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## Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09

Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 (Third Edition)

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# Conventions used in figures and tables

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## Table abbreviations

- '0' indicates no response in that particular category or less than 0.5% (this does not apply when percentages are presented to one decimal point).
- 'n/a' indicates that the BCS question was not applicable or not asked in that particular year.
- '-' indicates that for recorded crime percentage changes are not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50, for the BCS indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is less than 50.
- '..' indicates for police recorded crime that data are not available.
- '\*\*\*' indicates for BCS that the change is statistically significant at the five per cent level. Where an apparent change over time is not statistically significant the figures are described in the text as 'similar'.

## Unweighted base

All BCS percentages and rates presented in the tables are based on data weighted to compensate for differential non response. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

## Percentages

Row or column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Most BCS tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of people/households who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100%, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

## Year-labels on BCS figures and tables

Year-labels on BCS figures and tables identify the BCS year of interview. Respondents' experience of crime relates to the 12 full months prior to interview (i.e. a moving reference period).

## 'No answers' (missing values)

All BCS analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

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# 1 Homicide

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*Kathryn Coleman and Sarah Osborne*

The term 'homicide' covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. Homicide offences up to the financial year 2008/09 are presented in this chapter, with offences shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. Data presented in this chapter have been extracted from the Homicide Index. Since it is continually being updated with revised information from the police and the courts, the Homicide Index is a better source of data than the main recorded crime dataset.

## SUMMARY

There are 651 deaths currently recorded as homicide in England and Wales in 2008/09<sup>1</sup> as at 24 November 2009, the date that the Homicide Index database was 'frozen' so that analysis could be conducted. This is a decrease of 14 per cent (102 homicides) compared with 2007/08. The police initially recorded 670 offences as homicide in 2008/09<sup>2</sup>. The analysis presented below concentrates on offences that are currently recorded as homicide.

- The 651 offences currently recorded as homicide in 2008/09 represent the lowest number since 1998/99, when 642 are recorded.
- In 2008/09, more than two-thirds of homicide victims (71%) were male.
- The most common method of killing continues to be by sharp instrument. In 2008/09, 39 per cent of homicides involved a sharp instrument, although the number of offences has fallen, from 271 in 2007/08 to 255 in 2008/09.
- There were 39 shooting victims in 2008/09 compared with 53 in 2007/08. This is the lowest number of homicides by this method since 1989, when 38 such offences were recorded.
- Female victims were more likely to be killed by someone they knew. Around three-quarters (76%) of female victims knew the main suspect compared with 50 per cent of male victims.
- Seventy per cent of victims aged under 16 knew the main suspect.
- Overall, the risk of being a victim of homicide was 12 per million population. Children under one year old were the most at-risk age group, at 27 per million population.
- The homicide rate for England and Wales is broadly in line with those for other Western European nations.

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<sup>1</sup> Provisional homicide figures published in the annual bulletin showed 662 for 2008/09 and 774 for 2007/08. These figures are taken from the main recorded crime database, not the Homicide Index.

<sup>2</sup> Where the police initially record an offence as homicide it remains classified as such unless the police or courts decide later that a lesser offence, or no offence, took place.

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The term 'homicide' covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide. Murder and manslaughter are common law offences that have never been defined by statute, although they have been modified by statute. The offence of infanticide was created by the Infanticide Act 1922 and refined by the Infanticide Act 1938 (s1).

Homicide offences up to the financial year 2008/09 are presented in this chapter, with offences shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made. The data refer to the position as at 24 November 2009, when recording closed down for the purpose of analysis, and will change as subsequent court hearings take place or other information is received.

Data presented in this chapter have been extracted from the Homicide Index. Since it is continually being updated with revised information from the police and the courts, the Index is a better source of data than the separate main recorded crime dataset. The Index also provides far greater detail than the main recorded crime dataset. Due to differences in the recording practice with respect to 'no crimes', data presented here are not the same as the provisional homicide figures presented in the annual Crime in England and Wales statistical bulletin.

## 1.2 OFFENCES RECORDED AS HOMICIDE

In 2008/09, 670 deaths were **initially recorded as homicide**, a decrease of 14 per cent on the previous year. Where the police initially record an offence as homicide it remains classified unless the police or courts decide later that a lesser offence, or no offence, took place. Of the 670 offences first recorded in 2008/09, 19 were no longer recorded as homicide by 24 November 2009. The 651 offences **currently recorded as homicide** in 2008/09 compares with 753 for 2007/08, a decrease of 14 per cent (Table 1.01). This is the lowest number of currently recorded homicides since 1998/99, when 642 were recorded<sup>3</sup>.

Males are more likely to be a victim of homicide than females. In 2008/09, 459 victims were male (71%) and 192 female (29%). Proportionately, there has been a greater decrease in male victims (16%, from 549 to 459) than for female victims (6%, from 204 to 192) between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

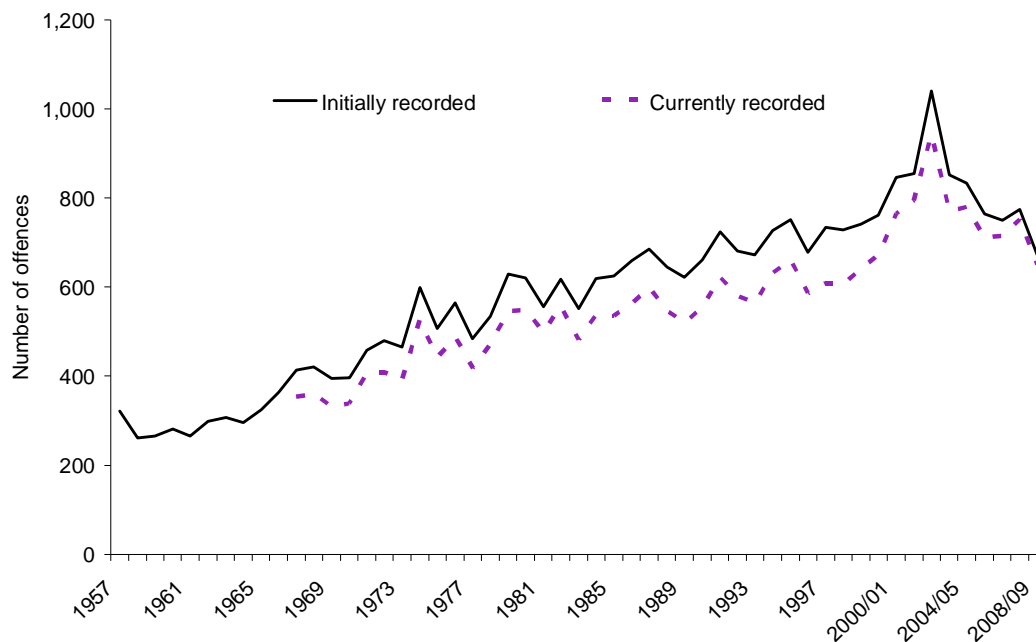
Caution is needed when looking at homicide trend figures, primarily because they are based on the year in which offences are recorded by the police rather than the year in which the incidents took place. As an example of this, the 172 homicides attributed to Dr Harold Shipman as a result of Dame Janet Smith's inquiry took place over a long period of time but were all recorded by the police during 2002/03. Also, where several people are killed by the same principal suspect (such as the cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay and the 7 July 2005 London bombing victims), the number of homicides counted is the total number of persons killed rather than the number of incidents.

Comparative homicide data for other countries are given in Box 1.1.

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<sup>3</sup> Provisional police recorded crime figures for homicide published in Walker *et al.* (2009) showed homicide at a 20-year low. However, the figures published here provide a better indication of trends given that the Homicide Index is a 'live' database, continually being updated as police investigations progress and as cases are dealt with by the courts.

**Figure 1.1 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1957 to 2008/09**



1. Year 2005/06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings.
2. Year 2003/04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.
3. Year 2002/03 includes 172 victims of Dr Harold Shipman.
4. Year 2000/01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route in the UK.

### Court proceedings

Of the 651 cases currently recorded as homicide in 2008/09, court proceedings had resulted in homicide convictions in respect of 271 victims (42%)<sup>4</sup>. Court proceedings were pending for a further 253 (39%). People who were suspected of being responsible for the deaths of 21 victims had committed suicide or died, and all suspects were acquitted in 21 cases. No suspects had been identified in connection with 82 cases (13%). In the remaining three cases, proceedings were either discontinued or not initiated (Table 1.02). It should be noted that, due to the complexities involved in investigating homicides, the percentage of 2008/09 cases to have concluded at Crown Court is likely to show an increase when the next update is published in 12 months' time, while the proportion of cases without suspects or with court proceedings pending is expected to decrease.

A full analysis of homicide suspects is included in section 1.4.

<sup>4</sup> As more than one person can be convicted for an individual homicide, the number of people convicted will not be the same as the number of victims. This is examined in section 1.4.

**Box 1.1 International homicide comparisons**

A number of international organisations, including Eurostat, have attempted to collate international homicide statistics. It is important to note that there are issues surrounding the comparability of international homicide data. There are different definitions of homicide between countries, for example, the inclusion or not of assault leading to death (manslaughter), assistance with suicide and infanticide. Furthermore, there are differing points in criminal justice systems at which homicides are recorded, i.e. when the offence is discovered or following further investigation.

The most recently published comparative homicide figures published by Eurostat compare homicide rates per 100,000 population averaged over the years 2005 to 2007\*. The rates for the 15 countries that were members of the European Union prior to the accession of ten candidate countries on 1 May 2004 are shown in Table 1a. The Eurostat published rate for England and Wales is 1.43#, which is below that for Scotland (2.17) and Northern Ireland (1.59).

**Table 1a: Homicide rate per 100,000 population for 15 European Union countries (ranked in order high to low)**

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Finland	2.23	Ireland	1.45	Netherlands	1.06
UK: Scotland	2.17	UK: England and Wales#	1.43	Greece	1.05
Belgium	2.04	Luxembourg	1.42	Sweden	1.05
UK: Northern Ireland	1.59	Denmark	1.17	Germany	0.90
Portugal	1.47	Italy	1.13	Austria	0.64
France	1.46	Spain	1.12		

Rates for Eastern European countries tend to be higher, rising to 9.69 in Lithuania and 7.30 in Estonia, though the rate for Poland is 1.37, which is lower than that for England and Wales.

Although the homicide rate in the USA has fallen substantially in recent years, at 5.6 per 100,000 population in 2006, it is still well above those in Western Europe.

\* Eurostat's 'Crime and Criminal Justice', by Cynthia Tavares and Geoffrey Thomas [http://www.eds-destatis.de/de/downloads/sif/sf\\_09\\_036.pdf](http://www.eds-destatis.de/de/downloads/sif/sf_09_036.pdf)

# Eurostat calculated this figure using the recorded crime returns, not the Homicide Index. If the Homicide Index was used, the figure would be slightly lower.

## 1.3 VICTIMS

### Method of killing

As in previous years, the most common method of killing in 2008/09 was by a sharp instrument<sup>5</sup> (255 homicides). While this is lower than the 271 sharp instrument homicides recorded in 2007/08, the proportion of offences where a sharp instrument was involved increased, to 39 per cent. In 2007/08 the proportion was 36 per cent.

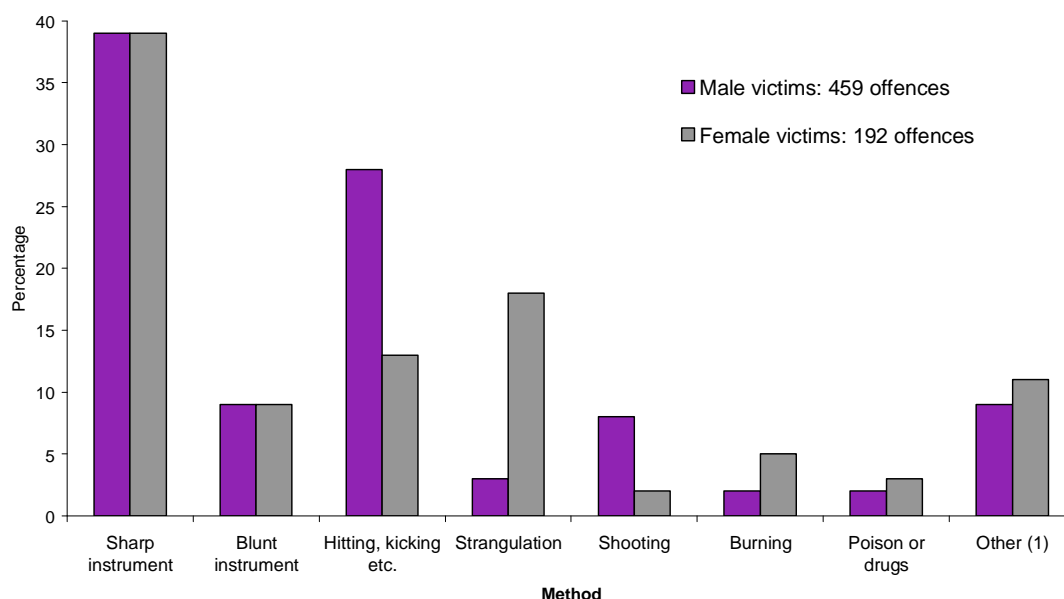
- The proportion of sharp instrument homicides was 39 per cent for both males and females. There was no change in the proportion of male victims killed by this method compared with last year, but an increase from 29 per cent in 2007/08 for females. While there is no clear trend in the number of females killed by this method, there has been an increase in the proportion of female homicides that have involved a sharp instrument. In the last five years, around a third (32%) of female homicides have involved a sharp instrument; for the previous five year period, this proportion was a quarter (25%) (Table 1.03). It should be noted that although the proportion of sharp instrument homicides has increased, the total number of female homicides has fallen over the same period<sup>6</sup>.
- The second most common method used against males involved hitting or kicking (127 homicides, or 28%). For females, the second most common method was strangulation or asphyxiation (34 homicides, or 18%). These have consistently been the second most common methods in recent years.
- Shootings accounted for 39 homicides in 2008/09, compared with 53 in 2007/08 (Table 1.03), the lowest number recorded since 1989 (38 offences). In terms of proportions, eight per cent of male homicides were by shooting (35 offences), compared with two per cent of female victims (four offences).

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<sup>5</sup> Knife or other sharp instrument.

<sup>6</sup> There were 1,064 female victims between 2004/05 and 2008/09, compared with 1,328 for 1999/00 to 2003/04, a fall of 20 per cent. The fall between these two periods is seven per cent if the homicides committed by Harold Shipman are excluded from this comparison.

**Figure 1.2 Percentage of offences currently recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim, 2008/09**



1. 'Other' includes all other apparent methods and where method unknown.

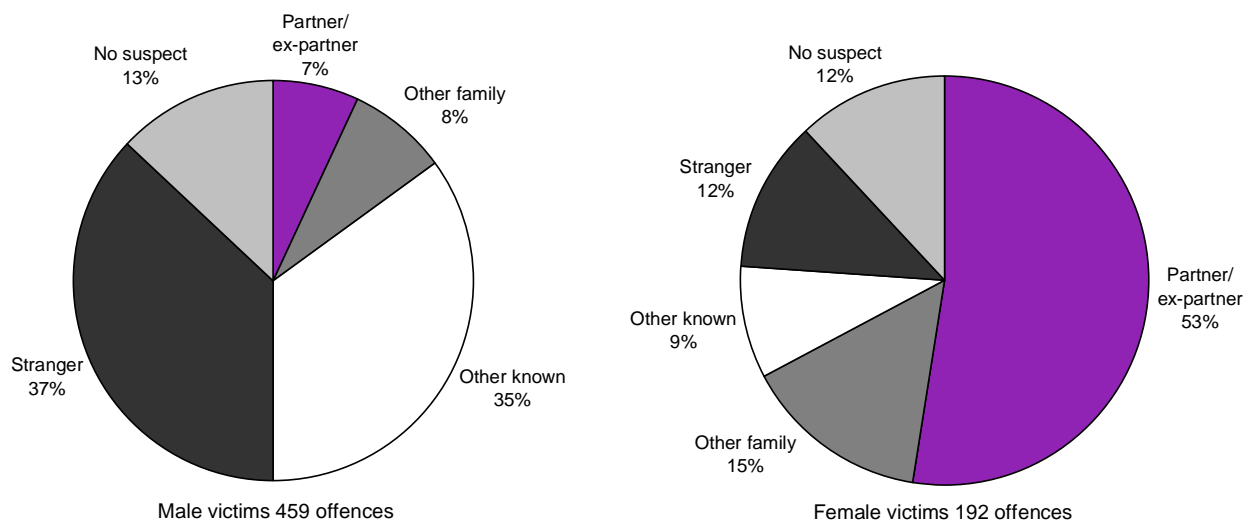
### Relationship between victims and principal suspect

Female victims continue to be more likely than male victims to have been acquainted with the principal suspect. In 2008/09, around three in four female victims (76%) knew the main or only suspect at the time of the offence, the same proportion as the previous year. However, a greater proportion of these female victims (69%) were killed by their partner, ex-partner or lover in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08 (50%). By comparison, only half (50%) of male victims knew the main or only suspect in 2008/09. Fourteen per cent of these male victims were killed by their partner, ex-partner or lover, a slightly higher proportion than in 2007/08 (13%).

The relationship between victim and principal suspect is not always known and, for the purposes of this analysis, such cases have been included in the 'stranger' category. In 2008/09, 170 males (37% of all male victims) and 23 females (12% of all female victims) were killed by strangers<sup>7</sup>. Over the last five years the proportion of female victims killed by a stranger was 19 per cent, compared with 40 per cent of male victims. (Table 1.05).

<sup>7</sup> Stranger category includes: business associate, police/prison officer killed in the course of duty, stranger (terrorist/contract killing and other) and where there is insufficient information about the suspect to determine relationship to victim.

**Figure 1.3 All victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect, 2008/09**

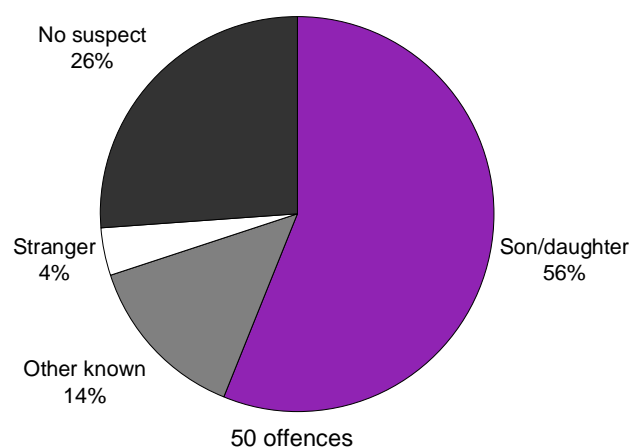


**Victims under 16 years of age**

In 2008/09, there were 50 victims under 16 years of age, compared with 63 victims in the previous year. Of all the offences currently recorded as homicide in 2008/09 (651 victims), 7.7 per cent involved victims under the age of 16, compared with 8.4 per cent in 2007/08. (Table 1.07).

The proportion of victims aged under 16 who were acquainted with the main suspect was lower in 2008/09 (70%, 35 offences) than in 2007/08 (83%, 52 offences). In 2008/09, 56 per cent were killed by their parents (28 offences), compared with 63 per cent (40 offences) in 2007/08. A further 14 per cent of the victims knew the main suspect in 2008/09, compared with 19 per cent the previous year. Four per cent (two offences) of the victims were known to have been killed by strangers and, as of 24 November 2009, there were no suspects for around a quarter (26%, 13 offences) of the victims (Figure 1.4, Table 1.04). The number of cases where a suspect has not been identified is likely to fall as investigations continue. For comparison, no suspect had been identified in six per cent (four offences) of homicides recorded in 2007/08.

**Figure 1.4 Victims under 16 years of age, by relationship of victim to principal suspect, 2008/09**



### Circumstances of the homicides

Further information is collected on the circumstances of the homicides. This shows that around a half (53%, or 346 offences) of homicide cases in 2008/09 were due to a quarrel, a revenge attack or a loss of temper. This proportion was higher where the principal suspect was known to the victim (61%), compared to when the suspect was unknown to the victim (42%). Seven per cent of homicides (45 offences) occurred during robberies or burglaries and four per cent (25 offences) were attributed to irrational acts<sup>8</sup>. As at 24 November 2009, the apparent circumstances were not known for 26 per cent of homicides (168 offences) recorded in 2008/09. (Table 1.06). This figure may decrease as police carry out further investigations.

### Risks for different age groups

Overall in 2008/09, males (at 17 per million population) were more at risk of being homicide victims than females (seven per million population). The age group most at risk of homicide were children under one year old, at 27 per million population (see further analysis below). Males in this age group were the most vulnerable overall at a rate of 36 per million population. However, for this age group, and children generally, numbers are relatively small and considerable year-on-year variation in the rate is to be expected. The second most at-risk age group, consistent with previous years, are those persons aged between 16 and 29, at a rate of 21 per million population. By comparison, the risk for all persons over 70 years of age in 2008/09 was eight per million population. This was the only age group where the risk was greater for females than males (ten and five per million populations respectively) (Table 1.07).

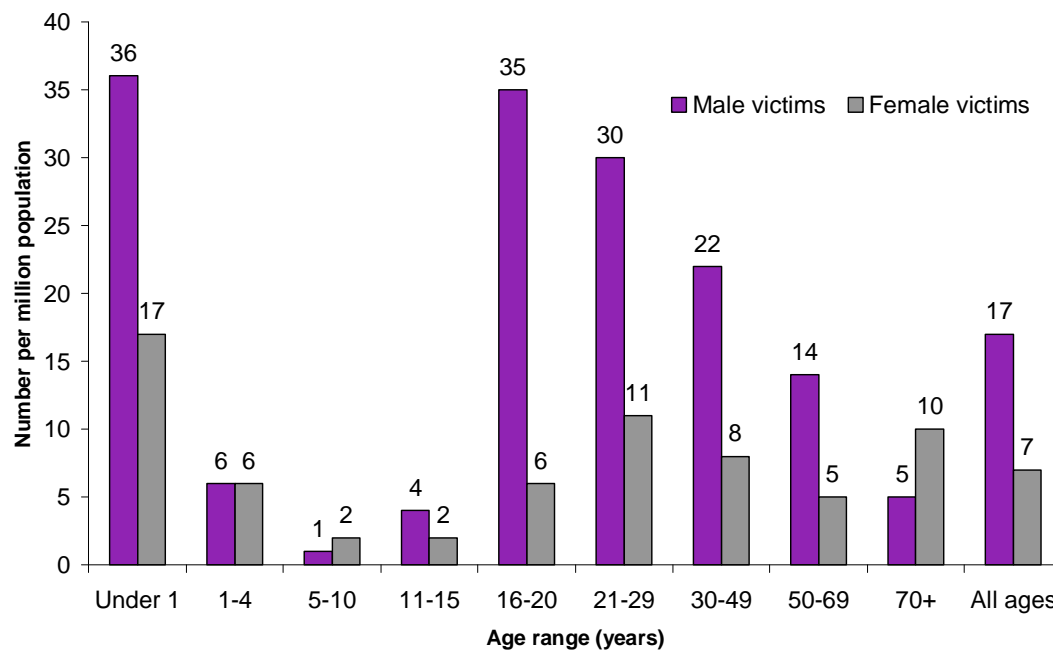
Further analysis was conducted on the 5-to-15-years and 16-to-29-years age groupings (Figure 1.5). The risk per million population in 2008/09 was highest for males aged between 16 and 20 years (inclusive) at a rate of 35 per million population, followed by males aged between 21 and 29 years (inclusive) at a rate of 30 per million population. Males in the 11-to-15-years age grouping were more at risk, at four per million population, than those in the 5-to-10-years age grouping (one per million population).

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<sup>8</sup> These figures do not account for all homicides committed by mentally disturbed people, as offences with an apparent motive (e.g. during a quarrel or robbery) are instead included under the respective circumstance. Higher overall totals for homicides committed by mentally disturbed people are quoted elsewhere, e.g. the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (Appleby, 2006, 2009).



**Figure 1.5 Offences currently recorded as homicide per million population by age of victim, 2008/09**



## 1.4 SUSPECTS

### **Box 1.2 Definition of homicide suspect**

*For the purposes of the Homicide Index, a suspect in a homicide case is defined as (i) a person who has been arrested in respect of an offence initially classified as homicide and charged with homicide or (ii) a person who is suspected by the police of having committed the offence but is known to have died or committed suicide prior to arrest/being charged. More than one suspect may be tried for an offence and sometimes no suspect is ever brought to trial. Hence the number of suspects is not the same as the number of offences.*

In total there were 819 suspects as at 24 November 2009 relating to homicides recorded in 2008/09 (Table 1b). Court proceedings had concluded for 416 suspects (51% of all suspects); 405 of these were indicted<sup>9</sup> for homicide offences (Table 1.09) and 11 for lesser offences. Court proceedings were pending for 384 suspects. Of the remaining 19 suspects, 11 had committed suicide before indictment and no proceedings had taken place for eight suspects (Table 1b).

For those suspects where proceedings had concluded, 93 per cent were male (387 suspects) and seven per cent were female (29 suspects). Forty-eight per cent of males indicted of homicide were convicted of murder, 31 per cent were convicted of manslaughter and 16 per cent were acquitted. For females indicted for homicide, 34 per cent were convicted of murder, 34 per cent of manslaughter and 24 per cent were acquitted.

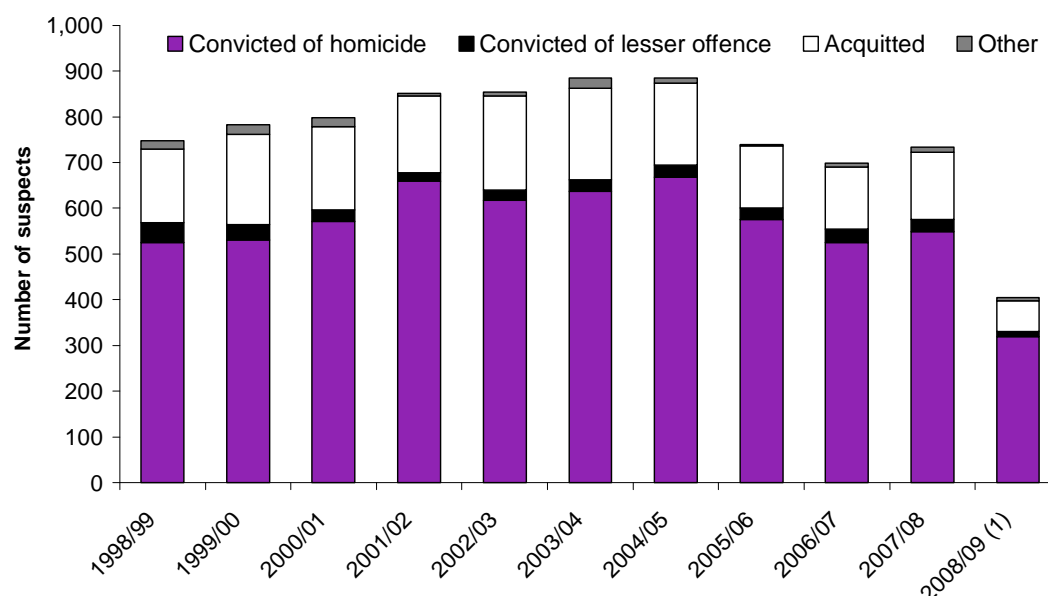
<sup>9</sup> The formal charges presented at the start of a Crown Court trial.

**Table 1b Outcomes for all suspects, 2004/05 to 2008/09**

Outcome	Numbers									
	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	Indicted	Not indicted	Indicted	Not indicted	Indicted	Not indicted	Indicted	Not indicted	Indicted	Not indicted
Convicted of homicide	667	-	575	-	525	-	549	-	319	-
Convicted of lesser offence	39	-	38	-	53	-	45	-	18	-
Unfit to plead or insane	-	2	2	1	2	1	5	2	1	-
Acquitted/discontinued etc.	180	37	139	20	137	2	150	3	71	2
Proceedings concluded, other outcome	6	2	2	2	3	3	2	4	-	1
Committed suicide or died	7	23	-	20	4	20	6	17	7	11
No proceedings taken	-	6	-	6	-	8	-	14	-	5
Proceedings pending	-	95	-	103	-	177	-	201	-	384
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>403</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Figures in Table 1b, especially for homicides recorded in 2007/08 and 2008/09, are likely to change as cases progress through the courts and more information becomes available. As such, data from previous years provide a more comprehensive guide to the outcome of court proceedings. Between 1998/99 and 2007/08, 73 per cent of suspects indicted for homicide were found guilty of homicide and 25 per cent were acquitted (Table 1.09 and Figure 1.6).

**Figure 1.6 Suspects by outcome of proceedings, 1998/99 to 2008/09**


1. Figures relating to offences recorded during 2008/09 are likely to change as cases progress through the courts and more information becomes available.

### Previous homicide convictions

Home Office Statistics unit was not notified by the police of any convictions for homicide recorded in 2008/09 where the suspect had been convicted of a homicide on a previous occasion. Among those who had been convicted of homicides recorded between 1998/99 and 2008/09, 31 had previously been convicted of homicide.

Where the original conviction was murder, 11 of the 31 subsequent convictions were also for murder. Over the period 1998/99 to 2008/09, a total of three suspects had been serving a custodial sentence when they were convicted of their subsequent offence. The data include all previous homicide convictions (where known) wherever they took place but the second offence must have occurred in England and Wales to be included in this analysis (Tables 1.11 and 1.12).

**Table 1.01 Offences<sup>1</sup> initially recorded by the police as homicide by current classification<sup>2</sup>:  
England and Wales, 1956 to 2008/09**

Year	Numbers and rates per million population			Recorded crime
	Number of offences initially recorded as homicide	Number of offences no longer recorded as homicide	Number of offences currently recorded as homicide	Offences currently recorded as homicide per million population
1956	315	..	..	..
1957	321	..	..	..
1958	261	..	..	..
1959	266	..	..	..
1960	282	..	..	..
1961	265	..	..	..
1962	299	..	..	..
1963	307	..	..	..
1964	296	..	..	..
1965	325	..	..	..
1966	364	..	..	..
1967	414	60	354	7.3
1968	420	60	360	7.4
1969	395	63	332	6.8
1970	396	57	339	7.0
1971	459	52	407	8.3
1972	480	71	409	8.3
1973	465	74	391	8.0
1974	599	73	526	10.7
1975	508	65	443	9.0
1976	565	77	488	9.9
1977	484	66	418	8.5
1978	535	64	471	9.6
1979	629	83	546	11.1
1980	621	72	549	11.1
1981	556	57	499	10.1
1982	618	61	557	11.2
1983	552	70	482	9.7
1984	619	82	537	10.8
1985	625	89	536	10.7
1986	660	97	563	11.2
1987	686	87	599	11.9
1988	645	98	547	10.9
1989	622	101	521	10.3
1990	661	106	555	10.9
1991	725	102	623	12.3
1992	681	100	581	11.4
1993	673	108	565	11.1
1994	727	95	632	12.4
1995	752	90	662	13.0
1996	678	92	586	11.4
1997	734	125	609	11.8
1997/98	729	122	607	11.8
1998/99	742	100	642	12.5
1999/00	761	89	672	13.0
2000/01	847	82	765	14.7
2001/02	855	60	795	15.2
2002/03	1,041	98	943	17.9
2003/04	852	81	771	14.6
2004/05	834	54	780	14.7
2005/06	764	53	711	13.3
2006/07	750	34	716	13.3
2007/08	775	22	753	13.9
2008/09	670	19	651	12.0

1. A separate offence is recorded for each victim of homicide, so that in an incident in which several people are killed, the number of homicides counted is the total number of persons killed.

2. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

**Table 1.02 Offences initially recorded as homicide by outcome: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Outcome											
Offences initially recorded as homicide	742	761	847	855	1041	852	834	764	750	775	670
Offences no longer recorded as homicide <sup>1</sup>	100	89	82	60	98	81	54	53	34	22	19
<b>Offences currently recorded as homicide<sup>1</sup></b>											
<b>Decided at court to be homicide:</b>											
Murder	227	239	252	280	303	310	317	287	254	252	161
Sec 2 Manslaughter	40	28	18	19	15	21	28	21	35	27	20
Other Manslaughter	214	190	287	265	238	212	214	149	146	154	89
Infanticide	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>271</b>
Court decision pending	24	30	48	48	22	63	55	74	116	138	253
<b>Proceedings not initiated or concluded without conviction or acquittal:</b>											
Suspect found by the court to be insane	4	5	6	1	4	7	1	2	1	6	1
Suspect died	4	4	6	6	7	6	7	4	9	2	-
Suspect committed suicide	37	34	33	26	31	31	25	65	22	20	21
Proceedings discontinued or not initiated	19	48	13	14	189	17	25	7	8	12	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Currently no suspect:</b>											
All suspects acquitted	21	43	40	26	22	23	42	28	31	50	21
No suspects charged	45	50	57	109	112	81	65	73	93	92	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Total offences currently recorded as homicide</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>651</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

**Table 1.03 Offences currently<sup>1</sup> recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	Apparent method	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
<b>Male victims</b>											
Sharp instrument	151	152	156	194	180	182	191	166	188	213	180
Blunt instrument	41	43	50	35	26	54	49	40	36	45	40
Hitting, kicking, etc.	76	83	86	120	111	111	110	90	114	142	127
Strangulation <sup>2</sup>	27	20	83	18	20	17	17	14	21	15	13
Shooting <sup>3</sup>	42	52	62	90	57	61	61	38	53	47	35
Explosion <sup>4</sup>	2	3	2	-	2	-	2	24	-	-	2
Burning	13	7	8	15	7	19	18	15	13	13	11
Drowning <sup>5</sup>	3	3	7	8	4	20	7	3	8	5	2
Poison or drugs <sup>6</sup>	24	20	22	18	66	11	19	18	21	18	8
Motor vehicle <sup>7</sup>	11	10	11	15	18	14	17	11	3	11	8
Other	26	24	42	23	27	20	30	16	23	22	22
Not known	12	28	9	14	18	40	29	34	40	18	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>459</b>
<b>Female victims</b>											
Sharp instrument	50	60	57	67	83	59	71	59	79	58	75
Blunt instrument	24	26	27	24	22	20	18	20	12	22	17
Hitting, kicking, etc.	12	14	16	25	38	26	16	18	15	24	25
Strangulation <sup>2</sup>	49	36	63	60	46	49	50	44	33	41	34
Shooting <sup>3</sup>	4	9	9	6	20	6	10	12	6	6	4
Explosion <sup>4</sup>	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	29	-	-	-
Burning	19	4	9	14	15	9	15	11	16	13	10
Drowning <sup>5</sup>	3	3	2	4	2	4	4	1	1	1	1
Poison or drugs <sup>6</sup>	23	33	12	14	134	9	9	11	1	5	6
Motor vehicle <sup>7</sup>	2	1	5	4	3	7	5	2	4	4	3
Other	17	16	22	13	21	15	13	7	14	15	11
Not known	11	24	5	13	23	18	19	28	15	15	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Total victims</b>											
Sharp instrument	201	212	213	261	263	241	262	225	267	271	255
Blunt instrument	65	69	77	59	48	74	67	60	48	67	57
Hitting, kicking, etc.	88	97	102	145	149	137	126	108	129	166	152
Strangulation <sup>2</sup>	76	56	146	78	66	66	67	58	54	56	47
Shooting <sup>3</sup>	46	61	71	96	77	67	71	50	59	53	39
Explosion <sup>4</sup>	2	4	2	1	2	-	2	53	-	-	2
Burning	32	11	17	29	22	28	33	26	29	26	21
Drowning <sup>5</sup>	6	6	9	12	6	24	11	4	9	6	3
Poison or drugs <sup>6</sup>	47	53	34	32	200	20	28	29	22	23	14
Motor vehicle <sup>7</sup>	13	11	16	19	21	21	22	13	7	15	11
Other	43	40	64	36	48	35	43	23	37	37	33
Not known	23	52	14	27	41	58	48	62	55	33	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>651</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Including asphyxiation. Year 2000/01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route into the UK.

3. These figures may not agree with those in the firearms chapter because (a) figures include cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) homicide figures include shooting by crossbows and are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

4. Year 2005/06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings.

5. Year 2003/04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.

6. Year 2002/03 includes 172 victims of Dr Shipman.

7. Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

**Table 1.04 Homicides currently<sup>1</sup> recorded for victims under 16 years by relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Male victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	28	29	41	30	26	18	12	15	20	24	17
Other family/friend/acquaintance	8	3	5	6	2	9	7	8	6	7	5
<b>Total acquainted</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	3	4	7	3	6	11	7	3	7	6	1
No suspect	4	3	3	6	5	5	5	1	7	1	7
<b>Total not acquainted</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Female victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	23	19	34	10	25	16	19	10	16	16	11
Other family/friend/acquaintance	9	1	2	3	9	2	4	2	2	5	2
<b>Total acquainted</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	2	5	3	3	11	3	2	6	2	1	1
No suspect	1	1	-	1	7	6	4	3	4	3	6
<b>Total not acquainted</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>All victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	51	48	75	40	51	34	31	25	36	40	28
Other family/friend/acquaintance	17	4	7	9	11	11	11	10	8	12	7
<b>Total acquainted</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	5	9	10	6	17	14	9	9	9	7	2
No suspect	5	4	3	7	12	11	9	4	11	4	13
<b>Total not acquainted</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>50</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes cases where relationship not known.

**Table 1.04 (continued)**

Percentages	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Male victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	65	74	73	67	67	42	39	56	50	63	57
Other family/friend/acquaintance	19	8	9	13	5	21	23	30	15	18	17
<b>Total acquainted</b>	84	82	82	80	72	63	61	85	65	82	73
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	7	10	13	7	15	26	23	11	18	16	3
No suspect	9	8	5	13	13	12	16	4	18	3	23
<b>Total not acquainted</b>	16	18	18	20	28	37	39	15	35	18	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Female victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	66	73	87	59	48	59	66	48	67	64	55
Other family/friend/acquaintance	26	4	5	18	17	7	14	10	8	20	10
<b>Total acquainted</b>	91	77	92	76	65	67	79	57	75	84	65
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	6	19	8	18	21	11	7	29	8	4	5
No suspect	3	4	-	6	13	22	14	14	17	12	30
<b>Total not acquainted</b>	9	23	8	24	35	33	21	43	25	16	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>All victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	65	74	79	65	56	49	52	52	56	63	56
Other family/friend/acquaintance	22	6	7	15	12	16	18	21	13	19	14
<b>Total acquainted</b>	87	80	86	79	68	64	70	73	69	83	70
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	6	14	11	10	19	20	15	19	14	11	4
No suspect	6	6	3	11	13	16	15	8	17	6	26
<b>Total not acquainted</b>	13	20	14	21	32	36	30	27	31	17	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes cases where relationship not known.



**Table 1.05 Homicides currently<sup>1</sup> recorded for all victims by relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Male victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	29	31	43	31	27	19	14	16	21	30	22
Parent	9	9	6	10	12	23	15	14	7	13	7
Partner/ex-partner	27	23	26	29	30	26	39	22	28	36	31
Other family	8	17	18	13	10	15	16	15	14	17	9
Friend/acquaintance	169	139	142	151	134	166	175	134	172	184	160
<b>Total known</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	135	152	221	218	242	235	238	212	206	198	170
No suspect	51	74	82	98	81	65	53	56	72	71	60
<b>Total not known</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>459</b>
<b>Female victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	25	19	38	12	27	18	21	13	17	20	14
Parent	7	6	5	12	11	9	7	6	3	11	9
Partner/ex-partner	77	89	101	117	106	96	105	89	89	78	101
Other family	10	6	8	9	8	7	9	6	5	16	5
Friend/acquaintance	38	25	24	30	39	26	32	27	24	30	17
<b>Total known</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	41	64	42	41	185	49	41	74	36	27	23
No suspect	16	18	9	24	31	17	15	27	22	22	23
<b>Total not known</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>All victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	54	50	81	43	54	37	35	29	38	50	36
Parent	16	15	11	22	23	32	22	20	10	24	16
Partner/ex-partner	104	112	127	146	136	122	144	111	117	114	132
Other family	18	23	26	22	18	22	25	21	19	33	14
Friend/acquaintance	207	164	166	181	173	192	207	161	196	214	177
<b>Total known</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	176	216	263	259	427	284	279	286	242	225	193
No suspect	67	92	91	122	112	82	68	83	94	93	83
<b>Total not known</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>276</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>651</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

**Table 1.05 (continued)**

Percentages	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Male victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	7	7	8	6	5	3	3	3	4	5	5
Parent	2	2	1	2	2	4	3	3	1	2	2
Partner/ex-partner	6	5	5	5	6	5	7	5	5	7	7
Other family	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2
Friend/acquaintance	39	31	26	27	25	30	32	29	33	34	35
<b>Total known</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	32	34	41	40	45	43	43	45	40	36	37
No suspect	12	17	15	18	15	12	10	12	14	13	13
<b>Total not known</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Female victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	12	8	17	5	7	8	9	5	9	10	7
Parent	3	3	2	5	3	4	3	2	2	5	5
Partner/ex-partner	36	39	44	48	26	43	46	37	45	38	53
Other family	5	3	4	4	2	3	4	2	3	8	3
Friend/acquaintance	18	11	11	12	10	12	14	11	12	15	9
<b>Total known</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	19	28	19	17	45	22	18	31	18	13	12
No suspect	7	8	4	10	8	8	7	11	11	11	12
<b>Total not known</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>All victims</b>											
<b>Victim acquainted with suspect</b>											
Son or daughter	8	7	11	5	6	5	4	4	5	7	6
Parent	2	2	1	3	2	4	3	3	1	3	2
Partner/ex-partner	16	17	17	18	14	16	18	16	16	15	20
Other family	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	2
Friend/acquaintance	32	24	22	23	18	25	27	23	27	28	27
<b>Total known</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Victim not acquainted with suspect</b>											
Stranger <sup>2</sup>	27	32	34	33	45	37	36	40	34	30	30
No suspect	10	14	12	15	12	11	9	12	13	12	13
<b>Total not known</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Includes not known.

**Table 1.06 Offences currently<sup>1</sup> recorded as homicide by apparent circumstances and relationship of victim to principal suspect: England and Wales 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Apparent circumstances <sup>2</sup>											
	Acquaintance										
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	249	176	220	232	195	213	225	172	211	254	229
In furtherance of theft or gain	14	7	7	15	11	20	14	16	12	16	21
Attributed to acts of terrorism <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
While attempting to restrain or arrest individual <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The result of offences of arson	1	1	2	4	1	7	7	4	6	6	5
Other circumstances <sup>5</sup>	32	46	59	59	55	33	53	29	48	54	22
Irrational act <sup>6</sup>	18	16	12	19	26	23	27	11	15	23	19
Not known <sup>7</sup>	85	118	111	85	116	109	107	110	88	82	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>375</b>
	Stranger <sup>8</sup>										
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	73	73	90	114	97	105	94	77	108	135	117
In furtherance of theft or gain	30	28	84	45	37	31	28	24	19	34	24
Attributed to acts of terrorism <sup>3</sup>	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	-
While attempting to restrain or arrest individual <sup>4</sup>	-	2	2	-	4	1	1	-	1	2	-
The result of offences of arson	-	3	4	6	9	5	16	7	4	6	1
Other circumstances <sup>5</sup>	47	50	48	56	232	78	58	51	38	46	39
Irrational act <sup>6</sup>	3	1	-	4	5	4	9	3	11	5	6
Not known <sup>7</sup>	90	148	126	156	155	142	141	155	155	90	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>276</b>
	All relationships <sup>8</sup>										
Quarrel, revenge or loss of temper	322	249	310	346	292	318	319	249	319	389	346
In furtherance of theft or gain	44	35	91	60	48	51	42	40	31	50	45
Attributed to acts of terrorism <sup>3</sup>	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	-
While attempting to restrain or arrest individual <sup>4</sup>	-	2	2	-	4	1	1	-	1	2	-
The result of offences of arson	1	4	6	10	10	12	23	11	10	12	6
Other circumstances <sup>5</sup>	79	96	107	115	287	111	111	80	86	100	61
Irrational act <sup>6</sup>	21	17	12	23	31	27	36	14	26	28	25
Not known <sup>7</sup>	175	266	237	241	271	251	248	265	243	172	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>651</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In some cases, the circumstances of a homicide could be classified in more than one row in the table and an assessment has been made of the principal circumstances, against which the offence is shown. New categories were introduced on the Homicide Index on 1 April 2007 and retrospective data have been incorporated into new categories.

3. Offences 'attributed to acts of terrorism' include all bombings and political assassinations so attributed even where there is no individual suspect and also other homicides where there are strong grounds for believing that the killers were terrorists. All 52 homicides recorded in 2005/06 relate to the 7 July London bombings.

4. Homicides 'while attempting to restrain or arrest individual' only include cases where a police officer or a person actively assisting a police officer was killed. Cases in which an innocent bystander was killed during an arrest, or where it is thought that a member of the public may have been killed while attempting to apprehend the killer for some offence when no police officer was present, are included in 'other circumstances'.

5. It is not possible to show separately offences committed in the course of furtherance of a sexual attack as there is often insufficient information available.

6. The presented category 'irrational act' no longer includes cases where circumstances were considered to be 'motiveless'.

7. Includes cases where no rational motive has been identified. Where no suspect has been found it is not always possible to establish the circumstances in which a homicide was committed or the reason for its commission.

8. Including cases where there is no suspect.

**Table 1.07 Offences currently<sup>1</sup> recorded as homicide by age and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers		Recorded crime										
Age of victim	Sex	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01 <sup>2</sup>	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04 <sup>3</sup>	2004/05 <sup>4</sup>	2005/06 <sup>5</sup>	2006/07 <sup>6</sup>	2007/08	2008/09
Under 1 year	Male	17	18	22	11	14	18	10	14	10	10	13
	Female	17	13	23	5	17	8	11	8	6	11	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>
1 and under 5 years	Male	13	7	14	14	15	10	10	5	14	12	8
	Female	7	4	6	5	11	9	8	4	8	8	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>
5 and under 16 years	Male	13	14	20	20	10	15	11	8	16	16	9
	Female	11	9	10	7	24	10	10	9	10	6	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>
16 and under 30 years	Male	133	148	160	182	151	171	191	165	174	189	165
	Female	47	49	60	62	58	54	60	76	52	49	47
	<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>212</b>
30 and under 50 years	Male	158	182	194	225	213	230	197	178	215	227	167
	Female	60	77	82	92	83	72	73	89	74	68	59
	<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>226</b>
50 and under 70 years	Male	73	60	56	73	71	83	96	76	72	82	83
	Female	36	31	18	35	59	39	36	28	29	33	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>113</b>
70 years and over	Male	21	16	18	25	62	21	30	23	19	13	14
	Female	36	44	24	39	155	30	31	26	16	29	36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>
Total all ages	Male	428	445	538	550	536	549	550	469	520	549	459
	%	67	66	70	69	57	71	71	66	73	73	71
	Female	214	227	227	245	407	222	230	242	196	204	192
	%	33	34	30	31	43	29	29	34	27	27	29
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>651</b>

**Rates per million population**

Under 1 year	Male	53	56	71	37	46	58	31	43	30	29	36
	Female	56	43	78	17	59	27	36	26	19	33	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>
1 and under 5 years	Male	10	5	11	11	12	8	8	4	11	9	6
	Female	6	3	5	4	9	8	7	3	7	6	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
5 and under 16 years	Male	3	4	5	5	3	4	3	2	4	4	3
	Female	3	2	3	2	7	3	3	3	3	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
16 and under 30 years	Male	29	32	35	39	32	36	40	34	35	37	32
	Female	10	11	13	14	13	12	13	16	11	10	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>
30 and under 50 years	Male	22	25	26	30	28	30	26	23	28	30	22
	Female	8	10	11	12	11	9	9	11	10	9	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>
50 and under 70 years	Male	14	11	10	13	13	15	17	13	12	14	14
	Female	6	5	3	6	10	7	6	5	5	5	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
70 years and over	Male	9	7	8	10	25	9	12	9	7	5	5
	Female	10	12	7	11	43	8	9	7	4	8	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Total all ages	Male	17	18	21	22	21	21	21	18	20	21	17
	Female	8	9	9	9	15	8	8	9	7	7	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. For the year 2000/01 there were 58 victims (54 male and 4 female) of unknown age.

3. For the year 2003/04 there was one victim of unknown age.

4. For the year 2004/05 there were six victims of unknown age.

5. For the year 2005/06 there were two victims of unknown age.

6. For the year 2006/07 there was one victim of unknown age.

**Table 1.08 Suspects convicted of homicide<sup>1</sup> by type of homicide: England and Wales, 1971 to 2008/09**

Numbers		Recorded crime				
Year offence initially recorded	Total indicted for homicide	Convicted of homicide				
		Total	Murder	Section 2 manslaughter	Other manslaughter	Infanticide
1971	418	327	91	72	146	18
1972	450	337	85	85	150	17
1973	427	321	83	77	152	9
1974	537	424	125	96	188	15
1975	503	383	99	77	203	4
1976	530	394	108	92	188	6
1977	457	362	116	94	146	6
1978	529	424	137	90	189	8
1979	595	475	169	109	190	7
1980	537	423	140	88	186	9
1981	543	448	167	87	187	7
1982	525	441	161	102	172	6
1983	523	417	153	80	174	10
1984	579	451	171	77	201	2
1985	595	457	166	76	207	8
1986	662	506	208	84	211	3
1987	677	515	216	78	220	1
1988	642	493	189	74	222	8
1989	633	458	198	83	176	1
1990	625	443	186	70	183	4
1991	711	502	197	76	224	5
1992	708	504	215	78	205	6
1993	681	501	224	62	210	5
1994	652	495	230	71	191	3
1995	748	558	278	53	224	3
1996	727	534	261	50	219	4
1997	709	509	250	47	209	3
1997/98	710	522	236	49	233	4
1998/99	748	526	253	41	225	7
1999/00	782	530	277	27	225	1
2000/01	798	572	286	18	263	5
2001/02	851	659	326	19	313	1
2002/03	854	617	339	13	265	-
2003/04	884	637	362	21	254	-
2004/05	885	667	395	26	245	1
2005/06	740	575	365	24	185	1
2006/07	699	525	311	34	179	1
2007/08	734	549	325	27	197	-
2008/09 <sup>2</sup>	405	319	191	18	109	1

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition there were 384 suspects in 2008/09 for whom court proceedings were not completed by 24 November 2009.

**Table 1.09 Suspects indicted for homicide by outcome of proceedings<sup>1</sup>: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Indictment and outcome</b>											
<b>Male suspects</b>											
<b>Indictment</b>											
Murder	546	602	577	665	651	663	667	581	519	563	324
Manslaughter	103	110	126	114	112	121	131	106	108	91	52
Infanticide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>376</b>
<b>Outcome:</b>											
<b>Not convicted of homicide<sup>2</sup></b>											
Not tried - count to remain on file <sup>3</sup>	10	11	10	2	1	3	5	1	2	1	-
Found unfit to plead	-	2	4	1	2	4	-	-	1	2	1
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	3	3	1	-	1	1	-	2	1	2	-
Convicted of lesser offence	33	31	22	16	20	22	24	16	24	23	10
Acquitted on all counts	126	175	153	152	176	172	156	127	116	130	60
Committed suicide or died	2	2	1	2	2	4	6	-	4	4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Convicted of homicide:</b>											
Murder	238	265	270	312	319	338	369	353	293	300	181
Sec. 2 manslaughter	35	21	15	15	12	19	25	24	32	23	16
Other manslaughter	202	202	227	279	230	221	213	164	154	169	101
Infanticide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>376</b>
<b>Female suspects</b>											
<b>Indictment</b>											
Murder	79	58	67	56	68	77	58	32	49	65	27
Manslaughter	16	12	24	14	22	23	28	18	20	15	2
Infanticide	4	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Outcome:</b>											
<b>Not convicted of homicide<sup>2</sup></b>											
Not tried - count to remain on file <sup>3</sup>	3	1	3	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	-
Found unfit to plead	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Convicted of lesser offence	9	3	2	2	3	3	3	8	4	3	1
Acquitted on all counts	35	23	26	16	29	28	23	9	18	17	7
Committed suicide or died	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Convicted of homicide:</b>											
Murder	15	12	16	14	20	24	26	12	18	25	10
Sec. 2 manslaughter	6	6	3	4	1	2	1	-	2	4	2
Other manslaughter	23	23	36	33	35	33	32	21	25	28	8
Infanticide	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>29</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The offences for which these persons were indicted may nevertheless remain currently recorded as homicide.

3. This usually implies that the suspect has been dealt with for some less serious offence.

4. In addition there were 384 suspects in 2008/09, for whom court proceedings were not completed by 24 November 2009.

5. Includes the following corporate manslaughter: three in 2000/01, one in 2001/02, one in 2005/06 and three in 2006/07.

**Table 1.09 (continued)**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Indictment and outcome</b>											
<b>All suspects</b>											
<b>Indictment <sup>4</sup></b>											
Murder	625	660	644	721	719	740	725	613	568	628	351
Manslaughter <sup>5</sup>	119	122	153	129	134	144	159	125	131	106	54
Infanticide	4	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>405</b>
<b>Outcome:</b>											
<b>Not convicted of homicide <sup>2</sup></b>											
Not tried - count to remain on file <sup>3</sup>	13	12	13	3	3	7	6	2	3	2	-
Found unfit to plead	1	3	5	1	3	4	-	-	1	2	1
Found not guilty by reason of insanity	3	3	1	-	1	3	-	2	1	2	-
Convicted of lesser offence	42	34	25	18	23	25	27	25	29	26	11
Acquitted on all counts	161	198	181	168	205	200	179	136	136	147	67
Committed suicide or died	2	2	1	2	2	8	6	-	4	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Convicted of homicide:</b>											
Murder	253	277	286	326	339	362	395	365	311	325	191
Sec. 2 manslaughter	41	27	18	19	13	21	26	24	34	27	18
Other manslaughter	225	225	263	313	265	254	245	185	179	197	109
Infanticide	7	1	5	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>405</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The offences for which these persons were indicted may nevertheless remain currently recorded as homicide.

3. This usually implies that the suspect has been dealt with for some less serious offence.

4. In addition there were 384 suspects in 2008/09, for whom court proceedings were not completed by 24 November 2009.

5. Includes the following corporate manslaughters: three in 2000/01, one in 2001/02, one in 2005/06 and three in 2006/07.

**Table 1.10 Suspects convicted of homicide by type of homicide and sentence<sup>1</sup>: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Sentence <sup>2</sup>	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Male suspects</b>											
<b>Murder</b>											
Life imprisonment <sup>3</sup>	238	265	270	312	319	338	369	353	293	300	181
<b>Section 2 manslaughter</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
Life <sup>3</sup>	6	3	-	1	1	2	3	2	4	1	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	3	4	4	1	2	4	4	-	3	3	-
4 years and under	-	2	1	2	2	5	2	8	4	2	-
Fully suspended sentence	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	22	7	5	6	1	4	11	11	16	12	13
Hospital Order	1	3	2	5	5	3	2	3	4	3	3
Probation/Supervision	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Other manslaughter<sup>5</sup></b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
Life <sup>3</sup>	8	15	9	17	7	10	13	11	7	5	4
Over 10 years (excluding life)	7	4	5	12	6	6	11	4	4	4	8
Over 4 and up to 10 years	85	90	104	126	113	104	85	64	76	86	41
4 years and under	85	77	93	86	72	78	86	76	60	65	46
Fully suspended sentence	5	1	6	5	2	1	5	1	-	1	1
Hospital/Restriction Order	5	6	3	7	11	11	9	2	3	4	1
Hospital Order	1	2	5	12	13	10	4	2	4	1	-
Probation/Supervision	4	7	2	9	5	1	-	1	-	1	-
Other sentence	2	-	-	5	1	-	-	2	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Infanticide</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
4 years and under	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hospital/Restriction Order	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hospital Order	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Probation/Supervision	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other sentence	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>475</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>298</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The results of appeals, apart from those occurring since the beginning of 1997, have been taken into account in compiling this table.

3. Including detention during Her Majesty's Pleasure under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS.90 and 92(1) [previously Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.53(1)] and custody for life.

4. Including detention under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS.91(1) & (2) & 92(3) [previously Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.53(2)], partly suspended sentences and young offender institution.

5. In addition, one male suspect was convicted of other manslaughter but died before sentencing for an offence recorded in 2005/06.



**Table 1.10 (continued)**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Sentence <sup>2</sup>	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Female suspects</b>											
<b>Murder</b>											
Life imprisonment <sup>3</sup>	15	12	16	14	20	24	26	12	18	25	10
<b>Section 2 manslaughter</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
Life <sup>3</sup>	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
4 years and under	1	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Fully suspended sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Hospital Order	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other manslaughter</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
Life <sup>3</sup>	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	5	-	10	12	8	15	11	7	10	10	4
4 years and under	7	12	16	10	17	10	11	11	11	13	3
Fully suspended sentence	2	-	1	1	-	4	1	-	1	2	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	1	1	1	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	-
Hospital Order	-	-	3	3	2	-	-	1	-	1	-
Probation/Supervision	7	8	4	5	5	1	5	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Infanticide</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
4 years and under	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fully suspended sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	5	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The results of appeals, apart from those occurring since the beginning of 1997, have been taken into account in compiling this table.

3. Including detention during Her Majesty's Pleasure under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS.90 and 92(1) [previously Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.53(1)] and custody for life.

4. Including detention under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS.91(1) & (2) & 92(3) [previously Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.53(2)], partly suspended sentences and young offender institution.

5. In addition, one male suspect was convicted of other manslaughter but died before sentencing for an offence recorded in 2005/06.

**Table 1.10 (continued)**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
Sentence <sup>2</sup>	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>All suspects</b>											
<b>Murder</b>											
Life imprisonment <sup>3</sup>	253	277	286	326	339	362	395	365	311	325	191
<b>Section 2 manslaughter</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
Life <sup>3</sup>	7	4	-	2	1	3	3	2	4	2	-
Over 10 years (excluding life)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Over 4 and up to 10 years	3	4	5	1	2	4	4	-	3	4	-
4 years and under	1	3	2	4	2	6	2	8	5	3	-
Fully suspended sentence	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	24	7	5	6	1	4	11	11	17	13	15
Hospital Order	1	4	2	6	5	3	2	3	4	3	3
Probation/Supervision	4	5	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Other manslaughter <sup>5</sup></b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
Life <sup>3</sup>	9	17	9	18	8	10	14	11	8	5	5
Over 10 years (excluding life)	7	4	6	13	6	7	11	5	4	5	8
Over 4 and up to 10 years	90	90	114	138	121	119	96	71	86	96	45
4 years and under	92	89	109	96	89	88	97	87	71	78	49
Fully suspended sentence	7	1	7	6	2	5	6	1	1	3	1
Hospital/Restriction Order	6	7	4	7	13	13	10	3	4	5	1
Hospital Order	1	2	8	15	15	10	4	3	4	2	-
Probation/Supervision	11	15	6	14	10	2	5	1	-	1	-
Other sentence	2	-	-	6	1	-	2	2	1	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Infanticide</b>											
Immediate imprisonment <sup>4</sup>											
4 years and under	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fully suspended sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hospital/Restriction Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Order	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Probation/Supervision	5	1	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Other sentence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total <sup>5</sup></b>	<b>526</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>319</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. The results of appeals, apart from those occurring since the beginning of 1997, have been taken into account in compiling this table.

3. Including detention during Her Majesty's Pleasure under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS.90 and 92(1) [previously Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.53(1)] and custody for life.

4. Including detention under Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 SS.91(1) & (2) & 92(3) [previously Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.53(2)], partly suspended sentences and young offender institution.

5. In addition, one male suspect was convicted of other manslaughter but died before sentencing for an offence recorded in 2005/06.

**Table 1.11 Suspects convicted of homicide by previous homicide convictions<sup>1</sup>: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year offence initially recorded											
Total number convicted of homicide	642	672	765	795	943	771	780	711	716	753	651
Number previously convicted of homicide:	1	8 <sup>2</sup>	1 <sup>3</sup>	-	2 <sup>2</sup>	4	4	8 <sup>2</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>	1 <sup>2</sup>	-
While serving sentence for homicide	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
After release or termination of sentence for previous homicide conviction	1	6	1	-	1	4	4	8	2	1	-

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition, one suspect of an offence who committed suicide had previously been convicted of homicide.

3. In addition, one suspect of an offence who died had previously been convicted of homicide.

**Table 1.12 Suspects convicted of homicide who had previously been convicted of homicide by type of homicide<sup>1</sup>: England and Wales, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers	Recorded crime			
	Total	Homicide offence of previous conviction		
Homicide offence of latest conviction		Murder	Section 2 Manslaughter	Other Manslaughter
Murder	27	11	4	12
Section 2 manslaughter	2	-	2	-
Other manslaughter	2	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>14<sup>4</sup></b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. In addition, four suspects who committed suicide had previously been convicted for murder.

3. In addition, one suspect who died had previously been convicted of Section 2 manslaughter.

4. In addition, one suspect who committed suicide had previously been convicted for other manslaughter.

**Table 1.13 Currently recorded homicides <sup>1</sup> by region and police force area: England and Wales, 2004/05 to 2008/09**

Police force area						Recorded crime
	2004/05	2005/06 <sup>2</sup>	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Offences per million population 2008/09
Cleveland	6	5	4	8	3	5.3
Durham	2	8	11	5	7	11.5
Northumbria	15	16	25	28	15	10.7
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Cheshire	10	14	6	9	12	11.9
Cumbria	7	2	-	3	4	8.1
Gtr Manchester	56	51	55	49	44	17.1
Lancashire	29	12	21	20	18	12.4
Merseyside	42	25	22	32	27	20.0
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>15.3</b>
Humberside	13	10	18	11	11	12.1
North Yorkshire	12	4	2	5	6	7.6
South Yorkshire	16	21	21	28	22	16.8
West Yorkshire	39	33	43	46	35	15.9
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>14.2</b>
Derbyshire	8	6	9	7	6	6.0
Leicestershire	8	6	11	12	7	7.1
Lincolnshire	2	4	6	11	5	7.2
Northamptonshire	3	10	13	8	7	10.2
Nottinghamshire	19	14	14	11	11	10.3
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Staffordshire	5	10	10	12	11	10.3
Warwickshire	4	8	5	6	5	9.4
West Mercia	11	6	16	11	12	10.1
West Midlands	66	49	42	41	51	19.5
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Bedfordshire	7	9	9	10	9	14.9
Cambridgeshire	13	10	7	7	5	6.5
Essex	11	20	22	14	11	6.4
Hertfordshire	11	9	10	8	6	5.6
Norfolk	2	11	5	8	13	15.3
Suffolk	5	5	9	7	1	1.4
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7.9</b>
City of London <sup>3</sup>	-	2	1	1	-	...
Metropolitan	177	168	162	159	157	20.6
<b>London Region</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>20.6</b>
Hampshire	12	9	16	19	11	5.9
Kent	13	15	15	17	8	4.8
Surrey	10	10	2	9	7	6.3
Sussex	20	13	13	11	12	7.8
Thames Valley	25	20	22	17	13	5.9
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Avon and Somerset	15	9	11	15	15	9.4
Devon and Cornwall	25	12	16	20	10	6.0
Dorset	6	2	5	8	8	11.3
Gloucestershire	9	2	3	4	3	5.1
Wiltshire	6	7	4	10	6	9.3
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Dyfed-Powys	4	3	2	6	7	13.7
Gwent	10	4	7	13	13	23.1
North Wales	13	6	4	8	4	5.9
South Wales	13	9	14	16	10	8.1
<b>Wales</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>British Transport Police<sup>4</sup></b>	-	42	3	3	3	...
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>12.0</b>

1. As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

2. Year 2005/06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings: 39 recorded by British Transport Police, 13 by the Metropolitan Police Service (included in London total).

3. '...' data for London Region includes City of London Police.

4. BTP initially recorded 10 homicides for 2004/05; full details of which were unavailable as at 24 November 2009.

## 2 Recorded offences involving firearms

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*Peter Kaiza*

### SUMMARY

This chapter deals with offences recorded by the police that involve the use of a firearm. Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat. Firearms can be split into two main types: those that use a controlled explosion to fire a projectile, and those that use air. Types of firearm include handguns, shotguns, rifles, imitation weapons and air weapons.

- Offences involving the use of a firearm continue to make up a small proportion of recorded crime. In 2008/09, firearms were used in just 0.3 per cent of all recorded crimes, or one in every 330. Overall, firearms were reported to have been used in 14,250 recorded crimes in 2008/09, an 18 per cent decrease on 2007/08, and the fifth consecutive annual fall.
- Firearm offences, excluding air weapons, decreased by 17 per cent, to 8,208.
- There were 39 fatal injuries resulting from offences that involved firearms in 2008/09, the lowest recorded by the police in 20 years. Fatal and serious injuries decreased by 20 per cent from 541 in 2007/08 to 431 in 2008/09.
- Overall, firearm offences involving any type of injury were down by 41 per cent in 2008/09, from 4,164 in 2007/08 to 2,458 in 2008/09.
- Handguns were used in 4,275 offences during 2008/09, a rise of two per cent on 2007/08.
- There was a large fall in the use of imitation weapons, which fell by 41 per cent to 1,511.
- Firearms, excluding air weapons, were fired in 33 per cent of the offences in which they were involved.
- The number of firearm robberies decreased by ten per cent in 2008/09, to 3,617, the lowest recorded since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard<sup>1</sup> in 2002/03.
- Firearm offences, excluding air weapons, were geographically concentrated in three police force areas: Metropolitan, Greater Manchester and West Midlands (by way of comparison, just under a quarter of the population reside in these three areas).

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<sup>1</sup> See Box 2.1 for details.

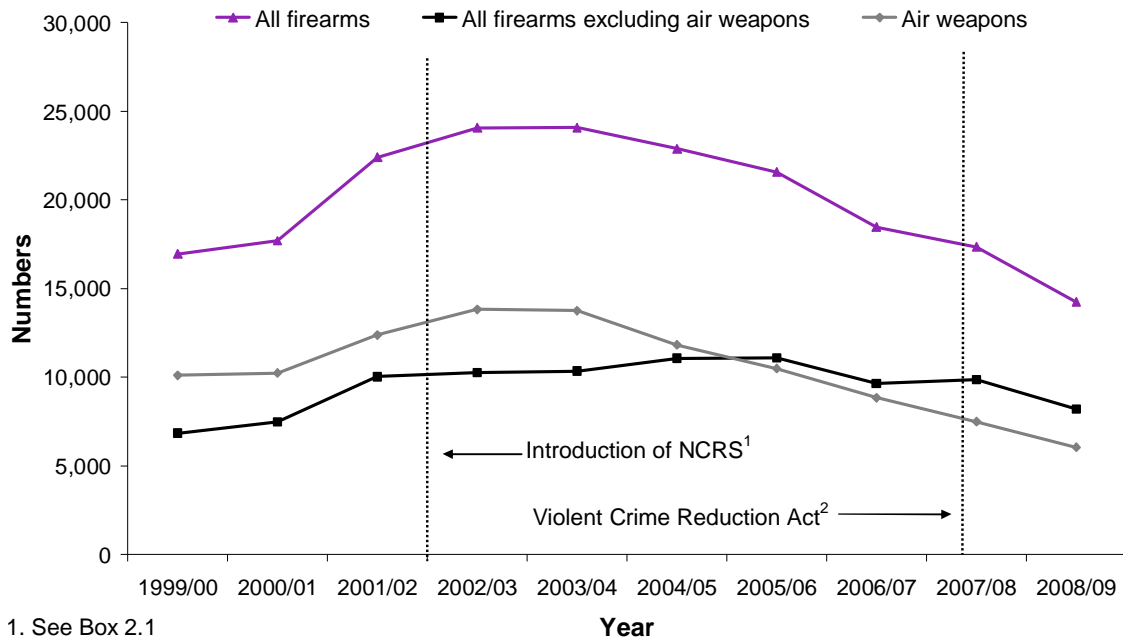
## 2.1 FIREARM OFFENCES

Gun crime continues to make up a small proportion of overall recorded crime. Firearm offences include those where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat. Overall, in 2008/09, firearms were used in just 0.3 per cent of all police recorded offences, or around one in every 330. By excluding air weapons, which are often involved in less serious offences, this rate falls to around one in every 570 recorded offences. Around one-fifth of firearm offences resulted in an injury and the majority of these were for slight injuries. Three per cent of firearm offences resulted in a serious or fatal injury.

There are broadly two main types of firearms: those that use a controlled explosion to fire a projectile (called non-air weapons in this bulletin), and those that use air or gas. This is an important distinction as non-air weapon offences tend to be more serious and result in more fatalities or serious injuries. In contrast, although air weapons can cause serious injury and death, this is rare, and the majority of the offences recorded are for criminal damage offences. Due to this distinction, this bulletin distinguishes between the two. Air weapons are included unless otherwise stated.

- In 2008/09, firearms were used in 14,250 recorded offences in England and Wales, a decrease of 18 per cent compared with the previous year, when 17,343 offences were recorded. There have been similar decreases in both non-air weapon and air weapon offences (17% and 19% respectively).
- Firearms offences have fallen steadily since peaking at 24,094 in 2003/04, and have decreased by 41 per cent since then. These decreases have largely been due to a reduction in the number of air weapon offences recorded by the police, which have fallen by over half (56%).
- In comparison, non-air weapon offences have fluctuated over recent years, prior to the 17 per cent fall recorded this year. (Table 2.03; Figure 2.1).
- The 19 per cent fall in air weapon offences in 2008/09 follows a 15 per cent fall in the previous year (Figure 2.1; Table 2.03). Recent falls coincide with the 2007 legislation which tightened the manufacture and sale of certain types of air weapon (see Box 2.2).
- Within non-air weapon offences, those involving the use of a handgun increased by two per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Handgun offences peaked earlier than for all firearm offences; after falling by a fifth between 2002/03 and 2004/05 they have been relatively stable over recent years.
- Shotgun offences increased by three per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09, from 602 to 619. Offences involving the use of a shotgun have also been relatively stable over recent years.
- There were 1,511 offences involving the use of an imitation firearm in 2008/09, a decrease of 41 per cent compared with the previous year. This fall also coincides with tightened legislation introduced in 2007. Imitation weapon offences have fallen by more than half since they peaked at 3,373 in 2004/05.

**Figure 2.1 Offences reported to the police in which a firearm has been used, 1999/00 to 2008/09**



1. See Box 2.1  
2. See Box 2.2

### **Box 2.1 Impact of changes in police recording practice**

The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) by police forces on 1 April 2002 brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. While no estimates were calculated to assess the effect of this new standard on the number of firearm offences recorded, it is known that this change inflated the overall number of violence against the person and criminal damage offences but had less effect on the number of robberies (see Simmons et al., 2003). Due to this change, it is not possible to directly compare figures prior to 2002/03 with those for later years.

From 1 April 2008, there was also a change in offence classification which for the first time collected separate information on grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent (rather than as part of a broader 'other wounding' category). This, combined with a clarification in the counting rules for grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, led to a step change in the levels of 'most serious violence' for some police forces. This means figures for GBH offences in 2008/09 are not comparable with those for earlier years. The tables affected in this bulletin are 2.01, 2.02 and 2.04.

The overall totals of firearm offences are not affected by this change.

**Box 2.2 Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006**

The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 came into law in October 2007 and introduced new restrictions for imitation firearms and air weapons.

For air weapons, the Act restricted the sale of air weapons to licensed firearm dealers and raised the minimum age for owning or buying an air weapon from 14 to 18. For imitation weapons, the import or sale of realistic\* imitation weapons was made illegal by the Act.

The introduction of this Act has coincided with large falls in the number of firearm offences where an imitation or air weapon has been involved. However, it has not been possible to assess the exact impact of the introduction of this legislation and air weapon offences have been falling steadily since 2003/04.

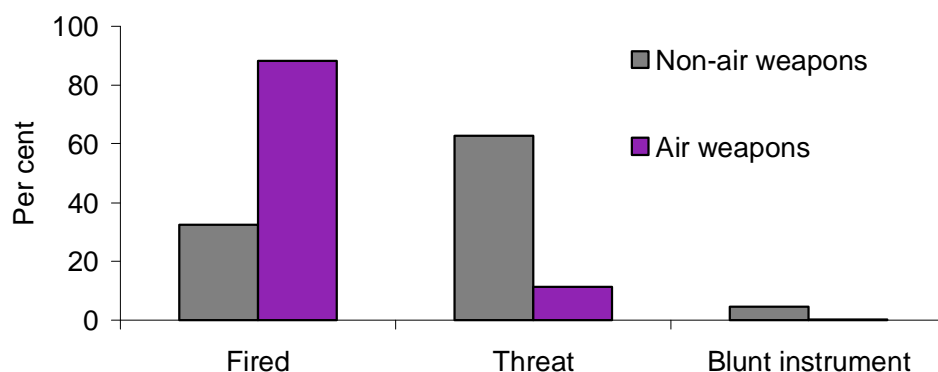
\* A 'realistic' imitation firearm is defined as one that: (a) has an appearance that is so realistic as to make it indistinguishable, for all practical purposes, from a real firearm; and (b) is neither a de-activated firearm nor itself an antique.

**2.2 HOW FIREARMS WERE USED**

As well as being fired, firearms can be used as a blunt instrument (sometimes called 'pistol whipping') or to threaten. The likelihood of a weapon being fired varies by weapon type.

- Overall, non-air weapons were only fired in about a third (33%) of the offences that were recorded by the police, with the use of the weapon as a threat more common, at 62 per cent.
- Handguns were fired in ten per cent of the recorded offences in which they were involved, and used as a threat in 83 per cent of offences. Shotguns were fired in 41 per cent of cases.
- Air weapons were most likely to be fired in the offences that were recorded by the police, at nearly nine in ten offences (88%). As air weapon offences tend to be for criminal damage rather than the more serious violence against the person offences, it is possible that relatively fewer of these offences come to the attention of the police.

**Figure 2.2 How firearms were used, 2008/09**





**Table 2a Offences in which firearms were used, by type of firearm, whether fired, and degree of injury caused, 2008/09**

Weapon type	Number of offences	% fired	Of those fired <sup>1</sup>		
			% Fatal or serious injury	% Slight injury	% No injury
Shotguns	619	41	28	16	57
Handguns	4,275	10	32	17	51
Imitation firearm	1,511	71	1	47	52
Rifles/others <sup>2</sup>	1,803	52	12	48	40
Air weapons	6,042	88	1	11	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>74</b>

1. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Starting guns, supposed / type unknown, prohibited firearms (including CS gas) and other firearms.

### 2.3 TYPE OF WEAPON USED

It is not always possible to categorise the type of weapon used in an offence. For example, if a weapon is not fired and not recovered after an offence, it may not be possible to know whether it was real or an imitation weapon (or whether it was loaded or unloaded). The categorisation of firearms will often depend on descriptions by victims or witnesses. Some offences involve 'supposed' firearms (i.e. something concealed which was presumed to be a firearm).

- In 2008/09, the most commonly used firearm was an air weapon, with 6,042 offences or 42 per cent of the total offences.
- There were 4,275 handgun offences, 30 per cent of the total, or 52 per cent if excluding air weapons.

**Figure 2.3 Types of weapon used in non-air weapon firearm offences, England and Wales, 2008/09**

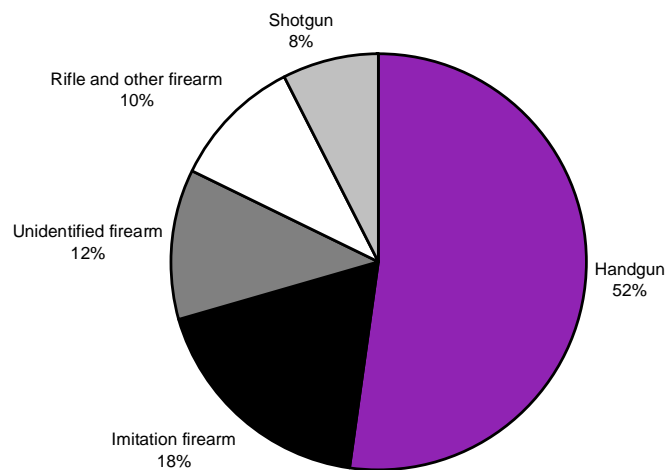
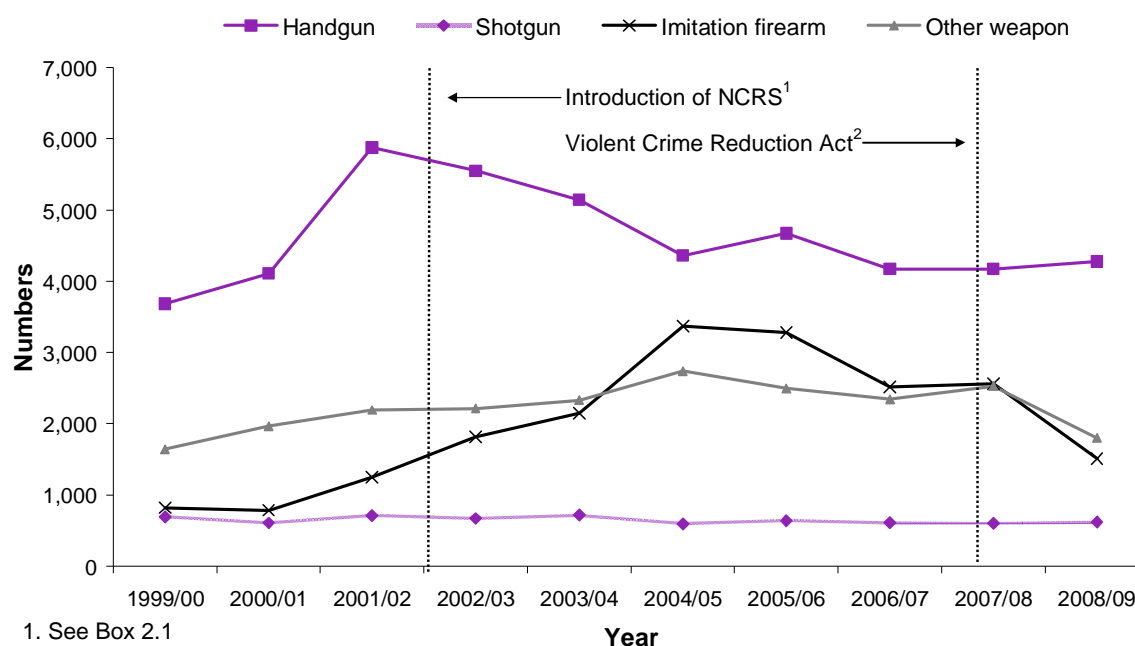


Figure 2.4 Firearm offences by type of principal weapon, 1999/00 to 2008/09



1. See Box 2.1

2. See Box 2.2

## 2.4 INJURIES SUSTAINED IN FIREARM OFFENCES

The majority of firearm offences do not result in an injury. In 2008/09, there were 2,458 injuries recorded, a decrease of 41 per cent on the previous year. Of these, there were 39 fatal injuries<sup>2</sup> involving firearms, down from 53 offences recorded in 2007/08 and the lowest recorded total in 20 years. There were a further 392 firearm offences that resulted in serious injury, with the remaining being slight injuries. Firearm injuries peaked at 5,402 in 2004/05, since when they have fallen by more than half (Table 2b).

- All of the 39 fatalities in 2008/09 involved a weapon being fired, with 28 of the fatalities involving the use of a handgun and seven involving the use of a shotgun. There were 431 fatal and serious injury offences recorded in 2008/09, a decrease of 20 per cent on the previous year, where 541 were recorded. Only three per cent of all firearm offences in 2008/09 resulted in a fatal or serious injury (Table 2.07).
- There was also a 44 per cent fall in slight injuries, from 3,623 in 2007/08 to 2,027 in 2008/09.
- In 2008/09, 17 per cent of offences involving firearms, including air weapons, caused an injury, either because they were fired or used as a blunt instrument (2,458 offences) (Table 2.07). This compares with 24 per cent of offences resulting in an injury in 2007/08.

<sup>2</sup> Firearms were involved in 41 homicides in 2008/09; however, in two cases the firearm did not cause the fatal injury.

- There were substantial falls in the number of injuries for all main weapon types, including a fall in handgun injuries of 44 per cent compared with last year, despite the number of these offences increasing by two per cent over the same period. The number of shotgun injuries also fell, by 13 per cent, despite these offences rising by three per cent (Table 2.06).

The likelihood and seriousness of an injury varies according to the type of weapon used. This is also linked to the likelihood of a weapon being fired in an offence. Table 2a shows, by type of firearm, the percentage which were fired and the percentage of offences where injury was caused *if they were fired* (more detailed figures are in Table 2.05).

- Offences involving air weapons and imitation firearms were the most likely to involve a fired weapon and were responsible for a half (50%) of all the injuries recorded. However, 93 per cent of these injuries were slight, and none was fatal.
- Handguns were fired in only ten per cent of cases, but *if they were fired*, nearly a third (32%) of cases resulted in a fatal or serious injury, compared with five per cent for all weapon types.
- Shotguns were fired in 41 per cent of offences, and *if they were fired*, 28 per cent of cases resulted in a fatal or serious injury.

**Table 2b Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were used<sup>1</sup> resulting in injury, by degree of injury, 2000/01 to 2008/09**

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Non-air weapons</b>											
Fatal injury	50	62	72	90	80	68	76	49	56	53	39
Serious injury <sup>3</sup>	162	200	244	392	416	437	412	476	412	402	320
Slight injury	653	933	1,066	1,391	1,683	1,862	3,416	3,297	2,543	2,786	1,405
<b>Total non-air weapons</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>1,764</b>
<b>Air weapons</b>											
Fatal injury	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	3	-	-
Serious injury <sup>3</sup>	133	171	166	165	156	157	144	119	95	86	72
Slight injury	1,381	1,806	1,654	1,748	2,220	2,238	1,353	1,062	955	837	622
<b>Total air weapons</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>1,182</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>694</b>
<b>Total injuries (all weapons)</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>5,402</b>	<b>5,004</b>	<b>4,064</b>	<b>4,164</b>	<b>2,458</b>

1. By weapon being fired, used as a blank instrument or in a threat.

2. The introduction of the NCRS in April 2002 means that data prior to this data are not directly comparable with later figures. See Box 2.1 for more details.

3. A serious injury is one which requires a stay in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

## Injuries to police officers

One police officer was seriously injured and a further eight slightly injured by a firearm while on duty in 2008/09. This overall total of nine compares with the 21 to 24 injuries that were recorded in each of the previous four years, and is the lowest since 2000/01, when seven were recorded (Table 2c).

**Table 2c Offences recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm, excluding air weapons, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Year	Total	Fatal injury	Serious injury <sup>1</sup>	Slight injury
1998/99	11	-	-	11
1999/00	10	-	-	10
2000/01	7	-	5	2
2001/02	10	-	-	10
2002/03	12	-	1	11
2003/04	14	1	3	10
2004/05	23	-	2	21
2005/06	23	1	6	16
2006/07	21	-	3	18
2007/08	24	1	3	20
2008/09	9	-	1	8

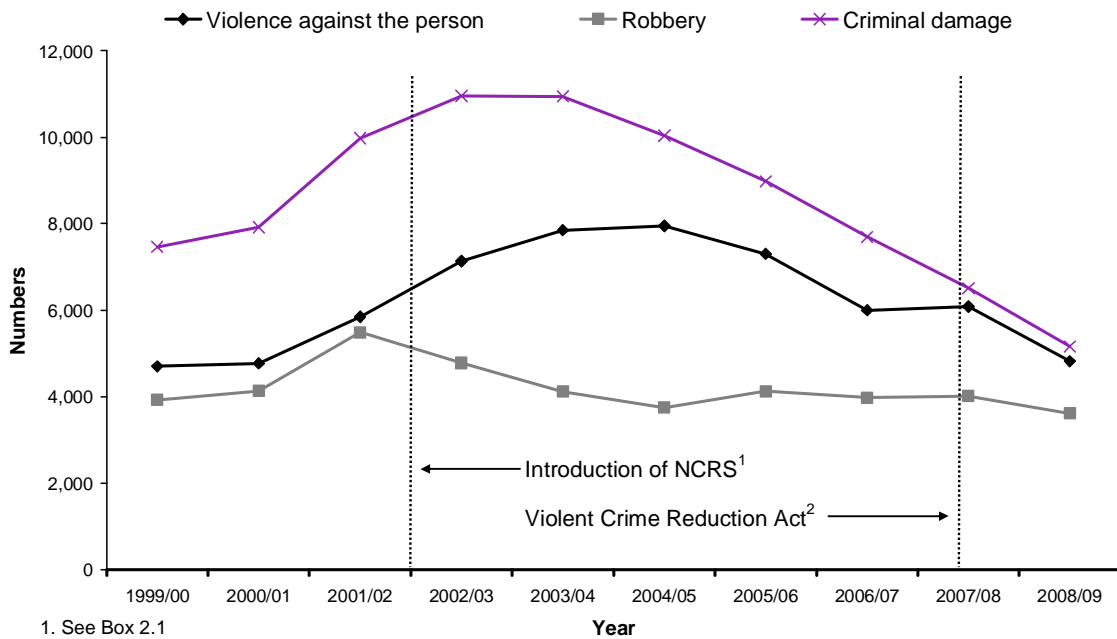
1. A serious injury is one which necessitated a stay in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

## 2.5 TYPES OF OFFENCES WHERE FIREARMS ARE USED

There is a clear difference in the types of offences committed by air weapons, and non-air weapons. In 2008/09, 88 per cent of the recorded offences where a non-air weapon had been involved were for violence against the person and robbery offences. For air weapons, 77 per cent of recorded offences were for criminal damage offences.

- For non air-weapons, violence against the person offences decreased by 22 per cent, from 4,714 in 2007/08 to 3,679 in 2008/09. Robbery offences decreased by ten per cent, from 4,014 to 3,617 over the same period.
- Forty-five per cent of the recorded offences involving a non-air weapon were for violence against the person offences, with robbery offences accounting for 44 per cent and criminal damage accounting for six per cent.
- Around three-quarters of air weapon offences were for criminal damage offences (77%), with a further 19 per cent for violence against the person offences.

**Figure 2.5 Offences in which firearms were reported to have been used by selected offence type, 1998/99 to 2008/09**



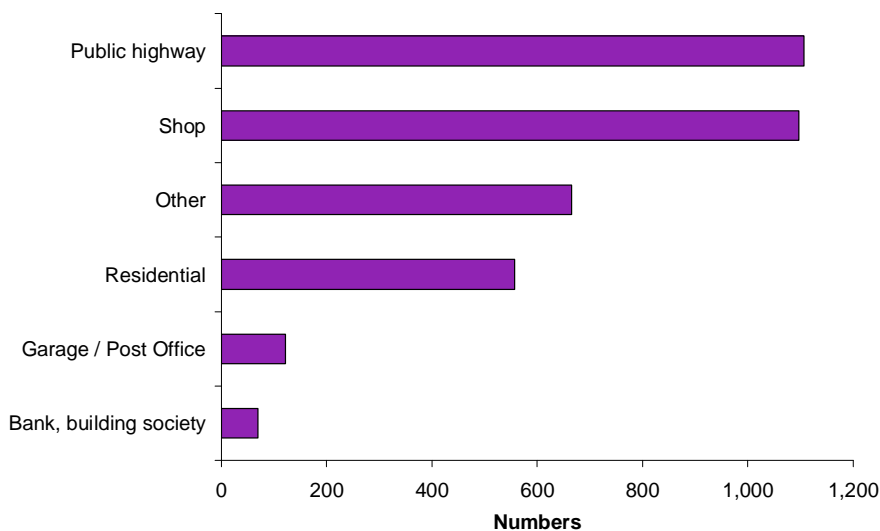
1. See Box 2.1  
2. See Box 2.2

The proportion of offences where a firearm was used differs across offence types (Table 2.02). Less than one per cent of violence against the person offences involved the use of a firearm. This figure increases for the most serious violent offences of homicide (6%) and attempted murder and GBH with intent combined (3%). Around five per cent of robberies involved the use of a firearm in 2008/09.

**Location of robberies**

Around a third of robberies where a firearm was involved are committed on public highways (31%), with a further third (30%) recorded in shops. Robberies of banks, building societies and Post Offices with a firearm account for four per cent of robberies (Figure 2.6, Table 2.09).

**Figure 2.6 Location of firearm robberies in 2008/09, by number of offences**



**The types of firearms involved in robberies**

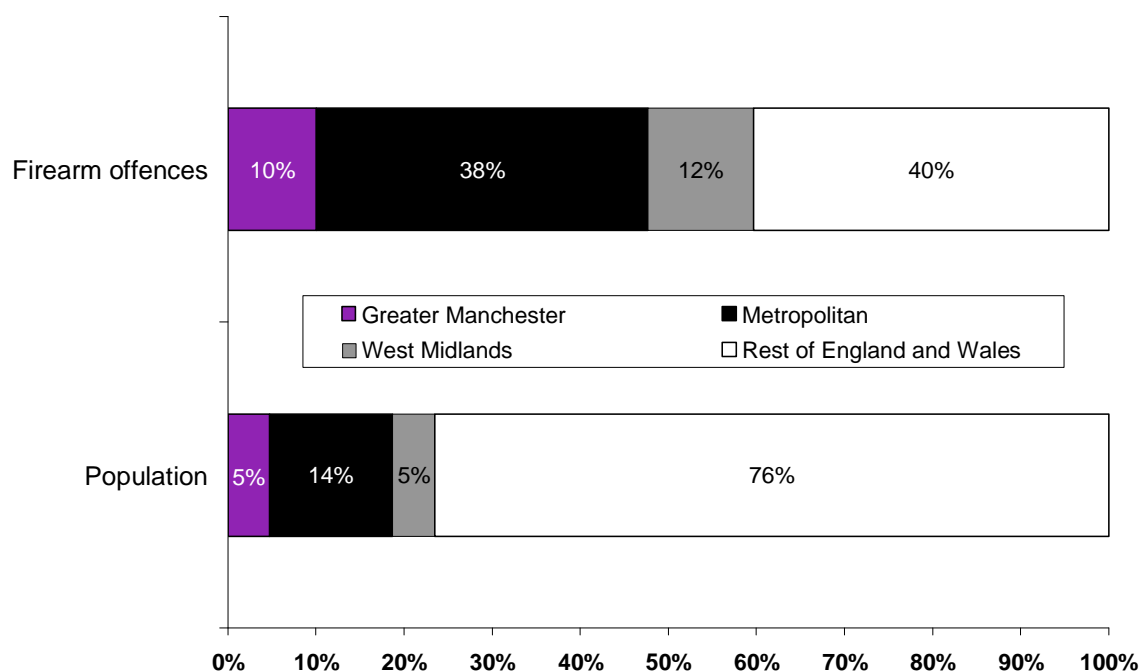
Firearms described as handguns were used in 71 per cent of robberies involving firearms, with six per cent involving shotguns. In a further 11 per cent of incidents, the firearm could not be identified (i.e. a firearm not actually seen, or not identified as to type), and another four per cent involved imitation firearms. Air weapons were involved in only one per cent of firearm robberies in 2008/09 (Table 2.08).

**2.6 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF FIREARM OFFENCES**

Sixty per cent of all non-air weapon firearm offences in England and Wales in 2008/09 occurred in just three police force areas – Metropolitan, Greater Manchester, and West Midlands. The proportion is four percentage points higher than the 56 per cent recorded in 2007/08. In comparison, just under a quarter of the population of England and Wales reside in these three police forces (Figure 2.7).

The rates per population for firearm offences for these three forces are significantly higher than England and Wales as a whole; 41 offences per 100,000 population for Metropolitan Police; 38 per 100,000 for West Midlands and 32 per 100,000 for Greater Manchester. The overall corresponding rate for England and Wales was 15 per 100,000 population, a decrease from the 18 per 100,000 recorded in 2007/08 (Table 2.12).

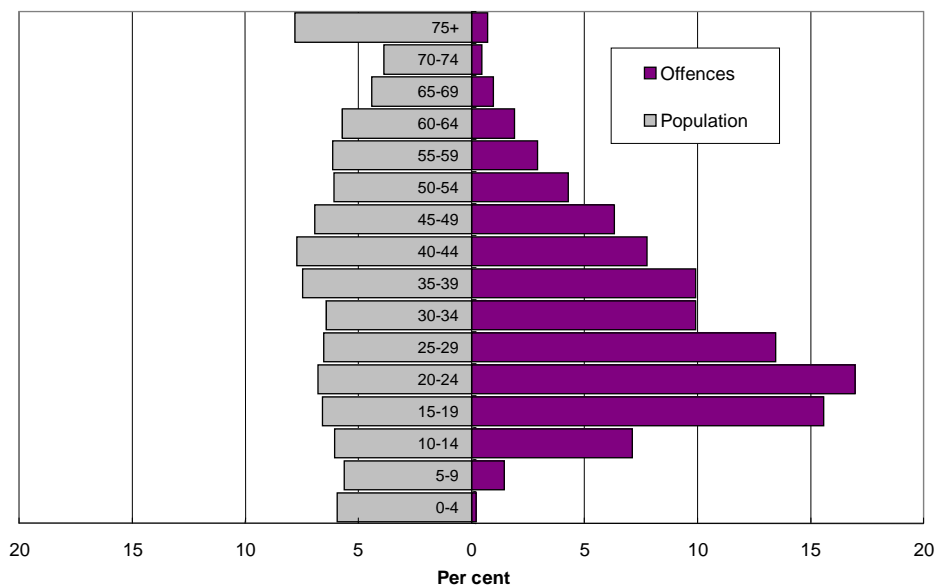
**Figure 2.7 Proportion of firearm offences, excluding air weapons, in three police force areas, compared with population profile of those forces, 2008/09**



## 2.7 AGE OF VICTIMS

The risk of being a victim of a firearm offence varies by age. Of the non-air weapon offences in which the ages of victims were known, people aged 20 to 24 constituted a disproportionate number of victims, accounting for 17 per cent of the offences but only seven per cent of the population. In contrast, children under five and people aged 65 and over were the least likely to become victims. Although they represent 16 per cent of the population, those aged 65 and over were victims in only two per cent of the offences (Figure 2.8).

**Figure 2.8 Age profile of firearm victims, excluding air weapons, compared to population profile for England and Wales, 2008/09**



## 2.8 MISAPPROPRIATED (STOLEN) FIREARMS

Due to their potential for subsequent use in crime, figures are recorded for the number of firearms that are misappropriated. 'Misappropriated firearms' are defined as those stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery, or handled dishonestly. For simplicity, they are referred to as 'stolen' hereafter.

The number of firearms recorded by the police as being stolen has fluctuated between 2,000 and 3,000 in recent years. During 2008/09, 2,830 firearms were stolen, the highest number since 2002/03. In comparison, the 2,031 weapons stolen in 2007/08 represented the lowest number in around 20 years (Table 2.10). In 2008/09, 61% of firearms were stolen from residential premises. Air weapons accounted for around a half (47%) of the thefts (Table 2.11).

There were increases in the number of all main types of weapons stolen. The most notable increase was for the number of stolen shotguns, which in 2008/09 more than doubled compared with the previous year, from 289 to 682. Around a third of these shotgun thefts in 2008/09 are related to one incident within the Gwent police force area. Further data are in Table 2.10.

Table 2.01 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by offence group, 1998/99 to 2008/09

Offence type	Numbers and percentage changes										Recorded crime % change 2007/08 to 2008/09	
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 <sup>3</sup>	2006/07	2007/08		2008/09 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	3,683	4,702	4,773	5,844	7,133	7,852	7,946	7,302	6,002	6,085	4,816	-21
<i>of which</i>												
Homicide	49	62	73	97	81	68	77	50	59	53	41	-23
Attempted murder and other most serious violence	724	759	831	1,110	1,285	1,350	1,384	893	759	869	..	..
Attempted murder and GBH with intent offences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	774	..
Other	2,910	3,881	3,869	4,637	5,767	6,434	6,485	6,359	5,184	5,163	4,001	-23
<b>Robbery</b>	2,973	3,922	4,128	5,486	4,776	4,117	3,744	4,121	3,977	4,014	3,617	-10
<b>Burglary</b>	319	329	390	483	494	533	341	298	206	172	167	-3
<b>Criminal damage</b>	6,466	7,465	7,923	9,977	10,956	10,948	10,038	8,979	7,691	6,506	5,158	-21
<b>Other firearm offences</b>	433	528	484	611	711	644	825	827	605	566	492	-13
<b>All offences</b>	13,874	16,946	17,698	22,401	24,070	24,094	22,894	21,527	18,481	17,343	14,250	-18

1. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

3. From 2005/06, 'threat or conspiracy to murder' offences are included within the 'other violence against the person' category.

4. The offence classification 'more serious wounding or other act endangering life' was replaced with three new offence classifications in April 2008, including the 'inflicting GBH with intent' offences that are included in this table. See Box 2.1 for more details.



**Table 2.02 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, as a percentage of all notifiable offences in particular offence groups, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Numbers and percentage changes Offence type	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 <sup>3</sup>	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Violence against the person</b>											
<i>of which</i>											
Homicide	6.5	8.1	8.6	10.9	7.7	8.0	9.0	6.5	7.8	6.8	6.3
Attempted murder and other most serious violence	2.8	2.6	2.7	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1	4.3	4.0	5.1	..
Attempted murder and GBH with intent offences <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.3
Other	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
<b>Robbery</b>	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.7	4.5
<b>Criminal damage</b>	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
<b>All offences</b>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3

1. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

3. From 2005/06, 'threat or conspiracy to murder' offences are included within the 'other violence against the person' category.

4. The offence classification 'more serious wounding or other act endangering life' was replaced with three new offence classifications in April 2008, including the 'inflicting GBH with intent' offences that are included in this table. See Box 2.1 for more details.

Table 2.03 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used by type of principal weapon, 1999/00 to 2008/09

Principal weapon	Number of offences										Recorded crime % change 2007/08 to 2008/09
	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	2003/04	2004/05 <sup>3</sup>	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	
<b>Shotguns</b>											
Long-barrelled shotgun	353	303	380	361	424	306	375	360	365	381	4
Sawn-off shotgun	340	305	332	311	294	291	267	252	237	238	0
<b>Shotgun total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Handguns<sup>4</sup></b>											
Converted imitation	..	..	..	..	..	20	7	12	7	9	-
Reactivated	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	1	5	-
Converted air pistol	..	..	..	..	..	14	12	13	11	17	-
Other	..	..	..	..	..	866	1,022	908	895	894	0
Type unknown	..	..	..	..	..	3,458	3,629	3,238	3,258	3,350	3
<b>Handgun total</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>4,110</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>5,549</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>4,672</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>4,172</b>	<b>4,275</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rifle</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Imitation firearms<sup>4</sup></b>											
Imitation handgun	..	..	..	..	..	355	368	299	322	243	-25
BB gun/soft air weapon	..	..	..	..	..	2,863	2,755	2,094	2,124	1,195	-44
Deactivated firearm	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	2	2	-
Blank firer	..	..	..	..	..	27	17	21	21	11	-
Other imitation	..	..	..	..	..	127	133	100	93	60	-35
<b>Imitation firearm total</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>3,373</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>-41</b>
<b>Unidentified firearm</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>-28</b>
<b>Other firearms<sup>4</sup></b>											
Unconverted starting gun	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	3	6	11	-
CS gas	..	..	..	..	..	516	461	436	552	290	-47
Pepper spray	..	..	..	..	..	141	154	179	228	137	-40
Machine gun	..	..	..	..	..	25	34	39	18	31	-
Stun gun	..	..	..	..	..	143	133	108	118	96	-19
Other converted imitation weapon	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	-	4	2	-
Other reactivated weapon	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	1	2	1	-
Disguised firearm	..	..	..	..	..	14	19	57	87	71	-18
Other firearm (specified)	..	..	..	..	..	336	250	176	118	122	3
<b>Other firearm total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>-33</b>
<b>All firearms excluding air weapons</b>	<b>6,843</b>	<b>7,471</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>10,248</b>	<b>10,338</b>	<b>11,069</b>	<b>11,088</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>9,865</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>-17</b>
<b>Air weapon</b>	<b>10,103</b>	<b>10,227</b>	<b>12,377</b>	<b>13,822</b>	<b>13,756</b>	<b>11,825</b>	<b>10,439</b>	<b>8,836</b>	<b>7,478</b>	<b>6,042</b>	<b>-19</b>
<b>All firearms</b>	<b>16,946</b>	<b>17,698</b>	<b>22,401</b>	<b>24,070</b>	<b>24,094</b>	<b>22,894</b>	<b>21,527</b>	<b>18,481</b>	<b>17,343</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>-18</b>

1. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

3. More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

4. Further weapon breakdowns were available for the first time on 1 April 2004.

**Table 2.04 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by offence group and principal firearm, 2008/09**

Principal firearm	Number of offences		Violence against the person				Robbery	Burglary	Recorded crime	
	All offences	All offences excluding criminal damage	Homicide <sup>1,2</sup>			Other offences excluding criminal damage			Criminal damage	
			Homicide	Attempted murder and GBH with intent	Other offences <sup>3</sup>					
Long-barrelled shotgun	381	333	4	99	108	108	7	7	48	
Sawn-off shotgun	238	232	3	37	42	127	14	9	6	
Handgun	4,275	4,235	29	292	1,100	2,565	86	163	40	
Rifle	89	69	3	9	38	13	2	4	20	
Imitation firearm	1,511	1,224	-	44	1,004	136	14	26	287	
Unidentified firearm	953	842	1	144	253	391	18	35	111	
Other firearm	761	745	1	46	422	238	16	22	16	
<b>All firearms excluding air weapons</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>7,680</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>2,967</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>528</b>	
<b>Air weapons</b>	<b>6,042</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>4,630</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>9,092</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>4,001</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>5,158</b>	

1. These figures may not agree with those in the homicide chapter because (a) in this table, cases are included where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) the homicide figures are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.

2. Although firearms were involved in 41 homicides in 2008/09, in two cases the firearm was not the cause of death.

3. Grievous bodily harm (GBH) offences were introduced on 1 April 2008 to replace 'more serious wounding or other act endangering life offences'.

**Table 2.05 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by principal weapon, how they were used and injury, 2008/09**

Principal weapon	Total					Fired			Recorded crime		
	Fatal injury <sup>2</sup>	Serious injury <sup>3</sup>	Slight injury	Causing property damage only	No injury or property damage	Total fired	Used as blunt instrument	Used as a threat	Not fired	Total not fired	
Long-barrelled shotgun	4	40	29	78	37	188	14	179	193		
Sawn-off shotgun	3	23	10	16	11	63	14	161	175		
Handgun	28	108	70	72	146	424	287	3,564	3,851		
Rifle	3	4	6	25	7	45	5	39	44		
Imitation firearm <sup>4</sup>	-	14	500	296	257	1,067	30	414	444		
Unidentified firearm	1	73	50	131	75	330	20	603	623		
Other firearm	-	28	388	22	116	554	12	195	207		
<b>All firearms excluding air weapons</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>2,671</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>5,155</b>	<b>5,537</b>		
Air weapon <sup>5</sup>	-	69	613	4,334	324	5,340	12	690	702		
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>8,011</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>5,845</b>	<b>6,239</b>		

1. Figures may have been inflated by police forces implementing the National Crime Recording Standard on 1 April 2002.

2. Firearms were involved in 41 homicides but in two cases the firearm did not cause the fatal injury.

3. A serious injury is one which requires a stay in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

4. Imitation weapons include blank firers, ball-bearing guns and soft air weapons.

5. Includes 83 'no injury or property damage' crimes in which the weapon was fired and also used as a threat.

**Table 2.06 Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury<sup>1</sup> by type of principal weapon, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Number of offences	Recorded crime										% change 2007/08 to 2008/09	
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>2</sup>	2002/03 <sup>3</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08		2008/09
Offence type	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>2</sup>	2002/03 <sup>3</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	% change 2007/08 to 2008/09
Shotgun	73	100	73	111	107	104	135	154	128	157	137	-13
Handgun	239	352	400	648	640	590	780	1,024	792	881	493	-44
Other firearms excluding air weapons	552	743	909	1,120	1,432	1,673	2,989	2,644	2,091	2,203	1,134	-49
<b>All firearms excluding air weapons</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>-46</b>
Air weapon	1,514	1,977	1,821	1,915	2,377	2,395	1,498	1,182	1,053	923	694	-25
<b>All firearms</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>5,402</b>	<b>5,004</b>	<b>4,064</b>	<b>4,164</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>-41</b>

1. By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

2. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

3. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

**Table 2.07 Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have caused injury<sup>1</sup>, by degree of injury and type of principal weapon, 2008/09**

Number of offences	Recorded crime		
	Total	Fatal injury	Slight injury
Type of weapon	Total	Fatal injury	Slight injury
Shotgun	137	7	65
Handgun	493	28	336
Other firearm excluding air weapons	1,134	4	1,004
<b>All firearms excluding air weapons</b>	<b>1,764</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1,405</b>
Air weapons	694	0	622
<b>All firearms</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2,027</b>

1. By the weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat. These figures differ from those in Table 2.05, whose breakdown by severity of injury is for weapons being fired only.

2. A serious injury is one which requires a stay in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.

**Table 2.08 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by type of principal weapon, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Number of robberies	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Long-barrelled shotgun	138	138	97	143	101	98	71	89	115	107	108
Sawn-off shotgun	193	217	202	201	174	148	157	132	136	142	127
Handgun	1,814	2,561	2,758	3,841	3,332	2,799	2,502	2,888	2,684	2,706	2,565
Rifle	4	12	13	16	7	11	10	9	7	14	13
Imitation firearm	163	228	227	279	267	230	211	189	194	169	136
Unidentified firearm	419	432	482	549	579	531	511	504	472	479	391
Other firearm	159	243	233	296	170	215	214	243	297	322	238
<b>All firearms excluding air weapons</b>	<b>2,890</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>4,012</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>4,032</b>	<b>3,676</b>	<b>4,054</b>	<b>3,905</b>	<b>3,939</b>	<b>3,578</b>
Air weapon	83	91	116	161	146	85	68	67	74	75	39
<b>All firearms</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>4,128</b>	<b>5,486</b>	<b>4,776</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>3,744</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>3,979</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>3,617</b>

1. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

**Table 2.09 Offences of robbery recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms were reported to have been used, by location of offence, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Number of robberies	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 <sup>1</sup>	2002/03 <sup>2</sup>	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Shop, stall etc.	998	1,425	1,356	1,683	1,348	1,138	903	1,037	1,003	1,071	1,097
Garage, service station	198	213	218	262	205	140	113	137	109	65	61
Post Office	282	315	257	310	287	198	114	108	93	71	61
Bank	129	113	128	168	126	64	89	59	45	73	54
Building society	95	81	86	82	51	25	18	24	14	14	16
Residential <sup>3</sup>	109	152	161	289	280	345	450	645	613	481	557
Public highway	741	1,120	1,359	1,973	1,899	1,674	1,316	1,439	1,457	1,314	1,106
Other premises or open space	421	503	563	719	580	533	741	672	645	925	665
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>4,128</b>	<b>5,486</b>	<b>4,776</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>3,744</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>3,979</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>3,617</b>

1. Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

3. These crimes are classified as robberies but are mostly break-ins where firearms have been used immediately before or at the time of stealing items from a residential property, and in order to steal these items. If firearms are used instead in the getaway, the crime is classified as a burglary.

**Table 2.10 Firearms misappropriated<sup>1</sup> in offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, by type of weapon, 1998/99 to 2008/09**

Number of firearms	Recorded crime										
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Air weapon	1,520	1,677	1,471	1,689	1,683	1,515	1,283	1,067	1,081	1,075	1,337
Shotgun	395	447	431	423	462	397	403	243	282	289	682
Handgun	242	219	167	79	85	96	81	110	103	80	91
Rifle	179	200	172	139	129	130	140	147	210	199	242
Starting gun	48	62	50	45	45	32	31	21	24	17	16
Imitation firearm	228	312	192	471	387	332	322	355	355	267	318
Other	99	85	102	71	53	92	117	125	164	104	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>3,002</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>2,830</b>

1. Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

**Table 2.11 Firearms misappropriated<sup>1</sup> in offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, by type of weapon and location, 2008/09**

Number of firearms	Recorded crime										
	Residential	Office	Factory	Store	Goods vehicle	Private car	School	Military establishment	Gun club	Other premises	Total
Air weapon	833	10	18	104	11	46	4	-	5	306	1,337
Shotgun	385	8	1	13	1	25	-	-	1	248	682
Handgun	60	1	1	3	-	4	3	1	-	18	91
Rifle	140	6	1	10	-	15	-	4	1	65	242
Starting gun	6	2	-	1	-	2	4	-	-	1	16
Imitation firearm	218	-	3	35	-	9	1	1	-	51	318
Other	84	-	-	12	-	3	1	-	-	44	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>2,830</b>

1. Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.

**Table 2.12 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by police force area, English regions and Wales 2004/05 to 2008/09**

Police force area	Total number of offences					Recorded crime
						Offences per
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	100,000 population, 2008/09
Cleveland	37	41	19	15	34	6.1
Durham	21	18	14	45	22	3.6
Northumbria	182	137	111	78	51	3.6
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Cheshire	61	71	41	59	61	6.1
Cumbria	26	18	21	18	28	5.6
Greater Manchester	1,268	1,200	993	1,160	827	32.1
Lancashire	259	372	364	349	207	14.3
Merseyside	491	485	410	398	353	26.2
<b>North West Region</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,984</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>21.5</b>
Humberside	174	108	117	58	62	6.8
North Yorkshire	13	15	14	17	11	1.4
South Yorkshire	185	301	211	202	144	11.0
West Yorkshire	318	355	319	332	287	13.0
<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Derbyshire	149	109	83	70	75	7.5
Leicestershire	123	89	109	134	127	13.0
Lincolnshire	90	72	45	41	16	2.3
Northamptonshire	113	128	159	164	112	16.4
Nottinghamshire	303	277	196	240	204	19.1
<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>12.1</b>
Staffordshire	144	128	94	123	44	4.1
Warwickshire	73	80	90	107	56	10.6
West Mercia	151	115	58	124	79	6.6
West Midlands	959	946	979	974	987	37.7
<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Bedfordshire	94	103	86	83	64	10.6
Cambridgeshire	50	34	24	30	34	4.4
Essex	193	280	255	260	176	10.3
Hertfordshire	139	114	89	112	68	6.3
Norfolk	23	29	34	43	29	3.4
Suffolk	59	58	42	38	25	3.5
<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>6.9</b>
London, City of <sup>1</sup>	3	1	4	3	3 ..	
Metropolitan	3,694	3,883	3,327	3,396	3,087	40.6
<b>London Region</b>	<b>3,697</b>	<b>3,884</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>3,399</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>40.6</b>
Hampshire	148	85	122	100	80	4.3
Kent	100	142	92	82	93	5.6
Surrey	63	87	60	70	66	6.0
Sussex	67	85	84	69	65	4.2
Thames Valley	437	401	332	322	214	9.7
<b>South East Region</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Avon and Somerset	196	167	138	116	95	6.0
Devon and Cornwall	189	174	132	111	70	4.2
Dorset	49	27	28	21	16	2.3
Gloucestershire	87	77	65	43	52	8.9
Wiltshire	49	43	69	49	45	6.9
<b>South West Region</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Dyfed-Powys	40	21	17	25	7	1.4
Gwent	85	53	33	47	36	6.4
North Wales	60	88	98	53	42	6.2
South Wales	104	71	67	84	54	4.4
<b>WALES</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>11,069</b>	<b>11,088</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>9,865</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>15.1</b>

1. .. Not available. Data for London Region includes the City of London.



## 3 Intimate violence: 2008/09 BCS

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*Stephen Roe*

### SUMMARY

This chapter presents findings from the 2008/09 British Crime Survey self-completion module on intimate violence, which covers emotional, financial or physical abuse by partners or family members, sexual assaults and stalking experienced by adults aged from 16 to 59.

#### Extent and trends

- More than one in four women (28%) and around one in six men (16%) had experienced any domestic abuse (any emotional, financial or physical abuse, sexual assault or stalking by a partner or family member) since the age of 16. These figures are equivalent to an estimated 4.5 million female victims of domestic abuse and 2.6 million male victims.
- Women were more likely than men to have experienced intimate violence across all the specific types of abuse (partner abuse, family abuse, sexual assault and stalking).
- Levels of domestic abuse experienced in the previous year have declined for both men and women since 2004/05 (the first comparable estimate).

#### Nature of partner abuse

- The majority (64%) of victims of partner abuse since the age of 16 suffered abuse by one partner only.
- Women were more likely than men to have experienced longer periods of partner abuse, repeat victimisation and injury or emotional effects as a result of the abuse.
- Sixteen per cent of victims of partner abuse in the last year had reported the abuse to the police, a similar level of reporting to that found in 2004/05.
- In cases where the police came to know about the abuse, almost three-quarters of victims (71%) thought the police had been very or fairly helpful in handling the matter, an increase compared with the level of satisfaction reported in 2004/05.

#### Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System

- Female victims of intimate violence had lower levels of confidence in the fairness of the Criminal Justice System than female victims of other types of non-violent crime (47% compared with 53%).

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

### Policy background

Domestic violence and sexual assault are serious public health and criminal justice problems. Over the past decade the Government has implemented a number of policy interventions, aimed at tackling domestic and sexual violence (see Box 3.1 for further information).

#### **Box 3.1 Government action on domestic and sexual violence**

Reducing the most serious violence (including tackling serious sexual offences and domestic violence) has been stated as Priority Action 1 within Public Service Agreement 23 published by the Home Office and there is a greater focus on more serious crime within the Home Office's 2008/2011 crime strategy, which was updated in 2009.

The Government has developed plans for action in relation to domestic and sexual violence:

- The National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan was first published in 2005 and then updated annually. The latest annual progress report for 2007/08 sets out achievements against key objectives, including early identification of victims and improving the criminal justice response to domestic violence. For more information see: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentcrime/dv017.htm>
- The first cross-government Action Plan on Sexual Violence (published in 2007) included a range of measures aimed at preventing sexual violence, supporting victims and improving the criminal justice response to sexual violence. For more information see: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentcrime/sexual03.htm>
- In 2009, the cross-government Action Plan for Tackling Violence was refreshed, with a key commitment to address domestic and sexual violence. For more information see: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violence/violence028.htm>
- In November 2009, the cross-government Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy was launched, targeting action on the types of violent crime, such as domestic and sexual violence, where women are the predominant victims. For more information see: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/vawg-strategy-2009/>

### Measuring intimate violence

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a large, nationally representative victimisation survey of approximately 47,000 adults resident in households in England and Wales.<sup>1</sup> The BCS includes information about incidents that are not reported to the police, which is particularly important for intimate violence. A self-completion module on intimate violence was included in the BCS in 2001 and then on a continuous basis since 2004/05. This chapter presents key findings from the self-completion module in the 2008/09 BCS, which relates to experiences of

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the BCS see <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

intimate violence among men and women aged 16 to 59 (resulting in a sample of around 25,000 respondents for this module).

Figures on prevalence of domestic violence based on face-to-face BCS interviews are also regularly published (Walker *et al.*, 2009) but the issue of willingness to disclose incidents is particularly important for figures on this crime type. Findings from the self-completion module published here provide a more complete measure of intimate violence victimisation, but there are several differences in the coverage of the self-completion and face-to-face figures (see Box 3.2 for more information).

### **Box 3.2 BCS measures of intimate violence**

*The figures on prevalence of domestic violence based on face-to-face interviews relate to any physical assault by a partner or ex-partner, relative or household member. Prevalence figures from the self-completion module also cover physical assaults by partners, ex-partners or relatives (but not other household members). In addition, the self-completion module captures respondents' experiences of non-physical abuse (threats, emotional or financial abuse), sexual assault and stalking. The small number of sexual offences identified in face-to-face BCS interviews means that figures are too unreliable to report and these data are excluded from the counts of violence from the main BCS.*

*Most (59%) of the victims of domestic violence, as reported in the face-to-face BCS interviews in 2008/09, were also self-reported victims of domestic abuse. Of the remaining 41 per cent, nearly half either refused the self-completion module or asked for it to be completed by an interviewer (in which case they did not receive the questions on intimate violence). The other half were likely to have experienced physical assaults by other household members who were not partners, ex-partners or relatives, which is covered in face-to-face interviews but not in the self-completion module.*

*Only a small proportion (6%) of self-reported victims of domestic abuse were identified as victims of domestic violence through face-to-face interviews in 2008/09. This is likely to be due to the broader definition of domestic abuse used in the self-completion module as well as the increased reporting of sensitive issues expected on account of the greater confidentiality provided by self-completion methods.*

## **Chapter contents**

This chapter includes headline findings on the extent and trends of intimate violence based on the 2008/09 BCS, which were first presented in *Crime in England and Wales 2008/09*. The measures of intimate violence relate to experiences since the age of 16 or in the last 12 months for men and women aged 16 to 59. Detailed analysis from previous BCS self-completion modules on the extent and trends of intimate violence are reported in Finney (2006), Coleman *et al.* (2007), Povey *et al.* (2008) and Povey *et al.* (2009).

As well as the questions on experience of intimate violence, the BCS self-completion module also includes a set of questions asking victims for further detail about the nature of the incidents they experienced. These questions focus on partner abuse or sexual assault in

alternate years. The questions in the 2008/09 BCS focused on partner abuse so the chapter also includes analysis of these questions, including information about frequency, duration and impact of the abuse as well as reporting of incidents to the police or others.

In addition, this chapter includes findings of further analysis on prevalence of domestic abuse by sexual orientation and perceptions of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) amongst victims of intimate violence in comparison to victims of other crime types and non-victims.

### 3.2 PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE VIOLENCE

Intimate violence is the collective term used for partner abuse, family abuse, sexual assault and stalking, reflecting either the intimate nature of the victim-offender relationship or of the violence or abuse.

#### **Box 3.3 Definition of intimate violence**

**Partner abuse (non-sexual):** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a current or former partner.

**Family abuse (non-sexual):** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother or other relative).

**Sexual assault:** indecent exposure, sexual threats and unwanted touching ('less serious'), rape or assault by penetration including attempts ('serious'), by any person.

**Stalking:** two or more incidents – causing distress, fear or alarm – of obscene/threatening unwanted letters or phone calls, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, following or watching, or interfering with or damaging personal property by any person.

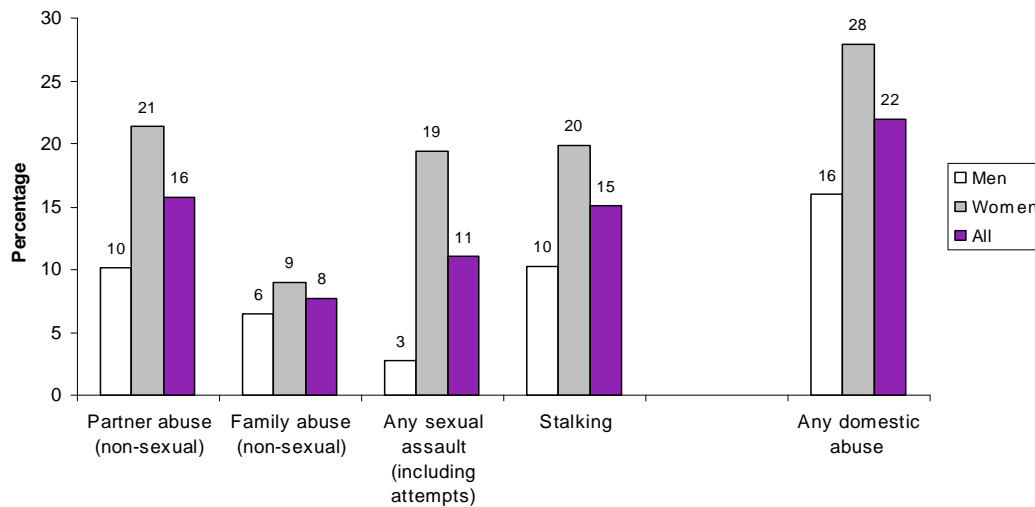
**Any domestic abuse:** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force, sexual assault or stalking by a current or former partner or other family member.

### Extent

Women were more likely than men to have experienced intimate violence across all the different types of abuse (as set out in Box 3.3 above) (Table 3.01). In contrast, men, particularly young adults, are at greater risk of experiencing any violent crime (see Walker *et al.*, 2009).

- Overall, more than one in four women (28%) and around one in six men (16%) had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16 (Table 3.01 and Figure 3.1). These figures are equivalent to an estimated 4.5 million female victims of domestic abuse and 2.6 million male victims (Table 3.03).
- Since the age of 16, partner abuse (non-sexual) was the most commonly experienced of the separate types of intimate violence among both women and men. About one in five (21%) women and one in ten (10%) men reported having experienced such abuse since the age of 16 (Table 3.01 and Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Prevalence of intimate violence since age 16, by sex, 2008/09 BCS



- Six per cent of women and four per cent of men reported having experienced any domestic abuse in the past year, equivalent to an estimated one million female victims of domestic abuse and 600,000 male victims (Tables 3.01 and 3.04)
- In the last year partner abuse (non-sexual) and stalking were the most common of the separate types of intimate violence, with around four per cent of women and three per cent of men reporting having experienced each.
- Between two and three per cent of women and less than one per cent of men had experienced a sexual assault (including attempts) in the last year. The majority of this is accounted for by less serious sexual assault. Prevalence of serious sexual assault is low amongst both women and men (0.5% of women and 0.1% of men reported experiencing a serious sexual assault in the past year).

## Trends

The 2008/09 BCS self-completion module shows there has been a general decline in prevalence of intimate violence over the past five years (Tables 3.05 and 3.06). Overall prevalence of BCS violence has remained stable over the past five years, while the number of incidents has fallen (Walker *et al.*, 2009).

- Over the past five years, between 2004/05 and 2008/09, overall prevalence of domestic abuse<sup>2</sup> in the last year has declined for both men and women (from 5% to 4% for men and from 7% to 6% for women). For men, there has been a decline in all forms of intimate violence during this period except family abuse (non-sexual), which has remained at a similar level. For women there has been a decline in all forms of intimate violence over this period apart from sexual assault, which has remained at a similar level (Table 3.05).

<sup>2</sup> The measure of domestic abuse used for reporting on trends omits stalking as questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence.

- More recently, between 2007/08 and 2008/09<sup>3</sup>, the levels of all forms of intimate violence against women have shown little change while for men partner abuse (non-sexual) has declined, family abuse (non-sexual) has increased while sexual assault has remained at a similar level (Table 3.05). However, the figures for men are more subject to short-term fluctuation due to the smaller number of male victims and longer-term comparisons provide a better guide to trends.

### 3.3 SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Since April 2007 the self-completion section of the BCS questionnaire has included a question asking respondents about their sexual orientation. This makes it possible to produce figures for experience of intimate violence by sexual orientation. There have been previous surveys of domestic abuse in same sex relationships (e.g. Donovan and Hester, 2007) but the samples have tended to be restricted to the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender community rather than being part of a wider general population survey.

Around 500 out of the 25,000 self-completion respondents in each year identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. Due to this relatively small number, data from the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS have been combined for the purposes of analysis. These data show that 94 per cent of adults aged 16 to 59 identified themselves as heterosexual/straight, two per cent as lesbian/gay or bisexual and a further four per cent selected either the 'do not know' or 'do not want to answer' response options (data not shown). The small numbers of respondents identifying themselves as gay/lesbian or bisexual, combined with the significant proportions of respondents unable or refusing to answer the question on sexual orientation means that figures on prevalence of domestic abuse by sexual orientation should be treated with caution.

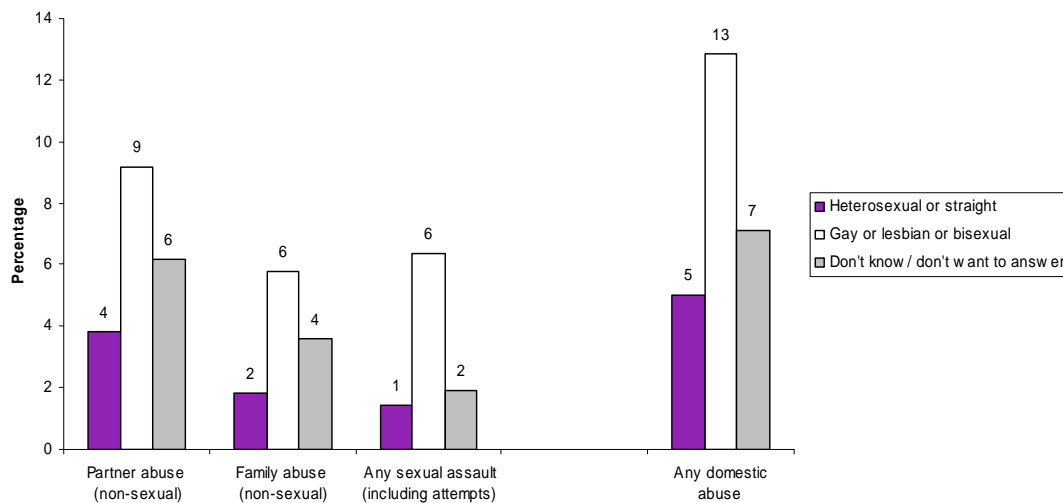
People who were lesbian/gay or bisexual were more likely to have experienced any domestic abuse in the past year compared with heterosexual/straight people (13% compared with 5%). Those who responded 'do not know' or 'do not want to answer' to the question on sexual orientation were also more likely to have experienced any domestic abuse in the past year compared with heterosexual/straight people (7% compared with 5%) (Table 3.07 and Figure 3.2).

The higher level of domestic abuse amongst lesbians/gays or bisexuals may be due, at least in part, to the younger age profile of individuals identifying themselves as in this group. Nearly two-fifths (37%) of those reporting to be lesbian/gay or bisexual were aged 16 to 24 compared to just over one-fifth (21%) who identified as heterosexual/straight (data not shown). Previous analysis has shown that risk of intimate violence is higher amongst 16 to 24 year olds compared with older age groups (Povey *et al.*, 2009).

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<sup>3</sup> Trends in prevalence of stalking between 2007/08 and 2008/09 cannot be measured due to the omission of questions on stalking from the 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence.

**Figure 3.2 Prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year, by sexual orientation, 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS**



Heterosexual women were more likely to experience any domestic abuse in the past year compared with heterosexual men (6% compared with 4%) and lesbian or bisexual women were also more likely to be victims of domestic abuse compared with gay or bisexual men (17% compared with 9%) (Table 3.07).

### 3.4 NATURE OF PARTNER ABUSE

Respondents to the 2008/09 BCS self-completion module who reported having experienced any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking) by their current or former partner, since the age of 16 or in the last year, were asked a series of follow-up questions relating to the abuse.

#### Partner abuse since age 16

The majority of victims of partner abuse since the age of 16 suffered abuse by one partner only: 64 per cent of people had been victimised by one partner, ten per cent said they had been victimised by two partners, two per cent by three partners and one per cent by more than three partners (Table 3.08).<sup>4</sup>

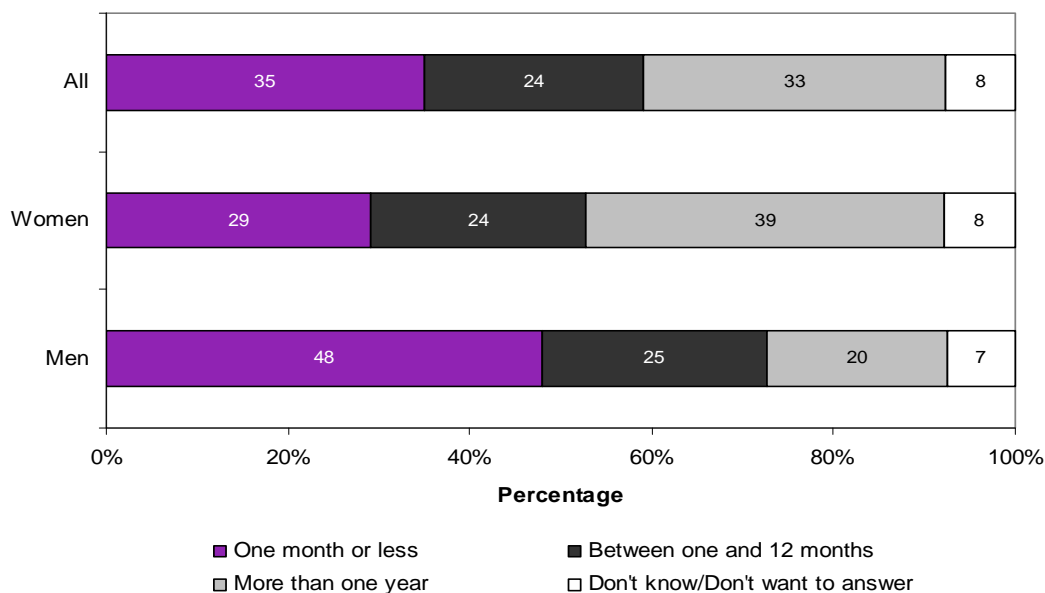
Victims who had experienced partner abuse in the last five years were asked how long the abuse lasted. Around one-third of victims had experienced abuse for relatively short periods of time (35% of victims had experienced abuse for a month or less). Another third of victims also reported having experienced partner abuse for relatively long periods of time (33% of victims had been abused for more than a year) (Table 3.09 and Figure 3.3).

- Women were more likely than men to have experienced longer periods of partner abuse. Fourteen per cent of female victims had experienced partner abuse for six or more years,

<sup>4</sup> Almost one-quarter (24%) of victims of partner abuse responded “don’t know” or “don’t want to answer” to this question on the number of abusive partners.

compared with four per cent of male victims. Conversely, 48 per cent of men experienced abuse for one month or less, compared with 29 per cent of women.

**Figure 3.3 Duration of partner abuse experienced since age 16, 2008/09 BCS**



When the partner abuse had stopped, the most common reason given was that the relationship had ended and/or one of the people in the relationship had moved out of shared accommodation.

- In the majority (69%) of the relationships where partner abuse had stopped, the abuse stopped because the relationship had ended and/or the victim or the offender had moved out of shared accommodation (Table 3.10).
- Women were more likely than men (71% and 63% respectively) to say that the abuse stopped because the relationship ended and/or they or their partner moved out. Men were more likely than women to say that the abuse had stopped for 'no particular reason' or 'some other reason'.

### Partner abuse in the last year

#### Frequency of partner abuse

Victims of partner abuse in the past year were asked how many times they had experienced the abuse in the past 12 months. About one in three (32%) victims of partner abuse in the past year were confirmed repeat victims (i.e. reported being victimised more than once in the past 12 months). However, nearly half (45%) of respondents to this question on repeat victimisation responded "don't know" or "don't want to answer" (Table 3.11).

Women were more likely than men to be repeat victims of partner abuse and to experience more frequent levels of abuse.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> There were similar levels of "don't know" or "don't want to answer" responses amongst men and women.



- More than one-third (36%) of women who had experienced any partner abuse in the past year were confirmed repeat victims, while around one-quarter (26%) of men who had experienced any partner abuse in the previous 12 months were confirmed repeat victims.
- Six per cent of female victims of any partner abuse reported experiencing abuse more than 20 times in the past 12 months compared with three per cent of male victims.

### Influence of drink and drugs

Drink was more of a feature than drug use in incidents of partner abuse (Table 3.12).

- Around one in four (27%) victims of partner abuse in the past year reported that the offender was under the influence of drink at the time of the (most recent) incident compared with one in ten (10%) who reported the offender to be under the influence of drugs.
- Only one in 50 (2%) victims reported that they were under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident compared with around one in ten (11%) who were under the influence of drink.

Female victims of partner abuse in the past year were more likely than male victims to report that the offender who committed the abuse was under the influence of drink at the time of the (most recent) incident (31% compared with 20%). However, similar proportions (11%) of male and female victims of partner abuse reported that they (the victims) were under the influence of drink at the time of the (most recent) incident.

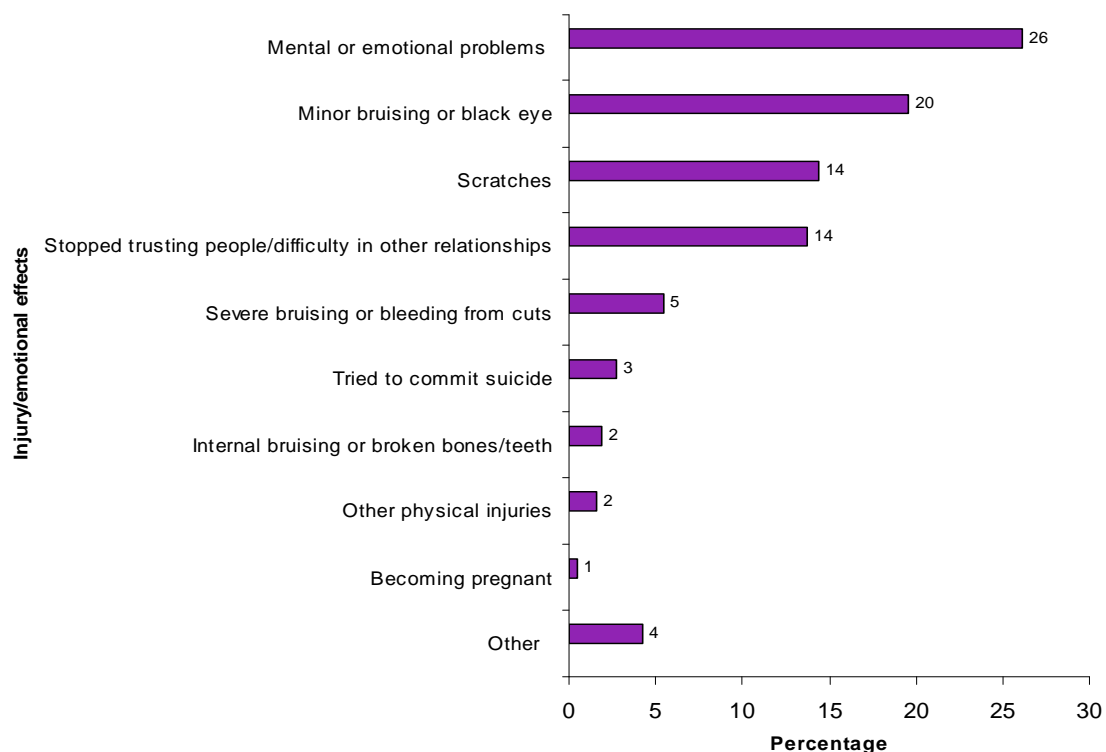
Female victims were also more likely to report that the offender was under the influence of drugs (13% compared with 6% for male victims) while male victims were more likely to report that they were under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident (4% compared with 1% of female victims).

### Injuries and emotional effects of partner abuse

Just over half (54%) of victims of partner abuse in the last year suffered some injuries or emotional effects as a result of the abuse (Table 3.13).

- The most common effects were mental or emotional problems (26%), minor bruising or a black eye (20%), scratches and stopping trusting people or having difficulty in other relationships (14% for each) (Figure 3.4).
- Women were more likely (59%) than men (45%) to have experienced injuries or emotional effects as a result of the abuse (Table 3.13).

**Figure 3.4 Injuries or emotional effects experienced by victims of partner abuse in the last year, 2008/09 BCS**



Around one-quarter (27%) of those who had suffered injuries or emotional effects as a result of the partner abuse had seen a doctor, nurse or other health worker because of their injuries or problems in the last year (Table 3.14).

The majority of the victims who had sought medical help had seen a GP or gone to a doctor's surgery (77%). Over one-quarter of the victims (27%) had been to a hospital casualty or accident and emergency department, and 11 per cent had been to specialist mental health/psychiatric services.

### Impact on employment

One in ten people (10%) who had experienced partner abuse had to take time off from work in the last year due to the abuse. Similar proportions of male and female victims of partner abuse had to take time off work in the past year as a result of the abuse (9% and 11% respectively) (Table 3.15).

Six in ten (60%) victims who had taken time off from work had taken less than a week off in the last year, but about two in ten (22%) had taken a month or more off in the last year due to the partner abuse.

Overall, four per cent of victims had lost their job or had to give up working as a result of partner abuse in the previous year (data not shown).

### Victim's views of the abuse

About one-third (32%) of those people who had experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months considered the abuse that they experienced to be 'domestic violence'. Female victims

were more likely to view the abuse as domestic violence (37%) compared with male victims (24%) (Table 3.16).

Around one-fifth of victims thought that what had happened was 'a crime' (19%), about one-third (30%) thought that 'it was wrong, but not a crime', and another one-fifth (21%) thought it was 'just something that happens' (Table 3.17).

Female victims were more likely to regard the abuse as a crime than male victims (23% compared with 12%), whereas male victims were more likely to think of the abuse as 'just something that happens' (29% compared with 17%). This is likely to reflect women being more likely to suffer injuries or emotional effects as a result of partner abuse (Table 3.13). Those who experienced injuries or emotional effects as a result of partner abuse in the past 12 months were more likely to regard the abuse that they experienced to be a crime than those who did not (data not shown).

### Reporting

In three-quarters of cases the victim of partner abuse told someone about what had happened, although a relatively small proportion reported the abuse to the police (Table 3.18).

- Three-quarters (74%) of people who had experienced partner abuse in the last year had told someone about the abuse. Over half (59%) of the victims had told their friends, relatives or neighbours, 16 per cent told the police and 12 per cent told someone at work.
- Women were significantly more likely to tell someone about the abuse than men (81% of women compared with 59% of men), including telling the police. One in five (20%) female victims of partner abuse in the past year had told the police about the abuse compared with one in ten (10%) male victims.
- In addition to the 16 per cent of victims of partner abuse (in the last year) who had personally reported the abuse to the police, the police came to know about a further four per cent of victims in some other way (e.g. reported by someone else). This is a similar level of reporting to that found in the 2004/05 BCS self-completion module (Povey *et al.*, 2008).

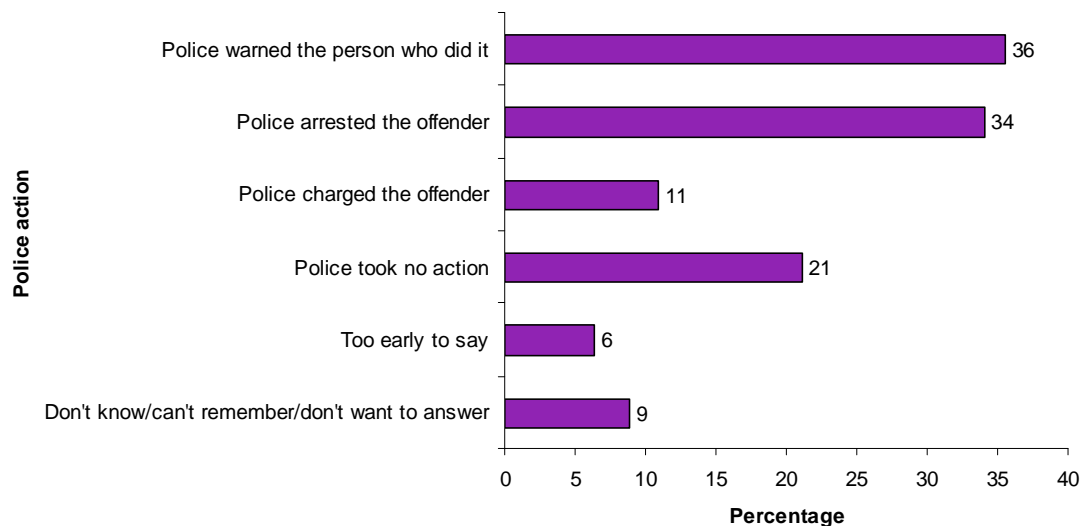
The most common reason given for not reporting partner abuse to the police was that it was 'too trivial or not worth reporting to the police' (51%). More than one-quarter (28%) of the victims had not reported partner abuse because they thought it was a 'private matter or family matter, or not police business', and a further 13 per cent 'didn't think the police could help' (Table 3.19).

- Men were significantly more likely to say that the incident(s) was 'too trivial or not worth reporting to the police' than women (65% and 43% respectively) while a greater proportion of women 'didn't think the police could help' compared with men (16% and 9% respectively). Women were also more likely than men to not involve the police because they 'feared more violence as a result of involving police', 'didn't want more humiliation', or 'didn't think the police would believe them'.

**Police response**

The police had warned the offender in about one-third (36%) of the cases that they came to know about (the most recent, if the police came to know about more than one incident). An offender was arrested in another third (34%) of cases, and charged in eleven per cent. In one-fifth of the cases that the police came to know about (21%), no action was taken (Figure 3.5).

**Figure 3.5 Action taken by the police in cases where they came to know about partner abuse, 2008/09 BCS**



Note: Figures add to more than 100 as more than one response possible. Unweighted base = 227.

Compared to previously published findings based on the 2004/05 BCS, the proportion of cases in which the police arrested the offender has increased while other actions taken have remained at a similar level.

In cases where the police came to know about the abuse, almost three-quarters of victims (71%) thought the police had been very or fairly helpful in handling the matter (data not shown). The level of victim satisfaction in the police response to partner abuse has increased from the previously published figure (62%) based on the 2004/05 BCS self-completion module (Povey *et al.*; 2008). Findings from face-to-face BCS interviews have also shown an increase in victim satisfaction in recent years with the way the police handled the matter for all victims of BCS crime (Walker *et al.*, 2009).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The findings on victim satisfaction with the police from the face-to-face interviews are not directly comparable with findings from the self-completion module due to different question response options.

### 3.5 PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Previous analysis of BCS data on perceptions of the CJS has consistently shown that non-victims have higher levels of confidence in the police and the CJS compared with victims (for example, see Chapter 5 in Walker *et al.*, 2009). However, this previous analysis has not compared perceptions between different types of victims. An understanding of how perceptions of the CJS vary between different groups of victims could help to improve CJS responses to and support for victims of crime.

#### **Box 3.4 Victim typology**

*For the purposes of analysis, BCS respondents aged 16 to 59 have been classified on the basis of their experiences of crime in the previous year within the following categories:*

- *intimate violence victim: those who have experienced any form of intimate violence in the past 12 months, based on their responses to the self-completion module on intimate violence;*
- *other violence victim: those who have not experienced any of the forms of intimate violence covered by the self-completion module but who have experienced other types of violence as reported to BCS interviewers face-to-face;*
- *victims of property crime only: those who have not experienced any violence in the previous 12 months (as reported via the self-completion module or face-to-face) but who have experienced other types of property crime covered in face-to-face interviews;*
- *non-victim: those who have not experienced any crime in the past 12 months (as reported via the self-completion module or face-to-face).*

All victim types (as shown in Box 3.4 above) tended to have less positive perceptions of the CJS compared with non-victims, in accordance with previous analysis. Levels of confidence in the CJS were generally similar when comparing between intimate violence victims and other victim types. However, female victims of intimate violence had lower levels of confidence in the fairness of the CJS than female victims of property crime only (Table 3.20). It should be noted that many of the victims included in this analysis will have had no contact with the CJS as a result of their experience of crime.

- There was no (statistically significant) difference between the victim types (intimate violence victims, other violence victim and victims of property crime only) in the proportion who thought that the CJS as a whole is effective, although all the victim types had a lower level of confidence in the effectiveness of the CJS compared with non-victims.
- The proportion of victims of intimate violence who thought that the CJS as a whole is fair was lower than the proportion of victims of property crime only (51% compared with 56%). This difference was evident for women (47% compared with 53%) but not for men.

Table 3.01 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>					
<b>Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
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
<b>Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>
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
<b>Any sexual assault (including attempts)</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
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
<b>Stalking</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<i>Unweighted base<sup>2</sup></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 3.02 Detailed prevalence of intimate violence elements 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
	% victims once or more					
<b>Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	7.6	15.7	11.7	1.8	2.8	2.3
<i>Prevented you from having your fair share of household money</i>	1.9	5.8	3.9	0.3	0.8	0.6
<i>Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives</i>	5.3	8.5	6.9	1.4	1.2	1.3
<i>Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless</i>	2.9	11.5	7.3	0.5	1.8	1.1
Threats <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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
<i>Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you</i>	4.8	9.7	7.2	0.8	1.0	0.9
<i>Choked or tried to strangle you</i>	0.5	5.3	2.9	0.1	0.4	0.3
<i>Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)</i>	1.1	2.7	1.9	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Threatened to kill you</i>	0.6	3.6	2.1	0.1	0.4	0.2
<i>Used a weapon against you, for example a stick or knife</i>	0.6	1.4	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Used some other kind of force against you</i>	1.0	4.9	2.9	0.1	0.5	0.3
<b>Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	3.8	5.5	4.7	1.0	1.4	1.2
<i>Prevented you from having your fair share of household money</i>	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2
<i>Stopped you from seeing friends and relatives</i>	2.5	2.9	2.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
<i>Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless</i>	1.3	3.2	2.3	0.3	0.8	0.6
Threats <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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
<i>Kicked, bit or hit you, or threw something at you</i>	1.9	2.4	2.2	0.5	0.6	0.5
<i>Choked or tried to strangle you</i>	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
<i>Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. a stick or knife)</i>	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Threatened to kill you</i>	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Used a weapon against you, for example a stick or knife</i>	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Used some other kind of force against you</i>	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Any sexual assault (including attempts)</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.7	4.9	2.8	0.1	0.5	0.3
<i>Penetrated your vagina/anus with their penis</i>	0.4	3.3	1.8	0.0	0.3	0.2
<i>Penetrated your vagina/anus with an object</i>	0.2	1.6	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.1
<i>Penetrated your mouth with their penis</i>	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
<i>Attempted to penetrate your vagina/anus with their penis</i>	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.0
<i>Attempted to penetrate your vagina/anus with an object</i>	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1
<i>Attempted to penetrate your mouth with their penis</i>	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less serious sexual assault	2.5	19.3	10.9	0.4	2.3	1.3
<i>Indecently exposed themselves to you</i>	1.1	9.7	5.4	0.2	0.6	0.4
<i>Touched you sexually when you did not want it</i>	1.3	10.6	5.9	0.2	1.7	0.9
<i>Sexually threatened you</i>	0.5	5.0	2.8	0.0	0.4	0.2
<b>Stalking</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Sent you unwanted letters that were obscene/threatening	4.3	8.3	6.3	1.4	2.2	1.8
Made a number of obscene/threatening phone calls to you	4.7	10.4	7.6	0.9	1.6	1.2
Waited or loitered outside your home or workplace	1.7	5.7	3.7	0.3	0.7	0.5
Followed you around and watched you	1.2	6.0	3.6	0.2	0.8	0.5
Deliberately interfered with or damaged your property	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.8	0.5	0.7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	11,005	12,843	23,848	10,952	12,704	23,656

1. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative).

2. **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.

3. **Minor force** is classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'pushed you, held you down or slapped you'.

4. The bases given are for partner abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

**Table 3.03 Estimates of numbers of victims of intimate violence since the age of 16 by category among adults aged 16 to 59**

<b>Numbers (000s)</b>		<b>2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence</b>	
		<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Range</b>
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) <sup>1</sup>	Men	<b>2,573</b>	2,719 - 2,428
	Women	<b>4,491</b>	4,647 - 4,336
	All	<b>7,057</b>	6,854 - 7,261
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) <sup>2</sup>	Men	<b>2,056</b>	2,191 - 1,921
	Women	<b>3,916</b>	4,065 - 3,768
	All	<b>5,962</b>	6,153 - 5,772
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) <sup>2</sup>	Men	<b>1,050</b>	1,145 - 955
	Women	<b>1,518</b>	1,619 - 1,416
	All	<b>2,566</b>	2,699 - 2,432
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual <sup>2</sup>	Men	<b>1,628</b>	1,763 - 1,493
	Women	<b>3,449</b>	3,595 - 3,302
	All	<b>5,089</b>	5,266 - 4,912
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual <sup>2</sup>	Men	<b>1,041</b>	1,137 - 945
	Women	<b>1,437</b>	1,535 - 1,339
	All	<b>2,481</b>	2,610 - 2,351
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	Men	<b>449</b>	510 - 388
	Women	<b>3,133</b>	3,274 - 2,992
	All	<b>3,568</b>	3,720 - 3,415
Stalking	Men	<b>1,643</b>	1,704 - 1,582
	Women	<b>3,207</b>	3,348 - 3,066
	All	<b>4,853</b>	5,026 - 4,680

1. **Domestic abuse** refers to non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

2. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative).

3. Numbers are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the 2008 population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales (based on mid-2006 estimates from the Office for National Statistics). Lower and higher estimates of the range are derived using the 95% confidence interval.



**Table 3.04 Estimates of numbers of victims of intimate violence in the last year by category among adults aged 16 to 59**

<b>Numbers (000s)</b>		<b>2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence</b>	
		<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Range</b>
<b>Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)<sup>1</sup></b>			
	Men	<b>629</b>	699 - 558
	Women	<b>1,015</b>	1,097 - 933
	All	<b>1,641</b>	1,750 - 1,532
<b>Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)<sup>2</sup></b>			
	Men	<b>463</b>	523 - 402
	Women	<b>780</b>	852 - 708
	All	<b>1,239</b>	1,334 - 1,144
<b>Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)<sup>2</sup></b>			
	Men	<b>275</b>	322 - 228
	Women	<b>370</b>	421 - 320
	All	<b>645</b>	714 - 576
<b>Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>2</sup></b>			
	Men	<b>430</b>	487 - 372
	Women	<b>708</b>	775 - 640
	All	<b>1,138</b>	1,228 - 1,049
<b>Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>2</sup></b>			
	Men	<b>291</b>	339 - 243
	Women	<b>393</b>	444 - 342
	All	<b>684</b>	754 - 614
<b>Any sexual assault (including attempts)</b>			
	Men	<b>58</b>	79 - 36
	Women	<b>402</b>	453 - 350
	All	<b>458</b>	515 - 400
<b>Stalking</b>			
	Men	<b>449</b>	508 - 389
	Women	<b>704</b>	772 - 636
	All	<b>1,152</b>	1,242 - 1,061

1. **Domestic abuse** refers to non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.

2. **Partner abuse** refers to abuse carried out by a current or former partner; **family abuse** is mutually exclusive, referring to abuse carried out by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother, or other relative).

3. Numbers are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the 2008 population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales (based on mid-2006 estimates from the Office for National Statistics). Lower and higher estimates of the range are derived using the 95% confidence interval.

Table 3.05 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 <sup>1</sup>	2008/09	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 <sup>1</sup>	2008/09	Statistically significant 2004/05 to 2008/09	Statistically significant 2007/08 to 2008/09
	% victims once or more											
<b>Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)<sup>2</sup></b>	5.0	5.0	5.2	4.7	3.7	**↓	7.0	7.1	6.8	6.1	5.8	**↓
<b>Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)<sup>2,3</sup></b>	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	2.6	**↓	5.4	5.6	5.3	4.8	4.3	**↓
<b>Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)<sup>2,3</sup></b>	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.8	**↑	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.0	2.3	**↓
<b>Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>3</sup></b>	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	**↓
<b>Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>3</sup></b>	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	**↓
<b>Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)</b>	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	**↓
<b>Stalking<sup>4</sup></b>	6.3	4.8	4.2	n/a	2.8	**↓	6.6	6.5	5.9	n/a	4.4	**↓
<b>Unweighted base<sup>5</sup></b>	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 of *Crime in England and Wales 2008/09* for definitions of the various types of intimate violence.

**Table 3.06 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						
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 <sup>1</sup>	2008/09	Statistically significant change	
						2004/05 to 2008/09	2007/08 to 2008/09
<i>% victims once or more</i>							
<b>Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	**↓	**↓
<b>Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)<sup>2,3</sup></b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	**↓	**↓
<b>Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)<sup>2,3</sup></b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	**↓	**↑
<b>Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	**↓	**↓
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	**↓	**↓
<b>Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	**↓	**↑
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		**↑
<b>Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.4</b>	**↓	
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		
<b>Stalking<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>3.6</b>	**↓	n/a
<i>Unweighted base<sup>5</sup></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 of *Crime in England and Wales 2008/09* for definitions of the various types of intimate violence.

Table 3.07 Experience of domestic abuse among adults aged 16 to 59 by sexual orientation

Percentages	2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence								
	Men			Women			All		
	Heterosexual/straight	Gay or bisexual	Don't know/don't want to answer	Heterosexual/straight	Lesbian or bisexual	Don't know/don't want to answer	Heterosexual/straight	Gay/lesbian or bisexual	Don't know/don't want to answer
Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault) in the last year <sup>1</sup>	4.1	8.9	7.8	5.9	17.3	6.6	5.0	12.9	7.1
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual	3.3	6.2	5.9	4.3	12.4	6.4	3.8	9.2	6.2
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) - non-sexual	1.5	3.3	5.0	2.2	8.5	2.3	1.8	5.8	3.6
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	0.3	4.2	1.1	2.6	8.7	2.6	1.5	6.4	1.9
<i>Unweighted base</i> <sup>2</sup>	20,892	512	705	24,795	473	886	45,687	985	1,591

1. Figures for any domestic abuse have excluded stalking questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS.

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

**Table 3.08 Number of abusive partners since the age of 16 amongst victims of partner abuse aged 16 to 59, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
One partner	57	68	64
Two partners	6	12	10
Three partners	1	3	2
More than three partners	0	1	1
Don't know	16	4	8
Don't want to answer	20	13	15
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,624</i>	<i>3,936</i>	<i>5,560</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

**Table 3.09 Duration of partner abuse experienced by victims of partner abuse aged 16 to 59, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
Less than a week	38	23	28
Between a week and a month	10	6	7
Between one and six months	18	14	15
Between seven and 12 months	7	10	9
Between one and five years	16	26	22
Six or more years	4	14	11
Don't know/Don't want to answer	7	8	8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>1,242</i>	<i>1,729</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

2. Question was asked to victims of partner abuse since age 16 who had been abused within the past five years.

**Table 3.10 Reasons why the partner abuse stopped, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
We split up/ one of use moved out	63	71	69
Something I did	8	7	7
It just stopped, no particular reason	11	5	7
Something that this person did	1	2	2
Something that somebody else did	1	2	2
Stopped for now but will probably start again	1	1	1
Some other reason	11	5	7
Don't know/Don't want to answer	6	4	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>3,123</i>	<i>4,165</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

2. Question was asked to victims of partner abuse since age 16 who had not been abused in the past six months.

**Table 3.11 Number of times victims of partner abuse aged 16 to 59 had been abused by partner(s) in the last year**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
<b>Once</b>	28	21	23
<b>More than once</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>
Twice	8	10	9
Three to five times	8	11	10
Between six and 20 times	7	9	9
Between 21 and 49 times	1	2	2
More than 50 times/too many times to count	2	4	3
Don't know	26	13	18
Don't want to answer	20	31	27
<i>Unweighted base</i>	362	814	1,176

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

**Table 3.12 Influence of drink or drugs in incidents of partner abuse experienced by adults aged 16 to 59 in the last year**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
Offender under influence of drink	20	31	27
Offender not under influence of drink	63	48	54
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	17	20	19
Offender under influence of drugs	6	13	10
Offender not under influence of drugs	85	77	80
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	9	10	10
Victim under influence of drink	11	11	11
Victim not under influence of drink	76	77	77
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	12	12	12
Victim under influence of drugs	4	1	2
Victim not under influence of drugs	93	97	95
Don't know/Can't remember/Don't want to answer	4	2	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	326	713	1,039

1. If the victim had experienced more than one incident of partner abuse, question was asked of the most recent incident.

**Table 3.13 Injuries and emotional effects experienced by victims of partner abuse aged 16 to 59 as a result of partner abuse in the last year, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
<b>Some injuries/ emotional effects</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>54</b>
Mental or emotional problems (e.g. difficulty sleeping, depression)	15	33	26
Minor bruising or black eye	17	21	20
Scratches	16	13	14
Stopped trusting people/difficulty in other relationships	11	15	14
Severe bruising or bleeding from cuts	4	6	5
Tried to commit suicide	3	2	3
Internal bruising or broken bones/teeth	3	2	2
Other physical injuries	1	2	2
Becoming pregnant	N/A	1	1
Other	3	5	4
<b>No injuries/ emotional effects</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Don't know/don't want to answer</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	362	814	1,176

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

**Table 3.14 Where victims of partner abuse in the last year aged 16 to 59 who had been injured or emotionally affected sought medical attention**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
<b>Sought medical attention</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	169	478	647
<b>Where sought medical attention</b>			
GP's/ doctor's surgery	..	75	77
Hospital casualty/Accident and Emergency department	..	25	27
Specialist mental health/psychiatric service	..	12	11
Other health services (including sexual assault referral centre)	..	9	13
<i>Unweighted base</i>		153	190

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one response possible.

3. '..' base numbers too low to provide estimate.

**Table 3.15 Whether victims of partner abuse in the last year aged 16 to 59 had to take any time off work as a result**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
<b>Had to take time off work</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	329	742	1,071
<b>How long off work</b>			
Two days or less	..	..	30
Three to six days	..	..	29
One to three weeks	..	..	18
A month or more	..	..	22
<i>Unweighted base</i>			123

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

**Table 3.16 Whether victims of partner abuse in the last year aged 16 to 59 thought the abuse was domestic violence, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
Domestic violence	24	37	32
Not domestic violence	58	44	50
Don't know/can't remember	9	4	6
Don't want to answer	9	15	13
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>814</i>	<i>1,176</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

**Table 3.17 Whether victims of partner abuse in the last year aged 16 to 59 thought the abuse was a crime, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
It was a crime	12	23	19
It was wrong, but not a crime	26	32	30
It was just something that happens	29	17	21
None of these	21	14	17
Don't know/ can't remember/don't want to answer	12	13	13
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>814</i>	<i>1,176</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.



**Table 3.18 Who victims of partner abuse in the last year aged 16 to 59 had told about the abuse, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
<b>Victim told someone</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>74</b>
Friends, relatives or neighbours	47	66	59
Police	10	20	16
Someone at work	10	13	12
Health professional (e.g. doctor or nurse)	4	10	8
Counsellor/ therapist	5	7	6
Legal professional	4	6	5
Government agency (social services, housing department, benefit agency)	2	3	3
Victim support	0	3	2
Helpline (e.g. national domestic violence helpline, rape crisis line, men's helpline)	1	3	2
Women's refuge/group/centre	0	3	2
Someone else	5	4	4
<b>Victim told no one</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>666</i>	<i>935</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one response possible.

**Table 3.19 Reasons for not reporting partner abuse to the police amongst victims of partner abuse in the last year aged 16 to 59 who had not told the police about the abuse, by sex**

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence		
	Men	Women	All
Too trivial, not worth reporting	65	43	51
Private/ family matter/ not police business	23	30	28
Didn't think police could help	9	16	13
Feared more abuse as a result of involving police	1	9	6
Didn't want more humiliation	2	8	6
Didn't think police would believe	2	7	5
Didn't think police would be sympathetic	3	4	4
Police did not come when called	2	1	2
Dislike/ fear of police	2	1	2
Didn't want to go to court	1	1	1
Police had already been told about the abuse before the last 12 months	0	1	1
Some other reason	4	4	4
Don't know/don't want to answer	5	7	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>513</i>	<i>751</i>

1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one response possible.

Table 3.20 Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System by victim type<sup>1</sup> amongst adults aged 16 to 59

Percentages	2008/09 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence											
	Men				Women				All			
	Intimate violence victim	Other violence victim	Victim of property crime only	Non-victim	Intimate violence victim	Other violence victim	Victim of property crime only	Non-victim	Intimate violence victim	Other violence victim	Victim of property crime only	Non-victim
<b>CJS as a whole is effective</b>	40	39	36	41	34	35	37	42	36	38	37	41
<b>CJS as a whole is fair</b>	57	56	58	64	47	53	53	60	51	55	56	62
<i>Unweighted base<sup>2</sup></i>	619	440	2,127	7,352	1,214	175	2,263	8,355	1,833	615	4,390	15,707

1. See Box 3.4 for definitions of the various victim types.

2. Unweighted base refers to perception of the CJS as a whole is fair. Bases for perception of the CJS as a whole is effective will be similar.

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## Errata

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Page 42, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph 'there were a further 393 firearm offences... ', the figure '393' was corrected to 392 on 10 June 2010.

Table 2b (p.43) - 'Non-air weapons' serious and slight injury figures for 2008/09 were corrected to 320 and 1,405 respectively, on 10 June 2010.

Page 37, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point, 'Fatal and serious injuries decreased by 20 per cent from 541 in 2007/08 to 432 in 2008/09'. The number '432' was corrected to '431' on 14 September 2010.

On 14 September 2010, Table 2.05, page 52, totals for 'slight injury' and 'no injury or property damage' were corrected to 1,666 and 973 respectively. Serious injury figures for 'other firearm' and 'all firearms excluding air weapons' were also corrected to 28 and 290. In addition, 'no injury or property damage' total for 'all firearms excluding air weapons' was corrected to 649.