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Crime in England and Wales 2008/09

Volume 2

Explanatory notes and classifications

Edited by:

Kevin Smith and Jacqueline Hoare

July 2009

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Forthcoming publications

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

Copies of 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09' and other Home Office statistical bulletins are available from the Research Development Statistics Internet site: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html>

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

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1 Introduction

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

These crime statistics are published four times a year; a main annual volume with extensive headline figures and commentary and three quarterly updates which provide a summary of latest BCS and recorded crime statistics at the national level. Additionally, a number of supplementary volumes are produced, containing in-depth analysis of issues such as homicide, violent crime, and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Crime in England and Wales Volume 2 is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production of the crime statistics.

Previously, the contents of this volume were included in the main annual bulletin alongside the latest year's findings. From 2008/09 the technical information is provided separately to make the crime figures more accessible to users. Volume 1 covers the levels and trends in crime statistics, while Volume 2 provides the explanatory notes, hence technical details remain available to users, and in parts, have been expanded.

2 British Crime Survey (BCS)

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY

The BCS is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police and criminal justice system, and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. Until recently the BCS did not cover crime against children, but, since January 2009, those aged 10 to 15 have been included in the survey. The first results for this age-group will be published in spring 2010. The main report for 2008/09 (Volume 1) is based on adults aged 16 or over.

The key aim of the BCS is to provide robust trends for the crime types it covers; the survey does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime and has notable exclusions. The BCS excludes fraud (see below) and those crimes termed as victimless (e.g. possession of drugs). As a survey that asks people whether they have experienced victimisation, murders cannot be included. The BCS does not cover the population living in group residences (e.g. care homes or halls of residence) or other institutions, nor does it cover crime against commercial or public sector bodies (work is currently underway to scope a possible new survey of business crime).

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

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

BCS estimates for 2008/09 are based on face-to-face interviews with 46,286 respondents. The BCS has a high response rate (76%) and the survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. Being based on a sample survey, BCS estimates are subject to a margin of error. Any changes in BCS estimates over time are described as differences only when they are statistically significant (see Section 8).

2.2 BCS METHODOLOGY

The BCS was first conducted in 1982 and ran at roughly two-year intervals until 2001¹, when it became a continuous survey. Although there have been changes to the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences, have been held constant throughout the life of the BCS.

The sample is designed to be representative of the population of households in England and Wales and adults aged 16 or over living in those households. As such, it is possible to use the small users' Postcode Address File (PAF) which is widely accepted as the best general population sampling frame in England and Wales². As mentioned earlier, the BCS does not cover the population living in group residences or other institutions, although excluding the

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

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

minority of the population that lives in such establishments is thought to have little effect on BCS estimates (see Pickering *et al.*, 2007).

Over the whole year the aim is to achieve 46,000 interviews with adults aged 16 or over as part of the 'core' sample. Additionally, the survey aims to achieve interviews with 2,000 young people aged 16 to 24 through screening at the core addresses (the 'young adult' boost³). Since January 2009 the survey also includes children aged 10 to 15, again through screening at sampled addresses. In 2004/05 the sample was re-designed to achieve 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area (PFA), involving substantial over-sampling in smaller PFAs.

As well as stratifying disproportionately by PFA, the sample is stratified by other socio-demographic variables in order to maximise the precision of estimates. The stratifiers used in 2008/09 (as for previous surveys) were population density and the proportion of household reference persons in non-manual occupations. For further details of sample stratification and clustering see Bolling *et al.* (2008).

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

Once the household is determined to be eligible, individuals aged 16 or over in the selected household are listed by alphabetical order of first name and then one is randomly selected for interview. No substitutes are permitted. Any 16 to 24 year olds (in addition to those who have may have responded to the core interview) may then also be randomly selected for interview (for more information see Bolling *at al.*, 2008). Also, a child aged 10 to 15 may be selected to take part – only one child is sampled from each household. In households with just one child aged 10 to 15, the child is sampled at 65 per cent of addresses, and in households with two or more eligible children, one child is randomly selected at all addresses.

2.3 BCS INTERVIEWING

BCS estimates are produced from face-to-face interviews carried out using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) where interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on laptop computers. The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI. CAPI allows plausibility and consistency checks to be incorporated into the survey to improve data quality.

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

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

The self-completion modules are at the end of the face-to-face interview and cover topics such as illicit drug use, domestic violence and sexual assault, and handling stolen goods. Respondents can complete these modules on the interviewer's laptop by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) and, when finished, their answers are hidden. The use of

³ The 'young adult' boost was included to enable adequate measurement of a government Public Service Agreement target relating to illicit drug use among young people. The boost is no longer being carried out from March 2009.

self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on illicit behaviour due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey.

Self-completion modules were first included in the 1996 and 2001 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004) and a similar module has been included since the 2004/05 BCS. The self-completion module on illicit drug use was introduced in 1996 and comparable questions have been asked since then.

2.4 TIME PERIODS COVERED

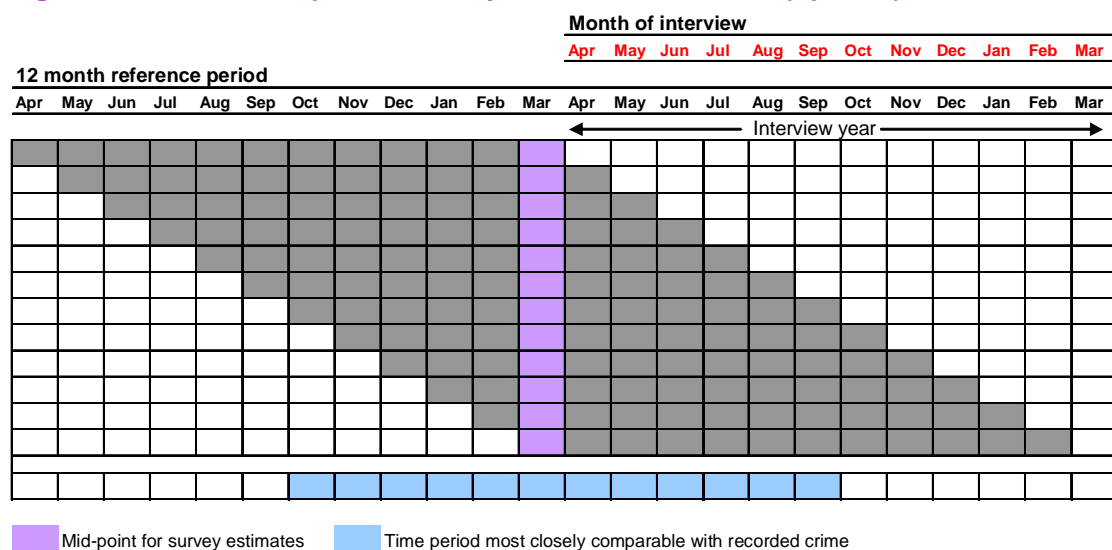
Prior to 2001/02, BCS respondents were asked about their crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year but when the BCS changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Since becoming a continuous survey, BCS estimates are published based on interviews carried out over a 12-month period; for example, for the annual publication of the 2008/09 BCS, estimates are derived from interviews carried out between April 2008 and March 2009 (BCS year ending March 2009).

As respondents are now interviewed on a rolling basis over the course of a year, the time period covered by the data is not directly comparable with any calendar year. Therefore tables and figures including trends over time refer to the year in which the crime took place for interviews prior to 2001/02 (e.g. 1995), and the year in which the survey interviews took place for interviews since 2001/02 (e.g. 2008/09). Other questions on the BCS (e.g. attitudes to policing, confidence in the CJS) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes, and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed (e.g. 1996, 2008/09).

Since respondents are interviewed at different times within each month, they are asked about experiences of crime in the current month plus the 12 months prior. Crimes experienced in the 'interview' month are excluded from the 12-month reference period used for analysis. Hence for the 2008/09 BCS, the reference period includes incidents experienced by respondents between April 2007 and February 2009. The centre point of the period for reporting crime is March 2008, the only month to be included in all respondents' reference periods (Figure 1).

Averaging over the moving reference period of the BCS generates estimates that are most closely comparable with annual police recorded crime figures to the end of the September six months earlier. For example, BCS figures from the 2008/09 survey are most closely comparable with police recorded crime statistics for the 12 months to the end of September 2008.

Figure 1 The reference period in one year of BCS interviews (Apr-Mar)



2.5 BCS MEASURES OF CRIME

The BCS provides estimates of the levels of household and personal crimes⁴ experienced by respondents. Household crimes are considered to be all vehicle- and property-related crimes and respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. An example of a household crime would be criminal damage to a car (the owner could be anyone in the household). Personal crimes relate to all crimes against the individual and only relate to the respondents' own personal experience (not that of other people in the household). An example of a personal crime would be an assault. See Section 5 for a full definition of crime types.

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

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

The restriction to the first five incidents in a series has been applied since the BCS began in order to ensure that estimates are not affected by a very small number of respondents who report an extremely high number of incidents and which are highly variable between survey years. The inclusion of such victims could undermine the ability to measure trends consistently. This sort of capping is consistent with other surveys of crime and other topics. Prevalence rates are not affected by this procedure (see Bolling *et al.*, 2008 for information on the measurement of series data).

Based on information collected and processed from the victim forms, specially trained coders determine whether what has been reported constitutes a crime, and if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime. The full list of BCS offence codes is shown in Table 2a; only those designated as 'valid' are included in standard BCS analysis. BCS crime statistics are produced from these data and presented as incidence or prevalence rates, based on incidents or victims (see below).

Incidence rate

"The number of crimes experienced per household or adult"

The number of incidents experienced by respondents is aggregated together for each crime type – based on separate victim forms, or on the number of incidents in a 'series' (capped at 5). Aggregating these incidents, and combining with household and personal data, produces a number of incidents which can be presented as a rate per 10,000 households (for household crimes) or as a rate per 10,000 adults (for personal crimes).

The overall **number of incidents** can be estimated for England and Wales based on the incidence rate and using population estimates for the household and adult populations. In 2008/09 incidence rates for household crimes were multiplied by 23,848,680 households and,

⁴ Published BCS data for 'all personal crime' excludes sexual offences (except for 'wounding with a sexual motive') as the number of sexual offences picked up by the survey is too small to give reliable estimates.

for personal crimes, by 44,265,687 adults to provide the number of incidents for each crime type⁵. Published estimates are rounded to the nearest 10,000 incidents.

Prevalence rate

“The proportion of the population who were victims of an offence once or more”

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

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

Multiple and repeat victimisation

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

Repeat victimisation (a subset of multiple victimisation) is defined as being a victim of the same type of crime more than once in the last 12 months (e.g. vandalism). Levels of repeat victimisation account for differences between incidence rates and prevalence rates. For instance, high levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in relatively lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rates.

2.6 THE BCS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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

The Home Office commissioned independent expert advice on the feasibility of extending the BCS to cover these groups (Pickering *et al.*, 2008). This work concluded that extending the BCS to under 16s is feasible, and should be done by interviewing children in households selected to take part in the main survey. However, extending the BCS to cover those living in communal establishments would not be viable, and would require instead the development of a separate survey with a full feasibility study.

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

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

⁵ For the 2008/09 BCS, figures are mid-2006 based projections for the 2008 adult population in England and Wales from ONS; household figures are forecast from these mid-2006 based projections for the 2008 population.

Children are sampled at the core address that has been selected for the main survey. This is the most cost-effective way to extend the BCS and to obtain nationally representative estimates of children's victimisation.

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

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

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

3 Police recorded crime

3.1 INTRODUCTION TO POLICE RECORDED CRIME

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

Recorded crime figures are an important indicator of police workload, can be used for local crime pattern analysis and provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes (in particular, homicide, which is not covered by the BCS). However, there are also categories of crime (such as drug possession offences) whose numbers are heavily influenced by the extent to which police proactively investigate.

However, they do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or incidents that the police decide not to record. If there is credible evidence to the contrary, it is estimated that around 42 per cent of all BCS crime is reported to the police although this varies for individual offence types.

3.2 RECORDING PRACTICES

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

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

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

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

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

Police recorded crime statistics, like any administrative data, will be affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the

allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. Therefore, when examining trends in police recorded crime data presented in Volume 1, the commentary should be read which will explain any caveats associated with the data.

The Audit Commission published its latest assessment of police data quality in September 2007 (Audit Commission, 2007) which commented that, "The police have continued to make significant improvements in crime recording performance and now have better quality crime data than ever before". Thirty-eight police authorities and forces (88% of the 43 forces⁶) were assessed as "good" or "excellent" for crime data quality, which demonstrates a substantial improvement from 12 in 2003/04 (28%). The remaining five forces were judged "fair" and since 2005/06 no police authority or force has "poor" crime data quality. However, since that assessment, inconsistencies in the way the police were recording offences of grievous bodily harm (GBH) have come to light. This is explained in the next section.

3.3 GBH OFFENCES

An example of where ongoing work on crime recording has raised an issue is for the offences of GBH. The quarterly Home Office statistical bulletins on crime issued during 2008/09 reported that some forces were finding that a clarification in the Home Office Counting Rules for GBH with intent, issued in April 2008, was having some significant upward impact in their recording of these crimes. This clarification does not affect the overall count of police recorded violence against the person.

The NCRSG, including force crime registrars, had, agreed the clarification was necessary as there was some scope for misinterpretation of the previous guidance. Some forces were recording on the basis of the injury inflicted rather than the intent. Thus the clarification had the effect that in some forces offences are now being classified as GBH with intent which would have been previously categorised as a less serious violent offence against the person. In some instances, offences were being classified solely on levels of injury sustained by the victim and not intent and in other cases there was a lack of a clear enough appreciation as to how the injuries should be categorised. The principal aim of the clarification was to ensure that offences of GBH with intent were recorded on the basis of evidence of *clear* intent to commit serious injury, irrespective of the degree of injury sustained.

A great deal of work has been undertaken in forces to implement this clarification, leading to ongoing revisions of figures during 2008/09. Following advice in January 2009 from the National Statistician, a decision was made to not report the provisional figures available for GBH with intent, but instead to provide a full breakdown in this annual bulletin. A breakdown at police force level of changes in the recording of GBH with intent and violence with injury overall are shown in Table 3a in this Section (figures for all violent crime categories are shown in Table 2.04 in Volume 1). Feedback from forces has indicated that a large part of the overall increase in GBH with intent was due to forces' implementation of the clarification and should not simply be interpreted as a rise in serious violent crime.

The Home Office then commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to conduct an independent quality assurance inspection that would focus on the recording of most serious violence in all forces in England and Wales. This inspection is still ongoing and it is expected that HMIC will publish its report later in 2009.

Although the results of the inspection may give rise to further revisions of force data, in the interests of transparency comparative latest data for 2007/08 and 2008/09 is presented in Table 3a. The table also contains other violence with injury offences for those years. The overall increase for GBH with intent includes the effects of the clarification and any other steps forces have taken to improve compliance of their recording with Home Office Counting Rules.

⁶ Excludes the British Transport Police

Table 3a Offences of violence against the person with injury, showing figures for GBH with intent

Figures for GBH with intent are not comparable between 2007/08 and 2008/09 due to a clarification in Counting Rules. For 2008/09, GBH with intent figures are also subject to revision once an on-going HMIC quality assurance inspection is completed.

Numbers Police force area	2007/08			Recorded Crime 2008/09		
	GBH with intent ¹	Other violence with injury	Total violence with injury	GBH with intent ^{1,2}	Other violence with injury	Total violence with injury
Avon & Somerset	339	12,722	13,061	525	10,967	11,492
Bedfordshire	182	4,264	4,446	192	3,893	4,085
British Transport Police	64	2,498	2,562	72	2,457	2,529
Cambridgeshire	174	4,349	4,523	387	4,305	4,692
Cheshire	210	7,466	7,676	213	6,712	6,925
Cleveland	206	5,262	5,468	128	4,794	4,922
Cumbria	57	3,779	3,836	98	3,172	3,270
Derbyshire	161	10,772	10,933	297	8,437	8,734
Devon & Cornwall	286	11,960	12,246	462	10,626	11,088
Dorset	81	4,611	4,692	127	4,883	5,010
Durham	214	4,561	4,775	215	3,464	3,679
Dyfed-Powys	87	2,793	2,880	152	2,520	2,672
Essex	303	10,558	10,861	514	9,114	9,628
Gloucestershire	96	3,638	3,734	80	3,391	3,471
Greater Manchester	1,447	22,411	23,858	1,816	20,591	22,407
Gwent	355	5,658	6,013	281	5,544	5,825
Hampshire	256	15,137	15,393	417	14,735	15,152
Hertfordshire	183	5,313	5,496	153	4,810	4,963
Humberside	248	8,841	9,089	363	8,364	8,727
Kent	455	12,266	12,721	682	11,279	11,961
Lancashire	528	12,700	13,228	834	11,271	12,105
Leicestershire	329	8,288	8,617	333	7,503	7,836
Lincolnshire	156	3,802	3,958	205	3,651	3,856
London, City of	13	338	351	28	315	343
Merseyside	886	8,912	9,798	881	7,333	8,214
Metropolitan Police ³	2,100	71,202	73,302	6,491	65,068	71,559
Norfolk	146	4,431	4,577	142	3,631	3,773
Northamptonshire	232	5,186	5,418	245	4,612	4,857
Northumbria	336	10,697	11,033	373	10,115	10,488
North Wales	135	4,069	4,204	196	4,119	4,315
North Yorkshire	139	4,345	4,484	230	4,218	4,448
Nottinghamshire	241	10,744	10,985	418	11,396	11,814
South Wales	884	9,558	10,442	772	9,332	10,104
South Yorkshire	352	14,347	14,699	596	12,047	12,643
Staffordshire	68	9,663	9,731	224	9,509	9,733
Suffolk	76	3,826	3,902	160	3,848	4,008
Surrey	107	5,021	5,128	93	4,493	4,586
Sussex	138	9,724	9,862	260	8,095	8,355
Thames Valley	236	13,944	14,180	271	14,276	14,547
Warwickshire	117	3,629	3,746	153	2,891	3,044
West Mercia	173	8,365	8,538	429	7,293	7,722
West Midlands	1,350	31,866	33,216	1,452	28,123	29,575
West Yorkshire	882	19,342	20,224	850	17,353	18,203
Wiltshire	94	4,384	4,478	105	3,692	3,797
England and Wales	15,122	437,242	452,364	22,915	398,242	421,157

1. Figures for 2007/08 relate to crime code 5, which contains a small proportion of offences of using a substance/object to endanger life (now code 5B) and possession of items to endanger life (now code 5C). For 2008/09 this code is split into new codes 5A, 5B and 5C.

2. Includes 22,187 offences of inflicting GBH with intent (5A), 460 offences of using a substance or object to endanger life (5B) and 268 offences of possession of items to endanger (5C).

3. The Metropolitan Police Service are conducting a review of most serious violence for Quarter 1 of 2008/09 which may lead to further revisions for this force.

Although there has clearly been an effect of the clarification, it is not consistent between forces and therefore it has not been possible to make a definitive assessment of the effects of the clarification. Even within forces the recording of GBH with intent prior to the clarification could be inconsistent (i.e. not allowing an overall assessment how these offences would have been recorded within a force prior to the clarification in the rules). Feedback from forces has indicated that a large part of the overall increase in GBH with intent was due to forces' implementation of the clarification and should not simply be interpreted as a rise in serious violent crime.

The independent HMIC quality assurance inspection has not yet been completed. Home Office Statisticians have been aware of extensive work taking place in forces to move local recording practice into line with Home Office Counting Rules but cannot pre-judge the outcome of the HMIC inspection. In Table 2.04 of the annual bulletin some lines are given a grey shading to indicate categories where we do not consider figures for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are comparable and where the results of the HMIC inspection work may potentially lead to further revisions.

3.4 DETECTIONS

Detected crimes are those that have been 'cleared up' by the police. Not every case where the police know, or think they know, who committed a crime can be counted as a detection and some crimes are counted as detected when the victim might view the case as far from solved. For any crime to be counted as detected, sufficient evidence must be available to claim a detection and all of the conditions below must be met:

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

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

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

Sanction detections

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

The sanction detections are:

- **Being charged or summonsed**

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

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

An offence is deemed to be detected if an offender has been cautioned by the police or given a reprimand or warning under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. A caution may be given by, or on the instructions of, a senior police officer when an offender admits guilt, where there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction, where the offender consents, or where it does not seem in the public interest to instigate criminal

proceedings. Guidance on administering cautions was published in 2005 and later revised in 2008. The guidance can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/home-office-circulars/circulars-2008/016-2008/>

- **Having an offence taken into consideration**

An offence is deemed to be detected if the offender admits the crime and asks for it to be taken into consideration by the court.

- **Receiving a penalty notice for disorder**

An offence is deemed to be detected if the police issue a penalty notice for disorder. Such a notice must be issued in accordance with any operational guidance to the police (e.g. Police Operational Guidance on Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued by the Home Office in March 2005). A detection is counted if the penalty notice is not contested, is contested but the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) proceeds with the case, or, in discontinued cases, the dedicated decision maker reviews the case and stands by the original decision.

The use of PNDs for some notifiable offences was taken up across all forces in 2004/05. By 2007/08 PNDs had contributed more than two percentage points to the increase in the sanction detection rate. However, any new detection method will, to some extent, displace existing detection methods.

With effect from 26 January 2009, it is now possible for a PND to be given for an offence of cannabis possession. Such PNDs have been counted as Cannabis Warnings for January to March 2009. This only applies to 2008/2009, with a system being put in place to separate the figures for 2009/10 onwards.

- **Receiving a warning for cannabis possession**

Prior to 16 January 2007 this was known as a 'Formal warning for cannabis possession'. From 1 April 2004 information on police formal warnings for cannabis possession started to be collected centrally as part of the information held (prior to this a pilot scheme was run in parts of London). Those aged 18 and over who are caught in simple possession of cannabis can be eligible for a police cannabis warning which would not involve an arrest. An offence is deemed to be cleared up if a cannabis warning has been issued in accordance with guidance from ACPO.

Non-sanction detections

'Non-sanction detections' comprise those where the offence was counted as cleared up but no further action was taken. From 1 April 2007 non-sanction detections can only be claimed for 'indictable-only' offences (those offences which must be tried in a Crown Court) where a Crown Prosecutor is satisfied there is enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction but has decided not to proceed with the case, or the case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

Prior to April 2007 there were various reasons for claiming non-sanction detections including:

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

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

Further information on counting detections can be found in section H of the general Counting Rules, found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/countgeneral09.pdf>

3.5 CHANGES TO DETECTION RATES

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

Home Office Counting Rules and the National Crime Recording Standard

The Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime changed from 1 April 1998. These brought new offences into the series with varying detection rates. It is estimated that the effect of the changes was to increase the overall detection rate from 28 to 29 per cent. For violence against the person, these changes led to a fall in the detection rate from 75 to 71 per cent, largely due to the inclusion of assaults without injury or minor injury which are harder to detect than other violent crimes.

Additional changes were implemented with effect from 1 April 1999. Any detection recorded required 'sufficient evidence to charge', an interview with the offender, and notification to the victim. In addition, detections obtained by the interview of a convicted prisoner ceased to count. The overall effect of the April 1999 change is estimated as a single percentage point decrease in detection rates (although the effect varied between crime types).

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

The Sexual Offences Act 2003

The classification and coverage of the offences included in the Sexual Offences group changed from 1 May 2004 due to the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This added a number of new offences and the definitions of other offences were broadened. Some of these 'new' offences would not necessarily have the same chance of being detected as other offences in their overall group. In police recorded crime, offences of indecent exposure have been retrospectively reclassified to sexual offences back to 2002/03 to aid comparisons over time.

The Fraud Act 2006

The Fraud Act 2006 came into force on 15 January 2007 and made changes to the way the police record offences of plastic card/cheque and online account fraud by recording on a per account basis as opposed to the previous 'per transaction' basis. On 1 April 2007 further changes were made, with the support of ACPO and the UK Cards Association), so that single points of contact were brought into each police force to allow financial institutions to report cases directly as opposed to having account holders report frauds. The aim of these changes has been to target resources towards those cases with a chance of a sanction detection resulting while reducing bureaucracy.

Youth Restorative Disposal (YRDs)

A YRD allows operational officers to dispose of low level crime and neighbourhood disorder that are not considered in the public interest to prosecute. From 2008/09 the disposal has been offered to young people aged 10 to 17 years inclusive by eight Police forces who are taking part on a pilot basis. Figures for YRDs in this pilot exercise have been submitted to the Home Office as non-sanction detections. However, this had a minimal effect on the overall detection rates.

3.6 SANCTION DETECTIONS AND OFFENCES BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

The count of offences brought to justice (OBTJ) was introduced by the Home Office in 2000 to measure the performance of the criminal justice system in England and Wales. This data is now published by the Ministry of Justice. An offence is considered to have been brought to justice when an offender has been cautioned, convicted or had the offence taken into consideration by the court. In addition penalty notices for three notifiable disorder offences and cannabis warnings are included following their introduction nationally during 2004 (more information on cannabis warnings is in Section 3.4 of this volume).

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

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

For more information see Criminal Statistics, 2007, England and Wales, Ministry of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm>

4 Comparison between the BCS and police recorded crime

4.1 COMPARABLE SUBSET OF CRIME

The BCS provides a measure of the level of crime committed against the population resident in households in England and Wales, whereas recorded crime is a measure of those crimes reported to the police (estimated by the BCS to be only 42% comparable crime) and then recorded by them. The BCS includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police, but is limited to crimes against adults resident in households, and also does not cover all crime types (see Section 2).

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

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

To compare the two series it is also necessary to take into account the interview recall periods used in the BCS. Since 2001/02, interviews have been conducted continuously with respondents being asked about crimes they have experienced in the 12 months prior to the interview. This means the incident recall period for the 2008/09 data is centred around March 2008 and that the latest BCS estimates are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures for the 12 months up to the end of September 2008 (see Section 2).

Table 4a Comparable subset of crimes

BCS category	Recorded crime offence included
<u>Vehicle thefts</u>	37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking
	48 Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle
	45 Theft from a vehicle
	126 Vehicle interference and tampering
<u>Burglary</u>	28 Burglary in a dwelling
	29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling
<u>Bicycle theft</u>	44 Theft or unauthorised taking of pedal cycle
<u>Theft from person</u>	39 Theft from the person
<u>Vandalism</u>	56 Arson ⁷
	56A Arson endangering life ⁷
	56B Arson not endangering life ⁷
	58A Criminal damage to a dwelling
	58B Criminal damage to building other than a dwelling
	58C Criminal damage to a vehicle
	58D Other criminal damage
	58E Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling
	58F Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
	58G Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle
	58H Racially/religiously aggravated other criminal damage

⁷ Offence classifications 56A and 56B were introduced from 1 April 2008 and replace classification 56.

Table 4a Comparable subset of crimes (cont)

BCS category	Recorded crime offence included
<u>Assault without injury</u>	104 Assault without injury on a constable 105A Assault without injury 105B Racially/religiously aggravated assault without injury
<u>Assault with minor injury</u>	8A Less serious wounding ⁸ 8D Racially/religiously aggravated less serious wounding ⁸ 8F Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent ⁸ 8G Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury ⁸ 8H Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent ⁸ 8J Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury ⁸ 8K Poisoning or female genital mutilation ⁸
<u>Wounding</u>	5 More serious wounding or other act endangering life ⁹ 5A Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent ⁹ 5B Use of substance or object to endanger life ⁹ 5C Possession of items to endanger life ⁹
<u>Robbery</u>	34B Robbery of personal property

Crimes excluded from comparable subset

Recorded crimes:

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

BCS:

Other household theft; Other thefts of personal property.

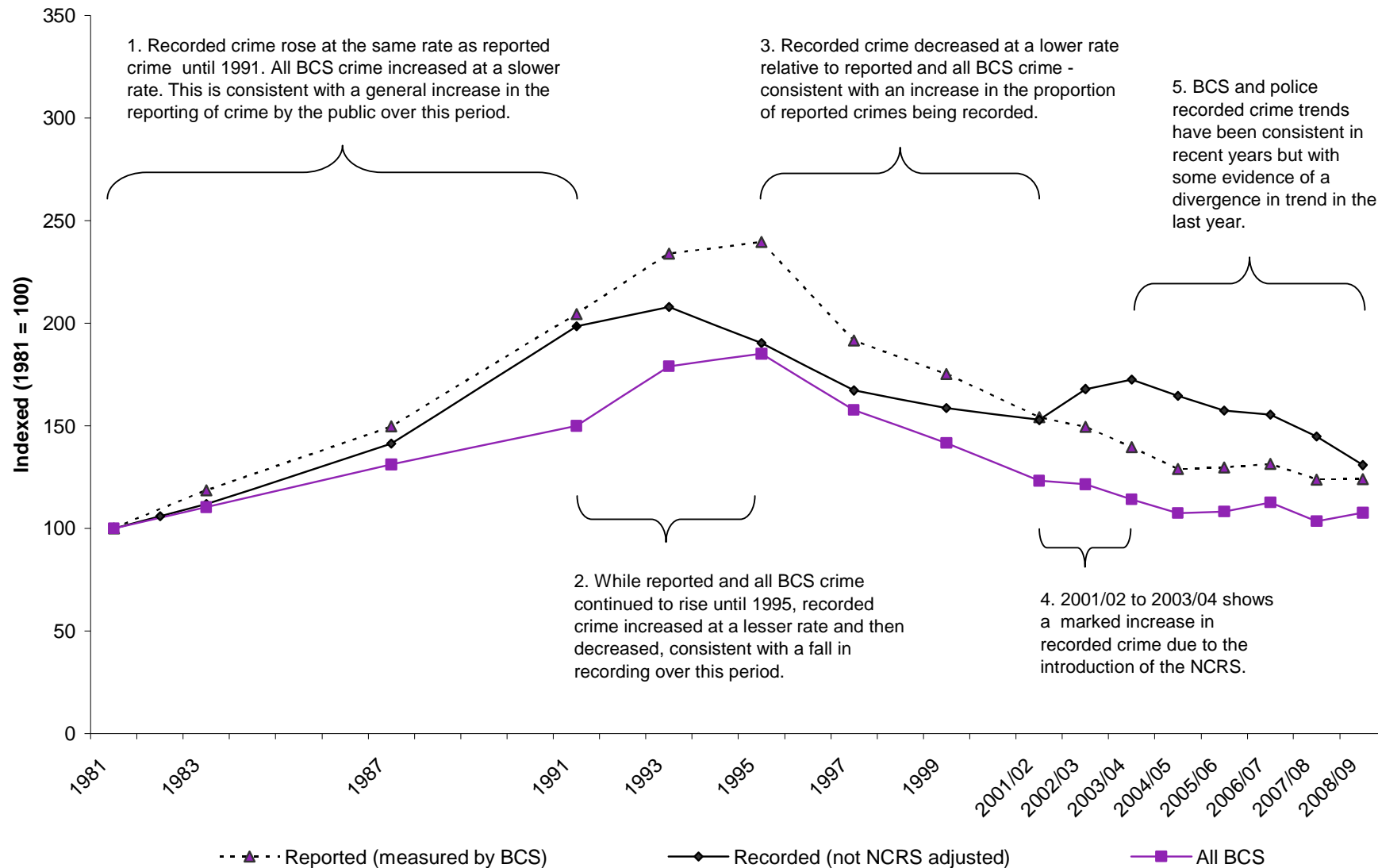
4.2 TRENDS IN REPORTING AND RECORDING OF CRIME

In broad terms, the BCS and recorded crime series have displayed similar trends (with some divergence due to reporting and recording changes) with rises from the early 1980s to peaks in the early to mid 1990s and falls thereafter. However, from 2001/02 to 2003/04 there was considerable divergence in these trends, mainly associated with police recording changes (which particularly influence violent crime). For the last few years trends have been more consistent although there is some evidence of an overall divergent trend in the last year. Reasons why the public choose not to report crimes to the police are discussed briefly in Section 2.6 of Volume 1.

⁸ Offence classifications 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J and 8K were introduced from 1 April 2008 and had previously been recorded as part of classifications 8A or 8D.

⁹ Offence classifications 5A, 5B and 5C were introduced from 1 April 2008 and replace classification 5.

Figure 4.1 Indexed trends in the reporting and recording of crime, and all BCS crime, 1981 to 2008/09 (1981=100)

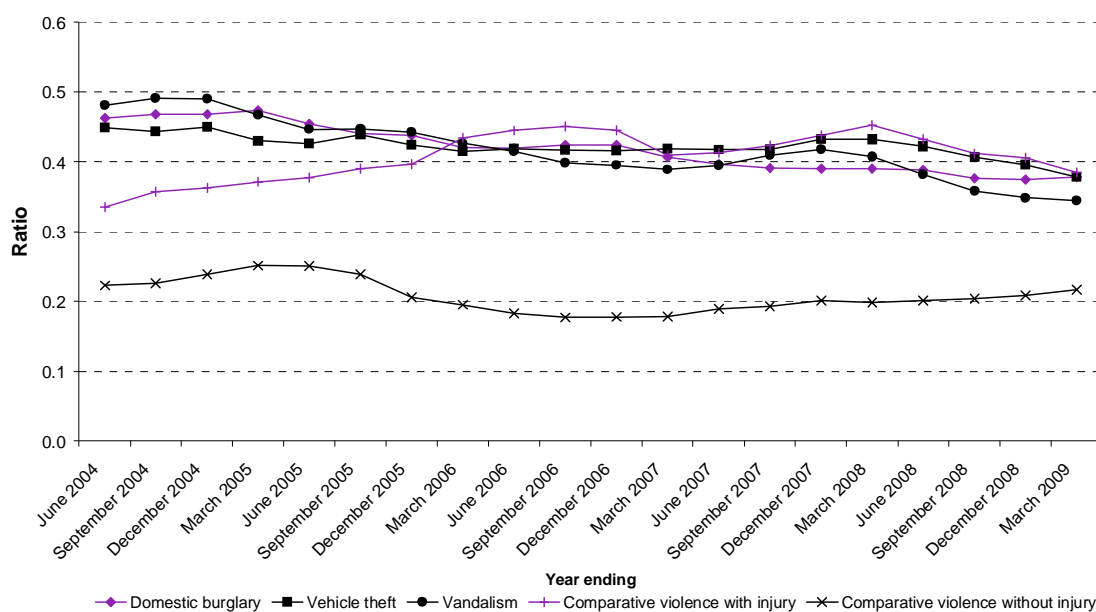


Comparison by offence group

More detailed comparison by crime types is shown in Figure 4.2 which shows how the ratio of comparable recorded crime to BCS crime has varied over time for particular crime types. The recorded crime figures have been weighted to better match the spread of the BCS crime reference period (see earlier).

For individual crime types, BCS and police recorded crime have tracked each other well in recent years but with some evidence of continuing divergent trends for vandalism, vehicle theft and violence with injury, with some falling off in the number of police recorded crimes as compared with BCS incidents. This is not the case for domestic burglary, where trends are similar, or for violence without injury where the ratio of police recorded crime to BCS crime has been slightly increasing.

Figure 4.2 Ratio of weighted recorded crime to BCS crime by crime type



5 Crime types and drug measures

5.1 VIOLENT CRIME

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

In this bulletin and Volume 1, violent crime – both BCS and recorded crime – is grouped into two broad, high-level categories of violence with injury and violence without injury. However, these categories are not directly comparable between BCS and recorded crime: the BCS violence categories include robbery, but the police recorded crime violence categories do not (it is counted within acquisitive crime instead).

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

- **Violence with injury** includes all incidents of wounding, assault with injury and (BCS only) robbery which resulted in injury.
- **Violence without injury** includes all incidents of assault without injury and (BCS only) incidents of robbery which did not result in injury.

Police statistics remain important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with, and recorded, by the police. They are an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems, at a lower geographical level than is possible using the BCS. Police statistics also provide more reliable information on rarer crimes, such as robbery, and are the only source of data on homicides, violent crimes against under 16s, and those not living in private households.

BCS violence

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

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

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

- **Domestic violence**¹⁰ comprises wounding and assaults which involves partners, ex-partners, other relatives or household members.

¹⁰ Domestic violence figures that relate to incidents reported in face-to-face BCS interviews should be treated with caution. Prevalence rates for domestic violence derived from the self-completion module are around five times higher for adults than those obtained from the face-to-face interviews (Walby and Allen, 2004). Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by the main BCS, findings are published solely from the self-completion module.

- **Stranger violence** includes wounding and assaults in which the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before.
- **Acquaintance violence** comprises wounding and assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. It does not include domestic violence.

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

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

Assault on a constable is a separate category within recorded crime; however, such incidents are not treated separately for the BCS and would fall within the BCS assault with minor injury or without injury categories. The police recorded crime figures quoted in the text and charts include assault on a constable and racially or religiously aggravated assault.

Police recorded violence against the person

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

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

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents. The proportion of violent crimes estimated to be reported to the police has increased from the first BCS results in 1981, but has been reasonably stable since 2002/03 (see Chapter 2 of Volume 1)

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

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

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

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

Incidents of violence against the person recorded by the police comprise the following categories as described below.

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

The published figures do not separately identify murder, manslaughter and infanticide, since at the time an offence is recorded by the police the circumstances surrounding the offence may not necessarily be known. Whether an offence is murder or manslaughter may be decided once an offender has been apprehended and appeared in court.

Detailed homicide figures are published in a supplementary bulletin after the main annual publication. These figures come from a separate Homicide Index which includes more details than for other recorded crimes, such as motive and method. These figures take longer to analyse and quality assure and can not be produced in time for the annual bulletin deadline.

- **Death by driving** offences (includes by dangerous driving, careless or inconsiderate driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and while being an unlicensed or uninsured driver).
- **Corporate manslaughter** where an organisation is deemed responsible for a person's death.

Wounding offences consist of more serious wounding (offences such as grievous bodily harm with intent) and other wounding (GBH without intent, actual bodily harm (ABH)). There are five categories within more serious wounding (e.g. use of substance or object to endanger life) but the two main ones are the GBH categories:

- **GBH with intent** occurs when there is clear evidence of a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm regardless of level of injury sustained.
- **GBH without intent** occurs when serious bodily harm results but there was no evidence of a deliberate intent to inflict such an injury. Prior to April 2008, GBH without intent was not separated out from a much broader category of less serious wounding that mostly consisted of ABH.

GBH includes injury resulting in permanent disability, more than minor permanent disfigurement, broken bones, fractured skull, compound fractures, substantial loss of blood, lengthy treatment or serious psychiatric injury (based on expert evidence). **ABH** relates to any assault with injury which is not GBH (with or without intent).

The definition of **GBH with intent** rests upon whether "the actions of the offender clearly show a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm". The clarification to the rules from April 2008 makes this clear and that "the gravity of the injury resulting is not necessarily the determining factor". It was recognised that the rules needed to be clearer as there had been some confusion with the previous wording as to whether the degree of injury itself was the sole determining factor in GBH offences and that the only decision to be made once GBH was sustained was whether intent was present or not (see Section 3).

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

Sexual offences

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

Respondents may not wish to disclose sensitive information face-to-face and so interviews since 2004/05 (and prior to this in 1996 and 2001) have included self-completion modules on intimate violence (see Section 2.3). These figures have previously been published separately from the annual volume (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004; Finney, 2006; Coleman *et al.*, 2007; Povey *et al.*, 2008, 2009) but headline figures are presented in Volume 1 this year.

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

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

The police recorded crime category of **most serious sexual crime** encompasses rape, sexual assault, and sexual activity with children. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of all three categories so comparisons around this time should be made with caution. The sensitivity of these offences has resulted in under-reporting, and work is ongoing to improve this (e.g. through the opening of more sexual assault referral centres).

The group of **other sexual offences** recorded by the police covers unlawful sexual activity, mostly involving consenting adults and is therefore particularly influenced by police activity in investigating such crime. It includes among other offences, exploitation of prostitution and soliciting, but not prostitution itself (which is not a crime). The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, introduced certain offences such as sexual grooming which is

included in this group. Offences of indecent exposure have been retrospectively reclassified to sexual offences back to 2002/03 to aid comparisons over time.

5.2 ACQUISITIVE CRIME

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

Household acquisitive crime:

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

Personal acquisitive crime:

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

Burglary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vehicle offences

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

- **Theft of vehicles** where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered.
- **Theft from vehicles** refers to both theft of parts and accessories of motor vehicles, and to theft of contents.
- **Attempted thefts of and from vehicles** No distinction is made between attempted thefts of and attempted thefts from motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender's intention.

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

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

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

Interfering with a motor vehicle offences as presented in Volume 1 are equivalent to the offence class formerly referred to as 'vehicle interference and tampering'. The BCS cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the BCS it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

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

Robbery

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

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

Theft

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bicycle theft

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

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

- Burglary – if anything else was stolen, or an attempt was made to steal something else, from the household's dwelling.

- Theft from a dwelling – when a bicycle is stolen from inside a house by someone who was not trespassing.
- Theft from a vehicle – if the bicycle is one of a number of things stolen.

5.3 VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

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

The BCS produces estimates both for vandalism to the home and other property and against vehicles. **Vandalism to the home and other property** involves intentional or malicious damage to doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs for example. Vandalism to other property also includes arson where there is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household (including vehicles) caused by fire.

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

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

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

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

5.4 FRAUD AND FORGERY

The measurement of fraud is challenging as fraud is known to be very substantially underreported to the police. Better information can be derived from other sources; for more information on the various sources of fraud including administrative data, and on the nature, extent and economic impact of fraud in the UK, see Hoare (2007), Levi *et al.* (2007) and Wilson *et al.* (2006).

Figures for plastic (credit, debit or bank) card fraud are obtained from The UK Cards Association, which is the leading trade association for the cards industry in the UK.

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

Offences of fraud and forgery are recorded by the police, but figures for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are not comparable with previous years due to changes to the measurement of fraud by the police. For offences prior to 15 January 2007, fraud is defined as dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or a pecuniary advantage. Recorded crime statistics were collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; cheque and credit card fraud; other frauds; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery; vehicle/driver document fraud.

The introduction of the Fraud Act 2006, which commenced on 15 January 2007, saw significant changes to offences in the fraud and forgery offence group.¹¹ After this date, fraud is defined as dishonestly making a false representation to obtain property or money for themselves or another.

Recorded crime statistics are collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; other frauds; failing to disclose information; abuse of position; obtaining services dishonestly; making or supplying articles for use in fraud; possession of articles for use in fraud; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery; vehicle/driver document fraud.

The Counting Rules were also altered from 15 January 2007 so that in most cases cheque and plastic card fraud is counted on a 'per account' rather than 'per transaction' basis. If an account is defrauded only one offence is recorded rather than one offence per fraudulent transaction on each account (as was the practice prior to 15 January 2007). For example, previously if a person had their credit card stolen and it was subsequently used on ten separate occasions to buy goods fraudulently from ten different shops there would be a requirement for one crime record for theft and ten for deception. Now there is a requirement to record one theft and one fraud by false representation. The result of this change means that fewer crimes of plastic card and cheque fraud were recorded by the police during 2007/08 and 2008/09 as compared with previous years.

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

These changes to the measurement of fraud by the police mean that recorded fraud and forgery figures prior to 2007/08 are not comparable with those for the last two years.

From 1 April 2007, where a financial institution makes full financial recompense to an account holder, the financial institution (rather than the account holder) can report the crime directly to a single point of contact within the police.

These changes have been supported by the UK Cards Association and ACPO as they have resulted in significant reductions in bureaucracy in relation to the reporting of cheque and plastic card fraud. This has focused police effort on reports of fraud most likely to lead to a suspect being brought to justice and also introduced single points of contact within police forces for the financial institutions to report cases directly to. As victims of fraud are mainly commercial organisations, it is not covered in the same way as other crimes

¹¹ New offences that were introduced from 15 January 2007 were temporarily recorded as 'Other Fraud' until the new offence codes came into being on 1 April 2007.

The Fraud Review (2006) also specifically welcomed the changes that were being put in place:

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk/Fraud%20Review/Fraud%20Review%20Final%20Report%20July%202006.pdf>

5.5 RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED OFFENCES

Used in recorded crime, racially aggravated offences are legally defined under Section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Section 39) added the religiously aggravated aspect. Racially and religiously aggravated offences are categorised together in police recorded crime and cannot be separately identified. BCS respondents are asked whether they thought the incident was racially motivated, and from 2005/06 whether they thought the incident was religiously motivated. Figures on racially and religiously motivated crimes from the 2005/06 and 2006/07 BCS are reported in Jansson *et al.* (2007).

5.6 DRUG OFFENCES AND ILLICIT DRUG USE

Recorded crime figures for drugs offences are published in Table 2.04 of Volume 1 of Crime in England and Wales. With effect from April 2004, ACPO issued guidance to forces over the recording of warnings for cannabis possession (these were termed 'formal warnings' for cannabis possession prior to 16 January 2007). These were incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules (see Section 3 for more information). From 26 January 2009 it has also been possible to issue a Penalty Notice for Disorder for cannabis possession (this detection method was not separated from cannabis warnings in statistics for the period to the end of March 2009).

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

Since 1996 the BCS has included a self-completion module of questions on illicit drug use (see Section 2). The self-completion module is restricted to those respondents aged 16 to 59 years (the decision to exclude those aged 60 and over was an economy measure, reflecting their very low prevalence rates for the use of prohibited drugs). Prevalence and trends are published on an annual basis in a separate bulletin, Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the British Crime Survey (Hoare, 2009, forthcoming).

As a household survey, the BCS provides an effective measure of the more commonly used drugs for which the majority of users are contained within the household population. However, the BCS does not cover some small groups, potentially important given that they may have relatively high rates of drug use: notably the homeless, and those living in certain institutions such as prisons or student halls of residence. Nor, in practice, will any household survey necessarily reach those problematic drug users whose lives are so busy or chaotic that they are hardly ever at home or are unable to take part in an interview.¹² As a result, the BCS is likely to underestimate the overall use of drugs such as opiates and crack cocaine, and possibly also frequent cocaine powder users, where the majority of users are concentrated within small sub-sections of the population not covered or reached by the survey. However, this is likely to have only a marginal impact on overall estimates of drug use within the household population.

In tracking changes in the level of drug use through the BCS arguably what matters most is that, irrespective of any strengths or weaknesses relating to coverage of the survey, it is a consistent instrument deployed in the same manner for each round of the survey.

¹² The Home Office has published work to provide local estimates of problematic drug users using statistical techniques involving indirect estimation from a number of different data sources (Hay *et al.*, 2006, 2007, 2008).

6 Perceptions

6.1 LIKELIHOOD OF VICTIMISATION AND WORRY ABOUT CRIME

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

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

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

6.2 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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

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

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

The measure of **perceptions of drug use or dealing** is based on the proportion of BCS respondents who perceive people using or dealing drugs to be a very or fairly big problem in their local area. The measure of **perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour** is based on the proportion of BCS respondents who perceive people being drunk or rowdy in public places to be a very or fairly big problem in their local area.

These BCS data are used to help measure progress towards Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets relating to crime, community safety and criminal justice. The overall measure of anti-social behaviour is Indicator 4 within PSA 23 'Making communities safer' and the perceptions of drug use or dealing and drunk or rowdy behaviour are indicators 4 and 5 respectively within PSA 25 'Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs' (see Appendix 1 of Volume 1).

6.3 CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE AND LOCAL PARTNERS

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

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

The latter question is used to measure the outcome of indicator 3 within PSA 23 'Making communities safer': public confidence in local agencies dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to people in their local area (see Appendix 1 of Volume 1), based on the proportion of respondents answering 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree'. This is also used as the single national target for individual police forces. The first full annual results were available from interviews in the year to September 2008 (see Thorpe, 2009).

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

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

6.4 RATINGS AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE LOCAL POLICE

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

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

6.5 CONFIDENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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

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

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

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

These questions are used to measure Priority Action 2 of PSA 24 'Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public' which aims to increase levels of public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS (Appendix 1 of Volume 1).¹³

6.6 PERCEPTIONS OF THE CRIME RATE

Long-running questions on the perception of change in national and local crime have been augmented in the 2008/09 BCS with a set of similar questions relating to individual crime types and a comparison of perceived level of crime in the local area with the average for England and Wales.

¹³ The report on the development of the questions measuring the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system can be found online at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/doqbcsc.pdf>.

7 Classifications

7.1 GEOGRAPHICAL

ACORN

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

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

The ACORN classification is currently still available on the BCS dataset but the National Statistics Output Area Classification (see OAC below) has been used in demographic tables in Volume 1.

Basic Command Units (BCUs)

These equate to police divisions and are also referred to as Operational Command Units in some forces. As at 1 April 2008 (and therefore for the reporting year 2008/09) there were 214 BCUs in England and Wales. Recorded crime figures for seven key offences for each BCU are published on the Home Office website.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)

Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are, in nearly all cases, coterminous with local authority areas. They include representatives from police, health, probation and other local agencies and provide strategies for reducing crime in the area. As at 1 April 2008 (and therefore for the reporting year 2008/09) there were 370 CDRPs in England and Wales. In Wales, the 22 CDRPs are known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to reflect their new merger with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams. Recorded crime figures for seven key offences for each CDRP/CSP are published on the Home Office website, together with analogous figures for local authority areas.

Government Office Region (GOR)

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

Indices of deprivation

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

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

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

Local Authority areas

These areas are a combination of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs. As at 1 April 2008 there were 376 local authorities in England and Wales. These areas provide the basis for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships; although since their formation a number of partnerships have merged to cover multiple local authority areas (see also Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships).

Output Area Classification (OAC)

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

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

Further information and details about OAC can be found on the ONS website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology_by_theme/area_classification/default.asp.

Physical disorder

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

Rural and urban areas

The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Categories used to aggregate to rural or urban are as follows.

Rural areas are those classified as:

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

Urban areas are those classified as:

- Urban – sparse.
- Urban – less sparse.

More information is available on the National Statistics website at:

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

Super Output Areas (SOAs)

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

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

7.2 HOUSEHOLD

Household accommodation type

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

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

Household reference person (HRP)

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

is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure

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

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

Tenure

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

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

Level of home security

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

- Enhanced security – households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors as well as additional security measures.
- Basic security – households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors.
- No or less than basic security – households with no home security measures or households without both window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors but have other security devices.

7.3 PERSONAL

Black and Minority Ethnic groups/Ethnicity

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

Employment status

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

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

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

Occupation (NS-SEC)

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

More information about NS-SEC can be found on the National Statistics website, see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/default.asp.

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

Witnessing and experiencing crime

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

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

8 Statistical conventions and methods

8.1 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS AND STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.2 WEIGHTING DATA

Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the BCS sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas; and the selection of multi-household addresses.¹⁴ Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response. All BCS percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables in Volume 1 are based on weighted data. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

Calibration weighting

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

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

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

8.3 POPULATION ESTIMATES

The BCS uses population figures in calibration weighting (see above) and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes (see Section 2). Following the 2001 Census, ONS issued revised estimates of population involving the total numbers of people and the distribution by age and sex. Calibration weighting prior to the 2007/08 BCS has been calculated using the

¹⁴ See Bolling *et al.* (2008) for further details about how the weights are constructed to compensate for unequal selection probability.

population distributions published in 2003 which have not fully incorporated the census revisions.

However, latest and back series of LFS microdata were published on 14th May 2008, reweighted to the latest (2007) population estimates.¹⁵ The LFS population estimates used in calibration weighting are linked to the dates of the BCS reference period, not the dates of interview, so the quarterly bulletin which included data from the BCS year to September 2008 was the first where the reweighted figures were required. These updates are usual statistical practice and consistent with revisions policies.

To allow direct comparison with the current figures, BCS estimates from interviews in 2007/08 have been revised using the reweighted LFS microdata and will vary slightly from previously published estimates. However, the effect is minimal and key estimates remain within the confidence intervals of the original estimates with no change to the overall picture. See Table A.06 which shows the effect of the revisions on BCS year to September data when the reweighted LFS microdata were first introduced.¹⁶

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

The latest available estimates were used for 2008/09:

- national population figures are mid-2006 based projections for the 2008 population from ONS;
- regional population figures are mid-2006 based estimates from ONS;
- Welsh population figures are mid-2006 based estimates from the Welsh Assembly;
- national household figures are forecast from mid-2006 based projections for the 2008 population;
- regional household figures are mid-2006 based projections for 2008 from DCLG; and
- Welsh household figures are mid-2006 based projections for 2008 from the Welsh Assembly.

Some of the recorded crime tables in Volume 1 use population figures to calculate the number of crimes per 10,000 or 100,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2007 population estimates provided by ONS.

8.4 LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable which has only two possible outcomes (e.g. risk of crime), from a set of independent variables. Multivariate techniques allow the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables under consideration is taken into account. Both continuous and categorical variables can be used to predict the dependent variable. The logistic regression results presented in Volume 1 were calculated using the forward stepwise selection.

The Nagelkerke statistic is a measure of how much variance in the dependent variable is explained by the model based on the factors which are identified in the text. These factors are 'strongly independently associated' with the dependent variable; that is, each factor contributes around a one per cent improvement in explained variance to the overall model.

¹⁵ See <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=342> for more details.

¹⁶ This table has been previously published in the Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly update to September 2008 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0109.pdf>.

8.5 CONVENTIONS USED IN FIGURES AND TABLES

The following conventions are used in Volume 1 and 2 (where applicable).

Table abbreviations

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

Unweighted base

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

Percentages

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

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

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

Year-labels on BCS figures and tables

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

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

'No answers' (missing values)

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

9 UK crime statistics

9.1 CRIME STATISTICS FOR WALES, SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

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

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/wales09.pdf> (English language version)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/walescymru09.pdf> (Welsh language version)

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

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

Northern Ireland: http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm

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

Household characteristic ¹	Unweighted base ²	Personal characteristic ¹	Unweighted base ²	2008/09 BCS	
				Police force area and region ¹	Unweighted base ²
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	46,252	ALL ADULTS	46,220	ENGLAND AND WALES	46,252
Age of household reference person		Men	20,826	Cleveland	980
16-24	1,515	16-24	1,785	Durham	1,081
25-34	5,825	25-34	2,787	Northumbria	1,053
35-44	9,311	35-44	3,997	North East Region	3,114
45-54	8,785	45-54	3,548	Cheshire	964
55-64	8,302	55-64	3,577	Cumbria	1,015
65-74	6,507	65-74	2,898	Greater Manchester	1,442
75+	5,916	75+	2,234	Lancashire	885
				Merseyside	901
Structure of household		Women	25,394	North West Region	5,207
Single adult & child(ren)	2,382	16-24	2,065	Humberside	1,006
Adults & child(ren)	10,257	25-34	3,641	North Yorkshire	996
Adult(s) & no children	33,613	35-44	4,709	South Yorkshire	1,005
		45-54	3,909	West Yorkshire	1,215
Total household income		55-64	4,248	Yorkshire and the Humber Region	4,222
Less than £10,000	6,917	65-74	3,399	Derbyshire	997
£10,000 less than £20,000	8,241	75+	3,423	Leicestershire	1,015
£20,000 less than £30,000	6,274			Lincolnshire	1,047
£30,000 less than £40,000	4,886	Ethnic group		Northamptonshire	1,099
£40,000 less than £50,000	3,675	White	42,872	Nottinghamshire	1,110
£50,000 or more	5,889	Non-White	3,338	East Midlands Region	5,268
		Mixed	287	Staffordshire	1,005
Tenure		Asian or Asian British	1,559	Warwickshire	996
Owner occupiers	32,279	Black or Black British	1,000	West Mercia	1,026
Social renters	7,531	Chinese or other	492	West Midlands	1,329
Private renters	6,265			West Midlands Region	4,356
		Marital status		Bedfordshire	990
Household reference person's employment status		Married	21,671	Cambridgeshire	966
In employment	27,972	Cohabiting	4,154	Essex	982
Unemployed	799	Single	9,394	Hertfordshire	971
Economically inactive	17,362	Separated	1,419	Norfolk	958
Student	421	Divorced	4,164	Suffolk	999
Looking after family/home	1,540	Widowed	5,397	East of England Region	5,866
Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	2,003			Metropolitan/City of London	3,908
Retired	12,981	Respondent's employment status		London Region	3,908
Other inactive	417	In employment	25,699	Hampshire	994
		Unemployed	1,143	Kent	1,006
Household reference person's occupation		Economically inactive	19,261	Surrey	1,029
Managerial and professional occupations	17,198	Student	1,107	Sussex	987
Intermediate occupations	9,370	Looking after family/home	2,534	Thames Valley	1,172
Routine and manual occupations	17,329	Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	2,085	South East Region	5,188
Never worked and long-term unemployed	1,222	Retired	12,982	Avon and Somerset	956
Full-time students	724	Other inactive	553	Devon and Cornwall	1,021
Not classified	408			Dorset	1,002
		Respondent's occupation		Gloucestershire	1,029
Accommodation type		Managerial and professional occupations	15,220	Wiltshire	974
Houses	39,026	Intermediate occupations	9,674	South West Region	4,982
Detached	12,025	Routine and manual occupations	17,719	Dyfed-Powys	989
Semi-detached	14,588	Never worked and long-term unemployed	1,563	Gwent	1,051
Terraced	12,413	Full-time students	1,803	North Wales	1,025
Flats/maisonettes	5,467	Not classified	241	South Wales	1,076
Other accommodation	222			Wales	4,141
		Highest qualification			
Output area classification		Degree or diploma	14,797		
Blue collar communities	7,519	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	7,565		
City living	1,997	O level/GCSE	9,190		
Countryside	6,937	Other	1,886	England Total	42,111
Prospering suburbs	10,519	None	12,680		
Constrained by circumstances	4,358				
Typical traits	9,121	Long-standing illness or disability			
Multicultural	3,521	Long-standing illness or disability	12,696		
		Limits activities	8,771		
Area type		Does not limit activities	3,925		
Urban	34,327	No long-standing illness or disability	33,449		
Rural	11,925				
Level of physical disorder					
High	2,506				
Not high	42,195				

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

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

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

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

Numbers (thousands)	2008/09 BCS	
	Estimate ¹	Range ²
PROPERTY CRIME	<i>Numbers (thousands)</i>	
Vandalism	2,769	2,611 - 2,927
Vehicle vandalism	1,843	1,723 - 1,963
Other vandalism	926	843 - 1,009
Burglary	744	680 - 808
With entry	452	401 - 504
Attempts	292	257 - 327
With loss	316	277 - 356
No loss (including attempts)	428	379 - 476
Vehicle-related theft	1,514	1,421 - 1,607
Theft from vehicles	1,059	983 - 1,134
Theft of vehicles	150	126 - 173
Attempts of and from	305	268 - 343
Bicycle theft	540	485 - 596
Other household theft	1,184	1,091 - 1,277
<i>Unweighted base – household crimes</i>	<i>46,252</i>	
Theft from the person	725	624 - 826
Snatch theft from person	103	56 - 150
Stealth theft from person	622	535 - 710
Other thefts of personal property	1,096	984 - 1,208
All violence	2,114	1,930 - 2,299
Wounding	466	391 - 540
Assault with minor injury	533	439 - 626
Assault without injury	844	725 - 963
Robbery	272	216 - 328
Violence with injury	1,116	990 - 1,243
Violence without injury	998	871 - 1,125
Domestic violence	293	232 - 354
Acquaintance	691	589 - 793
Stranger	852	735 - 969
Mugging (<i>robbery + snatch theft</i>)	375	302 - 448
<i>Unweighted base – personal crimes</i>	<i>46,220</i>	
Household acquisitive crime	3,982	3,808 - 4,157
Personal acquisitive crime	2,094	1,926 - 2,261
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME	6,751	6,492 - 7,010
ALL PERSONAL CRIME	3,936	3,671 - 4,200
ALL BCS CRIME	10,687	10,277 - 11,097
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>46,220</i>	

1. For household crimes (vandalism, domestic burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft and other household theft) the 2008/09 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 23,848,680 households in England and Wales. For personal crimes (theft from the person, snatch theft, stealth theft, other theft of personal property, all BCS violence, wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury and robbery) the 2008/09 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 44,265,687 adults in England and Wales.

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

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

Percentages	2008/09 BCS	
	Estimate ¹	Range ²
<i>Percentage of households, victims once or more:</i>		
PROPERTY CRIME		
Vandalism	7.6	7.2 - 7.9
Vehicle vandalism	5.4	5.1 - 5.7
Other vandalism	2.5	2.3 - 2.7
Burglary	2.5	2.3 - 2.7
With entry	1.5	1.4 - 1.7
Attempts	1.0	0.9 - 1.1
With loss	1.2	1.0 - 1.3
No loss (including attempts)	1.4	1.2 - 1.5
Vehicle-related theft	5.1	4.8 - 5.4
Theft from vehicles	3.6	3.4 - 3.8
Theft of vehicles	0.6	0.5 - 0.7
Attempts of and from	1.1	1.0 - 1.2
Bicycle theft	1.9	1.7 - 2.1
Other household theft	3.7	3.5 - 4.0
<i>Unweighted base – household crimes</i>	<i>46,252</i>	
<i>Percentage of vehicle-owning households, victims once or more:</i>		
Vehicle-related theft	6.4	6.1 - 6.8
Theft from vehicles	4.6	4.3 - 4.9
Theft of vehicles	0.7	0.6 - 0.8
Attempts of and from	1.4	1.2 - 1.5
Vehicle vandalism	7.0	6.6 - 7.3
<i>Unweighted base – vehicle crimes (owners)</i>	<i>36,882</i>	
<i>Percentage of bicycle-owning households, victims once or more:</i>		
Bicycle theft	4.4	4.0 - 4.8
<i>Unweighted base – bicycle theft (owners)</i>	<i>20,636</i>	
<i>Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more:</i>		
Theft from the person	1.5	1.3 - 1.6
Snatch theft from person	0.2	0.1 - 0.3
Stealth theft from person	1.3	1.1 - 1.4
Other thefts of personal property	2.1	1.9 - 2.3
All violence	3.2	3.0 - 3.5
Wounding	0.8	0.7 - 0.9
Assault with minor injury	0.8	0.7 - 0.9
Assault without injury	1.3	1.1 - 1.4
Robbery	0.5	0.4 - 0.6
Violence with injury	1.8	1.6 - 2.0
Violence without injury	1.6	1.4 - 1.8
Domestic violence	0.4	0.3 - 0.4
Acquaintance	1.0	0.9 - 1.2
Stranger	1.4	1.3 - 1.6
Mugging (robbery + snatch theft)	0.7	0.6 - 0.9
<i>Unweighted base – personal crimes</i>	<i>46,220</i>	
Household acquisitive crime	12.0	11.6 - 12.4
Personal acquisitive crime	4.0	3.7 - 4.2
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME	17.8	17.3 - 18.3
ALL PERSONAL CRIME	6.3	6.0 - 6.7
ALL BCS CRIME	23.4	22.7 - 24.0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>46,220</i>	
High level of worry about crime		
Burglary	11.1	10.3 - 11.9
Car crime	11.6	10.7 - 12.5
Violent crime	13.6	12.7 - 14.5
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	<i>11,510</i>	
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour	16.5	15.8 - 17.3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>43,789</i>	
CJS Effective	38.3	37.7 - 39.0
CJS Fair	58.5	57.8 - 59.2
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	<i>44,759</i>	
Rating of local police	53.2	52.5 - 53.9
Police and local councils dealing with issues	48.6	47.9 - 49.4
<i>Unweighted base⁶</i>	<i>45,323</i>	

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

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

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

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

5. Unweighted base refers to effectiveness of CJS.

6. Unweighted base refers to ratings of local police.

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

Percentages	2008/09 BCS									
	All BCS crime		All personal crime		Theft from the person		Other theft of personal property		All violence	
	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹
Respondent sex										
Male	24.4	23.7 - 25.1	7.1	6.6 - 7.5	1.0	0.8 - 1.2	2.1	1.9 - 2.4	4.6	4.2 - 7.5
Female	22.4	21.8 - 23.0	5.6	5.3 - 6.0	1.9	1.7 - 2.1	2.1	1.9 - 2.3	2.3	5.3 - 6.0
Respondent age										
16-24	35.6	33.8 - 37.4	15.4	14.0 - 16.8	3.4	2.7 - 4.0	4.2	3.4 - 5.0	9.9	8.8 - 11.0
25-34	30.2	28.9 - 31.5	9.1	8.3 - 9.9	2.0	1.6 - 2.4	3.5	2.9 - 4.0	4.5	3.9 - 5.1
35-44	25.7	24.6 - 26.8	5.3	4.7 - 5.8	0.9	0.7 - 1.1	1.7	1.4 - 2.1	3.1	2.6 - 3.5
45-54	24.1	23.0 - 25.3	4.7	4.1 - 5.2	0.9	0.7 - 1.2	1.9	1.5 - 2.3	2.2	1.8 - 2.6
55-64	17.7	16.7 - 18.7	2.9	2.5 - 3.4	0.8	0.5 - 1.0	1.2	0.9 - 1.5	1.2	0.9 - 1.5
65-74	11.1	10.1 - 12.0	2.0	1.6 - 2.4	0.7	0.5 - 1.0	0.8	0.5 - 1.0	0.6	0.3 - 0.8
75+	7.9	7.1 - 8.7	2.2	1.7 - 2.6	1.4	1.0 - 1.7	0.6	0.4 - 0.8	0.4	0.2 - 0.7

Table 8.04 (cont) Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of personal victimisation rates (prevalence risk) by respondent sex and age

Percentages	2008/09 BCS								Unweighted base
	Domestic violence		Acquaintance violence		Stranger violence		Mugging (robbery + snatch theft)		
	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	
Respondent sex									
Male	0.2	0.1 - 0.2	1.3	1.1 - 1.5	2.4	2.1 - 2.6	0.9	0.8 - 1.1	20,826
Female	0.6	0.4 - 0.7	0.8	0.7 - 0.9	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.6	0.4 - 0.7	25,394
Respondent age									
16-24	0.8	0.4 - 1.1	3.3	2.6 - 4.0	4.5	3.7 - 5.3	2.2	1.6 - 2.7	3,850
25-34	0.4	0.2 - 0.6	1.2	0.9 - 1.5	2.0	1.6 - 2.4	1.0	0.7 - 1.3	6,428
35-44	0.5	0.3 - 0.7	0.9	0.7 - 1.2	1.2	1.0 - 1.5	0.5	0.3 - 0.7	8,706
45-54	0.3	0.2 - 0.5	0.7	0.5 - 1.0	0.8	0.6 - 1.0	0.4	0.2 - 0.6	7,457
55-64	0.2	0.1 - 0.3	0.3	0.2 - 0.5	0.5	0.3 - 0.6	0.3	0.1 - 0.4	7,825
65-74	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	0.1	0.0 - 0.2	0.1	0.0 - 0.2	0.3	0.1 - 0.5	6,297
75+	0.0	0.0 - 0.0	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	0.1	0.0 - 0.2	0.3	0.1 - 0.5	5,657

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

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

	2008/09 BCS					
	All household crime		Vandalism		Burglary	
	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹
HRP age						
16-24	24.3	21.7 - 26.9	8.3	6.7 - 10.0	7.2	5.6 - 8.7
25-34	23.8	22.5 - 25.1	9.7	8.8 - 10.6	4.0	3.4 - 4.6
35-44	23.1	22.1 - 24.1	10.0	9.3 - 10.8	3.0	2.5 - 3.4
45-54	21.0	19.9 - 22.0	9.1	8.4 - 9.8	2.2	1.9 - 2.6
55-64	16.0	15.0 - 16.9	7.6	6.9 - 8.3	1.8	1.4 - 2.1
65-74	10.1	9.2 - 10.9	4.4	3.8 - 5.0	1.2	0.9 - 1.6
75+	5.8	5.1 - 6.5	2.1	1.6 - 2.5	0.9	0.6 - 1.2
Tenure						
Owner occupiers	16.8	16.3 - 17.3	7.6	7.2 - 7.9	1.7	1.6 - 1.9
Social renters	18.9	17.9 - 20.0	7.4	6.7 - 8.1	4.2	3.7 - 4.8
Private renters	20.8	19.6 - 22.0	8.1	7.3 - 8.9	3.7	3.1 - 4.2

Table 8.05 (contd) Confidence intervals around BCS estimates of household victimisation rates (prevalence risk) by household reference person age and tenure

	2008/09 BCS						
	Other household theft		Vehicle-related theft ²		Bicycle theft ³		
	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	
<i>Unweighted base</i>							
HRP age							
16-24	3.5	2.4 - 4.7	8.7	6.5 - 10.9	10.9	7.8 - 14.0	1,515
25-34	3.9	3.3 - 4.5	9.8	8.8 - 10.8	5.5	4.5 - 6.5	5,825
35-44	5.0	4.5 - 5.6	7.2	6.5 - 7.8	5.5	4.8 - 6.1	9,311
45-54	4.1	3.6 - 4.6	7.8	7.1 - 8.6	4.1	3.4 - 4.7	8,785
55-64	3.8	3.3 - 4.3	5.1	4.5 - 5.7	2.1	1.5 - 2.7	8,302
65-74	2.6	2.1 - 3.1	3.2	2.7 - 3.8	1.2	0.6 - 1.8	6,507
75+	2.0	1.5 - 2.4	1.8	1.3 - 2.4	0.9	0.0 - 1.8	5,916
Tenure							
Owner occupiers	3.7	3.5 - 3.9	5.8	5.5 - 6.2	2.8	2.5 - 3.1	32,279
Social renters	4.4	3.9 - 5.0	7.9	6.9 - 9.0	10.3	8.8 - 11.8	7,531
Private renters	3.2	2.7 - 3.7	8.5	7.5 - 9.5	7.7	6.5 - 8.9	6,265

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

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

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

Table A.06 Previously published and revised estimates with confidence intervals for BCS interviews in the year to September 2007¹

	BCS			
	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ²		Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ³	
	Original estimate	Original range	Revised estimate	Revised range
<i>Number of incidents (000s)</i>				
Vandalism	2,810	2,672 - 2,949	2,816	2,676 - 2,955
Burglary	744	681 - 808	753	688 - 818
Vehicle-related theft	1,640	1,555 - 1,726	1,653	1,566 - 1,740
Household acquisitive crime	3,984	3,826 - 4,142	4,006	3,847 - 4,166
All household crime	6,794	6,557 - 7,032	6,822	6,583 - 7,062
Theft from the person	560	495 - 625	563	498 - 629
All violence	2,328	2,139 - 2,517	2,367	2,174 - 2,560
<i>with injury</i>	1,176	1,049 - 1,302	1,199	1,070 - 1,328
<i>without injury</i>	1,152	1,020 - 1,284	1,168	1,034 - 1,302
Personal acquisitive crime	1,926	1,789 - 2,063	1,939	1,800 - 2,077
All personal crime	3,941	3,708 - 4,175	3,989	3,752 - 4,226
All BCS crime	10,736	N/A - N/A	10,811	N/A - N/A
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more</i>				
Vandalism	7.6	7.3 - 7.9	7.6	7.3 - 7.9
Burglary	2.5	2.3 - 2.7	2.5	2.4 - 2.7
Vehicle-related theft ⁴	7.1	6.8 - 7.4	7.2	6.8 - 7.5
Household acquisitive crime	12.2	11.8 - 12.6	12.3	11.9 - 12.7
All household crime	18.1	17.6 - 18.5	18.1	17.6 - 18.6
Theft from the person	1.2	1.1 - 1.3	1.2	1.1 - 1.4
All violence	3.4	3.2 - 3.6	3.5	3.2 - 3.7
<i>with injury</i>	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	1.9	1.7 - 2.0
<i>without injury</i>	1.8	1.6 - 1.9	1.8	1.6 - 2.0
Personal acquisitive crime	3.7	3.4 - 3.9	3.7	3.5 - 3.9
All personal crime	6.3	6.0 - 6.6	6.4	6.1 - 6.7
All BCS crime	23.4	22.8 - 24.0	23.5	22.9 - 24.1
<i>Percentage</i>				
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour⁵	16.8	16.2 - 17.5	16.9	16.3 - 17.5
<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>				
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	7.6	7.2 - 8.1	7.7	7.2 - 8.1
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10.3	9.8 - 10.7	10.3	9.9 - 10.7
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	25.2	24.5 - 25.9	25.3	24.6 - 26.0
People using or dealing drugs	27.0	26.2 - 27.8	27.1	26.3 - 27.9
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	32.1	31.4 - 32.9	32.2	31.4 - 32.9
Rubbish or litter lying around	30.4	30.0 - 31.1	30.5	29.7 - 31.2
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	27.8	27.1 - 28.5	27.9	27.1 - 28.6
<i>Percentage with high level of worry about: ⁵</i>				
Burglary	12.1	11.6 - 12.5	12.0	11.6 - 12.5
Car crime	12.6	12.1 - 13.0	12.6	12.1 - 13.1
Violent crime	16.0	15.4 - 16.6	16.0	15.4 - 16.5

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 2 Recorded crime list

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

Recorded crime covers all indictable and triable-either-way offences. Additionally, a few closely associated summary offences are included. These offences are identified in the listing, together with the reasons for their inclusion.

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

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

Violence against the person – with injury

1. Murder
- 4.1 Manslaughter
- 4.2 Infanticide
Applies to infants aged under 12 months killed by the mother while of disturbed mind.

- Homicide
Comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

2. Attempted murder
- 4.3 Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child
Applies to the unborn child 'capable of being born alive'.
- 4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving
Limited to causing death by reckless driving between 1977 and 1991.
- 4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
- 4.7 Causing or allowing death of a child or vulnerable person
- 4.8 Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving
- 4.9 Causing death by driving: unlicensed drivers etc
- 4.10 Corporate Manslaughter
5. More serious wounding or other act endangering life *(from 1 April 2008, no longer in use, please refer to classification 5A, 5B, 5C)*
- 5A. Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent
- 5B. Use of substance or object to endanger life
- 5C. Possession of items to endanger life
- 8A. Less serious wounding *(from 1 April 2008 no longer in use, please refer to classification 8F, 8G, 8K)*
- 8D. Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding *(from 1 April 2008 no longer in use, please refer to classification 8H, 8J)*
- 8F. Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) without intent
- 8G. Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and other injury
- 8H. Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) without intent
- 8J. Racially or religiously aggravated Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) or other injury
- 8K. Poisoning or female genital mutilation
- 37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

Violence against the person – without injury

3. Threat or conspiracy to murder (*from 1 April 2008, no longer in use, please refer to classification 3A, 3B*)
- 3A. Conspiracy to murder
- 3B. Threats to kill
6. Endangering railway passengers
7. Endangering life at sea
- 8B. Possession of weapons (*from 1 April 2008 no longer in use, please refer to classification 10A, 10C, 10D*)
- 8C. Harassment/public fear, alarm or distress (*from 1 April 2008 no longer in use, please refer to classification 8L, 9A*)
- 8E. Racially or religiously aggravated harassment/public fear (*from 1 April 2008 no longer in use, please refer to classification 8M, 9B*)
- 8L. Harassment
- 8M. Racially or religiously aggravated harassment
- 9A. Public fear, alarm or distress
- 9B. Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress
- 10A. Possession of firearms with intent
- 10B. Possession of firearm offences (*classification 10B has been included in other violence against the person for ease of reference but the Home Office will count offences in the "other offences" category.*)
- 10C. Possession of other weapons
- 10D. Possession of article with blade or point
11. Cruelty to and neglect of children
12. Abandoning a child under the age of two years
13. Child abduction
14. Procuring illegal abortion
104. Assault without injury on a constable
Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see classification 8G).
- 105A. Assault without injury.
Summary offences, closely associated with actual bodily harm (see classification 8G). Includes, amongst other offences, common assault and battery (Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988). From 1 April 2002 only includes assaults involving no injury.
- 105B. Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury (*see classification 105A*)

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Most serious sexual crime

17. Indecent assault on a male - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 17A. Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
 - 17B. Sexual assault on a male child under 13
- 19A. Rape of a female - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 19C. Rape of a female aged 16 and over
 - 19D. Rape of a female child under 16
 - 19E. Rape of a female child under 13
- 19B. Rape of a male - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 19F. Rape of a male aged 16 and over
 - 19G. Rape of a male child under 16
 - 19H. Rape of a male child under 13
20. Indecent assault on a female - *with effect from May 2004 split into:*
 - 20A. Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over
 - 20B. Sexual assault on a female child under 13

- 21. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 - *up until May 2004.*
- 21. Sexual activity involving a child under 13 - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 22. Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 22A. Causing sexual activity without consent - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 22B. Sexual activity involving a child under 16 - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 70. Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 71. Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 72. Trafficking for sexual exploitation - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 74. Gross indecency with a child - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*

Other sexual offences

- 16. Buggery - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 18. Gross indecency between males - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 23. Incest or familial sexual offences
- 24. Exploitation of prostitution
- 25. Abduction of a female - *repealed with effect from May 2004.*
- 27. Soliciting for the purpose of prostitution
- 73. Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 88A. Sexual grooming - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 88B. Other miscellaneous sexual offences (*from 1 April 2008 no longer in use, please refer to classification 88C, 88D, 88E*)
- 88C. Other miscellaneous sexual offences - *with effect from May 2004.*
- 88D. Unnatural sexual offences – *with effect from May 2004.*
- 88E. Exposure and voyeurism – *with effect from May 2004.*

ROBBERY

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

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

BURGLARY

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

- 28. Burglary in a dwelling
- 29. Aggravated burglary in a dwelling
- 30. Burglary in a building other than a dwelling
- 31. Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling

OFFENCES AGAINST VEHICLES

- 37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking
Part of Section 1 of the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992. Applies to offences of unauthorised vehicle taking (see classification 48 below) with additional aggravating factors of dangerous driving, or causing an accident involving injury or damage.
45. Theft from a vehicle
48. Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle
Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (part of Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968; also known as taking without consent or TWOC) is a summary offence. It is closely associated with theft of a motor vehicle because at the time of recording it may not be known whether the intention is to permanently deprive the owner.
126. Interfering with a motor vehicle
Summary offences, closely associated with theft of or from vehicles. The Home Office website (see above) contains detailed guidance for forces on distinguishing between these offences, and criminal damage, where a vehicle is reported damaged.

Thefts of and from vehicles

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

OTHER THEFT OFFENCES

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

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

FRAUD AND FORGERY

- 51. Fraud by company director.
- 52. False accounting.
- 53A. Cheque and credit card fraud (pre Fraud Act 2006)
- 53B. Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)
- 53C. Fraud by false representation: cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts
- 53D. Fraud by false representation: other frauds
- 53E. Fraud by failing to disclose information
- 53F. Fraud by abuse of position
- 53G. Obtaining services dishonestly
- 53H. Making or supplying articles for use in fraud
- 53J. Possession of articles for use in fraud
- 55. Bankruptcy and insolvency offences
- 60. Forgery or use of false drug prescription
- 61. Other forgery
- 61A. Possession of false documents
- 814. Vehicle/driver document fraud
These records comprise driving licences, insurance certificates, registration and licensing documents, work records, operators' licences, and test certificates.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

- 56. Arson (*from 1 April 2008, no longer in use, please refer to codes 56A, 56B*)
- 56A. Arson endangering life
- 56B. Arson not endangering life
Not all malicious fires that the police record are included here. If the owner of the property set alight is wounded, then a crime of violence is recorded. If a stolen vehicle is subsequently burnt out, it is recorded as a vehicle theft. An additional arson offence is recorded only if there is evidence that the arsonist is unconnected with the vehicle thief
- 58A. Criminal damage to a dwelling
- 58B. Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
- 58C. Criminal damage to a vehicle
- 58D. Other criminal damage
- 58E. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling (*see classification 58A*)
- 58F. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (*see classification 58B*)
- 58G. Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle (*see classification 58C*)
- 58H. Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage (*see classification 58D*)
- 59. Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage

DRUG OFFENCES

- 92A. Trafficking in controlled drugs
- 92B. Possession of controlled drugs - *with effect from 1 April 2004 split into classification 92D, 92E.*
- 92C. Other drug offences
Various offences, mostly under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes; failure to comply with notice requiring

information relating to prescribing, supply etc. of drugs; supply of intoxicating substance; and supply etc. of articles for administering or preparing controlled drugs.

- 92D. Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)
- 92E. Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES

- 15. Concealing an infant death close to birth.
- 26. Bigamy
- 33. Going equipped for stealing, etc
- 35. Blackmail
- 36. Kidnapping
- 62. Treason
- 64. Riot
- 65. Violent disorder
- 66. Other offences against the State and public order
- 67. Perjury
- 68. Libel
- 75. Betting, gaming and lotteries
- 76. Aiding suicide
- 78. Immigration offences
- 79. Perverting the course of justice
- 80. Absconding from lawful custody
- 81. Other firearms offences
- 82. Customs and Revenue offences
- 83. Bail offences
- 84. Trade description offences
- 85. Health and Safety offences
- 86. Obscene publications, etc. and protected sexual material
- 87. Protection from eviction
- 89. Adulteration of food
- 90. Other knives offences
- 91. Public health offences
- 94. Planning laws
- 95. Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc
- 99. Other indictable or triable-either-way offences
- 802. Dangerous driving

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)
MISSION STATEMENT

RDS staff are part of the Home Office. They work closely with front-line staff and policy makers. The HO Chief Scientific Advisor, who is also Director of RDS, oversees professional development for RDS teams, quality assurance and strategic R & D issues.

The Home Office's purpose is to work together to protect the public. This is the guiding principle for Home Office policies to counter terrorism, cut crime, provide effective policing, secure our borders and protect personal identity.

Part of the remit of RDS staff is to provide Home Office National Statistics. These statistics inform Parliament and members of the public about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore -

Research Development and Statistics in the Home Office improves policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.