

3 Violent and sexual crime

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3.1 SUMMARY

There has been no change in the number of BCS violent crimes between 2007/08 and 2008/09 interviews; the apparent four per cent decrease was not statistically significant. Police recorded violence against the person fell six per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09, to the lowest figure since 2002/03. Both police recorded violence against the person with injury and without injury also fell between 2007/08 and 2008/09 to their lowest levels since 2002/03.

Longer-term trends from the BCS show the number of violent incidents has fallen by half (49%) since 1995, representing an estimated two million fewer incidents and around three-quarters of a million fewer victims. The trends for both violence with injury and violence without injury are similar to the trend in overall BCS violence.

- Provisional data show the police recorded 648 incidents of homicide in 2008/09, the lowest recorded level in the last 20 years. The number of attempted murders also decreased from 621 in 2007/08 to 575 in 2008/09.
- Just over half (52%) of all BCS violent incidents, and just under half of all police recorded violence against the person (47%), resulted in injury to the victim.
- Weapons were used in about one in five (21%) violent crimes as measured by the 2008/09 BCS (this figure has been stable over the past decade). Knives were used in seven per cent of violent incidents, glasses or bottles in five per cent, hitting implements in four per cent and firearms in one per cent. Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS interviews, the use of firearms, knives and glasses or bottles has remained stable while the use of hitting implements has decreased.
- There was a fall in the number of homicide offences involving a knife or other sharp instrument (down from 270 to 252) between 2007/08 and 2008/09 but a rise in the number of attempted murders involving a knife (up from 245 to 271 offences). Robbery offences involving knives decreased slightly (from 17,058 to 16,701) in the same period.
- The number of police recorded offences involving firearms fell by 17 per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09 and has decreased by 26 per cent since peaking in 2005/06. There was a large reduction in the number of firearm offences resulting in injury (down by 46% in 2008/09) mostly due to reductions in slight injuries and associated with large reductions in the use of imitation weapons (down 41%). There was a small rise in the use of shotguns and handguns (both up 2%).

The BCS shows that risk of victimisation varies by personal characteristics, with men, and in particular young men, being at greater risk of victimisation for overall violence, although women were more likely to experience domestic violence.

- The risk of being a victim of violent crime in the 2008/09 BCS was 3.2 per cent. Men (4.4%) were twice as likely as women (2.1%) to have experienced violence in the year prior to interview. The risk for men aged 16 to 24 was highest at 13.2 per cent.
- The 2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate (domestic or sexual) violence shows that six per cent of women were victims of domestic abuse in the past year compared with four per cent of men. Prevalence of domestic abuse decreased for men but not for women between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS, although prevalence for both was lower compared with the 2004/05 BCS.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

Violent crime covered in this chapter contains the full spectrum of assaults from pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the degree of violence varies considerably between incidents and in around half of incidents identified in both BCS and police statistics, the violence results in no injury (see Section 3.5).

The BCS provides a more reliable trend measure of violent crime, enabling better comparisons over time for the types of violence that it covers. This is because the BCS is not affected by changes in reporting, police recording and local policing activity, and has been measured in a consistent way since the survey began in 1981. Nonetheless, police statistics remain important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with, and recorded, by the police. They are an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems, at a lower geographical level than is possible using the BCS. Police statistics also provide data on homicides, violent crimes against under 16s¹, and those not resident in households. A fuller explanation of the differences between the BCS and police recorded crime measures of violence can be found in Section 3 of Volume 2.

Trends in police recorded violent crime can be very difficult to interpret, as they are influenced by a number of factors. It is important to consider the following issues when interpreting trends.

- (i) Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents.
- (ii) Local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded violent crime.
- (iii) Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices. A recent example of this is that a clarification to the Home Office Counting Rules was introduced in April 2008 to address previous inconsistencies in police recording of most serious violence (discussed in more detail in Chapter 2 Box 2.1). The clarification relates to the classification of crimes within the violence against the person offence category and does not affect the overall count of violence against the person offences recorded by the police.

¹ The BCS was extended to cover children aged 10 to 15 in January 2009 but first results, covering interviews in the 2009 calendar year, will not be available until spring 2010.

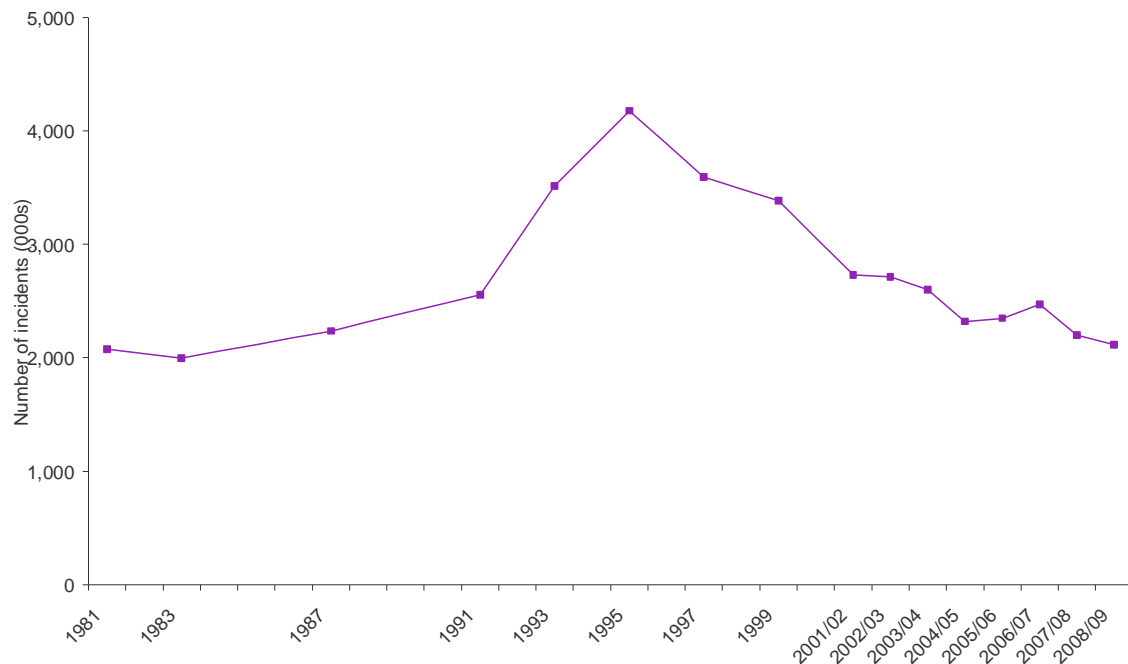
3.3 EXTENT AND TRENDS

There has been no change in the overall number of violent crimes experienced by adults between 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS interviews; the apparent four per cent decrease was not statistically significant. The 2008/09 BCS estimates that there were 2,114,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales.² Police recorded violence against the person fell by six per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Within the overall category of police recorded violence against the person, violence with injury and violence without injury also fell, by seven per cent and five per cent respectively (Tables 2.01 and 2.04).

Within the overall category of BCS violence, there has been no change for the specific offence types of wounding, assault with minor injury and assault without injury between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS (the apparent changes were not statistically significant) (Table 2.01). Continuing a similar pattern to previous years, assault without injury accounted for the largest proportion (40%) of all violent incidents measured by the BCS in 2008/09, followed by assault with minor injury (25%), wounding (22%), and robbery (13%) (Table 3.01).

Longer-term trends from the BCS show that the number of violent crimes increased gradually through the 1980s and then sharply after 1991 to reach a peak in the mid-1990s. Substantial declines have been noted subsequently (particularly between 1995 and 2001/02) and the number of violent incidents is now at a similar level to 1981. Incidents of BCS violent crime have fallen by half (49%) since 1995, representing an estimated two million fewer incidents and around three-quarters of a million fewer victims (Figure 3.1 and Table 2.01).

Figure 3.1 All violent crime, 1981 to 2008/09 BCS



1. For an explanation of year-labels, see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

The main trends in violence by offence type show a similar pattern to the overall trend in BCS violence.

- The number of incidents of BCS wounding showed a gradual rise between 1981 and 1995 and have since decreased by half (49%), as is the case with overall violence.

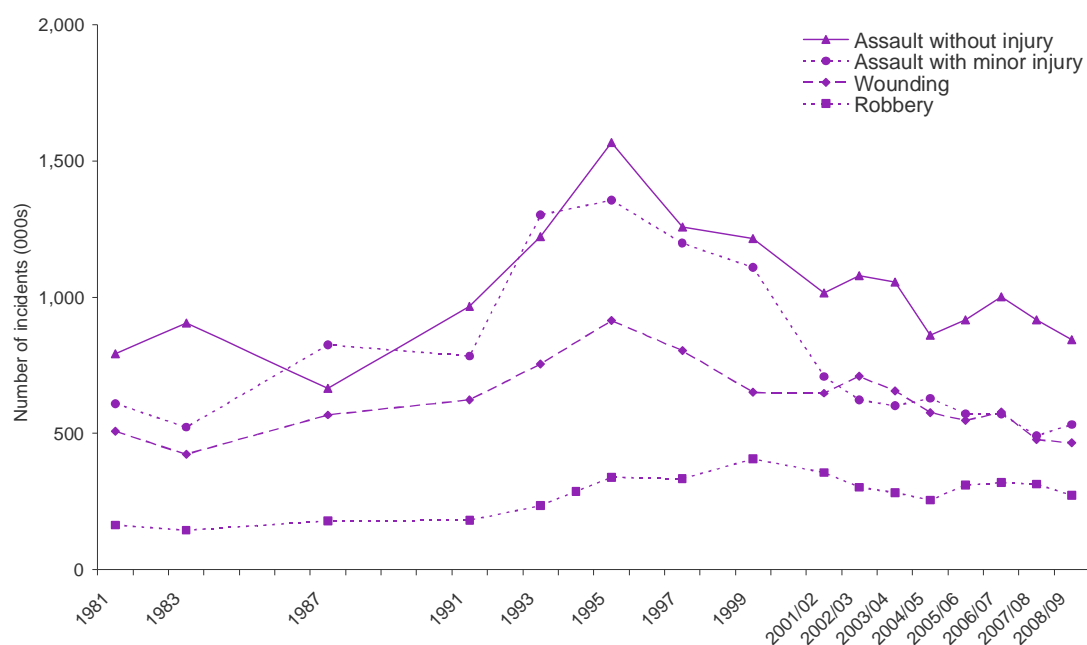
² 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. For more information see Section 5 of Volume 2.

There were 466,000 incidents of wounding estimated by the 2008/09 BCS (Figure 3.2 and Table 2.01).

- Incidents of BCS assault with minor injury have decreased by almost two-thirds (61%) since peaking in 1995 but with little change seen in recent years. The estimated number of assaults with minor injury was 533,000 based on the 2008/09 BCS.
- The BCS shows a steep increase in numbers of assaults without injury between 1987 and 1995, reaching a peak of 1,567,000 incidents. There was then a relatively steep decline to 2001/02, followed by a fluctuating pattern with little overall change in the last five years. This has resulted in an overall decline of 46 per cent since 1995. The 2008/09 BCS estimated 844,000 assaults resulting in no injury.

The small number of incidents of robbery reported to the BCS means that figures for robbery are more subject to fluctuation and the trend should be interpreted with caution (see Section 3.7).

Figure 3.2 Trends in violence by offence type, 1981 to 2008/09 BCS



1. For an explanation of year-labels, see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

There were 903,993 offences of violence against the person recorded by the police in 2008/09, six per cent less than in the previous year and the lowest figure since 2002/03. Although recorded violence against the person has fallen in the last three years, it rose in each of the previous three years following the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002 (Table 2.04). BCS trends in violence did not mirror the recorded crime increases in the years following NCRS introduction, indicating that improved police recording practices and proactive policing were responsible for a large part of these earlier increases in recorded violence against the person.

3.4 RISKS OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

According to the BCS, risk of victimisation varies by personal characteristics, with men, and in particular young men, being at greatest overall risk of violence. One important exception to this general pattern is domestic violence, with women being more at risk of victimisation than men (see Section 3.9). In general, the characteristics of adults with the highest risk of being a victim of violent crime have not changed over the past few years.

- The overall risk of being a victim of violent crime in the 2008/09 BCS was 3.2 per cent. Men were about twice as likely as women (4.4% compared with 2.1%) to have experienced one or more violent crimes in the year prior to interview (Figure 3.3 and Table 3.02).
- Risk was highest for men aged 16 to 24 (13.2%) and then decreased with increasing age, with risk levels at less than one per cent for men aged 65 and older. For women the pattern was similar; those aged 16 to 24 had the highest risk (5.5%) with a decline in risk as age increased.
- Unemployed people (7.6%) had a higher risk of being victims of violence compared with employed people (3.4%).

Reflecting their younger age profile, students (8.6%), single people (7.6%) and those of Mixed ethnicity (7.5%) all had a higher than average risk of being a victim of violent crime. This is likely to be related to lifestyle. For example, people who visited nightclubs more than once a week in the month prior to interview had a higher risk of violent crime (12.4%) than those who had visited nightclubs or discos less than once a week on average (6.6%) or not at all (2.5%).

Risk of victimisation also varies by key household and area characteristics, with people living in more deprived circumstances more likely to be victims. For example:

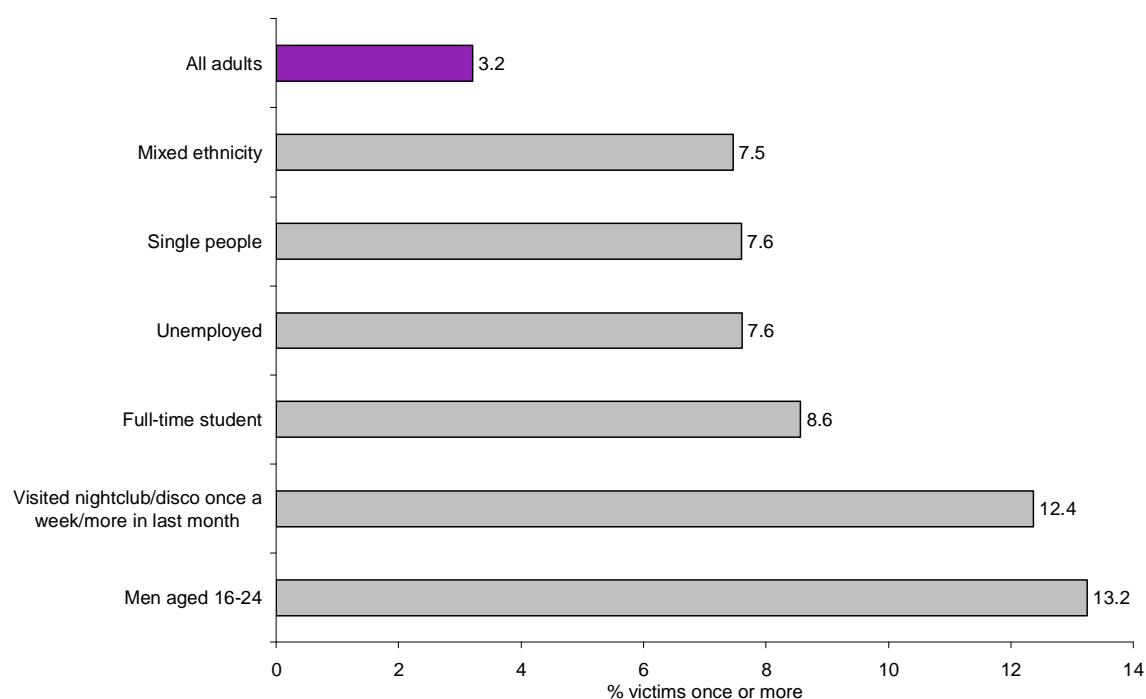
- People living in social-rented accommodation had more than twice the risk of being victims of violence (5.0%) than those living in owner-occupied accommodation (2.1%) (Table 3.03).
- People living in areas where physical disorder was assessed as high³ were more likely to be victims of violent crime (5.7%) than those in areas where it was not (3.1%).
- Risk of being a victim of violence was twice as high for those individuals living in the 20 per cent most deprived areas in England⁴ (4.5%) compared with those in the 20 per cent least deprived areas (2.2%).

A full breakdown of risk of violent crime victimisation by personal, household and area characteristics is shown in Tables 3.02 to 3.05.

³ As assessed by the BCS interviewer, see Section 7 of Volume 2 for more information.

⁴ The Index of Deprivation used for this analysis is restricted to England, see Section 7 of Volume 2 for more information.

Figure 3.3 Adults most at risk of violence, 2008/09 BCS



The above findings are consistent with previous multivariate analysis (logistic regression) of the 2007/08 BCS, which showed that after the influence of other characteristics was taken into account, the factors most strongly independently associated with higher risk of being a victim of violence were:

- being young, in particular aged 16 to 24;
- not being married or widowed; and
- being male.

The model explained around 15 per cent of the variation in the risk of being a victim of violent crime based only on the factors included (see Kershaw *et al.*, 2008 for further detail).

3.5 VIOLENCE AND INJURY

All BCS violence includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. Injury is involved in all incidents of wounding and assault with injury, as well as two in five (42%) incidents of robbery (Table 3.06).

Homicide and violence with injury

The most serious violent crime is homicide;⁵ further analysis of 2008/09 homicides will be published when complete data are available early in 2010. Caution is needed when interpreting homicide trend figures because deaths that are not initially believed to be suspicious may be re-categorised as homicides at a later date. The police record such incidents at the time of re-classification, not the year of death.

Provisional data show that the police recorded 648 incidents of homicide, a 17 per cent decrease on the 784 recorded in 2007/08 and the lowest recorded number in the last 20

⁵ The police statistics for the number of homicides include murders, manslaughters and infanticides that come to the attention of the police.

years (Table 2.04).⁶ The number of attempted murders recorded by the police also decreased, by seven per cent, from 621 in 2007/08 to 575 in 2008/09.

Around half of violent incidents identified in both the BCS and police recorded crime statistics involve injury. According to the 2008/09 BCS, just over half (52%) of all violent incidents resulted in injury to the victim, showing no change since the previous year (Table 3.06). Offences with injury accounted for nearly half (47%) of all police recorded violence against the person offences in 2008/09. The police recorded 421,157 violence against the person offences that involved injury in 2008/09, seven per cent less than in 2007/08 and the lowest figure since 2002/03 (Table 2.04).⁷

After increases up to a peak in the mid-1990s, the BCS shows that the substantial fall in overall violent crime since 1995 is evident for violence with injury. BCS interviews in 2008/09 show the number of violent crimes with injury is at a similar level to that first reported by the BCS in 1981 (Table 2.01).

The types of injuries experienced in BCS violent incidents are similar to previous years. According to the 2008/09 BCS, the most common injuries sustained in violent incidents were minor bruising or a black eye (34%), followed by cuts (15%) and severe bruising (13%). The 2008/09 BCS shows that in 15 per cent of violent incidents the victim received some form of medical attention; in ten per cent of incidents victims received attention from a doctor and around two per cent of all violent incidents resulted in an overnight hospital stay (Table 3.06).

Although not classified as National Statistics, further evidence on trends in violent crime involving injury is available from administrative data collected from health services. The Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University (Sivarajasingam *et al.*, 2009) conduct an annual study covering a sample of Emergency Departments and Walk-in Centres in England and Wales. Previously the trend in violence indicated by these data have broadly corresponded with trends from the BCS and police recorded crime with an overall decrease of 24 per cent in violence-related injury since 2001. However, the 2008 report showed an overall increase of seven per cent in violence-related Emergency Department attendances in 2008 compared with 2007, the first annual increase seen since 2001. This was mainly due to a rise in violence experienced by men and women aged 31 to 50. In accordance with BCS findings, those at highest risk of violence-related injury were young men.

Violence without injury

The BCS shows that, in common with the general trend for violence, incidents of violence without injury increased up to a peak in 1995, followed by a substantial fall. There were just under a million (998,000) incidents of violence without injury estimated by the 2008/09 survey. The apparent 12 per cent decrease in violence without injury between 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS interviews was not statistically significant. (Table 2.01).

Police recorded crime figures show that the number of violence against the person offences that did not involve injury has decreased in the past year. The police recorded 482,836 violence against the person offences in 2008/09 that did not involve injury, five per cent less than in 2007/08 and the lowest figure since 2002/03 (Table 2.04).⁸

⁶ Figures for police recorded homicide prior to 1997 are available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/recorded-crime-1898-2002.xls>.

⁷ The 'with injury' offences include homicide, attempted murder, causing death by dangerous driving, grievous bodily harm with or without intent or other act endangering life and actual bodily harm and other injury.

⁸ The 'without injury' offences include threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children, and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

3.6 OFFENCES INVOLVING WEAPONS

The BCS provides an indication of weapons⁹ used in violent offences, and an estimate of the trends in weapon use over time. Weapons were used in about one in five (21%) incidents of violent crime as measured by the BCS in 2008/09, no change from the 2007/08 BCS, and this proportion has been stable over the past decade (Table 3.07).

The most common types of weapons used were knives (7%), glasses or bottles (5%), and hitting implements¹⁰ (4%). Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, the use of knives and glasses or bottles has remained stable while the use of hitting implements has decreased (from 7% of all violent incidents to 4%).

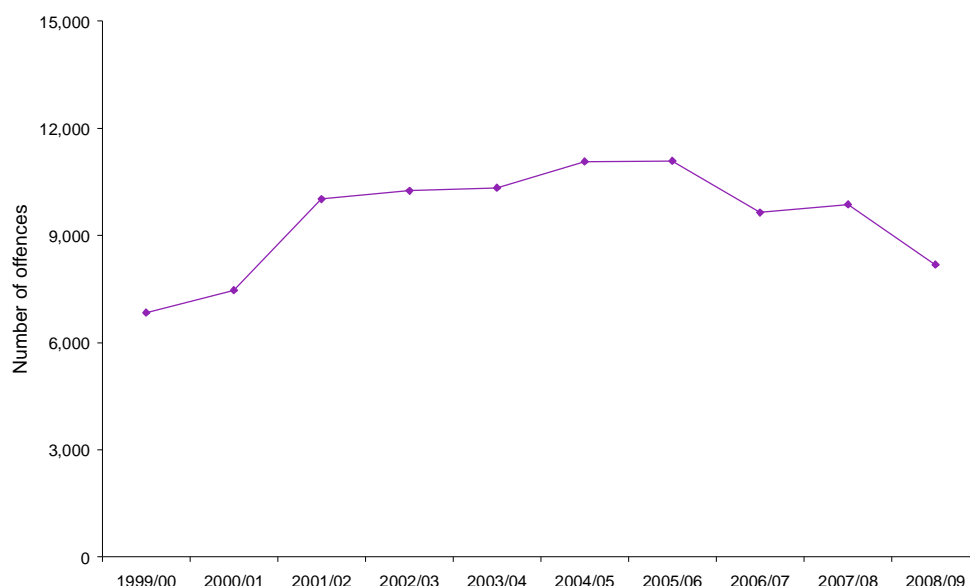
Offences involving firearms

According to the 2008/09 BCS, a firearm¹¹ was used in just one per cent of violent incidents; no change compared with the 2007/08 survey (Table 3.07). Between 1995 and 2008/09, the proportion of incidents of BCS violence where a firearm was used has remained stable at or below one per cent. The small numbers of incidents involving use of a firearm in a sample survey such as the BCS means that firearm offences recorded by the police provide a better picture of the nature of such offences (though not all such offences are likely to come to the attention of the police).

Provisional statistics for 2008/09¹² are available for police recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons (referred to as 'firearm offences' in the remainder of this section). Firearms are taken to be involved in an incident if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used in a threat.

Provisional figures show that 8,184 firearm offences were recorded in 2008/09 in England and Wales, a 17 per cent decrease on 2007/08 (Table 3.08). Numbers peaked in 2005/06 (11,088 offences) since when firearm offences have decreased by 26 per cent, representing 2,904 fewer offences (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4 Trend in recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons



⁹ BCS 'weapons' include bottles/drinking glasses, knives, screwdrivers/stabbing implements, hitting implements, firearms, stones and syringes.

¹⁰ This category includes sticks, clubs and other hitting implements.

¹¹ Including pistol, rifle, shotgun, airgun, air rifle, and any firearm which could not be identified.

¹² Final figures will be published in a forthcoming Supplementary Bulletin.

Firearm offences can be broken down by injury and this shows there were 38 firearm offences recorded by the police that resulted in a fatal injury (i.e. homicides) in 2008/09, 15 offences fewer than in 2007/08.

There was a substantial fall between 2007/08 and 2008/09 in firearm offences involving injury, which decreased by around half (46%). Most of this was due to reductions in offences that resulted in slight injuries, down 50 per cent from 2,786 to 1,402. Many of the slight injuries were caused by imitation weapons (some of which fire plastic pellets). There was a smaller fall in offences that resulted in serious injuries, down 20 per cent from 402 to 320 (Table 3.08).

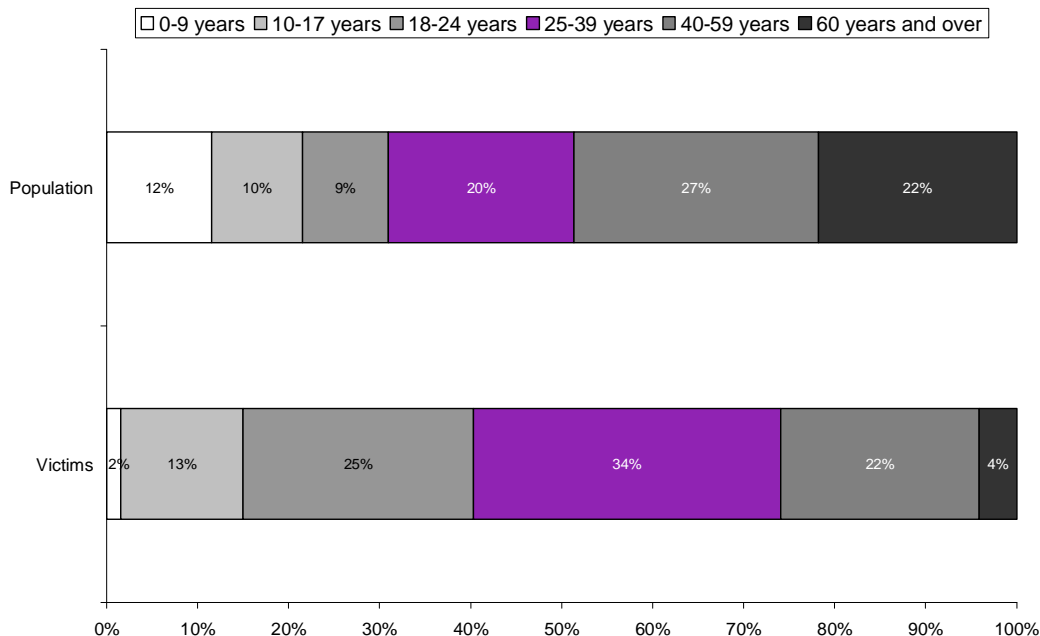
Offences involving threats to use a firearm increased by one per cent (to 5,134 offences), while the number of firearm offences that resulted in no injury decreased by 18 per cent (to 1,290 offences).

Analysis by the type of weapon shows there was a large decrease in the number of firearm offences involving imitation weapons in 2008/09 and small rises in the number involving handguns and shotguns (Table 3.09).

- Handguns were used in 4,250 offences during 2008/09, two per cent (78 offences) more than in 2007/08. Shotguns were used in 617 offences, up two per cent (15 offences).
- Imitation weapons were used in 1,502 offences in 2008/09, 41 per cent fewer than in the previous year. This total is 55 per cent lower than the peak of 3,373 offences in 2004/05.

People aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 39 comprise a disproportionate share of victims of firearm offences (in which the age of the victim was known): 25 per cent of victims were aged 18 to 24 whereas they formed just nine per cent of the population; the comparable figures for 25 to 39 year olds were 34 per cent and 20 per cent (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by age of victim, 2008/09



Firearm offences tend to be concentrated in just three police forces: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands. For example, in 2007/08 these three forces accounted for 56 per cent of all police recorded firearm offences across England and Wales (Povey *et al.*, 2009). Final figures for police force areas will be published when finalised data are available in early 2010.

Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

It is difficult to obtain a good overview of the extent of knife crime as there are various sources of data, each covering different aspects of the range of offences involving knives. Three sources are presented here: information from the BCS, offences recorded by the police and NHS figures on hospital admissions for assaults with a sharp object.

The 2008/09 BCS shows no change in the use of knives in all types of violent incidents compared with the 2007/08 BCS (7% compared with 6%; the 1% point rise was not statistically significant). The proportion of violent incidents where a knife was used has remained at or below eight per cent since 1995 (Table 3.07). However, as a sample survey, the BCS includes relatively few incidents of the more serious violent offences in which knives may be used, such as robbery, and does not cover the most serious violent offence, homicide.

As with firearm offences, information collected from the police can supplement BCS data but is limited by the fact it covers only those offences that come to the attention of the police. Since April 2007 the Home Office has collected additional statistics from police forces on certain serious violent offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument.¹³ Knives are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. For 2007/08 the offences that were included where a knife had been used were attempted murder, GBH with intent, GBH without intent and robbery.

Additional offence categories (threats to kill, ABH, sexual assault and rape offences where a knife was involved) were added to the knife crime collection in 2008/09. There was also a clarification in Counting Rules for GBH with intent (as described in Box 2.1 in Chapter 2) which means that the total numbers of offences that involve knives are not comparable between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Due to the clarification in Counting Rules, GBH without intent offences that involve knives should also not be compared between 2007/08 and 2008/09.¹⁴ For these reasons comparison between years are only possible for the offences of homicide (figures for which are provisional), attempted murder and robbery. Homicides and attempted murders are rare and account for less than one per cent of all knife offences. Due to the rarity of these offences, comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

Additional information on sharp instrument homicides is taken from the separate Homicide Index. For the selected offences excluding homicide, the police recorded 37,830 offences involving knives in 2008/09, accounting for seven per cent of total offences in the selected serious violent categories (Table 3.10).

- There was a fall in the number of homicide offences involving a knife or other sharp instrument¹⁵ (from 270 to 252) between 2007/08 and 2008/09, but a rise in attempted murders involving knives (from 245 to 271) over the same period. This is in context of falls in total recorded offences of homicide and attempted murder (by 17% and 7% respectively) leading to an increase in the proportion of homicides and attempted murders involving a sharp instrument (up from 35% to 39% and from 39% to 47% respectively) (Tables 2.04 and 3.10).
- Robbery offences involving knives fell by two per cent from 17,058 in 2007/08 to 16,701 in 2008/09. Overall robberies recorded by the police fell by five per cent, resulting in a slight increase in the proportion of robberies involving knives (from 20% in 2007/08 to 21% in 2008/09).

¹³ A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle.

¹⁴ For GBH without intent there was some narrowing of offence definition to exclude some wounding offences that do not constitute GBH. The collection of information on GBH without intent for offences involving knives started in April 2007, but according to a wider definition than that subsequently used from April 2008.

¹⁵ The knife homicide figures for 2008/09 are provisional and will not be finalised until their publication in January 2010. Full details of methods and circumstances of homicides recorded in 2007/08 were published earlier this year within *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08* (Povey *et al.*, 2009).

The most numerous offences where a knife was involved were ABH and GBH (including wounding or carrying out an act endangering life). The 18,940 knife offences represented just five per cent of all ABH and GBH offences recorded by the police during 2008/09. There were 1,549 threats to kill and 369 rapes and sexual assaults¹⁶ involving knives in 2008/09. The use of a knife in these sexual offences is rare, at two per cent for rape and one per cent for sexual assaults (Table 3.10).

In general, the more urban forces tended to record higher proportions of offences involving knives than the more rural ones. Figures by police force area for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are included in Chapter 7 (see Tables 7.11 and 7.12).

The NHS provides an additional source of information for the more serious incidents of knife crime, the number of admissions to NHS hospitals in England involving wounds suffered as the result of assault with a sharp object. Although these figures can be affected by changes in NHS practice and recording they are not likely to be affected by police enforcement activity or changes to public reporting or police recording practices. The provisional 'Hospital Episode Statistics', show that in the 12 months from March 2008 to February 2009 there were 4,847 Admission Episodes for assault by sharp object in England, eight per cent less compared with the same period in the previous year.¹⁷ Assaults with a sharp object comprise around one in eight hospital admissions for assault. These figures are for admissions only and do not include those people who attended an Accident and Emergency department, but were not subsequently admitted to hospital.

3.7 ROBBERY

Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. It covers a wide variety of different incidents such as bank robbery, mobile phone robbery and street robbery, regardless of the amount of money or property stolen.

The BCS covers personal robberies against adults resident in households. The 272,000 robberies estimated by the 2008/09 BCS represent no change compared to the previous year. (Figure 3.2 and Table 2.01). However, the low number of robbery victims interviewed in the survey means that estimates tend to fluctuate from one year to the next and trends need to be interpreted carefully.

Police recorded robberies are down five per cent from the previous year to 80,104 offences and are now at their lowest level since the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002. The vast majority (88%) of robberies in 2008/09 were of personal property. While robberies of personal property fell between 2007/08 and 2008/09 (by 6% to 70,760), robberies of business property (such as robberies in a shop or of cash in transit) rose slightly (by 2% to 9,344) (Table 2.04).

All crime tends to be geographically concentrated, but this is particularly the case for robberies. In 2008/09, 59 per cent of robberies in England and Wales were recorded by just three of the 44 police forces in England and Wales: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands (Table 7.03).

From 2007/08 the Home Office has collected supplementary data on the taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking). Data were received from 41 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales and these show that three per cent of robberies in 2008/09 involved the taking of a vehicle, the same as in the previous year.

¹⁶ Includes indecent assault on a male/female, sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).

¹⁷ The figures presented are the latest provisional data available from <http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk>. Hospital Episode Statistics for the 12 months to March 2009 will be published on 31 July 2009.

3.8 SEXUAL OFFENCES

Since respondents may not wish to disclose information on their experience of sexual and domestic violence in the context of a face-to-face interview, additional questions have been included in the BCS on a consistent basis in self-completion modules since 2004/05. Self-completion methods of data collection allow for more privacy and therefore obtain better information on such sensitive topics (see Section 2 of Volume 2).

Analysis of the self-completion module has previously been published in a Supplementary Volume to the annual Crime in England and Wales bulletin. This year the headline figures on prevalence of intimate violence are included here; with further in-depth analysis to be published at a later date.

There were no changes in the overall prevalence of sexual assault between 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS interviews as measured by the self-completion module. The overall prevalence of sexual assault has declined since 2004/05 BCS interviews, due to a decrease amongst men (Table 3.12 and 3.13).

Based on the 2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence, approximately three per cent of women aged 16 to 59 and less than one per cent of men (of the same age) had experienced a sexual assault (including attempts) in the previous 12 months. The majority of these are accounted for by less serious sexual assaults. Less than one per cent of both women and men reported having experienced a serious sexual assault (Table 3.11).¹⁸

There were 51,488 sexual offences recorded by the police in 2008/09, four per cent less than in the previous year and the lowest figure since the introduction of the NCRS. The sensitivity of reporting sexual offences has resulted in under-reporting of these offences to the police and attempts have been made to encourage greater reporting, so trends in sexual offences should be interpreted with caution.

Most serious sexual crime recorded by the police

This category of police recorded crime encompasses rape, sexual assault, and sexual activity with children. The sensitivity of these offences has resulted in under-reporting, and work is ongoing to improve this (e.g. through the opening of more sexual assault referral centres).¹⁹ Additionally, the Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of all three categories. Trends in police recorded sexual offences should be considered with regard to these issues.

The police recorded 40,787 most serious sexual offences in 2008/09, two per cent fewer than the 41,440 recorded in 2007/08. These offences accounted for 79 per cent of total sexual offences and just under one per cent of all recorded crime in 2008/09. Within this total, police recorded rapes of a female increased by five per cent to 12,165 offences, and sexual assaults on a female fell by four per cent to 19,740 offences. Rapes of a male decreased by four per cent to 968 offences and sexual assaults on a male fell by 12 per cent to 2,323 offences (Table 2.04).

Other sexual offences recorded by the police

This group of police recorded crime covers unlawful sexual activity, some involving consenting adults and is therefore particularly influenced by police activity in investigating such crime. It includes exploitation of prostitution and soliciting, but not prostitution itself.²⁰ The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, introduced certain offences such as sexual grooming which is included in this group. The police recorded 10,701 other sexual

¹⁸ See Section 5 of Volume 2 for definitions of categories of intimate violence.

¹⁹ The Government's approach to tackling sexual violence is detailed in the Sexual Violence Action Plan (<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/sexualoffences/finalsvaap.pdf>).

²⁰ Prostitution in itself is not a notifiable offence; trafficking for sexual exploitation is included in most serious sexual crime.

offences in 2008/09, 11 per cent fewer than in 2007/08. Within this total there were falls in incest or familial sexual offences (7% to 1,045 offences) and soliciting for the purposes of prostitution (12% to 1,071 offences) while there was a 16 per cent rise in sexual grooming, to 315 offences (Table 2.04).

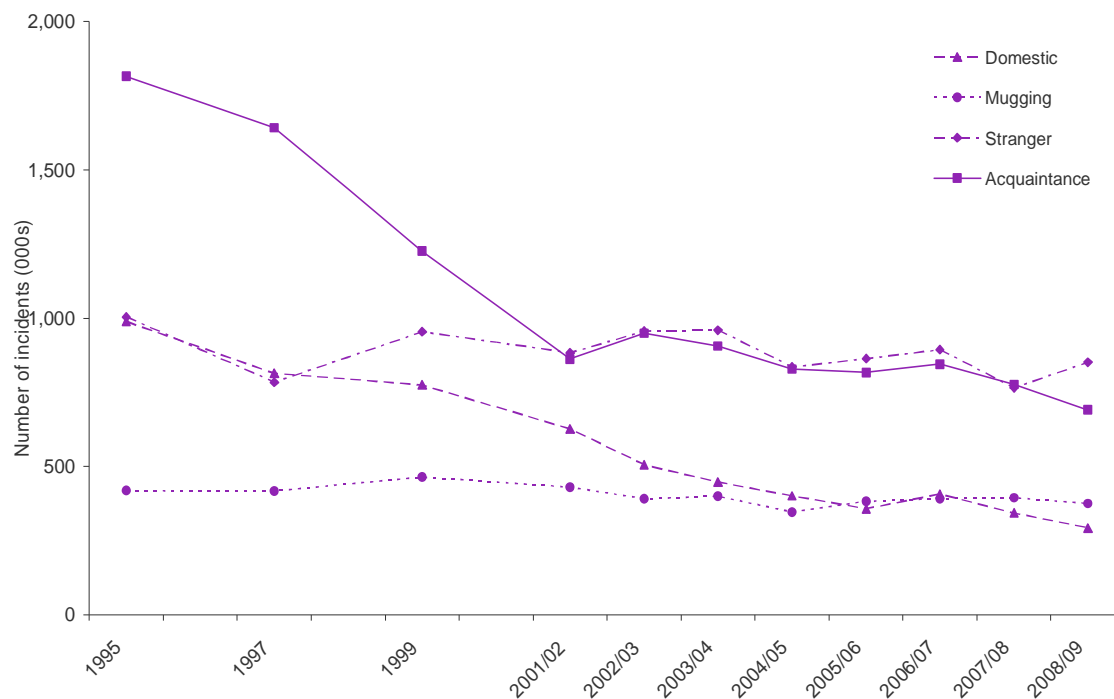
3.9 VICTIM-OFFENDER ASSOCIATION

Victims were able to provide some details about the offender(s) in nearly all (99%) incidents of violence reported to the BCS (Table 3.14). Based on this information, violent crime measured by the BCS can be subdivided into four types (domestic, acquaintance, stranger violence and mugging), broadly on the basis of the relationship between the offender(s) and victim (see Section 5 of Volume 2).

The increase seen in overall violence between 1981 and the mid-1990s was reflected in increases in the number of incidents for each type of BCS violence (apart from mugging). Following the peak in 1995 there have been large and statistically significant falls in domestic and acquaintance violence (70% and 62% respectively), but stranger violence has remained stable. The number of muggings has remained relatively stable over the entire period from 1981 to 2008/09 (Figure 3.6 and Table 2.01).

Forty per cent of the estimated 2,114,000 violent incidents recorded by the BCS in 2008/09 were incidents of stranger violence, and a further 33 per cent were incidents of acquaintance violence. Domestic violence accounted for about one in seven (14%) violent incidents as measured on the main BCS (Table 3.01). This is a relatively small proportion of all BCS violence but domestic violence is likely to be under-reported in face-to-face BCS interviews. Prevalence rates for domestic violence from the self-completion module are around five times higher than rates obtained from face-to-face interviews on the main BCS (see Walby and Allen, 2004).

Figure 3.6 Trends in violent crime by type of violence, 1995 to 2008/09 BCS



1. For an explanation of year-labels, see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

Stranger violence is more likely to be experienced by men while women are at greater risk of domestic violence.

- According to the 2008/09 BCS, risk of stranger violence was substantially greater for men than for women; 2.4 per cent of men were victims of stranger violence, compared with 0.5 per cent of women. Half (50%) of violent incidents against men were stranger violence, compared with less than a quarter (21%) of incidents against women. Most (83%) victims in incidents of stranger violence were men (Tables 3.01 and 3.04).
- The risk of domestic violence, as measured by the main BCS, was significantly higher for women (0.6%) than for men (0.2%). Around one in three (31%) violent incidents against women was domestic violence, compared with five per cent of incidents against men. In over three-quarters (77%) of incidents of domestic violence the victims were women (Tables 3.01 and 3.04).

Figures from the BCS self-completion module on intimate violence give a more complete picture of violence carried out by partners or family members. The higher risk of domestic violence victimisation for women is also evident in figures derived from this module. Based on the 2008/09 module, six per cent of women aged 16 to 59 were victims of domestic abuse in the past year compared with four per cent of men. Prevalence of any domestic abuse has decreased for men but not for women between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS, although prevalence of any domestic abuse for both men and women is lower compared with the 2004/05 BCS (Table 3.11).²¹

In 2008/09, as in previous years, (non-sexual) partner abuse was the most common type of intimate violence, experienced by four per cent of women and three per cent of men in the last year. Prevalence of (non-sexual) family abuse was lower with two per cent of both men and women aged 16 to 59 reporting having experienced this form of intimate violence.

Among men the prevalence of (non-sexual) partner abuse has decreased (from 4% to 3%) compared with the previous year and is at a lower level than the 2004/05 BCS. (Non-sexual) family abuse has increased among men (from 1% to 2%) compared with the previous year and is at a similar level to the 2004/05 BCS. Among women, both (non-sexual) partner abuse and (non-sexual) family abuse remained stable compared with the previous year, although they are both at a lower level compared with the 2004/05 BCS (Table 3.12).²²

Offenders in violent incidents were most likely to be young (in 55% of violent incidents the offender was believed to be aged between 16 and 24 years) and male (81% of violent incidents involved male offenders), as was the case with victims of overall violent crime. In half (50%) of violent incidents reported to BCS interviewers the offender was a stranger (Table 3.14).

²¹ Domestic abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member. However, stalking has been removed from figures for domestic abuse used in trend analysis to create a comparable measure with previous years as questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence. 'Domestic abuse' is not directly comparable to the main BCS 'domestic violence' category.

²² See Volume 2 for definitions of categories of intimate violence.

3.10 INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

According to the 2008/09 BCS, victims believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in nearly half (47%) of all violent incidents, similar to the level in the 2007/08 survey (46%).²³ In nearly one in five (17%) incidents the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of drugs; again no statistically significant change since 2007/08 (19%). Victims believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol most frequently in incidents of stranger violence (62% of incidents). There were less differences between types of violence in the victims' perception of whether the offender was under the influence of drugs (Table 3.15).

Based on the 2008/09 BCS, there were 973,000 violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol and 334,000 incidents where the victim perceived the offender(s) to be under the influence of drugs. The number of alcohol-related and drug-related violent incidents are similar to the levels in 2007/08 (the apparent differences are not statistically significant). Longer-term trends show there have been significant decreases since 1995 in the number of violent incidents believed by victims to involve offender(s) under the influence of either alcohol or drugs. This is in the context of the overall fall in the number of violent crimes. The proportion of alcohol-related incidents has increased over this period and the proportion of drug-related incidents has remained relatively stable (Table 3.16).

²³ Questions were asked if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), which they could do in nearly all (99%) incidents. If there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender was perceived to be under school age.

Table 3.01 Number of violent incidents against men and women by violence category

Numbers and percentages	2008/09 BCS								
	Number of incidents (thousands)			Percentage ² of incidents by offence/type			Percentage of incidents by sex		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
All violence¹	1,393	720	2,114	100	100	100	66	34	100
Wounding	312	153	466	22	21	22	67	33	100
Assault with minor injury	332	200	533	24	28	25	62	38	100
Assault without injury	552	292	844	40	41	40	65	35	100
Robbery	197	75	272	14	10	13	72	28	100
Domestic	67	226	293	5	31	14	23	77	100
Acquaintance	421	270	691	30	37	33	61	39	100
Stranger	703	148	852	50	21	40	83	17	100
Mugging (<i>robbery & snatch theft</i>)	244	131	375	17	18	18	65	35	100

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding and also, within the bottom half of the table, the inclusion of the snatch theft category within 'mugging'.

Table 3.02 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by offence type and personal characteristics

Percentages							2008/09 BCS						
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Unweighted base		All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Unweighted base
	% victims once or more							% victims once or more					
ALL ADULTS	3.2	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.5	46,220	Respondent's employment status						
16-24	9.5	2.3	2.8	3.6	1.7	3,850	In employment	3.4	0.7	0.9	1.5	0.6	25,699
25-34	4.3	1.3	0.8	1.7	0.8	6,428	Unemployed	7.6	2.6	2.2	2.8	1.1	1,143
35-44	2.9	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.3	8,706	Economically inactive	2.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.4	19,261
45-54	2.1	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.3	7,457	Student	8.7	1.7	2.9	3.3	1.3	1,107
55-64	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.1	7,825	Looking after family/home	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.3	2,534
65-74	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	6,297	Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	5.4	2.5	0.6	1.8	1.1	2,085
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	5,657	Retired	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	12,982
							Other inactive	5.6	2.1	1.3	0.9	1.7	553
Men	4.4	1.1	1.0	1.8	0.8	20,826	Respondent's occupation						
16-24	13.2	3.3	3.4	5.4	2.4	1,785	Managerial and professional occupations	2.2	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.3	15,220
25-34	5.8	1.6	1.0	2.2	1.1	2,787	Intermediate occupations	2.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.3	9,674
35-44	3.5	1.0	0.8	1.6	0.3	3,997	Routine and manual occupations	3.3	0.8	0.9	1.3	0.6	17,719
45-54	2.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.4	3,548	Never worked and long-term unemployed	4.2	2.0	0.7	0.9	1.2	1,563
55-64	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	3,577	Full-time students	8.6	1.4	2.7	3.6	1.6	1,803
65-74	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	2,898	Not classified	7.5	2.9	0.3	4.5	0.0	241
75+	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	2,234	Highest qualification						
Women	2.1	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.3	25,394	Degree or diploma	2.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	14,797
16-24	5.5	1.3	2.3	1.7	0.8	2,065	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	3.9	0.9	0.9	1.8	0.6	7,565
25-34	2.8	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.5	3,641	O level/GCSE	4.7	1.2	1.5	1.7	0.7	9,190
35-44	2.3	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.3	4,709	Other	3.4	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.6	1,886
45-54	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.2	3,909	None	2.2	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.4	12,680
55-64	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	4,248	Long-standing illness or disability						
65-74	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	3,399	Long-standing illness or disability	2.7	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.5	12,696
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	3,423	Limits activities	2.7	1.0	0.4	1.1	0.4	8,771
							Does not limit activities	2.6	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.6	3,925
							No long-standing illness or disability	3.3	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.6	33,449
Ethnic group							Hours out of home on an average weekday						
White	3.3	0.8	0.9	1.3	0.5	42,872	Less than 3 hours	1.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.3	13,470
Non-White	2.8	0.7	0.2	1.2	1.0	3,338	3 hours less than 7 hours	3.0	0.8	0.6	1.2	0.5	12,376
Mixed	7.5	1.7	0.3	3.6	3.1	287	7 hours or longer	4.1	0.9	1.1	1.7	0.7	20,255
Asian or Asian British	2.4	0.6	0.1	0.8	1.0	1,559	Number of evening visits to bar in last month						
Black or Black British	2.7	0.7	0.3	1.6	0.4	1,000	None	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.4	23,443
Chinese or other	2.0	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.7	492	Less than once a week	3.3	0.8	1.0	1.4	0.4	12,725
							Once a week or more often	5.2	1.3	1.4	2.0	0.9	10,048
Marital status							Number of visits to a nightclub in last month						
Married	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.2	21,671	None	2.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.4	41,891
Cohabiting	3.8	1.0	1.0	1.4	0.7	4,154	Less than once a week	6.6	2.0	1.5	2.7	1.0	3,405
Single	7.6	2.0	2.1	2.8	1.4	9,394	Once a week or more often	12.4	2.5	3.4	4.5	3.1	923
Separated	4.9	1.6	1.1	1.7	0.6	1,419							
Divorced	3.2	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.5	4,164							
Widowed	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	5,397							

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. See Section 7 of Volume 2 for definitions of personal characteristics.

Table 3.03 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by offence type, household and area characteristics

Percentages							2008/09 BCS						
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Unweighted base	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Unweighted base	
	% victims once or more						% victims once or more						
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	3.2	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.5	46,220							
Sex of household reference person							Accommodation type						
Male	3.0	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.6	28,591	Houses	3.0	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.5	38,993
Female	3.6	1.0	1.0	1.5	0.6	17,629	<i>Detached</i>	2.0	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.3	12,009
							<i>Semi-detached</i>	3.2	0.6	0.8	1.3	0.5	14,581
Age of household reference person							<i>Terraced</i>	3.8	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.5	12,403
16-24	8.2	2.2	2.4	3.1	1.8	1,515	Flats/maisonettes	4.6	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.1	5,466
25-34	4.3	1.3	0.7	1.7	0.8	5,827	Other accommodation	1.5	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.0	222
35-44	4.0	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.4	9,323	Output area classification						
45-54	3.7	1.0	1.0	1.4	0.6	8,793	Blue collar communities	3.9	1.3	1.0	1.4	0.5	7,517
55-64	2.5	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.5	8,303	City living	5.5	0.8	1.3	2.1	1.4	1,996
65-74	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	6,506	Countryside	2.3	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.2	6,927
75+	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	5,916	Prospering suburbs	1.9	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	10,509
							Constrained by circumstances	4.6	1.6	1.1	1.5	0.7	4,356
Structure of household							Typical traits	3.4	0.8	0.9	1.6	0.5	9,110
Single adult & child(ren)	5.9	2.2	1.7	2.3	0.5	2,384	Multicultural	3.5	0.7	0.6	1.3	1.2	3,524
Adults & child(ren)	3.5	0.9	0.8	1.6	0.5	10,271	Area type						
Adult(s) & no children	3.0	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.6	33,565	Urban	3.5	0.9	0.9	1.4	0.6	34,312
							Rural	2.2	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.2	11,908
Household reference person's employment status							Level of physical disorder						
In employment	3.5	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.6	27,966	High	5.7	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.0	2,505
Unemployed	4.7	1.8	1.5	1.5	0.7	798	Not high	3.1	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.5	42,162
Economically inactive	2.4	0.8	0.4	1.0	0.4	17,340	Living environment deprivation index						
<i>Student</i>	8.0	1.9	2.1	4.0	0.4	420	20% most deprived output areas	4.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.8	7,832
<i>Looking after family/home</i>	4.6	1.5	0.8	2.0	0.8	1,539	Other output areas	3.3	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.6	25,571
<i>Long-term/temporarily sick/ill</i>	8.0	3.5	1.2	2.6	1.6	2,003	20% least deprived output areas	2.2	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.2	8,682
<i>Retired</i>	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	12,962							
<i>Other inactive</i>	5.5	2.2	1.1	2.3	0.1	416							
Household reference person's occupation													
Managerial and professional occupations	2.6	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.4	17,182							
Intermediate occupations	2.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6	9,370							
Routine and manual occupations	3.5	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.6	17,322							
Never worked and long-term unemployed	4.1	1.8	0.7	1.1	1.5	1,219							
Full-time students	7.0	1.2	1.8	3.1	1.4	724							
Not classified	6.9	1.3	1.3	4.4	0.6	402							
Total household income													
Less than £10,000	3.7	1.3	0.8	1.3	0.5	6,914							
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.1	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.5	8,239							
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.8	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.3	6,276							
£30,000 less than £40,000	3.0	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.4	4,886							
£40,000 less than £50,000	2.6	0.3	1.1	1.1	0.4	3,676							
£50,000 or more	3.2	0.6	0.7	1.4	0.7	5,889							
Tenure													
Owners	2.1	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.3	32,250							
Social renters	5.0	1.7	1.1	1.8	0.9	7,532							
Private renters	5.9	1.2	1.4	2.5	1.2	6,267							

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. See Section 7 of Volume 2 for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Table 3.04 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by type of violence and personal characteristics

Percentages							2008/09 BCS						
	All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	Unweighted base		All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	Unweighted base
	% victims once or more							% victims once or more					
All adults	3.2	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	46,220	Respondent's employment status						
16-24	9.5	0.8	3.3	4.5	2.2	3,850	In employment	3.4	0.3	1.0	1.7	0.8	25,699
25-34	4.3	0.4	1.2	2.0	1.0	6,428	Unemployed	7.6	0.8	3.1	3.4	1.1	1,143
35-44	2.9	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.5	8,706	Economically inactive	2.5	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.6	19,261
45-54	2.1	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.4	7,457	Student	8.7	1.1	3.1	3.8	1.8	1,107
55-64	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	7,825	Looking after family/home	2.6	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	2,534
65-74	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	6,297	Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	5.4	0.7	2.2	1.9	1.6	2,085
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	5,657	Retired	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	12,982
							Other inactive	5.6	1.0	1.8	1.2	1.8	553
Men	4.4	0.2	1.3	2.4	0.9	20,826	Respondent's occupation						
16-24	13.2	0.3	4.2	7.5	3.0	1,785	Managerial and professional occupations	2.2	0.2	0.7	1.0	0.6	15,220
25-34	5.8	0.2	1.3	3.3	1.4	2,787	Intermediate occupations	2.5	0.2	0.8	1.3	0.5	9,674
35-44	3.5	0.2	1.0	2.0	0.5	3,997	Routine and manual occupations	3.3	0.4	1.1	1.4	0.8	17,719
45-54	2.7	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.4	3,548	Never worked and long-term unemployed	4.2	0.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	1,563
55-64	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	3,577	Full-time students	8.6	0.9	3.0	3.9	2.1	1,803
65-74	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	2,898	Not classified	7.5	1.8	0.6	4.3	0.0	241
75+	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	2,234							
Women	2.1	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	25,394	Highest qualification						
16-24	5.5	1.3	2.4	1.5	1.4	2,065	Degree or diploma	2.6	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.8	14,797
25-34	2.8	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.6	3,641	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	3.9	0.2	0.8	2.4	0.9	7,565
35-44	2.3	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	4,709	O level/GCSE	4.7	0.7	2.0	1.7	0.9	9,190
45-54	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	3,909	Other	3.4	0.2	0.7	2.0	0.7	1,886
55-64	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	4,248	None	2.2	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.5	12,680
65-74	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	3,399							
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	3,423	Long-standing illness or disability						
							Long-standing illness or disability	2.7	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.6	12,696
							Limits activities	2.7	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.6	8,771
							Does not limit activities	2.6	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.7	3,925
							No long-standing illness or disability	3.3	0.3	1.1	1.6	0.8	33,449
Ethnic group							Hours out of home on an average weekday						
White	3.3	0.4	1.1	1.5	0.7	42,872	Less than 3 hours	1.6	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	13,470
Non-White	2.8	0.2	0.7	1.2	1.4	3,338	3 hours less than 7 hours	3.0	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.6	12,376
Mixed	7.5	0.2	2.9	2.4	3.5	287	7 hours or longer	4.1	0.4	1.3	2.0	1.0	20,255
Asian or Asian British	2.4	0.1	0.3	1.1	1.6	1,559							
Black or Black British	2.7	0.4	1.2	1.0	0.8	1,000	Number of evening visits to bar in last month						
Chinese or other	2.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.7	492	None	2.2	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	23,443
							Less than once a week	3.3	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.7	12,725
							Once a week or more often	5.2	0.4	1.4	2.7	1.0	10,048
Marital status							Number of visits to a nightclub in last month						
Married	1.4	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.3	21,671	None	2.5	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.6	41,891
Cohabiting	3.8	0.4	1.2	1.7	0.8	4,154	Less than once a week	6.6	0.6	1.9	3.4	1.4	3,405
Single	7.6	0.7	2.5	3.5	1.9	9,394	Once a week or more often	12.4	0.9	3.2	6.1	3.3	923
Separated	4.9	1.9	1.3	1.2	0.7	1,419							
Divorced	3.2	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.7	4,164							
Widowed	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	5,397							

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. See Section 7 of Volume 2 for definitions of personal characteristics.

Table 3.05 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by type of violence, household and area characteristics

Percentages							2008/09 BCS						
	All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	Unweighted base	All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	Unweighted base	
% victims once or more							% victims once or more						
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	3.2	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.7	46,220	Accommodation type						
Sex of household reference person							Houses	3.0	0.4	1.0	1.4	0.6	38,993
Male	3.0	0.2	0.9	1.5	0.7	28,591	Detached	2.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.4	12,009
Female	3.6	0.7	1.3	1.3	0.8	17,629	Semi-detached	3.2	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.7	14,581
Age of household reference person							Terraced	3.8	0.5	1.1	1.9	0.7	12,403
16-24	8.2	0.8	2.1	4.3	2.7	1,515	Flats/maisonettes	4.6	0.4	1.4	1.9	1.8	5,466
25-34	4.3	0.5	1.3	1.9	1.0	5,827	Other accommodation	1.5	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.0	222
35-44	4.0	0.6	1.6	1.6	0.6	9,323	Output area classification						
45-54	3.7	0.4	1.2	1.8	0.7	8,793	Blue collar communities	3.9	0.6	1.7	1.3	0.7	7,517
55-64	2.5	0.2	0.7	1.2	0.6	8,303	City living	5.5	0.2	0.8	3.1	1.8	1,996
65-74	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	6,506	Countryside	2.3	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.2	6,927
75+	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	5,916	Prospering suburbs	1.9	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.4	10,509
Structure of household							Constrained by circumstances	4.6	0.7	2.0	1.4	0.9	4,356
Single adult & child(ren)	5.9	3.1	1.7	1.2	1.0	2,384	Typical traits	3.4	0.3	1.2	1.7	0.6	9,110
Adults & child(ren)	3.5	0.4	1.5	1.4	0.6	10,271	Multicultural	3.5	0.2	0.8	1.5	1.6	3,524
Adult(s) & no children	3.0	0.2	0.8	1.5	0.8	33,565	Area type						
Household reference person's employment status							Urban	3.5	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.9	34,312
In employment	3.5	0.3	1.2	1.6	0.8	27,966	Rural	2.2	0.3	0.9	1.0	0.3	11,908
Unemployed	4.7	0.7	1.9	2.0	0.9	798	Level of physical disorder						
Economically inactive	2.4	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.6	17,340	High	5.7	0.8	2.7	1.8	1.5	2,505
Student	8.0	1.0	1.0	5.7	0.4	420	Not high	3.1	0.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	42,162
Looking after family/home	4.6	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.2	1,539	Living environment deprivation index						
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	8.0	0.9	3.1	2.9	2.2	2,003	20% most deprived output areas	4.5	0.6	1.4	1.7	1.1	7,832
Retired	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	12,962	Other output areas	3.3	0.3	1.1	1.5	0.8	25,571
Other inactive	5.5	1.1	1.9	2.6	0.1	416	20% least deprived output areas	2.2	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.4	8,682
Household reference person's occupation													
Managerial and professional occupations	2.6	0.2	0.9	1.2	0.7	17,182							
Intermediate occupations	2.9	0.2	0.8	1.5	0.8	9,370							
Routine and manual occupations	3.5	0.5	1.2	1.4	0.8	17,322							
Never worked and long-term unemployed	4.1	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,219							
Full-time students	7.0	0.8	0.9	4.2	1.4	724							
Not classified	6.9	1.0	2.5	3.0	0.6	402							
Total household income													
Less than £10,000	3.7	1.0	0.9	1.4	0.8	6,914							
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.1	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.7	8,239							
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.8	0.2	1.2	1.2	0.6	6,276							
£30,000 less than £40,000	3.0	0.4	1.1	1.4	0.5	4,886							
£40,000 less than £50,000	2.6	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.5	3,676							
£50,000 or more	3.2	0.1	0.8	1.7	0.9	5,889							
Tenure													
Owners	2.1	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.4	32,250							
Social renters	5.0	0.9	1.9	1.7	1.1	7,532							
Private renters	5.9	0.5	1.8	2.7	1.7	6,267							

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. See Section 7 of Volume 2 for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Table 3.06 Injuries sustained in violent incidents

Percentages		Offence type				Violence type				2008/09 BCS
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault with no injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	
Sustained physical injury²	52	100	100	0	42	69	49	52	32	
Type of injury²										
Minor bruise/black eye	34	39	91	n/a	22	50	32	34	16	
Cuts	15	57	1	n/a	16	15	10	18	12	
Severe bruising ³	13	49	4	n/a	14	17	15	10	11	
Scratches	11	24	20	n/a	6	12	10	13	4	
Broken bones ³	2	9	0	n/a	1	3	2	2	2	
Broken nose	2	8	0	n/a	5	3	1	2	4	
Concussion or loss of consciousness	2	7	0	n/a	4	3	1	2	3	
Broken or lost teeth	1	5	0	n/a	1	1	2	1	0	
Chipped teeth	1	2	0	n/a	1	0	0	1	1	
Facial or head injuries (no bruising)	1	4	1	n/a	0	0	1	2	0	
Other	2	4	3	n/a	2	1	3	1	2	
No physical injury	48	0	0	100	58	31	51	48	68	
Some form of medical attention⁴	15	53	6	1	11	21	11	17	11	
Medical attention from a doctor	10	34	2	1	9	13	8	10	9	
Hospital stay ^{4,5}	2	9	0	0	2	2	2	3	2	
<i>Unweighted base⁶</i>	<i>1,507</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>580</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>273</i>	

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one type of physical injury may have been sustained. By definition, all incidents of wounding and assault with minor injury will involve a physical injury; conversely assault with no injury does not include any incidents where a physical injury was sustained.

3. A small proportion of assaults with minor injury involved severe bruising – these incidents have been coded as such based on additional information provided by the victim.

4. Asked of victims where force or violence was threatened or used.

5. This question asks whether the victim stayed in hospital for at least one night and is asked of those who sought medical attention (excluding dentists); base is victims of all violent incidents.

6. The base given is for the question about injury sustained in violent incidents; base sizes for overnight hospital stay will be lower as not all victims were asked this question.

Table 3.07 Use of weapons in violent incidents

Percentages		Offence type				Violence type				2008/09 BCS
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	
Weapon used	21	20	8	27	27	10	23	20	20	
No weapon used	78	77	91	72	71	90	77	77	76	
Not known (<i>not able to say anything about offender/no contact</i>)	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	4	
Knife	7	8	3	7	17	3	6	7	12	
Hitting implement ²	4	4	2	5	4	3	5	3	3	
Glass/bottle	5	10	2	6	3	0	5	8	2	
Stabbing implement ³	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	
Firearm ⁴	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	
Stones	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	
Syringe	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Other	3	3	2	5	1	3	6	2	0	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,470</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>363</i>	<i>564</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>488</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>261</i>	

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. Includes sticks, clubs and other hitting implements.

3. Includes screwdrivers and other stabbing implements.

4. Includes pistol, rifle, shotgun, airgun, air rifle, and any gun which could not be identified.

5. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one weapon could be used.

Table 3.08 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by level of injury

Numbers and percentage changes	Recorded crime		
Nature of injury	2007/08	2008/09	% change
<i>Numbers</i>			
Fatal injuries ¹	53	38	-28
Serious injuries	402	320	-20
Slight injuries	2,786	1,402	-50
Total injuries	3,241	1,760	-46
Threats	5,060	5,134	1
No injuries	1,564	1,290	-18
Total	9,865	8,184	-17

1. Because of the small number of fatal injuries the percentage change should be treated with caution.

Table 3.09 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by type of weapon

Numbers and percentage changes	Recorded crime		
Type of weapon	2007/08	2008/09	% change
<i>Numbers</i>			
Shotgun	602	617	2
Handgun	4,172	4,250	2
Rifle ¹	71	87	23
Imitation firearm ²	2,562	1,502	-41
Unidentified firearm	1,325	964	-27
Other firearm ³	1,133	764	-33
Total	9,865	8,184	-17

1. Because of the small number of offences involving rifles the percentage change should be treated with caution.

2. Imitation handguns, which are converted to fire bullets like handguns, are counted as

3. Other firearms include CS gas, disguised firearms, machine guns, pepper spray, stun guns and other specified weapons (the majority being paintball guns).

Table 3.10 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments, proportions of selected offences and percentage change, by offence type

Numbers and percentages

Selected offence type	Number of selected offences involving a knife		% change compared with previous year ¹	Proportion of selected offences that involved a knife	
	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08-2008/09	2007/08	2008/09
Homicide ²	270	252	-7	35	39
Attempted murder	245	271	11	39	47
Threats to kill	..	1,549	..	..	16
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ³	..	18,940	..	..	5
Robbery	17,058	16,701	-2	20	21
Rape	..	233	..	..	2
Sexual assaults ⁴	..	136	..	..	1
Total selected offences⁵	..	38,082	..	..	7

1. Comparisons can only be made for the offences of homicide, attempted murder and robbery.

2. Includes provisional figures for 2008/09. For 2007/08, offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 4 November 2008 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. Updated figures for both years will be included within a forthcoming Supplementary Bulletin, scheduled for early 2010.

3. Includes wounding or carrying out an act endangering life.

4. Includes indecent assault on a male/female, sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).

5. Total selected violent and sexual offences not available before April 2008.

Table 3.11 Prevalence of intimate violence by category among adults aged 16 to 59

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence					
	Since the age of 16			In the last year		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
	<i>% victims once or more</i>					
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	16.0	27.9	21.9	3.9	6.3	5.1
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)¹	12.8	24.3	18.5	2.9	4.8	3.8
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)¹	6.5	9.4	8.0	1.7	2.3	2.0
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual¹	10.1	21.4	15.8	2.7	4.4	3.5
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	7.6	15.7	11.7	1.8	2.8	2.3
Threats or force	7.1	18.0	12.6	1.2	2.7	1.9
Threats	1.0	10.1	5.6	0.1	1.2	0.7
Force	6.9	16.6	11.8	1.2	2.2	1.7
- Minor	3.1	13.7	8.5	0.5	1.6	1.1
- Severe	5.7	12.8	9.3	0.9	1.5	1.2
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual¹	6.5	8.9	7.7	1.8	2.4	2.1
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	3.8	5.5	4.7	1.0	1.4	1.2
Threats or force	3.9	6.1	5.0	1.1	1.5	1.3
Threats	1.0	2.7	1.9	0.2	0.5	0.4
Force	3.6	5.2	4.4	1.0	1.2	1.1
- Minor	1.8	3.5	2.7	0.4	0.7	0.6
- Severe	2.7	3.5	3.1	0.7	0.7	0.7
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	2.8	19.5	11.1	0.4	2.5	1.4
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.7	4.9	2.8	0.1	0.5	0.3
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.5	4.0	2.2	0.0	0.3	0.2
Rape including attempts	0.5	4.2	2.4	0.1	0.4	0.2
Rape excluding attempts	0.4	3.5	1.9	0.0	0.3	0.2
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.3	2.0	1.1	0.0	0.3	0.1
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.2	1.6	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.1
Less serious sexual assault	2.5	19.3	10.9	0.4	2.3	1.3
Stalking	10.2	19.9	15.1	2.8	4.4	3.6
<i>Unweighted base²</i>	<i>10,899</i>	<i>12,761</i>	<i>23,660</i>	<i>10,847</i>	<i>12,620</i>	<i>23,467</i>

1. The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates.

2. The bases given are for any domestic abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

Table 3.12 Prevalence of intimate violence in the last year among men and women aged 16 to 59, 2004/05 to 2008/09 BCS

Percentages	BCS self-completion module on intimate violence													
	Men							Women						
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 ¹	2008/09	Statistically significant change 2004/05 to 2008/09		2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 ¹	2008/09	Statistically significant change 2004/05 to 2008/09	
	<i>% victims once or more</i>							<i>% victims once or more</i>						
Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	5.0	5.0	5.2	4.7	3.7	**	**	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.1	5.8	**	
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)^{2,3}	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	2.6	**	**	5.4	5.6	5.3	4.8	4.3	**	
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)^{2,3}	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.8		**	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.0	2.3	**	
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual³	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.2	2.7	**	**	5.6	5.7	5.6	4.9	4.4	**	
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	1.8	**	**	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.8	**	**
Threats or force	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.2	**	**	3.3	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.7	**	
Threats	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1			1.5	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2		
Force	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.2	**	**	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.2	**	
- Minor	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.5	**	**	1.9	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.6	**	
- Severe	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.4	0.9	**	**	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.5	**	
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual³	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.4	1.8		**	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.1	2.4	**	
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.0			1.7	1.8	1.8	1.2	1.4	**	
Threats or force	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.1		**	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.5		
Threats	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2			0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5		
Force	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.0		**	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.2		
- Minor	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	**	**	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7		
- Severe	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7		**	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.7		
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	**		2.8	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.5		
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1			0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5		
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0			0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3		
Rape including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1			0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4		
Rape excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0			0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3		
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3		
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1		
Less serious sexual assault	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4			2.6	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3		
Stalking⁴	6.3	4.8	4.2	n/a	2.8	**	n/a	6.6	6.5	5.9	n/a	4.4	**	n/a
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	10,185	10,981	10,957	10,854	10,892			12,262	13,123	12,730	12,427	12,730		

1. The 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence did not include questions on stalking.

2. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse and any family abuse have excluded stalking in order to create a comparable measure across years (questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS).

3. The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates.

4. Figures on stalking for previous years differ from those previously published due to revisions to data analysis.

5. The bases given are for any domestic abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

6. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for definitions of the various types of intimate violence.

Table 3.13 Prevalence of intimate violence in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, 2004/05 to 2008/09 BCS

Percentages	BCS self-completion module on intimate violence						
						Statistically significant change	
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 ¹	2008/09	2004/05 to 2008/09	2007/08 to 2008/09
	<i>% victims once or more</i>						
Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.4	4.7	**	**
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)^{2,3}	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	3.5	**	**
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)^{2,3}	2.5	2.4	2.4	1.7	2.1	**	**
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual³	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.5	3.5	**	**
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.3	**	**
Threats or force	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.4	1.9	**	**
Threats	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	**	**
Force	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.7	**	**
- Minor	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	**	**
- Severe	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.2	**	**
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual³	2.6	2.5	2.6	1.8	2.1	**	**
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.2	**	
Threats or force	1.4	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.3		**
Threats	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4		
Force	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.1		**
- Minor	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6		
- Severe	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.7		**
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	**	
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3		
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2		
Rape including attempts	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2		
Rape excluding attempts	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Less serious sexual assault	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3		
Stalking⁴	6.4	5.7	5.1	n/a	3.6	**	n/a
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	<i>22,447</i>	<i>24,104</i>	<i>23,568</i>	<i>23,281</i>	<i>23,622</i>		

1. The 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence did not include questions on stalking.

2. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse and any family abuse have excluded stalking in order to create a comparable measure across years (questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS).

3. The apparent anomalies between prevalence rates of non-sexual abuse and any abuse are due to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses and refusals from the analysis (only valid responses are included) which affects base sizes and thus prevalence rates.

4. Figures on stalking for previous years differ from those previously published due to revisions to data analysis.

5. The bases given are for any domestic abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

6. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for definitions of the various types of intimate violence.

Table 3.14 Offender characteristics in violent incidents

Percentages	Offence type					Violence type				2008/09 BCS
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	
Able to say something about offender(s)	99	98	99	100	98	100	100	98	96	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,477	354	363	565	195	217	489	571	264	
Number of offenders										
One	64	65	75	65	42	96	71	54	49	
Two	9	8	6	9	20	3	7	10	18	
Three	7	9	4	6	13	0	3	11	12	
Four or more	19	18	14	21	25	2	18	25	21	
Sex of offender(s)										
Male(s)	81	84	80	77	88	74	76	85	87	
Female(s)	14	12	17	16	4	24	20	9	6	
Both	5	4	3	7	8	2	4	6	7	
Age of offender(s)²										
School age and under	8	3	7	10	10	5	12	5	9	
Aged 16 to 24	55	52	52	52	77	39	46	62	69	
Aged 25 to 39	30	36	31	28	22	24	32	32	28	
Aged 40 or older	13	16	14	14	1	34	14	8	2	
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)³</i>	1,454	343	358	560	193	217	488	551	259	
Relationship to victim⁴										
Stranger	50	48	40	47	79	0	0	100	82	
Known by sight or to speak to	22	18	23	25	15	3	57	0	13	
Known well	28	34	37	28	6	97	43	0	5	
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)⁵</i>	1,482	345	364	573	200	219	498	565	267	

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one offender could be involved.

3. Figures here are based on incidents in which the victim could say something about the offender(s); base given is for the question asking about number of offenders, other bases are similar.

4. The relationship to the offender(s) is classified as: 'stranger' if the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before; 'known by sight or to speak to' if at least one offender falls into either category; and 'known well' if at least one offender falls into this category (for multiple offenders this takes priority over any less well-known offenders).

5. All victims were asked about their relationship to the offender(s).

Table 3.15 Proportion of violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Percentages										2008/09 BCS
	All violence ¹	Offence type				Violence type				
		Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	
Offender(s) perceived to be under influence of alcohol²										
Yes	47	51	57	46	25	38	41	62	20	
No	43	37	39	46	58	60	51	27	56	
Don't know	9	12	5	8	18	2	8	10	25	
Offender(s) perceived to be under influence of drugs²										
Yes	17	20	12	16	24	16	16	16	20	
No	53	46	64	56	35	81	63	42	36	
Don't know	30	34	24	28	41	3	22	43	44	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,449</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>556</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>553</i>	<i>256</i>	

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if *any* of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

Table 3.16 Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1995 to 2008/09

Percentages and numbers (000s)											BCS	
	1995	1997	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Statistically significant change 1995 to 2007/08 to 2008/09	
<i>Proportion of all violent incidents¹</i>												
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:²												
Alcohol	41	43	48	45	51	49	45	46	46	47	**	
Drugs	16	18	21	20	20	18	23	17	19	17		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,078</i>	<i>915</i>	<i>1,285</i>	<i>1,397</i>	<i>1,398</i>	<i>1,455</i>	<i>1,512</i>	<i>1,658</i>	<i>1,477</i>	<i>1,449</i>		
<i>Number of violent incidents (000s)</i>												
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:²												
Alcohol	1,656	1,457	1,244	1,177	1,299	1,105	1,023	1,087	971	973	**	
Drugs	655	603	549	544	474	390	531	398	390	334	**	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>16,348</i>	<i>14,947</i>	<i>32,824</i>	<i>36,479</i>	<i>37,931</i>	<i>45,120</i>	<i>47,729</i>	<i>47,138</i>	<i>46,903</i>	<i>46,220</i>		

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of Volume 2 for more information.

2. Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if *any* of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

3. For an explanation of year-labels see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.