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The 2000 British Crime Survey

England and Wales

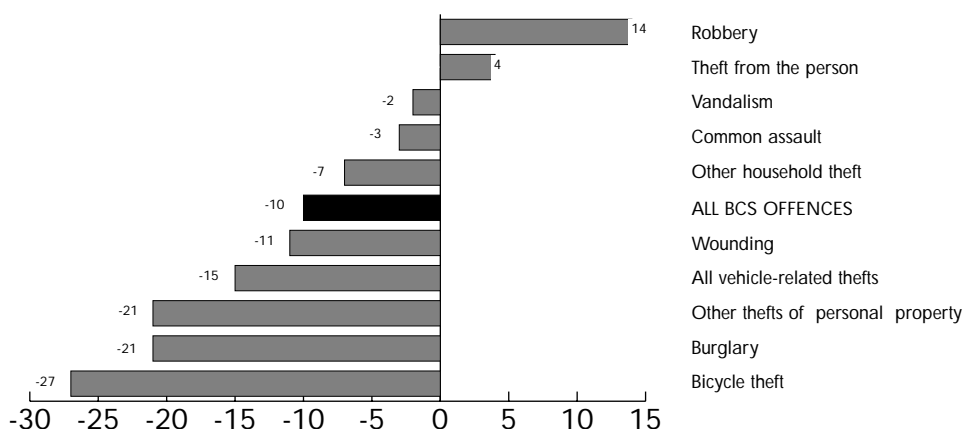
Chris Kershaw, Tracey Budd, Graham Kinshott, Joanna Mattinson,
Pat Mayhew and Andy Myhill

17 October 2000

MAIN POINTS

- The BCS shows a fall between 1997 and 1999 in nearly all the offences it measures. Burglary fell by 21% and vehicle-related theft by 15%. Robbery increased by 14% and theft from the person by 4%, but neither of these increases was statistically significant (Section 3; Figure below).
- Overall there was a 10% fall between 1997 and 1999 in all the crimes the BCS measures. The BCS crime count also fell 15% between 1995 and 1997 (Section 3).
- There was similar 10% fall between 1997 and 1999 in BCS crimes that can be compared to police recorded offences. The estimated fall in comparable police recorded crimes was 5% (Section 3).
- The greater decrease in BCS crime than in police figures is consistent with the police recording more of the incidents reported to them in 1999 than in 1997 (Section 3).
- Between 1998 and 2000 the level of concern about crime has remained relatively stable (Section 7).

Percent change in BCS crime, 1997 to 1999



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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the Home Office (nor do they reflect Government Policy).

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Summary

- The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures crimes against people living in private households in England and Wales. It has been conducted eight times by the Home Office since 1982. This is the first report from the 2000 sweep, which measured crime in 1999.

EXTENT OF CRIME IN 1999

- The BCS estimates there were just over 14,700,000 crimes against adults living in private households in 1999. Table A shows details by offence category.

Table A **Number of crimes estimated by the BCS in 1999**

	<i>Number of crimes in thousands</i>
Vandalism (against vehicles and other private property)	2,853
All property thefts	8,617
Burglary (actual and attempted)	1,284
Vehicle-related thefts (thefts of, from and attempts)	2,956
Bicycle thefts	397
Other household thefts	1,917
Other personal thefts (including stealth thefts)	2,064
All violence	3,246
Mugging (robbery and snatch thefts)	406
Wounding	634
Common assault	2,206
All BCS crime	14,716

Note: Subtotals do not add to total due to rounding.

Comparison of BCS and recorded crime

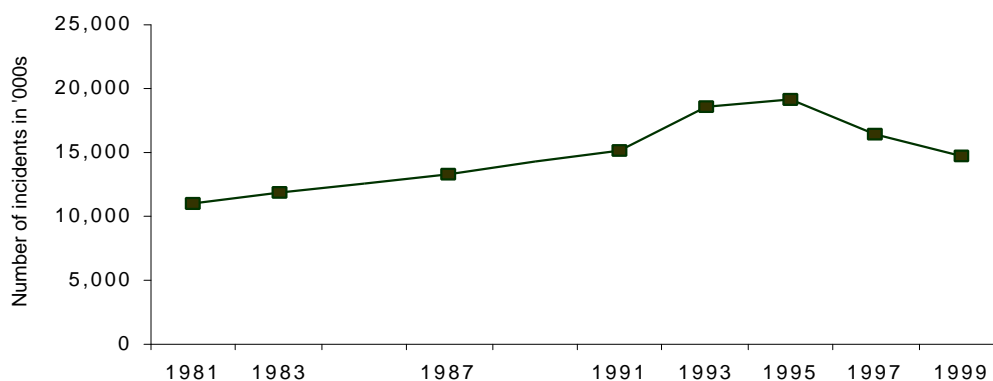
- About three-quarters of BCS crimes measured in 1999 fall into offence categories that can be compared with police recorded crime categories, and half of recorded crime can be compared with BCS crime. For this comparable sub-set, there are four and a half times as many crimes according to the BCS than the police record.
- This is mainly because only 41% of comparable crimes are reported to the police. The most common reason for not reporting is that incidents are seen as too trivial to warrant police attention. However, not all serious incidents are reported either.
- Also, not all reported crimes are recorded by the police. In 1999 the BCS estimates that 55% were recorded. Thefts of cars and burglaries with loss are most likely to be recorded; attempted vehicle thefts, no loss burglaries, common assault, vandalism, wounding and theft from the person are the least likely.

TRENDS IN CRIME

- The BCS estimates there was a 10% fall in crimes against people living in private households between 1997 and 1999. This continues the downward trend in BCS crime between 1995 and 1997, when there was a 15% fall.

- ❑ The BCS shows falls between 1997 and 1999 in nearly all the offences it measures. Burglary fell by 21%, vehicle-related theft by 15%, and bicycle theft by 27%. Common assault (-3%) and wounding (-11%) also fell although these changes are less statistically robust.
- ❑ Robbery increased by 14% and theft from the person by 4%. However, neither of these increases was statistically significant. The increase in robbery is influenced by a marked rise in incidents against 16-year-olds.
- ❑ According to the BCS typology of violent crime, there was a 29% increase in stranger violence but a 19% decrease in acquaintance violence. Mugging and domestic violence showed no statistically significant change.
- ❑ The long-term trend over 1981 to 1999 shows that the gradual rise in BCS crime during the 1980s and the steeper rise during the early 1990s have now been reversed (Figure A). Even so, the number of crimes counted by the BCS is still a third higher than the number in 1981.

Figure A Trend in BCS crime 1981 to 1999

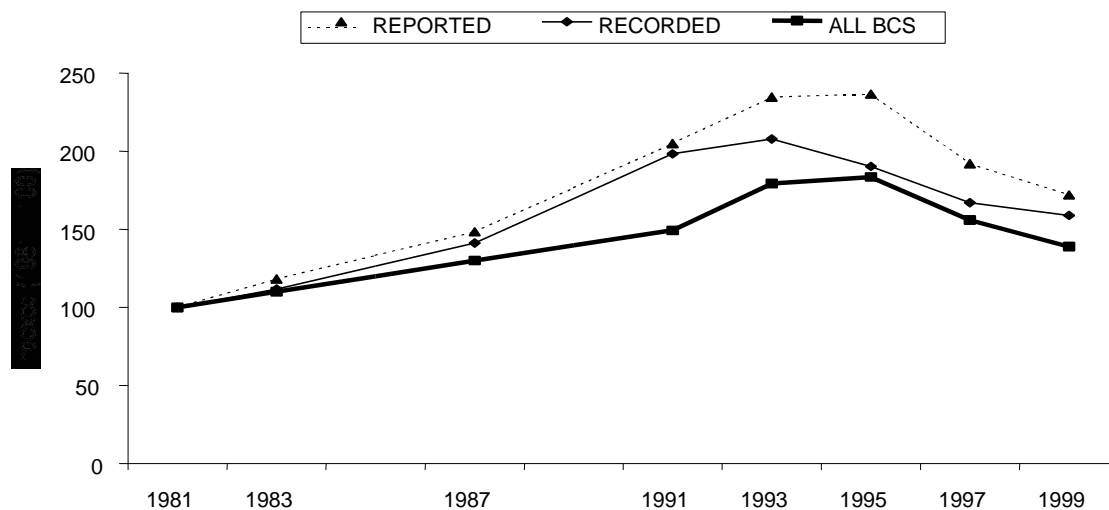


- ❑ The proportion of people who were victims of some type of crime once or more during the year fell from 34% in 1997 to 30% in 1999. This is the lowest overall victimisation rate since 1983. Thefts from vehicles are the most commonly experienced crime: 8.1% of vehicle-owning households had such a theft in 1999.

Trends in comparable crime

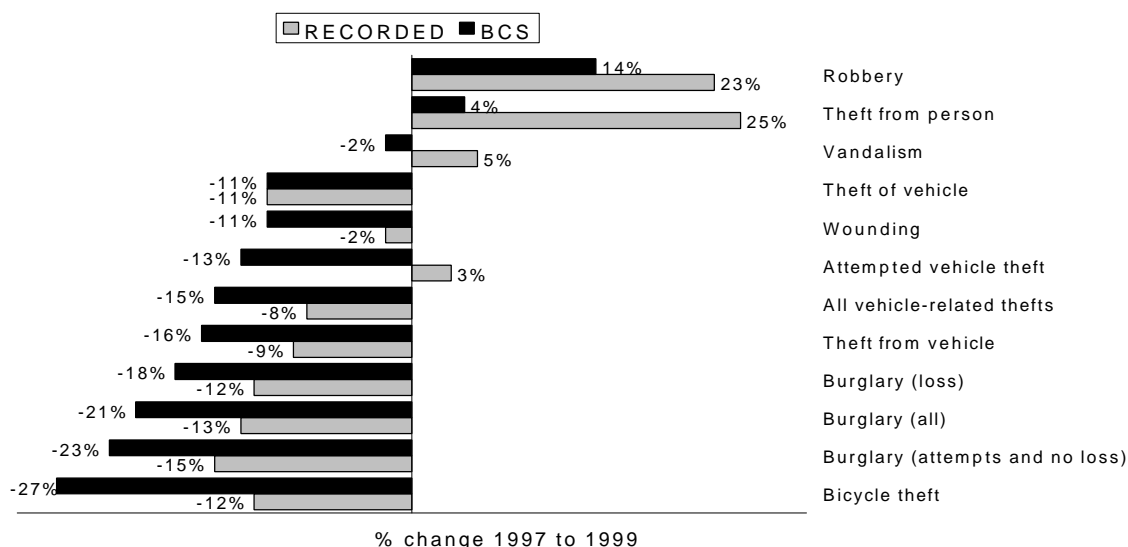
- ❑ Between 1997 and 1999, the police recorded a 5% fall in crimes that can be compared to BCS categories. The number of comparable BCS crimes fell by 10%. For the second time (the first being 1995 to 1997), therefore, both measures suggest a fall in crime.
- ❑ Trends in recorded crime are influenced by variations in people's willingness to report crime to the police, and in police recording practice. Figure B compares trends in recorded crime, BCS crime, and reported BCS crime, since 1981.

Figure B Indexed trends in BCS and police recorded crime, 1981 to 1999 (1981 = 100)



- During the 1980s, the steeper rise in recorded crime was consistent with an increase in reported crimes. When in 1991 recorded crime started first to level off and then fall, this was more consistent with a fall in the proportion of reported crimes being recorded by the police. Between 1995 and 1997 recorded crime showed the same trend as BCS crime, partly because levels of reporting and recording did not change significantly over this period. Between 1997 and 1999, the greater fall in BCS crime than recorded crime is consistent with more reported crimes being recorded by the police.
- For offences that can be compared, the BCS gives a **more** favourable picture of trends between 1997 and 1999 than do police figures, with larger decreases, or smaller rises (Figure C). The conclusion that BCS figures are more favourable than those of the police is statistically most robust for vehicle thefts, burglary and bicycle theft. The fact that police have more crimes to record because of increased reporting is a further possible factor in explaining divergences in figures for vandalism, wounding and vehicles thefts. Finally, the possibility that more reported crimes are being recorded holds for most offences.

Figure C Change in police recorded and BCS crime, 1997 to 1999



BURGLARY

- ❑ Overall, 4.3% of households had a burglary or attempted burglary in 1999 (compared with 5.6% in 1997). But this national average masks variations for people living in different localities in different circumstances. Young households, single parent households and those in areas of high physical disorder were particularly at risk.
- ❑ The risk of burglary in rural areas is well below the national average (2.6%). Between 1995 and 1999 the chance of being burgled in rural areas has declined and has remained at a little over half that for non-rural areas.
- ❑ Between 1997 and 1999, the total number of burglaries fell significantly, by 21%, from 1,628,000 to 1,284,000. This follows less marked falls between 1993 and 1997. The number of burglaries in 1999 was below that measured in 1991.
- ❑ Evidence from the BCS shows that security devices are effective in reducing the risk of burglary. The increase in ownership of home security measures may explain, at least in part, the recent fall in burglary.
- ❑ In the majority of burglaries some form of force was used to gain entry. However, in just over a fifth of burglaries with entry the offender entered through an unlocked door and in just under a tenth through an open window. 6% of burglaries involved the use of false pretences, but this rose to 13% among households headed by someone aged 60 or over.
- ❑ In around a quarter of burglaries someone was at home and aware of what was happening. Violence was used in about a tenth of burglaries. Evidence suggests violence tends to occur in incidents where the offender is already known to the victim.
- ❑ The BCS estimates that £680 million worth of property was stolen in burglaries in 1999 with the cost of damage amounting to £180 million.
- ❑ The most common reaction to burglary among victims was anger. Many more felt angry than felt shocked or fearful for example.

VEHICLE-RELATED THEFTS

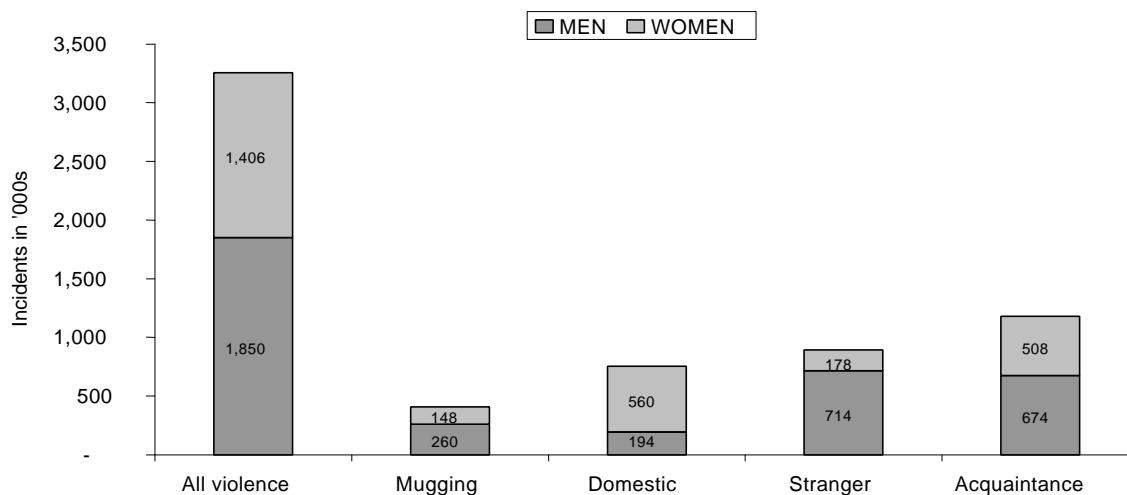
- ❑ Between 1997 and 1999, vehicle-related thefts fell by 15%, from 3,461,000 to 2,956,000. All categories of vehicle-related theft fell during this period, with thefts from vehicles falling the most (-16%). The rate of decline was a little more gradual than between 1995 and 1997 for attempts and thefts of vehicles.
- ❑ Attempted thefts accounted for over a quarter (27%) of all vehicle-related thefts in 1999, whereas in 1981 they were a much smaller proportion (10%). This may indicate that cars are becoming appreciably more difficult to get into.
- ❑ Levels of vehicle security have improved sharply since 1992.
- ❑ Overall, 12.6% of vehicle owners experienced at least one vehicle-related theft. Particularly at risk were younger households and those where the head was unemployed. Those in areas with high physical disorder were also at high risk.

- ❑ The risk of being the victim of vehicle-related theft is lower in rural areas (9.0%). Since 1995, the risk has declined more than in non-rural areas.
- ❑ Three-quarters of incidents took place during the evening or at night, with 37% occurring between midnight and 6am.
- ❑ Most incidents took place immediately outside the home. 17% occurred in public car parks, a slightly lower proportion than in the previous two sweeps of the BCS (18%).
- ❑ Offenders may be starting to target different items in thefts from vehicles. Car parts were stolen less than in 1997, as were car radios. There were increases in the percentage of incidents in which tools, telephones and fuel were stolen.

VIOLENT CRIME

- ❑ Between 1995 and 1999 violent crime fell by 20%, from 4,071,000 incidents to 3,246,000. These incidents can be divided into domestic violence, acquaintance violence, stranger violence and mugging.
- ❑ The average chance of experiencing violence in 1999 was 4.2%. Young men aged 16 to 24 were most at risk – 20.1%. Other high-risk groups were single parents, the unemployed, private renters and women aged 16 to 24.
- ❑ The risk of being a victim of violent crime is lower in rural areas (2.7%). Since 1995 this risk has declined a little more in proportionate terms in rural areas than in non-rural areas
- ❑ The chance of being mugged was 0.6% and the chance of being a victim of domestic violence 0.8%. The chances of acquaintance violence (1.7%) and stranger violence (1.5%) were higher. Domestic violence is the only category of violence where the risks for women (1%) are higher than for men (0.5%).

Figure D **Number of violent crimes against men and women in 1999**



- ❑ In 57% of violent incidents the victim was male. Men were the victims in 64% of muggings and 80% of stranger assaults. In 74% of domestic violence incidents the victim was a woman (Figure D).
- ❑ The most common location for violence was in or around the home (26%) followed by the street (23%), pub or club (19%) and in and around work (17%). 33% of stranger violence took place in and around pubs or clubs.
- ❑ In 21% of robberies the offender was known well by the victim and in a further 14% was known by sight or casually. These results are fairly consistent with those reported from the United States National Criminal Victimization Survey in Felson *et al.* (2000).
- ❑ Victims judged offenders to be under the influence of alcohol in 40% of incidents. This was 53% for stranger violence - reflecting that it often happens near a pub or club. The percentage was lowest for mugging (17%).
- ❑ In 52% of incidents there was some type of injury. Injuries were most common in domestic violence (70%); least common (29%) for mugging. The most frequent form of injury was minor bruising or a black eye (33%) followed by severe bruising (16%). For domestic violence these percentages were 44% and 29% respectively.
- ❑ Nearly a half of victims were emotionally affected by the incident – 25% very much and 22% quite a lot. A further 38% were affected just a little. Victims of domestic violence and mugging were most likely to be affected.
- ❑ The most common reaction was anger (62%). Shock, fear and difficulty sleeping, crying/tears were also fairly common experiences. Reactions of fear and difficulty sleeping were relatively high among victims of domestic violence.

CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

- ❑ The public is rather pessimistic about the problem of crime. One-third believed that the national crime rate had increased 'a lot' between 1997 and 1999, when this is not indicated by either BCS or police figures.
- ❑ A substantial minority (29%) thought it likely that they would have a car stolen in the next year, or that they would have items stolen from a car (32%) or their home burgled (20%). A tenth thought it likely they would be mugged or attacked by a stranger. Although, actual average risks of victimisation are far lower, this does not necessarily mean that *particular individuals* unduly over-estimate risks.
- ❑ Around one in five to one in six people, were 'very worried' about burglary, car crime, mugging, physical attack by a stranger and rape.
- ❑ For most crimes the level of worry remained stable between 1998 and 2000, though it fell significantly (by just over one percentage point) on the Home Office composite measure of concern about violent crime.
- ❑ Concern about crime will be linked both to peoples' beliefs about their chances of being victimised and what they feel about the consequences of victimisation. Levels of worry are

higher among those living in high crime areas, recent victims, those who consider it likely they will be victimised and those who are socially or economically vulnerable.

- Worry about crime can range from an occasional mild concern to extreme anxiety. The BCS shows that:
 - 8% of adults say they never or rarely walk in their local areas after dark, at least in part, because of fear of crime. This rises to 19% among women aged 60 or over.
 - 13% are 'very' or 'fairly' worried about their home being burgled all or most of the time.
 - 6% consider that fear of crime greatly affects their quality of life, slightly more than those (4%) who said the same about crime itself.

1 Introduction

The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures crimes against people living in private households in England and Wales. It has been conducted by the Home Office eight times since 1982. This is the first report from the 2000 sweep, which measured crime occurring in 1999. The main purposes of the BCS are to:

- ❑ **provide an alternative measure of crime to offences recorded by the police**
- ❑ **provide information on crime risks**
- ❑ **provide a picture of the nature of crime**
- ❑ **take up other crime-related issues.**

The BCS and police recorded figures are complementary series which together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. Police figures provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, are an important indicator of police workload, and can be used for local crime pattern analysis. For the crime types it covers, the BCS gives a better reflection of the true extent of crime because it includes crimes which are not reported to the police. The BCS count also gives a better indication of trends in crime over time because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, and in police recording practices. The table overleaf compares the main features of the two measures of crime.

The 2000 British Crime Survey had a nationally representative sample of 19,411 people aged 16 and above plus a further ethnic booster sample of 3,874. The sample was drawn from the Postcode Address File. Face-to-face CAPI interviews were carried out mainly between January and April 2000. The response rate was 74%. Appendix B gives further details. From 2001 the BCS will be conducted annually and the sample size increased to 40,000 per annum. These and other changes are discussed in the concluding section of the report.

Section 2 of this Bulletin starts with BCS findings relating to the extent of crime in 1999 and how this compares with police figures for those offences which can be compared. **Section 3** discusses trends in crime since the first survey measure for 1981 and since the last one for 1997. It looks at both the trend in *all* BCS crimes as well as in the subset of offences that can be compared with police figures. **Sections 4, 5 and 6** discuss burglary, vehicle-related thefts and violent crime, respectively. They look in more detail at trends in these crimes, identify those most at risk of victimisation, and examine the nature of incidents: for instance, where and when they occur, and their impact on victims. **Section 7** discusses public concern about crime. **Section 8** discusses the implications of the findings, mainly with regard to trends in crime and current results on fear of crime. There is also discussion of future developments in the BCS programme.

As well as measuring victimisation, each BCS sweep covers a variety of other crime-related issues. Topics in the 2000 sweep included contacts with and attitudes to the police, attitudes towards sentencing and the criminal justice systems, and knowledge and use of illicit drugs. There was also a special component about experience of sexual victimisation, while the inclusion of an ethnic minority booster sample (see Appendix B) in the 2000 survey will allow analysis of ethnic minority experience of crime. Reports on these topics will appear in due course.

Comparison of the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime

THE BRITISH CRIME SURVEY	POLICE RECORDED CRIME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starting in 1982, it measures both reported and unreported crime. As such it provides a measure of trends in crime not affected by changes in reporting, or changes in police recording rules or practices <input type="checkbox"/> In recent years has measured crime every two years. From 2001 the BCS will move to an annual cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Measures based on estimates from a sample of the population. The estimates are therefore subject to sampling error and other methodological limitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collected since 1857. Provides measure of offences both reported to and recorded by the police. As such they are influenced by changes in reporting behaviour and recording rules and practices <input type="checkbox"/> The police provide quarterly crime returns, and figures are published every six months <input type="checkbox"/> Only includes 'notifiable' offences which the police have to notify to the Home Office for statistical purposes <input type="checkbox"/> Provides an indicator of the workload of the police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not measure crime at the small area level well, but from 2001 the sample size will be increased to 40,000 respondents per annum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provides data at the level of 43 police force areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not include crimes against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those under 16 - Commercial and public sector establishments - Those in institutions, and the homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Includes crime against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those under 16 - Commercial and public sector establishments - Those in institutions, and the homeless
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victimless crimes (e.g., drug, alcohol misuse) - Crimes where a victim is no longer available for interview - Fraud - Sexual offences (due to the small number of incidents reported to the survey, estimates are not considered reliable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victimless crimes - Murder and manslaughter - Fraud - Sexual offences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collects information on what happens in crime (e.g., when crimes occur, and effects in terms of injury and property loss) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Collects information about the number of arrests, who is arrested, the number of crimes detected, and by what method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provides information about how the risks of crime vary for different groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not show which groups of the population are most at risk of victimisation

2 Extent of crime in 1999

Offences recorded by the police are still widely used to measure levels and trends in crime. They give year-on-year changes for the full range of offence categories, and across 43 police force areas. The British Crime Survey (BCS) has more restricted coverage, it has not been conducted annually, its estimates are subject to sampling error, and it is less able to pinpoint local area differences. For the offences it covers, though, the BCS gives a more complete count of crime since it covers unreported and unrecorded crime. It also gives a more reliable indication of trends in crime. This is because the survey is always conducted in the same way, and the same rules for coding crimes into offence categories have been applied in each sweep. Moreover, its estimates are unaffected by any change in levels of reporting to the police, or in police recording practices.

This section starts by looking at the total number of crimes estimated by the BCS in 1999, and what the main types are.¹ It then moves on to differences between BCS and police estimates, for the offence categories that can be compared. It highlights the two main factors that explain the differences: incomplete reporting and incomplete recording. Trends in crime are discussed in Section 3.

BCS CRIMES IN 1999

The BCS measures crimes against people living in private households in the year preceding the survey.² The 2000 BCS therefore gives a count of these crimes in 1999 - **an estimated 14,716,000**. Full details of the crimes counted by the survey are given in Table A2.1 in Appendix A.³

The numbers of BCS crimes given here are best estimates of the true number. As the estimates are derived from a sample, they are subject to sampling error. Another survey with a different sample might have resulted in different estimates. However, the precision of estimates can be calculated and Table A2.2 indicates the range within which there is a 90% chance that the true value lies.

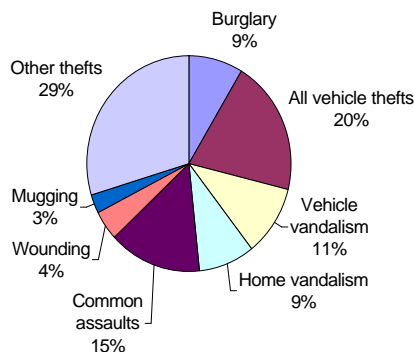
As in previous sweeps of the BCS, the most common offences involve some type of theft, 59% of the total (see Figure 2.1). Vandalism against vehicles and other household and personal property make up a further 19% of offences covered by the BCS. A similar proportion (22%) comprises violent offences. The majority of these are common assaults that involve at most minimal injury (15% of all BCS crimes); 4% of BCS crimes involve more significant injury (wounding) and 3% are muggings (robbery and snatch thefts).

1. Sexual assaults are measured by the BCS, but due to the small number of incidents reported to the survey estimates are not considered reliable and are not reported here. The 2000 BCS included a self-completion component on sexual victimisation (a report is planned for next year). Woundings with a sexual motive are, however, included in the wounding offence category.

2. This is because interviews are conducted in the first half of the year, asking about crimes respondents have experienced since 1st January of the previous year.

3. The number of crimes is derived by applying the rate of crime per 10,000 households or adults in the sample to the household and adult populations of England and Wales. Further details are given in Appendix C. Rates of offences per 10,000 households or adults are given in Table A2.3.

Figure 2.1 Breakdown of BCS crime by offence category



The breakdown of crime measured by the BCS has been fairly similar over time. However, compared to the first count for 1981, vandalism is now a smaller proportion (19% as against 25% in 1981). Violence is now a slightly larger proportion (22% now, 20% in 1981). So too are thefts involving vehicles. They form 20% of the total now, as against 16% in 1981, though the proportion now is lower than it was in 1991 (25%). This reflects the fact that vehicle-related thefts rose rather steeply over the 1980s, but have dropped off recently (see Section 5).

Between 1997 and 1999 **there was a 10% fall in the number of crimes measured by the BCS**. This follows the first fall in crime measured by the survey between 1995 and 1997 (-15%). Since 1995 there has been an overall 23% fall in crime, but the level of crime is still above that recorded in 1981 (33% higher), 1983 (24%), 1987 (10%) and similar to that in 1991 (3% lower). Trends in crime are discussed in detail in Section 3 - both in relation to all BCS crimes and to the sub-set of offences that can be compared to police figures.

COMPARING BCS AND POLICE STATISTICS

The comparable sub-set

Comparisons between BCS and police figures can only be made for certain offences: the comparable sub-set. First, the BCS does not cover all the offences that appear in police figures, as explained in Section 1. (It excludes, for instance, homicide, fraud, and so-called 'victimless' crimes.) Second, BCS thefts involving household and personal property cannot be compared because while they might be included in police figures they would fall into a miscellaneous category of thefts. (The Glossary at the back of this Bulletin gives definitions of the various BCS offence categories, and highlights those that can be compared to police figures.)

Changes to police counting rules

There is a difference between the comparable sub-set used in BCS analysis to date and that which can now be used. This reflects changes to the so-called 'counting rules' for offences recorded by the police introduced in April 1998 (see Povey and Prime, 1999, for details). There were two main changes to the rules that are pertinent here. The first change is that certain offences are 'added up' rather differently - principally to reflect the number of victims involved in an offence rather than the occasion of the offence.

The second change is that there are also two new offence categories for which the police have to provide figures which can be compared with the BCS. One covers common assault and assault on a constable. They have always been measured by the BCS. The other category is vehicle interference and tampering. This is included here in the police count of attempted vehicle theft, because a victim will have no idea whether interference with their vehicle (e.g., a damaged lock)

signified an attempt at theft or simply tampering. The new comparable sub-set of offences, then, (a) includes common assaults and vehicle tampering and interference, and (b) provides a rather fuller police count of the relevant offences. This new sub-set is used below in comparing levels of crime in 1999 according to the BCS and the police. However, in Section 3 where trends across the full time span of the BCS are assessed, the old sub-set is used to ensure consistency. This excludes common assault, and police figures for 1999 are estimated to be what they would have been under the old counting rules.¹ In both sub-sets, various adjustments are made to police figures to take account of the fact that the BCS does not cover offences against non-domestic targets (e.g., businesses) and those under 16. (Full details of the adjustments are in Appendix C.)

THE EXTENT OF CRIME ACCORDING TO POLICE AND BCS FIGURES

Of all BCS crimes, around three-quarters fall within the new comparable sub-set; and a half of recorded crimes do so. BCS crimes in the sub-set totalled 11,297,000 in 1999, as against 2,573,000 recorded crimes. The BCS count is therefore nearly four and a half times higher. Put another way, this means that only 23% of crimes against private individuals and their households end up in the recorded crime count. The remaining 77% make up the 'dark figure' of crime.

Including common assault in the new comparable sub-set makes the difference between the BCS and police count rather greater than it would previously have been (26% of BCS crimes would have been counted by the police had the old sub-set been applied). This is because relatively few common assaults are reported to the police, and a relatively small proportion of those reported are recorded.

1. This was done on the basis of results from an exercise carried out by the police for the financial year 1998/9 whereby, to estimate the effect of the changes, they counted offences under both the new and old rules (see Povey and Prime, 1999). Adjustments here are based on the estimated effects of the changes in 1998/9 for individual offence categories. In fact, for the offences in the comparable sub-set, the inflationary effect of the new counting procedures was relatively small. The total number of offences in 1999 in the sub-set (excluding common assault) was 2,326,000 according to the old rules and 2,573,000 according to the new rules.

Table 2.1 Crimes estimated by the British Crime Survey and recorded by the police in 1999 (new comparable sub-set)

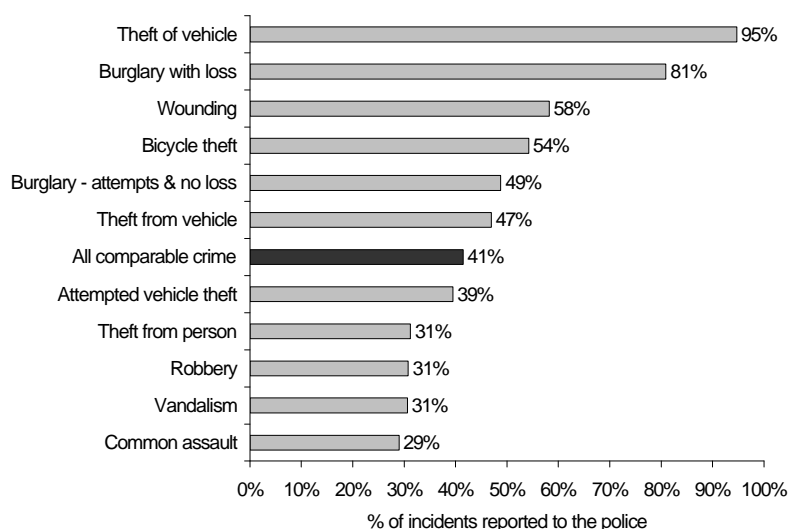
	Police (000s)	BCS (000s)	% BCS reported	% recorded of reported	% recorded of all BCS
Vandalism	488	2,853	31%	56%	17%
All comparable property crime (acquisitive crime)	1,657	5,251	51%	62%	32%
Burglary	452	1,284	62%	57%	35%
Attempts and no loss	119	746	49%	33%	16%
Burglary with loss	333	538	81%	77%	62%
All vehicle thefts	995	2,956	50%	67%	34%
Thefts from vehicles	505	1,811	47%	59%	28%
Thefts of vehicles	280	333	95%	89%	84%
Attempted vehicle theft	209	812	39%	65%	26%
Bicycle theft	136	397	54%	63%	34%
Theft from the person	74	614	31%	39%	12%
All comparable violence	428	3,193	35%	38%	13%
Wounding	186	634	58%	50%	29%
Robbery	64	353	31%	59%	18%
Common assault	177	2,206	29%	28%	8%
All comparable crime	2,573	11,297	41%	55%	23%

There are two main reasons for the difference between the BCS and the recorded crime counts. Firstly, many crimes are not reported to the police; and, secondly, not all those that are, are recorded in equivalent offence categories or recorded at all. These issues are taken up below. Because reporting and recording rates vary across offence types, so do the resulting gaps between the BCS and police counts. These differences are also mentioned later.

Reporting

Of all comparable BCS crimes in 1999, 41% were said by victims to have been reported to, or become known to the police.¹ The majority of crimes, then, are not reported to the police at all. This is the main reason why the BCS estimate is so much higher than the recorded crime figure.

1. Reported crimes are those which the victim said the police came to know about. This includes incidents reported by the victim, those reported by someone else, and those which the police came to know about in some other way – for instance because they were already on the scene.

Figure 2.2 Proportion of offences reported to the police in 1999

Reporting varies considerably by type of offence (see Figure 2.2 and Table A2.4). Thefts of cars are reported most often: 95% were in 1999. Burglaries in which something was stolen were also usually reported (81%). Common assault, vandalism, robbery and theft from the person were the least likely comparable offences to be reported: under a third were.

Reasons for not reporting

The BCS asks victims why they did not report incidents to the police. The most common reason was that the incident was not serious enough or involved too small a loss (in 46% of incidents in the new comparable sub-set this was given as a reason). Other common reasons were that the police would be unable to do much about it (30%), or that the incident was considered a private matter and was dealt with by the victim (22%). (Table A2.5 shows details.) Vandalism, thefts from vehicles and attempts were likely not to be reported because they were considered not serious enough. For violent crime, the reasons for not reporting were rather different: more were not reported because victims felt the matter was private or they had dealt with it themselves. This was particularly true of domestic violence (Table A2.6).

Reporting and the seriousness of crime

Although many crimes go unreported because victims feel it is not worth bothering the police, this does not mean that the police count provides a complete measure of all serious crime. As shown, many incidents that would commonly be thought of as serious in terms of their offence classification are not reported, such as robbery, wounding and burglary. This will in part be because legal definitions do not necessarily capture the circumstances of the crime, or its impact.

The BCS includes a measure to assess seriousness in terms of the impact on victims. They were asked to rate what happened to them using a 'seriousness scale' where zero represented a very minor offence, and 20 represented murder.¹ Seriousness ratings are clearly influenced by objective factors such as financial loss, degree of injury etc. and it is not surprising that ratings were higher for well-reported offences. Nonetheless, the decision to report is not wholly a function of how serious the victim felt the incident was.

1. Although no meaning can be attached to isolated scores, the scale allows one to distinguish *groups* of offences according to seriousness. There is much variation within crime categories in ratings of seriousness, in that most have large standard deviations. This variation will partly reflect differences between respondents in the use of the scale, although previous work has shown much consensus between people in judgements about seriousness. The variations, then, may be more to do with the fact that offences within crime categories vary considerably in nature.

Figure 2.3 - Crime seriousness and reporting

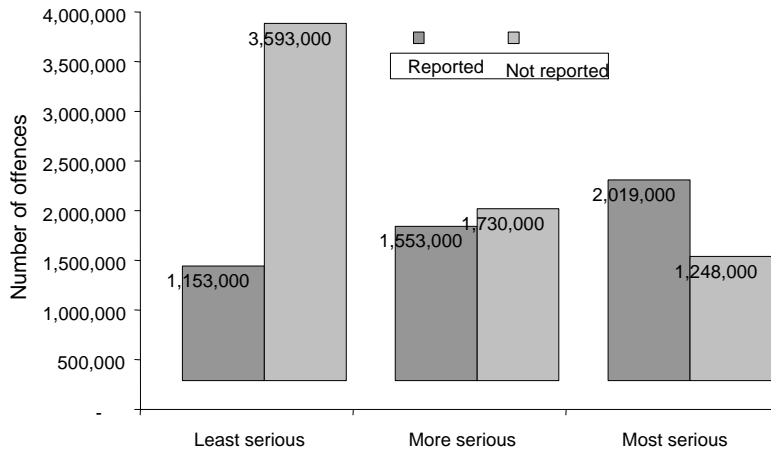


Figure 2.3 divides BCS offences in the comparable sub-set into three levels of seriousness. It shows over a third of offences in the top seriousness band went unreported and just over half of those in the medium seriousness band.¹ Victims' interpretations may not be a perfect measure of the seriousness of the incidents, but the results demonstrate that there is a substantial

proportion of crimes that are regarded by the victim as serious and yet go unreported.

Recording

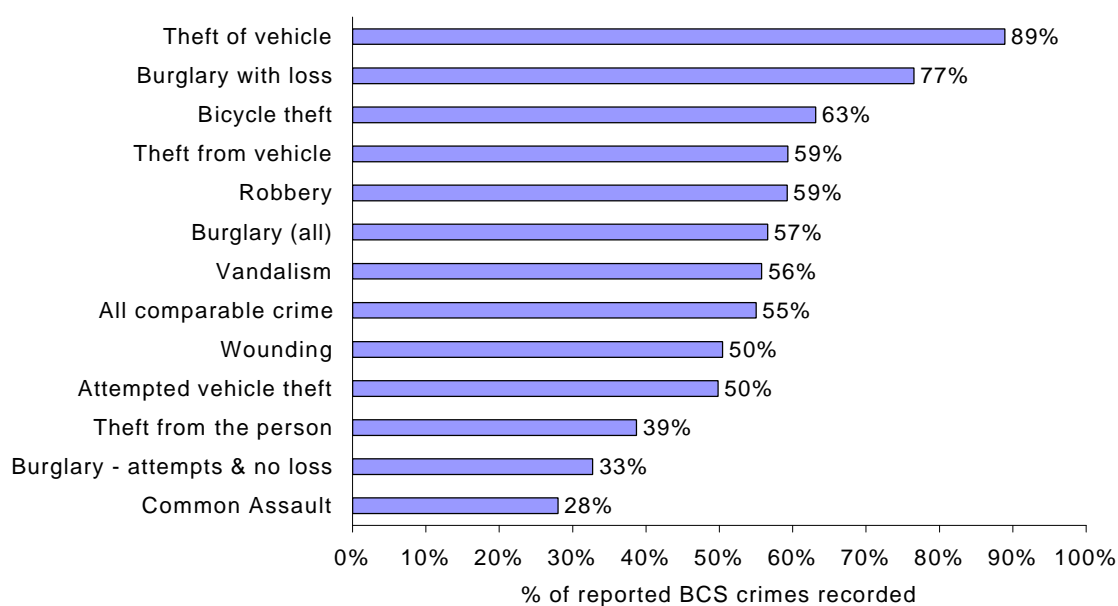
The number of incidents reported to the police is estimated by multiplying the *proportion* of BCS incidents said to have been *reported* by the total BCS count. This gives a total of 4,632,000 reported crimes in 1999, whereas the recorded crime count is just over half of this - 2,573,000 offences. The so-called 'recording shortfall' is the difference between the number estimated to have been reported to the police and the number actually recorded in the comparable crime category.²

There is a great deal of variation by offence type in the recording shortfall (see Figure 2.4 and Table A2.7). The estimated number of reported vehicle thefts and burglaries with loss are relatively close to the number recorded. In contrast, the recording shortfall is much larger for common assault, no-loss burglaries, and theft from the person.

1. The estimates are derived by applying the percentage of incidents not reported in each seriousness band to the number of offences at this seriousness level, as estimated by the BCS. The 'least serious' offences were those with scores of 0-3; the 'more serious' offences had scores of 4 to 6; and the 'most serious' scores of 7-20.

² Comparing 1999 and 1997, using the old counting rules and previous sub-set suggests that the percentage of BCS incidents that are recorded has risen from 54.5% in 1997 to 57.2% in 1999.

Figure 2.4 - Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police in 1999 (the recording shortfall)



Offence 'dark figures'

As mentioned earlier, because both reporting *and* recording rates vary across offence types, the overall gap between BCS and police counts (or the 'dark figure') is much wider for some offences than others (see Table 2.1). For some offence types, the figures are not dissimilar: the majority of thefts of vehicles (84%) are recorded, as are burglaries with loss (62%). The greatest discrepancy is for common assault, only 8% of which end up in police records. The proportion is also low for robbery (18%), vandalism (17%), no loss burglaries (16%), and theft from the person (12%).

Explaining the gap between reported and recorded crime

There are several reasons for the difference between the number of reported crimes and the number recorded:

- ❑ The numbers of reported crimes, as said, are estimated from the BCS. They have a margin of error associated with them, partly because they are based on a sample and partly because of the difficulties of comparing like with like when matching BCS offence classifications with those used by the police.¹
- ❑ Some victims may have said crimes were reported when in fact they were not (saying the police were informed would be seen more as the 'socially desirable' response). Also, some victims who said the incident was reported by others may have been mistaken.
- ❑ Some incidents could have been recorded by the police in crime categories outside the comparable sub-set. Also, some incidents could have been recorded in a different crime

1. In principle, the same rules are adhered to in the BCS for coding crimes into offence types in the same way as the police. The BCS has maintained the same rules since the first survey in 1982. This has the advantage that the BCS trend compares like with like over time, but also means that any variations in recording practices are not taken account of.

category to that given by BCS - where for example it is indisputable that criminal damage has been committed, but less clear that a burglary had been attempted.

- Police discretion about what to record as an offence is another factor. The police may not record a complaint of crime, or may later 'no-crime' it. Some incidents may not be recorded because of police compliance with victims' wishes not to proceed. Other incidents may be regarded by the police as too trivial to warrant formal action, or they may feel the report is mistaken or disingenuous, or there is insufficient evidence to suggest a crime has been committed. The BCS allows no check on how the police deal with incidents reported to them, but there have been a number of studies which testify to under-recording. Burrows *et al.* (2000) have recently reviewed these studies in the course of their own look at recording practices in five forces. They found that 61% of all alleged 'crimes' they looked at ended up as recorded crimes, and 47% of a rather looser collection of allegations – figures in the same region as from the BCS.¹

1. Burrows *et al.*, also looked at alleged 'crimes' of the type counted by the BCS where the police were notified by the victim. Here, 73% of allegations were 'crimed', a higher figure than suggested by the BCS. The difference will in part be because the researchers omitted crime reported on behalf of victims, which they show to have a lower rate of being 'crimed'.

3 Trends in crime

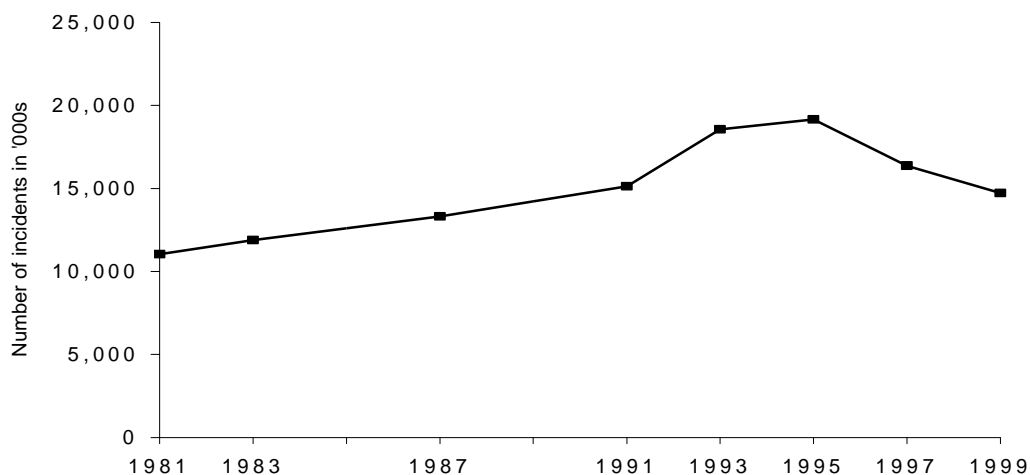
This section deals with trends in crime, both between 1997 and 1999 and over the full span of the BCS. It looks first at trends in all the crimes the BCS measures. It then turns to trends for the offences that can be compared with police figures.

TRENDS IN BCS CRIME

All BCS crime: 1981 to 1999

The trend in all BCS crimes has been somewhat irregular over the last 18 years. It rose steadily over the decade between 1981 and 1991 (Figure 3.1 and Table A2.1). The average increase was close to 3% a year. The sharp increase between 1991 and 1993 (11% per year) was followed by a levelling off between 1993 and 1995 (less than 2% a year). BCS crimes then fell back by 15% between 1995 and 1997 - the first fall registered by the BCS. **They have fallen again between 1997 and 1999 - by 10%.** The fall over the four years 1995 and 1999 equates to a 6% annual fall - or an overall fall of 23%. The level of crime in 1999 is slightly lower than in 1991 (-3%), although it is still above that measured in 1981 (33% higher).

Figure 3.1 - Trend in BCS crime, 1981 to 1999

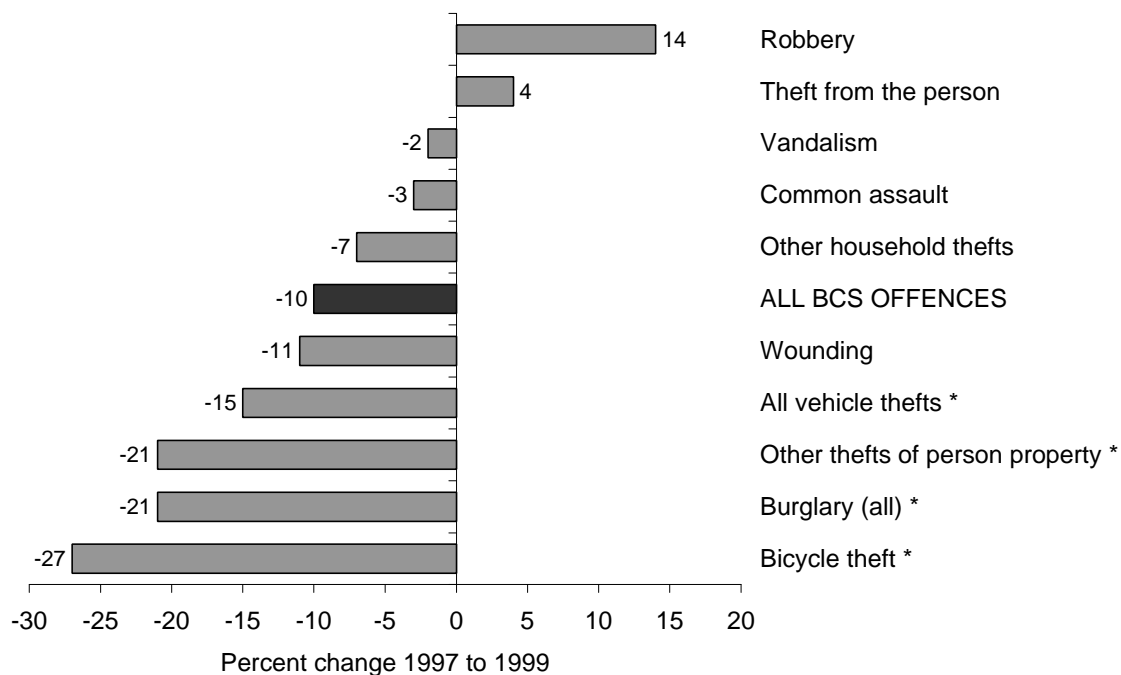


Trends by offence type, 1997 to 1999

All but two offence categories measured by the BCS fell between 1997 and 1999 (Figure 3.2). The exceptions were theft from the person (4% increase) and robbery (14% increase). However, sampling error associated with the BCS estimates means that some apparent changes over time do not reach statistical significance. This was the case for robbery and thefts from the person, as well as some of the decreases. Those changes that were statistically significant are noted with an asterisk in Figure 3.2.¹ The largest fall of all was registered for bicycle theft, which fell by more than a quarter. There were also large falls for burglary, thefts of personal property, and vehicle thefts.

1. Tests of significance are based on incident rates, that is the number of incidents per household or adult in 1997 and 1999 *see Table A2.3. A 10% significance level was taken.

Figure 3.2 Percentage change in BCS crime between 1997 and 1999

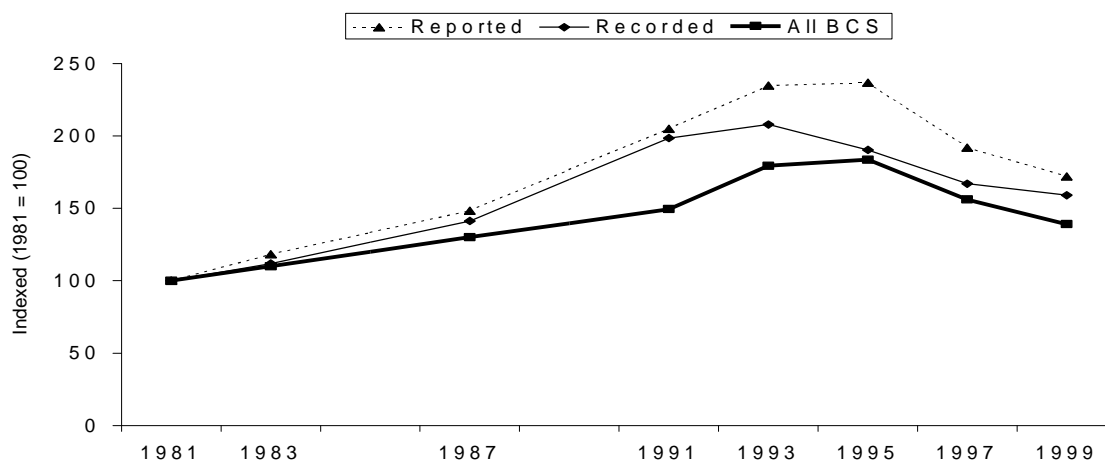


(Section 6 returns to a discussion of trends in violence using the typology of violence developed by the BCS, based essentially on the relationship between victim and offender.)

COMPARING TRENDS FOR BCS AND POLICE STATISTICS

The overall trend in comparable crime: 1981 to 1999

For comparing trends in BCS and recorded crime over time, the appropriate comparable sub-set is the one based on the old counting rules (excluding common assault and vehicle interference and tampering, and adjusting 1999 figures to allow for the slight inflationary effect of the new police counting rules). Figure 3.3 shows BCS and police trends for all comparable crime between 1981 and 1999. The figures for 1981 are indexed at 100. Over the full period, the number of **recorded crimes** rose by 59%, whereas the **total number of BCS crimes**, whether reported or not, rose less, by 39%. The number of **reported crimes** rose by 72%. The greater rise in police figures is consistent with the increase in reported crimes.

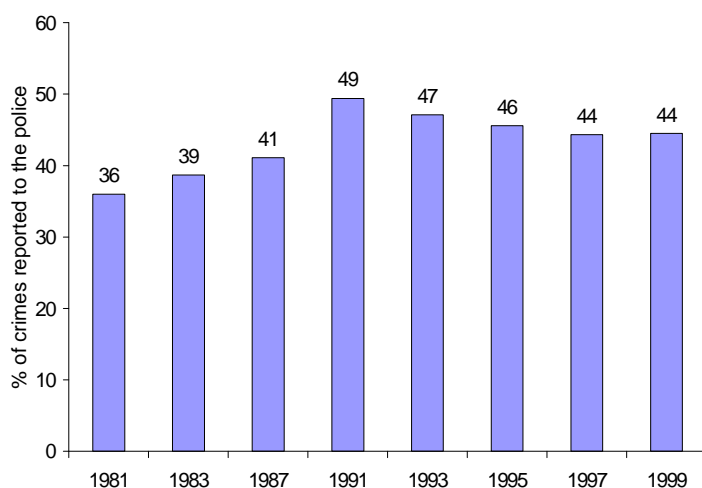
Figure 3.3 - Indexed trend in comparable crime, 1981 to 1999

The picture from both the BCS and police measures is not dissimilar for the period 1997 to 1999, as was the case also for the period 1995 to 1997. However, trends differed more according to the two sources across earlier sweeps of the BCS. During the 1980s, recorded crime rose more than BCS crime, consistent with an increase in reported crime. Between 1991 and 1993 recorded crime stabilised, whereas BCS crime continued to rise, as did reported crime. This implied a fall in recording. This also seemed to be the case between 1993 and 1995 when recorded crime fell, but BCS crime, and reported crime, only stabilised.

To interpret these patterns, one has to take account of two factors that bear on the recorded crime count: changes in reporting rates, and possible changes in recording by the police.

Changes in the proportion of crime reported to the police

Recorded crime levels will be affected by variations over time in the proportion of crime reported to the police – since these will obviously increase or decrease the number of crimes the police have to record. The trend in BCS reported crime indicates the **expected** trend in recorded crime.

Figure 3.4 Proportion of crimes reported to the police, 1981 to 1999 (old comparable sub-set)

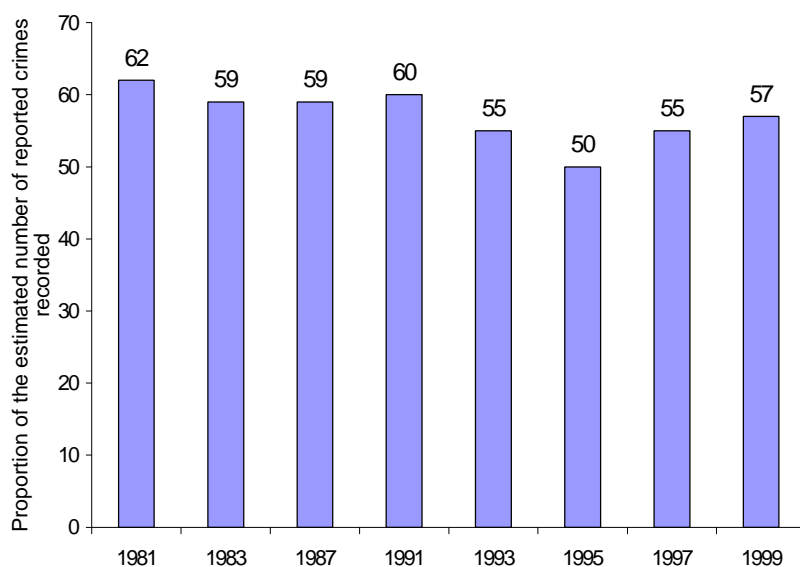
During the 1980s, the proportion of comparable crimes reported to the police increased. In 1981, for instance, only about a third of BCS comparable crimes were reported, compared to half in 1991. Reporting to the police fell back somewhat after 1991, although the proportion reported in 1999 was the same as that in 1997. Figure 3.4 shows the overall picture and Table A2.4 shows details for all

offence types since 1981.¹

Changes in the proportion of reported crime recorded by the police

The second reason for variations in police and BCS trends is that the recorded crime count is affected by variations in the proportion of reported crimes that are recorded. For those crime categories that can be compared, the police recorded 62% of reported crime in 1981. This fell to 55% in 1993 and then again to 50% in 1995. Since then the proportion has risen. Figure 3.5 shows the overall picture and Table A2.7 shows details by offence category.

Figure 3.5 - Proportion of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police (old comparable sub-set): the 'recording shortfall'



It cannot be known for certain why recording fell in the early 1990s, but it may have been that the growing emphasis on 'performance indicators' swayed the police towards keeping marginal incidents out of the crime count. In contrast, the greater proportion of reported crime recorded in 1997 and 1999 is consistent with a move towards more complete recording. This could well have been prompted by

guidance from ACPO (1995) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC, 1996). An RDS review (Simmons, 2000), containing detailed recommendations on improvement to police recording systems was released for consultation earlier this year. The review includes a discussion of the basis on which the police should record allegations, and the implications of this recommendation are discussed briefly in the conclusions.

The overall trend in comparable crime: 1997 to 1999

Between 1997 and 1999, recorded crime showed a decrease of 5%, whereas BCS figures fell by 10%. The proportion of BCS offences in the old comparable sub-set reported to the police in 1999 (44%) was the same as in 1997. On the face of it, then, the smaller fall in police figures since 1997 suggests more recording. However, caution is in order here. First, it is statistically uncertain whether the overall BCS fall was larger.² Second, inevitable imprecision on the estimated number of reported crimes means that a change in the proportion recorded is not proved beyond doubt.

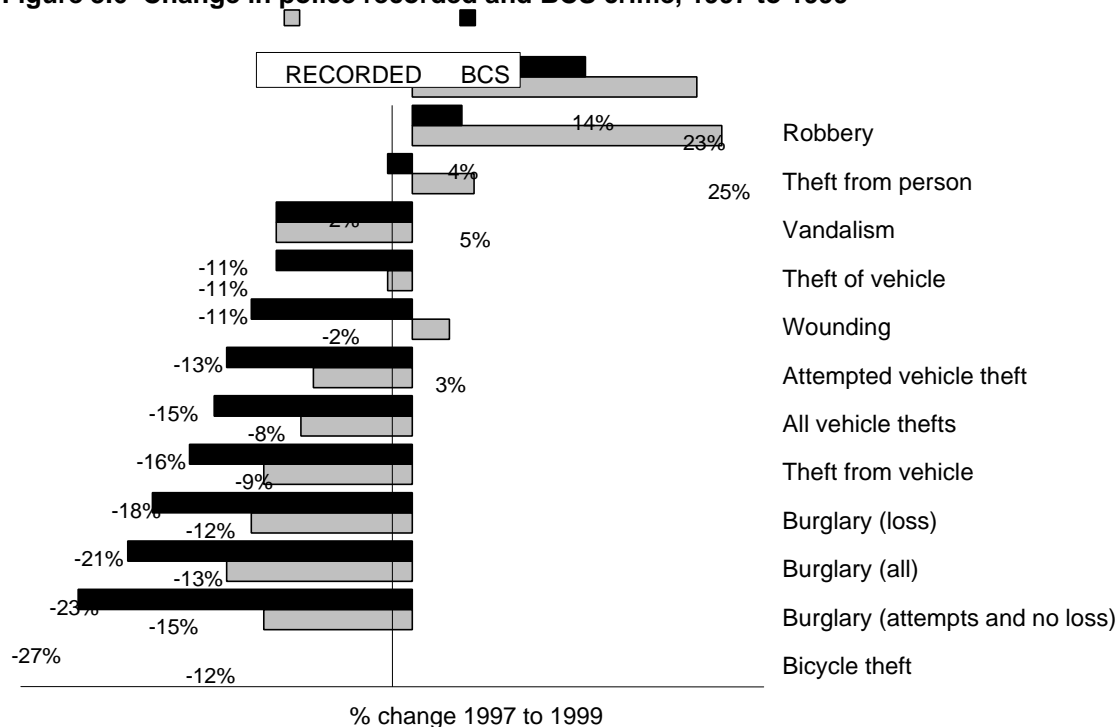
1. The BCS has previously shown a relationship between insurance coverage and reporting. Between 1991 and 1993, the proportion of incidents in which a claim was made fell, and this was thought to at least in part explain the fall in reporting over the period.

2. The error on the BCS figure is probably such that the 'real' fall could have matched the recorded crime figures. However, it is not possible to compute the error for the overall BCS figure because sampling errors are separately compiled for household and personal crime.

Trends by offence type, 1997 to 1999

Figure 3.6 compares police and BCS trends between 1997 and 1999 for the offence types that can be compared. Bicycle theft, burglary, thefts of and from vehicles, and wounding fell on both measures, with larger falls according to the BCS. Attempted vehicle thefts fell according to the BCS, but rose slightly according to the police. Vandalism showed a small fall according to the BCS, but a rise according to police figures. Theft from the person and robbery were singular insofar as both measures showed increases, police figures the most.

Figure 3.6 Change in police recorded and BCS crime, 1997 to 1999



Explaining the divergences

Although the direction of the 1997-1999 trends is broadly similar, there are some divergences. Three factors may be involved: the precision of the BCS estimates; trends in reporting to the police; and trends in police recording practice.

□ Precision of the BCS estimates

BCS estimates of changes over time are subject to sampling error. This means the BCS changes between two sweeps are indicative rather than precise. One needs, then, to see whether the *divergences* in police and BCS trends between 1997 and 1999 are reliable. The statistical indications are that they are robust only for attempted vehicle thefts, all vehicle thefts, burglary and bicycle theft, where BCS figures are more favourable.¹ All of the other divergences could reflect imprecision on the BCS estimates.

□ Reporting

As said earlier, changes in reporting levels could also underlie some of the divergences. If reporting increases, the fall in the recorded crime level will not be as great as the BCS fall, or

1. Divergences in police and BCS trends between 1997 and 1999 were assessed for reliability by testing whether the difference between the BCS trend and the recorded crime trend was statistically significantly different from zero (at the 10% level) for each offence category in Table 3.1.

recorded offences could rise. Changes in reporting help explain the divergences between BCS and police counts for vandalism, wounding, thefts from vehicles and all vehicle thefts, with reporting having statistically significantly increased for each. Reporting trends for other offences do not account for divergences.

□ *Police recording practice*

The BCS has classified crimes in a consistent way across all sweeps. Any changes in police recording, though, could heighten discrepancies with the BCS trend. The imprecision of BCS estimates of reported crime means it is not possible to say *with certainty* whether recording practice might have changed between 1997 and 1999. Nonetheless, the BCS/recorded crime patterns are consistent with the notion that there has been more recording of reported crime for all offences except thefts from vehicles, vandalism and wounding. As mentioned earlier, this may reflect changes in recording practices following central direction from HMIC and ACPO.

In summary, the BCS gives a **more** favourable picture of trends between 1997 and 1999 than do police figures, with decreases larger, or rises smaller. The conclusion that BCS figures are more favourable than those of the police is statistically most robust for vehicle thefts, burglary and bicycle theft (Table 3.1). The fact that police have more crimes to record because of increased reporting is a possible factor in explaining divergences in figures for vandalism, wounding and vehicles thefts. Finally, the possibility that more reported crimes are being recorded holds for most offences.

Table 3.1 A summary of explanations for divergences in police and BCS trends, 1997 to 1999

	BCS trend statistically different from recorded crime trend	Divergences consistent with changes in reporting levels	Divergences indicative of more recording
Robbery			Yes
Theft from the person			Yes
Vandalism		Yes	
Wounding		Yes	
Attempted vehicle theft	Yes		Yes
All vehicle theft	Yes	Yes	Yes
Theft from vehicles		Yes	
Burglary (loss)			Yes
Burglary (all)	Yes		Yes
Burglary (attempts & no loss)			Yes
Bicycle theft	Yes		Yes

TRENDS IN CRIME RISK

The BCS estimates that in 1999 the percentage of adults living in private households in England and Wales who have been either a victim of a personal crime or who live in a household where a household crime took place was 30.5% (see Table A2.8). This percentage increased from 27.7% to 39.2% between 1981 and 1993. The percentage was very similar in 1995 (39.3%), but subsequently fell to 34.1% in 1997. The overall victimisation rate for 1999 is the lowest recorded in the BCS since 1983 (29.9%).

4 Burglary

This section focuses on the extent and nature of burglary against domestic dwellings in England and Wales.¹ First, it looks at the number of burglaries in 1999 and the trend since 1981. Second, it explores how risks of burglary vary across different types of household. Finally, the section briefly examines the nature of domestic burglaries.

Domestic burglary comprises the following:

- **Burglary with entry** – incidents in which the offender *entered* the dwelling as a trespasser with the *intention* of committing theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. To be classified as burglary with entry the offender must have entered the property but need not have carried out his/her intention.
- **Attempted burglary** – incidents in which there is clear evidence that the offender *tried* to enter the dwelling as a trespasser but failed.

Burglary does not necessarily entail the theft, or attempted theft, of property, or involve forced entry (it may be through an open window or involve the use of false pretences). Those burglaries with entry which involve the theft of items are referred to as burglaries with loss.

THE EXTENT OF BURGLARY IN 1999

The 2000 BCS estimates that there were a total of 1,284,000 burglaries against domestic premises in 1999.² Around four in ten (523,000) were attempted burglaries in which the offender tried to gain entry to the dwelling but was unsuccessful. About six in ten (760,000) were burglaries in which the offender did gain entry to the home. Just under three-quarters of burglaries with entry involved theft of property – a total of 538,000 incidents.³

TRENDS IN BURGLARY: 1981 TO 1999

Between 1997 and 1999, the total number of burglaries fell significantly, by 21%.⁴ This follows a non-significant fall of 7% between 1995 and 1997. These recent falls reverse the trend of increasing levels of burglary during the 1980s and early 1990s, and the estimated number of burglaries in 1999 is below that in 1991 (Figure 4.1).

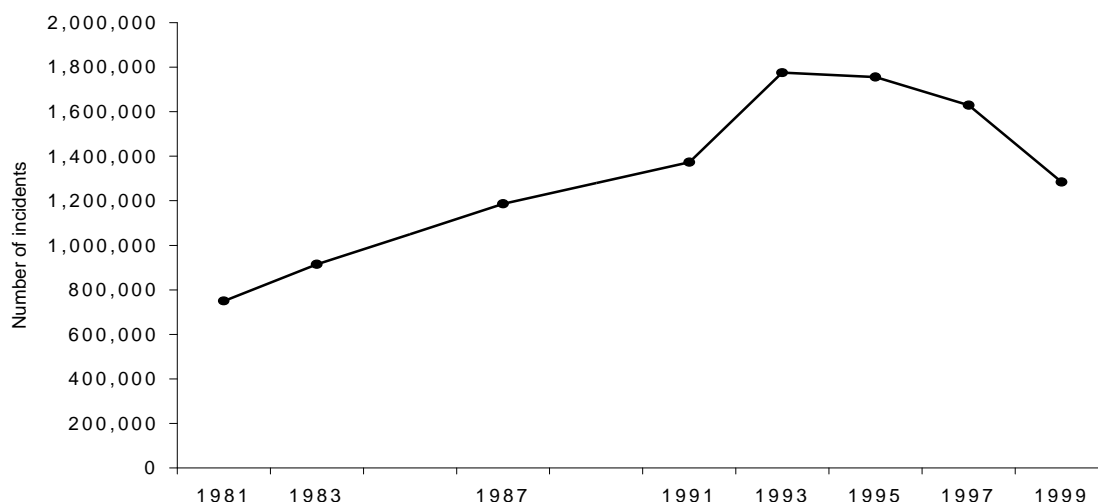
1. Domestic dwellings are houses, flats and domestic outhouses or garages directly linked to a dwelling via a connecting door. Communal areas of multi-occupancy buildings (e.g., hallways) are also included if usually secured. The BCS does not cover crimes against non-domestic properties (e.g., schools or businesses). The 1994 Commercial Crime Survey measured the extent of burglary against retail and manufacturing businesses (Mirrlees-Black and Ross, 1995).

2. The estimated number of burglaries is derived by applying the number of crimes per 10,000 households in the sample ('the burglary rate') to the household population of England and Wales (21,944,125 households). Offence rates are given in Table A2.3.

3. These figures are the best estimates of the true number of burglaries in England and Wales in 1999. Table A2.2 shows the range of estimates in which there is a 90% chance the true value lies.

4. Tests of significance are based on the burglary rate (see Table A2.3).

Figure 4.1 Trend in burglary, 1981 to 1999



The BCS has shown that security devices are effective in reducing the risk of burglary (Budd, 1999). For example, victims of burglary are less likely to have security measures in place at the time of the incident than non-victims. Furthermore, victims of burglary with entry tend to have less security than victims of attempted burglary suggesting security is effective in thwarting at least some offenders. Between 1998 and 2000, levels of home security continued to increase and this may partly account for the reduction in burglary over the period. For example, 26% of households said they had a burglar alarm in 2000 and 75% window locks. The figures in 1998 were 24% and 71% respectively (Table A4.1).

Between 1997 and 1999 the number of attempted burglaries and burglaries with loss fell significantly, by 31% and 18% respectively. The number of burglaries with entry fell by 13%, although this was not statistically significant¹ (see Table A2.1 and A2.3).

As a result of the different trends, the proportion of burglaries in which the offender *gained* entry has changed over time (Table A4.2). In 1981, entry was gained in 63% of burglaries. In 1999 the figure was 59%. The proportion of all burglaries in which property was stolen has also fluctuated over time, being 50% in 1981 and 42% in 1999.

The fall in the number of burglaries between 1997 and 1999 reflects the fall in the proportion of households victimised once or more (from 5.6% in 1997 to 4.3% in 1999). The extent of repeat victimisation has remained relatively stable (Table A2.9).²

1. The fall in burglary with entry between 1995 and 1999 of 24% is significant.

2. This, though, masks a difference between attempted and with entry burglaries. There was a fall in the repeat victimisation of victims of attempted burglary but an increase among victims of burglary with entry. This in part explains the larger fall in the number of attempts between 1997 and 1999.

RISK OF BURGLARY

On average, 4.3% of households in England and Wales experienced at least one burglary in 1999 (2.5% of households were victims of burglary with entry and 1.9% victims of attempted burglary¹). In 1997, 5.6% of households had been burgled (3.2% being victims of burglary with entry and 2.7% victims of attempts). See Table A2.8.

The BCS has consistently shown that the risk of burglary victimisation varies considerably across households with different characteristics and situated in different localities (see in particular, Budd, 1999). Figure 4.2 overleaf shows the types of household most at risk in 1999. They are similar to those identified as being at high risk in 1997 (Budd, 1999).²

Tables A4.3 to A4.6 in Appendix A give the full results, including separate estimates for burglary with entry and attempted burglary.

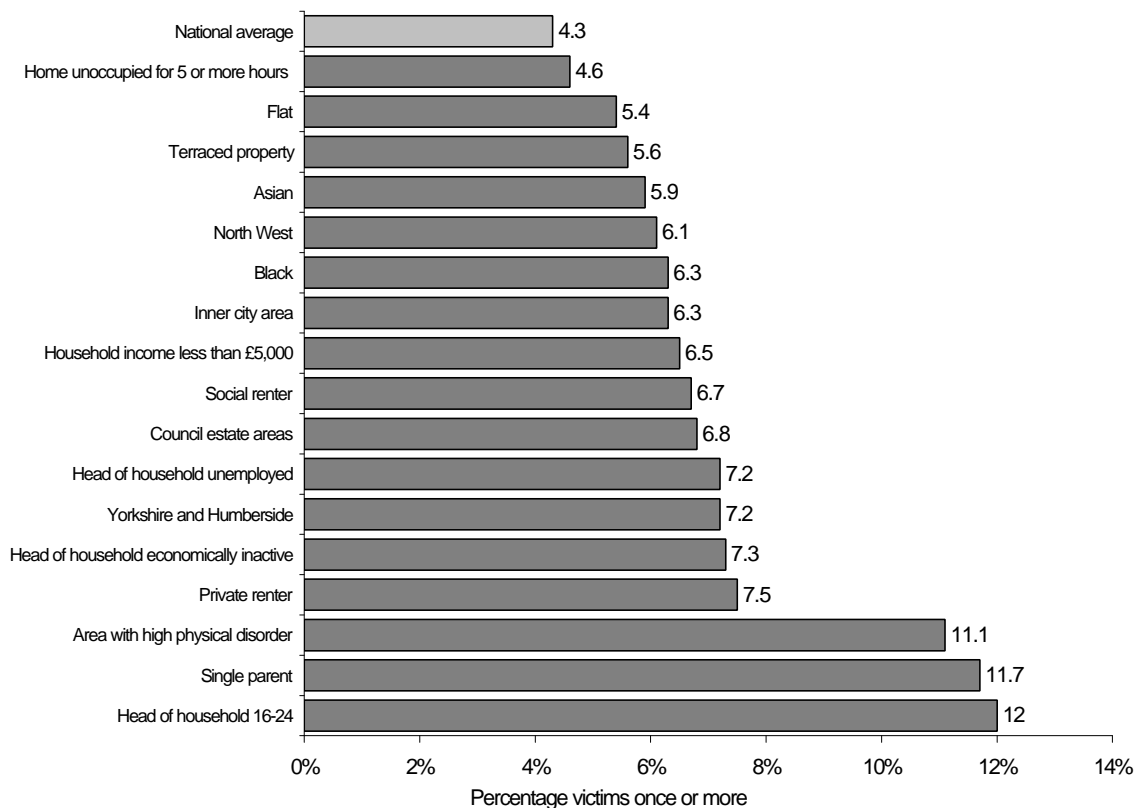
These results are based on bivariate analysis. However, many of the factors overlap to some degree and it is difficult to distinguish the individual impact of each. For example, low income households are more likely to be found in poorer urban and inner-city areas and are likely to have fewer home security measures. High risks among lower income households may relate to the area in which they are located or low levels of security, or both to varying degrees. To establish which individual factors are most important in increasing risk, multivariate analysis is required. Such analysis of the 1996 and 1998 BCS concluded that the following factors increase the risk of burglary (Budd, 1999):

- lack of security
- low levels of occupancy
- living in a detached house
- living in inner-city areas
- living in a household in which there is a single adult and children
- head of household is young
- household in which the occupants are Asian.

1. The prevalence risk for all burglary does not equal the addition of the risks for attempts and burglary with entry as some victims will have experienced both types of burglary during the year.

2. The 1998 BCS also showed that those without household insurance had high risks (8.6% had been burgled compared to 5.0% of those with home contents insurance). The question on home insurance was not asked in 2000.

Figure 4.2 Households most at risk of burglary in 1999



The risk of burglary in rural areas is well below the national average (2.6%). Between 1995 and 1999 the chance of being burgled in rural areas has declined and has remained at a little over half that for non-rural areas (Table A2.12).

NATURE OF BURGLARY

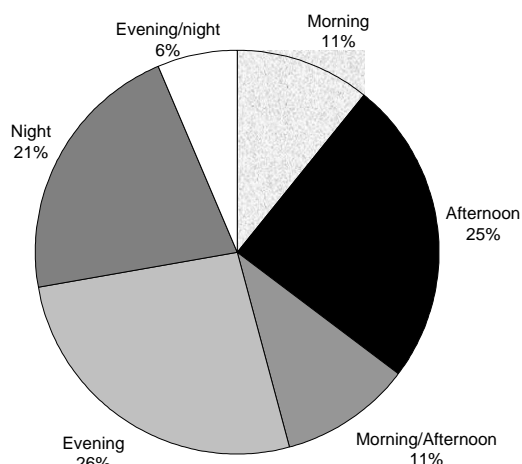
This section briefly examines when burglaries occur; how offenders gain or try to gain entry to the home; levels of contact between burglars and victims; the types of property stolen and the financial and emotional impact upon victims.¹ Key findings from the 2000 BCS are given below. Full results are given in Tables A4.7 to A4.16 in Appendix A, including comparable figures from the 1998 BCS. For more detailed information on the nature of burglary, see Budd (1999).

When

- 29% of burglaries occurred at the weekend, suggesting that risks of burglary are no higher at weekend than during the week.²
- Just over a half of burglaries took place during the evening or night (Figure 4.3). Daytime incidents were more likely to occur in the afternoon than the morning.

1. Results are based on all incidents in the full recall period, for 2000 BCS from 1st January 1999 to the date of interview.

2. Weekend is Friday 6pm to Monday 6am.

Figure 4.3 Time of day when burglaries occur, 2000 BCS

Note: For morning/afternoon and evening/night, the victim was unable to be more specific.

Point and method of entry

- ❑ In 44% of incidents burglars gained or tried to gain entry from the front of a dwelling. In 46% they approached the rear.
- ❑ Burglars were most likely to target doors (71%), usually by forcing a lock (28%). Breaking door panels, forcing window locks and breaking glass in windows were also relatively common methods of entry.¹
- ❑ However, in 21% of burglaries with entry the burglar gained access through an unlocked door and in 6% via an open window. In the 1998 BCS the figures were 15% and 8% respectively.²
- ❑ Only 6% of all burglaries involved the use of false pretences to gain access to the home, but this increased to 13% among households headed by someone aged 60 or over.

Contact with offenders

- ❑ In 25% of all burglaries someone was at home but unaware of what was happening, while in a further 26% someone was at home and aware.
- ❑ 18% of incidents occurred while the respondent was at work or travelling to work; 20% while they were engaged in leisure activities or shopping and 8% while they were on holiday.³
- ❑ Offenders used violence in about a tenth of all burglaries (9%). Analysis of the 1998 and 1996 sweeps of the BCS indicates that in many incidents involving violence the offender had some prior relationship with the victim (Budd, 1999).

1. Analysis of the 1996 and 1998 sweeps shows that while, as one would expect, point of entry differs by type of dwelling (flats being more often targetted from the front), method of entry is similar (Budd, 1999).

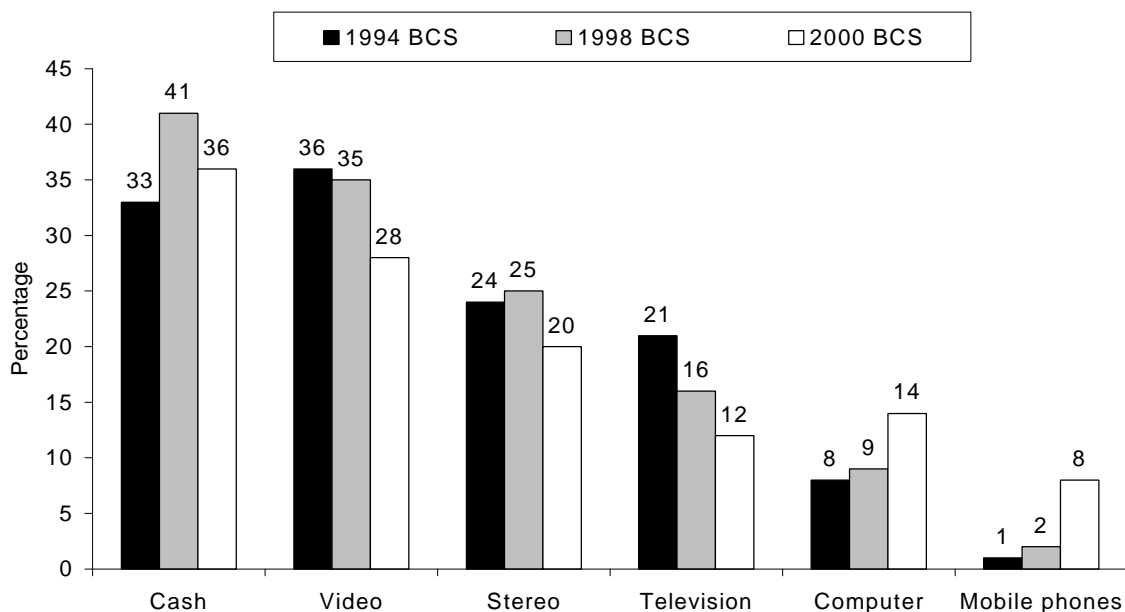
2. The increase in the proportion of incidents where entry is gained via an unlocked door is significant at the 10% level.

3. This refers only to what the respondent was doing at the time of the incident, not all household members.

Items stolen

- The most commonly stolen items in burglary with loss were cash, jewellery, videos and stereo equipment.
- Since the 1998 BCS the proportion of burglaries involving the theft of computers and mobile phones has risen, while the theft of cash and household electrical goods, such as televisions, videos and stereos, has fallen (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4 Trend in the theft of selected items, 1994 to 2000 BCS



Damage

- 61% of burglaries involved damage to property. This was higher for attempts (73%) than when entry was gained (52%). Soiling and graffiti were rare, occurring in only 1% of all burglaries.

Costs of burglary

- For burglaries with loss, the average mean gross value of property stolen was £1,273. This average though masks considerable variation. In 27% of burglaries with loss less than £100 worth of property was stolen, while in 32% the loss amounted to a £1,000 or more.
- The gross cost of damage averaged £138 for all burglaries. Almost two-thirds involved no damage or damage costing less than £50, but in a tenth the cost of damage amounted to at least £500. Average costs were higher for burglaries with entry (£164) than attempts (£99).

- In total the BCS estimates that £680 million worth of property was stolen in burglaries in 1999 with the cost of damage amounting to £180 million.¹

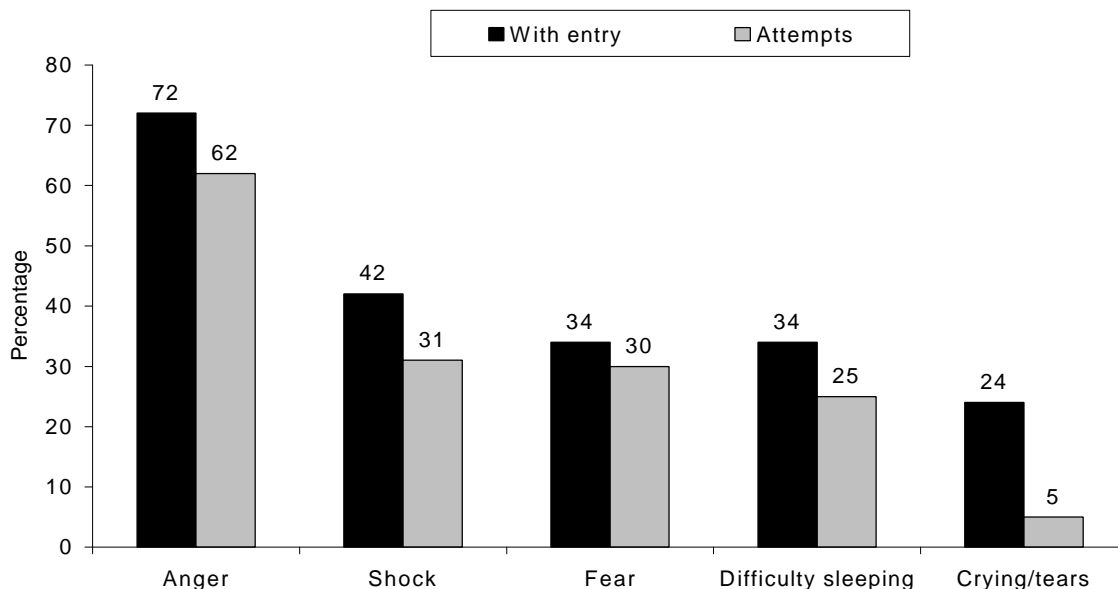
Insurance

- In 49% of burglaries where property was stolen or damaged the household was insured², though victims did not always make a claim. In only 53% of burglaries in which the victim was insured was a claim actually made (26% of all burglaries). One implication of these results is that insurance figures are only a partial guide to trends in burglary, since they may reflect changes over time in insurance coverage and claiming behaviour.

Emotional impact

- In the majority of burglaries, the respondent was emotionally affected by the incident.³ As one would expect, victims were more affected if the burglar had actually gained entry to the home with almost four in ten victims of burglary with entry saying they had been very much affected.
- The most common reaction was anger. In 68% of all incidents the respondent felt angry. Shock, fear and difficulty sleeping were also fairly common experiences (Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5 Emotional reactions to burglary, 2000 BCS



1. These estimates are derived by multiplying the average gross cost figures by the total number of incidents in 1999.
 2. Analysis of the 1996 and 1998 sweeps of the BCS indicate that victims who are on low incomes, living in rented accommodation, unemployed or single parents are less likely to have insurance cover (Budd, 1999).
 3. In the 2000 BCS respondents were asked if they personally had experienced any emotional reaction following the incident. Respondents were not asked about the reaction of other members of the household.

5 Vehicle-related thefts

This section looks at the extent of vehicle-related thefts and the changing pattern over the period from 1981 to 1999. It also identifies the types of vehicle owners that have higher than average risks of victimisation, and the precautions they take in order to reduce their chances of victimisation. It concludes with an examination of how, when and where incidents took place.

This section covers three types of vehicle-related thefts:

- ❑ Thefts of vehicles, where the vehicle itself was the target.
- ❑ Thefts from vehicles, including incidents where offenders either targeted property left inside or on the vehicle, or component parts of the vehicle.
- ❑ Attempted thefts of or from a vehicle. All attempted vehicle-related thefts are considered together as it is often impossible to determine whether the intention of an offender was to steal the vehicle, or property from the vehicle.

For BCS purposes, the term 'vehicle' includes private cars and light vans, motorbikes, motorscooters and mopeds. Commercial vehicles such as lorries and private hire vehicles are outside the scope of the BCS.

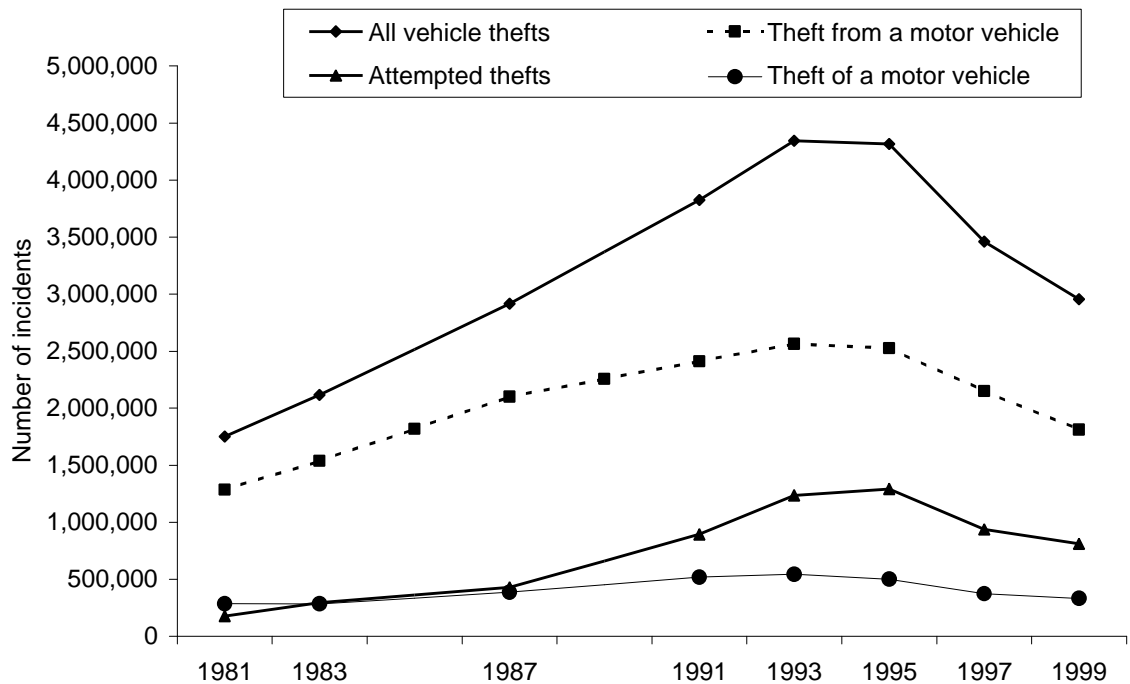
EXTENT OF VEHICLE-RELATED THEFTS

The 2000 BCS estimates that there were 2,956,000 thefts in 1999, representing 20% of all BCS crime. A little over one in ten (333,000 - 11%) were thefts of vehicles. Around six in ten (1,811,000 - 61%) were thefts from vehicles, and just over a quarter (812,000 - 27%) were attempted thefts of or from vehicles.

Between 1997 and 1999, the number of thefts of vehicles fell by 11%; thefts from vehicles fell by 16%; and, attempted thefts by 13%. (Between 1995 and 1997 these figures fell, by 25%, 14% and 27% respectively.) These falls followed a rise in vehicle-related thefts through the 1980s and early 1990s and a levelling off between 1993 and 1995.¹

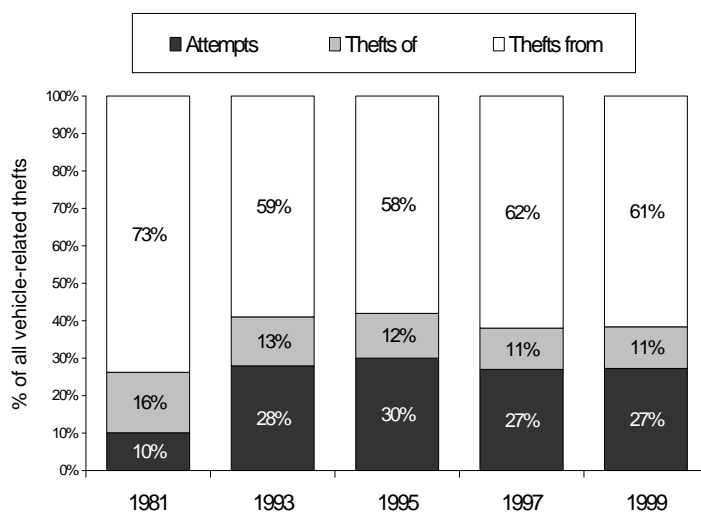
1. The drops in rates per owners for thefts from vehicles and attempted thefts since 1997 are statistically significant at the 5% level, but the drop in rates of thefts of vehicles was not statistically significant, even at the 10% significance level. This pattern also applies when the analysis is based on all households.

Figure 5.1 Trends in vehicle-related thefts, 1981 to 1999



There are a number of factors that could have contributed to the steep fall of 32% in vehicle-related thefts between 1995 and 1999, including increased levels of security on new cars, the introduction of CCTV, and Secured Car Park schemes to cover many high-risk car parks (cf. Brown and Sallybanks, 1999). The BCS itself cannot say much about these, although it shows that the proportion of vehicle-related thefts in public car parks has fallen slightly from 18% in 1995 and 1997 to 17% in 1999 (see Table A5.6). Webster and Pengelly (1997) found some evidence to suggest that ACPO's Secured Car Park Scheme was having an effect on vehicle theft.

Figure 5.2 Composition of BCS vehicle crime by type, 1981 to 1999



Both thefts of and from vehicles have formed a smaller proportion of vehicle crime over time, with attempts becoming more prominent. However, between 1997 and 1999 the figures are the same.

Vehicle security

Levels of vehicle security have steadily increased since the early 1990s (see Table A5.7). Of the households' main cars, just under half (49%) were fitted with alarms, two-thirds (67%) had central locking and 62% had an immobiliser of some kind. Ownership of cars with these security devices is around double the levels reported in 1992 and around a third higher than in 1996.

2000 BCS results also show that 72% of vehicles that were fitted with stereo systems had either a removal panel/unit, or a security PIN code. Respondents' behaviour also indicated their awareness of vehicle crime, with over 90% saying that they rarely or never left their vehicle unlocked. Of those with mechanical immobilisers, 70% said that they always or almost always used the device when leaving the vehicle unattended (see Table A5.8).

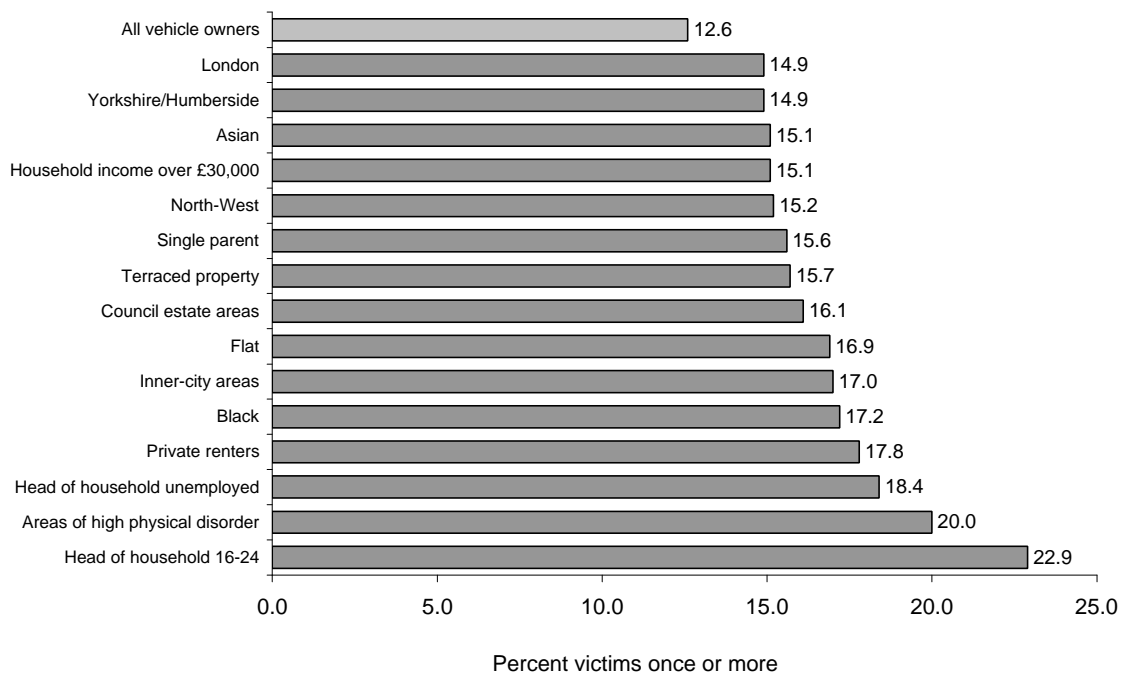
RISKS OF VEHICLE-RELATED THEFT

On average, 12.6% of vehicle-owning households were victims at least once. 8.1% experienced thefts from their vehicles and 3.7% attempted thefts. Less than 2% of owners had a vehicle stolen. As with other kinds of crime, risks vary considerably by demographic and residential characteristics, even though incidents do not always occur near the home (see Table A5.6). The risk of being the victim of vehicle-related theft is lower in rural areas (9.0%). Since 1995, the risk has declined more in proportionate terms than in non-rural areas (see Table A2.12). Factors associated with increased risks of victimisation are noted in Figure 5.3 overleaf. The full results are presented in Tables A5.1 to A5.5. As noted in Section 3, the results are based on bivariate analysis, and some factors will overlap. Multivariate techniques are needed to determine the impact of specific individual variables. These will be undertaken in a more detailed report on vehicle crime, which is planned for next year.

The BCS does not collect information on the make and model of stolen vehicles. Analysis of risks for different types of car, however, is available through the Car Theft Index.¹ This has shown, for instance, that the risks are highest for high performance models, and for older vehicles with poorer security measures.

1. The Car Theft Index 1999 uses Police National Computer and DVLA data to work out the number of each type of car stolen per 1,000 on the road.

Figure 5.3 Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft in 1999



THE NATURE OF VEHICLE CRIME

The remainder of this section provides a brief overview of the characteristics of vehicle crime, looking at when and where incidents take place, how the perpetrator gains or attempts to gain entry to the vehicle, what is actually stolen, the proportion of stolen cars that are recovered, and the extent to which thefts are reported to insurers.¹ Tables A5.6 to A5.17 give the full results.

When

- ❑ 28% of incidents happened at the weekend, suggesting that the risks of vehicle-related thefts are no different to during the week.
- ❑ Most incidents (75%) took place during the evening or at night, with 37% of incidents at night (between midnight and 6am). There is little variation in these figures across offence categories.

Where

- ❑ Nearly two-thirds (64%) of incidents happened whilst vehicles were parked in the vicinity of the victim's home. 36% of incidents took place on the street outside the home and a further 26% occurred in semi-private parking areas, such as drives.

1. This section analyses all vehicle-related thefts which happened in the recall period, from the 1st January of 1999 to the date of interview.

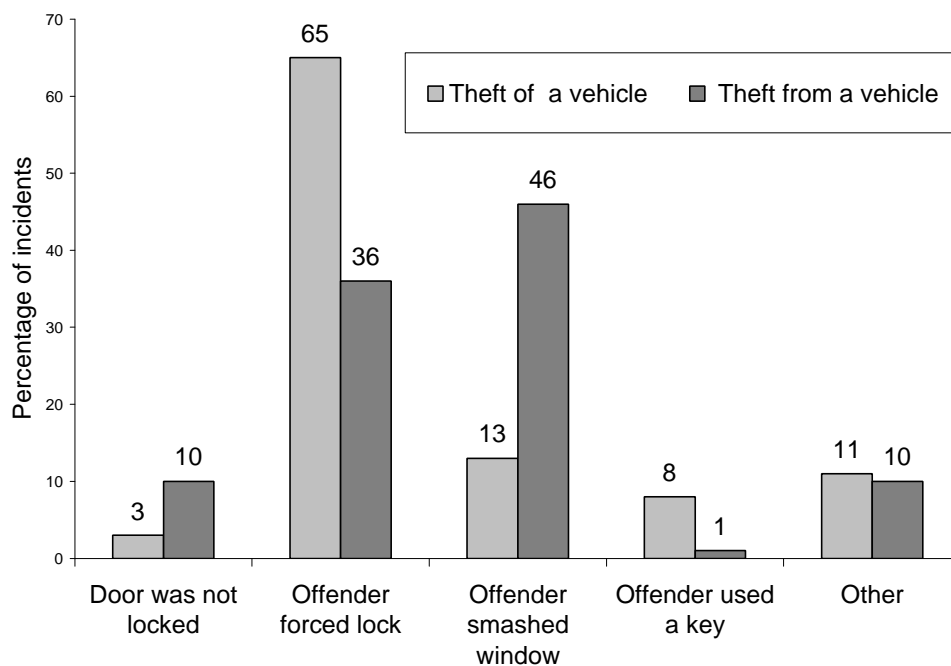
- 17% of incidents took place in public car parks overall. But for daytime thefts, the figure was 40%.

In assessing risks in different parking locations, one needs to take account of the differing amount of time that cars are parked in different places. Most cars, for instance, are parked for most of the time at their owners' homes, and it is unsurprising that that most thefts occur there. Clarke and Mayhew (1996) took account of 'parking exposure' using a special component in the 1994 BCS. They found that cars parked in public car parks were four times more at risk than when parked in a street outside home or work, and about 40% more at risk than when parked in some other street.

Mode of entry

- Offenders used two main methods for gaining entry to vehicles, forcing the locks on the vehicle, and smashing a window (Figure 5.4). The pattern is fairly similar to that from the 1998 BCS (Table A5.11). However, there has been a rise in 'other' methods, from 5% in the 1998 BCS to 10% in 2000. This is possibly a result of offenders trying to overcome improved vehicle security measures.

Figure 5.4 Methods of entry used in vehicle-related thefts



- The pattern for attempted thefts was fairly similar to that of actual thefts, with offenders trying to force locks in nearly 70% of incidents and trying to smash windows in 17%.

What was stolen in thefts from vehicles

A breakdown of items stolen in vehicle-related thefts is shown in Table A5.13. Key points in relation to thefts from vehicles are given below.¹

- ❑ Valuables (including money, cheques, credit cards, wallets and documents) were stolen in 16% of incidents.
- ❑ Car parts (37% of incidents) and car radios (23%) were the most commonly stolen items. These figures are lower than in the 1998 BCS (46% and 28% respectively), possibly due to vehicle security improvements,
- ❑ The percentage of incidents in which other goods such as tools, telephones and fuel were stolen was also lower than 1998. This also possibly reflects a change in offender behaviour stemming from vehicle security improvements.

Recovery of stolen vehicles

Rates of recovery of stolen vehicles provide some indication of many thefts are likely to be at the more professional end of the scale (see Webb and Laycock, 1992 and Brown and Sallybanks, 1999). In cases where the intention is to use the vehicle temporarily for casual use - sometimes known as 'joyriding' or 'twocing' (taking without consent) - the vehicle is usually recovered after the offender has abandoned it. Where cars are targeted for permanent removal, recovery is less likely. The offender will usually try to disguise or disfigure the vehicle, either by exporting or 'ringing' the vehicle, or by breaking up the vehicle in order to sell its components.

The current BCS indicates that 58% of vehicles stolen in 1999 were recovered, a lower proportion than in 1997 (63%) and 1995 (61%). This, together with the picture from the BCS and police figures, suggest that opportunist vehicle thieves are operating much less frequently than at the beginning of the 1990s. This may be a reflection of improved security and other car theft initiatives, although reduced motivation may also play a part.

The pattern of vehicle theft outlined above is also reflected in the condition of vehicles when recovered. 31% were damaged beyond repair, and another 24% suffered extensive damage, indicating that casual rather than professional car thieves would have been responsible for most of these thefts.

Costs of vehicle-related thefts

- ❑ The mean average gross value of vehicles stolen was about £2,300, although some of these were recouped if the vehicles were recovered.
- ❑ Other property worth between £1 to £50 was taken in 54% of these incidents, with gross losses between £100 and £500 in another 29% of incidents. The mean loss was £347.

1. Results for thefts of vehicles are also given in Table A5.13 but should be treated with caution as these will just happen to be items in the vehicle at the time of the theft.

- ❑ In 44% of incidents of thefts from vehicles losses were under £50. The mean loss was £202.
- ❑ The cost of damage for thefts from vehicles averaged £122. 60% of incidents involved no damage or damage costing less than £50, but 7% resulted in damage exceeding £500.

Insurance

In most incidents the losses were covered by insurance policies, although the figure for thefts of vehicles (87%) was considerably higher than for thefts from vehicles (61%) or attempted thefts (74%).¹ However, not all insured victims made claims. Those who had vehicles stolen were, not surprisingly, most likely to (76%), but the figures were much lower for thefts from vehicles (34%) and attempts (21%). The relatively small losses involved in thefts from vehicles and attempted thefts, combined with policy excesses and possible loss of No Claims Discounts, will account for these differences. This is also reflected in the proportion of offences reported to the police.

Emotional impact

- ❑ Aside from the financial losses, respondents also experienced emotional reactions to vehicle-related thefts in 83% of incidents. Almost a half (46%) of victims were affected either very much or quite a lot.
- ❑ As in the case of burglary, the most common emotional response was anger (89% felt this), This was followed by shock (22%). Fear, crying/tears, and difficulty sleeping were reported in under 10% of incidents. Victims of thefts of vehicles were most affected.

1. Although motorists are only required to have insurance against third party risks by law, many will have either third party fire and theft (TPFT) or comprehensive insurance cover, because of the potential size of the loss resulting from the theft of a vehicle. Thus, it is unsurprising that the proportion of incidents covered by insurance is relatively high.

6 Violent crime

THE EXTENT OF VIOLENT CRIME IN 1999

The 22% of BCS offences that are defined as violent (wounding, common assault, robbery and snatch theft¹) amounted to 3,246,000 crimes in 1999. The offence breakdown was as follows:

- ❑ **wounding** – assaults with more than trivial injury – 634,000 offences in 1999
- ❑ **common assault** – assault or attempted assault with at most slight bruising – 2,206,000
- ❑ **robbery** - actual or attempted theft using force or the threat of force - 353,000 incidents
- ❑ **snatch thefts** – thefts that have no element of threat and only minimal force – 53,000

Violence typology

A typology of violence has been developed to gain a better understanding of the nature of violent crime reported to the BCS. This categorises assaults (common assault and woundings) according to the relationship between offender(s) and victim. (Police figures cannot be broken down in this way.) Robberies and snatch thefts form a further category of mugging. The categories are:

- ❑ **domestic** – assaults involving partners, ex-partners, household members and other relatives – of which there were 761,000 offences in 1999²
- ❑ **acquaintance** – assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders at least by sight – 1,178,000
- ❑ **stranger** – assaults in which the victim did not know any of the offenders – 881,000
- ❑ **mugging** – comprising of robbery and snatch thefts - 406,000.³

Just over a quarter (27%) of violent incidents, are stranger assaults and 13% involve theft or attempted theft (mugging). The most common type of violent crime is between people known to each other in some way: 36% of all violence involve acquaintance assaults and a further 23% involve people in a domestic relationship. Even so, the figures for the last two types of violence are probably underestimates. Fights between friends may not be considered sufficiently 'criminal' to mention to the survey interviewer. Victims of domestic violence may be reluctant to reveal them to interviewers for other reasons. The 1996 BCS included a self-completion module to provide a more valid measure of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999).⁴ Problems of underestimation will affect police figures even more, since even fewer will be reported to the police.

1. Snatch thefts have no element of threat, and only minimal force; they involve speed rather than force or threat – e.g., snatching a purse from a shopping bag. They are a category within police figures, but are often subsumed under theft from the person along with stealth theft.

2. This is a relatively broad categorisation of 'domestic' relationships as it includes non-partners. It was derived in previous surveys to match most closely ad hoc police measures of domestic violence (e.g., Davidoff and Dowds, 1989).

3. 68% of muggings were perpetrated by strangers. 13% by someone the victim knew casually and 19% by someone the victim knew well.

4. Mirrlees-Black (1999) found that respondents were much more willing to admit to domestic victimisation (admittedly under a different definition for domestic violence) in response to the self-completion module than in the BCS face-to-face questions on victimisation.

Table 6.1 shows the estimated number of violent crimes in 1999 together with the range of estimates in which there is a 90% chance the true value lies. The relative rarity of some of the sub-categories of violence means estimates are subject to relatively high sampling variability. The move to an enlarged sample size from 2001 will enable violence estimates to be more precisely determined.

Table 6.1 Best estimate and range of estimates for the number of violent crimes in England and Wales in 1999 (in thousands)

	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Higher estimate
All BCS violence	3,246	2,943	3,549
Wounding	634	502	767
Common assault	2,206	1,971	2,440
Robbery	353	240	466
Snatch theft from the person	53	30	75
Domestic violence	761	634	887
Acquaintance	1,178	993	1,364
Stranger	881	745	1,018
Mugging	406	291	521

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS.
2. Lower and higher estimates are for the 90% confidence interval. There is 90% chance that the true figure lies between these two figures.

The BCS asks victims to place their incident on a seriousness scale ranging from 0 to 20.¹ The average seriousness score for violence was 6.3, above that for many other offences (Table A2.10). The average scores for domestic violence and mugging were higher than for other types of violence (7.3 and 7.5 respectively). However, despite relatively high average seriousness scores, many victims do not report to the police. Two-thirds of all violent incidents were not reported (Table A2.4), including around a half of the most serious incidents (scores 7 to 20). The most common reasons for not reporting were that it was a private/family/personal matter or that it was dealt with by the victim (Table A2.6). These reasons were most often given by victims of domestic violence.

TRENDS IN VIOLENCE

The number of violent crimes fell between 1997 and 1999 by 4% (see Table 6.2 and Table A2.1), with falls being recorded in all offence categories except robbery. In terms of the violence typology, there were falls in domestic and acquaintance violence, but increases for mugging and stranger violence. The average seriousness score attributed by victims to their incident was unchanged at 6.3 (Table A2.10).

Over the four years 1995 to 1999, the number of violent incidents measured by the BCS fell by 20%. There was a fall for all violent categories, except robbery and mugging.

1. A zero score represents the most minor crime (e.g., theft of milk bottles) and 20 the most serious (e.g., murder).

Table 6.2 Number of BCS violent incidents, 1995 to 1999 (in thousands)

	1995	1997	1999	% change 1995 to 1999	% change 1997 to 1999
All BCS violence	4,071	3,387	3,246	-20 **	-4
Wounding	862	716	634	-26	-11
Common assault	2,820	2,278	2,206	-22	-3
Robbery	314	309	353	13	14
Snatch theft from the person	75	83	53	-30	-36
Domestic violence	990	834	761	-23 *	-9
Acquaintance	1,730	1,462	1,178	-32 **	-19*
Stranger	935	683	881	-6	29*
Mugging	389	392	406	4	4

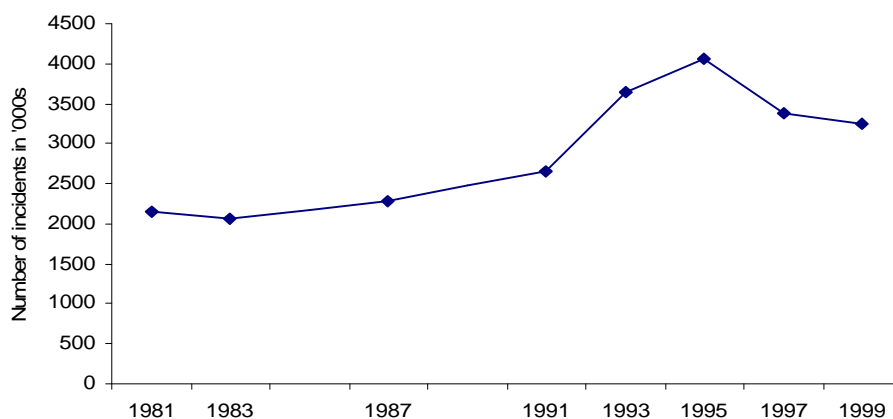
Notes:

1. Source 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Single asterisks indicate the change is statistically significant at the 10% level (i.e., there is a one in ten chance that the observed difference could have arisen by chance). Double asterisks indicate a change is significant at the 5% level (i.e., one in 20 chance). Significance has been judged by comparing estimated rates per head of population.

It is important to assess the statistical significance of these changes. The increases for robbery and mugging were *not* statistically significant (either between 1997 and 1999, or 1995 and 1999). The only changes in violent incidents between 1997 and 1999 that were statistically significant were those for stranger violence (29% increase) and acquaintance violence (19% decrease).

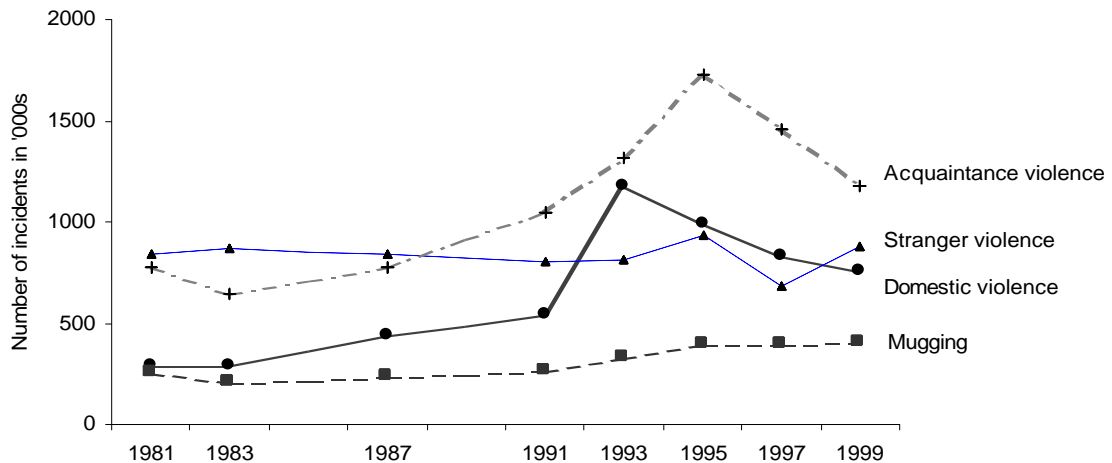
Closer examination of robbery incidents for 1999 also revealed that there were a few instances where school age respondents had reported multiple incidents of robbery. Although the incidents meet the criterion for robbery, they might be viewed as nearer to bullying incidents. These and other incidents involving school age respondents had a marked impact on estimated changes in violence victimisation rates. Excluding 16-year-olds from the analysis reduced the 14% increase between 1997 and 1999 in robbery to a 2% increase. For the mugging the percentage increase of 4% becomes a decrease of 7%.

Although overall figures for violence have decreased since 1995 the figures are still above those recorded for 1991 and earlier BCS sweeps (Table A2.1). The number of violent incidents in 1999 was 50% higher than in 1981 (Figure 6.1). It cannot be ruled out that some of this increase might be due to an increased willingness on the part of the respondents to mention violent incidents to BCS interviewers. Another factor might be that, over time, attitudes as to what is unacceptable behaviour have changed.

Figure 6.1 Trend in BCS violence

Until the early 1990s, violence involving offenders known to the victim, either casually or by virtue of a domestic relationship rose much faster than that involving strangers (Figure 6.2). Recent BCS sweeps have seen this trend reversed with falls in the number of domestic and acquaintance violence incidents, even though the number of incidents is still above the number recorded in the early sweeps of the survey.

Figure 6.2 Trends in BCS violence by typology



There has been no definite trend in stranger violence, with the number of incidents in 1999 being only 4% higher than that recorded in 1981. The number of mugging incidents in 1999 was 62% higher than in 1981.

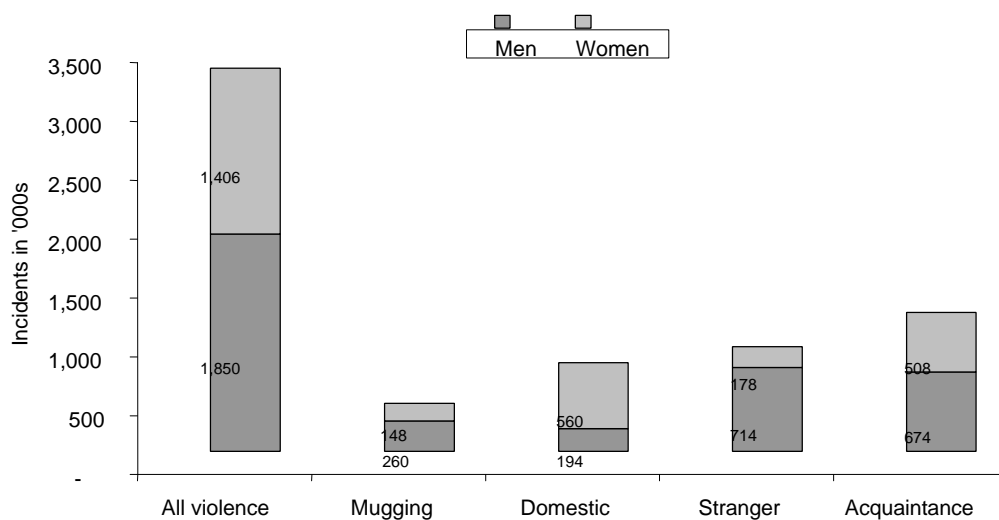
RISK OF VIOLENCE

On average, 4.2% of adults in England and Wales were the victim of one or more violent crimes in 1999. 0.6% of adults had been the victim of a mugging in 1999, while 0.8% had been the victim of domestic violence. Risks were higher for acquaintance and stranger violence (1.7% and 1.5%).

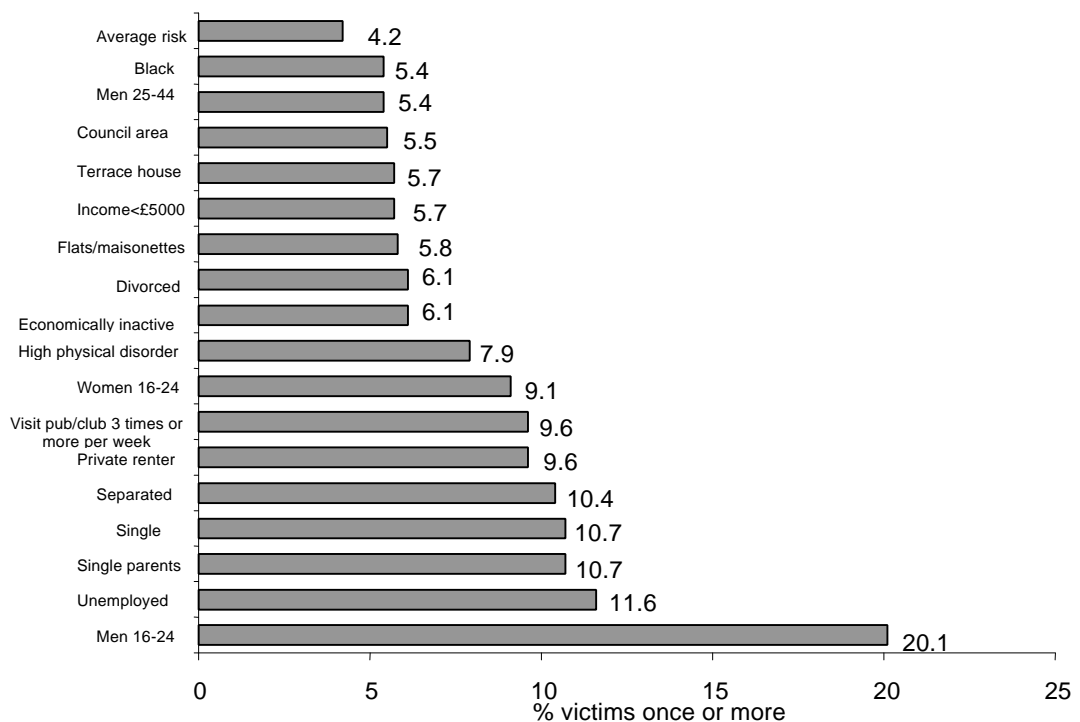
The risk of violence was higher for men (5.3%) than for women (3.3%), though women were more at risk of domestic violence (1%) than men (0.5%).

Age is a key determinant of risk with the young being more at risk. Young men aged 16 to 24 having the highest chance of violent victimisation (20.1%). See Table A6.1.

In 57% of incidents the victim was male (see Table A6.6 and Figure 6.3). Men were the victims in 64% of muggings and 80% of stranger assaults. In 74% of domestic violence incidents the victim was a woman.

Figure 6.3 Number of violent crimes against men and women in 1999

Other personal characteristics also influence risk. Figure 6.4 shows those adults most at risk of violent crime. The risk of being a victim of violent crime is lower in rural areas (2.7%). Since 1995 this risk has declined a little more in proportionate terms in rural areas than in non-rural areas (see Table A2.12).

Figure 6.4 Adults most at risk of violence in 1999

Repeat victimisation

Around a third of victims of violence (35%) were victimised more than once during 1999, with 17% victimised twice and 18% victimised three times or more (see Table A2.9). As one might expect, mugging and stranger violence had the lowest repeat victimisation rates. The rate of

repeat victimisation was higher for acquaintance violence (31% of victims were repeat victims) and domestic violence (57% repeat victims). No other type of crime has a rate of repeat victimisation as high as that for domestic violence.

NATURE OF VIOLENCE

This section examines where and when violence happens, the age and gender of offenders, the relationship between victims and offenders, the influence of alcohol and drugs, and the types of injury, and the emotional impact of violence. (For more details see Tables A6.6 to A6.13.)

When

- ❑ Violence is most likely to have taken place during the evening or night. Daytime incidents were more likely to occur in the afternoon than in the morning.
- ❑ 43% of violence occurred at the weekend.

Location of incidents

- ❑ The most common location for violence was in or around the home (26%), followed by the street (23%), pub or club (19%) and in or around work (17%).
- ❑ Not surprisingly, most domestic violence incidents were located in or near the home (74%), and most muggings on the street (62%).
- ❑ For acquaintance violence the most likely location was around work (31%), followed by a pub or club (22%). For stranger violence the most common location was a pub or club (33%), followed by the street (28%).

Age and gender of offenders

- ❑ A third (33%) of incidents involved more than one offender, with much higher proportions for mugging (70%) and stranger violence (48%).
- ❑ In 80% of incidents the offender was male, with 5% involving people of both sexes. The percentage involving males is higher for mugging (93%) and stranger violence (92%) and lower for domestic violence (83%) and acquaintance violence (79%).
- ❑ Where the victim could judge the age of the offender, they were identified as being aged 16 to 24 in 44% of incidents and of school age in 9% of incidents.

Relationship between victim and offender/s

- ❑ In just over a third (36%) of all violent incidents (ie. including muggings) the offender was a stranger, but was known well in 44% of incidents and by sight or casually in 20%.
- ❑ In cases of acquaintance violence, the offender was known well in 52% of cases. Even in mugging cases the offender was known well in 19% of incidents and by sight or casually in 13% of incidents.

- ❑ In 21% of robberies the offender was known well by the victim, and in a further 14% known by sight or casually. These results are fairly consistent with those reported from the United States National Criminal Victimization Survey in Felson *et al.* (2000).

Influence of alcohol and drugs

- ❑ Victims judged that offenders were under the influence of alcohol in 40% of incidents. This was most likely for stranger violence (53% - reflecting that it often happens near a pub or club), least likely for mugging (17% - possibly reflecting the premeditated nature of the crime).
- ❑ Overall, offenders were judged to be under the influence of drugs in 18% of incidents. This figure was similar for all types of violence, except domestic violence (at 12%).

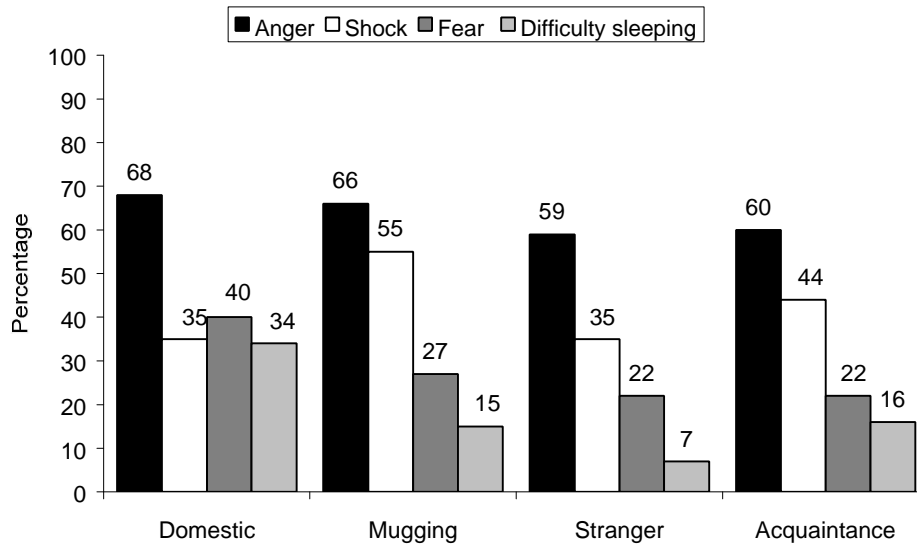
Injuries and weapons

- ❑ In close to half of incidents there was injury (52%). This was highest for domestic violence (70%). This may in part reflect tendency for domestic violence victims to report to BCS interviewers those incidents where there is injury. Incidents of mugging were least likely to result in injury (29%), possibly reflecting the role of threats and stealth in mugging.
- ❑ The most common injury was minor bruising or a black eye (33%), followed by severe bruising (16%). For domestic violence these percentages were 44% and 29% respectively.
- ❑ A weapon was used in 18% of incidents. The most common weapon was some kind of hitting implement (8%), followed by a knife (5%), and glass/bottle (2%). Although injuries were lowest in mugging, the use of a weapon was nonetheless highest (21%). A weapon was least often used for domestic violence (7%).
- ❑ The victim had medical attention from a doctor in 14% of incidents and 2% required a in hospital stay of one night or more.

Emotional impact of violence

- ❑ Nearly a half of victims were emotionally affected by the incident, with 25% very much affected and 22% quite a lot. A further 38% were affected just a little and 15% said they were not affected.
- ❑ Victims of domestic violence and mugging were most likely to be emotionally affected. Victims were very much affected in 38% of domestic violence incidents and 29% of muggings.
- ❑ The most common reaction was anger (62%). Shock, fear and difficulty sleeping, crying/tears were also fairly common experiences. Reactions of fear and difficulty sleeping were relatively high among victims of domestic violence.

Figure 6.5 Nature emotional reactions of victims of violence, 2000 BCS



6 Violent crime

THE EXTENT OF VIOLENT CRIME IN 1999

The 22% of BCS offences that are defined as violent (wounding, common assault, robbery and snatch theft¹) amounted to 3,246,000 crimes in 1999. The offence breakdown was as follows:

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- ❑ **robbery** - actual or attempted theft using force or the threat of force - 353,000 incidents
- ❑ **snatch thefts** – thefts that have no element of threat and only minimal force – 53,000

Violence typology

A typology of violence has been developed to gain a better understanding of the nature of violent crime reported to the BCS. This categorises assaults (common assault and woundings) according to the relationship between offender(s) and victim. (Police figures cannot be broken down in this way.) Robberies and snatch thefts form a further category of mugging. The categories are:

- ❑ **domestic** – assaults involving partners, ex-partners, household members and other relatives – of which there were 761,000 offences in 1999²
- ❑ **acquaintance** – assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders at least by sight – 1,178,000
- ❑ **stranger** – assaults in which the victim did not know any of the offenders – 881,000
- ❑ **mugging** – comprising of robbery and snatch thefts - 406,000.³

Just over a quarter (27%) of violent incidents, are stranger assaults and 13% involve theft or attempted theft (mugging). The most common type of violent crime is between people known to each other in some way: 36% of all violence involve acquaintance assaults and a further 23% involve people in a domestic relationship. Even so, the figures for the last two types of violence are probably underestimates. Fights between friends may not be considered sufficiently 'criminal' to mention to the survey interviewer. Victims of domestic violence may be reluctant to reveal them to interviewers for other reasons. The 1996 BCS included a self-completion module to provide a more valid measure of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999).⁴ Problems of underestimation will affect police figures even more, since even fewer will be reported to the police.

1. Snatch thefts have no element of threat, and only minimal force; they involve speed rather than force or threat – e.g., snatching a purse from a shopping bag. They are a category within police figures, but are often subsumed under theft from the person along with stealth theft.

2. This is a relatively broad categorisation of 'domestic' relationships as it includes non-partners. It was derived in previous surveys to match most closely ad hoc police measures of domestic violence (e.g., Davidoff and Dowds, 1989).

3. 68% of muggings were perpetrated by strangers. 13% by someone the victim knew casually and 19% by someone the victim knew well.

4. Mirrlees-Black (1999) found that respondents were much more willing to admit to domestic victimisation (admittedly under a different definition for domestic violence) in response to the self-completion module than in the BCS face-to-face questions on victimisation.

Table 6.1 shows the estimated number of violent crimes in 1999 together with the range of estimates in which there is a 90% chance the true value lies. The relative rarity of some of the sub-categories of violence means estimates are subject to relatively high sampling variability. The move to an enlarged sample size from 2001 will enable violence estimates to be more precisely determined.

Table 6.1 Best estimate and range of estimates for the number of violent crimes in England and Wales in 1999 (in thousands)

	Best estimate	Lower estimate	Higher estimate
All BCS violence	3,246	2,943	3,549
Wounding	634	502	767
Common assault	2,206	1,971	2,440
Robbery	353	240	466
Snatch theft from the person	53	30	75
Domestic violence	761	634	887
Acquaintance	1,178	993	1,364
Stranger	881	745	1,018
Mugging	406	291	521

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS.
2. Lower and higher estimates are for the 90% confidence interval. There is 90% chance that the true figure lies between these two figures.

The BCS asks victims to place their incident on a seriousness scale ranging from 0 to 20.¹ The average seriousness score for violence was 6.3, above that for many other offences (Table A2.10). The average scores for domestic violence and mugging were higher than for other types of violence (7.3 and 7.5 respectively). However, despite relatively high average seriousness scores, many victims do not report to the police. Two-thirds of all violent incidents were not reported (Table A2.4), including around a half of the most serious incidents (scores 7 to 20). The most common reasons for not reporting were that it was a private/family/personal matter or that it was dealt with by the victim (Table A2.6). These reasons were most often given by victims of domestic violence.

TRENDS IN VIOLENCE

The number of violent crimes fell between 1997 and 1999 by 4% (see Table 6.2 and Table A2.1), with falls being recorded in all offence categories except robbery. In terms of the violence typology, there were falls in domestic and acquaintance violence, but increases for mugging and stranger violence. The average seriousness score attributed by victims to their incident was unchanged at 6.3 (Table A2.10).

Over the four years 1995 to 1999, the number of violent incidents measured by the BCS fell by 20%. There was a fall for all violent categories, except robbery and mugging.

1. A zero score represents the most minor crime (e.g., theft of milk bottles) and 20 the most serious (e.g., murder).

Table 6.2 Number of BCS violent incidents, 1995 to 1999 (in thousands)

	1995	1997	1999	% change 1995 to 1999	% change 1997 to 1999
All BCS violence	4,071	3,387	3,246	-20 **	-4
Wounding	862	716	634	-26	-11
Common assault	2,820	2,278	2,206	-22	-3
Robbery	314	309	353	13	14
Snatch theft from the person	75	83	53	-30	-36
Domestic violence	990	834	761	-23 *	-9
Acquaintance	1,730	1,462	1,178	-32 **	-19*
Stranger	935	683	881	-6	29*
Mugging	389	392	406	4	4

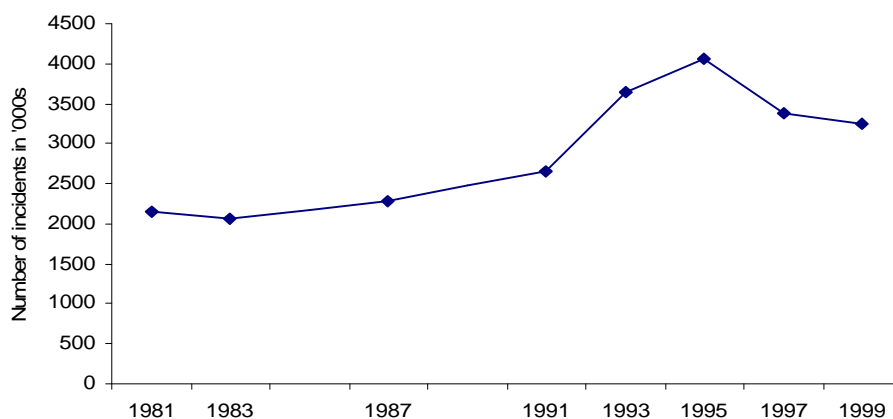
Notes:

1. Source 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Single asterisks indicate the change is statistically significant at the 10% level (i.e., there is a one in ten chance that the observed difference could have arisen by chance). Double asterisks indicate a change is significant at the 5% level (i.e., one in 20 chance). Significance has been judged by comparing estimated rates per head of population.

It is important to assess the statistical significance of these changes. The increases for robbery and mugging were *not* statistically significant (either between 1997 and 1999, or 1995 and 1999). The only changes in violent incidents between 1997 and 1999 that were statistically significant were those for stranger violence (29% increase) and acquaintance violence (19% decrease).

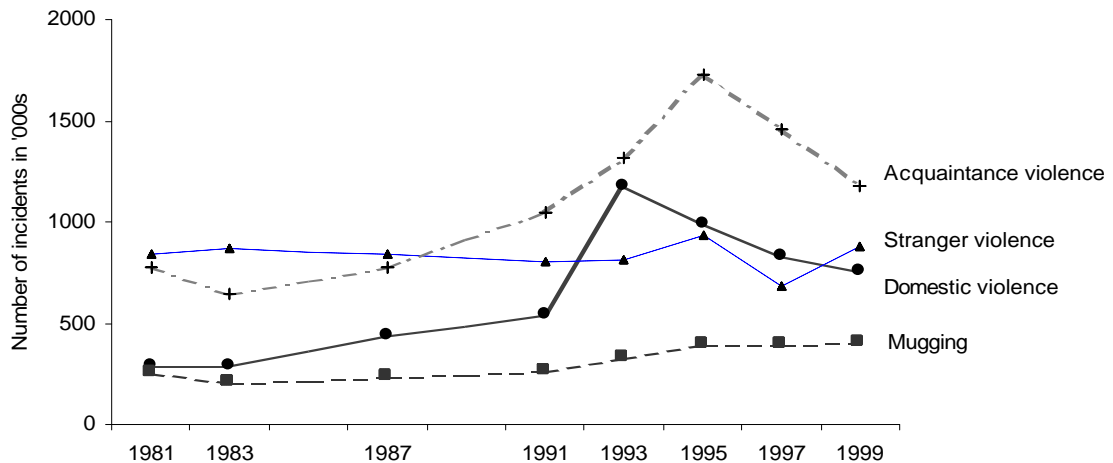
Closer examination of robbery incidents for 1999 also revealed that there were a few instances where school age respondents had reported multiple incidents of robbery. Although the incidents meet the criterion for robbery, they might be viewed as nearer to bullying incidents. These and other incidents involving school age respondents had a marked impact on estimated changes in violence victimisation rates. Excluding 16-year-olds from the analysis reduced the 14% increase between 1997 and 1999 in robbery to a 2% increase. For the mugging the percentage increase of 4% becomes a decrease of 7%.

Although overall figures for violence have decreased since 1995 the figures are still above those recorded for 1991 and earlier BCS sweeps (Table A2.1). The number of violent incidents in 1999 was 50% higher than in 1981 (Figure 6.1). It cannot be ruled out that some of this increase might be due to an increased willingness on the part of the respondents to mention violent incidents to BCS interviewers. Another factor might be that, over time, attitudes as to what is unacceptable behaviour have changed.

Figure 6.1 Trend in BCS violence

Until the early 1990s, violence involving offenders known to the victim, either casually or by virtue of a domestic relationship rose much faster than that involving strangers (Figure 6.2). Recent BCS sweeps have seen this trend reversed with falls in the number of domestic and acquaintance violence incidents, even though the number of incidents is still above the number recorded in the early sweeps of the survey.

Figure 6.2 Trends in BCS violence by typology



There has been no definite trend in stranger violence, with the number of incidents in 1999 being only 4% higher than that recorded in 1981. The number of mugging incidents in 1999 was 62% higher than in 1981.

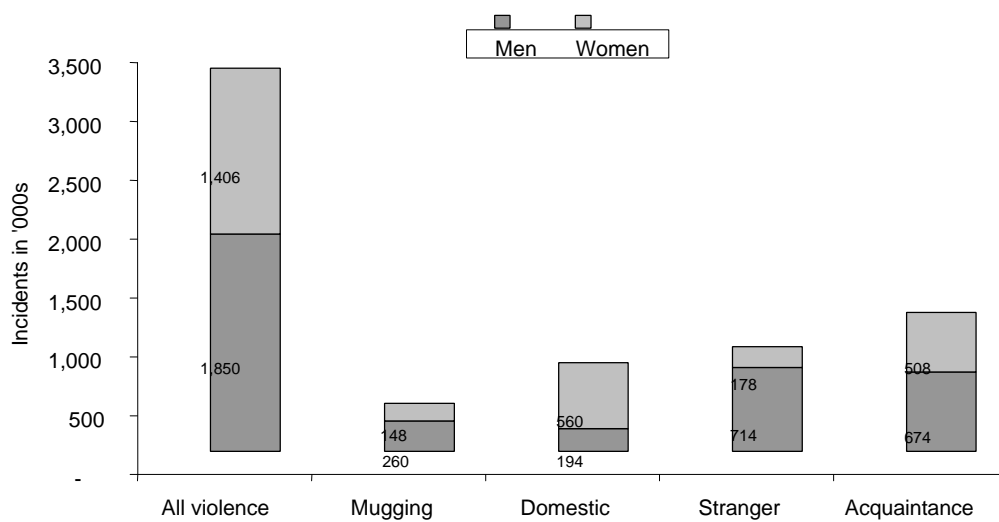
RISK OF VIOLENCE

On average, 4.2% of adults in England and Wales were the victim of one or more violent crimes in 1999. 0.6% of adults had been the victim of a mugging in 1999, while 0.8% had been the victim of domestic violence. Risks were higher for acquaintance and stranger violence (1.7% and 1.5%).

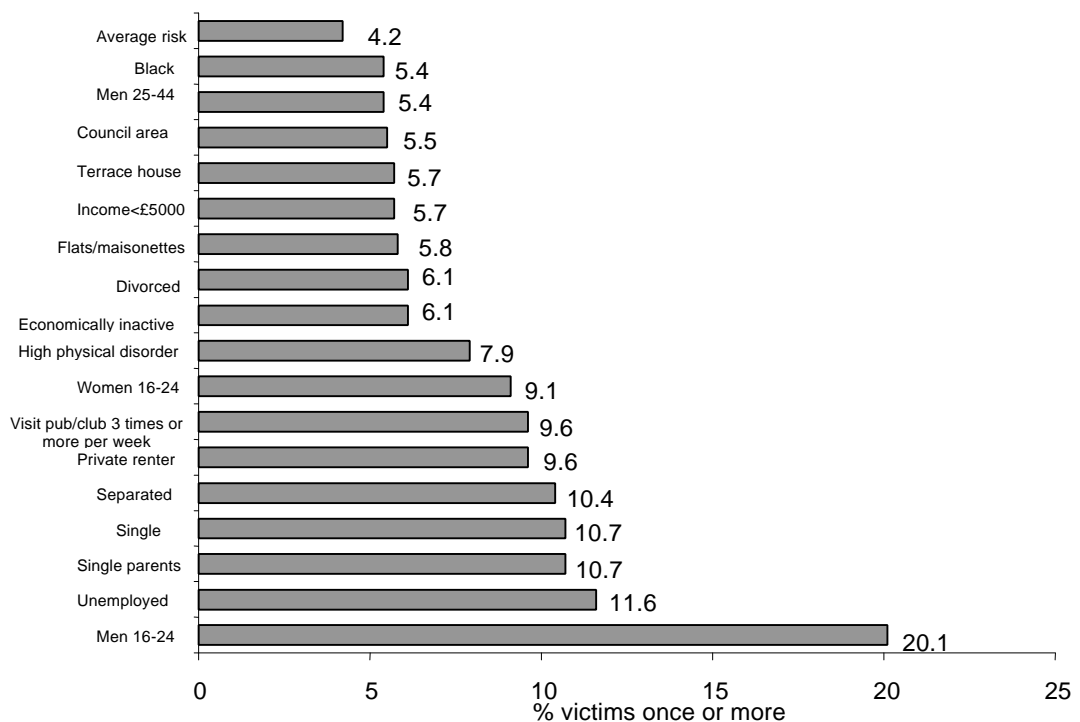
The risk of violence was higher for men (5.3%) than for women (3.3%), though women were more at risk of domestic violence (1%) than men (0.5%).

Age is a key determinant of risk with the young being more at risk. Young men aged 16 to 24 having the highest chance of violent victimisation (20.1%). See Table A6.1.

In 57% of incidents the victim was male (see Table A6.6 and Figure 6.3). Men were the victims in 64% of muggings and 80% of stranger assaults. In 74% of domestic violence incidents the victim was a woman.

Figure 6.3 Number of violent crimes against men and women in 1999

Other personal characteristics also influence risk. Figure 6.4 shows those adults most at risk of violent crime. The risk of being a victim of violent crime is lower in rural areas (2.7%). Since 1995 this risk has declined a little more in proportionate terms in rural areas than in non-rural areas (see Table A2.12).

Figure 6.4 Adults most at risk of violence in 1999

Repeat victimisation

Around a third of victims of violence (35%) were victimised more than once during 1999, with 17% victimised twice and 18% victimised three times or more (see Table A2.9). As one might expect, mugging and stranger violence had the lowest repeat victimisation rates. The rate of

repeat victimisation was higher for acquaintance violence (31% of victims were repeat victims) and domestic violence (57% repeat victims). No other type of crime has a rate of repeat victimisation as high as that for domestic violence.

NATURE OF VIOLENCE

This section examines where and when violence happens, the age and gender of offenders, the relationship between victims and offenders, the influence of alcohol and drugs, and the types of injury, and the emotional impact of violence. (For more details see Tables A6.6 to A6.13.)

When

- ❑ Violence is most likely to have taken place during the evening or night. Daytime incidents were more likely to occur in the afternoon than in the morning.
- ❑ 43% of violence occurred at the weekend.

Location of incidents

- ❑ The most common location for violence was in or around the home (26%), followed by the street (23%), pub or club (19%) and in or around work (17%).
- ❑ Not surprisingly, most domestic violence incidents were located in or near the home (74%), and most muggings on the street (62%).
- ❑ For acquaintance violence the most likely location was around work (31%), followed by a pub or club (22%). For stranger violence the most common location was a pub or club (33%), followed by the street (28%).

Age and gender of offenders

- ❑ A third (33%) of incidents involved more than one offender, with much higher proportions for mugging (70%) and stranger violence (48%).
- ❑ In 80% of incidents the offender was male, with 5% involving people of both sexes. The percentage involving males is higher for mugging (93%) and stranger violence (92%) and lower for domestic violence (83%) and acquaintance violence (79%).
- ❑ Where the victim could judge the age of the offender, they were identified as being aged 16 to 24 in 44% of incidents and of school age in 9% of incidents.

Relationship between victim and offender/s

- ❑ In just over a third (36%) of all violent incidents (ie. including muggings) the offender was a stranger, but was known well in 44% of incidents and by sight or casually in 20%.
- ❑ In cases of acquaintance violence, the offender was known well in 52% of cases. Even in mugging cases the offender was known well in 19% of incidents and by sight or casually in 13% of incidents.

- ❑ In 21% of robberies the offender was known well by the victim, and in a further 14% known by sight or casually. These results are fairly consistent with those reported from the United States National Criminal Victimization Survey in Felson *et al.* (2000).

Influence of alcohol and drugs

- ❑ Victims judged that offenders were under the influence of alcohol in 40% of incidents. This was most likely for stranger violence (53% - reflecting that it often happens near a pub or club), least likely for mugging (17% - possibly reflecting the premeditated nature of the crime).
- ❑ Overall, offenders were judged to be under the influence of drugs in 18% of incidents. This figure was similar for all types of violence, except domestic violence (at 12%).

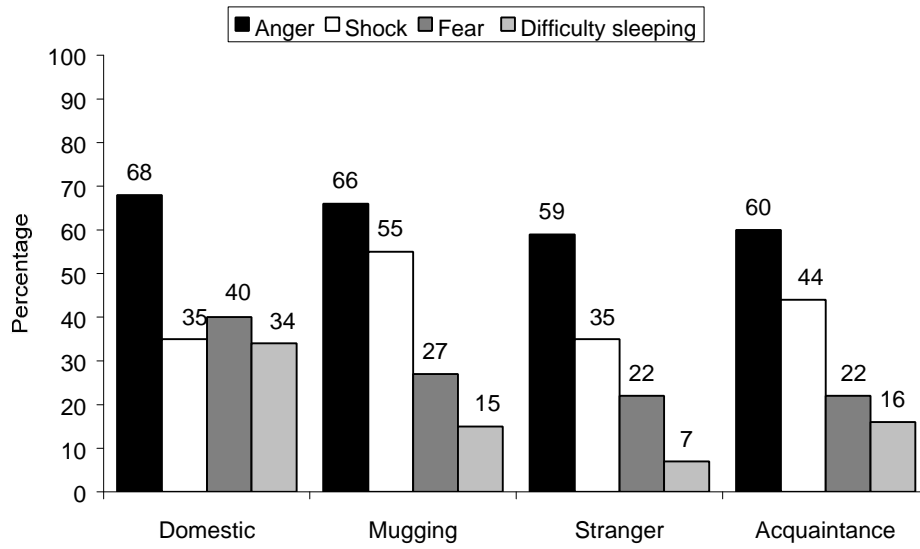
Injuries and weapons

- ❑ In close to half of incidents there was injury (52%). This was highest for domestic violence (70%). This may in part reflect tendency for domestic violence victims to report to BCS interviewers those incidents where there is injury. Incidents of mugging were least likely to result in injury (29%), possibly reflecting the role of threats and stealth in mugging.
- ❑ The most common injury was minor bruising or a black eye (33%), followed by severe bruising (16%). For domestic violence these percentages were 44% and 29% respectively.
- ❑ A weapon was used in 18% of incidents. The most common weapon was some kind of hitting implement (8%), followed by a knife (5%), and glass/bottle (2%). Although injuries were lowest in mugging, the use of a weapon was nonetheless highest (21%). A weapon was least often used for domestic violence (7%).
- ❑ The victim had medical attention from a doctor in 14% of incidents and 2% required a in hospital stay of one night or more.

Emotional impact of violence

- ❑ Nearly a half of victims were emotionally affected by the incident, with 25% very much affected and 22% quite a lot. A further 38% were affected just a little and 15% said they were not affected.
- ❑ Victims of domestic violence and mugging were most likely to be emotionally affected. Victims were very much affected in 38% of domestic violence incidents and 29% of muggings.
- ❑ The most common reaction was anger (62%). Shock, fear and difficulty sleeping, crying/tears were also fairly common experiences. Reactions of fear and difficulty sleeping were relatively high among victims of domestic violence.

Figure 6.5 Nature emotional reactions of victims of violence, 2000 BCS



7 Concern about crime

The term 'concern about crime' encompasses a variety of different attitudes, feelings and reactions towards crime. The BCS covers concern about crime in a number of ways. These include beliefs about trends in crime and personal risks of victimisation, as well as more emotional responses such as worry about specific offences and feeling unsafe after dark. Many of the questions have been included in their current format since the 1984 sweep of the survey.

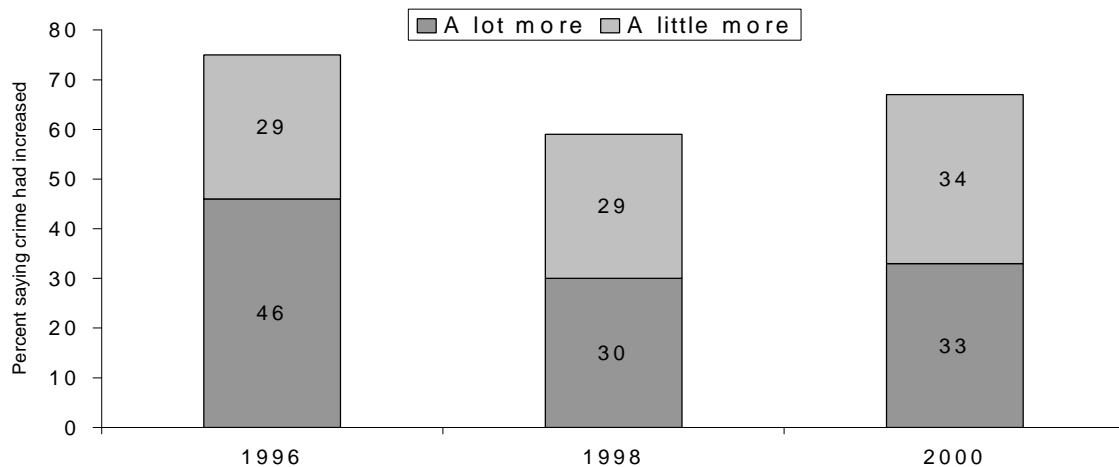
This section looks at the level of public concern in 2000 and where possible examines how this has changed over time. It goes on to describe which groups and areas have heightened levels of concern. The section concludes by examining the effects of fear of crime, in terms of the impact it has upon an individual's behaviour and their quality of life.¹

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

National crime rates

In the 2000 BCS, as in the previous two sweeps, respondents were asked whether they thought the recorded crime rate for the country as a whole had changed over the previous two years.² Figure 7.1 shows that the public were slightly more pessimistic about crime trends in 2000 than they had been in 1998 (see also Table A7.1). Two-thirds believed that crime had risen between 1997 and 1999, including 33% who thought it had risen 'a lot'.³ During this period, the total number of recorded crimes increased, but this was almost entirely due to changes in police counting rules, which were well publicised. The number of BCS crimes fell by 10%.

Figure 7.1 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate (1996 to 2000 BCS)

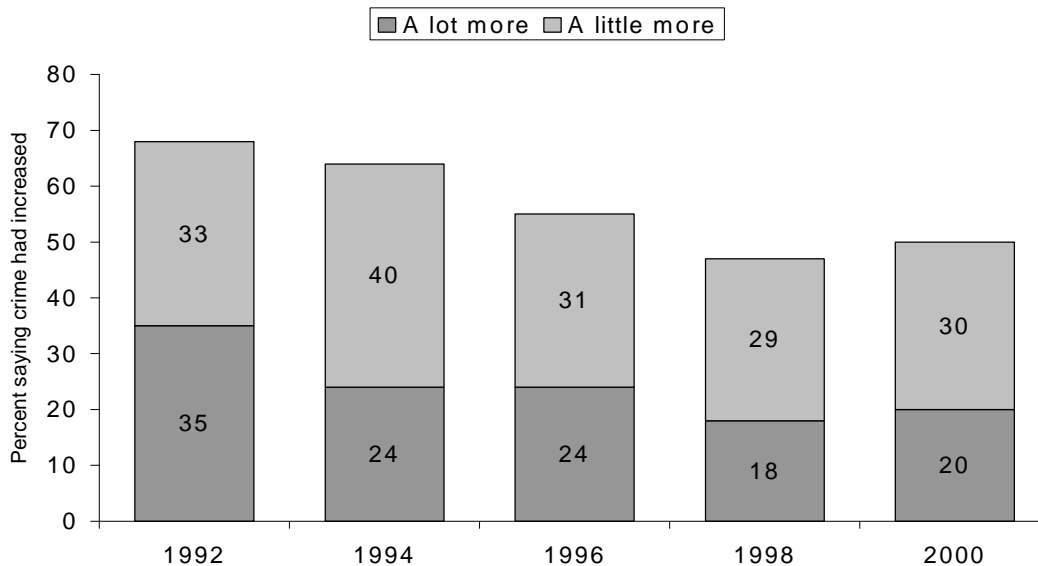


1. The term 'fear of crime' has been widely used to refer to a range of worries and anxieties about crime, rather than simply the emotional response of fear. Following common usage 'fear of crime' is used here in this wider sense.
2. Between 1993 and 1995 for the 1996 BCS, 1995 and 1997 for the 1998 BCS and 1997 and 1999 for the 2000 BCS.
3. For further findings from the 1998 BCS on perceptions of crime trends see Mattinson and Mirrlees-Black, 2000.

Local crime rates

People tend to have a more optimistic view of crime in their *own* area. Respondents who had lived in their area for more than three years were asked whether the local crime rate had changed compared to two years ago. 50% thought it had gone up, 14% thought it had gone down, and 36% thought it had stayed the same. Although there is a slight increase in the percentage thinking crime has gone up in their area compared to the 1998 BCS, people are still more optimistic than in the early 1990s (Figure 7.2; Table A7.2).

Figure 7.2 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate (1992 to 2000 BCS)



The likelihood of victimisation

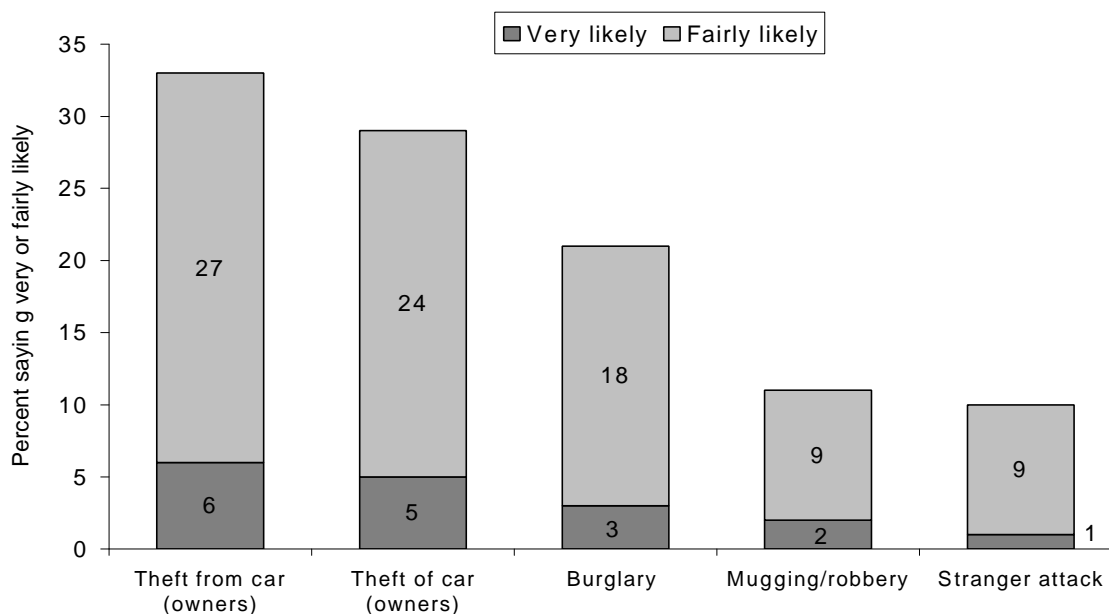
The 2000 BCS asked respondents how likely they thought the following crimes would happen to them in the next year:

- being burgled
- having their car stolen
- having things stolen from their car
- being mugged or robbed
- stranger attack.¹

Very few people thought that these crimes were ‘very likely’ to happen to them, but a substantial minority thought it was ‘fairly likely’ that items would be stolen from their car, their car would be stolen or their home would be burgled. People felt it was less likely that they would be victims of violent crime (Table A7.3; Figure 7.3). To this extent, views were rational given that violent crime is less likely than the other offences.

1. Respondents were given a four-point response scale - ‘very likely’, ‘fairly likely’, ‘fairly unlikely’ and ‘very unlikely’. In previous sweeps the questions adopted a five-point scale, including a ‘certain’ code. The change means that the 2000 BCS results can not be compared to previous sweeps.

Figure 7.3 Percent thinking it likely they will be a victim in the following year (2000 BCS)



It is difficult to judge whether or not people are unduly pessimistic about their chance of falling victim. The national average risks of victimisation are far lower than the proportion who consider it likely they will fall victims. In 1999, for instance, 4.3% of households were burgled, 8.1% of vehicle owning households had items stolen from a vehicle, 1.8% a vehicle stolen, and 0.6% of adults were mugged. However, this discrepancy does not necessarily mean that the public overestimate their risks. First, it is difficult to know how respondents form a view of their own risk. Are they considering their risk relative to the 'average' person or to those they consider to be least at risk? Second, each respondent will form a judgement based on his or her own particular circumstances. The BCS can identify factors associated with an increased risk of victimisation but cannot predict risks for particular individuals.

The BCS shows that perceptions are to some degree associated with actual levels of risk. People living in areas where the risk of victimisation was high in 1999 were more likely to consider that they would be victimised. Those resident in inner-city areas, council estate areas or areas with high levels of disorder felt particularly vulnerable. Other groups who were more likely to believe they would be victimised were those in poor health, on low incomes, living in council or Housing Association accommodation and ethnic minorities.

Not surprisingly, personal experience of crime, whether as a victim oneself or through knowing people who had been victims, is also linked to perceptions of risk. For example, almost a half of those who had been burgled in the previous year thought it likely they would be burgled in the following year.

Tables A7.4 to A7.6 in Appendix A show how perceptions of risk vary across different social and demographic groups.

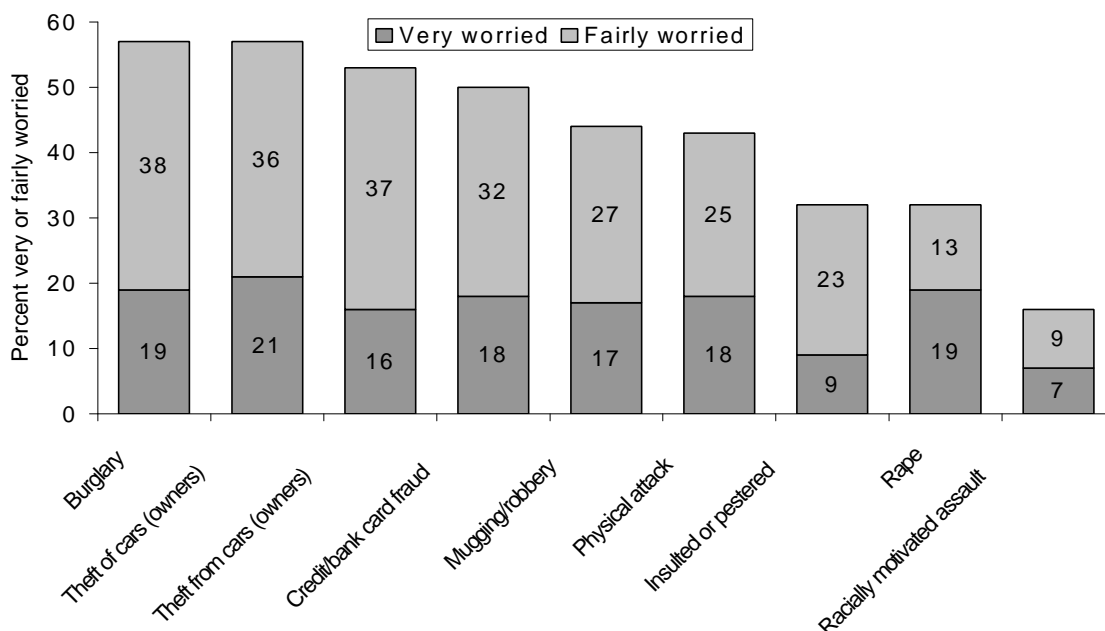
WORRY ABOUT VICTIMISATION

The BCS asks people how worried they are about various specific crimes.¹ They can say they are either 'very worried', 'fairly worried', 'not very worried' or 'not at all worried'. Figure 7.4 shows the proportion nationally who were either 'very' or 'fairly' worried in 2000.²

The picture differs somewhat depending whether just 'very' worried or both 'very' and 'fairly' worried are considered. Considering those just 'very' worried, then levels of concern are at around a fifth or just under for almost all of the crimes listed, with the exception of racially motivated assaults and being insulted or pestered, where the figures are lower. Including 'fairly' worried there is more variation in levels of concern across different crimes.

It is arguable that 'very' worried provides a more discriminating measure and it is this that is used in the rest of this section to examine trends in worry and which groups are most concerned.

Figure 7.4 Worry about crime (2000 BCS)



Trends over time

The BCS has included questions on worry about different crimes since 1984. Figures 7.5 and 7.6 show the trends in levels of concern. The level of concern reached a peak in 1994 but has since fallen.³ Levels of worry do not necessarily follow levels in recorded crime. For example, recorded crime figures show a fall of 6% between 1992 and 1994, yet worry was higher in 1994.

Between 1998 and 2000 the proportion 'very' worried about each crime remained stable or fell slightly (although the only statistically significant fall was for rape). A similar pattern emerges

1. Respondents are also asked how much they worry about being insulted or pestered which may fall short of being a criminal offence.

2. The figure for rape is based on men and women. The figure for men is 7% and women 29% (Table A7.9).

3. Figures for rape are not presented for the 1994 BCS because the question was placed in a different part of the questionnaire and the change of context renders comparisons difficult.

when one considers those 'very' or 'fairly' worried, with the exception of being insulted or pestered in public, about which worry increased from 26% in 1994 to 32% in 2000 (Table A7.7).

The relatively stable pattern between 1998 and 2000 in the proportion 'very' worried held across most social groups and areas. However, the proportion of young men (aged 16 to 29) concerned about theft of or from a car did fall significantly over the period (28% to 22% for theft of and 26% to 19% for theft from). Concern about car thefts in inner-city areas also fell (36% to 29% for theft of and 27% to 22% for theft from).

Figure 7.5 Trend in worry about property crime (1984-2000 BCS)

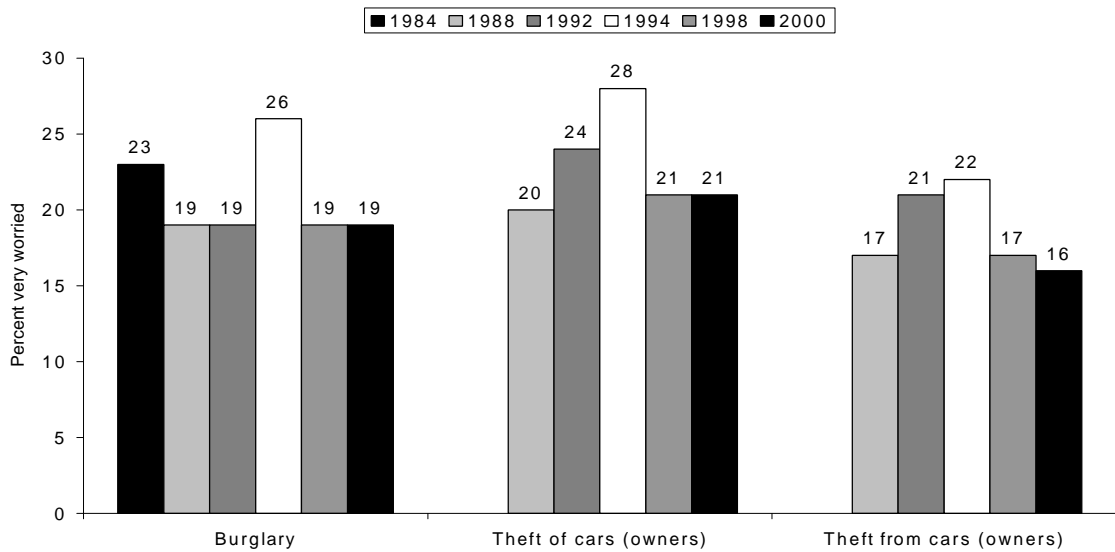
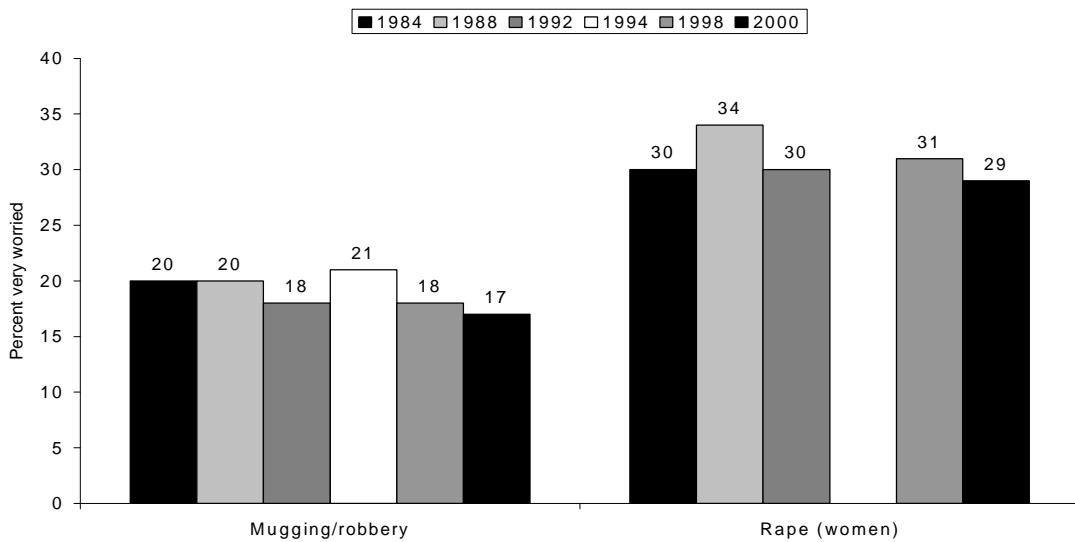


Figure 7.6 Trend in worry about violent crime (1984-2000 BCS)



The Home Office has the aim of ensuring by 31 March 2002 that levels of fear of burglary, car crime and violence are lower than in 1998. The BCS is being used to monitor progress in achieving this target. Table 7.1 below shows the figures for 1998 and 2000. Fear fell on all three measures over the period, though only the fall for violence was statistically significant. The

burglary figures are simply based on the percent 'very' worried. The violence figure is the percentage with high levels of worry on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. The car crime figure is the percentage with high levels of worry on a scale constructed from the two questions on worry about theft of and from a car.

Table 7.1 Trend in indicators for fear of crime (1998 – 2000 BCS)

<i>Percent with high levels of worry</i>	1998	2000	Statistically significant?
Burglary ²	19.4	19.2	No
Car crime ³	21.9	20.9	No
Violent crime ⁴	25.0	23.7	Yes

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. The percentage 'very' worried about burglary.
3. Based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about theft of a car and theft from a car. Figures in the table are the percent who scored 3 or 4 on the scale.
4. Based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. Figures in the table are the percent who scored 4 or more.

FEELINGS OF SAFETY

Apart from asking people how worried they are about certain crimes, the BCS also asks how safe they feel when (a) walking alone in their area after dark and (b) alone in their home at night. These questions are frequently used in surveys but it should be noted that they make no reference to crime. There could be many reasons why people feel unsafe in such circumstances (e.g., fear of the dark, fear of a fall etc.). Furthermore, for some people the questions will be hypothetical because they are never or infrequently in these situations.

In 2000, 11% of respondents said they felt 'very unsafe' walking alone in their area after dark and a further 21% felt 'a bit unsafe'. People were far less likely to feel unsafe alone in their own home, with 2% saying they felt 'very unsafe' and 7% 'a bit unsafe'. The proportion feeling unsafe has remained relatively stable over time (Table A7.8).

WHO IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME

All sweeps of the BCS have shown marked social and demographic variations in levels of concern and the following correlates of fear emerge here:

- demographic factors
- experience of crime
- perceptions of crime risk
- perceived levels of disorder
- neighbourhood cohesion.

Each is discussed in turn below. The results are based on bivariate analysis and describe which groups were most likely to feel very worried/unsafe in 2000 taking each factor at a time. Many of the factors will be closely inter-related. For example, the high level of concern among ethnic minorities may be explained by the fact that they disproportionately live in inner-city areas. Hough (1995) used multivariate analysis to take account of overlapping individual factors to see which

ones are most important in increasing levels of concern. The box below summarises the main factors identified as increasing anxiety.¹

The main factors increasing anxiety (1994 BCS)

- Demographic**
- Having a low household income
 - Living in an inner-city area
- Perceived risk of victimisation**
- Having been a victim or knowing a victim
 - Thinking it likely they will become a victim in the next year
 - Seeing signs of crime in the neighbourhood, such as vandalism and litter
- Perceived vulnerability**
- Feeling physically vulnerable, in terms of physical size, health or ability to defend oneself
 - Feeling socially vulnerable, in that neighbours are not viewed as supportive
 - Having a tendency to worry about life generally.

Notes:

1. Source: 1994 BCS.
2. Not all the factors included in the 1994 BCS were asked about in the 2000 BCS.

Results from the 2000 BCS follow:

Demographic factors

Age and sex

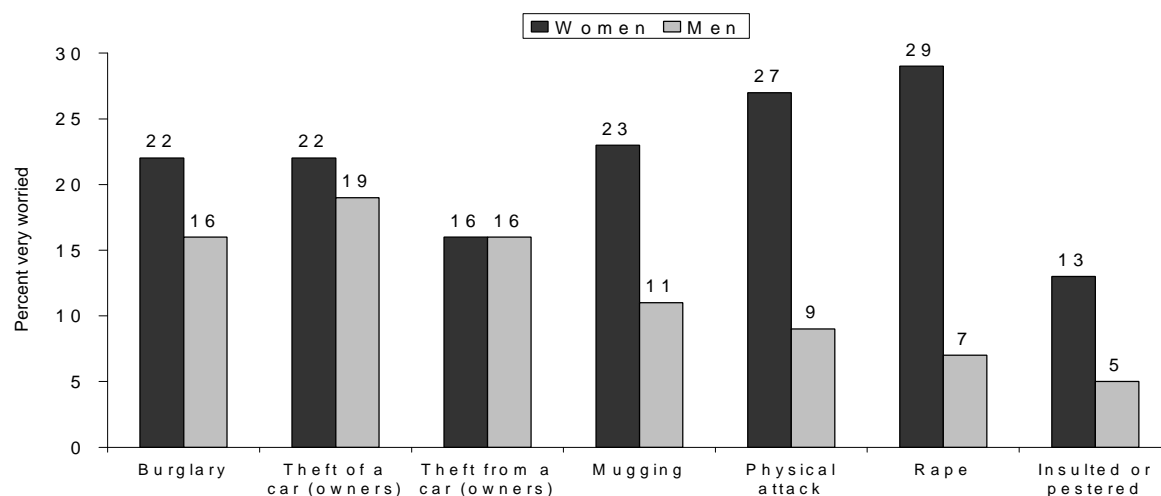
As in previous sweeps, the 2000 BCS shows that age and sex are strongly related to worry about crime and feelings of safety.

Women were somewhat more worried than men about burglary and far more worried about violent crime (Figure 7.7). Around a quarter of women said they were ‘very worried’ about being mugged or physically attacked by a stranger and almost three in ten were ‘very worried’ about being raped. Young women were particularly worried about being physically attacked (33%) or raped (37%) (Table A7.9).

Among car owners, levels of worry about car-related thefts were similar for men and women. The young were most concerned about car-related theft (Table A7.9). Hough (1995) speculated this is because they *“are more likely than others to have older, less secure cars, to use on-street parking, and to lack the financial resources to cushion the impact of vehicle crime”*.

In terms of feelings of safety, women were more likely to feel unsafe when walking alone at night than men, and older people were more anxious than younger people (Table A7.14). Women aged 60 and over were by far the most likely to say they felt or would feel ‘very unsafe’ in these circumstances (30%). These results do not necessarily mean that older women are more fearful of crime on the streets at night. Fear of going out at night because of crime is discussed later in this section.

¹ Due to the small sample size Hough (1995) was unable to explore whether ethnicity remained associated with concern about crime after other explanatory factors were taken into account. The results should therefore not be taken as evidence that ethnicity is irrelevant to fear of crime.

Figure 7.7 Worry about crime, by sex (2000 BCS)

Ethnicity

There were marked differences in concern between ethnic groups (Table A7.9). Black and Asian respondents were far more worried about all types of crime than white respondents.¹ For example, 41% of Asian and 37% of Black respondents were very worried about their home being burgled, compared to 18% of white respondents. This will be in part because ethnic minorities are more likely to live in inner-city areas. Differences were less marked on the measure of safety (Table A7.14). Concern about racially motivated attacks is discussed later in the section.

Health

The BCS shows that those who considered themselves to be in poor health or who had a limiting illness or disability had heightened levels of concern (Tables A7.9 and A7.14). It is difficult to know why this is, but there are several possible explanations. First, those who are in poor health may feel generally more vulnerable to a variety of misfortunes. Second, they may feel that they are seen to be an easy target by potential offenders. Third, those in poor health may feel that they would be less able to cope physically, emotionally or financially if they were to be victimised.

Socio-economic factors

Previous BCS analysis has indicated that socio-economic factors, such as social class, are associated with levels of concern about crime. The 2000 BCS consistently indicates that the following factors are associated with heightened levels of concern (Tables A7.9 and A7.14):

- being in a partly skilled or unskilled occupation
- living in low income households (less than £10,000 per annum)
- living in council or Housing Association accommodation.

1. Black respondents were those who classified themselves as Black-African, Black-Caribbean or Black-Other; Asian respondents were those who considered themselves to be Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi.

Area

Levels of concern vary considerably across different types of locality with, not surprisingly, those living in areas where victimisation risks are relatively high being more likely to say they are worried about crime. Those living in inner-city areas and council estate areas and areas with high levels of physical disorder¹ were particularly concerned (Tables A7.12 and A7.17).

In terms of regional variation, concern was in general higher in London, the North and the Midlands. It was lower in the South, Eastern region and Wales, though those in Wales did have high levels of concern with regard to car crime (Tables A7.13 and A7.18).

Experience of crime

Victims of any BCS crime in the previous year were more likely to be very worried than non-victims (Table A7.10).² Turning to crime-specific victimisation, victims of burglary were far more worried about burglary than non-victims, and victims of vehicle theft (of and from) were more concerned about vehicle thefts than non-victims. Victims of a violent crime were only slightly more worried than non-victims about being mugged or attacked by a stranger. This is partly because women are more worried about these crimes than men, but have lower levels of risk.

The 2000 BCS asked respondents if they had personally known anyone who had been the victim of a mugging or a physical attack in a public place in the last year or whose home had been burgled. Respondents were also asked whether anyone in their immediate neighbourhood had been burgled in the last year. Knowing someone who had been victimised did not influence levels of concern, but knowing that a neighbour had been burgled did increase worry about burglary (Table A7.10).

Perceptions of crime risk

Perceptions of risk are related to worry about specific crimes. Those who considered that they were 'very' or 'fairly' likely to be victims of crime in the next year were generally more worried about all crimes (Table A7.11).

Perceptions of risk were also linked to feelings of safety. About a fifth of those who considered it likely that they would be mugged or assaulted by a stranger said they felt 'very unsafe' walking alone in their area at night (Table A7.16).

Perceived levels of disorder

As discussed above, levels of concern were high in areas where the interviewer assessed physical disorder to be commonplace. Respondents were also asked their views as to how much of a problem various physical and social disorders were in their area. Those who perceived high levels of disorder (teenagers hanging around, vandalism or drug misuse) in their area were more concerned about crime and their own safety (Tables A7.12 and A7.17).

1. Areas where the interviewer considered that two or three of the following were 'very' or 'fairly' common: (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition.

2. Based on the full recall period from 1st January 1999 to the date of interview.

Neighbourhood cohesion

Respondents were asked whether they thought that their neighbourhood was one in which people did things together and tried to help each other or one in which people mostly went their own way. Levels of concern were slightly higher among people who lived in areas where there was less sense of community (Tables A7.12 and A7.17).

THE IMPACT OF CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

Worry about crime can be regarded as problematic if it has a detrimental impact on people's quality of life. However, not all those who express concern will necessarily be in a constant state of alarm about the prospect of victimisation. Furthermore, it is arguable that a certain level of concern or wariness is actually beneficial in encouraging people to take measures to reduce their risk of victimisation (e.g., installing household security devices or avoiding risky places).

This section briefly looks at the impact concern about crime has on people's behaviour and explores to what degree concern takes the form of apprehension and anxiety and to what degree it takes the form of a 'sensible' level of cautiousness.

Never going out for fear of crime

Overall, 24% said that they never walked alone in their local area after dark and a further 16% said they went out less than once a month.¹ Women were more likely to say they never walked in their local area alone after dark (36%), particularly those aged 60 or over (59%).

There are many reasons why people may not walk in their area after dark. The most common reason mentioned was simply a lack of inclination (57%).² Fear of crime (mugging, physical attack, burglary or vandalism) was cited by 19% of those who never went out or went out less than once a month - 8% of the whole sample. 19% of women aged 60 or over never or rarely walked after dark, at least in part because of fear of crime. Figures were also high for those in poor health (16%); living in the most deprived council estates (16%) or areas with high levels of physical disorder (13%).

How often do people worry?

A common criticism of questions that ask respondents 'how worried' they are about various crimes is that they assume that people have a constant level of worry. The 2000 BCS included a new question which asked those who were 'very' or 'fairly' worried about burglary how often they felt this way. Overall, 38% of those who were 'very worried' and 17% who were 'fairly' worried said they felt this way all or most of the time (Table 7.2).

1. Previous sweeps of the BCS have asked a more general question about how often people usually go out after dark, neither specifying whether this was by foot or in a vehicle or the location. The proportion that said they never or rarely went out was lower with the more general question (17% in 1998).

2. People who said they had no reason to, were busy or content staying at home or did not want to go out.

Table 7.2 How often people worry about burglary (2000 BCS)

	Very worried	Fairly worried
	%	%
All of the time	17	5
Most of the time	21	12
Some of the time	34	41
Just occasionally	27	42
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,732	3,546

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.

Overall, then 13% of all respondents were 'very' or 'fairly' worried about burglary all or most of the time. Figures were higher among those in poor health (25%); in households with an income of less than £5,000 (21%); and living in inner cities (19%), council areas (19%), or areas with high physical disorder (25%).

Impact of fear of crime on quality of life

The 1998 and 2000 sweeps of the BCS included a question to try and assess to what extent fear of crime had an impact on people's quality of life. Respondents were asked:

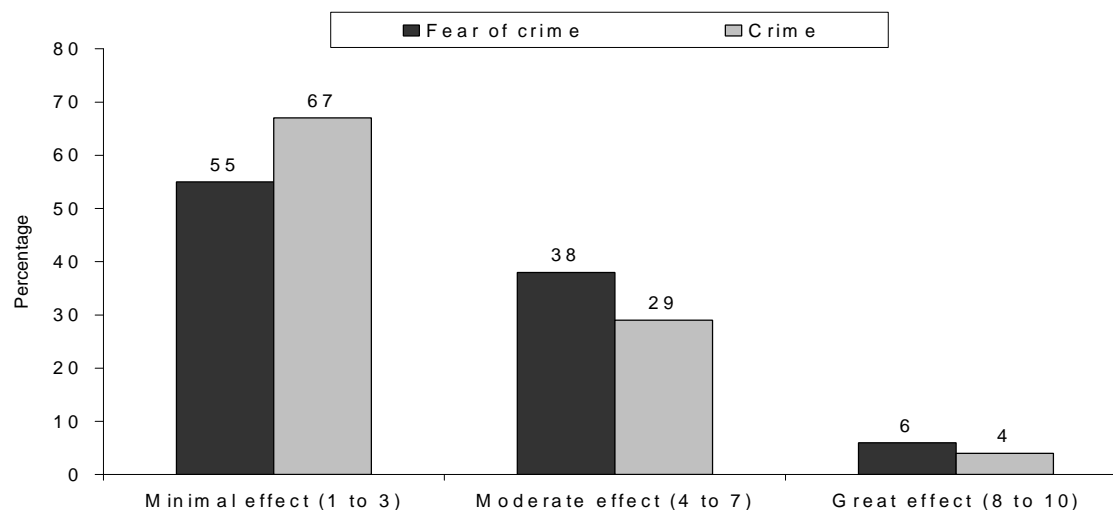
"How much is your own quality of life affected by fear of crime, on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is total effect on your quality of life?"

In 2000, just over a half (55%) of those asked felt that fear of crime had a minimal impact (scores 1 to 3) on their quality of life and a further 38% said it had a moderate impact (scores 4 to 7). Only 6% considered that their quality of life was greatly affected (scores 8 to 10). In 1998, significantly more were greatly affected (8%) (Table A7.19).

The following groups were most likely to say fear greatly affected their quality of life:

- women aged 60 or older
- Asians
- those in poor health or with a limiting illness or disability
- people in low income households
- people living in council or Housing Association accommodation
- people living in areas with high levels of physical disorder (Table A7.20).

The 2000 BCS also asked a different random sample of respondents about how much *crime itself* affected their quality of life. The results indicate that crime has less of an affect than fear of crime (Figure 7.8). This could be because while victimisation is relatively rare (at least over the last year) and tends to be concentrated on certain groups or areas, everyone faces the risk.

Figure 7.8 Impact of fear of crime/crime on quality of life (2000 BCS)

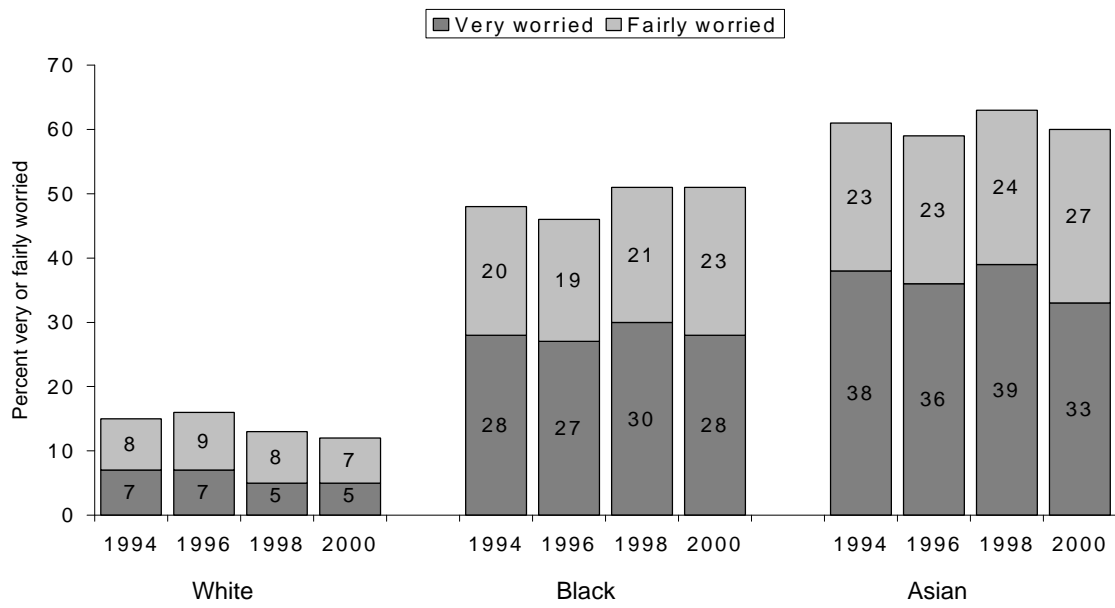
Concern about racially motivated crime

Since 1994, the BCS has included a question to assess levels of concern about racially motivated assaults. Respondents are asked how worried they are “about being subject to a physical attack because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion”. As one would expect, ethnic minorities are far more concerned about such attacks, with Asian respondents expressing more concern than Black respondents. Since 1998, there has been a fall in the proportion ‘very worried’ among both Asian and Black respondents, though neither fall is statistically significant at the 5% significant level (Figure 7.9).¹

There is of course considerable variation in levels of worry within different minority ethnic groups (FitzGerald and Hale, 1996). Women are particularly concerned. About four in ten Asian women and a third of Black women were ‘very’ worried about racial attacks. Concern about racially motivated crime will be explored in more depth in a publication planned for next year.

1. The fall among Asian respondents is significant at the 10% significance level. Tests of significance are explained in the Glossary.

Figure 7.9 Worry about racially motivated assaults by ethnicity (1994-2000 BCS)



8 Conclusions

TRENDS IN CRIME

While everyone is entitled to a clear picture about crime trends, it has to be said that there may be some potential for confusion as regards the messages from this report, and those from the most recent publications on police recorded crime figures. Four points are worth drawing out here to make things clearer. First, the BCS provides a calendar year count, whereas police figures are now presented on a financial year basis. (Comparisons in this report have used 1999 police figures whereas the most recently published police figures were for the financial year 1999/2000.) Secondly, and more importantly, comparisons between the BCS and police figures are made for two-year periods, because the BCS to date has not been run annually. The picture over two years, then, may simply 'average out' different year-on-year changes. Thirdly, comparisons between the two crime measures are, as explained in Section 2, restricted to a sub-set of crimes. The picture of trends from police figures for the *full set* of recorded offences may differ somewhat therefore. Finally, changes introduced in April 1998 to the coverage of offences now counted by the police, as well as changes to *how* offences are counted, has complicated easy interpretation of the trend in recent police figures.

The first set of recorded crime figures for 1998/1999 published under the new counting rules showed a substantial overall increase of 12% over the previous year due to coverage and counting changes (Povey and Prime, 1999). Allowing for these, the underlying trend was a small fall of 1% in recorded offences overall. There was also a 10% fall in violence against the person – a welcome drop after relentlessly upward figures. The next financial year figures for 1999/2000, published in July 2000 (Povey *et al.*, 2000), were less good. They showed a 4% increase in all recorded crime compared to the previous year (on the new counting rules basis). They thus reversed the downward trend in police recorded crime evident since 1993. The figures also showed, this time, a 16% increase in violence against the person. The fact that some 'bedding in' of the new counting rules might have explained the increases could not be discounted, but neither could it be substantiated conclusively. In sum, then, those interested in crime trends were faced with a rise in police figures for the first year of the new counting rules which had to be understood against the somewhat complicated background of changes to the count. In the second year – when seemingly 'like with like' figures were published - there was an increase in recorded crime, and a reversal of the previous year's favourable trend on violence.

This report has presented comparisons between BCS and police figures for the period 1997 to 1999, about which there are no published police figures on any 'like for like' counting basis. Moreover, the comparisons are, as said, for a sub-set of offences rather than for all police recorded crime. These points need to be borne in mind in understanding what are otherwise fairly clear messages.

- First, results from the latest BCS count itself show that levels of crime in England and Wales fell between 1997 and 1999 for many categories of offence. This continues a trend first seen in the BCS between 1995 and 1997. The falls are statistically strongest for burglary, vehicle-related thefts and bicycle theft. The latest figures also indicate a fall in wounding and common assault, albeit statistically weaker. In contrast, the BCS shows *increases* in robbery and theft from the person. These increases could have been due to sampling error, although they are consistent with a large rise in police figures and thus may well indicate real increases. The BCS increase for robbery is mostly accounted for by robberies reported by

16-year-olds and it may be that police robbery figures are also reflecting patterns influenced by such small victim groups in the population.

- ❑ Secondly, the current BCS results for 1997-1999 are broadly consistent with police recorded crime figures, for those offence categories which are comparable. The BCS picture is if anything more favourable. There have been larger falls than registered by police figures for many offences, and smaller increases for robbery and theft from the person. We cannot be sure that the divergences are 'real' in all cases on account of BCS sampling variation. Nonetheless, the overall picture is consistent with police figures having been inflated in 1999 relative to 1997 by more inclusive recording by the police of reported crimes. This may have been prompted by guidance from ACPO (1995) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC, 1996).
- ❑ Thirdly, the reasonable consistency of the patterns according to the BCS and police figures since 1995 stands in contrast to that over earlier spans of the BCS. During the 1980s, the BCS crime count grew less strongly than police count, although this was consistent with an increase in the amount of crime reported to the police. In the early 1990s, recorded crime stabilised, whereas the BCS count continued to rise, as did reported crime. This implied a *fall* in police recording of crimes reported to them – in contrast to the increase suggested since 1995.

Explaining the trends

Property crime

There are a number of reasons that might account for the decline in property crime in recent years:

- ❑ Improved security on the part of property owners may be producing benefits. The BCS shows that coverage of home security devices has continued to increase and this may partly account for the reduction in burglary. Any similar improvement in security measures taken against other forms of property crime (e.g., bicycle theft) would also be consistent with falling risks – although the BCS itself does not chart security changes here.
- ❑ Security may also play a part in the fall in vehicle-related thefts – with security improvements here being both a function of what manufacturers are providing as standard on cars as well as precautions owners themselves are taking. Certainly, the BCS shows that many more cars are now fitted with security devices (for instance, central locking is now installed in close to two-thirds of cars as opposed to one-third in 1992). And the declining recovery rate of stolen vehicles suggests that opportunist thefts are falling most, consistent with security improvements deterring less determined and accomplished thieves. Improvements in the security of car parks have also been made over the last five years. The BCS itself indicates a small drop in the proportion of thefts taking place in public car parks from 18% in 1995 to 17% in 1999.
- ❑ Local crime reduction initiatives may have had a part to play. The statutory local crime prevention partnerships introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came after property crime began to fall, as did various initiatives funded by the Crime Reduction Programme. Nonetheless, these recent developments are a continuation and expansion of earlier local preventive action that may have impacted on crime.

- The current economic cycle, with low levels of unemployment and relatively high economic growth, may also have depressed levels of property crime, by reducing the need for the proceeds of crime (cf. Field, 1990). It might also be that the tradable value of some stolen goods has declined because of a fall in the price in real terms of items such as TVs, videos and in-car entertainment systems. In a Home Office study, Dhiri *et al.* (1999) actually projected increases in recorded burglary and theft on the basis of how police recorded crime has moved in tandem with key economic and demographic factors since the early 1950s. On the face of it, the current results appear somewhat at odds with these upward projections, although four important caveats are in order. First, there was statistical range on the projections that accommodated some *decrease* in property crime between 1997 and 1999. Secondly, the projections were based simply on past relationships, whereas recent evidence suggested that the relationship between the key predictors and crime might be weakening. Thirdly, the projections linked recorded crime levels to economic and demographic changes assuming no other factors come into play. In particular, they could take no account of any impact of crime reduction measures, for instance, or a possible step change in security levels. Finally, the projections were based on the police recorded crime series, which are in important respects different from BCS crime (see the Introduction).

Whatever underlies recent property crime trends, one further point is worth making. This is that the picture in England and Wales over the mid and late 1990s reflects that in many other countries. Property crime rates in the United States, for instance, have been falling for some time both according to the National Crime Victimization Survey and police figures (e.g., Blumstein and Wallman, 2000). Many property crime rates in Canada have also fallen since the early 1990s (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 1999). Closer to home, average crime rates for 36 European countries showed lower figures in 1996 than in 1992 for a variety of thefts, including burglary and motor vehicle theft – although drug offences, assault and robbery figures rose (Killias and Aebi, 2000). In Scotland, recorded crime figures have fallen since 1991, with burglary rates in 1999 for instance less than half the level in 1991 (Scottish Executive, 2000).

It is clearly difficult to explain these widespread falls coming as they do after fairly universal upswings in property crime during the 1970s and 1980s. That harsher criminal justice policies underlie the international experience seems hard to sustain. Thus, while some US commentators have held the floor in seeing the US record as due to a substantial increase in imprisonment rates, the experience of other countries provides a counter to this. Canada's record on crime, for instance, mirrors that of the US, without an equivalent increase in prisoner numbers. And across Europe there have been variations in sentencing and imprisonment not particularly consistent with the idea that heavier sanctions underlie the reduction in property crime (Aebi *et al.*, 1999). It may be that police performance in many countries has improved substantially recently, even though many current policing strategies were also evident in the 1980s, when crime trends were less favourable. Better performance in other areas of the criminal justice system may also be a factor. Second, the influence of better security may be evident across a broad range of countries, as well as in England and Wales. Thirdly, again as suggested as a local explanation, a favourable economic effect may be widely at play, dampening criminal demand. Fourthly, and most speculatively, recent international patterns may mean that broad social change is reducing the amount of crime, or there could be intricate cultural change which is leading to crime simply becoming a less fashionable pursuit for high-risk age groups.

Violent crime

On the trend in assaultive violent crime in England and Wales, the issue may be less about explaining recent movements than about whether one can be confident about their reliability. The BCS shows that common assault is higher now than in 1981, with particularly steep rises between 1991 and 1995, but falls since then. The trend for wounding, which unlike common assaults can be compared with police figures, is not dissimilar. However, in contrast to the fall since 1995 in BCS figures, the police count increased in 1997 and have only fallen marginally since then.

One key concern is whether reliable measurement is compromised by changes in the willingness of victims to draw incidents to the attention of both interviewers and the police. Any greater intolerance of unacceptable aggressive behaviour may increase violence figures over time. The relative rarity of some types of violent crime also means that trends are difficult to track reliably through the BCS. An additional problem with police figures is knowing how recording practices might have changed, and to what degree more inclusive recording has inflated the violence count.

Violent offences (including here robbery and snatch thefts) are predominantly crimes committed against victims in their teens or early-twenties, and more often against men than women. Nonetheless, the issue of under-reporting is of particular concern for measuring domestic violence, where women are most often victims. The 1996 BCS used a more confidential self-completion module to ask about domestic violence, and a different set of questions. This revealed significantly higher prevalence rates than the BCS face-to-face interview, with only just over one in ten incidents drawn to the attention of the police (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). The present results, using conventional BCS methodology, show that a little over three in ten incidents are reported, and this will be because of the more concentrated 'pool' of offences revealed to interviewers. Nonetheless, the majority of incidents go unreported - despite relatively high seriousness ratings given by victims, and the particularly adverse emotional impact of domestic violence.

CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

One perennial question is whether people are more worried about crime than they should be. Certainly, more people consider it likely they will become victims of crime in the next year than will actually be the case. But it is difficult to know how people form judgements as to their risks, or what they mean by a 'very' or 'fairly' likely chance. (The proportion considering victimisation 'very likely' is far closer to the actual level of risk.) Moreover, perceptions of risk are linked to actual risk levels in that those in high crime areas or who have been previously victimised for instance feel – rightly - most vulnerable.

The level of worry people feel about various crimes has been shown in part to depend on their perceptions of the likelihood of it happening. Additionally, worry will be about the consequences of victimisation. Even if the statistical risk is low, people may still justifiably worry because of the potentially distressing consequences *if* they were victimised. This will be all the more so if they imagine 'worst scenarios' – a very violent mugging for instance, or a burglary involving losses far in excess of the average. Furthermore, 'worry' can range from extreme anxiety to simply mild concern. The BCS suggests that around one in ten people are so concerned about crime that it impacts on their quality of life. This of course is more than one would want, but it is lower than the more usual figures quoted as to the percentage 'very' or 'fairly' worried about burglary, theft of cars and so on.

A second question is how far trends in concern about crime track trends in crime itself. The current BCS shows that, in the first half of 2000, the public tended to have a pessimistic view about the crime situation. Two-thirds of BCS respondents believed that crime at the national level had increased over the last two years, and half felt this about local crime rates. Both these proportions were higher than in the previous BCS sweep and are not supported by either the police or BCS figures reported here. It may of course be that the public is most alert to what the media make of police figures and, as said, the messages from these have been complicated of late because of changes in the basis of counting.

People will form opinions about their own risk of victimisation (and worry about this) on the basis of many factors. Some will be specific to their own circumstances at the time. Some may be more connected to what people *think* national crime trends are than to what they actually are. On national measures, then, the match between concern about crime and overall levels of crime itself may be inexact. Concern as measured by most BCS questions peaked in 1994 when recorded crime had been falling for two years. Concern has fallen somewhat since, though remained relatively stable between 1998 and 2000. On the composite measures developed in the BCS to monitor progress in achieving the Home Office aim of reducing fear by 2002 there were only very small and statistically insignificant falls in concern about burglary and car crime, although concern about violence did fall significantly between 1998 and 2000.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Plans for the future of the BCS have been taken forward alongside much recent discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of police recorded crime figures. Three particular themes have featured in this discussion: first, how reliably police figures chart trends in crime; second, the level of detail the police can provide in relation to the nature of crime; and, third, whether individual police force performance can be soundly judged given evidence that the basis of counting crime varies across forces (e.g., HMIC, 2000; Burrows *et al.*, 2000). These issues have been given a particularly full airing in a recent review by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office (Simmons, 2000). This sets out for consultation a wide range of recommendations for improving information on crime. (The consultation period ends on 31st October 2000). Three recommendations bear in particular on the BCS:

- ❑ Simmons recommends that the requirements for information set out in the BCS should be developed to complement and complete the information collected directly from police data. The two data sources should be planned in tandem.
- ❑ The BCS should also be maintained on an annual basis as the prime source of audit for police data. Simmons recommends that the survey should remain the primary source for data which cannot be identified satisfactorily from police sources, might be too difficult to collect routinely, or which requires attitudinal assessment by the public.
- ❑ Simmons also proposes that the police should apply the so-called 'prima facie' approach to the recording of 'incidents' or calls for service (in which the police count reports from the public at face value). However, for recording crimes, he proposes that the police should adopt an evidential approach, on a basis on which such crimes might be expected to be prosecuted in court.

Regarding the last recommendation, the police still current apply an evidential approach notwithstanding some variations in practice across forces, and the apparent increase in 'prima facie' recording of crime in recent years. The BCS, as a survey that asks members of the public directly about their experiences of crime, adopts a more 'prima facie' approach. Responses to the review consultation will obviously bear on final advice to the police as regards recording crime. The main strand of this is undoubtedly likely to be that force practice should be *consistent* whatever form it takes – in order to 'level the playing field'. But there are also implications for comparisons with the BCS. A move towards a more consistently stringent evidential approach will widen the gap between the published recorded crime figures and those of the BCS. However, the Simmons recommendation on 'prima facie' incident recording would mean that the BCS count would be more closely comparable to police incident counts. These have had far less public airing to date, do not necessarily relate to crimes but only public 'calls for service', and would not at present allow the sorts of adjustments currently made to bring the police count more into line with BCS coverage. However, if police data in the future includes both incident and crime data, then the link between the two will be more transparent.

Simmons' recommendation that the BCS should move to an annual cycle was consistent with wider Home Office thinking, and the first annual sweep will start in 2001. In addition, the new survey will have a sample size roughly double that of the 19,500 interviewed in the 2000 BCS. There are several reasons for increasing the sample:

- ❑ A greater number of interviews are needed to monitor crime trends to the degree of accuracy that is required. In particular, a larger sample will enable better tracking of violent offences than is possible at present
- ❑ There are a growing number of performance indicators that can best be delivered by the BCS (for example, indicators on fear of crime and satisfaction of victims with the police.)
- ❑ The enlarged BCS will be used to monitor some Best Value Indicators for the police at force area level. (This will involve sampling a minimum of 600 to 700 people per force area.)
- ❑ An enlarged annual sample allows for parts of the questionnaire to be administered to a subset of the full sample. This will help in meeting growing demands on the BCS to collect evidence useful for formulating and evaluating policy, to monitor a variety of public attitudes to crime, and to expand coverage of other crime-related topics.

Development work for the 2001 BCS is already well in hand. One of its main features will be a new interpersonal violence self-completion module that aims to improve information on the extent and nature of domestic violence and sexual victimisation.

Appendix A Additional tables

Table A2.1 Number of BCS incidents of crime, 1981 to 1999 (in thousands)

	1981	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	% change 1981 to 1999	% change 1995 to 1999	% change 1997 to 1999
PROPERTY									
Vandalism	2,715	2,745	3,403	3,419	2,898	2,853	5	-17	-2
Vehicle vandalism	1,559	1,677	1,801	1,853	1,605	1,576	1	-15	-2
Other vandalism	1,156	1,068	1,602	1,566	1,293	1,277	11	-18	-1
Burglary	750	1,373	1,775	1,755	1,628	1,284	71	-27	-21
Attempts	276	508	755	758	756	523	90	-31	-31
Attempts and no loss	377	664	957	976	970	746	98	-24	-23
With entry	474	865	1,020	997	872	760	60	-24	-13
With loss	373	709	818	779	658	538	44	-31	-18
All vehicle thefts	1,752	3,825	4,344	4,318	3,461	2,956	69	-32	-15
Theft from vehicle	1,287	2,412	2,564	2,525	2,150	1,811	41	-28	-16
Theft of vehicles	286	519	544	501	373	333	17	-33	-11
Attempts of & from	179	894	1,237	1,292	937	812	353	-37	-13
Bicycle theft	216	566	602	660	544	397	84	-40	-27
Other household theft	1,518	1,848	2,366	2,267	2,054	1,917	26	-15	-7
Theft from the person	434	441	601	670	590	614	42	-8	4
Snatch theft from person	86	79	86	75	83	53	-38	-30	-36
Stealth theft from person	348	362	515	595	508	562	61	-6	11
Other thefts of personal property	1,586	1,752	1,921	2,074	1,890	1,502	-5	-28	-21
VIOLENCE									
Common assault	1,403	1,763	2,550	2,820	2,278	2,206	57	-22	-3
Wounding	508	628	762	862	716	634	25	-26	-11
Robbery	164	183	237	314	309	353	116	13	14
All BCS violence	2,160	2,654	3,635	4,071	3,387	3,246	50	-20	-4
Domestic violence	292	538	1,178	990	834	761	161	-23	-9
Acquaintance	774	1,050	1,320	1,730	1,462	1,178	52	-32	-19
Stranger	844	803	811	935	683	881	4	-6	29
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	250	261	323	389	392	406	63	4	4
Old comparable crime	6,538	9,762	11,723	12,227	10,148	9,091	39	-26	-10
New comparable crime	-	-	-	-	-	11,297	-	-	-
All BCS crime	11,046	15,125	18,559	19,161	16,371	14,716	33	-23	-10

Notes:

1. Source 1982 to 2000 BCS.
2. Old comparable crime includes vandalism, burglary, all vehicle thefts, bicycle theft, snatch and stealth thefts from the person, wounding and robbery.
3. New comparable crime includes the offences listed in note 2, plus common assault, assault on a constable and vehicle interference and tampering. These were not notifiable offences prior to 1 April 1998.
4. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft. The typology of violence does not add to the total because not all violent incidents can be categorised into the typology due to missing information.
5. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts, and other household thefts the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates by **21,944,125** households in England and Wales (provisional estimate). For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts and other thefts of personal property the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates by **41,995,700** adults in England and Wales. Note that estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to population estimates.
6. Short Victim Forms were introduced in 1991 (see Appendix B, the short forms were the fourth and fifth out of a possible five). In 1991 the questions needed to distinguish between domestic, stranger and acquaintance were not asked on short victim forms.

Table A2.2 Range on BCS estimates of number of crimes in 1999 (in thousands)

	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
PROPERTY			
Vandalism	2,853	2,659	3,048
Vehicle vandalism	1,576	1,473	1,679
Other vandalism	1,277	1,126	1,429
Burglary	1,284	1,175	1,392
Attempts	523	467	580
Attempts and no loss	746	666	826
With entry	760	675	845
With loss	538	475	600
All vehicle thefts	2,956	2,810	3,101
Theft from vehicle	1,811	1,702	1,920
Theft of vehicles	333	299	367
Attempts of and from	812	746	878
Bicycle theft	397	352	442
Other household theft	1,917	1,795	2,039
Theft from the person	614	541	687
Snatch theft from person	53	30	75
Stealth theft from person	562	494	629
Other thefts of personal property	1,502	1,360	1,644
VIOLENCE			
Common assault	2,206	1,971	2,440
Wounding	634	502	767
Robbery	353	240	466
All BCS violence	3,246	2,943	3,549
Domestic violence	761	634	887
Acquaintance	1,178	993	1,364
Stranger	881	745	1,018
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	406	291	521

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS.
2. See notes 2, 3, 4 and 5 to Table A2.1.
3. The best estimate is the estimate from the sample. As this is derived from a sample it is subject to sampling error: a different sample might result in a different estimate. The lower and higher estimates are for the 90% confidence interval. There is 90% certainty that the number lies between these two figures.
4. It is not possible to construct confidence ranges for all BCS/comparable crime because household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult. The two types of rate cannot be combined (See Glossary for details of household and personal offences).

Table A2.3 Statistical significance of change in BCS rates of victimisation between 1981/1995 /1997 and 1999

	Rates per 10,000 adults/households				% change 1981 to 1999	% change 1995 to 1999	% change 1997 to 1999
	1981	1995	1997	1999			
PROPERTY							
Vandalism	1,481	1,614	1,345	1,300	-12 *	-19 **	-3
Vehicle vandalism	850	875	745	718	-16 *	-18 **	-4
Other vandalism	630	739	600	582	-8	-21 **	-3
Burglary	409	829	756	585	43 **	-29 **	-23 **
Attempts	150	358	351	239	59 **	-33 **	-32 **
Attempts and no loss	205	461	450	340	65 **	-26 **	-25 **
With entry	258	471	405	346	34 **	-26 **	-14
With loss	204	368	306	245	20	-33 **	-20 **
All vehicle thefts	955	2,039	1,607	1,347	41 **	-34 **	-16 **
Theft from vehicle	702	1,192	998	825	18 **	-31 **	-17 **
Theft of vehicles	156	236	173	152	-3	-36 **	-12
Attempts of and from	98	610	435	370	278 **	-39 **	-15 **
Bicycle theft	118	312	253	181	53 **	-42 **	-28 **
Other household theft	828	1,070	953	874	5	-18 **	-8
Theft from the person	112	163	142	146	31 *	-17	3
Snatch thefts from person	22	18	20	13	-43	-31	-37
Stealth thefts from person	90	145	122	134	49 **	-8	9
Other thefts of personal property	410	504	455	358	-13	-29 **	-21 **
VIOLENCE							
Common assault	362	685	548	525	45 **	-23 **	-4
Wounding	131	209	172	151	15	-28	-12
Robbery	42	76	74	84	99 *	10	13
All BCS violence	558	989	815	773	39 **	-22 **	-5
Domestic violence	75	241	201	181	140 **	-25 *	-10
Acquaintance	200	420	352	281	40	-33 **	-20 *
Stranger	218	227	164	210	-4	-8	28 *
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	65	94	94	97	50	2	2

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. See notes 2, 3 and 4 to Table A2.1.
3. Rates for common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch theft, stealth theft and other theft of personal property are quoted per 10,000 adults. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts, rates are quoted per 10,000 households.
4. ** indicates the change is statistically significant at the 5% level (two tailed).
5. * indicates the change is statistically significant at the 10% level (two tailed).
6. It is not possible to construct a rate for all BCS/comparable crime because rates for household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult, and the two types of rate cannot be combined. Therefore, statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS/comparable crime.

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Table A2.4 Proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1981 to 1999

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
PROPERTY								
Vandalism	22.2	22.0	23.7	27.0	26.5	29.0	26.3	30.7
Vehicle vandalism	10.3	16.1	21.7	24.5	22.5	25.0	23.1	24.1
Other vandalism	36.4	31.6	26.2	30.9	31.0	33.7	30.3	38.7
Burglary	66.2	67.8	62.8	73.0	67.8	66.4	64.4	62.2
Attempts	42.0	48.1	37.9	48.1	47.5	45.8	47.5	46.8
Attempts and no loss	48.4	50.2	43.7	53.0	51.6	52.2	50.3	48.8
With entry	81.2	82.3	81.9	87.9	82.9	82.0	79.0	72.9
With loss	84.7	86.6	86.3	92.2	86.8	84.3	85.1	80.9
All vehicle thefts	40.8	43.1	46.4	55.9	53.1	51.2	47.1	50.3
Theft from vehicle	30.0	38.2	39.9	52.6	50.3	50.0	43.0	47.0
Theft of vehicle	94.9	96.4	94.9	98.6	96.3	97.4	96.4	94.7
Attempts of/from	30.7	18.0	33.9	41.2	40.0	35.7	36.8	39.5
Bicycle theft	63.9	68.2	62.4	69.0	71.9	62.9	63.8	54.2
Other household theft	25.2	21.8	23.8	29.2	31.9	30.1	32.9	32.4
Theft from the person	31.3	31.2	33.6	34.6	25.6	40.7	35.3	31.3
Snatch theft from person	24.1	47.2	48.8	37.5	38.7	74.9	50.3	45.6
Stealth thefts from person	32.9	28.8	31.1	33.9	23.4	36.4	32.8	29.9
Other thefts of personal property	22.7	29.8	31.2	38.0	30.2	29.5	33.3	31.5
VIOLENCE								
Common assault	25.1	30.5	32.5	25.5	23.2	34.4	31.2	29.0
Wounding	40.2	59.6	43.3	47.7	53.2	39.2	45.1	58.2
Robbery	46.5	39.0	43.9	47.2	48.3	55.9	55.9	30.8
All BCS violence	29.7	37.8	35.0	32.4	31.5	37.8	36.9	35.2
Domestic violence	19.6	13.3	46.3	23.4	21.6	30.0	26.3	31.3
Acquaintance	25.2	35.3	34.0	29.1	32.0	36.7	34.5	36.8
Stranger	35.2	46.8	30.3	37.5	39.1	38.5	44.8	38.3
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	37.8	41.6	44.9	47.2	45.7	59.5	54.7	32.7
Old comparable crime	36.0	38.7	41.1	49.4	47.1	45.6	44.3	44.5
New comparable crime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5
All BCS crime	31.2	34.2	36.7	43.0	40.1	40.9	39.8	39.3

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. See notes 2, 3 and 4 to Table A2.1.

Table A2.5 Reasons for not reporting comparable crime (2000 BCS)

	Burglary	Thefts from vehicles & attempts	Bike theft	Other household theft	Other personal theft	Robbery & theft from the person	Assault & wounding	New Comparable sub-set	All BCS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Incident related reasons	46	57	39	60	50	44	31	49	51
Too trivial/no loss	40	57	38	59	50	42	25	46	49
Fear of reprisal	7	1	1	<1	<1	3	7	3	3
Police-related reasons	38	42	53	34	29	47	21	40	38
Couldn't do anything	30	33	33	22	24	39	15	30	28
Would not be interested	13	16	30	18	11	15	10	17	16
Dislike/fear the police	2	<1	1	<1	<1	1	3	<1	1
Other reasons	36	19	78	23	36	26	66	32	30
Private/dealt with ourselves	26	12	8	15	14	15	51	22	20
Reported to other authorities	3	2	1	2	19	5	12	4	5
Inconvenient to report	6	5	7	5	7	7	5	5	5
Other	2	1	6	2	1	1	2	2	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>1,133</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>955</i>	<i>464</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>3,834</i>	<i>5,253</i>

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Don't knows excluded from the base. More than one reason could be given.
2. The new comparable crime sub-set includes vandalism, burglary, vehicle theft, bicycle theft, wounding, common assault, robbery, snatch and stealth theft. Thefts of vehicles not shown as very few incidents were not reported.

Table A2.6 Reasons for not reporting BCS violent crime (2000 BCS)

	BCS violence	Mugging	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger
	%	%	%	%	%
Incident related reasons	33	43	23	32	39
Too trivial/no loss	26	37	15	23	37
Fear of reprisal	7	7	8	10	2
Police-related reasons	26	58	8	19	35
Couldn't do anything	18	43	5	14	23
Would not be interested	11	25	4	9	16
Dislike/fear the police	3	3	<1	5	2
Other reasons	62	28	88	65	46
Private/dealt with ourselves	48	21	85	46	32
Reported to other authorities	11	1	-	21	9
Inconvenient to report	5	5	<1	5	10
Other	2	<1	3	<1	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>253</i>	<i>193</i>

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Don't knows excluded from the base. More than one reason could be given.

Table A2.7 Proportion of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to 1999

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
PROPERTY								
Vandalism	33	37	44	56	51	46	58	53
Burglary	70	70	65	62	60	55	49	57
Attempts and no loss	41	39	37	41	38	33	29	33
With loss	87	87	84	74	76	72	67	77
All vehicle thefts	91	75	71	65	60	55	62	63
Theft from vehicle	88	64	68	61	59	52	59	59
Theft of vehicle	[100] ³	[100] ³	89	95	94	83	87	89
Attempts of/from	51	54	47	34	27	32	44	50
Bicycle theft	91	73	55	59	48	44	43	61
Theft from the person	26	21	37	26	32	23	29	39
VIOLENCE								
Common assault	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Robbery	24	35	38	47	44	33	30	59
Wounding	41	37	48	52	42	51	63	50
Old comparable crime	62	59	59	60	55	50	55	57
New comparable crime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. See notes 2 and 3 to Table A2.1.
3. The figures for thefts of vehicles recorded by the police in 1981 and 1983 are higher than the number reported. Sampling error on the BCS figures is likely to explain this.
4. Theft from the person includes snatch and stealth thefts from the person.
5. The 1999 figures are based on the adjusted old counting rules for recorded crime and the old comparable sub-set of BCS crime in order to preserve continuity.
6. Note that estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to population estimates.

Table A2.8 Percentage of households/adults victims once or more, 1981 to 1999 (prevalence risks)

	1981	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
<i>Percentage of households, victims once or more of:</i>						
Vandalism	9.2	8.6	10.0	10.2	8.2	7.8
Vehicle vandalism	5.7	5.7	6.1	6.3	5.1	5.0
Other vandalism	3.9	3.4	4.3	4.4	3.5	3.1
Burglary	3.4	5.3	6.5	6.3	5.6	4.3
Attempts	1.4	2.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.9
Attempts and no loss	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.6
With entry	2.2	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.2	2.5
With loss	1.8	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.6	1.9
All vehicle thefts	7.3	13.5	14.6	14.5	11.9	9.8
Theft from vehicle	5.6	8.8	9.2	9.1	7.7	6.3
Theft of vehicle	1.4	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.4
Attempts of/from	0.8	3.6	4.7	4.8	3.6	2.9
Bicycle theft	1.1	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.2	1.5
Other household theft	5.4	6.4	8.1	7.5	6.7	6.2
Theft from the person	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.4
Snatch theft from person	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Stealth theft from person	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3
Other thefts of personal property	3.3	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.0
<i>Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:</i>						
All vehicle thefts	10.8	18.2	19.7	19.5	15.7	12.6
Theft from vehicle	8.2	11.8	12.3	12.2	10.2	8.1
Theft of vehicle	2.1	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.1	1.8
Attempts of/from	1.1	4.8	6.4	6.4	4.8	3.7
Vehicle vandalism	8.5	7.6	8.2	8.5	6.7	6.6
<i>Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:</i>						
Bicycle theft	2.7	5.5	5.4	5.8	4.8	3.3
<i>Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:</i>						
Common assault	2.0	2.3	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.0
Wounding	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
Robbery	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
Any BCS violence	3.2	3.6	4.7	5.2	4.7	4.2
Domestic violence	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
Acquaintance	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.7
Stranger	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.5
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6
Any BCS crime	27.7	34.9	39.2	39.3	34.1	30.5

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Risks for common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch theft, stealth theft and other theft of personal property are based on adults. Risks for vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts, are based on households.

Table A2.9 Number of times victims were victimised, 1997 and 1999

	1999			1997		
	Once	Twice	Three or more	Once	Twice	Three or more
PROPERTY						
Vandalism	68	16	16	66	19	14
Vehicle vandalism	75	16	9	72	18	10
Other vandalism	62	16	22	65	19	16
Burglary	80	13	7	81	13	7
Attempts	85	11	5	81	13	7
Attempts and no loss	83	11	6	80	12	8
With entry	81	11	8	86	9	5
With loss	83	11	7	89	8	4
All vehicle thefts	76	17	7	77	16	8
Theft from vehicle	79	16	5	80	13	6
Theft of vehicles	92	6	2	94	6	0
Attempts of & from	81	14	6	86	9	5
Bicycle theft	89	9	2	86	12	2
Other household theft	77	14	9	75	15	10
Theft from the person	96	3	1	91	7	1
Snatch theft from person	100	-	-	97	2	1
Stealth theft from person	96	4	0	92	7	1
Other thefts of personal property	87	9	4	86	10	4
VIOLENCE						
Common assault	65	17	18	68	15	17
Wounding	74	12	14	73	10	17
Robbery	76	14	10	89	8	2
All BCS violence	65	17	18	69	15	16
Domestic violence	43	26	31	45	26	30
Acquaintance	72	14	15	72	11	17
Stranger	79	13	8	85	9	5
Mugging	80	12	8	88	10	2

Note:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.

Table A2.10 Victim assessment of seriousness (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Mean seriousness score</i>	1998	2000
PROPERTY		
Vandalism	4.3	4.3
Vehicle vandalism	4.4	4.2
Other vandalism	4.2	4.5
Burglary	7.3	7.4
Attempts	6.2	6.1
Attempts and no loss	6.4	6.6
With entry	8.3	8.4
With loss	8.7	8.5
Vehicle thefts	5.1	5.2
Thefts of	8.7	8.8
Thefts from	4.5	4.7
Attempts	4.9	5.0
Bicycle theft	4.9	5.0
Other household thefts	3.8	4.0
Theft from the person	5.3	5.1
Snatch theft from person	6.4	6.2
Stealth theft from the person	5.1	5.0
Other thefts of personal property	3.9	4.0
VIOLENCE		
Common assault	5.2	5.4
Wounding	8.6	8.7
Robbery	9.3	7.7
All BCS violence	6.3	6.3
Domestic violence	7.6	7.3
Acquaintance	5.1	5.8
Stranger	6.1	5.8
Mugging	8.7	7.5

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Victims are asked to place the incident on a scale ranging from 0 to 20. 0 represents the most minor crime (e.g., theft of milk bottles) and 20 the most serious (murder).

Table A2.11 Proportion of households/adults victims of burglary/vehicle-related thefts/violence in 1999, by ethnicity

	% victims once or more			
	White	Black ²	Indian	Pakistani or Bangladeshi
Burglary	4.2	6.3	6.3	5.2
With entry	4.4	3.9	3.6	2.9
Attempts	1.9	2.8	2.8	2.5
Vehicle-related thefts	12.5	17.2	14.4	16.1
Theft of a vehicle	1.8	2.4	2.7	3.8
Theft from a vehicle	8.0	10.5	9.3	9.8
Attempted vehicle theft	3.7	5.1	3.5	3.5
Violence	4.3	5.4	3.6	4.9
Domestic	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.8
Acquaintance	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.2
Stranger	1.5	1.2	0.6	1.4
Mugging	0.6	1.6	1.5	1.6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS (including ethnic minority booster sample).
2. The Black group consists of respondents who describe themselves Black-Caribbean, Black-African or Black-Other.
3. Burglary risks based on households, vehicle theft risks based on vehicle owning households and violence based on adults.
4. Self-defined ethnicity of the respondent.

Table A2.12 Risk of becoming a victim of burglary, violence or vehicle-related theft in rural and non-rural areas

	Burglary			Violence		Vehicle-related Theft ¹			
	1995	1997	1999	1995	1997	1995	1997	1999	
<i>Number of incidents per 10,000 adults/households</i>									
Rural	468	429	343	621	597	462	2,052	1,503	1,207
Non-rural	938	859	662	1,108	887	876	3,006	2,368	1,947
Total	829	756	585	989	815	773	2,747	2,122	1,741
<i>Percentage of adults/households victims once or more</i>									
Rural	3.9	3.4	2.6	3.6	3.3	2.6	15.7	12.0	9.0
Non-rural	7.0	6.3	4.8	5.6	5.2	4.7	20.9	17.1	14.0
Total	6.3	5.6	4.3	5.2	4.7	4.2	19.5	15.7	12.6

Notes:

1. Source 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Figures for vehicle-related theft relate to vehicle owning households only

Table A4.1 Trends in home security (1992 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Burglar alarm	13	18	20	24	26
Dummy alarm	na.	na.	na.	3	4
Double/deadlocks ³	61	70	70	72	75
Security chains/bolts ⁴	na.	na.	na.	59	48
Window locks ⁵	52	62	68	71	75
Light timers/sensors ⁶	22	32	40	48	50
Internal	na.	na.	na.	23	25
External	na.	na.	na.	38	40
Window bars/grilles	na.	7	9	8	7

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 2000 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Double or deadlocks on the outside doors of the house.
4. These results are not directly comparable as the question in the 2000 BCS specified external doors, the 1998 question did not.
5. Windows with locks that need keys to open them.
6. Between 1992 and 1996 respondents were asked whether or not they had a light which operated on a timer or sensor, regardless of whether it was inside or outside. In 1998 and 2000 there were separate questions for inside and outside security lights.

Table A4.2 Proportion of burglaries with entry and with loss, 1981 to 1999

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Burglary in a dwelling	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Attempts	37	42	45	37	43	43	46	41
With entry	63	58	55	63	57	57	54	59
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Burglary in a dwelling	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
With loss	50	50	44	52	46	44	40	42
No loss	50	50	56	48	54	56	59	58
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Note:

1. Source 1982 to 2000 BCS.

Table A4.3 Proportion of households victims of burglary in 1999, by household type

	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Age of head of household			
16-24	12.0	7.5	5.3
25-44	5.3	3.1	2.4
45-64	3.6	2.0	1.8
65-74	2.3	1.3	1.0
75+	3.2	2.1	1.1
Head of household under 60			
Single adult & child(ren)	11.7	7.7	4.4
Adults & child(ren)	4.0	2.3	2.0
No children	4.8	2.7	2.3
Head of household over 60	2.7	1.6	1.1
Household income			
Less than £5,000	6.5	4.0	3.0
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.6	2.7	2.1
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.8	2.2	1.7
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.8	2.2	1.9
£30,000 or more	3.9	2.2	1.8
Tenure			
Owner occupiers	3.1	1.7	1.5
Social renters	6.7	4.1	3.0
Private renters	7.5	4.9	2.9
Head of household employment status²			
In employment	4.2	2.3	2.0
Unemployed	7.2	5.4	2.7
Economically inactive	7.3	4.4	3.3
Accommodation type			
Houses			
Detached	2.8	1.8	1.1
Semi-detached	3.7	2.2	1.7
Terraced	5.6	3.0	2.8
Flats/maisonettes	5.4	3.4	2.3
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday:			
Never	3.7	2.3	1.6
Less than 3 hours	4.1	2.5	1.8
3 but less than 5 hours	4.5	2.6	2.0
5 hours or more	4.6	2.5	2.2
All households	4.3	2.5	1.9

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

Table A4.4 Proportion of households victims of burglary in 1999, by area type

	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Area type²			
Inner-city	6.3	3.5	3.2
Urban	4.4	2.5	2.1
Rural	2.6	1.8	0.9
Council estate area ³	6.8	3.7	3.5
Non-council estate area	3.7	2.2	1.6
Level of physical disorder⁴			
High	11.1	6.9	4.8
Low	3.5	2.0	1.6
All households	4.3	2.5	1.9

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. Rural areas are those that fall into ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27. Inner-city areas are defined according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure and social class profile. The remaining areas are defined as urban.
3. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.
4. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For both variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

Table A4.5 Proportion of households victims of burglary in 1999, by Government Office Region

	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Region			
North East	3.8	1.9	1.9
North West	6.1	3.2	3.2
Yorkshire/Humberside	7.2	4.3	3.3
East Midlands	4.6	2.6	2.3
West Midlands	4.0	2.6	1.5
Eastern	2.2	1.4	0.9
London	4.4	3.0	1.5
South East	3.6	2.2	1.6
South West	3.1	1.7	1.5
Wales	2.9	1.1	1.9
All households	4.3	2.5	1.9

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on households.

Table A4.6 Proportion of households victims of burglary in 1997/1999, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Thriving	3.2	2.0	1.2
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	3.2	2.1	1.2
Affluent greys, rural communities	2.8	1.6	1.2
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	3.1	2.0	1.2
Expanding	3.1	1.5	1.6
Affluent executives, family areas	2.8	1.0	2.0
Well-off workers, family areas	3.2	1.8	1.4
Rising	7.2	5.0	2.5
Affluent urbanites, town and city	8.2	6.0	2.4
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	4.0	2.1	2.1
Better-off executives, inner-city areas	8.6	6.2	2.9
Settling	4.3	2.5	2.0
Comfortable middle agers, mature home owning areas	3.7	2.2	1.7
Skilled workers, home owning areas	5.2	3.0	2.3
Aspiring	4.8	2.6	2.4
New home owners, mature communities	4.4	2.3	2.2
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	5.8	3.2	2.9
Striving	8.0	4.2	4.3
Older people, less prosperous areas	6.5	3.1	3.9
Council estates, better off homes	7.7	4.2	4.1
Council estates, high unemployment	7.4	4.0	3.6
Council estates, greatest hardship	12.6	7.3	6.1
Multi-ethnic, low income areas	8.6	3.5	5.1
All households	4.9	2.8	2.3

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS (sweeps combined to improve reliability of results). Risks based on households.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

Table A4.7 When burglaries occurred (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
During the week	70	71	73	69	67	72
At the weekend	30	29	27	31	33	28
<i>Unweighted N</i>	953	880	505	524	448	356
Morning	8	11	10	13	6	6
Afternoon	21	25	26	29	15	18
Morning/afternoon	10	11	8	9	12	13
Evening	32	26	32	29	31	23
Night	23	21	17	15	30	31
Evening/night	6	6	7	5	6	9
<i>Unweighted N</i>	944	867	496	513	448	354

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't know.
2. Some of the 1998 BCS figures presented here differ by one percentage point to those previously published. This is due to the greater accuracy of the computer package now used to analyse the data.
3. Weekend is from Friday 6p.m. to Monday 6a.m.

Table A4.8 Point and method of entry in burglaries (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
Back	48	46	48	44	47	50
Front	42	44	44	46	40	40
Side	6	7	6	8	7	6
More than one way	4	3	2	2	6	5
<i>Unweighted N</i>	841	783	470	475	371	308
Door	69	71	69	73	69	69
Forced lock	35	28	25	20	49	42
Broke/cut panel of door	13	14	14	12	12	16
Door was not locked	10	14	15	21	2	2
False pretences*	5	6	6	6	3	5
They had a key	4	5	6	6	1	2
Pushed past person who opened the door	3	4	5	6	1	1
Other method	4	9	4	8	4	9
Window	36	33	35	31	37	35
Forced window lock/catch	18	17	15	14	21	22
Broke/cut glass	12	10	11	10	12	9
Window open/could be pushed open	6	5	8	6	3	3
Other method	2	2	2	1	1	4
Other	2	2	1	2	2	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	841	781	470	474	371	307

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Percentages sum to more than 100 as more than one response was allowed.
3. Percentages differ to those previously published due to a change in the definition of false pretences.
4. * the unweighted N on which these figures were based is slightly higher.

Table A4.9 Contact with offenders in burglaries (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
Type of contact	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
No-one at home	54	49	57	50	50	47
Someone at home	46	51	43	50	50	53
Unaware	22	25	23	25	20	25
Aware but did not see offender	6	4	2	2	11	7
Aware and did see offender	19	22	18	23	20	21
<i>Unweighted N</i>	990	917	516	531	474	386
Threats or force used						
Violence used	7	9	10	15	3	1
Violence or threats used	11	13	13	18	7	5
Neither used	90	87	87	82	93	95
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,105	1,035	563	589	542	446

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Some of the 1998 BCS figures presented here differ by one percentage point to those previously published. This is due to the greater accuracy of the computer package now used to analyse the data.

Table A4.10 Items stolen in burglary with loss (1994 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Proportion of burglaries with loss involving theft of:</i>	1994	1996	1998	2000
Jewellery	38	36	34	28
Video	36	33	35	28
Cash	33	33	41	36
Stereo/Hi-Fi equipment	24	27	25	20
Television	21	21	16	12
Camera	17	14	13	11
Clothes	13	8	9	10
Documents	9	7	6	6
Computer equipment	8	7	9	14
Purse/wallet	7	10	16	11
Briefcase/bag	7	5	5	6
Credit cards/cheque books	7	8	15	9
Tools	4	6	7	7
Bicycle	3	4	3	4
Car/van	2	1	1	<1
Mobile phone	1	1	2	8
Car/van accessories/parts	<1	1	<1	1
Motorcycle/moped	-	-	-	-
<i>Unweighted N</i>	521	549	394	405

Notes:

1. Source 1994 to 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. '-' indicates no cases in this category.

Table A4.11 Trends in items stolen in burglary with loss (1984 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Proportion of burglaries with loss involving theft of:</i>	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Cash	39	37	41	33	33	41	36
Video	18	24	37	36	33	35	28
Stereo/Hi-Fi equipment	14	15	23	24	27	25	20
Television	12	18	20	21	21	16	12
Camera	9	8	12	17	14	13	11
Credit cards/cheque book	4	7	7	7	8	15	9
<i>Unweighted N</i>	270	298	346	521	549	394	405

Notes:

1. Source 1984 to 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.12 Damage in burglary (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Any type of damage	67	61	61	52	74	73
Soiling or graffiti	1	1	2	1	<1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,105	1,037	563	590	542	447

Note:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.13 Costs of items stolen (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	Burglary with loss	
	1998	2000
<i>Value of property stolen:</i>	%	%
Less than £50	14	15
£50 to £99	8	12
£100 to £249	17	19
£250 to £499	11	10
£500 to £999	15	13
£1,000 to £4,999	27	26
£5,000 or more	8	6
Mean cost	£1,416	£1,273
<i>Unweighted N</i>	382	390

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Some of the 1998 BCS figures presented here differ by one percentage point to those previously published. This is due to the greater accuracy of the computer package now used to analyse the data.

Table A4.14 Costs of items damaged in burglary (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
<i>Value of property damaged:</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Less than £50	64	64	60	62	68	66
£50 to £99	10	9	9	8	13	11
£100 to £249	10	14	10	15	11	12
£250 to £499	5	5	5	5	4	5
£500 to £999	5	5	6	6	3	4
£1,000 to £4,999	5	3	8	4	2	2
£5,000 or more	1	<1	1	<1	-	-
Mean cost	£254	£138	£389	£164	£101	£99
<i>Unweighted N</i>	899	849	471	502	428	347

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. - indicates there are no incidents in this category.
3. Some of the 1998 BCS figures presented here differ by one percentage point to those previously published. This is due to the greater accuracy of the computer package now used to analyse the data.

Table A4.15 Proportion of incidents covered by insurance (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
% insured	54	49	56	48	52	50
% claim made (insured incidents)	56	53	76	69	26	25
% claim made (all incidents)	30	26	42	33	13	13
% claim met ²	93	88	93	87	94	95

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Insurance claim paid in full or part. Based on those who made a claim.

Table A4.16 Emotional impact of burglary (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All burglary		Burglary with entry		Attempted burglary	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
<i>Was anyone in the household emotionally affected³</i>						
No-one in household was affected	13	na.	10	na.	17	na.
Someone in household was affected	87	na.	90	na.	83	na.
Respondent was emotionally affected	82	87	85	89	79	84
<i>Type of emotional response²</i>						
Respondent experienced:						
Anger	65	68	70	72	58	62
Shock	37	38	44	42	29	31
Fear	30	33	34	34	26	30
Difficulty sleeping	29	31	32	34	26	25
Crying/tears	16	17	24	24	7	5
Other	3	4	3	4	4	4
<i>Degree of emotional upset</i>						
Respondent not affected	18	13	15	11	21	16
Respondent was affected:						
Very much	29	29	37	36	20	19
Quite a lot	27	30	28	33	27	27
Just a little	25	28	20	21	31	38
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,005	942	519	542	486	400

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. More than one response was allowed. Based on all burglary incidents.
3. Respondents were only asked whether they themselves had been emotionally affected in the 2000 BCS.
4. Some of the 1998 BCS figures presented here differ by one percentage point to those previously published. This is due to the greater accuracy of the computer package now used to analyse the data.

Table A5.1 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts, by number of cars household owns/has use of

Number of cars/vans for household	All vehicle theft	% victims once or more		
		Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
One	10.1	1.5	6.4	3.0
Two	15.2	2.0	9.7	4.7
Three	19.6	2.9	13.3	5.5
Four or more	28.9	4.2	19.2	8.3
All vehicle-owning households	12.6	1.8	8.1	3.8

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS.
2. Number of vehicles owned by the household for most of the year.

Table A5.2 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 1999, by household characteristics

	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
Age of head of household				
16-24	22.9	2.8	16.3	6.1
25-44	15.5	2.3	10.0	4.5
45-64	11.9	1.7	7.7	3.5
65-74	7.9	0.8	4.6	3.1
75+	3.7	0.7	2.3	1.1
Household structure				
Single adult & child(ren)	15.6	3.1	9.2	4.8
Adults & child(ren)	14.1	2.3	9.0	3.9
No children	14.4	1.9	9.5	4.2
Head of household over 60	7.9	0.9	4.7	2.8
Household income				
Less than £5,000	11.7	2.1	6.9	3.9
£5,000 less than £10,000	11.3	2.1	6.3	3.7
£10,000 less than £20,000	11.4	1.7	7.1	3.6
£20,000 less than £30,000	12.5	1.9	7.9	3.6
£30,000 or more	15.1	1.6	10.5	4.1
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	11.5	1.6	7.4	3.4
Social renters	15.0	2.8	9.4	5.0
Private renters	17.8	2.4	12.1	5.0
Head of household employment status²				
In employment	14.0	2.0	9.2	3.9
Unemployed	18.4	4.1	9.5	6.6
Economically inactive	13.7	2.1	8.7	4.4
Accommodation type				
Houses	12.2	1.8	7.8	3.6
Detached	9.7	1.1	6.5	2.6
Semi-detached	11.6	1.7	7.5	3.4
Terraced	15.7	2.7	9.6	5.0
Flats/maisonettes	16.9	1.9	11.4	5.0
All vehicle-owning households	12.6	1.8	8.1	3.7

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.
2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for details).

Table A5.3 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 1999, by area type

	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
Area type				
Inner-city	17.0	2.7	11.1	4.8
Urban	13.5	2.0	8.5	3.9
Rural	9.0	1.0	5.9	2.9
Council estate area	16.1	3.4	9.3	5.1
Non-council estate area	12.0	1.5	7.9	3.5
Level of physical disorder				
High	20.0	4.3	12.0	5.8
Low	12.0	1.6	7.8	3.6
All vehicle-owning households	12.6	1.8	8.1	3.7

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.
2. See notes 2 to 4 to Table A4.4.

Table A5.4 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 1999, by region

	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
Region				
North East	11.8	2.4	7.5	2.9
North West	15.2	2.4	9.3	5.0
Yorkshire/Humber	14.9	2.6	8.8	5.1
East Midlands	10.0	1.7	5.8	3.2
West Midlands	13.3	2.2	8.3	3.9
Eastern	10.1	1.4	6.9	2.3
London	14.9	2.1	9.9	4.2
South East	11.3	0.9	7.9	3.2
South West	11.5	1.0	7.4	3.8
Wales	12.6	2.2	8.2	3.3
All vehicle-owning households	12.6	1.8	8.1	3.7

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.

Table A5.5 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 1997/1999, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
Thriving	10.8	1.2	7.3	3.1
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	11.4	1.3	7.8	3.2
Affluent greys, rural communities	8.2	1.5	5.2	2.2
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	9.0	0.6	5.8	3.5
Expanding	13.4	1.8	9.0	3.5
Affluent executives, family areas	12.3	1.2	8.6	3.3
Well-off workers, family areas	14.1	2.2	9.2	3.6
Rising	17.6	1.9	12.3	4.9
Affluent urbanites, town and city	15.6	1.7	10.5	4.5
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	17.4	2.1	12.0	4.3
Better-off executives, inner-city areas	19.3	1.8	13.9	5.8
Settling	14.0	1.7	8.9	4.5
Comfortable middle agers, mature home owning areas	11.4	1.4	7.4	3.4
Skilled workers, home owning areas	17.7	2.2	11.0	6.1
Aspiring	14.0	2.5	8.6	4.3
New home owners, mature communities	13.6	2.8	7.9	4.2
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	15.1	1.9	10.4	4.4
Striving	19.2	3.4	11.9	6.2
Older people, less prosperous areas	16.8	3.5	10.8	5.3
Council estates, better off homes	19.5	3.1	11.9	6.6
Council estates, high unemployment	19.2	3.6	12.4	6.3
Council estates, greatest hardship	20.0	3.9	12.6	6.1
Multi-ethnic, low income areas	22.9	5.1	13.6	6.5
All vehicle-owning households	14.1	2.0	9.1	4.3

Notes:

1. Source combined 1998 and 2000 BCS to improve the reliability of estimates. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

Table A5.6 Location of vehicle-related thefts (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All Vehicle theft		Thefts of vehicle		Thefts from vehicle		Attempted thefts	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
Home								
- private	1	2	4	5	1	1	1	2
- semi-private	23	26	26	26	22	25	23	28
- street	38	36	33	32	36	36	44	36
Work								
- car park	4	5	6	5	5	5	3	4
- street	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Other								
- car park	18	17	14	18	19	17	17	17
- street	13	11	15	12	14	12	9	9
- other	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2,166	2,515	260	332	1,324	1,511	615	672

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A5.7 Vehicle security precautions (1992, 1996 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1992	1996	2000
Car alarm	23	38	49
Central locking	35	50	67
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,382	5,383	3,643
Immobiliser	23	46	62
Electronic	n/a	n/a	43
Mechanical	n/a	n/a	39
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,376	5,383	3,643
Audio Security ¹	n/a	n/a	72
Removable stereo	n/a	n/a	41
Security pin number	n/a	n/a	53
<i>Unweighted N</i>	n/a	n/a	3,508

Notes:

1. Source 1992, 1996 and 2000 BCS.
2. Respondents could have more than one security measure.

Table A5.8 Vehicle security precautions (owner behaviour), (2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	Leave vehicle unlocked	Use mechanical immobiliser when vehicle unattended
Always	2	58
Almost always	1	12
Sometimes	6	10
Rarely	9	6
Never	82	14
<i>Unweighted N</i>	3,036	1,191

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS.

Table A5.9 When vehicle-related thefts occurred (2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All vehicle thefts	Thefts of vehicles	Thefts from vehicles	Attempted thefts
During the week	72	69	74	70
At the weekend	28	31	26	30
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2,173	274	1,331	568
Morning	6	7	6	5
Afternoon	14	14	15	12
Morning/afternoon	5	2	6	5
Evening	23	24	23	24
Night	37	43	35	39
Evening/night	14	9	15	14
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2,183	274	1,330	579

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Weekend is from Friday 6p.m. to Monday 6a.m.

Table A5.10 Location of vehicle-related thefts, by time (2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	Morning/Afternoon	Evening or Night
Home		
- private	1	2
- semi-private	10	31
- street	13	43
Work		
- car park	14	2
- street	4	<1
Other		
- car park	40	10
- street	15	10
- other	2	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	582	1,589

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A5.11 Method of entry for vehicle-related thefts (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All vehicle thefts		Theft of vehicle		Theft from vehicle	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
Door was not locked	10	9	3	3	12	10
Window was left open	1	1	-	1	1	1
Offender forced lock	38	41	67	65	32	36
Offender smashed window	44	41	15	13	49	46
Offender used a key	4	2	7	8	3	1
Other	5	10	8	11	5	10
<i>Unweighted N</i>	867	950	158	184	707	766

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows
2. Totals sum to more than 100% as more than one method used in some incidents.

Table A5.12 Method of entry for attempted thefts (2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>		
	1998	2000
Door was not locked	2	2
Offender tried to force lock	80	68
Offender tried to smash window	11	17
Offender used a key	1	<1
Other	5	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	267	371

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS

Table A5.13 Items stolen in vehicle-related thefts (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>				
Item Stolen	Thefts of vehicle		Thefts from vehicle	
	1998	2000	1998	2000
Car parts	na.	na.	46	37
Valuables	23	17	13	16
Car radio	23	16	28	23
Other	22	21	15	23
Tools	19	18	6	8
Telephone	3	1	2	4
Fuel	na.	na.	2	3
Electrical equipment	1	0	1	2
Bicycle	1	0	0	<1
Camera	1	0	1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	228	266	1,291	1,339

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. The valuables category includes luggage, purses/wallets, cash, cheque books, credit cards, clothes and documents. Electrical equipment includes television, video and computer equipment. The other category consists of goods not elsewhere.

Table A5.14 Recovery of stolen vehicles (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>			
	1996	1998	2000
Recovered	61	63	58
<i>Unweighted N</i>	330	226	253
Damaged	na.	90	93
Write off/beyond repair	na.	27	31
Extensive damage	na.	27	24
Moderate/slight damage	na.	35	38
No damage	na.	10	7
<i>Unweighted N</i>	na.	141	145

Note:

1. Source 1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS.

Table A5.15 Costs of vehicle-related thefts (2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	Theft of vehicle		Theft from vehicle	
	Vehicle	Other property	Other property	Damage
Less than £50	7	54	44	60
£50 to £99	-	5	14	11
£100 to £499	10	29	31	22
£500 to £999	21	6	6	4
£1,000 to £4,999	50	5	5	3
£5,000 to £9,999	9	-	-	<1
£10,000 to £14,999	2	-	-	-
£15,000 plus	1	1	-	-
Mean Cost	2,345	347	202	122
<i>Unweighted N</i>	263	262	1332	1359

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS.

Table A5.16 Vehicle insurance and claims resulting from vehicle-related thefts (2000 BCS)

	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted theft
Property covered by insurance	67	87	61	74
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2,129	265	1,340	524
Did victim make a claim? Yes	36	76	34	21
No	62	24	65	77
Not yet	1	<1	1	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,441	228	826	387

Note:

Source 2000 BCS.

Table A5.17 Emotional impact of vehicle-related thefts (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All vehicle theft		Theft of vehicle		Theft from vehicle		Attempted theft	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
<i>Was anyone in the household emotionally affected³</i>								
No-one in household was affected	17	na.	13	na.	17	na.	17	na.
Someone in household was affected	83	na.	87	na.	83	na.	83	na.
Respondent was affected	72	83	75	91	71	81	73	83
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2196	2291	259	279	1322	1401	615	611
<i>Respondent's emotional responses</i>								
Shock	22	22	45	45	18	17	20	22
Anger	93	89	90	88	95	89	91	90
Fear	5	6	6	9	5	5	6	5
Difficulty sleeping	7	7	10	14	7	6	7	7
Crying/ tears	5	5	12	15	4	3	3	4
Other	5	9	7	5	3	10	7	7
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,590	1,871	194	251	959	1,118	437	502
<i>Degree of emotional upset</i>								
Respondent not affected	28	17	25	9	29	19	27	17
Respondent was affected:								
Very much	19	19	35	38	17	18	18	13
Quite a lot	29	27	38	34	28	25	28	30
Just a little	52	54	27	28	55	57	54	57
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,589	1,871	194	251	958	1,118	437	502

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Type of reaction totals are greater than 100% due to multiple responses.
3. Respondents were only asked whether they themselves had been emotionally affected in the 2000 BCS.

Table A6.1 Proportion of adults victims of violence in 1999, by personal characteristics

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Men	5.3	0.5	2.0	2.3	0.8
16-24	20.1	1.8	8.2	8.3	4.3
25-44	5.4	0.6	1.9	2.6	0.5
45-64	2.5	0.2	1.0	1.1	0.3
65-74	0.7	-	0.1	0.4	0.3
75+	0.7	-	0.2	0.3	0.2
Women	3.3	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.5
16-24	9.1	3.4	3.6	2.3	1.4
25-44	3.9	1.5	1.4	0.8	0.4
45-64	2.0	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.2
65-74	1.0	<0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5
75+	0.7	-	0.1	0.1	0.6
Living arrangements					
Married	1.9	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.2
Cohabiting	5.5	1.0	2.1	2.2	0.7
Single	10.7	1.9	4.2	3.8	2.0
Separated	10.4	5.5	2.3	2.8	0.6
Divorced	6.1	2.0	2.0	1.6	0.6
Widowed	1.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6
Respondents' employment status²					
In employment	4.7	0.8	1.9	1.8	0.5
Unemployed	11.6	1.7	4.2	5.4	2.3
Economically inactive	6.1	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.1
Hours out of home average weekday:					
Less than 3hours	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
3 hours less than 5 hours	2.8	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.2
5 hours or longer	5.6	0.9	2.2	2.1	0.8
No. visits pub/wine bar in evening during last month:					
None	2.7	0.5	1.2	0.8	0.5
Less than three times week	4.6	0.9	1.6	1.7	0.7
More often	9.6	1.7	3.9	3.9	0.9
All adults	4.2	0.8	1.7	1.5	0.6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on adults.
2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for details).

Table A6.2 Proportion of adults victims of violence in 1999, by household characteristics

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Head of household under 60					
Single adult & child(ren)	10.7	7.3	2.2	1.1	1.2
Adults & child(ren)	5.1	0.8	2.4	1.5	0.8
No children	5.2	0.8	2.0	2.1	0.7
Head of household over 60	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
Household income					
Less than £5,000	5.7	1.6	1.9	2.0	0.6
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.0	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.8
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.7	0.7	1.5	1.3	0.3
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.2	0.4	1.3	1.3	0.4
£30,000 or more	4.5	0.4	1.8	1.9	0.8
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	2.9	0.4	1.3	1.1	0.3
Social renters	5.3	1.6	2.1	1.2	0.9
Private renters	9.6	1.9	2.9	3.7	2.1
Accommodation type					
Houses					
Detached	2.6	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.4
Semi-detached	3.8	0.7	1.6	1.2	0.6
Terrace	5.7	1.1	2.2	2.1	0.7
Flats/maisonettes	5.8	0.9	1.9	2.1	1.1
All adults	4.2	0.8	1.7	1.5	0.6

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on adults.

Table A6.3 Proportion of adults victims of violence in 1999, by area type

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Area type					
Inner city	5.0	0.9	1.8	1.8	1.0
Urban	4.7	0.9	1.8	1.7	0.7
Rural	2.6	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.3
Council estate	5.5	1.4	2.0	1.6	0.8
Non-council estate	4.0	0.7	1.6	1.4	0.6
Level of physical disorder					
High	7.9	2.2	3.1	2.1	1.2
Low	3.8	0.6	1.5	1.4	0.6
All adults	4.2	0.8	1.7	1.5	0.6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on all adults.

2. See notes 2 to 4 to Table A4.5.

Table A6.4 Proportion of adults victims of violence in 1999, by Government Office Region

Region	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
North East	3.6	1.0	1.3	1.3	0.2
North West	5.0	1.0	1.7	2.1	0.7
Yorkshire/Humberside	4.6	1.1	1.8	1.6	0.4
East Midlands	4.0	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.2
West Midlands	4.3	0.6	1.8	1.1	0.9
Eastern	4.2	0.4	2.2	1.7	0.5
London	4.4	0.4	1.1	1.7	1.9
South East	3.8	0.9	1.5	1.2	0.5
South West	4.2	0.5	1.7	1.6	0.6
Wales	3.5	0.7	2.0	1.1	0.0
All adults	4.2	0.8	1.7	1.5	0.6

Notes:

2. Source 2000 BCS.

Table A6.5 Proportion of adults victims of violence in 1997/ 1999, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Thriving	3.0	0.4	1.4	0.8	0.5
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	3.2	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.5
Affluent greys, rural communities	2.6	0.5	1.3	0.5	0.2
Prosperous pensioners, retirement	2.3	0.2	0.7	1.1	0.2
Expanding	3.8	0.7	1.8	1.4	0.2
Affluent executives, family areas	4.1	1.0	1.8	1.4	0.1
Well-off workers, family areas	3.6	0.5	1.7	1.3	0.3
Rising	5.5	0.5	2.0	1.8	1.7
Affluent urbanites, town and city	5.0	0.3	2.8	0.7	1.6
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	4.6	0.5	0.8	1.3	2.1
Better-off executives, inner city areas	6.5	0.6	2.2	2.8	1.5
Settling	4.2	0.7	1.8	1.5	0.6
Comfortable middle agers, mature home owning areas	3.8	0.5	1.6	1.3	0.7
Skilled workers, home owning areas	4.8	1.0	2.0	1.7	0.5
Aspiring	5.1	1.1	1.9	1.5	0.9
New home owners, mature communities	4.8	1.3	2.0	1.3	0.4
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	6.0	0.5	1.7	1.9	2.2
Striving	6.1	1.5	2.5	1.8	1.0
Older people, less prosperous areas	5.9	1.2	2.7	1.6	0.9
Council estates, better off homes	5.5	1.5	2.4	1.7	0.5
Council estates, high unemployment	6.9	1.5	2.2	1.5	2.5
Council estates, greatest hardship	7.5	2.0	3.3	1.9	1.0
Multi-ethnic, low income areas	7.1	0.8	2.4	2.5	2.1
All adults	4.5	0.8	1.9	1.4	0.7

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS sweeps combined to improve the reliability of estimates. Risks based on all adults.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

Table A6.6 Number of violent incidents against men and women in 1999

	Number of incidents in 000's			% of all incidents	% against men and women, within violence type	
	All	Men	Women		Men	Women
All violence	3,246	1,850	1,406	100	57	43
Domestic	761	194	560	23	26	74
Acquaintance	1,178	674	508	36	57	43
Stranger	881	714	178	27	80	20
Mugging	406	260	148	13	64	36

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS.
2. See note 3 to Table A2.1.
3. Because of the differing proportions of men and women in the sample to the population, the number of incidents against men and women do not add to totals. Survey rates are grossed up to population estimates. The percentage of incidents against men and women within violence type do not sum to 100 because they are based on the number of incidents.

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Table A6.7 When violent incidents occurred (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %
During the week	57	57	58	53	66	67	47	50	60	62
At the weekend	43	43	42	47	34	33	53	50	40	38
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>942</i>	<i>1,046</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>385</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Morning	13	9	8	6	13	12	9	4	17	14
Afternoon	22	26	18	21	33	37	17	24	23	28
Morning/afternoon ²	5	4	8	7	6	4	1	1	6	5
Evening	45	44	50	49	43	32	51	44	40	44
Night	12	14	8	12	4	10	20	24	13	9
Evening/night ³	3	2	8	5	2	4	1	2	1	0
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>948</i>	<i>1,063</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>389</i>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Weekend is from Friday 6p.m. to Monday 6a.m.
3. Victim unsure if morning or afternoon.
4. Victim unsure if evening or night.
5. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.8 Location of violent incidents (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %	1998 %	2000 %
Around the home ³	30	26	86	74	15	17	3	4	16	15
Around work ⁴	13	17	<1	1	6	3	10	17	24	31
Street ⁵	23	23	4	9	55	62	25	28	23	15
Pub or club ⁶	20	19	3	5	4	4	39	33	23	22
Transport ⁷	2	3	-	<1	5	5	4	8	1	<1
Other location	13	12	7	10	15	8	19	10	13	17
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>1,007</i>	<i>1,125</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>367</i>	<i>410</i>

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Includes home premises, whether inside/outside or garage/shed, home car park or nearby street to home.
4. Includes work premises, whether inside/outside or work garage/car parks.
5. Includes streets near work/college/sports ground/public entertainment/train or tube stations etc., subway, park/open spaces, waste grounds, and street markets.
6. Includes pub/club premises, whether inside or nearby street/car parks.
7. Includes train/tube/bus stations, airports; in 2000 'transport' category includes travelling in a car or in a taxi.
8. '-' indicates there were no incidents in this category.
9. '<1' indicates less than 0.5%.
10. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.9 Offender characteristics in violent incidents (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
Sex of offenders	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	79	80	82	81	93	91	89	86	69	72
Female	15	15	17	18	2	7	7	8	21	21
People of both sexes	6	5	1	2	5	2	4	6	10	7
<i>Unweighted N</i>	940	1,054	195	229	147	127	250	308	348	390
Age of offenders	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Child of school age	9	9	1	2	7	10	9	7	15	14
16 to 24	42	44	22	34	56	66	55	54	41	35
Older	53	51	78	64	33	24	41	45	51	55
Number of offenders										
One	67	67	98	98	36	30	55	52	65	71
Two	11	12	1	1	33	41	16	16	9	8
Three	6	6	<1	-	13	11	8	13	7	4
Four or more	15	14	1	1	18	17	22	19	19	17
<i>Unweighted N</i>	943	1,055	195	230	150	127	250	308	348	390

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. 'Don't know' responses excluded for sex and number of offenders but included for age of offenders.
3. In 1998 there was one incident of acquaintance violence where the offender was said to be under school age.
4. In 2000 there were two incidents of domestic violence and one incident of both mugging and stranger violence where the offender was said to be under school age.
5. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.10 Victim/offender relationship in violent incidents (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Stranger	32	36	-	-	78	68	100	100	-	-
Sight/casual	27	20	<1	1	9	13	-	-	62	48
Known well	41	44	100	99	13	19	-	-	38	52
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,007	1,125	201	241	165	137	274	337	367	410

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS.
2. '-' indicates there were no incidents in this category. '<1' indicates less than 0.5%.
3. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.11 Whether offender/s under the influence of drink or drugs in violent incidents (1998 and 2000 BCS)

	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
Under influence of drink	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	41	40	33	44	15	17	57	53	44	36
No	49	50	59	55	50	68	31	34	52	54
Don't know	10	9	8	2	35	15	12	13	4	10
<i>Unweighted N</i>	942	1,052	195	229	150	125	250	308	347	390
Under influence of drugs	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	17	18	11	12	15	19	22	16	18	22
No	54	56	79	81	28	45	36	39	57	56
Don't know	29	26	10	7	57	36	42	45	24	22
<i>Unweighted N</i>	942	1,052	195	229	150	125	250	308	347	390

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. In 1998 there was one incident of acquaintance violence where the offender was said to be under school age.
2. Not asked if offender identified as under school age. In 1998 there was one incident of acquaintance violence where the offender was said to be under school age.
3. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.12 Injuries sustained in violent incidents (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
No injury	44	48	28	30	57	71	51	54	46	48
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,007	1,124	201	241	165	137	274	336	367	410
Minor										
bruise/black eye	39	33	47	44	24	14	37	33	39	34
Severe bruising	15	16	25	29	14	12	10	9	12	16
Scratches	11	13	15	17	7	10	9	11	11	12
Cuts	16	10	16	13	12	4	14	9	17	11
Broken bones	4	2	8	4	1	1	4	2	3	2
Other	4	5	5	3	4	4	4	5	4	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,007	1,125	201	241	165	137	274	337	367	410
Medical attention ³	14	14	14	15	8	17	15	9	15	16
Hospital stay ⁴	1	2	3	2	<1	5	2	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	910	1,042	194	229	123	111	248	313	345	389

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. More than one type of injury may have occurred.
3. Whether respondent had medical attention from a doctor.
4. Whether respondent needed one night or more in hospital.
5. '<1' indicates less than 0.5%.
6. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.13 Use of weapons in violent incidents (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
No weapon used	80	82	88	93	72	79	72	81	81	78
<i>Unweighted N</i>	952	1,066	195	230	154	129	255	317	348	390
Glass/bottle	5	2	<1	<1	1	1	12	4	6	3
Knife	4	5	4	4	12	15	3	3	3	4
Stabbing implement	1	<1	1	<1	1	-	1	1	2	<1
Hitting implement	4	8	1	2	3	3	4	5	6	14
Firearm	1	<1	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	1
Other	7	<1	8	<1	9	-	7	1	5	<1
<i>Unweighted N</i>	952	1,067	195	230	154	129	255	318	348	390

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows for type of weapon.
2. More than one response was allowed.
3. '-' indicates there were no incidents in this category.
4. '<1' indicates less than 0.5%.
5. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A6.14 Emotional impact of violence (1998 and 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	All violence		Domestic		Mugging		Stranger		Acquaintance	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
Type of emotional response³										
Respondent experienced:										
Anger	64	62	64	68	76	66	59	59	63	60
Shock	44	41	44	35	59	55	43	35	39	44
Fear	29	27	44	40	40	27	19	22	23	22
Difficulty sleeping	20	17	39	34	24	15	7	7	15	16
Crying/tears	25	23	60	60	25	17	7	5	15	16
Other	5	5	5	2	2	7	6	5	5	6
Degree of emotional upset										
Respondent not affected										
	16	15	8	7	8	7	19	20	20	20
Respondent was affected:										
Very much	24	25	40	38	39	29	14	14	17	24
Quite a lot	23	22	28	30	26	28	19	20	23	16
Just a little	37	38	24	25	27	36	48	47	40	40
<i>Unweighted N</i>	952	1,066	195	230	154	129	255	317	348	390

Notes:

1. Source 1998 and 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. More than one response was allowed.
3. Results for mugging should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.

Table A7.1 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate over the previous two years (1996 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998	2000
Lot more	46	30	33
Little more	29	29	34
Same	20	32	27
Little or lot less	4	9	6
<i>Unweighted N</i>	8,241	7,255	9,374

Note:

1. Source 1996 to 2000 BCS.

Table A7.2 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate over the previous two years (1992 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Lot more	35	24	24	18	20
Little more	33	40	31	29	30
Same	27	28	35	37	36
Little or lot less	5	8	10	16	14
<i>Unweighted N</i>	7,986	12,714	7,303	5,994	7,822

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 2000 BCS.
2. 1998 and 2000 based on respondents who had been living in their local area for more than three years, 1992, 1994 and 1996 based on respondents who had been living in their area for more than two years.

Table A7.3 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (2000 BCS)

How likely respondents think the following will happen to them in the next year (percentages)

	Very likely	Fairly likely	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Home being burgled	3	18	58	21	9,566
Theft of a car	5	24	56	15	7,421
Theft from a car	6	27	52	16	7,433
Being mugged and robbed	2	9	57	33	9,556
Being physically attacked by a stranger	1	9	56	34	9,557

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. In previous sweeps the coding frame differed so comparisons are not possible.

Table A7.4 Perceptions of risk, by personal characteristics (2000 BCS)

<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
Men	20	29	33	9	11
16-29	16	22	29	10	17
30-59	20	31	36	8	10
60 or older	21	30	29	10	7
Women	21	30	32	12	9
16-29	19	26	30	14	11
30-59	23	32	34	11	9
60 or older	19	25	26	12	9
Ethnicity					
White	20	29	32	9	9
Black	30	41	43	26	24
Asian	38	45	47	29	26
Health					
Very good or good	19	28	31	9	9
Fair	24	34	37	14	13
Very bad or bad	30	41	46	19	17
Disability/illness					
Limiting disability/illness	25	33	37	14	13
Non limiting disability/illness	20	30	32	11	10
No disability or illness	19	28	31	9	9
Household income					
Less than £5,000	28	31	31	16	15
£5,000 less than £10,000	21	33	33	14	12
£10,000 less than £20,000	21	32	35	11	11
£20,000 less than £30,000	20	30	34	9	8
£30,000 or more	17	26	30	6	7
Tenure					
Owner occupier	19	29	32	8	8
Social renter	28	40	42	19	16
Private renter	19	21	26	14	14
Social class					
Professional	16	18	20	2	3
Managerial	20	28	32	8	8
Skilled – non manual	18	27	30	8	8
Skilled – manual	24	36	40	11	12
Partly skilled	22	32	35	13	14
Unskilled	24	36	39	18	18
All adults	20	29	32	10	10

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A7.5 Perceptions of risk, by experiences of crime (2000 BCS)

<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
Victim in the last year of:					
Burglary	48	42	46	16	15
Theft of/from a vehicle	27	46	54	13	13
Violence	22	25	35	16	27
Any BCS crime	26	38	45	13	14
Not a victim of any BCS crime	17	24	25	9	8
Vicarious victimisation					
Knew someone who had been:					
Physically assaulted in public	25	35	40	15	17
Burgled	29	37	40	13	12
Burgled in immediate area	33	38	40	14	13
All adults	20	29	32	10	10

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A7.6 Perceptions of risk, by type of area (2000 BCS)

<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
Area type					
Inner-city	27	35	40	20	15
Urban	20	31	34	10	11
Rural	17	24	26	6	6
Council estate	26	36	39	16	15
Non-council estate	19	28	31	9	9
Level of physical disorder (interviewer)³					
Low	19	28	31	9	9
High	35	46	47	21	19
Type of area					
People help each other	18	27	30	8	8
People go their own way	24	31	35	12	12
Mixture	17	28	30	9	9
All adults	20	29	32	10	10

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.

Table A7.7 Trend in worry about crime (1984 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Burglary							
Very worried	23	19	19	26	22	19	19
Fairly worried	35	37	37	39	39	39	38
Not very worried	33	34	34	28	31	34	35
Not at all worried	10	11	10	7	7	7	8
<i>Unweighted N</i>	11,014	10,370	10,044	14,502	7,978	14,935	19,401
Mugging							
Very worried	20	20	18	21	19	18	17
Fairly worried	22	25	25	27	27	27	27
Not very worried	39	39	39	38	39	40	42
Not at all worried	19	16	18	14	15	15	14
<i>Unweighted N</i>	10,976	10,307	9,993	14,440	7,938	14,890	19,322
Physical attack							
Very worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	18	18
Fairly worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	25	25
Not very worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	38	39
Not at all worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	19	18
<i>Unweighted N</i>						14,897	19,345
Racially motivated assault							
Very worried	na.	na.	na.	9	8	7	7
Fairly worried	na.	na.	na.	9	10	9	9
Not very worried	na.	na.	na.	28	30	27	31
Not at all worried	na.	na.	na.	55	52	57	53
<i>Unweighted N</i>				12,735	6,959	13,284	17,465
Being insulted or pestered in public place							
Very worried	na.	na.	na.	9	na.	na.	9
Fairly worried	na.	na.	na.	17	na.	na.	23
Not very worried	na.	na.	na.	41	na.	na.	44
Not at all worried	na.	na.	na.	32	na.	na.	24
<i>Unweighted N</i>				14,359			19,309
Rape (women only)²							
Very worried	30	34	30	*	32	31	29
Fairly worried	18	21	21	*	21	21	20
Not very worried	34	31	32	*	31	32	33
Not at all worried	18	14	18	*	16	17	17
<i>Unweighted N</i>	5,708	5,415	5,451		4,308	8,368	10,432
Theft of a car³							
Very worried	na.	20	24	28	25	21	21
Fairly worried	na.	31	34	34	36	35	36
Not very worried	na.	35	30	28	30	33	33
Not at all worried	na.	14	12	10	10	11	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>		7,029	4,089	9,632	5,249	10,182	14,134
Theft from a car³							
Very worried	na.	17	21	22	20	17	16
Fairly worried	na.	32	35	36	36	36	37
Not very worried	na.	37	31	32	33	36	36
Not at all worried	na.	14	13	10	10	11	12
<i>Unweighted N</i>		7,027	4,086	9,616	5,239	10,163	14,103

Notes:

1. Source 1984 to 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Prior to the 1998 BCS only asked of female respondents.
3. Based on vehicle owners only.
4. 'na' indicates that the question was not asked in that particular sweep.
5. '**' indicates that the results from that year are not comparable to other sweeps.

Table A7.8 Trend in feelings of personal safety (1984 to 2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Walking alone in area after dark							
Very safe	31	28	27	24	25	25	25
Fairly safe	38	39	41	40	43	42	43
A bit unsafe	20	21	21	23	21	21	21
Very unsafe	12	12	11	13	11	11	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	10,999	10,353	10,021	14,461	16,303	14,903	19,319
At home alone at night							
Very safe	na.	55	53	52	54	56	57
Fairly safe	na.	35	36	36	36	35	35
A bit unsafe	na.	9	9	9	8	7	7
Very unsafe	na.	2	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>		10,382	10,050	14,505	7,978	14,934	19,392

Notes:

1. Source 1984 to 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. 'na' indicates that the question was not asked in that particular sweep.

Table A7.9 Worry about crime, by personal characteristics (2000 BCS)

<i>% very worried about.</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Men	16	11	9	7	5	19	16
16-29	17	12	11	12	5	22	19
30-59	16	10	8	7	4	18	16
60 or older	15	12	8	4	5	19	15
Women	22	23	27	29	13	22	16
16-29	23	24	33	37	13	27	18
30-59	21	21	26	29	13	21	15
60 or older	22	25	23	24	12	21	15
Ethnicity							
White	18	16	17	18	8	20	15
Black	37	32	35	34	19	37	33
Asian	41	38	38	34	24	37	30
Health							
Very good or good	17	15	16	18	8	19	15
Fair	24	22	22	22	12	26	21
Very bad or bad	32	31	27	24	16	33	22
Disability/illness							
Limiting disability/illness	25	24	22	21	13	26	20
Non limiting disability/illness	20	18	19	20	9	18	15
No disability or illness	17	15	17	19	8	20	15
Household income							
Less than £5,000	32	31	29	28	16	33	26
£5,000 less than £10,000	24	23	22	23	13	29	21
£10,000 less than £20,000	20	17	19	20	9	24	18
£20,000 less than £30,000	16	14	15	18	7	19	15
£30,000 or more	13	10	11	14	5	14	12
Tenure							
Owner occupiers	17	15	16	17	7	18	14
Social renters	30	29	28	28	16	35	27
Private renters	18	16	18	21	8	22	18
Social class							
Professional	6	5	6	7	2	11	13
Managerial	14	10	12	13	6	16	14
Skilled – non manual	18	18	20	23	9	20	14
Skilled – manual	22	17	15	16	8	25	20
Partly skilled	26	25	26	27	12	28	19
Unskilled	28	27	29	29	18	29	24
All adults	19	17	18	19	9	21	16

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A7.10 Worry about crime, by experiences of crime (2000 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Victim in the last year of:							
Burglary	35	23	25	23	13	29	25
Theft of/from a vehicle	23	17	18	20	9	31	27
Violence	24	18	22	23	12	27	21
Any BCS crime	23	18	19	21	10	27	22
Not a victim	17	17	17	19	8	17	13
Vicarious victimisation							
Knew someone who had been:							
Physically assaulted in public	18	15	18	19	10	21	20
Burgled	20	16	19	19	10	22	20
Burgled in immediate area	23	18	19	19	10	24	21
All adults	19	17	18	19	9	21	16

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. * number of cases too small for reliable analysis.

Table A7.11 Worry about crime, by perceptions of risk (2000 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Think it is very/fairly likely will in the next year be a victim of:							
Burglary	36	26	27	27	16	35	29
Mugging or robbery	39	41	43	40	24	41	32
Stranger assault	34	36	38	34	20	40	32
Theft of a car	26	21	24	25	13	39	32
Theft from a car	24	19	22	23	12	35	33
All adults	19	17	18	19	9	21	16

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A7.12 Worry about crime, by type of area (2000 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Area type							
Inner-city	28	26	25	25	12	29	22
Urban	20	18	19	20	9	22	17
Rural	13	11	12	14	6	14	11
Council estate	28	27	26	27	13	32	24
Non-council estate	17	15	16	18	8	19	15
Level of physical disorder(interviewer)³							
High	32	27	26	25	15	37	30
Low	18	16	17	19	8	19	15
Level of disorder (respondent)⁴							
High	41	35	36	36	22	43	34
Low	17	15	15	17	7	18	13
Type of area							
People help each other	17	16	17	18	8	18	14
People go their own way	22	19	19	21	10	23	18
Mixture	16	15	15	17	8	17	13
All adults	19	17	18	19	9	21	16

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.
4. Based upon respondent's perception of how much of a problem the following were in their area (a) teenagers hanging around (b) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property and (c) people using or dealing in drugs. See Glossary for further details.

Table A7.13 Worry about crime, by region (2000 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Government Office Region							
North East	21	19	19	23	9	25	17
North West	21	21	22	24	9	24	17
Yorkshire/Humberside	22	18	18	18	10	23	19
East Midlands	21	17	18	21	9	22	18
West Midlands	24	22	23	22	11	24	19
Eastern	14	13	14	16	7	16	12
London	23	22	22	22	11	22	20
South East	15	12	13	16	7	16	13
South West	15	12	14	15	7	17	13
Wales	18	16	17	18	8	24	18
All adults	19	17	18	19	9	21	16

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A7.14 Feelings of personal safety, by personal characteristics (2000 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Men	4	1
16-29	2	1
30-59	2	1
60 or older	9	1
Women	18	3
16-29	14	4
30-59	13	2
60 or older	30	3
Ethnicity		
White	11	2
Black	10	2
Asian	13	3
Health		
Very good or good	8	1
Fair	16	3
Very bad or bad	30	7
Disability/illness		
Limiting disability/illness	21	4
Non limiting disability/illness	12	1
No disability or illness	8	1
Household income		
Less than £5,000	23	4
£5,000 less than £10,000	20	3
£10,000 less than £20,000	11	2
£20,000 less than £30,000	7	1
£30,000 or more	5	1
Tenure		
Owner occupiers	9	1
Social renters	22	4
Private renters	10	3
Social class		
Professional	3	1
Managerial	8	1
Skilled – non manual	12	2
Skilled – manual	8	1
Partly skilled	16	2
Unskilled	20	3
All adults	11	2

Note:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A7.15 Feelings of personal safety, by experiences of crime (2000 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Victim in the last year of:		
Burglary	18	6
Theft of/from a vehicle	10	2
Violence	12	4
Any BCS crime	12	3
Not a victim	11	1
Vicarious victimisation		
Knew someone who had been:		
Physically assaulted in public	9	2
Burgled	10	2
Burgled in immediate area	11	2
All adults	11	2

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A7.16 Feelings of personal safety, by perceptions of risk (2000 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Think it is very/fairly likely will in the next year be a victim of:		
Burglary	14	4
Mugging or robbery	21	5
Stranger assault	18	5
Theft of a car	9	2
Theft from a car	9	2
All adults	11	2

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A7.17 Feelings of personal safety, by type of area (2000 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Area type		
Inner-city	17	3
Urban	12	2
Rural	7	1
Council estate	19	3
Non-council estate	10	1
Level of physical disorder (interviewer)²		
High	21	5
Low	10	1
Level of physical disorder (respondent)³		
High	28	6
Low	11	1
Type of area		
People help each other	10	1
People go their own way	13	2
Mixture	10	1
All adults	11	2

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.
3. Based upon respondent's perception of how much of a problem the following were in their area (a) teenagers hanging around (b) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property and (c) people using or dealing in drugs. See Glossary for further details.

Table A7.18 Feelings of personal safety, by region (2000 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Government Office Region		
North East	10	1
North West	12	2
Yorkshire/Humberside	12	2
East Midlands	12	1
West Midlands	12	2
Eastern	10	1
London	13	2
South East	9	1
South West	10	1
Wales	10	2
All adults	11	2

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A7.19 Impact of fear of crime/crime on quality of life (1998-2000 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1998 (fear of crime)	2000 (fear of crime)	2000 (crime)
Minimal (scores 1 to 3)	50	55	67
Moderate (scores 4 to 7)	43	38	29
Great (scores 8 to 10)	8	6	4
Mean	3.9	3.6	3.0
<i>Unweighted N</i>	7,427	4,769	4,823

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A7.20 Those whose quality of life is most affected by fear of crime (2000 BCS)

<i>% greatly affected</i>			
Sex and age		Socio-economic circumstances	
Women aged 60 or older	12	Household income:	
Men aged 60 or older	7	Less than £5,000	12
		£5,000 less than £10,000	9
		£10,000 less than £15,000	8
Ethnicity		Social renters	11
Asian	18		
Black	9		
Health		Type of area	
Bad health	23	High levels of disorder	10
Fair health	9	Council areas	9
Limiting disability/illness	11	People go their own way	7
Non-limiting disability/illness	9	Inner-city areas	9
		All	6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Greatly affected are those who gave a score of 8 to 10 when asked to rate the impact of fear of crime on their quality of life using a scale of 1 to 10.

Appendix B Survey design and methods

The 2000 British Crime Survey (BCS) was conducted in the first half of 2000 (most interviews were in January to April) by the National Centre for Social Research and the Social Survey Division of the Office for National Statistics, working as a consortium. The design of the survey was shared between the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate and the two research organisations.

The 2000 BCS is the eighth sweep of the survey and the largest in the series, with a core sample of almost 20,000 and an ethnic minority booster sample of 4,000. Previous sweeps were in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998. The BCS series covers England and Wales - (see Hough and Mayhew, 1985; Mayhew *et al.*, 1993, Mayhew *et al.*, 1994, Mirrlees-Black *et al.*, 1996, Mirrlees-Black *et al.*, 1998). In 1982 and 1988 the same questionnaire was used in Scotland, although the results for Scotland were reported separately (see Hough and Mayhew, 1983 and Mayhew *et al.*, 1989 for England and Wales, and Chambers and Tombs, 1984 and Payne, 1992 for Scotland). The Scottish Crime Survey was conducted in 1993 (Anderson and Leitch, 1996), 1996 (MVA Consultancy, 1997) and 2000 (MVA Consultancy, forthcoming). In 1996, the Northern Ireland Office commissioned its own Northern Ireland Crime Survey, using the questionnaire developed for that year's England and Wales BCS (Power *et al.*, 1999).

THE COVERAGE OF THE SURVEY

The principal purpose of the BCS is to estimate the extent of victimisation in the previous year among the population resident in private households. To ensure comparability, the recall period and most questions on victimisation have remained the same in all eight sweeps. A number of other crime-related issues are also covered, and these change to reflect policy interest. The main topics covered in the 2000 survey are shown in Table B.1.

THE INTERVIEW

Respondents were questioned at home by interviewers using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). With CAPI, the interviewer enters responses into a laptop computer. The questionnaire is a computer program which specifies the questions, the range and structure of permissible answers, and the routing instructions. CAPI was introduced in the 1994 BCS.

There were six parts to the questionnaire:

- the *Main Questionnaire*;**
- the *Victim Form* (a maximum of six per respondent);**
- one of two *Follow-up Questionnaires*;**
- Fires in the Home*;**
- the *Demographic Questionnaire***
- and two *Self-completion Questionnaires*.**

Table B.1 Main topics covered in the 2000 British Crime Survey

<p>FULL SAMPLE</p> <p>Victimisation 'screener' questions Attitudes to local crime and incivilities Fear of crime Experience of household fires</p>	<p>HALF SAMPLE</p> <p>Contacts with and attitudes to the police Vehicle and household security measures Attitudes towards sentencing and the Criminal Justice System Witnessing crime Race equality questions Volunteering Individual rights</p>
<p>VICTIMS</p> <p>Details of victimisation incident Reporting to the police Police response and satisfaction with the police Victim intimidation Victim Support</p>	<p>ALL 16 to 59 YEAR OLDS (self-completion)</p> <p>Knowledge and use of illicit drugs Experience of sexual victimisation</p>

One randomly selected adult respondent in each household was interviewed. Each answered the Main Questionnaire. This included some attitudinal questions and then 'screened' people to see if they or others now living in their household had been the victim of crime during the reference period.¹ Respondents were asked about their own experience and that of others in their household for **household crimes** (e.g., burglary), and about their own personal experience for **personal crimes** (e.g., assaults). This distinction is made because the household is a natural unit of analysis for some crimes, whereas for others only the individual is a reliable source of information.

Details of each separate incident revealed by the screener questions were then collected in Victim Forms, which provided the basis for classifying incidents.² There was a limit of six Victim Forms per respondent.³ In a very small proportion of interviews the number of separate incidents elicited from the screener questions exceeded six. In such cases six incidents were selected following a procedure which gave priority to less common offences (specifically, personal incidents were more likely to be covered than household property incidents).

Although most Victim Forms corresponded to one incident, some victims experience a number of very similar offences. Offences of this kind are called *series incidents*. In the BCS, incidents are treated as a series if the respondent states they they were all very similar in type, were done under the same circumstances and were probably committed by the same person(s). For crimes classified as series offences, full details are collected only about the most recent incident. This avoids repetitive questioning and Victim Forms being 'used up' on very similar offences. In

1. The 'screening' questions are couched in everyday language rather than using legal terms; e.g., "In the 13 to 14 months since the first January 1999, has anyone got into this house/flat without permission and stolen or tried to steal anything?".

2. See the discussion at the end of this appendix on classifying incidents into offence codes.

3. In the surveys until 1992, the maximum number of Victim Forms was four. In 1992 this was increased to five to reflect increased interest in repeat victimisation, and increased again to six in 1996. As in 1996 and 1998, the fourth, fifth and sixth Victim Forms were shortened versions of the full form, focusing on the details required for classification.

calculating offence rates, series incidents are given a score equal to the number of incidents in the series which occurred in the calendar year 1999, with an arbitrary top limit of five. This procedure is the same as in other BCS sweeps.

All respondents then completed one of the two versions of the Follow-up Questionnaire, and a Demographic Questionnaire.¹ The Follow-Up Questionnaires include questions not requiring the full sample size.

Respondents aged 16 to 59 were asked to answer two modules of the questionnaire directly on the computer (Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing, CASI). These modules included confidential and sensitive questions, organised into a simple format which required mainly Yes/No answers. Over 95 per cent of those eligible were willing to answer these questions, although a few asked for the interviewer's help with entering their answers at one or two questions.

The average (mean) interview length for the core sample was 52 minutes for non-victims and 74 minutes for victims (Table B.2). This was based on the total length of the interview (including introductions etc.) and would have been slightly less if measured from the time between asking the first and final questions. The length of interview obviously increased with the number of Victim Forms completed. Of core sample respondents, 37% had any Victim Forms, and fewer than 3% had four or more.

Table B.2 Interview length by number of victim forms

Number of victim forms completed	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	All
Average interview length (minutes)	52	66	79	88	99	111	115	60

Note: Partial interviews are excluded.

SAMPLING

The 2000 BCS core sample was designed to give, after appropriate weighting, both a representative cross-section of private households in England and Wales, and of individuals aged 16 and over living in them.² The Small Users Postcode Address File (PAF) was used as the sampling frame. The PAF, listing all postal delivery points in the country, represents the fullest and most up-to-date register of household addresses as almost all correspond to one delivery point, or letterbox. Where this is not the case, interviewers have strict procedures to select one household. The sample was clustered, with sampling points being quarter postcode sectors, with 32 addresses being issued per sampling point. The sample was stratified by police force area with the aim of ensuring that there were more than 300 interviews in each police force area.³

1. Allocation to either Follow-up A or B was randomised. Core sample respondents with an even address serial number were given version A and those with an odd serial number version B. Most respondents in the ethnic minority booster sample were asked Follow-up A, which includes questions on contacts with the police.

2. The 2000 BCS contained an ethnic boost sample of 3,874. The BCS has also included an ethnic minority booster sample in some previous sweeps, including 1996 (Percy, 1998). The boost allowed the number of ethnic minority respondents in the sample to be increased beyond their actual proportion in the household population of England and Wales to allow separate analysis of the victimisation experiences of these groups. An ethnic boost will be included when the BCS moves to continuous sampling from January 2001 onwards.

3. The City of London police force area was amalgamated with the Metropolitan police force area in the stratification by police force area.

An inner-city marker was attached to the data that classified postcode sectors according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure, and social class profile in 1981. In previous sweeps this was used as a stratifying factor and the sample in inner-city areas was boosted by a factor of two. This practice was discontinued in the 2000 BCS, partly because the benefits of this boost were less than had been the case in earlier sweeps of the survey, but also to reduce the complexity of the design. The inner-city marker was, however, used as a post-stratifying factor. Adjustments were made for lower levels of response in inner-city areas.¹

A stratified multi-stage random probability design was used to select the sample of addresses. Where one address had more than one household, a single household was selected using random selection procedures. One adult aged 16 or over in each selected household was identified for interview using similar random-selection procedures. No substitution of respondents was allowed. Further details on sampling procedures are presented in the 2000 BCS Technical Report (Hales *et al.*, forthcoming).

ETHNIC MINORITY BOOSTER SAMPLE

The number of ethnic minority respondents in the BCS sample was increased beyond their actual proportion in the general population.² Two methods were used to do this. The first involved identifying postal sectors with greater than 19% of ethnic minority household heads in 1991. Interviewers attempted to make contact at all sampled addresses in these sectors but only conducted interviews at those where one or more of the adults was Black or Asian.³ Addresses were selected in these areas using similar methods to those for the core sample, except that 75 addresses were issued per sampling point, with many addresses being subsequently screened out once it was discovered that no Black or Asian adult was resident.

The second method was 'focused enumeration', where the core sample address is used to identify two additional addresses on either side, covering four times as many addresses as the core sample.⁴ At the first contact with an adult at the core sample address, the interviewer asks for each of these four addresses whether it contains one or more adults (aged 16 or over) who are Black or who are of Asian origin. The interviewer can accept a definite 'no' as a final outcome. Where the respondent is unsure, or if no contact has been made at the core address, the interviewer calls at the address on both sides and asks the same question. When the interviewer has established that any of these addresses contains an eligible adult, the interviewer checks this at the address, asking whether any of the adults at that address consider themselves to be Black or of Asian origin ... "by Asian, I mean someone whose family comes originally from India, Pakistan or Bangladesh". In cases where there were two or more eligible Black or Asian adults at the address, the interviewer followed a set procedure to select one of the adults for interview. In this way, it is possible for one core address to yield as many as four additional ethnic minority booster sample interviews, although this happens rarely.

1. This followed procedures used since the 1994 BCS. (In 1992, the weights adjusted the achieved interviews to the correct inner-city incidence as well).

2 The booster sample is only intended to include ethnic minority groups for which a large enough sample can be obtained to ensure reliable findings. These include those identified as 'Black' (those who describe themselves as Black-Caribbean, Black-African, or Black-Other), or Asian (those who describe themselves as Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi).

3. Where contact was not made after several calls, interviewers were permitted to inquire at adjacent addresses, in a manner similar to that described for focused enumeration.

4. This procedure would be inefficient where the density of ethnic minority households is very low. Where the density according to the 1991 census was less than 0.6%, in 21 % of core sample points, the interviewers did not conduct focused enumeration.

FIELDWORK

Of the issued core sample of 28,914 addresses, 2,623 (9%) were empty, demolished, untraceable or ineligible for interview for other reasons.¹ The remaining 26,291 addresses yielded 19,411 achieved interviews, a response rate of 74%. The main reason for non-response at eligible addresses was refusal (16%) – either by the selected person (14%) or by the household before a respondent could be selected (2%). Non-contact accounted for 4% of the unproductive outcomes, and other reasons (ill health, absence, etc.) for 8%. Table B.3 shows the response rates across the surveys. In all sweeps the BCS has achieved relatively high response rates.

Table B.3 BCS response rates

	1982	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Core sample	80.8	77.4	76.7	76.7	82.5	78.7	74.0
Inner cities	72.7	71.3	71.0	71.0	77.8	73.4	68.7
Elsewhere	81.2	79.4	78.5	78.0	84.1	80.5	74.8
Ethnic minority boost	-	59.8	63.6	63.7	67.4	-	57.5

Notes:

1. The 1982 definition of Inner city is not exactly comparable with those used in subsequent surveys.
2. Rounded figures for 1994 Inner cities and elsewhere.
3. The 1982 and 1998 samples did not include an ethnic minority boost.

The majority of fieldwork was complete by the end of April; 81% of interviews had taken place by then (this being lower than the 95% of interviews achieved by this stage in 1998). A small number of interviews were conducted in July, these mainly being re-issues to ensure a satisfactory response rate. Table B.4 shows the 1998 and 2000 fieldwork dates. The difference in the distribution of interviews between 1998 and 2000 is in part due the increased sample size.

Table B.4 Fieldwork period, 1998 and 2000 BCS (core samples)

	1998 Number	1998 Cumulative %	2000* Number	2000* Cumulative %
January	1,868	12.5	3,171	16.3
February	6,628	56.8	7,587	55.4
March	3,863	82.7	3,409	73.0
April	1,918	95.5	1,480	80.5
May	506	98.9	2,928	95.7
June	148	99.9	728	99.4
July	-	100	108	100
Not stated	16	-	-	-
Total	14,947	100	19,411	100

*Based on the 2000 core sample only.

WEIGHTING

Data were weighted in a number of ways for analysis. Weighting serves two purposes: to correct for different sampling rates; and to take account of 'series' of similar incidents. In the 2000 BCS, the components of the weights were:

- an **inner-city weight** to correct for lower response rates in inner-city areas;

1. Addresses that contained no private households were ineligible for the survey: examples include business premises, institutions, and temporary accommodation.

- ❑ a **police force area weight** to correct for disproportionate sampling by police force area;
- ❑ a **dwelling unit weight** to correct for cases where more than one household was at an address on the PAF file;
- ❑ an **individual weight** to correct for the under-representation of individuals living in households with more than one adult (the chance of an adult being selected for interview is inversely related to the number of adults in the household);
- ❑ a **series** weight equal to the number of incidents in the series, applied to Victim Forms representing a series of incidents.

Analysis based on households requires the use of the inner-city, police force area and dwelling unit weights. That based on persons additionally requires the use of the individual weight. The series weight is used in Victim Form analysis, together with the weights appropriate for a household or personal offence (full details and design effects of this sampling and weighting scheme will be provided in the Technical Report).

CLASSIFYING INCIDENTS

Classification of offences is based on the responses made to questions on the Victim Form, including a short description in the respondent's own words.¹

For the 2000 survey, a computer program generated an initial classification for about four in five of the Victim Forms. The program suggested a possible offence code based on the responses given for a number of pre-coded questions included in the Victim Form. Coders then confirmed or modified the initial offence classification on the basis of other Victim Form information, including the respondent's description of the incident. Coders also assigned offence codes for those incidents which the program had been unable to classify. A detailed manual is used by coders which sets out the criteria for determining the correct offence code. For some less common offences or where there was doubt about accurate classification, Victim Forms were referred to National Centre's researchers and to the Home Office. The coding for some rare offences, such as arson, is always checked by the Home Office.

In the 2000 BCS the coders also indicated whether their offence classification was 'certain'. Coders and coding supervisors were certain for 94% of coding decisions. Where coders were certain, a one in ten quality check was made by the Home Office of the coding decisions. Only a small proportion were reclassified and decisions fed back to influence later decisions by the coders. All the non certain codes were checked by Home Office researchers before a final code was allocated.

1. The screener question at which the incident was mentioned is ignored for the classification of offences. The wording of screener questions tries to ensure that an incident is mentioned only once at that stage, but an incident may have two or more aspects. The Victim Form collects the details required for correct classification. The screener questions merely serve to establish that an incident likely to be within the scope of the BCS occurred within the reference period.

Appendix C Comparing BCS and police counts of crime

The BCS and offences recorded by the police both measure various aspects of crime at the national level. They are complementary series which together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. The main features of the two measures were given in the introduction. This Appendix discusses further some of the technical aspects of comparing BCS and police counts of crime.

THE BCS COUNT OF CRIME

The BCS count of crime in England and Wales in 1999 is estimated by grossing up survey offence rates for that year. The offence rates are the number of incidents per 10,000 adults for personal offences and per 10,000 households for household offences. The multiplier for household rates was 21, 944,125. For personal rates it was 41,995,700.¹

The household multiplier used to derive the number of offences in 1997 has been updated by DETR. This leads to some changes in the number of household offences in 1997 from those previously published. All previous population multipliers remain unchanged, since the publication of the 1998 British Crime Survey (Mirrlees-Black *et al.*, 1998).

TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS OF THE BCS

While the BCS undoubtedly increases our knowledge about crime as it typically affects householders, some technical limitations need to be acknowledged. These are less to do with restricted coverage than with the accuracy of the BCS count. They are summarised below.

- As in any sample survey, it is difficult to represent the population adequately. Some respondents are impossible for interviewers to locate at home, and others refuse to be interviewed. Victimization rates for non-respondents may differ. (Aye Maung (1995) deals with the effect of non-response.) However, respondents who refused to take part in the 1996 BCS were asked a short set of questions to determine how crime risks varied for non-responders. The balance of the evidence is that, if anything, non-respondents face slightly lower crime risks (Lynn, 1997).
- As only a sample of the population is questioned, findings are subject to sampling error. The BCS is large by the standards of most surveys, but its estimates will be imprecise, in particular for rare crimes such as robbery and serious assault.
- The BCS will undercount crimes where victim and offender know each other. Respondents may not think of these as 'real crimes' and may in any case be reticent with interviewers.

1. The number of households in England and Wales in mid-1999 is a provisional estimate based on projections for the number of households supplied by DETR. The number of adults is the 1999 mid-year estimate for the number of persons over the age of 16 in England and Wales supplied by ONS.

This will affect counts of domestic and non-stranger violence in particular.¹ Police figures, though, will undercount these sorts of crime even more, since relatively fewer are reported to the police.

There is also a set of more specific limitations which arise from asking people to remember their experiences of crime. A qualitative follow-up study of 35 BCS respondents in the 1996 sweep has also explored the accuracy with which respondents report crime in the survey (White and Lewis, 1998). Various things can stand in the way of accurate answers. The respondent may:

- make an offence up;
- fail to realise that an incident meets the terms of the questions;
- remember the incident, but think it happened before the reference period – though this is less likely than remembering an earlier incident as happening within the reference period;²
- simply forget a relevant incident.

The overall conclusion from previous studies is that response biases work, on balance, to *undercount* survey-defined offences, but with differential losses across crime categories. For example, in checks where people have been asked about offences *known* to have been reported to the police, more trivial crimes (e.g., minor thefts, vandalism and some assaults) are less likely to be recalled in interview. More serious incidents are more likely to be, and indeed may even be overcounted, as more salient events tend to be pulled forward in time. From the point of view of the BCS, the most important point is that these response biases are likely to operate fairly consistently over all the sweeps.

Some of the technical sources of error are linked to the distribution of victimisation itself, and this poses problems for the crime counting function of the survey, as well as for analysing patterns of risk. For instance, young men register the highest risks of violent crime in surveys, but as they are hard for interviewers to contact, and may 'define out' some assaults, their level of risk may be understated.

Police figures

- Cover those crimes which are made known to the police and which they record.
- Will be subject to changes in reporting patterns, and possible changes in recording practices.
- Do not allow much scope for analysing 'what crime is like', and how risks are distributed across different groups.

1. In recognition of this, the 1996 BCS included a new computerised self-completion questionnaire on domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999).

2. The full 'recall period' in the BCS is from the 1st January of the year preceding the interview until the date of the interview – an average of 14-15 months. In calculating figures for the year, only those incidents which happened in the previous calendar year are counted.

The BCS

- Will give a higher count because it includes any incident that is technically criminal, and because it covers unreported as well as reported crime. The largest discrepancy between the BCS figures and those of the police will be for poorly reported crimes such as vandalism. The BCS count of *unreported* crime, however, is not simply a count of crimes 'not worth worrying about'. Many unreported incidents are judged by their victims to be serious (Section 2).

CRIMINAL STATISTICS ADJUSTMENTS

The following provides details of offences recorded by the police which can be compared with BCS offences and the adjustments to the police figures which enable this.

Offences recorded by the police

Various adjustments were made to the *Criminal Statistics* (CS) categories of offences recorded by the police. These take account, for instance, of the fact that crimes against people under 16 appear in police counts but are not covered by the survey. These adjustments were largely the same as those made in previous sweeps. The adjustments for 1999 crime figures were decided on the basis of information sent by police forces in England and Wales.

The *Criminal Statistics* (CS) classification numbers are shown below in brackets after each relevant offence group. British Transport Police (BTP) keep their own crime statistics, though crimes for which there were prosecutions, and very serious crimes, tend to be included in the statistics maintained by local police forces. BTP offences, which are not cleared up, are added to those recorded by the police, where appropriate. The recorded crime figures have been adjusted to allow for recent changes in counting rules in order to preserve continuity. The figures quoted are calculated under the old counting rules for the purposes of making comparisons over time.

1. VANDALISM

Survey categories

- Arson
- Criminal damage to motor vehicles, £20 or under
- Criminal damage to motor vehicles, over £20
- Criminal damage to the home, £20 or under
- Criminal damage to the home, over £20

Criminal Statistics

- Arson (56)
- Other indictable offences of criminal damage:
 - Criminal damage to a dwelling (58A & 58E)
 - Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (58B & 58F)
 - Criminal damage to a vehicle (58C & 58G)
 - Other criminal damage (58D & 58H)

(Categories 58E, F, G & H refer to racially aggravated offences)

Adjustments

- i. The 4,833 cases of vandalism which were recorded by BTP, but not cleared up, were added to the CS total of 922,237 to make 927,070.
- ii. This figure of 927,070 is reduced by 50% to 463,535 to exclude the estimated number of offences committed against institutions and organisations.

2. THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (excluding attempts)

Survey categories

- Theft from car/van
- Theft from motorbike, motor-scooter or moped

Criminal Statistics

- Theft from vehicle (45)

Adjustments

- i. The CS total of 671,332 is reduced by 106,318 – the number of nil value thefts from motor vehicles – to exclude attempted thefts, yielding 565,014.
- ii. The 5,334 cases of theft from a motor vehicle which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the adjusted CS total of 565,014 to give 570,348. This figure is then reduced by 845 – the estimated number of BTP nil value thefts from motor vehicles – to give a total of 569,503.
- iii. This total of 569,503 is then reduced by 12% to 501,163 to exclude thefts from commercial vehicles.

Notes

- i. No adjustment has been made to allow for the very small proportion of thefts from bikes etc. recorded under the CS classification 45.11.

3. THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (excluding attempts)

Survey categories

- Theft of car/van
- Theft of motorbike, motor-scooter or moped

Criminal Statistics

- Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48)
- Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2)

Adjustments

- i. The CS total of 380,958 is reduced by 71,392 - the number of attempted thefts of motor vehicles - yielding 309,566.
- ii. The 2,152 cases of theft of a motor vehicle recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the adjusted CS total of 309,566 to give a figure of 311,718. This figure is then reduced by 403 - the estimated number of BTP attempted thefts of motor vehicles - giving a total of 311,315.
- iii. The figure of 311,315 yielded by ii, is reduced by 10% to exclude thefts of commercial vehicles, which would not have been covered by the BCS. The adjusted total is 280,184.

4. ATTEMPTED THEFTS OF AND FROM MOTOR VEHICLES**Survey categories**

- Attempted theft of/from car/van
- Attempted theft of/from motorbike, motor-scooter or moped

Criminal Statistics

- Theft from vehicle (45)
- Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48)
- Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2)

Adjustments

- i. The CS number of nil value thefts *from* motor vehicles, 106,318 consists mainly of attempted thefts. This figure is reduced by 12% to exclude attempted thefts *from* commercial vehicles, to 93,560. The estimated number of BTP nil value thefts *from* motor vehicles, 845, is also reduced by 12%, to 743. The adjusted CS and BTP figures are added to give a total of 94,303 attempted thefts *from* motor vehicles.
- ii. The CS number of attempted thefts *of* motor vehicles, 71,392, is reduced by 10% to exclude attempted thefts *of* commercial vehicles, to 64,252. The estimated number of BTP attempted thefts *of* motor vehicles, 403, is also reduced by 10% to 363. The adjusted CS and BTP figures are added to give a total of 64,615, attempted thefts *of* motor vehicles.
- iii. The total number of attempted thefts from and of motor vehicles is 158,918.

5. BURGLARY IN A DWELLING**Survey categories**

- Burglary in a dwelling (with loss)
- Burglary in a dwelling (without loss)
- Attempted burglary

Criminal Statistics

- Burglary in a dwelling (28)
- Aggravated burglary in a dwelling (29)

Adjustments

None

Notes

- i. Comparisons are made on the basis of incidents with and without loss. In 1999, it is estimated that 26.5% of the total of CS burglaries were nil value thefts.

6. BICYCLE THEFT

Survey category

Theft of pedal cycle

Criminal Statistics

Theft of pedal cycle (44)

Adjustments

- i. Most police forces record incidents of bicycle theft by subsequently deleting or 'no crime-ing' the record if the bicycle is recovered. It is not known whether all forces follow this procedure in the same way. To the CS total of 127,143 is added 2,622 cases of bicycle theft recorded by BTP but not cleared up. This gives a total of 129,765 which is increased by 2% to include unauthorised takings recorded by the police and subsequently 'no-crimed' after the bicycle's recovery. The adjusted total is 132,361.

7. WOUNDING

Survey categories

Serious wounding

Other wounding

Serious wounding with sexual motive

Other wounding with sexual motive

Criminal Statistics

Wounding or other act endangering life (5)

Other wounding (8a & 8d (racially aggravated))

Adjustments

- i. The 967 cases of wounding which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 234,464 to make 235,431.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the figure of 235,431 has been reduced by 15% to make 200,116.

8. ROBBERY

Survey categories

Robbery

Attempted robbery

Criminal Statistics

Robbery (34a & b)

Adjustments

- i. The 1,714 cases of robbery which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 78,078 to make 79,792.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the figure of 79,792 has been reduced by 20% to 63,834.

Notes

- i. Attempted robberies are classified by the police as robberies. Some robberies recorded by the police involve business property (i.e. post offices, banks, and off-licences). An unknown proportion of these will have more than one victim. As the BCS assumes that there can be only one victim per robbery, there will be a slight tendency for the survey to overestimate the number of robberies – minimal enough to be disregarded.

9. THEFT FROM THE PERSON**Survey categories**

- Snatch theft from the person
- Other theft from the person
- Attempted theft from the person

Criminal Statistics

- Theft from the person of another (39)

Adjustments

- i. The 10,044 cases of theft from the person which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared are added to the CS total of 71,669 to make 81,713.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the total of 81,713 has been reduced by 9% to 74,359.

Notes

- i. Attempted thefts from the person are classified by the police as thefts from the person.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE COMPARABLE SUBSET

In April 1998, assaults (including common assaults and assaults on a constable) and vehicle interference and tampering were added to the list of notifiable offences which are recorded by the police. As both of these offences can be compared with BCS figures, these are added to the new sub-set. This new comparable sub-set is used in the comparison of 1999 BCS and police figures in Section 2 (see Table 2.1), but is not used in the trends analysis (Section 3).

Vehicle interference and tampering

This category has been added to Attempted thefts of or from vehicles.

Adjustments

- i. The 1,515 cases of vehicle interference and tampering which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared are added to the CS total of 54,971 to make 56,486.
- ii. This figure is reduced by 12% to adjust for offences against commercial vehicles to make 49,708.

Assault

Common assault is a new separate category, but it is also added to the new BCS comparable violence category.

Survey categories

Common assault (13)

Attempted assault (21)

Criminal Statistics

Assault on a constable (104)

Common assault (105a)

Racially-aggravated common assault (105b)

Adjustments

- i. The 2,114 cases of common assault which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 188,065 to make 190,179.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the figure of 190,179 has been reduced by 20% to make 152,143.
- iii. The 10 cases of assault on a constable which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 25,255 to make 25,265.
- iv. The adjusted number of 152,143 common assaults are added to the 25,265 assaults on constables to make a total of 177,408 (No adjustment is required for assaults on constables).

Glossary of terms

ACORN – ('A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods') classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN was developed by CACI Ltd., through the use of cluster analysis of variables from the 1991 Census. ACORN is most useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. Although there are a total of 54 ACORN types, the 17-group breakdown has been used in this report (the 17 groups are constructed from the 54 types). Data from the 1998 and 2000 British Crime Surveys (BCS) has been combined, to ensure a large enough sample size to provide reliable results. (Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS.)

Acquaintance violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It comprises woundings and common assault in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.

Asian respondents are those who describe themselves as Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi.

Assaults – These offences include the offences of common assault and wounding (See also **common assault** and **wounding**)

Attempted burglary – Burglary where there is clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to the property, but was unsuccessful.

Attempted vehicle theft – See **vehicle-related thefts**.

Bicycle theft – Thefts of pedal cycles. This offence category does not include all bicycle thefts picked up by the survey, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary) and are therefore classified as such. The survey covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any member of the household.

Black respondents are those who describe themselves as Black-African, Black-Caribbean or Black-Other.

Burglary – The BCS definition of burglary is based on the broad legal definition which involves any incident in which someone enters, or tries to enter, a dwelling as a trespasser with the intention of committing theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. Burglary does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false-pretences (e.g., impersonating a meter reader). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g., hallways) are also included if usually secure. See also: **attempted burglary**, **burglary-no loss**, **burglary with entry**, **burglary with loss** and **theft in a dwelling**.

Burglary-no loss – Police recorded crime figures do not distinguish between burglary with entry and attempted burglary, only between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss. Burglary-no loss includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. This is used when comparing the BCS and recorded crime figures.

Burglary with entry – This comprises burglary where a house was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss – This comprises burglary where a house was successfully entered and something was stolen.

Common assault – An assault (or attempted assault) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but the incident did not result in an injury, or the injury was negligible (e.g. a black eye). The victim is unlikely to have required any medical attention (See also **assaults**).

Old comparable subset of crimes – 62% of BCS offences fall into categories which have been used before the 2000 BCS to make comparisons with police figures. This excludes common assaults, ‘other household theft’ and ‘other theft of personal property’. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the BCS (see Appendix C for details). Comparable crime is used to compare trends in police and BCS figures, and to identify the amount of crime that is not reported to the police and not recorded by them.

New comparable subset of crimes – 77% of BCS offences fall into categories which can be compared with crimes recorded under the **new police coverage of offences** adopted in 1998. The new comparable subset includes common assaults (and assaults on a constable), and vehicle interference and tampering. As with the old comparable subset, the new comparable subset is used to observe differences between police and BCS figures. However, it cannot be used to compare trends prior to 1999. Details regarding adjustments to the new comparable subset are provided at the end of Appendix C.

Old comparable violence – This comprises wounding and robbery – the violent crimes measured by the BCS which used to be compared with violent crimes recorded by the old police recording practices. See also: **old and new comparable subsets of crime**, and **old comparable violence**.

New comparable violence – This comprises wounding, robbery and common assault – The violent crimes measured by the BCS which can now be compared with violent crimes recorded by the police.

Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) – The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI, whereby the interviewer enters responses to the questionnaire into a laptop computer. The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and routing instructions. CAPI also facilitates a self-completion component within the BCS, for respondents under 60, to answer questions on self-reported drug use and other topics. The laptop enables respondents to read questions on the computer screen and key in their own responses in private. The results of the self-completion components are not covered in this Bulletin.

Criminal damage – This is mainly referred to in the report as vandalism. See also: **vandalism**; **vandalism to other property** and **vehicle vandalism**.

Domestic violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It includes all violent incidents, excluding mugging, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives. A computerised self-completion component was included in the 1996 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). See also: **acquaintance violence**, **mugging** and **stranger violence**.

Government Office Region (GOR) – An administrative division of England and Wales. *Merseyside* has now been merged into the *North West* region. See also **ONS harmonised variables**.

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

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

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

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

Inner-city areas – Inner-city areas are defined at the sampling stage as those postcode sectors with high population density, low owner-occupation and low proportions of professionals. See Hales and Stratford (1999), for full details.

Mugging – This is a popular rather than a legal term, comprising robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person. It is a component of the BCS **violence typology**.

Notifiable offences – Currently used to refer to offences which before 1979 were called 'indictable' and then (briefly) 'serious' offences. They relate to the type of offences recorded by the police, the totals of which are notified to the Home Office. Figures are published in *Criminal Statistics for England and Wales* and in periodic Statistical Bulletins.

ONS harmonised variables – The Office for National Statistics have constructed core variables and variable categories which are becoming widely used in Government Surveys to provide comparable measures. The harmonised variables used in this Bulletin are:

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

Employment status:

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

GOR – Government Office Regions: North East; North West (Merseyside has now been merged into the North West region); Yorkshire and Humberside; East Midlands; West Midlands; Eastern; London; South East; South West and Wales.

Household accommodation type:

- House or bungalow – detached, semi-detached, terraced
- Flat or maisonette – purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes

Living arrangements:

- Persons living as a couple – married, cohabiting (includes same-sex couples)
- Persons not living as a couple – single, separated, divorced and widowed

Tenure:

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

Other household theft – A survey category of household offences covering thefts and attempted thefts from domestic garages, outhouses, sheds, etc. not directly linked to the dwelling, as well as thefts from both inside and outside a dwelling (excluding thefts of milk bottles from the doorstep). The notifiable offence of ‘theft in a dwelling’ is included here. In principle, it could be in the comparable sub-set, but the number of offences is small and therefore changes over time are unreliable. This category is not in the **old comparable sub-sets** or **new comparable sub-set**.

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

Personal crimes – For personal offences, the respondent reports only on his/her experience to the BCS. This applies to the following offence categories: assault, sexual offences, robbery, theft from the person, and other personal theft. Information is also collected on threats, though not reported in this Bulletin as few meet the criteria of an offence.

Physical disorder – Two measures are used here. The first is based on the interviewer’s perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. The interviewer had to say whether each of these problems was a very or fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common were set to 1 and not very and not at all to 0. A scale was then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranged from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The second measure is based on the respondent’s perception of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) teenagers hanging around, and (c) people dealing or using drugs. The respondent had to say whether each of these was a very big problem, fairly big problem, not a very big problem or not a problem at all. For each, very big problem was set to 2, fairly big problem set to 1 and not very

and not at all to 0. A scale was then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranged from 0 to 6, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 4, 5 or 6.

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

Prevalence rates – Prevalence rates show the percentage of the BCS sample who were victim of an offence once or more during the year. Unlike **incidence rates** they take no account of the number of victimisations experienced.

Recall period – This is the time between the 1st of January 1999 and the date of the interview when respondents were asked to report offences they had experienced. Most interviews took place between January and April 2000. Only those incidents occurring in 1999 are counted when computing annual rates. Other information about victims and their experiences is usually derived from incidents occurring during the full recall period.

Recorded crime – This covers **notifiable offences** which the police are required to notify to the Home Office.

Repeat victimisation – The recurrence of the same crime against those who have already been victimised once in the year.

Robbery – Incidents in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft.

Rural areas – Defined as those areas falling into Acorn types 1 to 9 and 27 (CACI Ltd.). See also: **Acorn**.

Sample – The main 2000 BCS sample of 19,411 respondents is, after appropriate weighting, both a representative cross-section of private households in England and Wales and of individuals aged 16 and over living in private households. There is also an additional ethnic boost of 3,874 respondents used for increasing the precision of analyses by ethnic group. See Appendix B for full details of the sample design.

Sampling error – A sample is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn. As such, the sample may produce estimates which differ from the figures which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of the error – which depends on the sample size, the size of the estimate, and the design of the survey – can be computed and shown as confidence ranges. The error is also taken into account in tests of **statistical significance**.

Sexual offences – Includes the offences of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault. Due to the small number of these picked up by the survey, results are too unreliable to report here. The 1994 BCS, however, included a computerised self-completion component on sexual victimisation to improve estimates (Percy and Mayhew, 1997). Woundings with a sexual nature are included in **wounding**.

Snatch theft – Incidents where force was used just to snatch property away from the victim and the victim was clearly aware of the incident as it happened. See also **stealth thefts**, which are thefts from the person in which the victim was *not* aware of what was happening.

Statistical significance – Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, changes in estimates between sweeps of the survey may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which changes are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this Bulletin a 10% significance level has been applied (the level at which there is a one in ten chance of incorrectly identifying a difference solely due to chance variation).

Stealth theft – Thefts from the person which involve no force and where – unlike **snatch theft** – the victim was not aware of what was happening at the time.

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

Theft from the person – Theft (including attempts) of a purse, wallet, cash etc. directly from the person of the victim, but *without* physical force or the threat of it. One component of theft from the person is **snatch theft** which is added to **robbery** to create a category of **mugging**. The other is **stealth theft**.

Theft from vehicles – See **vehicle-related thefts**.

Theft of vehicles – See **vehicle-related thefts**.

Theft in a dwelling – This includes thefts committed *inside* a home by someone who is entitled to be there at the time of the offence (e.g., party guests, workmen, etc.). They are included in **other household thefts**.

Urban areas – All **ACORN** types which are not classified as **rural** or **inner-city**.

Vandalism – Intentional and malicious damage to household property and vehicles – equated to the **recorded crime** category of criminal damage. Vandalism ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g., letting down car tyres) are not included. Where criminal damage occurs in combination with burglary, robbery or violent offences, these take precedence in offence coding.

Vandalism to other property – This comprises vandalism to the home and other property. It involves intentional or malicious damage to, for example, doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs etc. It also includes incidents involving arson. See also: **vehicle vandalism** and **vandalism**.

Vehicles – Unless otherwise specified, these cover cars, vans, motorcycles, scooters, mopeds etc. either owned or regularly used by anyone in the household, including company cars. Vehicles used solely for business purposes such as lorries or work vans, however, are excluded. See also **vehicle-related thefts** below.

Vehicle-related thefts – These cover three categories: (i) theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered), (ii) theft from motor vehicles (i.e. theft of parts, accessories and contents) and (iii) attempts. No distinction is made between attempted thefts *of* and attempted thefts *from* motor vehicles, as it is often very

difficult to ascertain the offender's intention. If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft *of* a motor vehicle.

Vehicle interference and tampering – This includes cases 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 1981 Criminal Attempts Act, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence.) Vehicle interference therefore covers cases where there is, or may be, evidence of intent to commit TWOC).

Vehicle vandalism – This includes 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**.

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

Weighted data – Raw data from the survey is adjusted in various ways at the data processing stage to correct for imbalances introduced in sampling and by the design of the interview (See Appendix B for further details).

Wounding – A category of comparable violence that includes serious 'wounding' involving intentionally inflicted severe injuries, and 'other wounding', involving less serious injury or severe injuries inflicted unintentionally.

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Home Office Statistical Bulletins issued in the past year

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12/99	28.05.99	Motoring Offences, England and Wales, 1997.
13/99	28.07.99	Review of Comparative Costs and Performance of Privately and Publicly Operated Prisons, 1997-98.
14/99	26.08.99	Police Service Personnel, England and Wales, as at 31 March 1999.
15/99	08.09.99	Fire Statistics, United Kingdom 1998.
16/99	09.09.99	Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales 1998.
17/99	17.09.99	Police Complaints and Discipline, England and Wales, April 1998 to March 1999.
18/99	12.10.99	Recorded Crime Statistics, England and Wales, April 1998 to March 1999.
19/99	25.10.99	Reconvictions of Offenders Sentenced or Discharged from Prison in 1995, England and Wales.
20/99	04.11.99	Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom, First Half 1999.
21/99	11.11.99	Cautions, Court Proceedings and Sentencing, England and Wales, 1998.
22/99	26.11.99	Firearm Certificate Statistics (Including key statistics of firearms offences) England and Wales, 1998.
1/00	18.01.00	Recorded Crime Statistics, England and Wales, October 1998 to September 1999.
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6/00	23.03.00	Review of Comparative Costs and Performance of Privately and Publicly Operated Prisons 1998-99.
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11/00	22.06.00	Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom, Second Half and Year 1999.
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13/00	09.08.00	Fire Statistics Estimates, United Kingdom 1999.
14/00	21.09.00	Police Complaints and Discipline, England and Wales, April 1999 to March 2000.
15/00	30.08.00	Police Service Personnel, England and Wales, as at 31 March 2000.