



Home Office

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# User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics

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# 1 Introduction

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The Home Office publishes figures on the levels and trends of crime in England and Wales based on two sets of crime statistics, the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime data. Each source has different strengths and weaknesses but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. These statistics inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

Currently, these crime statistics are published four times a year; a main annual volume with extensive headline figures and commentary and three quarterly updates which provide a summary of latest BCS and recorded crime statistics. Additionally, a number of supplementary volumes are produced, containing in-depth analysis of issues such as homicide, violent crime and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. The publication schedule will be reviewed in the context of the UK Statistics Authority report on Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics (UK Statistics Authority, 2010, <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/overcoming-barriers-to-trust-in-crime-statistics--england-and-wales.pdf>).

The User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

The dates of forthcoming crime statistics publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

Copies of Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the Research Development Statistics Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html>

For further information about the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime statistics, please email [crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or write to:  
Home Office Statistics, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.





## 2 British Crime Survey (BCS)

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### 2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes in the 12 months prior to the interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police and criminal justice system and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. Until recently the BCS did not cover crime against children, but, since January 2009, those aged 10 to 15 have been included in the survey. The first results for this age group were published in June 2010 as experimental statistics together with a user consultation on their future use and presentation (Millard and Flatley, 2010, see section 2.3 for more detail). Figures in the 2009/10 annual crime volume are based on adults aged 16 or over.

The key aim of the BCS is to provide robust trends for the crime types and population it covers; the survey does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime and has notable exclusions. The BCS excludes fraud (see below) and those crimes often termed as victimless (e.g. possession of drugs). As a survey that asks people whether they have experienced victimisation, murders cannot be included. The BCS does not cover the population living in group residences (e.g. care homes or halls of residence) or other institutions, nor does it cover crime against commercial or public sector bodies. Work has been completed to look at the scope and feasibility of a possible new survey on commercial victimisation. The report of the work has been published: (Smith and Harvey, 2010) <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr33c.pdf>.

For the crime types and population it covers, the BCS provides a better reflection of the true extent of household and personal crime than police recorded statistics because the survey includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police. The primary purpose of the BCS is to provide national level analysis but some headline figures are available at regional and police force area level.

The BCS is also a better indicator of long-term trends for the crime types and population it covers than police recorded crime because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices. The victimisation methodology and the crime types included in the main count of crime have remained comparable since the survey began in 1981. As a result, the BCS does not capture relatively new crimes, such as plastic card fraud, in its main crime count. However, additional questions have been added to the survey to investigate the extent and trends of such issues and these are reported separately to the main BCS crime count.

BCS estimates for 2009/10 are based on face-to-face interviews with 44,638 respondents. The BCS has a relatively high response rate (76% in 2009/10) and the survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias to ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. Being based on a sample survey, BCS estimates are subject to a margin of error. Unless otherwise specified, any changes in BCS estimates over time that are described as differences in Home Office statistical bulletins are statistically significant (see Section 8). Annual BCS technical reports provides further information on response rates and how these vary (see <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs-methodological.html>).

### 2.2 BCS METHODOLOGY – ADULT SURVEY

The BCS was first conducted in 1982 (covering crime in 1981) and ran at mostly two-year intervals until 2001,<sup>1</sup> when it became a continuous survey. Although there have been changes to the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences have been held constant throughout the life of the BCS.

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to 2001, British Crime Surveys were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000.

The sample is designed to be representative of the population of households in England and Wales and adults aged 16 or over living in those households. As such, it is possible to use the small users' Postcode Address File (PAF) which is widely accepted as the best general population sampling frame in England and Wales.<sup>2</sup> As mentioned earlier, the BCS does not cover the population living in group residences or other institutions, although excluding the minority of the population that lives in such establishments is thought to have little effect on BCS estimates (see Pickering *et al.*, 2008).

Over the whole year the aim is to achieve 46,000 interviews with adults aged 16 or over as part of the 'core' sample. Since January 2009 the survey was extended to include a nationally representative sample of children aged 10 to 15 (see next section for further details). In 2004/05 the sample was re-designed to achieve 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area (PFA), involving substantial over-sampling in less populous PFAs. The impact of changes in the BCS sample design over time has been examined (see Hales *et al.*, forthcoming).

The main changes in the BCS sample design over time are summarised in Table 2a.

**Table 2a Main features of the BCS core sample design since 1996**

Year	Core target sample size	Achieved sample size	Main design features	Clusters
08/09	46,000	46,289	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Unclustered in areas of high population density, highly clustered in rural areas
07/08	46,000	46,983	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued addresses per PSU)
06/07	46,000	47,023	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
05/06	46,000	47,796	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
04/05	46,000	45,120	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 1,000 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
03/04	37,000	37,931	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 600-700 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
02/03	37,000	39,249	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 600-700 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)
01/02	37,000	32,824	Moved to a continuous fieldwork period. Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 600-700 per PFA	Whole postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU, 16 in high density areas)

<sup>2</sup> The small users' PAF has been the sampling frame for the BCS since 1992 – it lists all postal delivery points in England and Wales (almost all households have one delivery point or letterbox).

2000	20,000	19,411	Disproportionate sampling by PFAs to get a min of 300 per PFA	Quarter postcode sectors (32 issued per PSU)
1998	15,000	14,947	Inner city areas sampled at twice the rate of other areas	Quarter postcode sectors (36 issued in inner city areas, 32 in other areas)
1996	15,000	16,348	Inner city areas sampled at twice the rate of other areas	Quarter postcode sectors (30 issued in inner city areas, 27 in other areas)

As well as stratifying<sup>3</sup> disproportionately by PFA, the sample is stratified by other socio-demographic variables in order to ensure a representative sample. The stratifiers used in 2009/10 (as for previous surveys) were PFA, population density, deprivation and household characteristics. For further details of sample stratification and clustering see Bolling *et al.* (2009).

At each sampled address the interviewer is required to establish that the address is eligible; ineligible addresses include vacant properties, second homes, non-residential addresses and establishments where people are living in group residences, e.g. care homes or halls of residence. In the rare situations where one PAF address leads to two households, the interviewer randomly selects which household to approach.

Once the household is determined to be eligible, individuals aged 16 or over in the selected household are listed by alphabetical order of first name and then one is randomly selected for interview. No substitutes are permitted.

### 2.3 BCS METHODOLOGY – CHILDREN’S SURVEY

One of the key recommendations of the crime statistics reviews carried out in 2006 was that the BCS should be extended to include populations currently not covered by the survey, for example, people aged under 16 (Smith, 2006; Statistics Commission, 2006).

The Home Office commissioned independent expert advice on the feasibility of extending the BCS to cover this groups (Pickering *et al.*, 2008). This work concluded that extending the BCS to under 16s was feasible and should be done by interviewing children in households selected to take part in the main survey.

The Home Office therefore extended the survey to include children (aged 10 to 15) from January 2009, following developmental work to:

- design a question set suitable for under 16s while retaining broad comparability with the adult interview; and
- test the feasibility of including the under 16s survey in the BCS.

The primary objective of extending the survey was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation. In addition to questions about experience of crime, the survey also gathers information on a limited number of crime-related topics such as perceptions and attitudes to the police, anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and personal security.

The children’s sample is designed to be representative of children aged 10 to 15 resident in households in England and Wales. The sample is obtained from within those households already participating in the main survey and over the year the aim is to achieve around 4,000 interviews with children aged 10 to 15. Due to the size of the sample, the survey provides analysis on an annual basis only at national level.

<sup>3</sup> Stratification essentially means dividing the sampling frame into groups (strata) before sampling. The process reduces the risk of drawing an extreme sample, unrepresentative of the population, and hence maximises the precision of survey estimates.

Like the main survey, the children's survey excludes crimes often termed as victimless (e.g. possession of drugs), sexual offences<sup>4</sup> and threats (except those involving a weapon). As a survey that asks people about their own personal experience of victimisation, murders are not included.

In 2009 a total of 3,661 interviews were conducted with children aged 10 to 15. Overall 70 per cent of children within households responding to the main BCS participated. The true response rate (taking into account first stage non-response to the main BCS) is in the region of 51 per cent.<sup>5</sup> Adjustment is made for possible non-response bias through weighting.

The BCS children's questionnaire was modelled on the personal victimisation module of the adult questionnaire with the intention of being able to classify incidents to offences on a broadly comparable basis. However, methodological differences between the adult and children's survey mean that direct comparisons cannot be made between the adult and child data, for example, development and testing work showed it was necessary to adapt the existing questions asked of adults to make them suitable for children.

Extending the BCS to encompass the experiences of children raises some difficult issues with regard to classifying incidents reported by children. For example, minor incidents that are normal within the context of childhood behaviour and development can be categorised as criminal when existing legal definitions of offences are applied. First estimates from the BCS extension to children were published as experimental statistics<sup>6</sup> in June 2010 in conjunction with a user consultation about the future presentation and different approaches to producing estimates based on incidents reported by children (see Millard and Flatley, 2010, <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1110.pdf>).

The extensive development and testing work carried out to extend the BCS to children is described in the forthcoming report '*Extending the British Crime Survey to children: a report on the methodological and development*' (Grant *et al.*, forthcoming).

## 2.4 BCS INTERVIEWING

BCS estimates are produced from face-to-face interviews carried out using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) where interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on laptop computers. The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI. CAPI allows logic and consistency checks to be incorporated into the survey to improve data quality. For example, the interviewer is unable to move on to the next question until a discrepancy or inconsistency has been resolved.

The BCS questionnaire has a complex structure consisting of a core set of modules asked of the whole sample, a set of modules asked only of different sub-samples, and self-completion modules asked of all respondents aged 16 to 59. Modules include, for example: victimisation, performance of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), contact with and attitudes to the police and CJS, mobile phone theft, anti-social behaviour, plastic card and identity fraud, and demographic characteristics of the respondent and household.

Survey development is carried out on an annual basis to reflect emerging policy issues. While the wording of victimisation questions has not changed and these are included every year, the precise set of modules asked in each survey year varies. The question set for children aged 10 to 15 was specifically designed for this age range while retaining broad comparability with the adult questionnaire in terms of the classification of offences.

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<sup>4</sup> The adult survey collects information about sexual offences in a separate self-completion section which is not currently asked of children under 16.

<sup>5</sup> This probably understates the actual true response rate since it assumes that households with eligible children have the same level of response as for all households. It is likely that such households form a relatively smaller proportion of the non-responding sample than in the responding sample.

<sup>6</sup> The Code of Practice for Official Statistics defines experimental statistics as new official statistics undergoing evaluation and published to involve users and stakeholders in their development as a means to build in quality at an early stage (see UK Statistics Authority (2009)).

The self-completion modules are at the end of the face-to-face interview and, for adults, cover topics such as illicit drug use, domestic violence and sexual assault. Child respondents are also asked a limited set of questions by self-completion on issues such as bullying, truancy and use of alcohol or cannabis. Respondents can complete these modules on the interviewer's laptop by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) and, when finished, their answers are hidden. Children also have the option of Audio-CASI which allows them to listen to questions via headphones which can help those with literacy problems. The use of self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on sensitive issues due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey.

Self-completion modules were first included in the 1996 and 2001 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004) and a similar module has been included since the 2004/05 BCS. The self-completion module on illicit drug use was introduced in 1996 and comparable questions have been asked since then. These questions are not currently asked of children.

### 2.5 TIME PERIODS COVERED

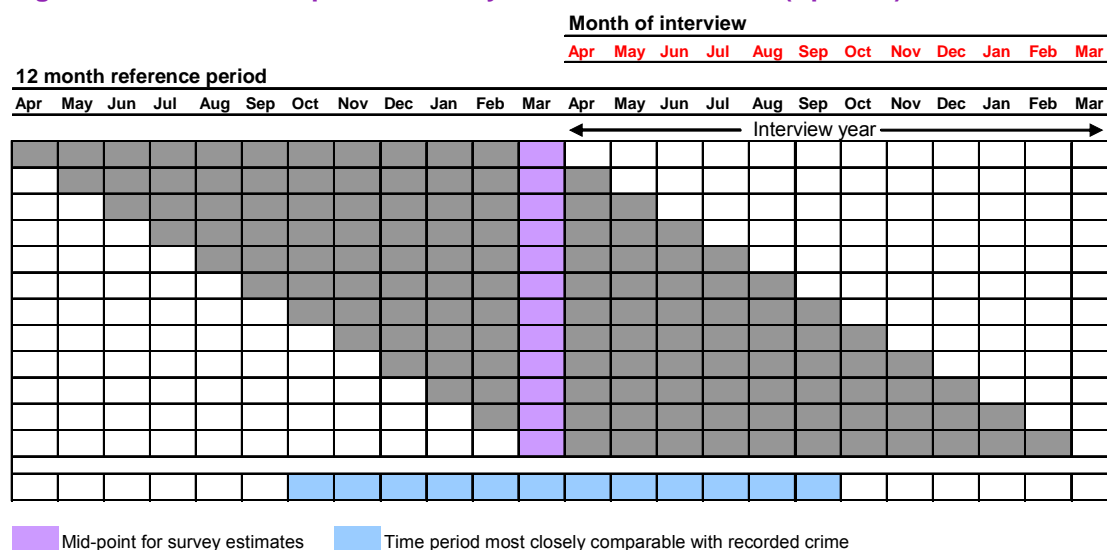
Prior to 2001/02, BCS respondents were asked about their crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year but when the BCS changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Since becoming a continuous survey, BCS estimates are published based on interviews carried out over a 12-month period; for example, for the annual publication of the 2009/10 BCS, estimates are derived from interviews carried out between April 2009 and March 2010 (BCS year ending March 2010).

As respondents are now interviewed on a rolling basis over the course of a year, the time period covered by the data is not directly comparable with any calendar year. Therefore, tables and figures including trends over time refer to the year in which the crime took place for interviews prior to 2001/02 (so interviews conducted in 1996 relate to victimisation in 1995, and will be labelled as 1995 in tables and figures) and the year in which the survey interviews took place for interviews since 2001/02. Other questions on the BCS (e.g. attitudes to policing, confidence in the CJS) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed.

Since respondents are interviewed at different times within each month, they are asked about experiences of crime in the current month plus the 12 months prior. Crimes experienced in the 'interview' month are excluded from the 12-month reference period used for analysis. Hence for the 2009/10 BCS, the reference period includes incidents experienced by respondents between April 2008 and February 2010. The centre point of the period for reporting crime is March 2009, the only month to be included in all respondents' reference periods (Figure 2).

Averaging over the moving reference period of the BCS generates estimates that are most closely comparable with annual police recorded crime figures to the end of the September six months earlier. For example, BCS figures from the 2009/10 survey are most closely comparable with police recorded crime statistics for the 12 months to the end of September 2009. The Home Office has recently commissioned some methodological work to consider the use of an alternative method of presenting the data based on crimes experienced in a particular year (see Hales *et al.*, forthcoming).

Figure 2 The reference period in one year of BCS interviews (Apr-Mar)



## 2.6 BCS MEASURES OF CRIME

The BCS provides estimates of the levels of household and personal crimes experienced by respondents. Household crimes are considered to be all vehicle and property-related crimes and respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. An example of a household crime would be criminal damage to a car (the owner could be anyone in the household). Personal crimes relate to all crimes against the individual and only relate to the respondent's own personal experience (not that of other people in the household). An example of a personal crime would be an assault. Published BCS data for 'all personal crime' excludes sexual offences (except for 'wounding with a sexual motive') as the number of sexual offences picked up by the survey is too small to give reliable estimates. See Section 5 for a full definition of crime types.

Respondents are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12-month reference period and up to six incidents can be recorded during the interview. Details of experiences of crime are recorded on a victim form. The first three victim forms include detailed questions relating to each incident; the last three victim forms are shorter modules, designed to be much quicker to complete to avoid respondent fatigue during the interview. The order in which the victim forms are asked depends on the type of crime – less common crimes are prioritised in order to collect as much detailed information as possible.

Most incidents reported are one-off, single occurrences, but in a minority of cases respondents may have been victimised a number of times in succession. In these cases respondents are asked whether they consider these incidents to be a 'series'; that is "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people". Where incidents are determined to be in a series, the number of incidents is recorded, but with only one victim form being completed based on the most recent incident. BCS estimates only include the first five incidents in this 'series' of victimisations in the count of crime.

The restriction to the first five incidents in a series has been applied since the BCS began in order to ensure that estimates are not affected by a very small number of respondents who report an extremely high number of incidents and which are highly variable between survey years. The inclusion of such victims could undermine the ability to measure trends consistently. This sort of capping is in line with other surveys of crime and other topics. Prevalence rates are not affected by this procedure (see Bolling *et al.*, 2009 for information on the measurement of series data).

Based on information collected and processed from the victim forms, specially trained coders determine whether what has been reported constitutes a crime and if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime. The full list of BCS offence codes is shown in Section 2.7; only those designated as 'valid' are included in standard BCS analysis. BCS crime statistics are produced from these data and presented as incidence or prevalence rates, based on counts of incidents or victims.

### Incidence rate

#### **The number of crimes experienced per household or adult**

The incidence rate takes account of the number of times respondents have been victimised. The total number of incidents experienced by each respondent is calculated for each crime type by aggregating data from separate victim forms. Respondents can complete up to six victim forms and each victim form will contain either a single incident or up to five incidents of the same offence in the case of 'series' incidents (series incidents which consist of more than five incidents are capped at five). Aggregating these incidents and combining with household and personal data, produces a number of incidents which can be presented as a rate per 10,000 households (for household crimes) or as a rate per 10,000 adults (for personal crimes).

The overall **number of incidents** can be estimated for England and Wales based on the incidence rate and using population estimates for the household and adult populations. In 2009/10 incidence rates for household crimes were multiplied by 23,525,137 households and, for personal crimes, by 44,647,810 adults to provide the number of incidents for each crime type.<sup>7</sup> Published estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 incidents.

### Prevalence rate

#### **The proportion of the population who were victims of an offence once or more**

Unlike incidence rates, prevalence rates only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the reference period, not the number of times victimised. Again, these figures are based on information from the victim form, where respondents and their households are designated either as victims or non-victims. The proportion that are victims provides the prevalence rate, often described as the risk of being a victim of crime.

Since the BCS also collects demographic information about households, it is possible to determine prevalence rates for different subgroups, such as vehicle and bicycle owners. Risk among these groups is higher than for the population in general, of course, as the household population includes those who do not own vehicles or bicycles.

### Multiple and repeat victimisation

Multiple victimisation is defined as the experience of being a victim of more than one crime in a year, of the same or different type. This includes those who have been victims of more than one crime of the same type within the last 12 months (repeat victimisation) and also those who have been victims of more than one BCS crime of any type within the last 12 months. So people who have experienced multiple victimisation include those who have been a victim of more than one personal crime, or have been resident in a household that was a victim of more than one household crime, or have been a victim of both types of crime.

Repeat victimisation (a subset of multiple victimisation) is defined as being a victim of the same type of crime (e.g. vandalism) more than once in the last 12 months. Levels of repeat victimisation account for differences between incidence rates and prevalence rates. For

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<sup>7</sup> For the 2009/20 BCS, figures are mid-2006 based projections for the 2009 adult population in England and Wales from ONS; household figures are forecast from these mid-2006 based projections for the 2009 population

instance, high levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in relatively lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rates.

## 2.7 BCS CODING STRUCTURE

Table 2b shows a list of all of the BCS offence codes and an indication of whether they are considered to be valid, thus included in the standard BCS analysis.

**Table 2b Codes used in the classification of offences in the British Crime Survey**

	Category	Code	Description	Valid?
0	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	01	Refer to Home Office	
		02	Duplicate victim form	
		96	Invalid victim form (e.g. no information/no offence)	
1	<b>Assault</b>	11	Serious wounding	✓
		12	Other wounding	✓
		13	Common assault	✓
		14	Other assault outside the survey's coverage	
2	<b>Attempted assault</b>	21	Attempted assault	✓
3	<b>Sexual offences</b>	31	Rape	✓
		32	Serious wounding with sexual motive	✓
		33	Other wounding with sexual motive	✓
		34	Attempted rape	✓
		35	Indecent assault	✓
		39	Sexual offence outside the survey's coverage	
4	<b>Personal theft</b>	41	Robbery	✓
		42	Attempted robbery	✓
		43	Snatch theft from the person	✓
		44	Other theft from the person	✓
		45	Attempted theft from the person	✓
		48	Possibly theft but could have been loss/possibly attempted theft, but not certain	
		49	Other robbery or theft from the person outside the survey's coverage	
5	<b>Burglary/Theft in a dwelling</b>	50	Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse	✓
		51	Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)	✓
		52	Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)	✓
		53	Attempted burglary in a dwelling	✓
		54	Possible attempted burglary (insufficient evidence to be sure)	
		55	Theft in a dwelling	✓
		56	Theft from a meter	✓
		57	Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse (nothing taken)	✓



		58	Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse (something taken)	✓
		59	Other burglary, attempted burglary or theft in a dwelling falling outside the survey's coverage	
6	<b>Theft</b>	60	Theft of car/van	✓
		61	Theft from car/van	✓
		62	Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped	✓
		63	Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped	✓
		64	Theft of pedal cycle	✓
		65	Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)	✓
		66	Theft of milk bottles from outside dwelling	
		67	Other theft	✓
		68	Possible theft, possible lost property	
		69	Other theft/attempted theft falling outside survey's coverage	
7	<b>Attempted theft</b>	71	Attempted theft of/from car/van	✓
		72	Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped	✓
		73	Other attempted theft	✓
8	<b>Vandalism</b>	80	Arson	✓
		81	Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)	✓
		82	Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)	✓
		83	Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)	✓
		84	Criminal damage to the home (over £20)	✓
		85	Other criminal damage (£20 or under)	✓
		86	Other criminal damage (over £20)	✓
		87	Possibly criminal/possibly accidental damage/nuisance with no damage	
		88	Attempted criminal damage (no damage actually achieved)	
		89	Other criminal damage outside survey's coverage	
9	<b>Threats</b>	91	Threat to kill/assault made against, but not necessarily to, respondent	✓
		92	Sexual threat made against, but not necessarily to, respondent	✓
		93	Other threat or intimidation made against, but not necessarily to, respondent	✓
		94	Threats against others, made to the respondent	✓
		97	Other threats/intimidation outside survey's coverage	



## 3 Police recorded crime

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION TO POLICE RECORDED CRIME

The Home Office collates and publishes recorded crime data supplied by the 43 police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are supplied on a monthly basis in an aggregated return for each crime within the notifiable offence list (see Appendix 2). Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury. Information on recorded crimes that are detected is collected in the same way. Currently annual data are published on a financial year basis and provisional recorded crime data are published each quarter on a rolling 12 month basis.

Recorded crime figures are an important indicator of police workload, and can be used for local crime pattern analysis and provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes (in particular, homicide, which is not covered by the British Crime Survey (BCS)). There are also some categories of crime (such as drug possession offences) where the volume of offences recorded are heavily influenced by police activities and priorities; in such cases recorded crime figures may not provide an accurate picture of the true extent of criminality.

Unlike the BCS, recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or incidents that the police decide not to record. It is estimated in 2009/10 that around 43 per cent of BCS comparable crime is reported to the police although this varies considerably for individual offence types.

### 3.2 RECORDING PRACTICES

Recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. To ensure consistency, police recording practice is governed by Home Office Counting Rules and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These rules provide a national standard for the recording and classifying of notifiable offences by police forces in England and Wales.

The latest version of the Counting Rules and more detailed information is available at: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html>.

There have been two major changes to the recording of crimes in recent years: in April 1998 the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime were expanded to include certain additional summary offences and counts became more victim-based (the number of victims was counted rather than the number of offences); in April 2002, the NCRS was introduced across England and Wales, although some forces adopted key elements of the standard earlier and compliance with the standard continued to improve in the years following its formal introduction. The NCRS was devised by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in collaboration with Home Office statisticians. It was designed to ensure greater consistency between forces in recording crime and to take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording with the police being required to record any allegation of crime unless there was credible evidence to the contrary (Simmons *et al.*, 2003).

Both these changes resulted in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. Certain offences, such as the more minor violent crimes, were more affected by these changes than others. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime.

Ongoing consultation on the formulation and development of the policy on crime recording is provided through working groups of the National Crime Recording Steering Group (NCRSG), comprising members of the Home Office, police force regional representatives and representatives of ACPO, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Police recorded crime statistics, like any administrative data, will be affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. Therefore, when examining trends in police recorded crime data presented in statistical bulletins it is important to pay attention to the commentary which will explain any caveats associated with the data.

The Audit Commission published its latest assessment of police data quality in September 2007 (Audit Commission, 2007) which commented that “The police have continued to make significant improvements in crime recording performance and now have better quality crime data than ever before”. Thirty-eight police authorities and forces (88% of the 43 forces)<sup>8</sup> were assessed as “good” or “excellent” for crime data quality, which demonstrates a substantial improvement from 12 in 2003/04 (28%). The remaining five forces were judged “fair”. No police authorities or forces were assessed as having “poor” crime data quality in the 2005/06 or 2006/07 audits.

Despite the cessation of the full national audit programme in 2007/08, ongoing work on crime recording continues to consider data quality issues and the NCRSG acts to promote consistent recording practice between forces (see, for example, section 3.3). Also a local crime audit manual has been developed for use by local Force Crime Registrars.

### 3.3 RECORDING OF MOST SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

A recent example of where ongoing work on crime recording has raised an issue is for offences of grievous bodily harm (GBH). Following a clarification in the Home Office Counting Rules for GBH with intent, issued in April 2008 and coinciding with the introduction of new offence codes to further disaggregate certain types of violent crime with injury, it became clear that forces had not been consistent in their interpretation of previous guidance.

The Home Office then commissioned HMIC to conduct an independent inspection focusing on the recording of most serious violence in all forces in England and Wales which confirmed that there had been a level of misrecording of these types of offences. The findings of this inspection were published in October 2009 ‘Crime Counts: A Review of Data Quality for Offences of the Most Serious Violence (HMIC, 2009)’.<sup>9</sup>

A great deal of work was undertaken in forces to implement the clarification and in response to the HMIC report. This led to forces revising figures during 2008/09 and the reissuing of certain recorded crime tables from the 2008/09 annual crime statistics bulletin following receipt of further revisions.<sup>10</sup>

These issues affected how individual offences were classified under specific offence codes. The overall counts for police recorded violence against the person and the subcategories of violence with and without injury, were unaffected.

Refer to volume 2 of the 2008/09 Crime in England and Wales annual bulletin for a fuller discussion of issues around the recording of GBH offences (Smith and Hoare, 2009, <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf>).

### 3.4 DETECTIONS

Detected crimes are those that have been ‘cleared up’ by the police. Not every case where the police know, or think they know, who committed a crime can be counted as a detection and some crimes are counted as detected when the victim might view the case as far from

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<sup>8</sup> Excludes the British Transport Police.

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM\\_20091020.pdf](http://www.hmic.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Thematics/THM_20091020.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Tables from the 2008/09 annual bulletin were updated on 22 October 2009, alongside the publication of the Quarterly Update to June 2009. Updated tables are available at <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0809.html>

solved. For any crime to be counted as detected, sufficient evidence must be available to claim a detection and all of the conditions below must be met:

- a notifiable offence has been committed and recorded;
- a suspect has been identified and has been made aware that they will be recorded as being responsible for committing that crime and what the full implications of this are; and
- one of the methods of detection listed below applies.

The police may use one of several methods to count a crime as detected. They fall into two broad categories; sanction and non-sanction detections.

Once a detection has been claimed, any identifiable victim must be informed that the crime has been detected, or in the case of a child, their parent or guardian.

The detection (or clear-up) rate is the number of detections recorded in a given year as a percentage of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period.

Further information on counting detections can be found in section H of the general Counting Rules, found at: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/countgeneral10.pdf>

### Sanction detections

Sanction detections include offences which are cleared up through a formal sanction to the offender. Not all sanction detections will necessarily result in a subsequent conviction. In cases detected by 'charge/summons', the CPS may not take forward proceedings or the offender might be found not guilty.

A sanction detection can be claimed when an offender has:

- **Been charged or summonsed**

An offence is deemed to be detected if a person has been charged or summonsed for the crime (irrespective of any subsequent acquittal at Court).

- **Been cautioned, reprimanded or given a final warning**

An offence is deemed to be detected if an offender has been cautioned by the police (including conditional cautions) or given a reprimand or warning under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. A caution may be given by, or on the instructions of, a senior police officer when an offender admits guilt, where there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and where the offender consents to the caution being issued. Guidance on administering cautions was published in 2005 and later revised in 2008. The guidance can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/home-office-circulars/circulars-2008/016-2008/>

- **Had an offence taken into consideration**

An offence is deemed to be detected if the offender admits the crime and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court and where there is additional verifiable information linking that offender to the crime.

- **Received a Penalty Notice for Disorder**

An offence is deemed to be detected if the police issue a penalty notice for disorder (PND). Such a notice must be issued in accordance with any operational guidance to the police (e.g. Police Operational Guidance on PNDs issued by the Home Office in

March 2005). A detection is counted if the penalty notice is not contested, is contested but the CPS proceeds with the case, or, in discontinued cases, the dedicated decision maker reviews the case and stands by the original decision.

With effect from 26 January 2009, it became possible for a PND to be given for an offence of cannabis possession. For central reporting purposes any such PNDs were counted as cannabis warnings for the period January to March 2009; from April 2009 a system was put in place to correctly record them as PNDs for the relevant offence.

- **Received a warning for cannabis possession**

Prior to January 2007 this detection method was known as a 'Formal warning for cannabis possession'. From April 2004 information on police formal warnings for cannabis possession started to be collected centrally (prior to this a pilot scheme was run in parts of London). Those aged 18 and over who are caught in simple possession of cannabis can be eligible for a police cannabis warning which would not involve an arrest. An offence is deemed to be cleared up if a cannabis warning has been issued in accordance with guidance from ACPO.

### Non-sanction detections

'Non-sanction detections' comprise those where the offence is counted as cleared up but no further action was taken against the offender. Prior to April 2007 various reasons were allowed for claiming non-sanction detections including where the:

- offender, victim or essential witness is dead or too ill;
- victim refuses or is unable to give evidence;
- offender is under the age of criminal responsibility;
- police or the CPS decide that it would not be in the public interest to proceed; and
- time limit of six months for commencing prosecution has been exceeded.

From April 2007, there are now only two ways in which a non-sanction detection may be claimed. Firstly, where the offender dies before proceedings could be initiated or completed and, secondly, where the Crown Prosecution Service decides not to prosecute (by virtue of their powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2003). Their use is now restricted to 'indictable only' offences (those offences which must be tried in a Crown Court).

A special arrangement has been made in 2009/10 to allow eight forces piloting youth restorative disposals (YRDs) to record their disposals under this category (see section 3.5).

## 3.5 CHANGES TO DETECTION RATES

There have been a number of changes to recording practices and the sanctions available that have affected the recorded detection rates.

### Home Office Counting Rules and the National Crime Recording Standard

The Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime changed from April 1998. These brought new offences into the series with varying detection rates. It is estimated that the effect of the changes was to increase the overall detection rate from 28 to 29 per cent.

Additional changes were implemented with effect from April 1999. Any detection recorded required: 'sufficient evidence to charge'; an interview with the offender and notification to the victim. In addition, detections obtained by the interview of a convicted prisoner ceased to

count. The overall effect of the April 1999 change is estimated as a single percentage point decrease in detection rates (although the effect varied between crime types).

The implementation of the NCRS in April 2002 is thought to have had an inflationary effect on recorded crime and the assumption is that it has depressed detection rates since additional recorded crimes are generally less serious and possibly harder to detect.

As mentioned above, from April 2007 some of the methods allowed for claiming non-sanction detections were discontinued. This had only a very small impact on overall detection rates.

### Youth restorative disposals

Youth restorative disposals (YRDs) allow operational officers to dispose of low-level crime and neighbourhood disorder where it is not considered to be in the public interest to prosecute. The process involves a meeting between the offender and the victim, an apology and may also include additional action to right the wrong caused (e.g. a form of community payback).

From 2008/09 this disposal has been offered to young people aged 10 to 17 years inclusive by eight police forces<sup>11</sup> who are taking part on a pilot basis and this approach continued through 2009/10. Figures for YRDs in this pilot exercise have been submitted to the Home Office and are included as non-sanction detections in figures in the annual crime statistics bulletin.

## 3.6 SANCTION DETECTIONS AND OFFENCES BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

Figures on offences brought to justice (OBTJ) are now published by the Ministry of Justice. An offence is considered to have been brought to justice when an offender has been cautioned, convicted or had the offence taken into consideration by the court. In addition, penalty notices for three notifiable disorder offences and cannabis warnings are included following their introduction nationally during 2004 (see Section 3.4 for more information on cannabis warnings and PNDs).

Care should be taken when comparing detection data with conviction data, as the latter count individual offenders where the former count crimes. A single recorded crime can result in more than one conviction or caution and can therefore lead to more than one offence being counted as 'brought to justice'. For example, if a crime is recorded and, as a result, three offenders are convicted, each for two offences, this counts as a single recorded crime (and a single detection) but as six offences brought to justice. In addition, for most offences, there will be a delay between the offence being recorded and it being brought to justice; this may result in it being included in the recorded crime figures for one period and the OBTJ figures for a later period.

For the OBTJ measure the offence also reflects that for which an offender is charged rather than that for which a crime has been originally recorded (e.g. taking into account the relevant charging standards that apply and the different evidential standards). The OBTJ measure only makes use of the crime detection figures for crime detected as 'taken into consideration by the court' and cannabis warnings but otherwise relies on figures collected by court systems and separate returns for PNDs and cautions. These above factors should be borne in mind when the two series are being compared.

For more information see Criminal Statistics, 2008, England and Wales, Ministry of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm>

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<sup>11</sup> Avon & Somerset, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Metropolitan, Norfolk, North Wales and Nottinghamshire





## 4 Comparison between the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime

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### 4.1 COMPARABLE SUBSET OF CRIME

The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides a measure of the level of crime committed against the population resident in households in England and Wales, whereas recorded crime is a measure of those crimes reported to the police (estimated by the BCS to be only 43% of comparable crime in 2009/10) and then recorded by them. The BCS includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police, but is limited to crimes against adults resident in households and also does not cover all crime types (see Section 2).

By adjusting each series, comparisons can be made between police recorded crime and the BCS allowing a better interpretation of overall crime trends. The need for this comparison has been particularly important during periods when various changes have been made to the police recording of crime.

In order to compare the crime rates measured by the BCS and police recorded crime, a comparable subset of crimes has been created for a set of offences that are covered by both measures. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the BCS but they are not adjusted to exclude victims of commercial offences and offences committed against those under 16. Over three-quarters of BCS offences reported via interviews in recent years fall into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded by the police (Table 4a).

**Table 4a Comparable subset of crimes**

<b>BCS category</b>	<b>Recorded crime offence included</b>
<u>Vehicle thefts</u>	37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking
	48 Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle
	45 Theft from a vehicle
	126 Vehicle interference and tampering
<u>Burglary</u>	28A Burglary in a dwelling
	28B Attempted burglary in a dwelling
	28C Distraction burglary in a dwelling
	28D Attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling
	29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling
<u>Bicycle theft</u>	44 Theft or unauthorised taking of pedal cycle
<u>Theft from person</u>	39 Theft from the person
<u>Vandalism</u>	56 Arson
	56A Arson endangering life
	56B Arson not endangering life
	58A Criminal damage to a dwelling
	58B Criminal damage to building other than a dwelling
	58C Criminal damage to a vehicle
	58D Other criminal damage
	58E Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling
	58F Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
	58G Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle
58H Racially/religiously aggravated other criminal damage	

<u>Assault without injury</u>	104	Assault without injury on a constable
	105A	Assault without injury
	105B	Racially/religiously aggravated assault without injury
<u>Assault with minor injury</u>	8A	Less serious wounding
	8D	Racially/religiously aggravated less serious wounding
	8G	Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury
	8J	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury
	8K	Poisoning or female genital mutilation
<u>Wounding</u>	5	More serious wounding or other act endangering life
	5A	Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent
	5B	Use of substance or object to endanger life
	8F	Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent
	8H	Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent <sup>12</sup>
<u>Robbery</u>	34B	Robbery of personal property

Note: The mapping between police recorded offence codes and BCS categories is approximate and categories will not be directly equivalent in all cases.

### Crimes excluded from comparable subset

#### Recorded crimes:

The violent offences of: Homicide; Attempted murder; Intentional destruction of an unborn child; the five offences of causing death by driving; Endangering life at sea; Possession of weapons; Harassment; Cruelty to or neglect of children; Abandoning a child under the age of two years; Child abduction; Procuring illegal abortion; Concealment of birth; All sexual offences; Non-domestic burglary; Proceeds of crime; Theft in a dwelling; Theft by an employee; Theft of mail; Abstracting electricity; Theft from shops; Theft from automatic machine or meter; Handling stolen goods; Other theft; All Fraud and forgery; Threat etc. to commit criminal damage; All Drug offences and All "Other" offences.

#### BCS:

Other household theft and Other thefts of personal property.

### Reporting rates – findings from the BCS

The BCS asks a series of questions regarding whether incidents were reported, or otherwise, came to the attention of the police. These findings reveal considerable differences in reporting rates between different types of offences and some variability in reporting rates over time. Analysis of reasons given for not reporting crime to the police are also available.

## 4.2 WEIGHTING METHOD USED FOR FIGURE 2.6 OF CRIME IN ENGLAND AND WALES 2009/10

For comparison of BCS and police recorded crime, recorded crime data is weighted to take into account the distribution of crimes within BCS interview periods.

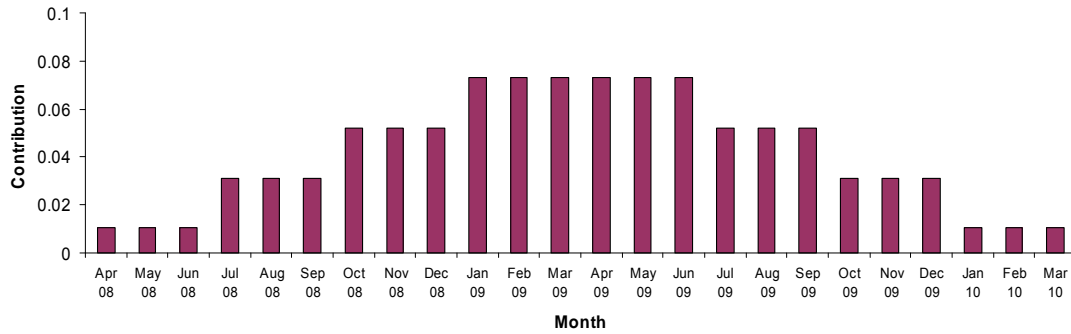
At the BCS interview, respondents are asked about crimes experienced in the previous 12 months. For example, for BCS interviews in the period from April 2009 to March 2010, this corresponds to crime experienced between April 2008 and March 2010. The distribution of recorded crime over this interval is weighted, as many BCS interviews in this period will include months at the centre of this interval (for example, April 2009) whilst fewer BCS interviews will cover months at the end of the interval (for example, April 2008).

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<sup>12</sup> Offence codes 8F and 8H were previously included in assault with minor injury as recorded crimes were collected for ABH and GBH combined. These offence categories are now recorded separately which has enabled more accurate comparisons.

The weighting method used for the Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 publication is based on quarterly recorded crime data (Figure 3).

**Figure 3** The weighted contribution of recorded crime to the BCS interview period, April 2009 to March 2010, based on quarterly recorded crime data





## 5 Crime types and drug offences

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### 5.1 VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crimes are those where the victim is intentionally stabbed, punched, kicked, pushed, jostled, etc., or threatened with violence whether or not there is any injury.

In published crime statistics, violent crime – both as measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS) and by recorded crime – is grouped into two broad, high-level categories of violence with injury and violence without injury. However, these categories are not directly comparable between BCS and recorded crime: for example, the BCS violence categories include robbery, but the police recorded crime violence categories do not (recorded robbery figures are shown separately).

Just over half of all BCS violent incidents and just under half of all police recorded violence against the person, resulted in injury to the victim.

- **Violence with injury** includes all incidents of wounding, assault with injury and (BCS only) robbery which resulted in injury. Homicide is only included for police recorded crime. Police recorded crime also includes attempts at inflicting injury, although the BCS would not include these if no actual injury occurred.
- **Violence without injury** includes all incidents of assault without injury and (BCS only) incidents of robbery which did not result in injury. Police recorded crime also includes possession of weapons offences and a number of public order offences, such as harassment.

Police recorded crime statistics for violence, especially less serious violence, are particularly affected by changes in recording practice over time; for the population and crime types it covers, the BCS is the best measure for long-term national trends in violence. Police statistics are important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with and recorded by the police. They are an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems, at a lower geographical level than is possible using the BCS. Police statistics also provide more reliable information on less common crimes, such as robbery, and are currently the only source of data on homicides and offences against those not resident in households.

### BCS violence

BCS violent crime is categorised in two other ways: by offence type and according to the victim-offender relationship. BCS offence types are as follows (estimates for wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery add up to overall violence):

- **Wounding:** the incident results in severe or less serious injury, e.g. cuts, severe bruising, chipped teeth, bruising or scratches requiring medical attention or any more serious injuries.
- **Assault with minor injury:** an incident where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled and the incident resulted in minor injury to the victim, e.g. scratches or bruises.
- **Assault without injury:** an incident (or attempt) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but resulted in no injury.
- **Robbery:** an incident in which force or threat of force is used in a theft or attempted theft.

The categories of BCS violence according to the offender-victim relationship are as follows:

- **Domestic violence**<sup>13</sup> comprises wounding and assaults which involves partners, ex-partners, other relatives or household members.
- **Stranger violence** includes wounding and assaults in which the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before.
- **Acquaintance violence** comprises wounding and assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. It does not include domestic violence.

Figures are also presented for **mugging** which is a popular rather than a legal term and is the total number of robbery, attempted robbery and snatch theft incidents combined. Snatch theft is excluded from all BCS violence since it includes no violence or minimal threat of force (e.g. just enough to pull a bag away from someone).

In the BCS, the previously used **common assault** (or attempted assault) category, which had been inconsistent with the police recorded offence category, was replaced with assault with minor injury and assault without injury categories in 2006/07. This change was made to align BCS categories more closely with those used by the police.

### Police recorded violence against the person

Violence against the person offences contain the full spectrum of assaults, from pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the degree of violence varies considerably between incidents.

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

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents. The proportion of violent crimes estimated to be reported to the police has increased from the first BCS results in 1981, but has been reasonably stable since 2002/03 (see Chapter 2 of the annual crime statistics publication).

Local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded violent crime. Where the police are proactive in addressing low-level violence and anti-social behaviour, this can lead to more of these crimes being brought to their attention and being recorded. For example, research by the Cardiff Violence Research Group showed an association between the introduction of CCTV surveillance and increased police detection of violence (Sivarajasingam *et al.*, 2003).

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices. The 1998 changes to the Home Office Counting Rules had a very significant impact on the recording of violent and sexual crime; the number of violence against the person offences recorded by the police increased by 118 per cent as a result of the 1998 changes (Povey and Prime, 1999). Much of this increase resulted from a widening of the offence coverage to include assaults with little or no physical injury and offences of harassment (again with no injury).

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced in April 2002, again resulted in increased recording of violent and sexual crimes particularly for less serious offences, as well as for some other offences. There was an estimated NCRS effect of 23 per cent on violence against the person offences in the first 12 months of implementation, although it was recognised that this effect was unlikely to be complete within the first 12 months (Simmons *et al.*, 2003).

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<sup>13</sup> Domestic violence figures that relate to incidents reported in face-to-face BCS interviews should be treated with caution. Prevalence rates for domestic violence derived from the self-completion module are around five times higher for adults than those obtained from the face-to-face interviews (Walby and Allen, 2004). Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by the main BCS, findings are published solely from the self-completion module.

Audits undertaken by the Audit Commission on behalf of the Home Office indicate substantial improvements in crime recording across forces in the two to three years following NCRS introduction, which would particularly impact on violence against the person and result in increases in recorded crimes for this category.

Incidents of violence against the person recorded by the police include the following categories as described below:

- **Homicide** including murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

The published figures do not separately identify between these individual offences as, when a homicide is initially recorded by the police, the full circumstances of the incident may not be known. Furthermore, the precise nature of an offence may only become clear once a suspect has been apprehended and appears at court.

The Home Office receives two sources of information on homicide from the police forces of England and Wales (including the British Transport Police where the incident occurred within England and Wales). These are:

- The monthly aggregated recorded crime return (see Section 3.1)
- A more detailed statistical return for each recorded homicide containing additional information, including victim and suspect details and the circumstances of the offence. This is used to populate a Home Office database called the Homicide Index.

The Homicide Index contains details about homicides recorded in England and Wales since 1977. In contrast to the aggregated recorded crime return, the Homicide Index is continually being updated with revised information from the police as investigations continue and as cases are heard by the courts. As the Homicide Index is continually updated and provides more detailed information, Home Office Statisticians view the Index as a better source of data than the separate monthly aggregated recorded crime return. However, due to the time permitted for police forces to submit the individual returns (within 30 days of recording an incident as homicide) and the complexities in checking the data, it is not possible to use the Homicide Index figures for the annual crime bulletin. Instead, figures from the monthly aggregated recorded crime return are presented as a provisional homicide estimate, with full analysis published in a supplementary bulletin approximately six months' later. Care should therefore be taken when using the provisional figures for homicide as these are subject to change.

- **Death by driving** offences (includes by dangerous driving, careless or inconsiderate driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and while being an unlicensed or uninsured driver).
- **Corporate manslaughter** where an organisation is deemed responsible for a person's death.
- **Grievous bodily harm (GBH)** includes injury resulting in permanent disability, more than minor permanent disfigurement, broken bones, fractured skull, compound fractures, substantial loss of blood, lengthy treatment or serious psychiatric injury (based on expert evidence).

**GBH with intent** occurs when there is clear evidence of a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm regardless of level of injury sustained.

**GBH without intent** occurs when serious bodily harm results but there is no evidence of a deliberate intent to inflict such an injury. Prior to April 2008, GBH without intent was not separated out from a much broader category of less serious wounding that mostly consisted of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH).

The definition of **GBH with intent** rests upon whether "the actions of the offender clearly show a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm". The clarification to the rules from

April 2008 makes this clear and that “the gravity of the injury resulting is not necessarily the determining factor”. The rules were clarified as there had previously been some confusion as to whether the degree of injury sustained, rather than intent, should be the sole determining factor in the recording of these offences (see Section 3).

- **Actual Bodily Harm (ABH)** relates to any assault with injury which is not GBH (with or without intent) and includes internal injury and shock (when accompanied by expert psychological evidence).
- **Threats to kill** where an individual fears that the offender’s threat is real and may be carried out.
- **Possession of weapons** offences include possession of firearms with intent, possession of other weapons and possession of article with blade or point. If a weapon is used, then the police will normally record a more serious notifiable offence. Possession of firearms with no intent offences are recorded under other miscellaneous offences.
- **Harassment offences** are those incidents where no other substantive notifiable offence exists, but when looked at as a course of conduct are likely to cause fear, alarm or distress. **Public fear, alarm or distress** offences are where a course of conduct is not present.
- **Assault without injury** offences are those where at the most a feeling of touch or passing moment of pain is experienced by the victim.

The other violent offences recorded by the police include attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, poisoning or female genital mutilation, cruelty or neglect to children, abandoning a child under two years and child abduction.

Recorded crime statistics do not specifically identify offences of domestic violence since it is not a legal definition. Such offences would be recorded in accordance with the intent of the offence and any injuries sustained e.g. GBH with intent.

Police recorded crime figures for violence against the person quoted in the text and charts also include assault on a constable and racially or religiously aggravated assault, which are both separate categories within recorded crime. Such incidents are not treated separately in the BCS and would fall within the BCS assault with minor injury or without injury categories.

## Sexual offences

Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by face-to-face BCS interviews, results from the main BCS are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence type of wounding).

Respondents may not wish to disclose sensitive information face-to-face and so interviews since 2004/05 (and prior to this in 1996 and 2001) have included self-completion modules on intimate violence (see Section 2.3). These figures have previously been published separately from the annual volume (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004; Finney, 2006; Coleman *et al.*, 2007; Povey *et al.*, 2008, 2009; Smith *et al.*, 2010). Headline figures are also presented in the annual crime statistics bulletin for 2009/10.

Intimate violence is the collective term used to describe domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and the categories are defined as follows:

- **Any domestic abuse:** non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.
- **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).
  - **Emotional or financial abuse:** includes being prevented from having a fair share of household money, stopped from seeing friends or relatives or repeatedly belittled.
  - **Threats** are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.
  - **Minor force** is classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'pushed you, held you down or slapped you'.
  - **Severe force** involves being kicked, hit, bitten, choked, strangled, threatened with a weapon, threats to kill, use of a weapon or some other kind of force.
- **Sexual assault:** indecent exposure, sexual threats and unwanted touching ('less serious'), rape or assault by penetration including attempts ('serious'), by any person including a partner or family member.
  - **Rape** is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by a penis without consent.
  - **Assault by penetration** is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.
- **Stalking:** two or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of obscene or 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 including a partner or family member.

The police recorded crime category of **most serious sexual crime** encompasses rape, sexual assault, and sexual activity with children. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of all three categories so comparisons around this time should be made with caution

The group of **other sexual offences** recorded by the police covers unlawful sexual activity, mostly involving consenting adults and is therefore particularly influenced by police activity in investigating such crime. It includes among other offences, exploitation of prostitution and soliciting, but not prostitution itself (which is not a notifiable offence). The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, introduced certain offences such as sexual grooming which is included in this group. Offences of indecent exposure have been retrospectively reclassified to sexual offences back to 2002/03 to aid comparisons over time.

## 5.2 ACQUISITIVE CRIME

BCS acquisitive crime covers all household and personal crime where items are stolen and can be split into household and personal acquisitive crimes.

### Household acquisitive crime:

Burglary  
 Attempted burglary in a dwelling  
 Theft in a dwelling  
 Theft from outside a dwelling  
 Theft and attempted theft of and from vehicles  
 Theft of pedal cycle

### Personal acquisitive crime:

Snatch theft } Theft from the person  
 Stealth theft }  
 Attempted theft from the person  
 Other theft of personal property and other attempted theft of personal property  
 Robbery and attempted robbery

### Burglary

The BCS covers **domestic burglary** only, which is an unauthorised entry into the victim's dwelling but does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g. impersonating an official).

BCS domestic burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be in the dwelling at the time of the offence; this is called **theft in a dwelling** and includes thefts committed inside a home by someone who is entitled to be there e.g. party guests, workmen.

The police record an offence of **burglary** if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, GBH or unlawful damage. **Aggravated burglary** occurs when the burglar is carrying a firearm, imitation firearm, offensive weapon or explosive.

Recorded crime figures are provided separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and those which occur in commercial or other properties.

- **Domestic burglaries** include burglaries in all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (for example, by a connecting door).
- **Non-domestic burglaries** include burglaries to businesses (including hotels and similar accommodation) and also some burglaries of sheds and outhouses where these are not clearly connected to the inhabited property.

Using the BCS it is possible to differentiate between burglaries with entry and attempted burglaries and also between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss (including attempts). Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary add up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus burglary with no loss (including attempts) also add up to total burglary. These are defined below.

An **attempted burglary** is recorded by the police and in the BCS if there is clear evidence that the offender made an actual, physical attempt to gain entry to a building (e.g. damage to locks, or broken doors) but was unsuccessful.

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

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

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

### Vehicle offences

The BCS includes offences against private households only and includes cars, vans, motorbikes, motor-scooters or mopeds used for non-commercial purposes. It identifies three vehicle theft categories:

- **Theft of vehicles** where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered.
- **Theft from vehicles** refers to both theft of parts and accessories of motor vehicles and to theft of contents.

- **Attempted thefts of and from vehicles** No distinction is made between attempted thefts of and attempted thefts from motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender's intention.

If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft of a motor vehicle.

The police recorded crime category of offences against vehicles covers private and commercial vehicles (although does not distinguish between the two) and comprises:

- **Thefts and attempted thefts of vehicles** where the intent is to permanently deprive the owner.
- **Unauthorised taking of a vehicle** where intent to permanently deprive the owner is not evident – this would typically include 'joyriding' where the car is later recovered.
- **Aggravated vehicle taking** where a vehicle once taken is known to have been driven dangerously, damaged or caused an accident.
- **Thefts and attempted thefts from a vehicle** targeting property in or on the vehicle.
- **Interfering with a motor vehicle** which includes attempts to drive away without apparent intent to permanently deprive the owner. This mostly includes recorded crime offences where there is evidence of intent to commit either theft of or from a vehicle or taking without consent (TWOC), but there is either:
  - (i) No evidence of intent to commit one of these three offences specifically, or
  - (ii) There is evidence of intent to commit TWOC (TWOC is a summary offence but, under the provisions of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence).

Interfering with a motor vehicle offences as presented in the annual crime statistics publication are equivalent to the offence class formerly referred to as 'vehicle interference and tampering'. The BCS cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the BCS it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) are included within the robbery offence group.

## Robbery

A robbery is an incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. As with violence against the person, police recorded robberies cover a wide range of seriousness from armed bank robberies to muggings for mobile phones or small amounts of money. Recorded crime offences also distinguish between robbery of personal property (**personal robbery**) and business property (**business robbery**). Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) are also included as robbery. Supplementary data on this offence have been collected in a supplementary collection by the Home Office since 2007/08.

The BCS covers robberies against adults resident in households; these are included in the violent crime count.

### Theft

**Theft from the person** covers theft (including attempts) of a handbag, wallet, cash etc. directly from the victim, but without the use of physical force against the victim, or the threat of it. This BCS category breaks into two components:

- **snatch theft** where there may be an element of force involved but this is just enough to snatch the property away; and
- **stealth theft** where no force is used and the victim is unaware of the incident (pick-pocketing). Stealth theft makes up the larger share (over 80%) of the total.

For recorded crime, **theft from the person** offences are those where there is no use of threat or force. Stealth theft is included as part of this recorded crime category and cannot be separately identified from snatch theft.

**Other theft of personal property** covers thefts away from the home where no force is used, there was no direct contact between the offender and victim and the victim is not holding or carrying the items when they are stolen (i.e. thefts of unattended property).

**Other household theft** cover a number of theft types: Theft in a dwelling includes thefts that occurred in the victim's dwelling, by someone who was entitled to be there; theft from outside a dwelling covers incidents where items are stolen from outside the victim's home and the category also includes burglaries to non-connected buildings, for example, garden sheds.

The recorded crime offence group of **other theft** offences covers thefts that are not covered by other property crime offence groups (i.e. thefts from vehicles is included in offences against vehicles). Offences included are theft from a person, thefts of bicycles, shoplifting and other theft or unauthorised taking.

### Bicycle theft

The BCS covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any other member of the household. Police recorded crime also includes offences where a pedal cycle is stolen or taken without authorisation, within the other theft offences category.

This category does not include every bicycle theft, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary) and are therefore classified as such by the police and in the BCS:

- Burglary – if anything else was stolen, or an attempt was made to steal something else, from the household's dwelling.
- Theft from a dwelling – when a bicycle is stolen from inside a house by someone who was not trespassing.
- Theft from a vehicle – if the bicycle is one of a number of things stolen.

## 5.3 VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

In the BCS, criminal damage is referred to as **vandalism** and is defined as the intentional and malicious damage to either the home, other property and vehicles. Vandalism shown in the BCS ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g. letting down car tyres) or where the damage is accidental are not included. Where vandalism occurs in combination with burglary or robbery, the burglary or robbery codes take precedence over the damage codes in offence coding.

The BCS produces estimates both for vandalism to the home and other property and against vehicles. **Vandalism to the home and other property** involves intentional or malicious damage to doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs, for example. Vandalism to other

property also includes arson where there is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household (including vehicles) caused by fire.

The BCS defines **vandalism of vehicles** as any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle such as scratching a coin down the side of a car or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and, therefore, included in vandalism to other property. The BCS only covers vandalism against private households; that is, vehicles owned by any member of the household and company cars which count as belonging to the respondent. Recorded crime includes all vehicle vandalism under the offence classification of criminal damage to a motor vehicle.

Police recorded **criminal damage** results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Damage which is repairable without cost, or which is accidental, is not included in police recorded crime statistics. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage.

**Arson** is the act of deliberately setting fire to property including buildings and vehicles. In the BCS this is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household caused by fire, regardless of the type of property involved. The only exception is where the item that is set on fire was stolen first (this is coded as theft). Arson is included in vandalism to other property and includes arson to vehicles.

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

## 5.4 FRAUD AND FORGERY

The measurement of fraud is challenging as fraud is known to be very substantially under-reported to the police. Better information can be derived from other sources. For example, figures for plastic (credit, debit or bank) card fraud are obtained from The UK Cards Association, which is the leading trade association for the cards industry in the UK. For more information on the various sources of fraud including administrative data and on the nature, extent and economic impact of fraud in the UK, see Hoare (2007), Levi *et al.* (2007) and Wilson *et al.* (2006).

Plastic card fraud among individuals resident in households in England and Wales is also covered in a module within the BCS. Stolen plastic cards (i.e. credit, debit or bank cards) are included in the main BCS crime count under the relevant offence, such as burglary or theft from the person, but incidents of fraud are not covered. However, the BCS has included questions on experience of plastic card fraud in a separate module of questions since 2005/06.

Offences of fraud and forgery are recorded by the police, but figures from 2007/08 onwards are not comparable with previous years due to the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006, which commenced in January 2007 and saw significant changes to offences in the fraud and forgery offence group.<sup>14</sup>

For offences prior to January 2007, fraud is defined as dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or a pecuniary advantage. Recorded crime statistics were collected for: fraud by

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<sup>14</sup> New offences that were introduced from 15 January 2007 were temporarily recorded as 'Other fraud' until the new offence codes came into being on 1 April 2007.

company director; false accounting; cheque and credit card fraud; other frauds; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery and vehicle/driver document fraud.

Under the Fraud Act 2006, fraud is defined as dishonestly making a false representation to obtain property or money for themselves or another. Recorded crime statistics are collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; other frauds; failing to disclose information; abuse of position; obtaining services dishonestly; making or supplying articles for use in fraud; possession of articles for use in fraud; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery and vehicle/driver document fraud.

The Counting Rules changes in January 2007 also changed recording of fraud so that in most cases cheque and plastic card fraud is counted on a 'per account' rather than 'per transaction' basis. If an account is defrauded only one offence is recorded rather than one offence per fraudulent transaction on each account (as was the practice prior to January 2007). For example, previously if a person had their credit card stolen and it was subsequently used on ten separate occasions to buy goods fraudulently from ten different shops there would be a requirement for one crime record for theft and ten for deception. Now there is a requirement to record one theft and one fraud by false representation. The result of this change means that fewer crimes of plastic card and cheque fraud were recorded by the police during 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 compared with previous years and recorded fraud and forgery figures prior to 2007/08 are not comparable with more recent figures.

This change was made to reduce significant bureaucracy in recording crime (possibly involving several police forces) and to reflect the fact that in the cases when this counting basis is used, the financial loss is generally borne by the financial institution at which the account is held rather than by the merchants who process a transaction or by the account holder.

From April 2007, where a financial institution makes full financial recompense to an account holder, the financial institution (rather than the account holder) can report the crime directly to a single point of contact within the police.

These changes have been supported by The UK Cards Association and ACPO as they have resulted in significant reductions in bureaucracy in relation to the reporting of cheque and plastic card fraud. This has focused police effort on reports of fraud most likely to lead to a suspect being brought to justice and also introduced single points of contact within police forces for the financial institutions to report cases directly to. As victims of fraud are mainly commercial organisations, it is not covered in the same way as other crimes. The government's Fraud Review (2006) also specifically welcomed the changes that were being put in place: [http://www.aasbni.gov.uk/pubs/FCI/fraudreview\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.aasbni.gov.uk/pubs/FCI/fraudreview_finalreport.pdf)

The 2006 Fraud Act also resulted in the creation of a National Fraud Authority (NFA). One of the key objectives of this new body is to support better reporting of fraud crimes and their subsequent investigation. During 2009/10 the NFA opened a single national point of reporting for a wide range of frauds, in particular those arising from the growing use of the internet and email. This new means of reporting sits outside the police service as a call centre (Action Fraud) with an associated online reporting tool. At the same time the police have established a National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) to receive reports from Action Fraud as well as those from the banks and other financial institutions and to analyse them to identify positive investigatory opportunities which will then be referred to individual forces to follow up. The creation of these new bodies has had little or no impact on police recorded crime data for 2009/10 as they only commenced operation in early 2010.

### 5.5 RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED OFFENCES

Used in recorded crime, racially aggravated offences are legally defined under section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (section 39) added the religiously aggravated aspect. Racially and religiously aggravated offences are

categorised together in police recorded crime and cannot be separately identified. BCS respondents are asked whether they thought the incident was racially motivated and from 2005/06 whether they thought the incident was religiously motivated. Figures on racially and religiously motivated crimes from the 2005/06 and 2006/07 BCS are reported in Jansson *et al.* (2007).

### 5.6 DRUG OFFENCES

Recorded crime figures for drugs offences are published in Table 2.04 of the annual crime statistics publication. With effect from April 2004, ACPO issued guidance to forces over the recording of warnings for cannabis possession (these were termed 'formal warnings' for cannabis possession prior to January 2007). These were incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules (see Section 3 for more information). From January 2009 it has also been possible to issue a Penalty Notice for Disorder for cannabis possession (this detection method was not separated from Cannabis Warnings in statistics for the period to the end of March 2009).

In addition, the Home Office produces a separate National Statistics bulletin on Drug Seizures for England and Wales, covering seizures made by the police, HM Revenue and Customs, and the UK Border Agency. For the latest figures see Hand and Rishiraj (2009).





## 6 Perceptions

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### 6.1 LIKELIHOOD OF VICTIMISATION AND WORRY ABOUT CRIME

Respondents to the British Crime Survey (BCS) are asked about their perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary, vehicle crime or violent crime. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary is based on those who say they are very or fairly likely to have their home burgled in the next year. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of violent crime is a composite measure of anyone who thinks they are very or fairly likely to be either mugged/robbed or physically attacked by a stranger in the next year, or both. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of vehicle crime is a composite measure of vehicle owners who think they are very or fairly likely to either have a car/van stolen or have something stolen from a car/van in the next year, or both. These questions are asked of all respondents, irrespective of whether they have been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months.

The worry about crime indicator on the BCS has three components: worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime. The measure for worry about **burglary** is the percentage of respondents who say they are 'very worried' about having their home broken into and something stolen. The measure for worry about **car crime** is based on two questions on worry about 'having your car stolen' and 'having things stolen from your car'. It uses a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: 'very worried' = 2; 'fairly worried' = 1; 'not very worried' and 'not at all worried' = 0. Scores for individual respondents are calculated by summing the scores across each question, resulting in an overall score ranging from 0 to 4. The percentage for this component is based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a car who score 3 or 4 on this scale.

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

### 6.2 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The BCS measures high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour (ASB) based on responses to seven individual questions relating to:

- noisy neighbours or loud parties;
- teenagers hanging around on the streets;
- rubbish or litter lying around;
- vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property;
- people using or dealing drugs;
- people being drunk or rowdy in public places and;
- abandoned or burnt-out cars.

Perceptions of ASB are measured using a scale based on answers to the seven questions as follows: 'very big problem' = 3, 'fairly big problem' = 2, 'not a very big problem' = 1 and 'not a problem at all' = 0. The maximum score for the seven questions is 21. Respondents with a score of 11 or more on this scale are classified as having a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour. This scale can only be calculated for the 2001 BCS onwards as the question on people being drunk or rowdy was only introduced in 2001.

Measures of perceptions of each of the seven types (or strands) of ASB (for example, perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour) are based on the proportion of BCS respondents who perceive that particular strand to be a very or fairly big problem in their local area.

### 6.3 CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE AND LOCAL PARTNERS

A new set of questions relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local councils were added to the BCS in October 2007, specifically asking respondents how much they agree or disagree with the following statements:

- the police and local council seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area and;
- the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area.

In April 2008, a further question was added asking respondents how much they agree or disagree with the statement:

- the police and local council keep people informed about how they are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area.

### 6.4 RATINGS AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE LOCAL POLICE

The BCS measures perceptions of the local police both in general terms and in specific aspects of their work. Since April 2003, the BCS has measured the proportion of those who believe the local police are doing 'a good or excellent' job. In addition, people's perceptions of specific aspects of police work have been measured since October 2004. These questions ask how much people agree or disagree with the following statements:

- the police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them;
- the police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason;
- the police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are;
- the police in this area can be relied on to deal with minor crimes;
- the police in this area understand the issues that affect this community;
- the police in this area are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community and;
- taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area.

Questions were introduced in April 2009 about the Policing Pledge.<sup>15</sup> Questions are asked separately of victims of crime and for those who have had contact with the police for other reasons. For both, the questions ask:

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<sup>15</sup> All 43 police forces signed up to the Policing Pledge in December 2008. It set out the standards that the public could expect from the police in terms of fairness, access to services, local policing, response to calls, support and information for victims and dealing with dissatisfaction. The current Government recently announced its intention to abandon the Policing Pledge as part of its plans to remove centrally imposed targets on the police.

- what action the police said they were going to take and whether this action was taken;
- whether the action seemed reasonable to the respondent;
- whether the police took the incident or matter seriously and;
- whether the respondent felt they had been treated fairly and with respect.

### 6.5 CONFIDENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Since October 2007 the BCS has included a set of questions relating to the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS). Respondents are asked questions about their perception of the effectiveness of each aspect of the CJS and then asked:

- Thinking about all of the agencies within the criminal justice system: the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, prisons and the probation service. How confident are you that the criminal justice system as a whole is effective?

Questions are then asked about the way in which the CJS deals with people (whether victims, witnesses, or the accused or convicted) and respondents are then asked the following overall question:

- Thinking about all of the agencies within the criminal justice system: the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, prisons and the probation service. How confident are you that the criminal justice system as a whole is fair?

### 6.6 PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIME RATE

Questions on the perception of change in national and local crime have been included in the survey since 1996. Additional questions have been included in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 surveys relating to perceptions of change in the national and local rate of individual crime types and a comparison of perceived level of crime in the local area with the average for England and Wales.

Perceptions of local crime levels used to be asked of the whole sample who had lived at their address for three or more years but since April 2008 the question has been asked of a quarter of the sample irrespective of how long they have lived at their address. For trend comparisons respondents who have lived at their address for less than three years have been excluded from the 2008/09 and 2009/10 figures.



# 7 Classifications

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## 7.1 GEOGRAPHICAL

### ACORN

'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (ACORN) was developed by CACI Ltd. (<http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn/>) and classifies households into one of 56 types according to demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The main five-group breakdowns are characterised as follows:

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

The ACORN classification is currently still available on the British Crime Survey (BCS) dataset but the National Statistics Output Area Classification (see OAC below) is now used in demographic tables in the annual crime statistics publication.

### Basic Command Units (BCUs)

These equate to police divisions and are also referred to as Operational Command Units in some forces. As at 1 April 2009 (and therefore for the reporting year 2009/10) there were 190 BCUs in England and Wales. Recorded crime figures for seven key offences for each BCU are published on the Home Office website.

### Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are, in nearly all cases, coterminous with local authority areas. They include representatives from police, health, probation and other local agencies and provide strategies for reducing crime in the area. As at 1 April 2009 (and therefore for the reporting year 2009/10) there were 334 CSPs in England and Wales. In England they were previously termed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Recorded crime figures for seven key offences for each CSP are published on the Home Office website, together with equivalent figures for local authority areas.

### Government Office Region (GOR)

Government Offices for the Regions were established across England in 1994. The Government Office Regions are the primary classification for the presentation of regional statistics. There are currently nine GORs in England: North East; North West; Yorkshire and the Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West. In this report analysis by region also includes separate analysis for Wales.

### Indices of Deprivation

Local area deprivation is measured in this report using the Indices of Deprivation 2004. There are seven domains of deprivation: income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to housing and services; living environment and crime. There are a number of indicators of deprivation in each of these domains, such as level of unemployment and incapacity benefit claimants, which are combined into a single deprivation score for each local area on that domain. The analysis in this report uses the employment deprivation indicator.

In order to examine the relationship between experiences of crime and deprivation, the local areas are ranked according to their scores on the employment deprivation domain. The 20 per cent of areas with the highest deprivation scores are identified as the most deprived areas on the employment deprivation domain and the 20 per cent of areas with the lowest deprivation scores are identified as the least deprived.

An Index of Multiple Deprivation is also available which combines all seven separate domains into one index. The Indices of Deprivation 2004 are the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government; further information is available at [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk). Further information on the Welsh Index of Deprivation 2005 is available at [www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk).

### Local Authority areas

These areas are a combination of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs. As at 1 April 2009 there were 348 local authorities in England and Wales. These areas provide the basis for Community Safety Partnerships; although since their formation a number of partnerships have merged to cover multiple local authority areas (see also Community Safety Partnerships). In some cases figures are reported for local authority areas that applied in 2002/03 for the sake of continuity, even where there have been amalgamations.

### Output Area

Output Areas (OAs) are used across the UK as the base unit of census output. In 2001, they were introduced in England and Wales, based on postcodes at Census Day. The minimum Output Area size is 40 resident households and 100 resident persons but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households. In total there are 175,434 Output Areas in England (165,665) and Wales (9,769).

### Output Area Classification (OAC)

The 2001 Area Classification of Output Areas is used to group together geographic areas according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These groupings are called clusters and are derived using 2001 population census data. The Output Area Classification (OAC) is a classification created in collaboration between the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the University of Leeds.

The classification is freely available from ONS and other sources for all to use and complements commercially available classifications.

Further information and details about OAC can be found on the ONS website at [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology\\_by\\_theme/area\\_classification/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology_by_theme/area_classification/default.asp).

## Physical disorder

This term is used to describe a measure based on the interviewer's assessment of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. Using guidance, the interviewer has to make an assessment as to whether each of these problems is very common, fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The measurement of respondents' own perceptions of disorder in the local area is described under anti-social behaviour (see Section 6).

## Rural and urban areas

The analysis of crime in urban and rural areas is based on the Government Statistics recommended method for categorising the level of rurality. There are two approaches. The Rural/Urban Definition and the Local Authority (LA) Classification were both developed to produce a rural/urban view from Government Statistics. Where data are below the LA level the definition must be used to produce rural and urban totals. Where LA level data are the lowest available then the LA Classification should be used. More detail is given below.

For British Crime Survey analysis, the Definition has been used, as BCS data are collected below the Local Authority level. For police recorded crime analysis, the Classification has been used, as police recorded crime data are not collected below the Local Authority level.

### Rural/Urban Definition (England and Wales)

The Rural/Urban Definition, an official National Statistic, was introduced in 2004 and defines the rurality of very small 2001 Census based geographies. Categories used to aggregate to rural or urban are as follows.

**Rural** areas are those classified as:

- Town and fringe – sparse.
- Village – sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – sparse.
- Town and fringe – less sparse.
- Village – less sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse.

**Urban** areas are those classified as:

- Urban – sparse.
- Urban – less sparse.

### Rural/Urban Local Authority (LA) Classification (England)

The revised LA Classification introduced in 2009, differentiates between rural and urban for those statistics that are only available at LA level. In this report, the three-way classification at the similar Community Safety Partnership level and Police Force Area level has been applied. At the Community Safety Partnership level, the classification is as follows:

**Predominantly Rural** areas are those classified as:

- Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent but less than 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

**Significant Rural** areas are those classified as:

- Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

**Predominantly Urban** areas are those classified as:

- Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.
- Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
- Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns

A different methodology but with similar criteria is used to produce the three-way classification at the police force area level.

In April 2009, nine new unitary authorities were created to replace 37 district authorities (and 7 county councils) resulting in a new total of 326 LA's in England. This results in a break in the time series for the LA dataset. Therefore, a new time series was produced, going back over time, using the new coverage of Local Authorities, so that previous Local Authorities take on the classification of the new unitary authority (e.g. each old district in Cornwall now becomes Rural-80). This is in accordance with the methodology advised in the Defra Classification of Local Authorities in England Technical Guide (April 2009):

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/rural/documents/rural-defn/laclassifications-techguide0409.pdf>

More information is available on the National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>.

### Super Output Areas (SOAs)

These are geographical areas introduced in 2004 which were designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They are used on the Neighbourhood Statistics website and it is intended that they will eventually have wider application across National Statistics. To support a range of potential requirements there are three layers of SOA:

- Lower Layer – Minimum population 1,000; mean 1,500. Built from groups of Output Areas (typically four to six) and constrained by the boundaries of the Standard Table (ST) wards used for 2001 Census outputs.
- Middle Layer – Minimum population 5,000; mean 7,200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.
- Upper Layer – Yet to be determined; minimum size c.25,000.

## 7.2 HOUSEHOLD

### Household accommodation type

The BCS uses this definition of the household's accommodation, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification.

- House or bungalow: detached, semi-detached, terraced.



- Flat or maisonette: includes purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.
- Other accommodation types: includes caravans and mobile homes for example.

### Household reference person (HRP)

For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. Following the National Statistics harmonised classifications, the BCS replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP) in 2001/02. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

### Household structure

The classification of households in the BCS is based on the number and combination of adults and children living within a household, divided into those where there is:

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

### Household Income

Total household income is the combined income of all members of the household. It includes income from all sources including earnings from employment and self-employment, pensions (both state and private), benefits and tax credits, interest from savings and investments, maintenance, student grants and rent payments received. Due to the nature of the question, over a fifth of respondents gave insufficient information to classify their household income or declined to answer the question. Those cases with insufficient information may include respondents who did not know the income of other household members.

### Tenure

The following definition of tenure is used by the BCS based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Owners: households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social-rented-sector tenants: households renting from a council, housing association or other social-rented sector.
- Rented privately: households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

### Level of home security

This measure is based on the type of security measures fitted to the respondent's home. Households are divided into the following categories:

- Enhanced security – households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors as well as additional security measures.

- Basic security – households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors.
- No or less than basic security – households with no home security measures or households with some security devices but without both window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors.

### 7.3 PERSONAL

#### Black and Minority Ethnic groups/Ethnicity

BCS respondents are asked to make a choice from a card to identify their ethnic background using the standard 2001 Census classification. Due to small sample sizes, it is necessary to collapse this classification into either a five-fold classification, i.e. White, Black, Asian, Mixed and Chinese or Other or to a simpler two-fold White and Non-White classification, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification. Adopting the 2001 Census definition, however, means analysis by ethnic group since 2001/02 is not directly comparable with results from earlier rounds of the BCS which used a different classification. The latest detailed results from the BCS focusing on the experiences of people from different ethnic minorities are reported in Jansson *et al.*, 2007.

#### Employment status

The BCS uses the following categories for employment status which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification but include further breakdowns for those in the 'economically inactive' category.

- In employment: includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government-supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed: actively seeking work or waiting to take up work.
- Economically inactive: those who are retired; going to school or college full-time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

Base sizes for the student categories of employment status differ from those in the occupational classification (see Occupation below). Economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active. Full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding.

#### Occupation (NS-SEC)

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) is an occupationally based classification, but provides coverage of the whole adult population. The NS-SEC aims to differentiate positions within labour markets and production units in terms of their typical 'employment relations'.

More information about NS-SEC can be found on the National Statistics website, see: [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\\_quality/ns\\_sec/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/default.asp).

BCS analysis is based on the three analytic classes provided within NS-SEC ([http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\\_quality/ns\\_sec/downloads/NS-SEC\\_User.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/NS-SEC_User.pdf)) but also describes full-time students in a separate category (usually included within the 'Not classified' category). Base sizes for the student categories differ in NS-SEC from those in the economic classification (see Employment status) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

## Witnessing and experiencing crime

The BCS asks respondents whether they have witnessed any of a number of crimes in the previous 12 months (used in the composite measure of witnessing crime) and also the previous five years. The crimes are: vandalism of property or vehicle; theft of or from a vehicle; threats or violence, including fights; muggings or robberies; burglary or attempted burglary and shoplifting. In addition to the victimisation data collected, this enables respondents to be classified as:

- Not a victim or witness.
- Witness only.
- Victim only.
- Both victim and witness



## 8 Statistical conventions and methods

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### 8.1 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS AND STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The main British Crime Survey (BCS) estimates are based on a representative sample of the population aged 16 or over each year. A sample, as used in the BCS, is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn (see Table A.01 for sample sizes within the BCS).

Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of this difference depends on the sample size, the size and variability of the estimate and the design of the survey.

It is, however, possible to calculate the range of values between which the population figures are estimated to lie, known as the confidence interval (sometimes referred to as margin of error). At the 95 per cent confidence level, when assessing the results of a single survey it is assumed that there is a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate. Similarly, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that the confidence interval would contain the true population value in 95 times out of 100.

Because of this variation, changes in estimates between survey years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which adults were randomly selected for interview.

We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Only increases or decreases that are statistically significant at the five per cent level (and are therefore likely to be real) are described as changes within the main bulletin and in the tables and figures these are identified by asterisks.

Confidence intervals on the BCS are based on complex standard errors (CSEs) around estimates which reflect the stratified and semi-clustered design of the survey and are calculated using the SPSS Complex Sample Module ([www.spss.com](http://www.spss.com)). Where standard errors are calculated without the complex element, a design effect of 1.2 is applied to the confidence interval and significance testing to allow for the fact that the survey design is not a simple random sample.

Statistical significance for change in BCS estimates for overall crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS estimates. This is because there is an extra stage of sampling used in the personal crime rate (selecting the adult respondent for interview) compared with the household crime rate (where the respondent represents the whole household), so, technically, these are estimates from two different, though obviously highly related, surveys. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) methodology group has provided an approximation method to use to overcome this problem.

The approach involves producing population-weighted variances associated with two approximated estimates for overall crime. The first approximation is derived by apportioning household crime equally among adults within the household (in other words, converting households into adults) and second by apportioning personal crimes to all household members (converting adults into households). The variances are calculated in the same way as for the standard household or personal crime rates (i.e. taking into account the complex sample design). An average is then taken of the two estimates of the population-weighted variances. The resulting approximated variance is then used in the calculation of confidence intervals for the estimate of all BCS crime and in the calculation of the sampling error around changes in estimates of all BCS crime to calculate whether such differences are statistically significant.

This method incorporates the effect of any covariance between household and personal crime. By taking an average of the two approximations, it also counteracts any possible effect on the estimates of differing response rates (and therefore calibration rates) by household size.

Tables A.02 to A.05 provide 95 per cent confidence intervals around estimates: Table A.02 shows main estimates of incidents of crime; Table A.03 shows main estimates of victimisation and key perception measures; Table A.04 shows main estimates of personal victimisation by respondent sex and age and Table A.05 shows main estimates of household victimisation by household reference person age and tenure.

## 8.2 WEIGHTING DATA

Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the BCS sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas and the selection of multi-household addresses.<sup>16</sup> Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response. All BCS percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables in the annual crime statistics publication are based on weighted data. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

### Calibration weighting

A review of the BCS by survey methodology experts at the Office for National Statistics and the National Centre for Social Research recommended that the calibration weighting method be adopted in the BCS (Lynn and Elliot, 2000). The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different regions and different age by sex subgroups and also households with different age and sex composition. For example, a household containing a man aged 24 living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a man aged 24 living with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age/sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole and also matches the known distribution of the regional population.

The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. They are based on calibrating on population figures provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from ONS. Calibration weights were applied from the 1996 BCS onwards using CALMAR (a SAS-based macro); since 2006/07 the BCS has used g-Calib within a new SPSS-based data processing system (the weights produced by g-Calib are the same as those from CALMAR).

The effects of calibration weights are generally small for household crime, but are more important for estimates of personal crime, where young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average but also lower response rates to the survey. However, crime trends since the 1996 survey did not change to any great extent with the introduction of calibration weighting.

## 8.3 POPULATION ESTIMATES

The BCS uses population estimates for two purposes: in calibration weighting (see above) and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes (see Section 2).

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<sup>16</sup> See Bolling *et al.* (2009) for further details about how the weights are constructed to compensate for unequal selection probability.

Calibration weighting uses data from the LFS, which is weighted according to the latest population estimates issued by ONS. In March 2010, latest and back series of LFS microdata were published, reweighted to the latest (2009) ONS population estimates and these microdata were used in calibration weighting of 2009/10 BCS data. In addition, to allow direct comparisons to be made, BCS estimates from interviews in 2008/09 have been revised using the latest LFS microdata and will vary slightly from previously published estimates. However, the effect is minimal and key estimates remain within the confidence intervals of the original estimates with no change to the overall picture.

These updates are usual statistical practice and consistent with revision policies. Table A.06 shows the effect of the revisions on BCS year to September 2007 data. This was the first time period for which BCS estimates were revised when the last set of LFS microdata were released (weighted to 2007 population estimates).<sup>17</sup>

For the calculation of estimates of numbers of crimes (see Section 2), population figures based on census-revised mid-year estimates have been used for figures up to and including 2003/04 and census-revised population projections have been used since 2004/05.

The latest available estimates were used for 2009/10:

- national population figures are mid-2006 based projections for the 2009 population from ONS;
- regional population figures are mid-2006 based estimates from ONS;
- Welsh population figures are mid-2006 based estimates from the Welsh Assembly;
- national household figures are forecast from mid-2006 based projections for the 2009 population;
- regional household figures are mid-2006 based projections for 2009 from DCLG and;
- Welsh household figures are mid-2006 based projections for 2009 from the Welsh Assembly.

Some of the recorded crime tables in the annual crime statistics publication use population figures to calculate the number of crimes per 10,000 or 100,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2008 based projections for the 2009 population from ONS.

## 8.4 LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable, from a set of independent variables (such as personal, household, area or behavioural characteristics associated with a BCS respondent). The dependent variable must have only two possible outcomes; for example, logistic regression can model the risk of a person becoming a victim of a crime or not. The technique allows the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables in the model is taken into account.

The approach using BCS data is based on an iterative process which relies on a theoretical rationale of how the independent variables might affect the outcome. This process enables evaluation of the impact of certain types of variables on the outcome, for example, if the risk of being a victim of crime is due to personal characteristics rather than area-based factors.

Each of the iterations are based on logistic regressions using the 'Enter' method; the final model is also run using a 'Forward stepwise' regression to evaluate the strength of the contribution that each variable makes to that model. The '-2 log likelihood' statistic (minus two times the log of the likelihood, also known as the 'scaled deviance') of each model is

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<sup>17</sup> This table has been previously published in the Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly update to September 2008 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0109.pdf>.

presented as a measure indicating how much of the outcome remains unexplained by the independent variables. The fit of each model is compared using a likelihood-ratio test to see if the subsequent iteration predicts the outcome significantly better (this is the case when the difference of the '-2 log likelihoods' of both models exceeds a critical value).

The Nagelkerke R square statistic is presented as a measure indicating how much the independent variables predict the dependent variable. The model which has the highest value is the model that is considered to have the best fit. It can only be used to compare models predicting the same dependent variable in the same dataset.

The odds of an event (e.g. victimisation or taking illicit drugs) are calculated as the ratio of the probabilities of occurrence and non-occurrence of the event. Logistic regression describes the impact of independent variables by comparing the odds of a subgroup of interest with a fixed reference category set by the analyst; within a variable all other categories are compared with this reference category. The result is a measure describing the association between the two groups which is termed the 'odds ratio'. To explain further, when the reference category within the variable 'sex' is defined as 'women' and the odds ratio within the model predicting risk of violence victimisation is 3, this means the odds for becoming a victim of violence are three times higher for men compared with women.

However, odds ratios can be hard to interpret as they do not give any indication of the actual probabilities of certain outcomes for separate groups. Therefore, it is sometimes useful to translate the odds that are provided by the logistic regression model into 'probabilities'. The probability of an event can then be compared between groups. Within BCS analysis the ratio between two groups can be described as relative risk (e.g. risk of burglary victimisation), relative prevalence (e.g. prevalence of illicit drug use) or relative likelihood (e.g. likelihood of worry about crime).

Probabilities can be calculated from the  $\beta$ -coefficients in the appendix tables using the following formula:

$$\text{Probability} = \frac{\text{EXP}(\beta_{\text{constant}} + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 \dots)}{(1 + \text{EXP}(\beta_{\text{constant}} + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3 \dots))}$$

In this formula,  $\beta_{\text{constant}}$  is the  $\beta$ -coefficient of the Constant, and  $\beta_{1,2,3,\text{etc}}$  are the  $\beta$ -coefficients of individual characteristics. Where a reference category is chosen, it has a  $\beta$ -coefficient of 0 and therefore does not need to be included in the calculation. Where a model contains an interaction term, the values for the two characteristics in the interaction term are multiplied together to find the  $\beta$ -coefficient to add to the formula.

As an example, the relative risk of being a victim of violence between two individuals is expressed in Box 3.2 of Flatley *et al.* (2010). In this example, the characteristics that are varied are age, sex and marital status, while all other characteristics remain constant. The characteristics that remain constant are: white, no long-standing illness or disability, in employment, managerial and professional occupations, degree or diploma, household income of £30,000-£40,000, homeowner, detached house, urban, prospering suburbs, not high level of physical disorder, 7 hours or longer out of the home on an average weekday, visited a bar less than once a week in the last month, didn't visit a nightclub in the last month.

The risk of being a victim of violent crime for a 23 year old single man with all the above characteristics is:

$$\frac{\text{EXP}(-5.79+1.32+0.58+0.61+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07)}{1+\text{EXP}(-5.79+1.32+0.58+0.61+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07)} = 5.4\%$$

The risk of being a victim of violent crime for a 55 year old married woman with all the above characteristics is:



$$\frac{\text{EXP}(-5.79-2.82+(0.21*5)+0.58+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07)}{1+\text{EXP}(-5.79-2.82+(0.21*5)+0.58+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07)} = 0.4\%$$

The relative risk is:

$$\frac{\text{Risk for a 23 year old single man}}{\text{Risk for a 55 year old married woman}} = 12.3^{18}$$

## 8.5 CONVENTIONS USED IN FIGURES AND TABLES

The following conventions are used in the annual crime statistics publication and the user guide (where applicable).

### Table abbreviations

- '0' indicates no response in that particular category or less than 0.5 per cent (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 and 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 this is noted in the text.

### 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 per cent 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 per cent, 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

Prior to 2001/02, BCS respondents were asked about their experience of crime in the previous calendar year, so year-labels identify the year in which the crime took place. Following the change to continuous interviewing in 2001/02, respondents' experience of crime relates to the 12 full months prior to interview (see Section 2) and year-labels identify the BCS year of interview.

<sup>18</sup> The relative risk presented here is calculated using unrounded figures.

Other questions on the BCS (e.g. attitudes to policing, confidence in the criminal justice system) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed (e.g. 1996, 2008/09).

### **'No answers' (missing values)**

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

## 9 Drug use as measured by the British Crime Survey

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Since 1996 the British Crime Survey (BCS) has included a self-completion module of questions on illicit drug use (see Section 2). Prevalence and trends are published annually within an existing series, *Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the British Crime Survey* (for example, Hoare, 2009, and Hoare and Moon, 2010, forthcoming).

### 9.1 THE BCS AS A SURVEY OF DRUG USE

The BCS drug misuse estimates are produced from responses to a self-completion module of the survey that is completed at the end of the face-to-face interview (which mainly covers questions on experiences of crime victimisation and perceptions of crime-related issues, see Sections 2, 5 and 6). Respondents generally complete the drugs module on the interviewer's laptop by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) and, when complete, their answers are encrypted and cannot be retrieved by the interviewer.

BCS estimates are based on a sample of the population which is considered large for a government survey.<sup>19</sup> The survey has a high response rate (76% for the main survey and 93% of those who were eligible for the self-completion module) and is weighted to ensure figures are as representative of the population under study as possible (see Section 8.2).

The self-completion module is restricted to those respondents aged 16 to 59 years (the decision to exclude those aged 60 and over was largely an economy measure, reflecting their very low prevalence rates for the use of prohibited drugs). Between April and September 2009 the self-completion module on the BCS was extended to 69 year olds. Based only on these six months data, any *last year* illicit drug use among adults aged 60 to 69 was 0.9 cent, confirming the low prevalence within this subgroup (data not previously published).

Although illicit drug use estimates from the BCS may be based on a small number of users, published figures and comparisons are considered to be robust and caveats on subgroup analysis are provided where appropriate.

The BCS is able to provide trends over time as the survey has included a comparable self-report module of questions on illicit drug use since 1996. Unless otherwise specified, any reported changes over time in BCS drug use estimates are statistically significant (see Section 8.1).

Figures are published on an annual basis and estimates are based on interviews conducted on a financial year basis (for example, between April 2009 and March 2010). Hence, the reference period for *last year* drug use (when respondents are asked about their drug use in the 12 months prior to interview) will range from April 2008 for the earliest interviews to March 2010 for the latest interviews.

Development of the BCS questionnaire takes place on an annual basis and aims to reflect emerging issues. For example, respondents were asked about methamphetamine use for the first time in the 2008/09 survey. Questions about frequent drug use (previously only asked of 16 to 24 year olds), use of skunk (the stronger form of cannabis) and the age at which cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy were *first* taken were added to the 2009/10 BCS. Developments for the 2010/11 BCS include asking respondents about the availability and acceptability of taking illicit drugs; at which age they *last* took cannabis, powder cocaine or ecstasy and which drugs were taken together, the last time any drugs were taken. Findings from the new questions introduced in the 2010/11 BCS will be published in 2011.

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<sup>19</sup> In the 2009/10 BCS there was an achieved sample of 44,559 adults; 26,516 adults aged 16 to 59 completed the drugs self-completion module.

## Limitations of the BCS as a survey of drug use

As a household survey, the BCS provides an effective measure of the more commonly used drugs for which the majority of users are contained within the household population. However, the BCS does not cover some small groups, potentially important given that they may have relatively high rates of drug use: notably the homeless and those living in certain institutions such as prisons. Nor, in practice, will any household survey necessarily reach those problematic drug users whose lives are so busy or chaotic that they are hardly ever at home or are unable to take part in an interview.<sup>20</sup> As a result, the BCS is likely to underestimate the overall use of drugs such as opiates and crack cocaine and possibly also frequent cocaine powder users, where the majority of users are concentrated within small sub-sections of the population not covered or reached by the survey. However, this is likely to have only a marginal impact on overall estimates of drug use within the household population.

Issues exist around willingness to report illicit drug use, even in a confidential manner. An unknown proportion of respondents may not report their behaviour honestly; hence estimates of prevalence in this bulletin may be considered lower estimates of the true level of illicit drug use within the general population, even for more commonly-used drugs. In tracking changes in the level of drug use through the BCS, arguably what matters most is that, irrespective of any strengths or weaknesses relating to coverage or response to the survey, it is a consistent instrument deployed in the same manner for each round of the survey. Hence, even if drug use estimates are lower than the true value, comparisons over time remain valid assuming that unwillingness to report has remained at a similar level over time.

BCS data are a good and robust way to measure general population prevalence, but necessarily sit alongside other data sources in providing a comprehensive understanding of illicit drug use in England and Wales. By their very nature, self-report estimates of drug use within a general population sample survey are a measurement of what respondents intended, or believed, they have taken. In reality, particularly with changes in purity of drugs such as powder cocaine, those who have taken illicit drugs will not always be sure about what they have taken.

Historically, the BCS has included those aged 16 or over resident in households; however, the survey has recently been extended to include children (aged 10 to 15)<sup>21</sup>. The BCS child survey includes only a few questions on the use of drugs<sup>22</sup> as there is already an established National Statistics series giving trends on the prevalence and nature of drug use among 11 to 15 year olds which is based on the smoking, drinking and drug use survey among young people in England. Latest figures for 2009 are published simultaneously with this bulletin to provide an overall picture of drug use (see Fuller and Sanchez, 2010).

## 9.2 RELIABILITY OF ILLICIT DRUG USE ESTIMATES

Collecting information by self-completion increases the reliability of estimates of a sensitive nature, such as illicit drug use, since it allows respondents to feel more at ease due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey.

As a validity check, the survey asks about use of Semeron, a fictional drug, which identifies those who may not be honest about their experiences of using illicit drugs; and the small number of respondents (16) who reported use of it were excluded from analyses.

The BCS provides estimates of the prevalence of use of an illicit drug *ever* (that is, at least once in a lifetime), at least once in the *last year* (that is, the year prior to interview) and at least once in the *last month* (the month prior to interview). 'Use of a drug *ever*' indicates the

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<sup>20</sup> The Home Office has published work to provide local estimates of problematic drug users using statistical techniques involving indirect estimation from a number of different data sources (Hay *et al.*, 2006, 2007, 2008). In 2006/07, problematic drug users accounted for one per cent of the population aged 15-64 in England.

<sup>21</sup> The first results relating to victimisation were published in June 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Cannabis use questions were included as analytical variables to contribute to the understanding of the links between risky behaviour and criminal victimisation among children, rather than as drug use prevalence measures

percentage of people who have taken one or more drugs in their lifetime; however, it says little about the patterns of current drug use. Some respondents will have taken these drugs ten or 20 years ago, others in the last month. 'Use in the *last month*' is a good indicator of very recent drug use but it is more subject to variation due to the small number of last month users. For these reasons, 'use of drugs in the *last year*' is deemed to be the best indicator available to measure trends of recent drug use.

Year-on-year prevalence changes are presented using the *last year* drug use measure (the best available measure of recent drug use) but these need to be interpreted with care and a consideration of the following issues:

- Large sample sizes increase the reliability of estimates for rare acts such as consumption of Class A drugs; however, the range of variability will still be quite large for very rare acts, such as heroin use, hence, figures will be liable to fluctuation from year to year.
- Comparisons have been made with 1996 figures (the start of the BCS self-report drug use collection) to provide trends, but attention should also be paid to year-on-year changes in the intervening period in order to fully appreciate the patterns of drug use over time.

Between the 2001/02 and 2008/09 BCS the survey included a boost sample of young adults in order to be able to improve the accuracy of illicit drug use estimates among 16 to 24 year olds. Estimates will continue to be produced using data from core sample only. Statistical significance reported within this bulletin is at the 5 per cent level; tests of statistical significance are related to the sample size, and hence will be affected by the reduction in numbers without the young adult boost. For information, figures are presented in Table 9a for the 2008/09 estimates with and without the young adult boost.

**Table 9a Previously published estimates including young adult boost of the proportion of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last year, with estimates excluding young adult boost**

Percentages and numbers	England and Wales, 2008/09 BCS					
	2008/09 estimates of <i>last year</i> drug use among 16 to 24 year olds including young adult boost			2008/09 estimates of <i>last year</i> drug use among 16 to 24 year olds excluding young adult boost		
	Estimate	Range	Number of users	Estimate	Range	Number of users
<b>Class A</b>						
Any cocaine	6.6	5.9 - 7.4	371	6.5	5.6 - 7.5	252
Powder cocaine	6.6	5.8 - 7.4	370	6.5	5.6 - 7.5	252
Crack cocaine	0.2	0.0 - 0.3	9	0.2	0.0 - 0.3	7
Ecstasy	4.4	3.8 - 5.1	242	4.7	3.8 - 5.5	169
Hallucinogens	1.7	1.3 - 2.1	105	1.9	1.3 - 2.4	70
LSD	0.8	0.5 - 1.1	47	0.9	0.5 - 1.3	33
Magic mushrooms	1.5	1.1 - 1.8	88	1.6	1.1 - 2.1	58
Opiates	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	4	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	3
Heroin	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	3	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	2
Methadone	0.0	0.0 - 0.0	1	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	1
<b>Class A/B</b>						
Any amphetamine	2.7	2.2 - 3.2	160	2.7	2.1 - 3.4	116
Amphetamines	2.6	2.1 - 3.2	157	2.7	2.1 - 3.3	115
Methamphetamine	0.2	0.1 - 0.3	12	0.3	0.1 - 0.5	9
<b>Class B</b>						
Cannabis	18.7	17.5 - 20.0	1,005	18.8	17.3 - 20.3	687
<b>Class B/C</b>						
Tranquillisers	1.0	0.7 - 1.3	53	1.0	0.7 - 1.4	39
<b>Class C</b>						
Anabolic steroids	0.3	0.2 - 0.5	21	0.3	0.1 - 0.5	10
Ketamine	1.9	1.5 - 2.3	84	2.0	1.4 - 2.5	59
<b>Not Classified</b>						
Amyl Nitrite	4.4	3.8 - 5.1	216	4.3	3.5 - 5.1	151
Glues	0.7	0.4 - 0.9	40	0.6	0.3 - 0.9	24
<b>Frequent drug use</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.7 - 8.5</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.6 - 8.7</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Any Class A drug</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.2 - 8.9</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.0 - 9.1</b>	<b>307</b>
<b>Any stimulant drug</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.1 - 11.0</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.8 - 11.1</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>21.3 - 23.9</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>21.0 - 24.3</b>	<b>827</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i> <sup>1</sup>	5,295			3,533		

1. Base numbers relate to any drug use. Bases for other drug measures will be similar.

### 9.3 REVISIONS TO DRUG USE ESTIMATES BASED ON REWEIGHTED POPULATION FIGURES

Revisions to previously published estimates of general population drug use have been made as revisions have been applied to the population figures used in BCS weighting (see Sections 8.2 and 8.3). The effect of the revisions carried out is minimal and estimates remain within the confidence intervals of the original estimates with no change to the overall picture.

**Table 9b Previously published and revised *last year* drug misuse estimates for 16 to 59 year olds with confidence intervals, 2007/08 BCS**

Percentages	England and Wales, 2007/08 BCS			
	2007/08 estimates using 2003-based LFS estimates		2007/08 estimates using 2007-based LFS estimates	
	Original estimate	Original range	Revised estimate	Revised range
<b>Class A</b>				
Any cocaine	2.3	2.1 - 2.5	2.4	2.2 - 2.6
Powder cocaine	2.3	2.1 - 2.5	2.4	2.1 - 2.6
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.1 - 0.2
Ecstasy	1.5	1.3 - 1.6	1.5	1.3 - 1.7
Hallucinogens	0.6	0.5 - 0.7	0.6	0.5 - 0.7
LSD	0.3	0.2 - 0.3	0.3	0.2 - 0.4
Magic mushrooms	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.5	0.4 - 0.6
Opiates	0.2	0.1 - 0.2	0.2	0.1 - 0.2
Heroin	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.1 - 0.2
Methadone	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.1 - 0.2
<b>Class A/B</b>				
Amphetamines	1.0	0.9 - 1.2	1.0	0.9 - 1.2
<b>Class B</b>				
Cannabis	7.4	7.1 - 7.8	7.6	7.2 - 8.0
<b>Class B/C</b>				
Tranquillisers	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.5	0.4 - 0.6
<b>Class C</b>				
Anabolic steroids	0.1	0.0 - 0.1	0.1	0.0 - 0.1
Ketamine	0.4	0.3 - 0.4	0.4	0.3 - 0.4
<b>Not Classified</b>				
Amyl Nitrite	1.5	1.3 - 1.6	1.5	1.3 - 1.7
Glues	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	0.1	0.1 - 0.1
<b>Any Class A drug</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7 - 3.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8 - 3.3</b>
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.9 - 9.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.1 - 10.0</b>

**Table 9c Previously published and revised *last year* drug misuse estimates for 16 to 59 year olds with confidence intervals, 2008/09 BCS**

Percentages	England and Wales, 2008/09 BCS			
	2008/09 estimates of <i>last year</i> drug use using LFS estimates pre-2010 revision		2008/09 estimates of <i>last year</i> drug use using LFS estimates post-2010 revision	
	Original estimate	Original range	Revised estimate	Revised range
<b>Class A</b>				
Any cocaine	3.0	2.8 - 3.3	3.0	2.8 - 3.3
Powder cocaine	3.0	2.8 - 3.3	3.0	2.8 - 3.3
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.1 - 0.2
Ecstasy	1.8	1.6 - 2.0	1.8	1.6 - 2.0
Hallucinogens	0.6	0.5 - 0.7	0.6	0.5 - 0.7
LSD	0.2	0.2 - 0.3	0.2	0.2 - 0.3
Magic mushrooms	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.5	0.4 - 0.6
Opiates	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.1 - 0.2
Heroin	0.1	0.0 - 0.1	0.1	0.0 - 0.1
Methadone	0.1	0.0 - 0.1	0.1	0.0 - 0.1
<b>Class A/B</b>				
Any amphetamine	1.2	1.1 - 1.4	1.2	1.1 - 1.4
Amphetamines	1.2	1.1 - 1.4	1.2	1.1 - 1.4
Methamphetamine	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	0.1	0.1 - 0.1
<b>Class B</b>				
Cannabis	7.9	7.5 - 8.3	7.9	7.5 - 8.3
<b>Class B/C</b>				
Tranquillisers	0.7	0.5 - 0.8	0.7	0.5 - 0.8
<b>Class C</b>				
Anabolic steroids	0.1	0.1 - 0.2	0.1	0.1 - 0.2
Ketamine	0.6	0.5 - 0.7	0.6	0.5 - 0.7
<b>Not Classified</b>				
Amyl Nitrite	1.4	1.3 - 1.6	1.4	1.3 - 1.6
Glues	0.2	0.1 - 0.2	0.2	0.1 - 0.2
<hr/>				
<b>Any Class A drug</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4 - 4.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4 - 4.0</b>
<b>Any stimulant drug</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2 - 4.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2 - 4.7</b>
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.6 - 10.5</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.6 - 10.5</b>

## 9.4 CLASSIFICATION OF DRUGS UNDER THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971

The Misuse of Drugs Act classifies illegal drugs into three categories (Class A, B and C) according to the harm that they cause, with Class A drugs considered to be the most harmful. Table 9d displays the drugs that respondents were asked about in the BCS and their current classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Emerging psychoactive drugs which have been classified under the Act most recently, such as Spice and other cannabinoids, are not included in Table 9d because they are not currently presented within the overall extent of BCS drug misuse.



**Table 9d Drugs included in the BCS and their classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act (as at July 2010)**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Drug</b>
<b>Class A</b>	Powder cocaine Crack cocaine Ecstasy LSD Magic mushrooms Heroin Methadone Methamphetamine
<b>Class A/B</b>	Amphetamines
<b>Class B</b>	Cannabis (since January 2009)
<b>Class B/C</b>	Tranquillisers
<b>Class C</b>	Anabolic steroids Ketamine (since April 2006)
<b>Not classified</b>	Amyl nitrite Glues (including glues, solvents, gas or aerosols)

Following the Drugs Act 2005, raw magic mushrooms were classified as a Class A drug in July 2005. Prior to this change in the law, only prepared (such as dried or stewed) magic mushrooms were classified as Class A drugs. However, the BCS does not distinguish between the different preparations of this drug, so the trend in magic mushroom and Class A drug use presented here has not been affected by the change in the law.

Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (when prepared for injection) or Class B (in powdered form). Since BCS questions do not distinguish between the forms of the drug taken, amphetamine use has not been included in estimates of overall Class A drug use in this report. The BCS included a question on methamphetamine (which is classified as Class A) for the first time in 2008/09.

Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (such as barbiturates) or Class C (such as benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

Cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug in January 2004. However, the Government recently decided to reclassify cannabis as a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act with effect from January 2009. Reclassification does not affect BCS estimates, but cannabis is presented as a Class B drug with BCS reports.

The category 'not classified' indicates that possession of these substances (amyl nitrite and glues) is not illegal but it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

The 2006/07 BCS was the first year that questions on ketamine were included in the survey; ketamine use is reported according to its classification (Class C).

## 9.5 COMPOSITE DRUG USE MEASURES ON THE BCS

Within Home Office drug misuse publications, composite variables which amalgamate use of individual drugs are presented; the individual drug use variables that they include are outlined below (Table 9e).

**Table 9e Composite drug use variables, 2009/10 BCS**

<b>Composite variable</b>	<b>Individual drug use variables included</b>
<b>Any cocaine</b>	Powder cocaine, Crack cocaine
<b>Hallucinogens</b>	LSD, Magic mushrooms
<b>Opiates</b>	Heroin, Methadone
<b>Any amphetamine</b>	Amphetamine, Methamphetamine
<b>Any Class A drug</b>	Cocaine powder, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Magic mushrooms, Methadone, Methamphetamine
<b>Any stimulant drug</b>	Powder cocaine, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Amphetamine, Amyl nitrite, Methamphetamine
<b>Any drug</b>	Amphetamines, Amyl nitrite, Anabolic steroids, Cannabis, Powder cocaine, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Glues, Heroin, Ketamine, LSD, Magic mushrooms, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Tranquillisers, unknown pills or powders, something unknown smoked, any other drug

Individual types of drugs which are specifically asked about in the BCS are presented in all tables in the substantive part of the report. In addition to these named drugs, respondents are also asked whether they have taken something else in the same time period, that is: pills or powders (not prescribed by a doctor) when you didn't know what they were; smoked something (excluding tobacco) when you didn't know what it was; and, taken anything else that you knew or thought was a drug (not prescribed by a doctor).

Drugs are mainly presented in this report by classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act; however, developing a new composite group ('Any stimulant drug') that includes drugs across the legal classification provides an additional useful measure. These types of drugs are used for their stimulant properties and are more likely to be used interchangeably by the same people at similar times and in similar settings. Amphetamines and all forms of cocaine are well known for their stimulant properties, ecstasy is used by clubbers, and amyl nitrite ('poppers') deliver a short, sharp high, again often used in clubs.

Note that interpretation of the composite category trends should be made with caution. Taking Class A drug use as an example, of the people who took Class A drugs in the *last year* there will be many cases of poly drug use. Some people may have taken all of the Class A drugs, others a combination and some just one. Therefore, if there is an increase in the use of cocaine powder, for instance, there may not necessarily be an increase in the use of Class A drugs. The increase in the use of cocaine powder could just be users switching from one drug to another. It is only when there is a significant increase in 'new' Class A drug users that a change in use of Class A drugs overall will occur.

# 10 UK crime statistics

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## 10.1 CRIME STATISTICS FOR WALES, SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The British Crime Survey and police recorded crime data used in this publication cover crimes in England and Wales only. A separate Welsh factsheet is produced which highlights the key crime statistics for Wales. This is available online at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/wales10.pdf> (English language version)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/walescymru10.pdf> (Welsh language version)

Crime statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland are collected and published separately. The latest annual police recorded crime sources for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be downloaded from:

Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice>

Northern Ireland: [http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates\\_statistics.htm](http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm)



## Appendix 1 British Crime Survey additional tables

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Table A.01 BCS sample sizes for household and personal characteristics, police force areas and regions

England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS					
Household characteristic <sup>1</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>2</sup>	Personal characteristic <sup>1</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>2</sup>	Police force area and region <sup>1</sup>	Unweighted base <sup>2</sup>
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>44,610</b>	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	<b>44,559</b>	<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>44,610</b>
<b>Age of household reference person</b>		<b>Men</b>	20,079	Cleveland	951
16-24	1,492	16-24	1,708	Durham	1,025
25-34	5,354	25-34	2,572	Northumbria	1,020
35-44	8,488	35-44	3,539	<b>North East Region</b>	<b>2,996</b>
45-54	8,585	45-54	3,468	Cheshire	951
55-64	8,145	55-64	3,654	Cumbria	977
65-74	6,543	65-74	2,921	Greater Manchester	1,374
75+	5,896	75+	2,217	Lancashire	981
				Merseyside	918
<b>Structure of household</b>		<b>Women</b>	24,480	<b>North West Region</b>	<b>5,201</b>
Single adult & child(ren)	2,254	16-24	1,958	Humberside	913
Adults & child(ren)	9,694	25-34	3,426	North Yorkshire	998
Adult(s) & no children	32,662	35-44	4,468	South Yorkshire	949
		45-54	3,844	West Yorkshire	1,164
<b>Total household income</b>		55-64	3,973	<b>Yorkshire and the Humber Region</b>	<b>4,024</b>
Less than £10,000	6,227	65-74	3,400	Derbyshire	882
£10,000 less than £20,000	8,829	75+	3,411	Leicestershire	949
£20,000 less than £30,000	6,123			Lincolnshire	1,028
£30,000 less than £40,000	4,543	<b>Ethnic group</b>		Northamptonshire	1,003
£40,000 less than £50,000	2,983	White	41,226	Nottinghamshire	1,011
£50,000 or more	6,076	Non-White	3,255	<b>East Midlands Region</b>	<b>4,873</b>
		Mixed	316	Staffordshire	965
<b>Tenure</b>		Asian or Asian British	1,482	Warwickshire	981
Owner occupiers	30,659	Black or Black British	877	West Mercia	969
Social renters	7,445	Chinese or other	580	West Midlands	1,350
Private renters	6,343			<b>West Midlands Region</b>	<b>4,265</b>
		<b>Marital status</b>		Bedfordshire	956
<b>Household reference person's employment status</b>		Married	20,956	Cambridgeshire	1,017
In employment	26,337	Cohabiting	3,957	Essex	1,029
Unemployed	1,054	Single	9,072	Hertfordshire	909
Economically inactive	17,113	Separated	1,415	Norfolk	881
Student	465	Divorced	4,061	Suffolk	931
Looking after family/home	1,443	Widowed	5,087	<b>East of England Region</b>	<b>5,723</b>
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	1,850			Metropolitan/City of London	3,937
Retired	12,856	<b>Respondent's employment status</b>		<b>London Region</b>	<b>3,937</b>
Other inactive	499	In employment	24,042	Hampshire	993
		Unemployed	1,409	Kent	960
<b>Household reference person's occupation</b>		Economically inactive	18,992	Surrey	921
Managerial and professional occupations	16,496	Student	1,120	Sussex	946
Intermediate occupations	8,668	Looking after family/home	2,387	Thames Valley	1,101
Routine and manual occupations	16,850	Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	1,942	<b>South East Region</b>	<b>4,921</b>
Never worked and long-term unemployed	1,288	Retired	12,899	Avon and Somerset	988
Full-time students	770	Other inactive	644	Devon and Cornwall	966
Not classified	538			Dorset	937
		<b>Respondent's occupation</b>		Gloucestershire	958
<b>Accommodation type</b>		Managerial and professional occupations	14,731	Wiltshire	992
Houses	38,180	Intermediate occupations	9,016	<b>South West Region</b>	<b>4,841</b>
Detached	11,788	Routine and manual occupations	17,060	Dyfed-Powys	1,034
Semi-detached	14,152	Never worked and long-term unemployed	1,685	Gwent	854
Terraced	12,240	Full-time students	1,732	North Wales	983
Flats/maisonettes	5,606	Not classified	335	South Wales	958
Other accommodation	132			<b>Wales</b>	<b>3,829</b>
		<b>Highest qualification</b>			
<b>Output area classification</b>		Degree or diploma	14,403		
Blue collar communities	7,531	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	7,463		
City living	2,033	O level/GCSE	8,540		
Countryside	6,892	Other	1,893		
Prospering suburbs	10,737	None	12,170		
Constrained by circumstances	4,504				
Typical traits	9,148	<b>Long-standing illness or disability</b>			
Multicultural	3,765	Long-standing illness or disability	12,715		
		Limits activities	9,052		
<b>Area type</b>		Does not limit activities	3,657		
Urban	33,027	No long-standing illness or disability	31,761		
Rural	11,583				
		<b>Level of physical disorder</b>			
High	2,389				
Not high	41,800				

1. Sample sizes are based on cases where a valid weight is assigned; this is the household weight for household characteristics, police force areas and regions; and the individual weight for personal characteristics.

2. Unweighted base sizes refer to the number of respondents who gave information about each characteristic.

3. See Section 7 for definitions of household, personal and area characteristics.

Table A.02 Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of incidents of crime

Numbers (thousands)	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS		
	Estimate <sup>1</sup>	Range <sup>2</sup>	
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>	<i>Numbers (thousands)</i>		
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>- 2,530</b>
Vehicle vandalism	1,571	1,478	- 1,664
Other vandalism	837	771	- 903
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>- 713</b>
With entry	393	354	- 431
Attempts	267	230	- 304
With loss	276	245	- 307
No loss (including attempts)	384	340	- 427
<b>Vehicle-related theft</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>- 1,301</b>
Theft from vehicles	850	793	- 907
Theft of vehicles	115	95	- 134
Attempts of and from	264	232	- 296
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>- 524</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>- 1,241</b>
<i>Unweighted base – household crimes</i>	<i>44,610</i>		
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>- 575</b>
Snatch theft from person	64	41	- 87
Stealth theft from person	461	413	- 509
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>- 1,131</b>
<b>All violence</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>1,917</b>	<b>- 2,256</b>
Wounding	501	417	- 585
Assault with minor injury	428	362	- 494
Assault without injury	823	721	- 924
Robbery	335	263	- 407
Violence with injury	1,065	946	- 1,184
Violence without injury	1,021	912	- 1,131
Domestic violence	290	230	- 349
Acquaintance	679	573	- 786
Stranger	783	689	- 877
Mugging ( <i>robbery + snatch theft</i> )	398	322	- 475
<i>Unweighted base – personal crimes</i>	<i>44,559</i>		
Household acquisitive crime	3,531	3,393	- 3,669
Personal acquisitive crime	1,895	1,764	- 2,027
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME</b>	<b>5,939</b>	<b>5,747</b>	<b>- 6,132</b>
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME</b>	<b>3,648</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>- 3,856</b>
<b>ALL BCS CRIME</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>9,278</b>	<b>- 9,895</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>44,559</i>		

1. For household crimes (vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft) the 2009/10 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 23,848,680 households in England and Wales. For personal crimes (theft from the person, snatch theft, stealth theft, other theft of personal property, all BCS violence, wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury and robbery) the 2009/10 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 44,265,687 adults in England and Wales.

2. The range given for these estimates is based on a 95 per cent confidence interval (see Section 8 for more information). Estimates based on subsamples (for example, age group) will have larger confidence intervals.

3. Comparable crime includes a set of offences that are covered by both the BCS and police recorded crime and is used to compare trends in police recorded and BCS figures.

Table A.03 Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of victimisation rates (prevalence risk) and key perception measures

Percentages		England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS	
	Estimate <sup>1</sup>	Range <sup>2</sup>	
<i>Percentage of households, victims once or more:</i>			
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b>			
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Vehicle vandalism	4.7	4.5	5.0
Other vandalism	2.3	2.1	2.4
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>
With entry	1.4	1.3	1.6
Attempts	0.9	0.8	1.0
With loss	1.0	0.9	1.2
No loss (including attempts)	1.3	1.1	1.4
<b>Vehicle-related theft</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Theft from vehicles	3.1	2.9	3.3
Theft of vehicles	0.5	0.4	0.5
Attempts of and from	0.9	0.8	1.0
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Other household theft</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<i>Unweighted base – household crimes</i>	44,610		
<i>Percentage of vehicle-owning households, victims once or more:</i>			
<b>Vehicle-related theft</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Theft from vehicles	4.0	3.7	4.2
Theft of vehicles	0.6	0.5	0.7
Attempts of and from	1.2	1.1	1.3
<b>Vehicle vandalism</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<i>Unweighted base – vehicle crimes (owners)</i>	35,618		
<i>Percentage of bicycle-owning households, victims once or more:</i>			
<b>Bicycle theft</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<i>Unweighted base – bicycle theft (owners)</i>	20,129		
<i>Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more:</i>			
<b>Theft from the person</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Snatch theft from person	0.1	0.1	0.2
Stealth theft from person	1.0	0.9	1.1
<b>Other thefts of personal property</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>All violence</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Wounding	0.8	0.6	0.9
Assault with minor injury	0.7	0.6	0.8
Assault without injury	1.2	1.1	1.3
Robbery	0.6	0.5	0.7
Violence with injury	1.6	1.4	1.7
Violence without injury	1.6	1.4	1.7
Domestic violence	0.3	0.2	0.3
Acquaintance	0.9	0.8	1.0
Stranger	1.4	1.2	1.5
Mugging (robbery + snatch theft)	0.7	0.6	0.8
<i>Unweighted base – personal crimes</i>	44,559		
Household acquisitive crime	11.1	10.7	11.5
Personal acquisitive crime	3.5	3.3	3.7
<b>ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.8</b>
<b>ALL PERSONAL CRIME</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>ALL BCS CRIME</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>22.0</b>
<i>Unweighted base</i>	44,559		
<b>High level of worry about crime</b>			
Burglary	10.1	9.4	10.8
Car crime	10.2	9.3	11.1
Violent crime	12.9	12.1	13.8
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	11,167		
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour	14.4	13.7	15.0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	42,148		
CJS effective	40.7	40.0	41.4
CJS fair	59.4	58.8	60.1
<i>Unweighted base<sup>5</sup></i>	43,128		
Rating of local police	56.3	55.7	57.0
Police and local councils dealing with issues	51.3	50.6	52.1
<i>Unweighted base<sup>6</sup></i>	43,686		

1. Risks for vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft are based on households. Risks for theft from the person, snatch theft, stealth theft, other theft of personal property, all BCS violence, wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury and robbery are based on adults.

2. The range given for these estimates is based on a 95 per cent confidence interval (see Section 8). Estimates based on subsamples (for example, age group) will have larger confidence intervals (see Table 8.04).

3. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury and robbery. See Section 5 for more information.

4. Unweighted base refers to high level of worry about burglary. Base size for car crime will be lower as based on vehicle-owning households only.

5. Unweighted base refers to effectiveness of CJS.

6. Unweighted base refers to ratings of local police.



Table A.04 Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of personal victimisation rates (prevalence risk) by respondent sex and age

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS									
	All BCS crime		All personal crime		Theft from the person		Other theft of personal property		All violence	
	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>
<b>Respondent sex</b>										
Male	22.8	22.1 - 23.5	6.5	6.1 - 7.0	0.8	0.7 - 0.9	2.0	1.8 - 2.2	4.3	4.0 - 4.7
Female	20.2	19.6 - 20.8	4.9	4.6 - 5.2	1.4	1.2 - 1.6	2.0	1.8 - 2.2	1.9	1.7 - 2.2
<b>Respondent age</b>										
16-24	31.9	30.1 - 33.7	13.8	12.4 - 15.1	1.9	1.4 - 2.4	4.2	3.4 - 4.9	9.1	8.0 - 10.2
25-34	28.1	26.7 - 29.4	7.2	6.4 - 8.0	1.4	1.1 - 1.8	2.3	1.8 - 2.8	4.2	3.6 - 4.8
35-44	24.3	23.2 - 25.5	5.3	4.7 - 5.9	0.9	0.7 - 1.2	2.3	1.9 - 2.6	2.6	2.1 - 3.0
45-54	21.7	20.6 - 22.8	4.2	3.6 - 4.7	0.8	0.5 - 1.0	1.8	1.4 - 2.2	1.9	1.5 - 2.3
55-64	15.8	14.8 - 16.8	3.0	2.5 - 3.4	0.6	0.4 - 0.9	1.1	0.8 - 1.4	1.3	1.0 - 1.6
65-74	11.1	10.2 - 12.0	2.3	1.8 - 2.7	1.0	0.7 - 1.3	0.7	0.4 - 0.9	0.7	0.5 - 0.9
75+	7.6	6.8 - 8.4	1.8	1.4 - 2.2	1.0	0.7 - 1.3	0.6	0.4 - 0.9	0.3	0.1 - 0.4

Table A.04 (cont) Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of personal victimisation rates (prevalence risk) by respondent sex and age

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS									
	Domestic violence		Acquaintance violence		Stranger violence		Mugging ( <i>robbery + snatch theft</i> )		Unweighted base	
	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Respondent sex</b>										
Male	0.2	0.1 - 0.2	1.3	1.1 - 1.5	2.2	2.0 - 2.4	0.9	0.8 - 1.1	20,079	
Female	0.4	0.3 - 0.5	0.6	0.4 - 0.7	0.6	0.4 - 0.7	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	24,480	
<b>Respondent age</b>										
16-24	0.5	0.2 - 0.8	3.0	2.3 - 3.7	4.0	3.2 - 4.7	2.2	1.6 - 2.8	3,666	
25-34	0.4	0.2 - 0.6	1.0	0.7 - 1.3	2.1	1.7 - 2.6	0.9	0.6 - 1.2	5,998	
35-44	0.5	0.3 - 0.6	0.6	0.4 - 0.9	1.0	0.8 - 1.3	0.6	0.4 - 0.7	8,007	
45-54	0.3	0.1 - 0.4	0.7	0.4 - 0.9	0.8	0.5 - 1.0	0.3	0.1 - 0.4	7,312	
55-64	0.1	0.0 - 0.2	0.4	0.2 - 0.5	0.6	0.4 - 0.8	0.2	0.1 - 0.4	7,627	
65-74	0.1	0.0 - 0.2	0.2	0.1 - 0.3	0.2	0.0 - 0.3	0.3	0.1 - 0.4	6,321	
75+	0.0	0.0 - 0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	0.2	0.1 - 0.4	5,628	

1. The range given for these estimates is based on a 95 per cent confidence interval (see Section 8 for more information).

Table A.05 Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of household victimisation rates (prevalence risk) by household reference person age and tenure

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS					
	All household crime		Vandalism		Burglary	
	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>
<b>HRP age</b>						
16-24	22.0	19.5 - 24.5	5.7	4.3 - 7.1	7.0	5.4 - 8.5
25-34	23.0	21.6 - 24.4	9.6	8.7 - 10.6	3.0	2.5 - 3.6
35-44	20.9	19.9 - 22.0	8.5	7.8 - 9.2	2.7	2.3 - 3.2
45-54	19.3	18.3 - 20.3	8.4	7.7 - 9.1	2.3	2.0 - 2.7
55-64	14.4	13.5 - 15.3	6.5	5.9 - 7.1	1.7	1.3 - 2.0
65-74	8.8	8.0 - 9.6	3.4	2.9 - 3.9	0.9	0.7 - 1.2
75+	6.0	5.3 - 6.7	2.2	1.7 - 2.6	0.9	0.6 - 1.2
<b>Tenure</b>						
Owner occupiers	15.5	15.1 - 16.0	6.8	6.4 - 7.1	1.6	1.5 - 1.8
Social renters	17.3	16.2 - 18.3	6.5	5.8 - 7.1	3.6	3.1 - 4.1
Private renters	18.7	17.5 - 19.8	6.6	5.9 - 7.4	3.2	2.7 - 3.7

Table A.05 (cont) Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of household victimisation rates (prevalence risk) by household reference person age and tenure

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS						Unweighted base
	Other household theft		Vehicle-related theft <sup>2</sup>		Bicycle theft <sup>3</sup>		
	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	Range <sup>1</sup>	
<b>HRP age</b>							
16-24	4.4	3.1 - 5.6	10.6	8.1 - 13.2	9.5	6.5 - 12.5	1,492
25-34	4.2	3.6 - 4.8	8.3	7.3 - 9.3	5.9	4.9 - 6.9	5,354
35-44	4.6	4.1 - 5.1	6.9	6.2 - 7.6	4.4	3.7 - 5.0	8,488
45-54	4.2	3.7 - 4.7	6.1	5.5 - 6.8	3.6	2.9 - 4.2	8,585
55-64	3.9	3.4 - 4.4	4.1	3.6 - 4.7	2.2	1.6 - 2.8	8,145
65-74	2.9	2.4 - 3.4	2.5	2.0 - 3.1	1.4	0.7 - 2.1	6,543
75+	2.2	1.7 - 2.6	1.9	1.3 - 2.4	0.8	-0.1 - 1.7	5,896
<b>Tenure</b>							
Owner occupiers	3.7	3.5 - 4.0	5.0	4.7 - 5.3	2.6	2.3 - 2.9	30,659
Social renters	4.6	4.0 - 5.1	7.0	6.0 - 8.0	8.0	6.7 - 9.4	7,445
Private renters	3.3	2.8 - 3.8	7.3	6.4 - 8.2	7.0	5.9 - 8.2	6,343

1. The range given for these estimates is based on a 95 per cent confidence interval (see Section 8 for more information).

2. Based on vehicle-owning households, unweighted base will be slightly lower than that given.

3. Based on bicycle-owning households, unweighted base will be slightly lower than that given.

**Table A.06 Previously published and revised estimates with confidence intervals for BCS interviews in the year to September 2007<sup>1</sup>**

	England and Wales, BCS			
	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 <sup>2</sup>		Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 <sup>3</sup>	
	Original estimate	Original range	Revised estimate	Revised range
<i>Number of incidents (000s)</i>				
Vandalism	2,810	2,672 - 2,949	2,816	2,676 - 2,955
Burglary	744	681 - 808	753	688 - 818
Vehicle-related theft	1,640	1,555 - 1,726	1,653	1,566 - 1,740
Household acquisitive crime	3,984	3,826 - 4,142	4,006	3,847 - 4,166
<b>All household crime</b>	<b>6,794</b>	<b>6,557 - 7,032</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>6,583 - 7,062</b>
Theft from the person	560	495 - 625	563	498 - 629
All violence	2,328	2,139 - 2,517	2,367	2,174 - 2,560
<i>with injury</i>	1,176	1,049 - 1,302	1,199	1,070 - 1,328
<i>without injury</i>	1,152	1,020 - 1,284	1,168	1,034 - 1,302
Personal acquisitive crime	1,926	1,789 - 2,063	1,939	1,800 - 2,077
<b>All personal crime</b>	<b>3,941</b>	<b>3,708 - 4,175</b>	<b>3,989</b>	<b>3,752 - 4,226</b>
<b>All BCS crime</b>	<b>10,736</b>	<b>N/A - N/A</b>	<b>10,811</b>	<b>N/A - N/A</b>
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more</i>				
Vandalism	7.6	7.3 - 7.9	7.6	7.3 - 7.9
Burglary	2.5	2.3 - 2.7	2.5	2.4 - 2.7
Vehicle-related theft <sup>4</sup>	7.1	6.8 - 7.4	7.2	6.8 - 7.5
Household acquisitive crime	12.2	11.8 - 12.6	12.3	11.9 - 12.7
<b>All household crime</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.6 - 18.5</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>17.6 - 18.6</b>
Theft from the person	1.2	1.1 - 1.3	1.2	1.1 - 1.4
All violence	3.4	3.2 - 3.6	3.5	3.2 - 3.7
<i>with injury</i>	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	1.9	1.7 - 2.0
<i>without injury</i>	1.8	1.6 - 1.9	1.8	1.6 - 2.0
Personal acquisitive crime	3.7	3.4 - 3.9	3.7	3.5 - 3.9
<b>All personal crime</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.0 - 6.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.1 - 6.7</b>
<b>All BCS crime</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>22.8 - 24.0</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>22.9 - 24.1</b>
<i>Percentage</i>				
<b>High level of perceived anti-social behaviour<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.2 - 17.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.3 - 17.5</b>
<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>				
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	7.6	7.2 - 8.1	7.7	7.2 - 8.1
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10.3	9.8 - 10.7	10.3	9.9 - 10.7
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	25.2	24.5 - 25.9	25.3	24.6 - 26.0
People using or dealing drugs	27.0	26.2 - 27.8	27.1	26.3 - 27.9
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	32.1	31.4 - 32.9	32.2	31.4 - 32.9
Rubbish or litter lying around	30.4	30.0 - 31.1	30.5	29.7 - 31.2
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	27.8	27.1 - 28.5	27.9	27.1 - 28.6
<i>Percentage with high level of worry about:<sup>6</sup></i>				
Burglary	12.1	11.6 - 12.5	12.0	11.6 - 12.5
Car crime	12.6	12.1 - 13.0	12.6	12.1 - 13.1
Violent crime	16.0	15.4 - 16.6	16.0	15.4 - 16.5

1. Figures are presented for year to September 2007 as this is the first time revisions were applied to previously published figures; the reweighted LFS figures were first introduced into BCS analysis for year to September 2008.

2. Labour Force Survey population estimates used in the weighting process are 2003-based.

3. Labour Force Survey population estimates used in the weighting process are 2007-based.

4. Risk for 'All vehicle-related theft' is based only on households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle. It includes theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles and attempted theft of and from vehicles.

5. See Section 6 for more information on the definitions of level of perceived anti-social behaviour and the worry about crime indicators.

6. See Section 5 for more information about the crime types included in this table.



## Appendix 2 Recorded crime list

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The classifications defined in this Appendix are those used for crime recorded by the police and notifiable to the Home Office. In general, attempting, conspiring, aiding, abetting, causing or permitting a crime is classified under the heading of the crime itself, though in certain cases it is shown separately.

Recorded crime covers all indictable and triable-either-way offences. Additionally, a few closely associated summary offences are included. These offences are identified in the listing, together with the reasons for their inclusion. The crimes on this list are termed notifiable offences and their listing is referred to as the notifiable offences list (NOL).

Most of the offences listed are defined in terms of legal offences (i.e. sections of Acts). A comprehensive list of these offences, together with key legal definitions and explanatory notes, appears on the Counting Rules for Recorded Crime pages on the Home Office website: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/counrules.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/counrules.html)

### VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

#### Violence against the person – with injury

1. Murder
- 4.1 Manslaughter
- 4.2 Infanticide  
*Applies to infants aged under 12 months killed by the mother while of disturbed mind.*
  
- Homicide  
*Comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide.*
  
2. Attempted murder
- 4.3 Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child  
*Applies to the unborn child 'capable of being born alive'.*
- 4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving  
*Limited to causing death by reckless driving between 1977 and 1991.*
- 4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
- 4.8 Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving
- 5A. Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent
- 5B. Use of substance or object to endanger life
- 5C. Possession of items to endanger life
- 8F. Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) without intent
- 8H. Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) without intent
- 37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
- 4.7 Causing or allowing death of a child or vulnerable person
- 4.9 Causing death by driving: unlicensed drivers etc.
- 4.10 Corporate Manslaughter
- 8G. Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and other injury
- 8J. Racially or religiously aggravated Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) or other injury
- 8K. Poisoning or female genital mutilation

## Violence against the person – without injury

- 3A. Conspiracy to murder
- 3B. Threats to kill
- 6. Endangering railway passengers
- 7. Endangering life at sea
- 10A. Possession of firearms with intent
- 10C. Possession of other weapons
- 10D. Possession of article with blade or point
- 8L. Harassment
- 9A. Public fear, alarm or distress
- 8M. Racially or religiously aggravated harassment
- 9B. Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress
- 11. Cruelty to and neglect of children
- 12. Abandoning a child under the age of two years
- 13. Child abduction
- 14. Procuring illegal abortion
- 104. Assault without injury on a constable  
*Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see classification 8G).*
- 105A. Assault without injury  
*Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see classification 8G).  
Includes, amongst other offences, common assault and battery (Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988). From 1 April 2002 only includes assaults involving no injury.*
- 105B. Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury (see classification 105A)

## SEXUAL OFFENCES

### Most serious sexual crime

- 17A. Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
- 17B. Sexual assault on a male child under 13
- 19C. Rape of a female aged 16 and over
- 19D. Rape of a female child under 16
- 19E. Rape of a female child under 13
- 19F. Rape of a male aged 16 and over
- 19G. Rape of a male child under 16
- 19H. Rape of a male child under 13
- 20A. Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over
- 20B. Sexual assault on a female child under 13
- 21. Sexual activity involving a child under 13
- 22A. Causing sexual activity without consent
- 22B. Sexual activity involving a child under 16
- 70. Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
- 71. Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
- 72. Trafficking for sexual exploitation

### Other sexual offences

- 23. Incest or familial sexual offences
- 24. Exploitation of prostitution

- 25. Abduction of a female
- 27. Soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
- 73. Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature
- 88A. Sexual grooming
- 88C. Other miscellaneous sexual offences
- 88D. Unnatural sexual offences
- 88E. Exposure and voyeurism

## ROBBERY

*Key elements of the offence of robbery (Section 8 of the Theft Act 1968) are stealing and the use or threat of force immediately before doing so, and in order to do so. Any injuries resulting from this force are not recorded as additional offences of violence.*

- 34A. Robbery of business property
- 34B. Robbery of personal property

## BURGLARY

*Key elements of police recorded burglaries (as defined by the Theft Act 1968) are entry (or attempted entry) to a building as a trespasser with intent to either (a) steal property from it (including stealing or attempting to steal), (b) inflict grievous bodily harm or (c) commit unlawful damage to property whilst inside. The offence group also includes aggravated burglary (Section 10 of the same Act), which is defined as a burglary where the burglar is in possession of a weapon at the time. The Home Office website (see above) contains details of the types of premises that constitute a dwelling.*

- 28A. Burglary in a dwelling
- 28B. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
- 28C. Distraction burglary in a dwelling
- 28D. Attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling
- 29. Aggravated burglary in a dwelling
- 30A. Burglary in a building other than a dwelling
- 30B. Attempted burglary in a building other than a dwelling
- 31. Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling

## OFFENCES AGAINST VEHICLES

- 37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking  
*Part of Section 1 of the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992. Applies to offences of unauthorised vehicle taking (see classification 48 below) with additional aggravating factors of dangerous driving, or causing an accident involving injury or damage.*
- 45. Theft from a vehicle
- 48. Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle  
*Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (part of Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968; also known as taking without consent or TWOC) is a summary offence. It is closely associated with theft of a motor vehicle because at the time of recording it may not be known whether the intention is to permanently deprive the owner.*
- 126. Interfering with a motor vehicle

*Summary offences, closely associated with theft of or from vehicles. The Home Office website (see above) contains detailed guidance for forces on distinguishing between these offences and criminal damage, where a vehicle is reported damaged.*

#### **Thefts of and from vehicles**

*Comprises aggravated vehicle taking, theft from a vehicle and theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle.*

### **OTHER THEFT OFFENCES**

*All the offences listed here, unless shown otherwise, form the legal offence of theft (Section 1 of the Theft Act 1968), which is defined as a person dishonestly appropriating property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it.*

- 38. Profiting from or concealing knowledge of the proceeds of crime
- 39. Theft from the person  
*Includes snatch theft, but if this involves the use or threat of force (e.g. if the victim resists), then it is recorded as robbery.*
- 40. Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter
- 41. Theft by an employee
- 42. Theft of mail
- 43. Dishonest use of electricity
- 44. Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle  
*Includes taking a pedal cycle without consent (Section 12(5) of the Theft Act 1968).*
- 46. Shoplifting
- 47. Theft from automatic machine or meter
- 49. Other theft or unauthorised taking  
*Includes, amongst other offences, unauthorised taking of conveyance other than a motor vehicle or pedal cycle.*
- 54. Handling stolen goods  
*Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968. Dishonestly receiving etc. goods, knowing them to have been stolen.*

### **FRAUD AND FORGERY**

- 51. Fraud by company director
- 52. False accounting
- 53A. Cheque and credit card fraud (pre Fraud Act 2006)
- 53B. Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)
- 53C. Fraud by false representation: cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts
- 53D. Fraud by false representation: other frauds
- 53E. Fraud by failing to disclose information
- 53F. Fraud by abuse of position
- 53G. Obtaining services dishonestly
- 53H. Making or supplying articles for use in fraud
- 53J. Possession of articles for use in fraud
- 55. Bankruptcy and insolvency offences
- 60. Forgery or use of false drug prescription
- 61. Other forgery



- 61A. Possession of false documents
- 814. Vehicle/driver document fraud  
*These records comprise driving licences, insurance certificates, registration and licensing documents, work records, operators' licences and test certificates.*

## CRIMINAL DAMAGE

- 56A. Arson endangering life
- 56B. Arson not endangering life  
*Not all malicious fires that the police record are included here. If the owner of the property set alight is wounded, then a crime of violence is recorded. If a stolen vehicle is subsequently burnt out, it is recorded as a vehicle theft. An additional arson offence is recorded only if there is evidence that the arsonist is unconnected with the vehicle thief.*
- 58A. Criminal damage to a dwelling
- 58B. Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
- 58C. Criminal damage to a vehicle
- 58D. Other criminal damage
- 58E. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling (*see classification 58A*)
- 58F. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (*see classification 58B*)
- 58G. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle (*see classification 58C*)
- 58H. Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage (*see classification 58D*)
- 59. Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage

## DRUG OFFENCES

- 92A. Trafficking in controlled drugs
- 92C. Other drug offences  
*Various offences, mostly under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes; failure to comply with notice requiring information relating to prescribing, supply etc. of drugs; supply of intoxicating substance; and supply etc. of articles for administering or preparing controlled drugs.*
- 92D. Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)
- 92E. Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)

## OTHER MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES

- 10B. Possession of firearm
- 81. Other firearms offences
- 15. Concealing an infant death close to birth,
- 26. Bigamy
- 33. Going equipped for stealing, etc.
- 35. Blackmail
- 36. Kidnapping
- 62. Treason
- 64. Riot
- 65. Violent disorder
- 66. Other offences against the State and public order
- 67. Perjury
- 68. Libel

- 75. Betting, gaming and lotteries
- 76. Aiding suicide
- 78. Immigration offences
- 79. Perverting the course of justice
- 80. Absconding from lawful custody
- 82. Customs and Revenue offences
- 83. Bail offences
- 84. Trade description offences
- 85. Health and Safety offences
- 86. Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material
- 87. Protection from eviction
- 89. Adulteration of food
- 90. Other knives offences
- 91. Public health offences
- 94. Planning laws
- 95. Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc.
- 99. Other indictable or triable-either-way offences
- 802. Dangerous driving

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