.
- The OCJS found that only a small proportion (1%) of people aged from 10 to 65 reported buying a stolen mobile phone in the previous 12 months.
- The BCS and OCJS identified similar groups who were more likely to have bought stolen goods, which are similar to those more likely to be offered stolen goods. The OCJS additionally showed that those who admitted to buying stolen goods were more likely to have committed other offence types, particularly fraudulent offending.

Selling stolen goods

- Previous research on stolen goods markets has mainly focused on the buyers of stolen goods and the factors driving the demand for them. The OCJS was the first national general population survey to ask about knowingly selling stolen goods. Nearly three per cent of OCJS respondents admitted to having sold stolen goods in the last 12 months.
- Young males were again among those most likely to admit to selling stolen goods as were people living in areas with relatively high levels of deprivation. Respondents with no educational qualifications and those from a White background were also among those more likely to admit to selling stolen goods.
- As was the case for buying stolen goods, selling stolen goods was most strongly associated to fraudulent offending.
- Overall seven per cent of the OCJS respondents (aged 18 to 65) had been involved in either buying or selling stolen goods in the last 12 months. This is much higher than the proportion committing mainstream offences such as violence and theft offences.

Perceptions of stolen goods ownership

- The BCS asked respondents how many people in their local area they thought had stolen goods in their homes. Overall one in five (21%) people thought that a lot or quite a few people in the local area had stolen goods in their homes, similar to the 1994 BCS (21%).
- The type of area in which people live and personal experience of being offered stolen goods are especially associated with perceptions of local stolen goods ownership. The findings suggest that perceptions of stolen goods ownership are likely to reflect reality at the local level.

1. Introduction

Buying and selling stolen goods is an offence under the 1968 Theft Act. At present there is little information on the level of buying and selling stolen goods in England and Wales. Statistics show that 17,022 incidents of handling stolen goods were recorded by the police in 2003/04.¹ However, a common problem with identifying the extent of these types of crimes is that only a fraction of offences that are committed are likely to come to the attention of the authorities. This is because they are often 'hidden' from public scrutiny.

A close inter-play exists between the incidence of burglaries, vehicle-related thefts and other thefts (whether against domestic or commercial targets) and the availability of stolen goods on the market at any one time. Stolen goods markets support the commission of such crimes by providing an outlet for the goods taken by thieves, the majority of whom steal the goods to sell for cash. Stolen goods markets also support dealers who may create demand for stolen goods as well as respond to changing demands (Sutton, 1998a). Buyers in turn play an important role in creating and supporting this market through their desire for the availability of goods at cheap prices. One crime reduction approach is that of market reduction, whereby interventions are introduced at one or more stages of the demand-supply process to increase the efforts and risks and reduce the rewards to effectively price offenders out of the market (Sutton, 1998a). Understanding the levels and patterns of buying and selling stolen goods is important for informing the market reduction approach.

The aim of this report is to examine the extent of these crimes in more depth using data from two Home Office surveys:

- the British Crime Survey (BCS); and
- the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS).

These surveys are the first large-scale national surveys to examine these issues in England and Wales. Together they provide alternative measures that are more comprehensive than administrative statistics because, unlike administrative statistics, these surveys include incidents not reported to the authorities. The report does not directly compare the results of the two surveys. This is because of the difference in topic and age coverage,² methodologies, and wording of questions. However the results are able to throw light on a range of issues relating to buying and selling stolen goods to an extent that has not been possible before.

Additionally, the BCS provides insight into a range of issues that relate to the buying and selling of stolen goods: it also covers the extent to which people are offered stolen goods, perceptions of stolen goods ownership, and methods of purchase of newly bought goods.

British Crime Survey

The British Crime Survey (BCS) was first conducted in 1982. The main purpose of the survey is to estimate the extent of household and personal victimisation of adults in England and Wales. Additional crime-related issues are also covered, e.g. attitudes to crime and punishment, worry about crime, confidence in the criminal justice system and experience of anti-social behaviour. For further information on the survey methodology see Appendix B.

¹ It should be noted that police recorded crime figures for handling stolen goods are likely to include some incidents of burglary and other types of theft which, due to insufficient evidence for these crimes, are recorded by the police as handling stolen goods offences.

² The BCS covers being offered and buying stolen goods, perceptions of stolen goods ownership, and methods of purchase of new products among adults aged 16 to 59, while the OCJS covers buying and selling stolen goods by those aged 18 to 65 and buying stolen mobile phones by those aged 10 to 65 (see Table 1.1).

The 2002/03 British Crime Survey (BCS) included a module which asked whether or not respondents had been offered goods during the last five years and previous 12 months that they believed to have been stolen, and whether or not they had bought goods they believed to have been stolen in those same periods. The module also measured public perceptions about how many people in their area have stolen goods in their homes. Finally, it asked about how a range of household goods purchased by the respondent in the previous 12 months had been bought.

Questions about stolen goods were previously asked in the BCS in 1994 (reported in Sutton, 1998a and 1998b) and comparisons are made to the earlier survey wherever possible. However, due to the different coverage and ordering of the questions (new questions on being offered stolen goods in the last five years and buying stolen goods in the past 12 months were introduced to the 2002/03 survey) and because 'don't know' and 'don't wish to answer' responses were made available on screen in 2002/03, direct comparisons to the 1994 survey should be interpreted with caution.³

Although the 2002/03 BCS asked about being offered and buying stolen goods in the last five years, respondents' socio-demographic and attitudinal characteristics were asked only in relation to the time of the interview. Socio-demographic and attitudinal categorisation may not therefore be representative of the respondent's status throughout the last five years.

Offending, Crime and Justice Survey

The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) is a new Home Office survey designed to measure self-reported offending and drug use in the general household population (aged 10 to 65) in England and Wales. Around 10,000 people were interviewed between January and July 2003.

Although the main focus of the survey is on mainstream offences (e.g. burglary, theft, selling drugs etc.), the survey also included a module designed to measure buying and selling of stolen goods including a specific question on the buying of stolen mobile phones. For further information on the survey methodology see Appendix B.

The OCJS questions on buying and selling stolen goods, which were based on those asked in the 1998/99 Youth Lifestyles Survey, were asked of respondents aged from 18 to 65 (n=7,354). The buying stolen mobile phones questions were asked of the whole sample (n=10,079). Future sweeps of OCJS will provide data on buying and selling stolen goods among 12- to 25-year-olds.

Table 1.1 lists the topics covered in the BCS and OCJS and the age groups the questions were asked of.

Structure of the report

- Chapter 2 examines levels of being offered stolen goods as shown by the BCS.
- Chapter 3 focuses on buying stolen goods. It looks at the levels of buying stolen goods as found by the BCS and the OCJS, and levels of buying stolen mobile phones as measured by the OCJS. It also looks at methods of purchasing recently bought items as reported to the BCS.
- Chapter 4 examines levels of selling stolen goods as reported to the OCJS.
- Chapter 5 explores public perceptions of the extent to which people in their local area have stolen goods in their homes as measured by the BCS.

³ 'Don't wish to answer' was made available for all questions, and 'don't know' was additionally made available for the question relating to perceptions of stolen goods ownership in the local area.

Table 1.1: Topics covered in the BCS and OCJS and the age group asked

Topics covered	Age range	
	BCS	OCJS
Offered stolen goods	16-59	NA
Buying stolen goods	16-59	18-65
Buying stolen mobile phones	NA	10-65
Selling stolen goods	NA	18-65
Perceptions of stolen goods ownership	16-59	NA
Method of purchase of newly bought goods	16-59	NA

2. Being offered stolen goods

Respondents of the 2002/03 BCS were asked whether they had been offered goods they believed to have been stolen in the last five years and, if so, how many times they had been offered stolen goods in the previous 12 months.

Levels of being offered stolen goods

The majority of people had not been offered stolen goods during the last five years and the past 12 months (Table 2.1).

- Just over one in five people (21%) reported that they had been offered stolen goods on one or more occasions in the last five years.
- About one in ten people (11%) had been offered stolen goods during the previous 12 months.

The 1994 BCS also found that 11 per cent of people reported they had been offered stolen goods during the past 12 months.⁴

Table 2.1: Proportion of adults aged 16 to 59 offered stolen goods, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages		
	Offered in last 5 years	Offered in past 12 months
Not at all	78	88
Once or more	21	11
Just once	n/a	4
A few times	n/a	7
Often	n/a	1
Don't wish to answer	1	1
Total	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	11,833	11,833

Who is offered stolen goods?

Demographic and socio-economic status

- Men were twice as likely as women to have been offered stolen goods, both in the last five years (29% and 13% respectively) and in the past 12 months (15% and 7%; Table A2.1).
- The likelihood of being offered stolen goods decreased with increasing age.
- People who were single (and who had never married) were most likely to have been offered stolen goods in the last five years (29%) and past 12 months (16%; Table A2.1), although this is likely to relate to age and lifestyle.

⁴ The question was not asked in relation to the last five years in the 1994 survey.

- There was some variation according to social class with those from a skilled manual background (29%) being more likely than all other groups to have been offered stolen goods in the last five years. There were similar patterns in relation to the past 12 months.
- People working on a self-employed basis were more likely than those working as employees to have been offered stolen goods, both in the last five years (29% and 21% respectively) and in the past 12 months (16% and 11%; Table A2.2).
- People living in the private and social rented sectors were more likely than those living in accommodation owned by their household to have been offered stolen goods (Table A2.2).

Area of residence

- The likelihood of being offered stolen goods varied considerably according to area of residence (Table A2.3). There were some regional differences and people living in inner-city areas (28% and 17%), in council areas (24% and 14%) and those living in areas of relatively high physical disorder (31% and 18%) were most likely to have been offered stolen goods in the last five years and 12 months respectively.

Lifestyle, experience of crime and confidence in the CJS

- People who reported that they frequently visited pubs (defined as 'about three times a week or more') were more likely than others to have been offered goods believed to be stolen.
- People who reported that they had experienced one or more crimes against their household or their person in the past year, as defined by the BCS, were more likely than those who had not experienced a crime to have been offered stolen goods.
- Confidence in the police and the CJS was a factor that related strongly to the likelihood of being offered stolen goods, with those reporting the lowest levels of confidence in these services being more likely to have been offered stolen goods (Table A2.4).
- Notably, but perhaps not unexpectedly, people who believed that a lot or quite a few of their neighbours had stolen goods in their homes were much more likely than others to have been offered stolen goods. This was especially marked for the shorter period of the past 12 months. People who felt they could not answer this question (by responding 'don't know') were the least likely to have been offered stolen goods (7%).

Explaining being offered stolen goods

These findings are not unexpected; the 2002/03 BCS shows that many of the characteristics described above that relate to increased risk of being offered stolen goods, such as age, sex and area of residence, are also among the factors that relate to increased risk of crime victimisation (Simmons and Dodd, 2003). Similar risk factors are relevant to offending (Hayward and Sharp, 2005). In relation to the finding that frequently visiting pubs is a risk factor for being offered stolen goods, one of the five main markets for selling stolen goods identified by Sutton (1998b) involves selling directly to people in places like pubs and clubs and door to door. Therefore it is expected that people who frequently visit pubs would be at increased risk of exposure to offers (Table A2.4).

However, while the preceding sections have shown that many factors are related to being offered stolen goods, many of these are themselves inter-related. In order to understand which factors are independently associated with being more likely to be offered stolen goods, it is important to determine whether or not the relationship of particular characteristics to being offered stolen goods hold true when the influence of other characteristics is taken into account.

Logistic regression was used to identify which factors significantly relate to being offered stolen goods independently of other factors, and of those, which are the strongest predictors.⁵ The characteristics of interest (the 'outcome' measures) are being offered stolen goods on one or more occasions in the last five years and, separately, the past 12 months. For the full list of variables included in the multivariate analyses throughout this report see Appendix B.

The analysis shows that, in order of strength, the strongest independent predictors of being offered stolen goods in the last five years were:⁶

- being young;
- being male;
- lack of confidence in the criminal justice system; and
- having been a victim of crime.

The results relating to being offered stolen goods in the past 12 months were very similar.⁷

This analysis confirms that young males are at greater risk of being offered stolen goods, independently of other factors discussed earlier. The BCS shows that young males are also at increased risk of crime victimisation (Simmons and Dodd, eds., 2003). Nonetheless, the present analysis indicates that experience of crime is related to being offered stolen goods independently of age and sex.

It is unlikely that being a victim of crime relates causally to being offered stolen goods or vice versa. Instead, the relationship between being offered stolen goods and being a victim of crime is likely to relate in turn to other unknown factors not measured by the BCS. These factors may include social factors and, in particular, possibly including offending behaviour.

The results show that having low levels of confidence in the CJS in bringing offenders to justice is strongly related to being offered stolen goods independently of the other factors tested. These findings might reflect that people with lower levels of confidence are more receptive to offers (the next section shows that people with lower levels of confidence are also more likely to have bought stolen goods in the last five years) and are therefore more likely targets for thieves and fences.

It may alternatively suggest that the experience of being offered stolen goods contributes to lower levels of confidence in the police and CJS. However, as for being a victim of crime, the relationship is difficult to explain without reference to other factors such as those relating to lifestyle and attitudes, as well as propensity to buy stolen goods if offered. Those with lower levels of confidence may be among those more likely to have committed other crimes in the past and be at increased risk of being offered stolen goods by other offenders known through social or business circles.

⁵ Strong predictors are defined as those that contribute at least one per cent improvement in the model.

⁶ Full results are reported in Table A2.5.

⁷ The strongest predictors, in order of strength, were being young, male, having been a victim of crime and lack of confidence in the criminal justice system. Full results are reported in Table A2.6.

3. Buying stolen goods

The 2002/03 BCS and the 2003 OCJS both covered the topic of buying stolen goods. The BCS asked those respondents who had reported to the survey that they had been offered stolen goods in the last five years or 12 months how many times, if at all, they had bought goods they believed were stolen during those periods. The OCJS asked all respondents aged 18 to 65 whether they had bought stolen goods in the last 12 months. Unlike the BCS, the OCJS did not first ask respondents whether they had been offered stolen goods. It is possible that some people may have bought stolen goods in circumstances that they had not interpreted as having arisen through an offer. For example, a shopper at a car boot sale may have purchased something they believed to have been stolen but not directly interpreted the sale environment as constituting an offer. The BCS measure may therefore represent a slight underestimate of buying stolen goods in the general population whilst the OCJS provides a broader picture of those who knowingly buy stolen goods.

Levels of buying stolen goods

Results from the BCS show that 25 per cent of those offered stolen goods in the last five years had bought stolen goods in that time, which represents five per cent of the total population of adults aged 16 to 59. Sixteen per cent of those offered in the past 12 months had bought stolen goods in that time, which represents two per cent of the total population. The OCJS figure for buying stolen goods in the past 12 months is higher at seven per cent among adults aged 18 to 65. This difference still holds when comparable age groups are examined. The difference arises from three sources.

- Question routing (see above).
- Question wording, in particular, the OCJS asked about goods respondents knew or believed had been stolen, whereas the BCS asked only about goods believed to have been stolen.
- Natural variability around sample survey estimates

The overall rates of buying stolen goods in the last five years shown by the 2002/03 BCS are lower than those reported for the 1994 BCS. In 1994, 11 per cent of people admitted to buying stolen goods once or more in the last five years (compared with 5% for 2002/03).⁸ This fall is supported by the police recorded crime figures for handling stolen goods; these have declined steadily between 1995 (41,568) and 2002/03 (18,620; Nicholas *et al.*, 2005). This may reflect falls in the numbers of theft-related crimes, specifically burglary and vehicle thefts, since the mid 1990s. The BCS shows that the number of burglaries involving loss fell by almost a half (49%) between 1995 and 2002/03 interviews and thefts from vehicles fell by 44 per cent (Nicholas *et al.*, 2005). Although these findings are supportive of one another, it is not possible to determine whether the fall in thefts results in fewer opportunities for potential buyers to buy, or whether fewer buyers has partly driven the reduction in thefts.

The BCS further shows that:

- less than one per cent of all adults aged 16 to 59 had 'often' bought goods believed to have been stolen in the last five years, and only one per cent had bought stolen goods on more than one occasion in the past 12 months (Table 3.1);
- among those who received an offer to buy stolen goods in the past 12 months, the majority declined to buy (83%; Table 3.2);

⁸ The 1994 BCS did not measure the proportion who had bought in the past 12 months.

- those offered 'a few times' or 'often' (20%) were more likely than those offered 'just once' (9%) to have bought stolen goods; and
- people who had bought stolen goods in the last five years though not the past 12 months were more likely than those who had never bought stolen goods to have received an offer in the past 12 months (39% compared with 9%). This may suggest that people who are known to have bought stolen goods in the past are targeted by would-be sellers or that buyers and sellers move in the same circles.

Table 3.1: Percentage of all adults aged 16 to 59 who have bought stolen goods, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages		
	<i>Bought in last 5 years</i>	<i>Bought in last 12 months</i>
Not at all	94	97
Once or more	5	2
Just once	2	1
A few times	3	1
Often	<1	<1
Don't wish to answer	1	1
Total	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	11,833	11,833

Table 3.2: Percentage of adults aged 16 to 59 who bought stolen goods in the past 12 months among those offered by number of times offered, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages	Number of times offered			
	Just once	A few times	Often	Total (once or more)
Not bought	91	80	80	83
Bought	9	20	20	17
Total	100	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	369	667	98	1,134

Using the 2002/03 BCS, people can be classified into three groups: those who have not been offered stolen goods; those who have been offered but have not bought stolen goods; and those who have bought stolen goods.

- The overwhelming majority of people were those who were not offered stolen goods (79% and 89% respectively).⁹ The next largest group is those who have been offered but declined to buy stolen goods (16% and 9%). Just five per cent and two per cent of people had been offered and subsequently bought stolen goods in the last five years and previous 12 months respectively (Table 3.3).

⁹ These proportions differ slightly to those given above due to the exclusion of refusals from the typology base.

Table 3.3: Being offered and buying stolen goods among adults aged 16 to 59, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages		
	Last 5 years	Past 12 months
Not offered	79	89
Offered but not bought	16	9
Offered and bought	5	2
Total	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	11,718	11,718

Who buys stolen goods?

As may be expected since buying stolen goods is at least partly dependent on being offered stolen goods, similar patterns of differences between groups to those seen in Chapter 2 are apparent in relation to buying stolen goods.

Findings from the OCJS are similar to those shown below from the BCS and are therefore not discussed here. Further details can be seen in Tables A3.3 and A3.4.

Demographic and socio-economic status

- As with being offered stolen goods, men were more likely than women to have bought stolen goods (Table A2.2; A3.1; see also Table A3.3 for OCJS findings).
- Younger people were more likely than those in older age groups to have bought stolen goods.
- People from a skilled manual background (9%) were more likely than most other groups to have bought stolen goods in the past 12 months (Table A2.2; see also Table A3.1).¹⁰
- Unlike as with being offered stolen goods, self-employed people were no more likely than employed people to have bought stolen goods (Tables A2.2, A3.1 and A3.2).

Area of residence

There were similar patterns in the likelihood of having bought stolen goods by region of residence and area type as those found in relation to being offered stolen goods, although many of the differences are less marked (Table A3.2; see also Table A3.4 for OCJS findings).

- In relation to likelihood of having bought stolen goods in the last five years, people living in the West Midlands region, those living in inner-city and in council areas and those living in areas of high levels of physical disorder were all at the higher end of the range (Table A2.3; see also Table A3.4).

Lifestyle, experience of crime and confidence in the criminal justice system

- As with being offered stolen goods, people who reported that they frequently visited pubs were much more likely to report having bought stolen goods than others (Table A2.4; see also Table A3.4 for OCJS findings).
- People who had experienced crime in the previous 12 months were also more likely to have bought stolen goods than those who had not (Table A2.4).

¹⁰ The apparent difference between skilled manual and unskilled manual is not statistically significant.

- Nine per cent of people thinking the police were doing a poor or very poor job had bought stolen goods in the last five years compared with four per cent of those who thought they are doing an excellent or good job (Table A2.4). These differences remain marked when having been offered stolen goods is taken into account (Table A3.2) These findings may reflect a feeling among buyers that there is little or no risk of their being brought to account for their behaviour by the police.
- Overall, people who thought a lot or quite a few of their neighbours had stolen goods in their homes were much more likely than others to have bought stolen goods in the last five years (11% vs. 5%). Those who responded 'don't know' to this question were even less likely to report they had bought stolen goods in that time (2%; Table A2.4, see also Table A3.2).

Links with offending

Like many 'mainstream' offences, the intention for buying stolen goods is mainly for financial gain, as stolen goods are usually cheaper than legal goods. The OCJS also covered mainstream offences. Respondents were asked whether they had committed any of 20 offences in their lifetime and in the last 12 months prior to interview. It is therefore possible to find out if those who bought stolen goods also committed other mainstream offences. For the purposes of this report the offences were grouped into the following:

- thefts (vehicle-related thefts, burglary and other thefts);
- shoplifting;
- criminal damage (vehicle damage and other damage);
- violence (assaults and robbery);.
- drug selling (selling Class A and other drugs).

Fraud and technology offences were also covered in the survey.¹¹

Table A3.5 shows the percentage of 18- to 65-year-olds who committed the above offences along with buying stolen goods. The most common offence committed was copyright theft; however the second most common was buying stolen goods.

¹¹ The fraud offences were: credit/debit card fraud; income tax evasion; benefit fraud; falsified work expenses; and insurance fraud. Technology offences covered were: hacked into other computers; sent on a computer virus; and illegally downloaded software/music.

Table 3.4: Percentage of 18- to 65-year-olds who had committed mainstream offences in the last 12 months, by whether or not they had bought stolen goods, 2003 OCJS

% Committed	Bought stolen goods	Not bought stolen goods
Theft offence	12	3
Shoplifting	1	<1
Criminal damage	3	<1
Violent offence	9	3
Drug selling offence	5	<1
Any mainstream offence	21	6
Fraud offence	23	4
Technology offence	19	8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>609</i>	<i>6,456</i>

Those who admitted to buying goods that they knew or thought had been stolen were more likely to have committed mainstream offences than other 18- to 65-year-olds (Table 3.4). Just under a quarter (23%) of those who bought stolen goods also admitted committing a fraud offence in the same period compared with four per cent of those who had not bought stolen goods. Twenty-one per cent of those who had bought stolen goods had also committed a mainstream offence compared with six per cent of those who had not bought stolen goods.

Buying stolen mobile phones

Previous Home Office research found that 28 per cent of robberies involved theft of a mobile phone (Harrington and Mayhew, 2001). The mobiles were then either re-used or sold on. To prevent stolen mobiles being re-sold the Mobile Telephones (Re-programming) Act 2002 came into force. The offences listed in the Act¹² carry a maximum penalty of five year's imprisonment or unlimited fines or both.

The OCJS was the first nationally representative survey to ask all respondents aged 10 to 65 whether they had bought a mobile phone that they knew or believed to be stolen. Overall one per cent of all respondents (aged from 10 to 65) said they had bought a mobile phone which they believed to have been stolen. The characteristics of those who were more likely to buy a stolen mobile were similar to those who bought any stolen goods.

The characteristics listed below are those that are significantly more likely to buy a mobile phone. Further breakdowns can be seen in Tables A3.6 and A3.7.

Demographic and socio-economic status

- Males are more likely than females to admit to buying a stolen mobile (2% versus 1%).
- Males aged 16 to 25 were more likely than younger (aged 10 to 15) and older males (26 to 39 and 40- to 65-year-olds) to admit to buying a stolen mobile. The same pattern is reflected for females.
- Respondents in full time education were more likely than those in any other work status to admit to having bought a stolen mobile in the last 12 months.

¹² Changing, without the authorisation of the manufacturer, the unique identifying characteristic of a mobile phone – the IMEI number; and Possessing, supplying or offering to supply the necessary equipment with the intent to use it for re-programming mobile phones.

- Asian (6%), Black (6%) and Other (4%) respondents were more likely to admit to this type of activity than Whites (1%).

Area of residence

- Respondents who were living in new home owning areas (2%) and council estate and low income areas (2%) were more likely than those living in affluent suburbs and rural areas (1%) and affluent family areas (1%) to admit to having bought a stolen mobile.

Lifestyle and experience of crime

- Those who frequently said they visited a pub were more likely than those who had visited a pub less often to admit to buying a stolen mobile phone (2% versus 1%).
- Respondents who were victims of any, personal or household, crime in the last 12 months were more likely than those who were not victims to admit to buying a stolen mobile phone in the same time period.

Explaining buying stolen goods

Findings from the two surveys above show that a number of factors are related to buying stolen goods (including buying stolen mobiles). However, it is likely that these factors are themselves inter-related.

Logistic regression analysis of 2002/03 BCS data was used to determine which characteristics, out of the range of socio-demographic, economic and attitudinal and lifestyle factors, were independently predictive of buying stolen goods. The characteristics tested in the model are detailed in Appendix B. Results relating to buying stolen goods in the last five years are presented, as the model relating to buying stolen goods in the past 12 months was not considered robust.¹³

Analysis shows that the strongest independent predictors of buying stolen goods in the last five years were:¹⁴

- perceiving that many people in the local area have stolen goods in their homes;
- being male;
- being young;
- lack of confidence in the criminal justice system; and
- being from a non-professional background.

Three of these (being younger, being male, and not having confidence in the CJS) were the same as found for being offered stolen goods.

However, it was perceptions of stolen goods' ownership that was found to have the strongest independent association with buying stolen goods. People who thought many local households owned stolen goods had the highest odds of buying stolen goods themselves. People's perceptions about others' ownership of stolen goods may well be informed by their own experience – or lack of experience – of being offered and buying stolen goods. Conversely, the findings may lend support to the notion that perceiving that many local people have stolen goods in their homes makes an individual more receptive to offers of stolen goods, or at least serve to justify or trivialise their errant behaviour after the event, by believing that 'everybody does it'. Again, however, it is not possible to confirm such causal relationship or the direction of any effects.

¹³ Due to small cell sizes.

¹⁴ Full results are reported in Table A3.8.

Social class was also shown to be strongly related to buying stolen goods, with all groups other than those classed as professional being more likely to have bought stolen goods. This may be an indicator of a financial motivation for buying goods that have been stolen or relate in more complex ways to peer group influences and availability of stolen goods.

Method of purchasing goods

In order for crime reduction initiatives to be targeted appropriately it is important to understand the methods by which stolen items come to be sold on and bought.

Despite the use of CASI (self-completion) in the 2002/03 BCS, respondents who admit to having bought stolen goods may be reluctant to answer direct questions about how they bought those goods for fear of repercussions. Therefore, as for the 1994 BCS, all respondents were instead asked whether they personally had bought a range of goods – such as televisions, cameras and jewellery – within the past 12 months, and if so, how they had made those purchases. Asking respondents in this way, without reference to whether the goods may have been stolen, resulted in a very low refusal rate.

Some methods of buying goods may increase the likelihood that the goods bought may previously have been stolen. There are many legitimate ways of buying goods other than new from a shop, catalogue, or over the Internet, such as from secondhand shops, car boot sales and through the small ads. These methods are, however, at greater risk of being targeted by people who wish to sell or buy stolen goods, and other methods are even more likely to involve the purchase of stolen goods, such as buying from someone selling in a pub or club.^{15, 16} These findings therefore help provide an indirect indication about which types of products are more or less likely to be bought, whether knowingly or unwittingly, as stolen goods.

Table 3.5 shows that the vast majority of items had been bought new from a shop or catalogue, or over the 'phone or the Internet.

- Jewellery (97%), stereo or hi-fi equipment (95%),¹⁷ cameras (95%) and video players and recorders (95%) were among those items that were most likely to have been bought new in these ways (Table 3.5).
- Goods most likely to have been bought in some way other than new from a shop or catalogue or new over the 'phone or Internet were personal computer equipment (20%), laptop computer equipment (20%) and bicycles (16%; Table 3.5).

¹⁵ Sutton (1998b) identified five main markets for stolen goods, including 'hawking', which involves thieves selling directly to consumers in places like pubs and clubs or door-to-door and 'commercial fence supplies', which involves thieves selling to commercial fences (e.g. jewellers) operating out of shops.

¹⁶ Goods bought new, for example, from a shop, are also not exempt from the possibility of having previously been stolen, as electronic goods complete with packaging and jewellery may be sold on as new.

¹⁷ Figures do not sum correctly due to rounding.

Table 3.5: Method of purchase of items bought in the past 12 months, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages

	New at a shop or catalogue	New over the phone or Internet	Some other way	Refused	Unweighted base
Bicycle	81	3	16	<1	1,270
Colour TV	89	3	8	<1	2,796
Video player or recorder	92	3	6	1	2,109
Car stereo, cassette or car CD/DVD/Minidisc player	83	5	12	1	1,713
Stereo or hi-fi equipment (includes CD/DVD/Minidisc players – except in cars)	92	4	5	<1	2,208
Mobile phone	82	10	9	<1	4,067
Video camera	86	7	7	-	550
Camera	88	7	5	<1	1,731
Games console (e.g. 'Playstation or 'Nintendo')	88	2	11	<1	1,676
Personal computer equipment (not a laptop)	68	14	20	<1	1,927
Laptop computer	63	15	20	1	356
Jewellery (worth more than £20)	95	2	4	<1	3,682

Note:

Percentages may sum to more than 100 as more than one response was permitted

Table A3.9 provides a detailed breakdown of how items were bought as reported to the 2002/03 BCS. Only limited comparisons can be made with the 1994 BCS due to changes in the questions and response options available to respondents. However, among those product types covered in both surveys there are similar patterns in the proportions that were bought new from a shop or catalogue.¹⁸

The 2002/03 BCS shows that among items purchased in some way other than new from a shop or catalogue or over the 'phone or the Internet, the most likely method of purchase for many product types was secondhand from a shop (Table 3.6).

- Forty-four per cent of people who had bought a colour TV in some other way¹⁹ had done so secondhand from a shop.
- Thirty-two per cent of people who had bought a mobile phone in some other way said they had bought such an item 'at home – from a person'. This may encompass a range of methods such as buying from a door to door salesperson or from a friend or family member.
- Only a small minority of items had been bought in a pub or a club. Two per cent of people who had bought car stereo items in some other way said they had bought such items in a pub or a club.

¹⁸ Product types covered in both surveys were colour TV, video recorder or player, car stereo, mobile phone, bicycle, jewellery and camera.

¹⁹ In some way other than new from a shop or catalogue, or over the 'phone or the Internet.

Table 3.6: Method of purchase, among items bought some other way, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages

	Second-hand from a shop	Small ads magazines etc.	At boot or jumble sale, fair or market	In a pub or a club	At home – from a person	Bought some other way	Refused	Unweighted base
Bicycle	32	15	6	1	27	15	3	195
Colour TV	44	6	3	<1	21	24	4	266
Video player or recorder	40	4	6	-	22	20	9	129
Car stereo, cassette CD/DVD/Minidisc player	9	7	5	2	18	49	11	240
Stereo or hi-fi CD/DVD/Minidisc players – except in cars)	29	10	7	-	24	28	4	134
Mobile phone	14	13	5	1	32	33	3	372
Camera	35	3	5	-	18	34	5	88
Games console (e.g. 'Playstation' or 'Nintendo')	34	12	4	-	27	23	1	191
Personal computer equipment (not a laptop)	17	9	10	<1	29	35	2	418
Laptop computer	17	14	1	-	26	35	7	81
Jewellery (worth more than £20)	33	9	13	1	13	27	6	177

Notes:

1. Percentages may sum to more than 100 as more than one response was permitted.
2. Due to small base sizes sampling error will be large, therefore, findings should be interpreted with caution, especially for cameras and laptop computers.
3. Figures for video cameras bought in some other way are not included due to very small base sizes.

4. Selling stolen goods

There is little information on those who sell stolen goods. Previous research has mainly focused on the buyers of stolen goods and the factors driving the demand for them. Sutton (1998a) examined the effects of the stolen goods market on the levels of acquisitive crime through in-depth interviews with 'known' offenders. The findings revealed that thieves offering goods for sale rather than the demand from dealers mainly fuelled stolen goods markets.

The only information on the extent of selling stolen goods from the general population is from self-report offending surveys such as the Youth Lifestyle Survey. The Youth Lifestyle Survey 1998/99, which covered respondents aged 12 to 30, reported that two per cent said they had sold goods they knew or believed to be stolen (3% for males; less than 1% for females).

The 2003 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey was the first national general population survey, covering a wide age range (10- to 65-year-olds) to ask about knowingly selling stolen goods. All respondents aged from 18 to 65 were asked 'in the last 12 months have you sold anything that you knew had been stolen?' The OCJS figures show that nearly three per cent (2.7%) of respondents had said they had knowingly sold stolen goods.

Who sells stolen goods?

The characteristics listed below are those that are significantly more likely to admit to selling stolen goods. Detailed results are shown in Tables A4.1 and A4.2.

Demographic and socio-economic status

- Males aged 18 to 25 were the most likely to admit to selling stolen goods at nine per cent compared to older males and all female age groups.
- Respondents who had no educational qualifications were more likely to admit to selling stolen goods than those with higher education qualifications.
- White respondents were more likely than Black and Other to admit to this type of criminal activity.
- Those in full-time education and Other were more likely to have admitted to selling stolen goods than those working.

Area of residence

The proportion who admitted to selling stolen goods varied across different types of area of residence:

- Respondents who were renting their property were more likely than those who said they owned their property to admit to selling stolen goods.
- Using the ACORN classification, those living in mature home-owning areas were less likely to say they had sold stolen goods than other areas, with the exception of new home owning areas.
- Differences also occurred depending on the interviewers' rating of the level of disorder in the immediate areas, with those living in areas categorised as having relatively high physical disorder being the most likely to admit to selling stolen goods.

Lifestyle, experience of crime and offending

- Respondents who reported that they frequently visited pubs (once or twice a week or more often) were more likely to admit to selling stolen goods, compared to those who visited the pub less often (4% versus 2%).
- Being a victim of crime is known to be a risk factor for offending (Smith, 2004 and Hayward and Sharp, 2005). Therefore it is not unexpected that those who had been a victim of personal crime in the last 12 months were more likely to admit to selling stolen goods compared to those who had not been a victim of crime in the last 12 months (4% versus 2%).

Links with offending

In addition to selling and buying stolen goods OCJS respondents were asked whether they had committed any of 20 offences in their lifetime and in the 12 months prior to interview. Fraud and technology offences were also covered.

The prevalence of selling stolen goods is significantly higher than criminal damage and drug offences. However selling stolen goods has similar levels to violent offences, but lower than property offences and overall fraud offences (Table A3.5).

Table 4.1: Percentage of 18- to 65-year-olds who had committed mainstream offences in the last 12 months, by whether or not they had committed selling stolen goods, 2003 OCJS

% Committed	Seller of stolen goods	Not seller of stolen goods
Theft offence	8	4
Shoplifting	1	<1
Criminal damage	4	<1
Violent offence	11	3
Drug selling offence	5	<1
Any mainstream offence	18	7
Fraud offence	36	5
Technology offence	18	8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	228	6,889

Those who had sold stolen goods were significantly more likely to have committed mainstream and fraud offences than those who had not (Table 4.1). Just over a third (36%) of sellers had also committed a fraudulent offence in the same time period, 11 per cent violent offences, eight per cent theft offences and five per cent drug offences. Shoplifting offences were the lowest at one per cent. Selling stolen goods was more strongly associated with fraudulent offending rather than violent and theft. The reason for this could be because deception is the main motivation behind the offences.

As seen in the previous section of this report, the OCJS asked respondents whether they had bought anything that they knew or thought had been stolen. Examining the relationship between these different aspects of handling stolen goods, 89 per cent of sellers said they had bought stolen goods as well in the same time period. This is also reflected in buyers in that a third (33%) said they had sold stolen goods (see previous section).

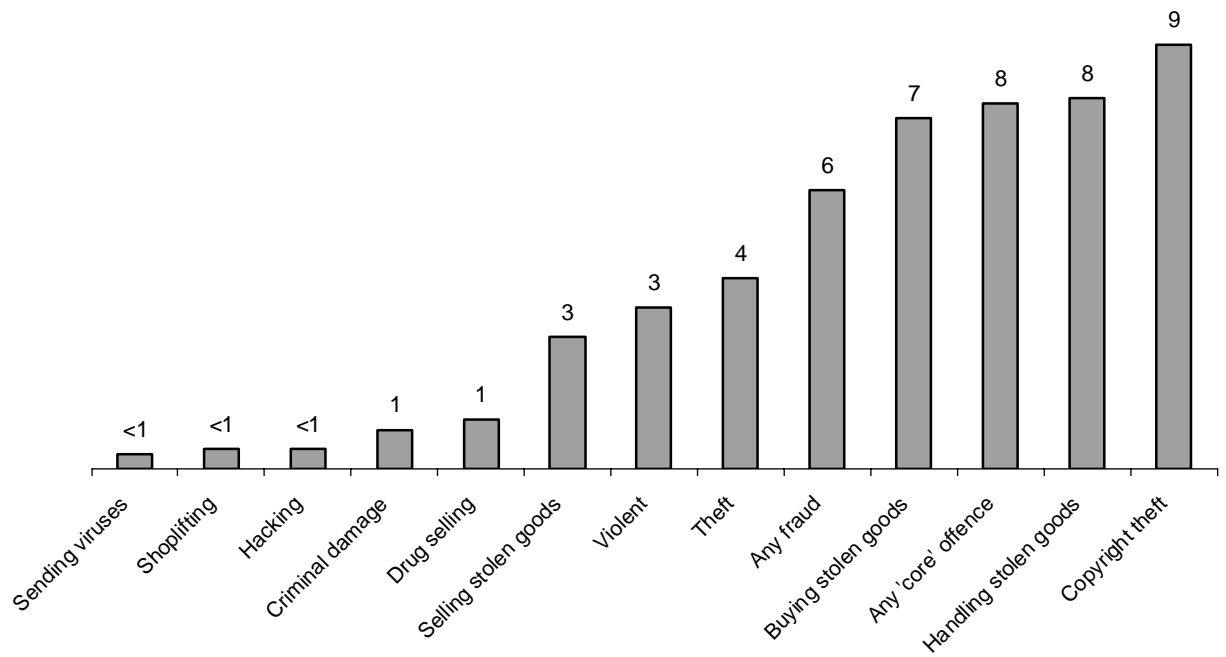
In addition it was also possible to examine the extent to which respondents were involved or not involved in these criminal activities e.g. only admitted to buying stolen goods, sold stolen goods only, said they had bought and sold stolen goods or neither in the last 12 months. Overall 93 per cent of all respondents (aged 18 to 65) did not buy or sell stolen goods in the last 12 months. This proportion differs when broken down by age, for example 95 per cent of those aged 26 to 65 compared with 80 per cent for young adults (18 to 25) (Table 4.2). The proportion of those who said they had bought and sold stolen goods also differs between the two age groups. When looking separately at bought only, just over one in ten (13%) of those aged 18 to 25 admitted to this compared with just three per cent for 26- to 65-year-olds. The proportions of those who had only sold stolen goods in the time period were similar between the two age groups.

Table 4.2: Percentage who had committed selling, buying, both or neither in the last 12 months by age groups, 2003 OCJS

Percentages	18- to 25-year-olds %	26- to 65-year-olds %	All
Neither	80	95	93
Bought only	13	3	5
Sold only	<1	<1	<1
Bought and sold	7	2	2
Total	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,805</i>	<i>5,453</i>	<i>7,258</i>

Although less than one in ten OCJS respondents had admitted to handling stolen goods in the last 12 months, whether buying or selling, it is one of the most common criminal activities admitted to. Only copyright theft (illegal downloading of music and software) has a higher prevalence (Figure 4.1). It has been shown in previous sections of this report that buying and selling stolen goods are mostly associated with fraud and technology crimes. This could be because these types of crimes might be thought to be less 'criminal' or not as serious as the mainstream offences.

**Figure 4.1: Prevalence of offences in last 12 months among 18- to 65-year-olds, 2003
OCJS (percentages)**



Note:

1. The figures for handling stolen goods here (8%) differs to the earlier 7% given for handling stolen goods due to the higher level of don't know responses in the previous typology.

5. Perceptions of ownership of stolen goods

The 2002/03 BCS, like the 1994 BCS, also asked respondents how many people they think have stolen goods in their homes in the local area.

Public perceptions of ownership of stolen goods

Although the majority of people reported that they themselves had not bought stolen goods in recent times, it was a commonly held belief that at least some people in their local area owned stolen goods (87%; Table 5.1).

- Over one third (36%) of people who gave an answer estimated that a lot or quite a few people had stolen goods in their homes.²⁰ About one half (52%) believed that not very many people had stolen goods in their homes, with a minority (13%) thinking none at all.

Table 5.1 Public perceptions of ownership of stolen goods, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages			
	Men	Women	All
A lot	7	7	7
Quite a few	26	30	28
Not very many	55	48	52
None at all	11	15	13
Total	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,260	3,769	7,029

The 1994 BCS found that 22 per cent of people thought that a lot or quite a few of their neighbours had stolen goods in their homes (compared with 36% in 2002/03).²¹ However, these figures from the 1994 and 2002/03 surveys should not be directly compared due to a large proportion of all respondents (40%) responding 'don't know' or 'don't wish to answer' in 2002/03 (compared with a total of just five per cent in 1994).²² When respondents answering 'don't know' or 'don't wish to answer' are included 21 per cent overall believed that a lot or quite a few of their neighbours had stolen goods in their homes in both 2002/03 and in 1994.

Who perceives high levels of stolen goods ownership?

Many of the factors that relate to likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods are also ones which relate to perceptions of stolen goods ownership. The direction of effect, however, is different depending on the type of characteristic. For most, particularly those associated with area of residence and lifestyle and attitudes, it is often the same groups who are most likely to have been offered or bought stolen goods who believe that stolen goods ownership is common in the local area. For a number of demographic and socio-economic characteristics, in contrast, the reverse is true: for example, whilst younger people, men and self-employed

²⁰ This figure differs from the sum of 7% and 28% in Table 5.1 due to rounding.

²¹ This differs from the 21 per cent reported in Sutton (1998a and 1998b) as don't knows and refusals have been excluded.

²² This is due to the change in the range of responses available to respondents in 2002/03: in the 2002/03 survey 'don't know' and 'don't wish to answer' responses were available to respondents on screen, in addition to responses of 'a lot', 'quite a few', 'not very many' or 'none at all'. In 1994 respondents could not see 'don't know' and 'don't wish to answer', although they could ask the interviewer to record these as responses if desired.

people were more likely than older people and women and employees to have been offered stolen goods they were less likely to think stolen goods ownership was common.

Demographic and socio-economic status

- Women (37%) were slightly more likely than men (34%) to think that at least quite a few people living in their local area had stolen goods in their homes (this difference is statistically significant).²³
- Those in the oldest age group (40 to 59) were less likely than younger people to think that a lot or quite a few people in the local area had stolen goods in their homes (Table A5.1).
- Perceptions varied consistently by level of qualification, with 45 per cent of people with no qualifications, compared with 28 per cent of people with degree or diploma level qualifications holding this belief (Table A5.2). Similarly, a high proportion (51%) of those from an unskilled background, and a low proportion (24%) from a professional background thought at least quite a few people in their local area had stolen goods in their homes.
- Self-employed people were marginally less likely than employees to think that stolen goods ownership was common in their local area (31% compared with 34% respectively; Table A5.2). This may reflect the finding that, despite being more likely to be exposed to offers, self-employed people were not more likely to have bought stolen goods (Table A3.1).
- People living in the social rented sector (60%) were much more likely than those living in other types of tenure to think a lot or quite a few people in their local area had stolen goods in their homes, which is likely to reflect factors associated with their area of residence.

Area of residence

Characteristics relating to the type of area were particularly strongly related to perceptions of stolen goods ownership:

- People living in council areas were much more likely than those in non-council areas to hold this belief (56% vs. 31%). Similarly, people living in inner-city areas (64%) were much more likely than those in urban (37%) and rural (17%) areas to think local ownership of stolen goods was common.
- These findings are borne out by the findings by ACORN category,²⁴ which showed that those in striving areas were more likely (61%) than all others to think a lot or quite a few people in their area had stolen goods.
- People living in areas of high levels of physical disorder (as rated by the interviewer) were also more likely than those in areas of low physical disorder to think local ownership of stolen goods was common (67% and 32% respectively).

These patterns are consistent with the finding that the same groups were also more likely to have been offered and bought stolen goods, suggesting that their perceptions and local experiences and observations are closely linked, perhaps with one informed by the other.

- Perceptions varied widely by region. Forty-five per cent of people living in London reported thinking a lot or quite a few of the local homes had stolen goods, compared with 25 per cent in the South West, and the remaining regions ranging between 27 per cent and 44 per cent.

²³ Percentages in Table 5.1 for a lot or quite a few may not sum correctly due to rounding.

²⁴ ACORN refers to 'A classification of Residential Neighbourhoods', which classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the neighbourhood.

Lifestyle, experience of crime and confidence in the criminal justice system

- People who had experienced a crime in the past 12 months were more likely than those who had not to believe stolen goods ownership was common locally (44% and 31% respectively; Table A5.4).
- People with low levels of confidence in the criminal justice system were also more likely to have negative views of people in their local area with respect to the prevalence of stolen goods ownership. More than a half (52%) of those who said they thought the police were doing a poor or very poor job thought a lot or quite a few people in their local area had stolen goods in their homes, compared with under a third (30%) of those who were very or quite confident.
- As may be expected, people who had been offered stolen goods (51%) in the last five years were more likely than those who said they had not (30%) to think that a lot or quite a few households in the local area owned stolen goods. A similar pattern is found for whether or not a person had bought stolen goods in the last five years.

Explaining perceptions of stolen goods ownership

The above discussion has shown a number of characteristics, especially those relating to type of area of residence, lifestyle and attitude, are related to perceptions of stolen goods ownership. However, many of these may be inter-related. Logistic regression analysis was undertaken to identify which factors related strongly to the perception that a lot or quite a few people in the local area have stolen goods in their homes after the influence of other factors had been taken into account.

The strongest independent predictors of the perception that a lot or quite a few people living in the local area have stolen goods in their homes were:²⁵

- living in an urban or inner-city area;
- being offered stolen goods in the last five years;
- living in an area of high physical disorder;
- perceiving the police to do a fair, poor or very poor job;
- living in rented (social or private sector) accommodation; and
- living in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands and London regions and Wales.

Unlike in relation to being offered and to buying stolen goods, demographic factors appear to be less related to perceptions of stolen goods ownership when other factors are taken into account. In contrast, the type of area (rural, urban, inner-city) and levels of physical disorder in the local area are especially relevant to perceptions of stolen goods. This suggests that people form their views on the basis of the physical attributes of the area in which they live, supported by their own previous exposure to offers of stolen goods ownership. Although the type of area was not a strong independent predictor of buying stolen goods (see Chapter 3), bivariate analysis showed that people who live in inner-city areas and in areas of high levels of physical disorder were more likely than others to have bought stolen goods. Perceptions of stolen goods ownership, therefore, are likely to reflect the reality of stolen goods ownership at the local level.

The finding that believing the police to do a less than good job is independently related to perceiving that many people locally have stolen goods in their homes may reflect a lack of confidence in the police and CJS in tackling problems of stolen goods markets and ownership. The finding that people who live in rented accommodation, rather than accommodation owned by the household, are more likely to think many local households own

²⁵ Full results are detailed in Table A5.6.

stolen goods independently of other factors is difficult to explain. It may reflect an assessment of the economic status of local residents on the basis of personal economic status together with a perception that ownership of stolen goods is more common in less financially-secure households.

Region of residence was also found to be independently predictive of perceptions of stolen goods ownership. A number of the regions – Yorkshire and Humberside, West Midlands, London – associated with the perceptions that many local households own stolen goods are also ones shown in earlier bivariate analysis to be associated with increased likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods. This again suggests that people's perceptions may be informed by a reality at the local area. However, there are inconsistencies. In particular, respondents in Wales were among the least likely to have been offered or bought stolen goods, but were likely to think that many households in the local area owned stolen goods.

Appendix A. Additional tables

Table A2.1: Prevalence of being offered and buying stolen goods by demographic characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages					
	Offered stolen goods in the last five years	Offered stolen goods in the past 12 months	Bought stolen goods in the last five years	Bought stolen goods in the past 12 months	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Men	29	15	8	3	5,414
16-25	41	24	13	6	792
26-39	33	16	8	2	1,937
40-59	19	10	4	1	2,685
Women	13	7	3	1	6,419
16-25	23	14	4	2	925
26-39	16	8	3	1	2,502
40-59	7	3	1	<1	2,992
Ethnicity					
White	21	11	5	2	11,110
Asian	26	16	7	2	325
Black	29	14	7	1	209
Other	24	13	5	2	187
Marital status					
Single	29	16	8	3	3,059
Married/defacto	19	9	4	1	7,030
Separated/divorced	17	9	3	1	1,544
Widowed	10	4	1	-	192
All adults	21	11	5	2	11,833

Notes:

1. Base includes refusals.

Table A2.2: Prevalence of being offered and buying stolen goods by socio-economic characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages					
	Offered stolen goods in the last five years	Offered stolen goods in the past 12 months	Bought stolen goods in the last five years	Bought stolen goods in the past 12 months	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Highest qualification					
None	18	10	5	2	2,629
O level/GCSE	24	13	7	3	2,910
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	27	15	7	2	2,109
Degree or diploma	19	8	3	1	3,575
Other	18	9	5	1	601
Total household income					
Under £10,000	21	13	6	2	1,612
£10,000-£14,999	20	11	5	1	1,107
£15,000-£19,999	22	13	6	2	1,084
£20,000-£29,999	23	11	6	2	1,045
£30,000 or more	22	11	5	1	4,886
Social class					
Professional	17	8	2	1	556
Managerial and technical	20	9	4	1	3,406
Skilled non-manual	18	10	4	1	2,547
Skilled manual	29	16	9	3	2,065
Semi-skilled	20	11	5	2	1,782
Unskilled	21	13	7	2	564
Employment status					
Employed	22	11	5	2	8,691
Unemployed	21	11	4	1	252
Inactive	18	11	5	2	2,596
Working as employee or self-employed					
Employee	21	11	5	2	7,887
Self-employed	29	16	6	2	1,045
Tenure					
Owners	19	10	5	2	8,359
Social rented sector	25	15	7	2	2,012
Private rented sector	27	14	7	3	1,433
All adults	21	11	5	2	11,833

Notes:

1. Base includes refusals

Table A2.3: Prevalence of being offered and buying stolen goods by area, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages					
	Offered stolen goods in the last five years	Offered stolen goods in the past 12 months	Bought stolen goods in the last five years	Bought stolen goods in the past 12 months	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Government Office Region					
North East	18	11	5	2	752
North West	22	13	5	2	1,425
Yorkshire & Humberside	25	15	7	3	1,069
East Midlands	21	12	5	2	1,210
West Midlands	26	15	9	4	1,136
East of England	19	9	5	1	1,414
London	24	13	4	1	1,111
South East	19	9	4	1	1,557
South West	19	10	4	2	1,227
Wales	16	7	5	1	932
Area type					
Inner-city	28	17	7	3	1,053
Urban	22	12	5	2	8,177
Rural	16	7	4	1	2,603
Council area	24	14	7	2	2,264
Non-council area	21	11	5	2	9,555
Neighbourhood type					
People help each other	19	11	5	2	1,895
People go own way	23	12	5	2	2,318
Mixture	21	12	5	2	1,717
ACORN category					
Thriving	16	7	4	1	2,145
Expanding	17	10	4	2	1,705
Rising	24	12	6	2	769
Settling	22	12	5	1	3,348
Aspiring	24	13	6	2	1,527
Striving	25	15	7	3	2,325
Level of physical disorder (interviewer rating)					
Low	20	10	5	2	10,429
High	31	18	7	3	1,137
All adults	21	11	5	2	11,833

Notes:

1. Base includes refusals.

Table A2.4: Prevalence of being offered and buying stolen goods by behaviour, experience of crime, and attitudes to the criminal justice system, 2002/03 BCS

	Offered stolen goods in the last five years	Offered stolen goods in the past 12 months	Bought stolen goods in the last five years	Bought stolen goods in the past 12 months	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Percentages					
Typical weekly frequency of visiting pubs					
None	17	9	4	1	4,053
Less than three times a week	21	11	5	2	6,591
About three times a week or more o	36	20	10	5	1,186
Experienced household or personal crime in past 12 months					
No	18	9	4	1	8,320
Yes	29	17	7	3	3,513
Confidence that the criminal justice system is effective in bringing people to justice					
Very or quite confident	16	8	4	1	4,597
Not very confident	24	12	6	2	5,148
Not at all confident	28	17	7	3	2,000
Perceived effectiveness of the criminal justice system in reducing crime					
Very or quite effective	17	9	5	2	3,500
Not very effective	22	11	5	2	6,172
Not at all effective	27	16	6	2	2,014
How good a job police are doing					
Excellent or good	18	9	4	1	5,570
Fair	23	12	6	2	4,719
Poor or very poor	28	18	9	3	1,492
Perceptions of local stolen goods ownership					
A lot or quite a few	38	23	11	5	2,512
Not very many or none at all	20	10	5	2	4,517
Don't know	14	7	2	1	4,667
All adults	21	11	5	2	11,833

Notes:

1. Base includes refusals

Table A2.5: Logistic regression to predict those offered stolen goods in the last five years, 2002/03 BCS

Characteristic		Odds ratio	Significance
Age	16 to 25	3.5	*
	26 to 39	2.1	*
	40 to 59	1.0	
Sex	Men	2.4	*
	Women	1.0	
Confidence that offenders are brought to justice	<i>Very or quite confident</i>	1.0	
	Not very or not at all confident	1.8	*
Victimisation in past year	<i>No</i>	1.0	
	Yes	1.6	*
Local physical disorder	<i>Low</i>	1.0	
	High	1.5	*
Pub visits	<i>None</i>	1.0	
	Less than three times a week	1.2	*
	About three times a week or more often	1.8	*
Employee/self-employed	<i>Employee</i>	1.0	
	Self-employed	1.7	*
Rural/urban/inner-city	Inner-city	1.6	*
	Urban	1.2	*
	Rural	1.0	
Social class	<i>Professional</i>	1.0	
	Managerial and technical	1.5	*
	Skilled non-manual	1.5	*
	Skilled manual	1.9	*
	Semi-skilled	1.6	*
	Unskilled	1.9	*
Government Office Region	North East	1.0	
	North West	1.2	
	Yorkshire & Humberside	1.5	*
	East Midlands	1.3	
	West Midlands	1.6	*
	East of England	1.2	
	London	1.4	*
	South East	1.1	
	South West	1.0	
	Wales	1.0	
Household income	<i>Under £10,000</i>	1.0	
	£10,000-£14,999	1.0	
	£15,000-£19,999	1.2	
	£20,000-£29,999	1.3	*
	£30,000 or more	1.3	*
How good a job police do	<i>Excellent or good</i>	1.0	
	Fair	1.1	*
	Poor or very poor	1.3	*
Harmonised tenure	<i>Owners</i>	1.0	
	Social rented sector	1.2	*
	Private rented sector	1.1	
Base N	11,326		
Nagelkerke R²	0.181		

Notes:

- * Significance < 0.05; 'ns' not significant. The variables ethnic group, qualifications (yes/no) and council/non-council area were tested but did not come out in the model.
- Variables highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least 1% improvement in the model).

Table A2.6: Logistic regression to predict those offered stolen goods in the past 12 months, 2002/03 BCS

Characteristic		Odds ratio	Significance
Age	16 to 25	3.4	*
	26 to 39	1.9	*
	40 to 59	1.0	
Sex	Men	2.0	*
	Women	1.0	
Victimisation in past year	No	1.0	
	Yes	1.7	*
Confidence that offenders are brought to justice	<i>Very or quite confident</i>	1.0	
	Not very or not at all confident	1.7	*
Rural/urban/inner-city	Inner-city	1.7	*
	Urban	1.3	*
	Rural	1.0	
Employee/self-employed	Employee	1.0	
	Self-employed	1.8	*
Social class	Professional	1.0	
	Managerial and technical	1.4	*
	Skilled non-manual	1.6	*
	Skilled manual	2.1	*
	Semi-skilled	1.6	*
	Unskilled	2.1	*
Pub visits	None	1.0	
	Less than three times a week	1.2	*
	About three times a week or more often	1.8	*
Local physical disorder	Low	1.0	
	High	1.5	*
Government Office Region	North East	1.2	ns
	North West	1.4	ns
	Yorkshire & Humberside	1.7	*
	East Midlands	1.4	ns
	West Midlands	1.8	*
	East of England	1.1	ns
	London	1.3	ns
	South East	1.0	ns
	South West	1.1	ns
	Wales	1.0	
How good a job police do	<i>Excellent or good</i>	1.0	
	Fair	1.2	*
	Poor or very poor	1.6	*
Harmonised tenure	Owners	1.0	
	Social rented sector	1.3	*
	Private rented sector	1.0	ns
Household income	<i>Under £10,000</i>	1.0	
	£10,00-£14,999	0.9	ns
	£15,000-£19,999	1.3	ns
	£20,000-£29,999	1.1	ns
	£30,000 or more	1.2	ns
Ethnic group	White	1.0	
	Non-white	1.3	*
Base N	11,316		
Nagelkerke R²	0.150		

Notes:

1. * Significance < 0.05; 'ns' not significant. The variables qualifications (yes/no) and council/non-council area were tested but did not come out in the model.

2. Variables highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least 1% improvement in the model).

Table A3.1: Frequency of buying stolen goods among those offered, by demographic and socio-economic characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

	Bought in last five years				Bought in past 12 months			
	Once or more	Never	Don't wish to answer	Unweighted N	Once or more	Never	Don't wish to answer	Unweighted N
Men	27	72	1	1,416	18	80	3	728
16 to 25	33	66	1	326	24	73	3	186
26 to 39	25	74	2	619	15	82	3	307
40 to 59	23	75	2	471	14	85	1	235
Women	20	78	1	796	14	86	1	432
16 to 25	19	79	2	212	16	83	1	131
26 to 39	23	77	1	367	14	86	-	200
40 to 59	18	81	2	217	7	91	2	101
Ethnicity								
White	25	74	1	2,035	17	81	2	1,059
Non-white	25	71	4	176	11	86	2	100
Marital status								
Single	28	71	1	768	20	78	2	437
Married/defaulto	23	76	2	1,188	15	83	2	589
Separated/divorced	19	79	2	241	8	91	1	128
Widowed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highest qualification								
None	30	68	2	406	19	80	1	228
O level/GCSE	29	70	1	610	20	77	3	341
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	25	74	1	503	15	83	3	255
Degree or diploma	16	83	1	593	13	87	<1	283
Other	26	69	5	100	12	84	4	53 ⁴
Total household income								
Under £10,000	30	68	2	315	19	79	2	187
£10,000-£14,999	26	71	2	186	13	85	2	103
£15,000-£19,999	25	73	2	219	17	81	2	120
£20,000-£29,999	25	73	2	218	22	78	-	104
£30,000 or more	20	78	1	940	13	85	2	461
Social class								
Professional	10	90	0	83 ⁴		n/a	n/a	n/a
Managerial and technical	20	79	1	607	11	87	2	287
Skilled non-manual	22	76	2	384	12	85	2	212
Skilled manual	30	69	1	545	19	78	3	298
Semi-skilled	27	72	1	321	19	80	1	171
Unskilled	31	68	1	99 ⁴	18	80	2	59 ⁴
Working as employee or self-employed								
Employee	24	74	1	1,436	16	82	2	598
Self-employed	22	77	2	277	15	83	2	125
Tenure								
Owners	23	75	2	1,397	15	83	2	695
Social rented sector	29	69	2	453	16	81	2	285
Private rented sector	24	75	<1	359	20	78	3	179
All	25	74	1	2,212	16	82	2	1,160

Notes:

1. Base is those who reported they had been offered stolen goods.
2. A number of characteristics included in earlier tables are excluded here due to small base sizes in multiple categories of interest.
3. 'n/a' indicates that there were insufficient cases to enable reliable estimates.
4. Bases are small therefore sampling error will be large.

Table A3.2: Frequency of buying stolen goods among those offered, by area, lifestyle and attitudinal characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

	Bought in last five years				Bought in past 12 months			
	Once or more	Never	Don't wish to answer	Unweighted N	Once or more	Never	Don't wish to answer	Unweighted N
Government Office Region								
North East	27	73	<1	132	22	74	4	78 ⁴
North West	23	75	2	292	16	82	2	162
Yorkshire & Humberside	29	70	1	244	21	77	3	131
East Midlands	24	74	1	224	14	84	2	123
West Midlands	33	64	2	248	26	70	3	140
East of England	25	75	1	245	15	82	3	118
London	18	79	2	257	8	91	1	130
South East	21	79	<1	259	12	88	-	125
South West	24	75	1	187	18	80	2	93 ⁴
Wales	30	67	3	124	17	83	-	60 ⁴
Area type								
Inner city	25	72	3	279	17	79	4	168
Urban	25	74	1	1,579	17	82	2	838
Rural	24	75	1	354	14	83	2	154
Council area	28	71	1	501	18	80	2	293
Non-council area	24	75	2	1,707	16	82	2	865
Neighbourhood type								
People help each other	29	70	1	302	19	81	1	164
People go own way	23	76	1	491	18	82	1	252
Mixture	23	76	1	314	17	81	2	176
ACORN category								
Thriving	24	75	1	295	14	83	3	132
Expanding	24	76	1	279	21	77	2	149
Rising	23	76	1	160	19	81	0	77 ⁴
Settling	23	75	2	616	13	86	2	314
Aspiring	27	71	2	311	17	79	3	164
Striving	27	72	1	547	18	80	2	322
Level of physical disorder (interviewer rating)								
Low	25	74	1	1,830	17	81	2	929
High	24	74	2	322	15	84	1	198
Typical weekly frequency of visiting pubs								
none	21	77	2	579	13	86	1	304
less than three times a week	25	74	1	1,249	15	83	2	645
about three times a week or more o	29	70	1	384	24	72	4	211
Experienced household or personal crime in past 12 months								
No	24	75	1	1,279	14	84	2	634
Yes	25	73	2	933	19	79	2	526
Perception of how many neighbours own stolen goods								
A lot or quite a few	28	70	2	860	20	78	2	511
Not very many or none at all	25	73	1	768	17	81	2	362
Don't know	18	81	1	568	9	90	2	278
Confidence that the criminal justice system is effective in bringing people to justice								
Very or quite confident	23	76	1	645	16	81	3	317
Not very confident	26	72	1	1,047	16	82	1	534
Not at all confident	23	74	2	512	17	81	2	302
Perceived effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in reducing crime								
Very or quite effective	28	72	1	518	21	77	2	269
Not very effective	25	74	1	1,170	16	83	2	589
Not at all effective	21	77	2	506	14	84	2	292
How good a job police are doing								
Excellent or good	22	77	1	887	15	82	3	437
Fair	24	74	2	929	18	81	1	478
Poor or very poor	32	66	1	391	16	82	1	243
All	25	74	1	2,212	16	82	2	1,160

Notes:

1. Base is those who reported they had been offered stolen goods.
2. A number of characteristics included in earlier tables are excluded here due to small base sizes in multiple categories of interest.
3. 'n/a' indicates that there were insufficient cases to enable reliable estimates.
4. Bases are small therefore sampling error will be large.

Table A3.3: Prevalence of buying stolen goods in last year by demographic characteristics, 2003 OCJS

Percentages		
	Bought stolen goods	Unweighted N
Men	9	3,403
18-25	24	872
26-39	7	881
40-65	5	1,650
Women	6	3,863
18-25	15	939
26-39	3	1,060
40-65	5	1,864
Ethnicity		
White	7	6,728
Asian	4	884
Black	6	652
Other	6	594
Highest educational qualification		
None	9	1,569
Degree or diploma	5	2,085
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	8	1,400
GCSE	9	2,042
Other	8	162
Total household income		
Under £10,000	7	1,596
£10,000 - £14,999	6	510
£15,000 - £19,999	6	774
£20,000 - £29,999	7	1,296
£30,000 or more	7	1,894
Work status of respondent		
Working	7	4,717
Unemployed	11	189
Retired	3	468
Other	8	1,368
Full-time education	13	521
Tenure		
Owners	6	5,174
Rental sector	10	2,076
All	7	7,266

**Table A3.4: Prevalence of buying stolen goods in last year
by area, experience of crime and lifestyle characteristics, 2003 OCJS**

Percentages		
	Bought stolen goods	<i>Unweighted</i> <i>N</i>
ACORN		
Affluent suburbs & rural areas	6	1,519
Affluent family areas	7	883
Affluent urban areas	7	608
Mature home-owning areas	6	1,835
New home owning areas	6	909
Council estate & low income areas	10	1,504
Area type		
Council	10	1,425
Non-council areas	7	5,833
Level of physical disorder		
High	13	635
Low	7	6,492
Experience of personal crime		
Yes	12	1,260
No	6	6,006
Typical weekly frequency of visiting pubs		
None	6	707
Less than once or twice a week	6	4,111
Once or twice a week or more often	10	2,413
All	7	7,266

Table A3.5: Last year prevalence of offending among those aged 18 to 65, by sex, OCJS

<i>Percentages ...</i>	<i>...in last 12 months</i>		
	Males 18-65	Females 18-65	All 18-65
Any theft offence ¹	5.6	2.3	3.9
Shoplifting	0.3	0.4	0.4
Any criminal damage offence	0.7	0.4	0.8
Any violent offence	4.1	2.5	3.3
Any drug offence	1.4	0.6	1
Any 'core' offence	9.3	4.8	7.5
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,342	3,815	7,157
Any fraud offence	7.3	4.1	5.7
Work expenses	2.8	1	1.8
Social security benefit fraud	0.5	0.4	0.5
Tax evasion	2.6	1.2	1.9
Insurance fraud	1.3	0.7	1
Credit card fraud	0.9	1	1
Handling stolen goods	8.9	6.2	7.6
Buying (suspected) stolen goods	8.5	6	7.2
Selling stolen goods	3	2.4	2.7
Technology crime	13	4.7	8.8
Hacking	0.6	0.1	0.4
Sending viruses	0.4	0.1	0.3
Illegally downloading software/music	12.8	4.6	8.7
Any handling, fraud or technology	24.7	12.8	18.7
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,293	3,738	7,031

Notes:

1. Excludes shoplifting.

**Table A3.6: Prevalence of buying stolen mobile in last year
by demographic characteristics, 2003 OCJS**

Percentages	Bought stolen mobile	<i>Unweighted</i> <i>N</i>
Men	1.7	4,215
10-15	2.9	911
16-25	5.7	1,124
26-39	1.2	808
40-65	0.1	1,372
Women	1.0	4,602
10-15	1.3	869
16-25	2.9	1,227
26-39	0.4	974
40-65	0.5	1,532
Ethnicity		
White	1.3	8,153
Asian	4.0	737
Black	5.0	554
Other	5.6	506
Highest educational qualification		
None	1.2	1,271
Degree or diploma	0.5	1,884
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	1.2	1,349
GCSE	1.7	2,099
Other	0.4	135
Total household income		
Under £10,000	1.9	1,856
£10,000 - £14,999	0.9	592
£15,000 - £19,999	1.8	933
£20,000 - £29,999	1.2	1,496
£30,000 or more	0.8	2,239
Work status of respondent		
Working	0.9	4,364
Unemployed	2.1	182
Retired		334
Other	1.9	1,157
Full-time education	3.7	1,305
Aged 14 or under	1.2	1,469
Tenure		
Owners	1.1	6,288
Rental sector	2.2	2,501
All	1.4	8,817

**Table A3.7: Prevalence of buying stolen mobile in last year
by are, experience of crime and lifestyle characteristics, 2003 OCJS**

Percentages		
	Bought stolen mobile	<i>Unweighted N</i>
ACORN		
Affluent suburbs & rural areas	0.8	1,887
Affluent family areas	0.7	1,113
Affluent urban areas	1.4	669
Mature home-owning areas	1.3	2,210
New home owning areas	2.2	1,104
Council estate & low income areas	1.9	1,826
Area type		
Council	2.0	1,780
Non-council areas	1.2	7,029
Level of physical disorder		
High	2.3	741
Low	1.2	7,843
Experience of personal crime		
Yes	3.8	2,015
No	0.8	6,802
Typical weekly frequency of visiting pubs		
None	1.5	2,048
Less than once or twice a week	1.0	4,315
Once or twice a week or more often	1.8	2,386
ALL	1.4	8,817

Table A3.8: Logistic regression to predict those who bought stolen goods in the last five years, base all, 2002/03 BCS

Characteristic		Odds ratio	Significance
Perception of stolen goods ownership	A lot or quite a few	3.3	*
	Not many or none at all	2.1	*
	Don't know	1.0	
Sex	Men	2.8	*
	Women	1.0	
Age	16 to 25	2.6	*
	26 to 39	1.9	*
	40 to 59	1.0	
Confidence that offenders are brought to justice	<i>Very or quite confident</i>	1.0	
	Not very or not at all confident	1.7	*
Social class	<i>Professional</i>	1.0	
	Managerial and technical	2.9	*
	Skilled non-manual	3.3	*
	Skilled manual	5.1	*
	Semi-skilled	4.1	*
	Unskilled	5.2	*
Pub visits	<i>None</i>	1.0	
	Less than three times a week	1.3	*
	About three times a week or more often	2.0	*
Government Office Region	North East	0.8	ns
	North West	0.8	ns
	Yorkshire & Humberside	1.1	ns
	East Midlands	0.9	ns
	West Midlands	1.5	ns
	East of England	0.9	ns
	London	0.9	ns
	South East	0.7	ns
	South West	0.8	ns
	Wales	1.0	
Victimisation in past year	<i>No</i>	1.0	
	Yes	1.3	*
How good a job police do	<i>Excellent or good</i>	1.0	
	Fair	1.2	ns
	Poor or very poor	1.5	*
Harmonised tenure	<i>Owners</i>	1.0	
	Social rented sector	1.5	*
	Private rented sector	1.1	ns
Ethnic group	<i>White</i>	1.0	
	Non-white	1.5	*
Base N		11,190	
Nagelkerke R²		0.155	

Notes:

1. * Significance < 0.05; 'ns' not significant. The variables qualifications (yes/no), household income, employment type (self-employed/employed), area type (rural/urban/inner-city), council/non-council area and local physical disorder were tested but did not come out in the model.

2. Variables highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least 1% improvement in the model).

Table A3.9: How item bought in past 12 months was bought, 2002/03 BCS

	New at a shop or catalogue	New over the phone or internet	Second hand from a shop	Through small ads, magazines etc.	At boot or jumble sale, fair or market	In a pub or a club	At home - from a person	Bought some other way	Refused	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Bicycle	81	3	5	2	1	<1	4	3	<1	1,270
Colour TV	89	3	4	1	<1	<1	2	2	<1	2,796
Video player or recorder	92	3	2	<1	<1	-	1	1	1	2,109
Car stereo, cassette or car CD/DVD/Minidisc player	83	5	1	1	1	<1	2	7	1	1,713
Stereo or hi-fi equipment (include CD/DVD/Minidisc players, except in cars)	92	4	2	1	<1	-	1	2	<1	2,208
Mobile phone	82	10	1	1	<1	<1	3	3	<1	4,067
Video camera	86	7	1	1	<1	-	2	2	-	550
Camera	88	7	2	<1	<1	-	1	2	<1	1,731
Games console (e.g. 'Playstation' or 'Nintendo')	88	2	4	1	<1	-	3	2	<1	1,676
Personal computer equipment (not a laptop)	68	14	3	2	2	<1	6	7	<1	1,927
Laptop computer	63	15	4	3	<1	-	6	8	1	356
Jewellery (worth more than £20)	95	2	1	<1	1	<1	1	1	<1	3,682

Notes:

Percentages may sum to more than 100 as more than one response was permitted.

**Table A4.1: Prevalence of selling stolen goods in last year
by demographic characteristics,2003 OCJS**

Percentages		
	Sold stolen goods	Unweighted N
Men	3.0	3,450
16-25	9.2	897
26-39	1.5	890
40-59	2.0	1,663
Women	2.4	3,904
16-25	5.2	962
26-39	1.0	1,069
40-59	2.4	1,873
Ethnicity		
White	2.6	6,811
Asian	3.8	884
Black	5.6	652
Other	5.8	594
Highest educational qualification		
None	3.2	1,584
Degree or diploma	1.9	2,102
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	2.8	1,416
GCSE	3.0	2,081
Other	2.9	163
Total household income		
Under £10,000	2.1	1,624
£10,000 - £14,999	3.0	517
£15,000 - £19,999	2.8	777
£20,000 - £29,999	2.3	1,308
£30,000 or more	2.6	1,914
Work status of respondent		
Working	2.1	4771
Unemployed	4.7	194
Retired	2.0	468
Other	3.7	1387
Full-time education	6.4	530
Tenure		
Owners	2.2	5,228
Rental sector	4.0	2,109
All	2.7	7,354

**Table A4.2: Prevalence of selling stolen goods in last year
by area, experience of crime and lifestyle characteristics, 2003 OCJS**

Percentages		
	Sold stolen goods	Unweighted N
ACORN		
Affluent suburbs & rural areas	2.8	1,532
Affluent family areas	2.8	893
Affluent urban areas	3.1	617
Mature home-owning areas	1.9	1,854
New home-owning areas	2.0	919
Council estate & low income areas	3.5	1,531
Area type		
Council	3.2	1,452
Non-council areas	2.5	5,894
Level of physical disorder		
High	4.7	648
Low	2.5	6,565
Experience of personal crime		
Yes	4.2	6,064
No	2.4	1,290
Level of drug usage		
Risky drug users	5.2	1,045
Drug user not risky	2.3	6,309
Typical weekly frequency of visiting pubs		
None	2.4	711
Less than once or twice a week	2.2	4,162
Once or twice a week or more often	3.6	2,446
All	2.7	7,354

A5.1: Perception of how many people in the area have got stolen goods in their homes by demographic characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages					
	A lot	Quite a few	Not very many	None at all	Unweighted N
Men	7	26	55	11	3,260
16-25	9	27	55	9	547
26-39	8	30	53	8	1,278
40-59	5	22	58	14	1,435
Women	7	30	48	15	3,769
16-25	11	33	45	10	626
26-39	7	33	48	12	1,568
40-59	5	25	49	21	1,575
Ethnicity					
White	7	28	53	12	6,716
Asian	9	31	40	20	144
Black ²	8	39	36	17	81
Other ²	19	35	33	13	87
Marital status					
Single	10	31	50	9	1,958
Married/defacto	6	25	54	15	4,134
Separated/divorced	9	40	41	11	847
Widowed ²	10	29	41	20	88
All adults	7	28	52	13	7,029

1. Base excludes don't knows and refusals.

2. Base numbers are small therefore sampling error will be large.

A5.2: Perception of how many people in the area have got stolen goods in their homes by socio-economic characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages

	A lot	Quite a few	Not very many	None at all	Unweighted N
Highest qualification					
None	11	34	40	14	1,360
O level/GCSE	8	31	50	11	1,773
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	7	27	55	12	1,304
Degree or diploma	5	23	58	14	2,275
Other	8	32	46	14	314
Total household income					
Under £10,000	15	39	37	8	859
£10,000-£14,999	11	36	40	13	631
£15,000-£19,999	10	33	44	13	632
£20,000-£29,999	9	28	51	12	617
£30,000 or more	5	24	58	13	3,117
Social class					
Professional	3	21	58	18	351
Managerial and technical	5	25	57	13	2,132
Skilled non-manual	7	27	53	13	1,521
Skilled manual	10	31	48	11	1,214
Semi-skilled	8	32	48	12	1,027
Unskilled	10	41	36	13	276
Employment status					
Employed	7	28	54	12	5,300
Unemployed	7	22	56	16	142
Inactive	9	31	45	15	1,426
Working as employee or self-employed					
Employee	7	28	54	12	4,804
Self-employed	6	25	54	15	633
Tenure					
Owners	6	24	56	14	5,033
Social rented sector	17	42	33	7	1,133
Private rented sector	6	33	49	12	851
All adults	7	28	52	13	11,833

1. Base excludes don't knows and refusals.

A5.3: Perception of how many people in the area have got stolen goods in their homes by area, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages					
	A lot	Quite a few	Not very many	None at all	Unweighted N
Government Office region					
North East	10	34	47	9	462
North West	11	32	46	11	859
Yorkshire & Humberside	9	32	48	12	702
East Midlands	6	24	54	15	738
West Midlands	8	29	52	10	663
East of England	6	25	56	14	817
London	9	36	45	10	600
South East	4	23	59	14	945
South West	5	20	57	18	754
Wales	9	30	47	15	489
Area type					
Inner-city	15	49	31	4	591
Urban	7	30	52	11	4849
Rural	4	13	60	23	1,589
Council area	16	40	37	7	1,310
Non-council area	6	26	55	14	5,712
Neighbourhood type					
People help each other	4	18	54	24	1,053
People go own way	9	34	48	9	1,259
Mixture	5	25	54	16	952
ACORN category					
Thriving	4	12	60	24	1,327
Expanding	5	20	60	16	1,036
Rising	6	30	56	8	475
Settling	6	30	54	11	1,981
Aspiring	6	34	50	10	869
Striving	17	44	32	6	1,334
Level of physical disorder (interviewer rating)					
Low	6	25	55	14	6,170
High	17	50	27	6	698
All adults	7	28	52	13	11,833

1. Base excludes don't knows and refusals

A5.4: Perception of how many people in the area have got stolen goods in their homes by lifestyle, experience and attitudinal characteristics, 2002/03 BCS

Percentages

	A lot	Quite a few	Not very many	None at all	Unweighted N
Frequency of visiting pubs					
None	8	28	46	17	2,154
Less than three times a week	7	28	54	11	4,069
About three times a week or more often	8	31	53	9	805
Experienced household or personal crime in past 12 months					
No	6	25	54	15	4,828
Yes	10	34	47	9	2,201
Offered stolen goods in past five years					
Yes	14	38	43	6	1,628
No	5	25	55	15	5,375
Bought stolen goods in past five years					
Yes	17	37	42	4	873
No	7	27	52	14	6,121
Confidence that the criminal justice system is effective in bringing people to justice					
Very or quite confident	6	24	55	15	2,671
Not very confident	7	29	52	11	3,103
Not at all confident	12	35	42	11	1,222
Perceived effectiveness of the criminal justice system in reducing crime					
Very or quite effective	6	26	54	15	2,022
Not very effective	7	28	54	12	3,727
Not at all effective	12	33	43	12	1,232
How good a job police are doing					
Excellent or good	6	24	55	15	3,256
Fair	7	29	52	12	2,836
Poor or very poor	15	38	40	8	915
All adults	7	28	52	13	11,833

1. Base excludes don't knows and refusals.

Table A5.5: Logistic regression to predict the perception that a lot or quite a few people in the local area have stolen goods in their homes, 2002/03 BCS

Characteristic		Odds ratio	Significance
Rural/urban/inner-city	Inner-city	3.4	*
	Urban	2.0	*
	Rural	1.0	
Offered stolen goods in the last five years	Yes	2.1	*
	No	1.0	
Local physical disorder	Low	1.0	
	High	2.4	*
How good a job police do	Excellent or good	1.0	
	Fair	1.2	*
	Poor or very poor	1.9	*
Harmonised tenure	Owners	1.0	
	Social rented sector	1.5	*
	Private rented sector	1.2	*
Government Office region	North East	1.7	*
	North West	1.6	*
	Yorkshire & Humberside	1.5	*
	East Midlands	1.1	ns
	West Midlands	1.4	*
	East of England	1.3	ns
	London	1.8	*
	South East	1.0	ns
	South West	1.0	
	Wales	1.9	*
Victimisation in past year	No	1.0	
	Yes	1.4	*
Sex	Men	1.0	*
	Women	1.4	
Council/non-council area	Council	1.4	*
	Non-council	1.0	
Age	16 to 25	1.2	*
	26 to 39	1.4	*
	40 to 59	1.0	
Confidence that offenders are brought to justice	Very or quite confident	1.0	
	Not very or not at all confident	1.3	*
Social class	Professional	1.0	
	Managerial and technical	1.0	ns
	Skilled non-manual	1.1	ns
	Skilled manual	1.4	ns
	Semi-skilled	1.1	ns
	Unskilled	1.5	*
Household income	Under £10,000	1.0	
	£10,000-£14,999	0.9	ns
	£15,000-£19,999	0.8	ns
	£20,000-£29,999	0.8	ns
	£30,000 or more	0.8	ns
Employee/self-employed	Employee	1.0	
	Self-employed	1.0	ns
Qualifications	Yes	1.0	
	No	1.2	*
Base N		6,771	
Nagelkerke R²		0.233	

Notes:

1. * Significance < 0.05; 'ns' not significant. The variables ethnic group and frequency of visiting pubs were tested but did not come out in the model.

2. Variables highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least 1% improvement in the model).

Appendix B. Methodological note

The British Crime Survey methodology

The BCS is a large, nationally representative, household survey that has been conducted face to face since 1982. The main purpose of the survey is to measure the extent and nature of criminal victimisation against adults, aged 16 or over, living in private households in England and Wales.

The 2002/03 BCS reports on interviews conducted between April 2002 and March 2003 and refers to incidents experienced by respondents in the 12 months prior to their interview. BMRB Social Research carried out the fieldwork for the 2002/03 BCS, which had a sample of 36,479 respondents. The response rate in 2002/03 was 74 per cent. Further details are contained in Bolling *et al.*, (2003).

The question module relevant to this report was asked of a random half sample of those aged 16 to 59 (n= 11,833). The module was administered to respondents via a computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI) technique which enables respondents to view and respond to questions directly onto an interview laptop. This method accords a greater level of confidentiality to respondents than more traditional personal interviewing techniques.

Further information on the British Crime Survey and access to recent publications can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>

Offending, Crime and Justice Survey methodology

The 2003 OCJS had a random probability sample design. The main survey comprised 10,079 people aged 10 to 65 living in private houses in England and Wales. In addition there was a booster sample of 1,882 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The response rate for the main sample was 74 per cent whereas for the BME sample it was considerably lower (45% in low density areas and 53% in high density areas). The main sample was used for all analysis except when examining rates by ethnicity.

Fieldwork (by BMRB Social Research and the National Centre for Social Research) took place between January and July 2003. The first part of the interview was interviewer administered; the second part including the more sensitive questions was self-administered. Computer assisted techniques were used, including AUDIO CASI, whereby the questions and responses are pre-recorded and listened to by the respondents through headphones, as well as being presented on the computer screen. This was to make it easier for those with literacy problems to take part. AUDIO CASI was used in the fraud and technology module.

Further information on the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html

Analysis in this report

The socio-demographic and attitudinal variables examined in this report are listed below.

- Gender
- Age
- Marital status

- Ethnicity using the 2001 Census classification of ethnic groups. However due to small numbers in some groups the four main categories used in the report are: White, Asian, Black and Other which includes Mixed.
- Educational qualifications
- Work status
- Household Income
- Social class
- Tenure
- Government Office Region
- Area type (rural/urban/inner-city and council/non-council area)
- Level of physical disorder (interviewer-rated)
- Neighbourhood type
- ACORN category: *A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods*, which classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood.²⁶
- Victimization
- Frequency of visiting pubs
- Confidence in the criminal justice system and the police

All statistically significant differences are at the five per cent level, unless otherwise stated and the significant differences are shown using bullet points throughout the report. All analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise stated. As with all surveys the results are subject to sampling error and are indicative of 'true' population figures rather than exact.

Variables in the BCS multivariate analysis

a. Outcome variables – measuring being offered, buying and perceived ownership of stolen goods

- I. whether respondent had been offered stolen goods in the last five years (Table A2.5)
- II. whether respondent had been offered stolen goods in the past 12 months (Table A2.6)
- III. whether respondent had bought stolen goods in the last five years (base all; Table A3.3)
- IV. whether respondent believed a lot or quite a few people in their local area had stolen goods in their homes (Table A5.5)

b. Predictor variables – socio-demographic measures

- Age
- Sex
- Ethnic Group
- Education level (highest qualification achieved)
- Tenure
- Household income
- Respondent social class

²⁶ ACORN was developed by CACI Ltd using the 1991 Census data.

- Employment type (employee/self-employed)
- Government Office Region
- Area type (rural/urban/inner-city)
- Council/non-council area
- Level of physical disorder (interviewer-rated)

c. Predictor variables, lifestyle, experience and attitudinal measures

- Victimization from crime in the past year
- Frequency of visiting pubs
- Confidence that the CJS is effective in bringing offenders to justice
- Perception of how good a job the police do
- Perception of how many people in the local area have stolen goods in their homes (not used in I, II, or IV above).
- Been offered stolen goods in the last five years (not used in I to III above).

Note: These predictor variables have been selected to represent a wide range of characteristics measured in the BCS. Variables correlating highly with any of these were excluded to avoid collinearity in the multivariate model. All the above predictor variables correlate at $r < 0.5$.

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