

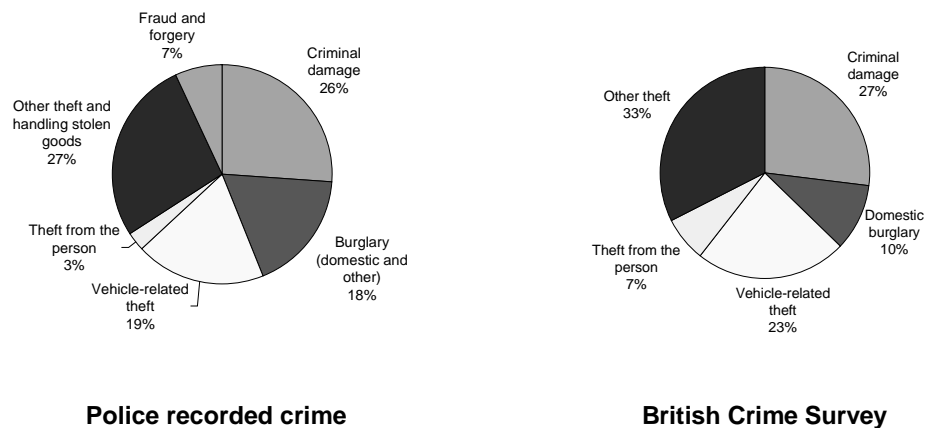
4 Property crime

Laura Ringham and Martin Wood

4.1 SUMMARY

- Property crime has fallen considerably since 1995. Overall acquisitive crime, as measured by the BCS, fell by nearly half (46%) between 1995 and 2003/04 interviews.
- The fall in domestic burglary has levelled off in recent periods according to the BCS, although police recorded crime in 2003/04 showed a fall of eight per cent compared to 2002/03. Both recorded burglaries in a dwelling and those not in a dwelling fell by eight per cent.
- The fall in vehicle-related theft has continued in the most recent period. A fall of ten per cent was measured by the BCS and nine per cent by police recorded crime statistics between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- Criminal damage remained level between 2002/03 and 2003/04 as measured by the BCS (the fall of three per cent was not statistically significant). The police recorded a nine per cent rise in criminal damage between 2002/03 and 2003/04, although this rise is likely to be linked to improvements in recording practices.
- The risk of being a victim of either burglary or vehicle-related theft has halved since 1995 and is much reduced for other property crimes.
- For both burglary and vehicle-related crime, having security measures in place was strongly associated with lower levels of victimisation. While 82 per cent of all homes had window locks in 2003/04, this was the case in only 33 per cent of homes where a burglar got into the property. Similarly, while three-quarters (75%) of main household cars had some kind of immobiliser, this was the case in only a third (32%) of cars that were stolen.

Figure 4.1 Police recorded and BCS property crime broken down by offence, 2003/04



Coverage of British Crime Survey and police recorded crime

This chapter looks at the various ways that individuals, households or corporate bodies are deprived of their property by illegal means (or there is intent to do so). It comprises burglaries, thefts and handling stolen goods, fraud and criminal damage.

Recorded crime figures include crimes in all these categories, provided that they have been reported to and recorded by the police. The degree to which crimes are reported and recorded varies according to crime type. Key to whether property crime is reported are perceived seriousness and whether the property is insured. The BCS does not look at frauds, or at crimes against corporate bodies (see Chapter 3).

*Key elements of **burglaries** (as defined by the Theft Act 1968) are entry (or attempted entry) to a building as a trespasser with intent to steal property from it, and actually stealing (or attempting to steal) or vandalising property whilst inside. Recorded crime figures include burglaries of all buildings, reported to and recorded by the police, although they make the distinction between domestic and non-domestic ones. The BCS covers domestic burglaries only, including break-ins (regardless of intent) to all inhabited dwellings.*

- **Non-domestic burglaries** will include burglaries to both businesses, including hotels and similar accommodation, and also some burglaries of sheds and out-houses where these are not clearly connected to the inhabited property.
- **Domestic burglaries** include break-ins (regardless of intent) to all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (i.e. by a connecting door).

*Police recorded **vehicle-related theft** 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); and
- **vehicle interference** (which includes attempts to drive a vehicle away without apparent intent to permanently deprive the owner – mostly included as attempts in BCS).

The BCS includes offences against private households only. It looks at three vehicle theft categories: thefts of vehicles, thefts from vehicles and attempts of and from (thefts of and from are not distinguished between due to the difficulty in establishing intent).

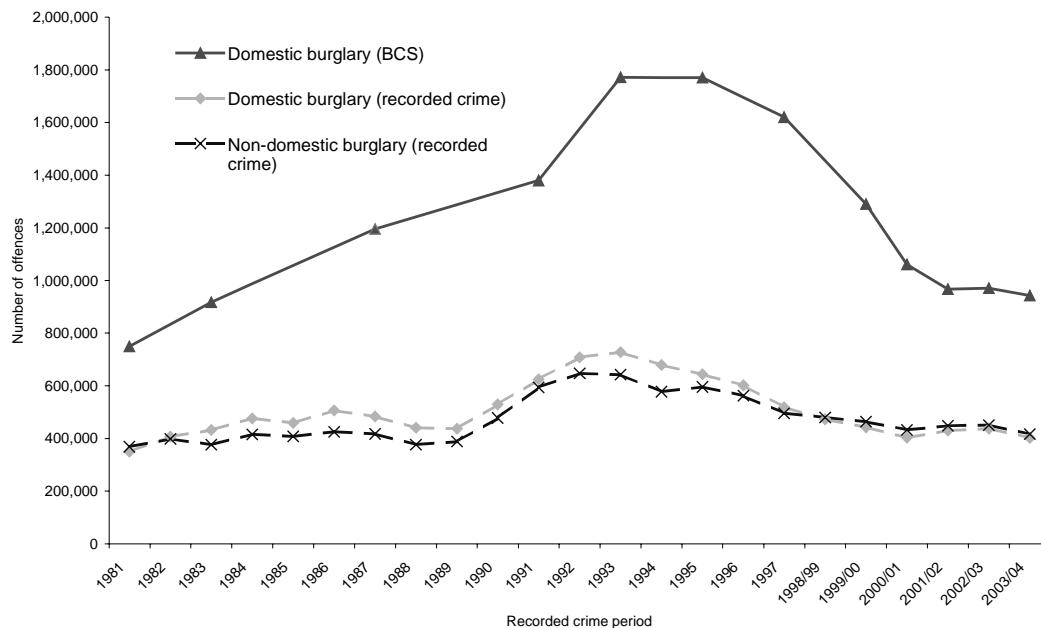
***Theft from the person** comprises both snatch theft and stealth theft. There may be an element of force in snatch theft just to snatch the property away and victims are usually aware of the incident. No force is used in stealth thefts and victims are often unaware of incidents.*

4.2 BURGLARY

Extent and trends

- The number of domestic burglaries in England and Wales was estimated by the BCS in 2003/04 to be 943,000, of which 533,000 were burglaries with entry and 410,000 were attempts (Table 2.01). The police recorded totals of 402,333 domestic burglaries and 416,309 non-domestic burglaries in 2003/04 (Table 2.04).

Figure 4.2 Trends in BCS and police recorded burglary, 1981 to 2003/04



- BCS and police recorded crime both showed considerable falls in burglary levels since peaks in the mid 1990s. The number of domestic burglaries estimated by the BCS fell by nearly half (47%) from 1,770,000 in 1995 to 943,000 in the 2003/04 BCS (Figure 4.2).
- Domestic burglary, as measured by the BCS, remained at broadly the same level between the 2002/03 and 2003/04 surveys (the fall of three per cent was not statistically significant). The fall of five per cent for burglary where there was entry to the property was not statistically significant, and attempted burglaries also remained stable.
- Police recorded burglary showed a decrease of eight per cent on 2002/03 and a resumption of falls following a small rise during the period when the NCRS counting rule changes were introduced (Table 2.04).
- Since 1981, non-domestic and domestic burglary trends have closely followed one another with both experiencing falls since their peaks in the early 1990s. In previous years domestic burglary

has fallen more sharply than non-domestic burglary. In 2003/04 non-domestic burglary fell at the same rate as domestic burglary with an eight per cent fall in the number recorded by the police (Figure 4.2 and Table 2.04).

- The 2003/04 BCS estimated that 62 per cent of domestic burglaries were reported to the police, and of these 74 per cent were recorded. Where there was loss as a result of burglary the reporting rate rose to 78 per cent, 98 per cent of these being recorded (Tables 3.02 and 3.04).

Risks of becoming a victim of burglary

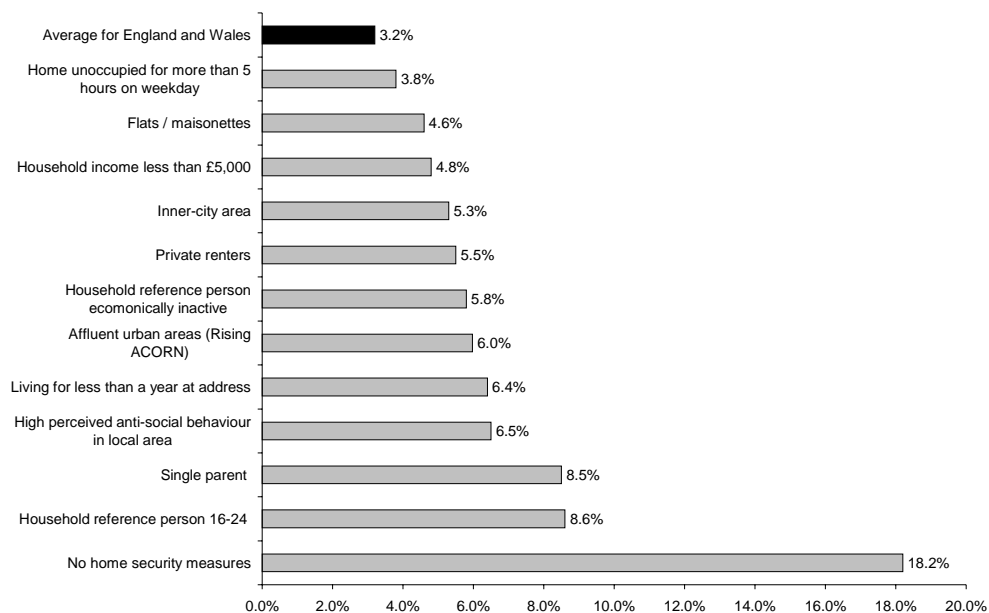
- Overall, 3.2 per cent of households in England and Wales interviewed in the 2003/04 BCS had experienced at least one domestic burglary in the previous 12 months. This was not significantly different from the 2002/03 level (3.4%), but substantially below the 1995 level of 6.4 per cent (Table 2.03). Within this, 1.9 per cent of households were victims of burglary with entry and 1.4 per cent were victims of attempts in 2003/04.

The risk of becoming a victim of burglary varies considerably across households with different characteristics and between households situated in different localities (Figure 4.3 and Table 4.01).

- Households where there were no home security measures were far more likely to have been victims of burglary than those where there were simple security measures such as deadlocks on doors and window locks (18.2% compared with 2.6%). Although only a small proportion of homes had no security measures (4%), they were the victims of 28 per cent of all burglaries.
- Households where the head of household was aged between 16 and 24 were significantly more likely (at 8.6%) to have experienced burglary than those living in households where the head of household was older. This in part may reflect the findings of Barberet *et al.* (2003) that there was a considerably higher prevalence of burglary among students than in the general population.
- Lone parent families were also more likely to have been victimised (8.5%). Further to this, households with an overall income of less than £5,000 were also more likely to have experienced at least one burglary in the past year (4.8%).
- In addition to household characteristics, certain types of area were also more at risk of burglary. In particular, households in inner-city areas were more likely to have experienced the crime in the previous year (5.3%) than those in urban (3.3%) or rural areas (1.9%). Households in council estate areas were at higher risk (4.3%), but so too were those in certain affluent urban areas (6%).
- Certain areas of the country also appear to be more at risk. In particular, the Yorkshire and Humber region had experienced significantly higher levels of burglary than the national average in the last year, whilst the Eastern region and Wales had experienced lower levels than the national average (BCS incidence rates, Table 4.09).
- Other risk factors included the number of years spent at an address, with people who had lived at an address for less than a year more likely to experience victimisation (6.4%). Again, this may be influenced by the more highly victimised and highly mobile student population (Barberet *et al.*, 2003). The level of anti-social behaviour perceived in the local area also showed a significant

relationship, with those perceiving high levels in their area being more likely to experience burglary (6.5%).

Figure 4.3 Households most at risk of burglary, 2003/04 interviews



Many of the risk factors mentioned here are inter-related. For instance, income tends to rise with age until retirement. Multivariate analysis¹ was carried out in order to look at which factors were the most important predictors of becoming a victim of burglary independent of other variables.

- Overall, the level of home security was the most important predictor of whether a household experienced burglary or not, with those in households with no security being far more likely to become victims.
- Illustrating this, eighty-two per cent of the general population had window locks compared to 38 per cent of burglary victims (Table 4.02).
- Differences between homes where the burglar had gained entry to the property and those where the attempt failed were also evident. Households that had experienced an attempted burglary were more likely to have a burglar alarm (26% compared with 17% of victims of burglary with entry), have window locks (47% compared with 33%), security chains on doors (22% compared with 15%) and also use outdoor sensor or timer lights (24% and 14%).
- While the level of home security was the strongest predictive factor, other factors were also significantly associated with burglary victimisation, independent of other variables. These are listed in the box below in order of the strength of their prediction.

¹ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

Predictors of households experiencing burglary:

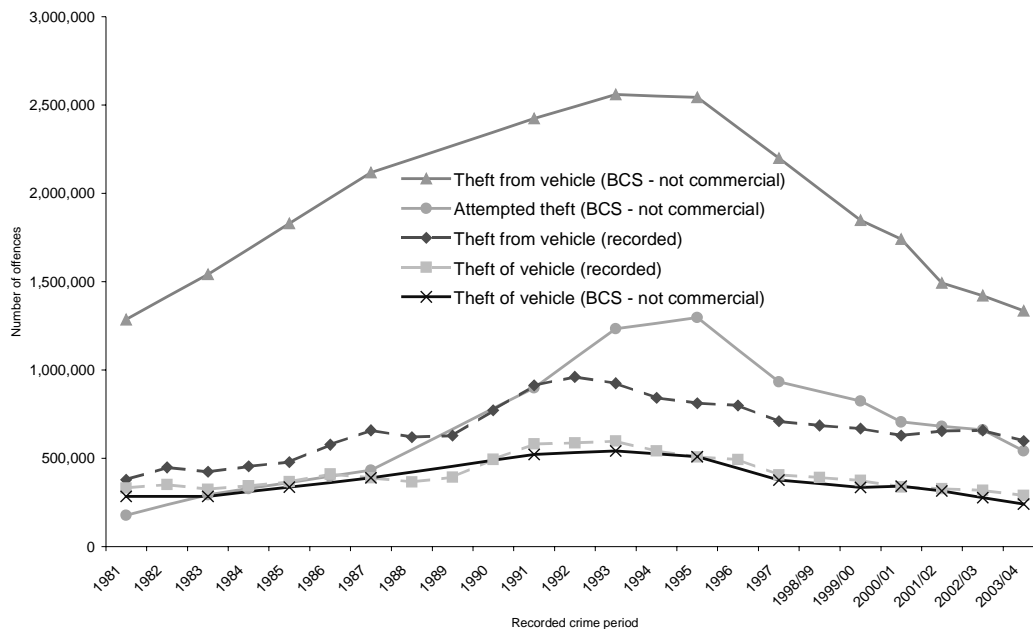
- No home security
- Households in areas where high levels of anti-social behaviour are perceived
- Living at an address for less than one year
- Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)²
- Single adult households

4.3 VEHICLE-RELATED THEFT

Extent and trends

- Vehicle-related theft has fallen considerably since 1995 and the fall has continued in the latest period. The number of offences as measured by the BCS fell ten per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 2,121,000 crimes. Offences have halved (falling 51%) since the peak in 1995 (Table 2.01 and Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4 Trends in BCS and police recorded vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2003/04



² Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of burglary across different parts of the country (when looking at Police Force Area) independent of other factors including the *type* of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

- Police recorded crime figures reflected this, with a fall of nine per cent to 889,171 thefts of and from vehicles between 2002/03 and 2003/04. This fall in the most recent period represents a resumption of a downward trend following increases resulting from the NCRS police recording rule changes. Recorded offences have fallen by a third since 1995 (Table 2.04 and Figure 4.4).
- Within the categories of vehicle-related theft, the BCS showed a fall of 18 per cent in attempted thefts of and from vehicles. Estimates also suggested that there were falls in the number of thefts of vehicles (13%) and thefts from vehicles (6%), although these were not statistically significant changes. Offences in each of the individual categories are around half the level they were at in 1995 (Table 2.01).
- Recorded crime showed falls of nine per cent in both thefts of and from vehicles between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
- The BCS estimates that 48 per cent of vehicle-related thefts were reported to the police in 2003/04 (92% of which were recorded). Within this, 95 per cent of thefts of vehicles were reported to the police (of which 90% were recorded) and 45 per cent of thefts from vehicles were reported (with 80% of these being recorded). (Tables 3.02 and 3.04).

Risks of vehicle-related theft

- Overall, 9.7 per cent of vehicle-owning households interviewed in the 2003/04 BCS had experienced one or more vehicle-related thefts in the previous 12 months. This is down from 10.8 per cent in the 2002/03 BCS and is less than half of the 1995 prevalence (19.7%) (Table 2.03).

Several factors interact to mean that the risk of experiencing vehicle-related theft is not even across the population. Socio-demographic factors will influence usage and ownership patterns and levels of offending will vary between different types of area. Particularly important for thefts of vehicles are the security measures with which vehicles are equipped³.

- Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft were those where the head of household was under 25 years old and those living in areas where they perceived anti-social behaviour to be high (17.5% of both of these groups experienced vehicle-related theft compared with the national average of 9.7%) (Figure 4.5).
- Among those living in inner-city areas, 15.3 per cent had experienced this crime. This was further reflected in high prevalence of victimisation among both affluent urban and low-income areas (13.2% and 13.0% respectively).⁴
- Both the London and Yorkshire and Humber regions experienced higher levels of vehicle-related theft in the last year than the national average. The North East and Eastern regions and also Wales experienced lower levels than the national average (BCS incidence rates, Table 4.10).
- The number of vehicles that a household owned was clearly a factor in the risk of a household experiencing vehicle-related theft.

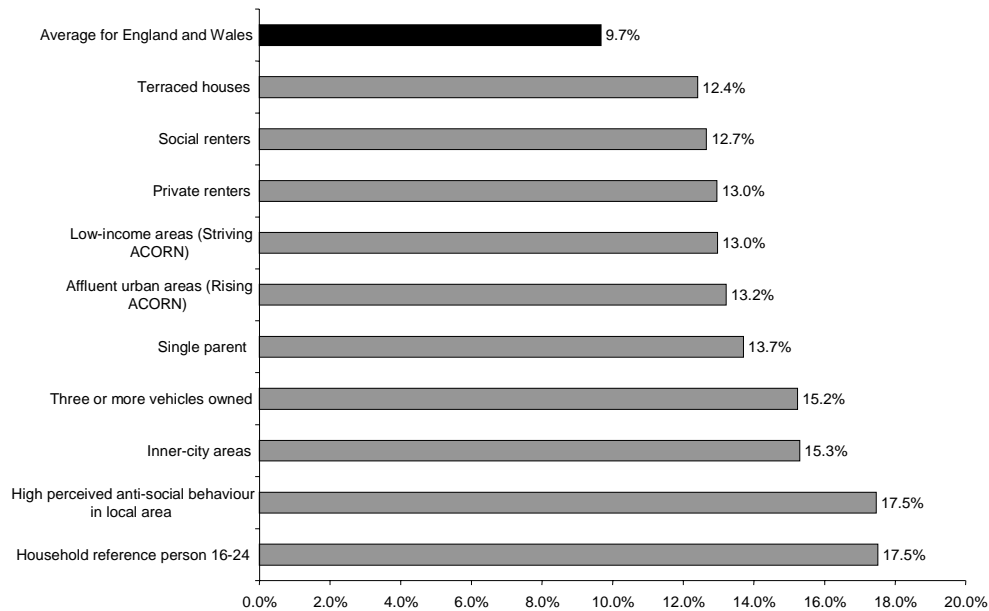
³ The prevalence of thefts among vehicles with different levels of security could not be calculated, but see Table 4.04 for a comparison of security measures on stolen and other vehicles.

⁴ These classifications are based on ACORN groups (see Table 4.08).

Crime in England and Wales 2003/04

- Those living in flats or terraced housing were at greater risk of vehicle-related theft, perhaps as a result of being more likely to need to park their cars on the street rather than in private areas.
- Risk factors were similar between thefts of and from vehicles. However, lower income households and those living in council estate areas were more likely to have experienced thefts of vehicles whereas those on higher incomes were more likely to have experienced thefts from vehicles (Table 4.03).

Figure 4.5 Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft, 2003/04 interviews



Many of these factors will be interrelated. Multivariate analysis⁵ was carried out among the socio-demographic factors to draw out which were the underlying predictors of vehicle theft. The box below lists the factors that were most strongly related to vehicle-related theft independently of other variables (these are listed in order of their strength of prediction).

Predictors of households experiencing vehicle-related theft:⁶

- Young head of household
- Households in areas where high levels of anti-social behaviour are perceived
- Living in particular geographical areas (no distinct pattern)⁷
- Multiple vehicle ownership
- Living in flats or terraced houses

⁵ Logistic regression. See glossary for more details.

⁶ The effect of security devices could not be included in this analysis.

⁷ Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of vehicle-related theft across different parts of the country independent of other factors including the *type* of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

In addition to these socio-demographic factors, an important element of risk is how secure the vehicle itself is. The considerable falls in vehicle-related theft described above are closely linked to the increasing security measures available on more modern vehicles that make them more resistant to theft (particularly in the case of theft of vehicles). The Car Theft Index 2003⁸ shows the age of vehicles to be a significant risk factor that will interact with household characteristics. This point is illustrated in Table 4.04.

- Vehicles that were stolen were far less likely to have a car alarm (31%) or some kind of immobiliser (32%) compared with the main cars of the general population (58% and 75% respectively). The greater proportion of security measures to be found on vehicles subject to attempted thefts compared with those on vehicles that were stolen may reflect the effectiveness of those measures in thwarting those attempts (Table 4.04).

Another important component of risk for vehicle-related theft is the usage of the vehicle, in particular the places in which it is parked.

- Two thirds (65%) of vehicle-related thefts occurred in areas around the home. The street outside the home is where the highest volume of incidents occur, with 40 per cent reported to have occurred in this location by the 2003/04 BCS. Twenty per cent of all vehicle thefts occurred in a car park (Table 4.05).
- However, in assessing the relative risk of different locations, the length of time that vehicles are in those locations needs to be considered. Work by Clarke and Mayhew (1996) found that cars in car parks were at much greater risk than those parked outside the home when length of time parked there is taken into account. Table 4.05 shows that half (49%) of vehicle-related thefts that occur during the day take place in car parks.

4.4 THEFTS AND HANDLING STOLEN GOODS

Extent and trends

- The 2003/04 BCS estimated that there were 3,596,000 thefts from adults living in private households in England and Wales (excluding burglaries and vehicle-related thefts), of which 370,000 were bicycle thefts, 1,283,000 other household thefts, 622,000 thefts from the person and 1,321,000 other thefts of personal property (Table 2.01).
- The BCS suggested a ten per cent fall in the number of thefts from the person between 2002/03 (689,000) and 2003/04 (622,000), although the ten per cent fall in this single year was still not statistically significant (Table 2.01).
- Declines seen in both other thefts of personal property (for example thefts of unattended property in the workplace) and other household thefts (including theft of property immediately outside the home) between 2002/03 and 2003/04 were not statistically significant (2% and 6% respectively). However, looking at longer-term trends in these categories, other household thefts have fallen by 43 per cent between 1995 and 2003/04 interviews while other thefts of personal property fell by 36 per cent during the same period (Table 2.01).

⁸ The Car Theft Index 2003 based on 2002 theft data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC), and on information provided by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on the number of cars on the road.

- In terms of recorded crime, there was a one per cent fall in thefts and handling stolen goods (excluding vehicle-related thefts) between 2002/03 and 2003/04 (Table 2.04).
- The reliability of recorded crime as a measure of underlying trends in non-vehicle thefts needs to be considered. Levels of recorded shop thefts, which fell by two per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 301,796, are highly dependent on whether the shops themselves, and particularly the larger chains, apprehend suspects or involve the police.

Risks of theft from the person

- The BCS estimated that, overall, 1.4 per cent of adults in England and Wales had been a victim of theft from the person in 2003/04. Women were significantly more likely than men to have been victims, and those in younger age groups were also more at risk. Of young women aged 16 to 24, 3.3 per cent had been a victim of theft from the person compared with 2.5 per cent of men the same age and even lower risks for older men (Table 4.06).
- Living arrangements also appeared to affect the risk of being a victim of theft from the person, with single people more likely to have been victimised than married or cohabiting adults. This perhaps reflects differences in lifestyle as thefts are more likely in particular types of location.
- Multivariate analysis⁹ confirmed that living arrangements were an important predictor of experiencing theft from the person. Other factors found to be important are presented in the box below.

Predictors of adults experiencing theft from the person:

- Being single, widowed, separated or divorced
- Living in particular geographical areas (no distinct pattern)¹⁰
- Households in areas where high levels of anti-social behaviour are perceived
- Being female

⁹ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

¹⁰ Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of theft from the person across different parts of the country independent of other factors including the *type* of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

4.5 CRIMINAL DAMAGE (VANDALISM) AND ARSON

Extent and trends

- The 2003/04 BCS estimated that there were 2,465,000 offences of vandalism against private household property in England and Wales. Although the change between 2002/03 and 2003/04 represents a three per cent fall, this is not statistically significant. Under a third of these incidents were reported to the police (31%) (Tables 2.01 and 3.02).
- The trend appears to have levelled off after falls in the number of incidents of vandalism since the high point in 1995 when the BCS estimated there were 3,366,000 incidents.
- Looking at recorded crime, there was a nine per cent rise in total criminal damage between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 1,205,576 offences. Of these, 38 per cent (457,528) were to a vehicle, and 27 per cent to a dwelling (323,594) (Table 2.04).

There are substantial recording differences between arson recorded by the police and malicious fires figures recorded by fire brigades. The police need a higher level of proof to establish that the report of a fire legally constitutes arson than the fire brigades need to attribute a fire as deliberately started. Also, the police record a large proportion of fires to stolen vehicles as thefts of vehicles rather than arson.

- There was a seven per cent increase in the number of arson offences recorded by the police between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 57,162 offences (Table 2.04).
- The number of deliberate fires recorded by the fire brigades in England and Wales fell for the first time since 1997, from 123,300 in 2001 to 121,800 in 2002. Data for 2003 are not yet available.
- As with the previous year, fires in vehicles accounted for a large proportion of all deliberate fires in 2002 (a total of 66%). The number of deliberate fires in a vehicle rose by one per cent in 2002, a continuation of the 12 per cent rise seen in 2001. Deliberate fires in road vehicles have increased by 68 per cent in the last ten years rising from 47,800 in 1992 to 80,200 in 2002. Deliberate fires in buildings (i.e. dwellings and other buildings) have also increased by 24 per cent in the same period (ODPM, 2004, latest available data).

Risks of criminal damage

- Overall, 7.1 per cent of households in England and Wales had experienced some form of criminal damage in the previous 12 months. This risk was not uniform across the population (Table 4.07).
- Multivariate analysis¹¹ was used to establish those factors most predictive of a household experiencing criminal damage. Since criminal damage is comprised of both vehicle vandalism and vandalism to the home, two separate analyses were performed¹².

¹¹ Logistic regression. See Glossary for more details.

Predictors of households experiencing criminal damage to the home:

- Living in urban areas and low-income areas
- Living in a particular geographical area (no distinct pattern)¹³
- Living in a household where the head of household was aged between 16 and 24
- Living in a terraced house or maisonette

Predictors of households experiencing criminal damage to a vehicle:

- Owning more than one vehicle
- Living in a maisonette or converted flat
- Living in a household where the head of household was aged between 25 and 44
- Living in urban areas and low-income areas

4.6 FRAUD AND FORGERY

Recorded cheque and credit card frauds are legally defined as deception, with the victims being the owners of goods and services purchased with the stolen or forged card or cheque, rather than the account holder or the bank or credit card company. Many of these deceptions go unreported to the police, either because the victims are unaware that they are being deceived, or because the card holders, once they realise, are more likely to inform the bank or card company than the police. For similar reasons, fraud offences cannot be identified by the BCS.

The recorded statistics of fraud are therefore a poor indication of real levels and trends. The banking and credit card industry itself records a considerable amount of information on fraudulent misuse of its services, and this may provide a better indication of the high volume crimes of this nature.

- For the first time since 1995 the Association of Payment Clearing Services (APACS) reported a decrease in plastic card fraud. APACS reported total plastic card fraud losses of £402.4 million in the UK in 2003, a decrease of five per cent from 2002 (£424.6m). According to APACS, this decrease is mainly driven by a reduction in the amount of fraud committed abroad on UK cards while there has been a slight increase on UK based transactions.
- A total of 317,949 offences of fraud and forgery were recorded by the police in 2003/04, a decrease of four per cent on 2002/03. Of these, a total of 130,240 offences were cheque and

¹² Although perceptions of anti-social behaviour have been shown to be strongly associated with this type of victimisation, it has not been included in the multivariate analysis. This is because experiences of criminal damage are likely to be a component of these perceptions.

¹³ Multivariate analysis revealed that there were considerable variations in the level of criminal damage across different parts of the country independent of other factors including the type of area (as defined by ACORN). However, there was not a clear pattern in the areas that were found to be higher risk.

credit card frauds, a fall of eight per cent and a continuation of the seven per cent fall seen in 2002/03 (Table 2.04).

For more information on trends and type of fraud and forgery see Flood-Page and Taylor (2003).

4.7 DRUG AND OTHER OFFENCES

There is a diverse range of offences recorded by the police, from libel to immigration offences, that fall outside the subject of the main chapters in this volume. The total number for this group of 'other offences' was 74,193 in 2003/04 (Table 2.04).

The recorded crime figures for drug possession and trafficking are thought to seriously understate the true extent of offending in those areas. The statistics will also be heavily influenced by local policing priorities in response to local drug problems, and may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime rather than real changes in its incidence.

Statistics on drug offending are published annually by the Home Office (the latest information is available in Corkery, 2002).

Table 4.01 Proportion of households victims of burglary by household type, 2003/04

Percentages				BCS
	All burglary	With entry % victims once or more	Attempts	Unweighted n
Age of head of household				
16-24	8.6	6.1	3.0	1,319
25-44	4.0	2.4	1.8	12,930
45-64	2.8	1.5	1.4	13,748
65-74	1.9	0.9	1.0	5,224
75+	1.8	1.4	0.4	4,657
Head of household under 60				
Single adult & child(ren)	8.5	4.9	4.3	2,060
Adults & child(ren)	3.0	1.8	1.3	8,395
No children	3.8	2.2	1.6	14,574
Head of household over 60				
	1.9	1.2	0.8	12,849
Household income				
Less than £5,000	4.8	3.1	1.8	2,824
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.0	2.4	1.8	4,932
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.6	1.9	1.8	6,968
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.5	1.2	1.3	5,346
£30,000 or more	2.7	1.6	1.2	9,559
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	2.3	1.4	1.0	27,110
Social renters	5.1	2.9	2.5	7,043
Private renters	5.5	3.5	2.2	3,518
Head of household employment status²				
In employment	3.2	1.9	1.4	21,541
Unemployed	5.5	3.0	3.2	407
Economically inactive	5.8	3.5	2.5	4,839
Accommodation type				
Houses	3.0	1.8	1.3	31,896
<i>Detached</i>	2.3	1.4	1.0	9,306
<i>Semi-detached</i>	2.7	1.7	1.1	12,418
<i>Terraced</i>	3.8	2.3	1.6	10,172
Flats/maisonettes	4.6	2.7	2.1	4,352
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday				
Never	3.0	2.1	1.0	4,676
Less than 3 hours	2.7	1.5	1.2	12,126
3 but less than 5 hours	3.1	1.8	1.4	7,024
5 hours or more	3.8	2.2	1.7	14,018
Area type				
Inner-city	5.3	3.2	2.3	3,395
Urban	3.3	2.0	1.5	24,972
Rural	1.9	1.2	0.8	9,564
Council estate ³	4.3	2.6	1.9	7,096
Non-council estate	3.0	1.8	1.3	30,824
Number of years at address				
Less than 1 year	6.4	4.2	2.5	3,476
1 to 2 years	3.5	2.3	1.2	2,750
2 to 5 years	3.7	2.2	1.6	6,968
5 to 10 years	3.3	1.7	1.7	6,321
Longer	2.3	1.3	1.0	18,308
Level of anti-social behaviour				
High	6.5	3.3	3.5	5,084
Low	2.7	1.7	1.1	29,274
Level of home security⁴				
High	2.0	0.7	1.3	2,943
Some	2.6	1.2	1.5	1,668
None	18.2	11.8	7.4	183
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	3.2	1.9	1.4	37,931

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

3. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

4. 'High' home security includes those homes with burglar alarms, internal or external security lights, or bars on windows. 'Some' security includes homes with deadlocks on doors, window locks or security chains on doors.

Table 4.02 Ownership of home security devices among victims of burglary and the general population, 2003/04

	Percentages			BCS
	Victims ²			General population
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts	
	%	%	%	%
Burglar alarm	21	17	26	28
Double/deadlocks	41	38	45	79
Outdoor sensor/timer lights	18	14	24	43
Indoor sensor/timer lights	11	9	14	27
Window locks	38	33	47	82
Window bar/grilles	3	3	3	3
Security chains on door	18	15	22	37
<i>Unweighted n</i>	896	563	361	4,794

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

2. Victims were asked what security measures were in place at the time of the burglary.

Table 4.03 Proportion of households victims of vehicle-related thefts by household type, 2003/04

Percentages					BCS
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle % victims once or more	Theft from vehicle	Attempted vehicle theft	Unweighted n
Age of head of household					
16-24	17.5	2.6	11.2	5.0	729
25-44	11.7	1.7	7.5	3.2	11,027
45-64	9.8	1.1	6.4	2.8	11,809
65-74	4.6	0.7	2.9	1.2	3,750
75+	2.3	0.2	1.3	0.7	2,131
Head of household under 60					
Single adult & child(ren)	13.7	3.4	8.5	3.4	1,186
Adults & child(ren)	11.5	1.8	7.2	3.1	7,757
No children	11.2	1.3	7.4	3.2	12,242
Head of household over 60					
	4.6	0.5	2.9	1.4	8,261
Household income					
Less than £5,000	8.6	2.3	4.0	3.3	975
£5,000 less than £10,000	8.5	1.5	5.1	2.6	2,407
£10,000 less than £20,000	8.8	1.8	5.3	2.5	5,433
£20,000 less than £30,000	9.8	1.0	6.6	2.6	4,981
£30,000 or more	11.0	1.1	7.3	3.1	9,253
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	8.8	1.0	5.8	2.5	23,774
Social renters	12.7	3.2	7.3	3.2	3,058
Private renters	13.0	1.5	8.6	3.7	2,445
Head of household employment status³					
In employment	11.2	1.4	7.4	3.1	20,614
Unemployed	12.0	4.2	4.8	3.8	213
Economically inactive	9.6	2.0	5.8	2.9	8,495
Accommodation type					
Houses	9.4	1.3	6.1	2.6	26,118
<i>Detached</i>	6.6	0.6	4.4	1.9	8,709
<i>Semi-detached</i>	9.3	1.3	6.0	2.5	10,192
<i>Terraced</i>	12.4	1.9	7.9	3.5	7,217
Flats/maisonettes	12.0	1.6	8.3	3.2	2,061
Area type					
Inner-city	15.3	2.8	8.5	4.8	1,828
Urban	10.3	1.4	6.7	2.9	19,087
Rural	6.5	0.5	4.5	1.7	8,568
Council estate⁴					
Council estate ⁴	11.9	2.6	6.7	3.4	4,282
Non-council estate	9.3	1.1	6.2	2.6	25,191
Number of vehicles owned by household					
One	7.9	1.1	5.0	2.3	16,300
Two	11.0	1.3	7.2	3.0	10,177
Three or more	15.2	2.0	10.6	4.1	2,636
Perceived anti-social behaviour in area					
High	17.5	2.7	11.2	5.0	3,779
Not high	8.2	1.1	5.3	2.2	23,200
ALL VEHICLE-OWNING HOUSEHOLDS	9.7	1.3	6.2	2.7	29,483

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. Based on vehicle-owning households.

3. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

Table 4.04 Vehicle security precautions on cars targeted in thefts, 2003/04

Percentages	BCS				
	Thefts of and from car/ van	Thefts of car/ van	Thefts from car/ van	Attempted thefts	All main cars ⁴
	%	%	%	%	%
Car alarm ²	37	31	38	41	58
Central locking	64	46	68	59	81
Any immobiliser	54	32	59	61	75
- Electronic	42	22	46	46	62
- Mechanical	27	15	30	29	37
Tracking device	2	1	2	1	3
Window security etching	60	57	60	62	60
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,134	219	907	430	3,357
Audio security ³	72	79	78	79	80
- Removable stereo	53	42	56	47	45
- Security pin number	51	52	51	58	64
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,027	195	832	373	3,200

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

2. Base is cars or light vans subject to vehicle theft.

3. Base is cars or light vans with radio/cassette/CD.

4. Base is all main cars for households (not just those involved in thefts) in 2003/04.

5. Percentages add to more than 100 as respondents could have more than one security measure.

Table 4.05 Location and timing of vehicle-related thefts, 2003/04

Percentages	BCS		
	Morning or afternoon ³	Evening or night ⁴	Total
	%	%	%
Home			
Private	1	2	2
Semi-private ²	12	26	23
Street	12	49	40
Work			
Car park	11	2	4
Street	5	1	2
Other			
Car park	37	10	16
Street	18	10	12
Other	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted n</i>	682	2,032	2,997

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

2. 'Semi-private' includes outside areas on the premises and garages or car parks around but not connected to the home.

3. From 6am to 6pm.

4. From 6pm to 6am.

Table 4.06 Proportion of adult victims of theft from the person by personal characteristics, 2003/04

Percentages	BCS	
	% victims once or more	<i>Unweighted n</i>
Men	1.0	<i>17,003</i>
16-24	2.5	<i>1,476</i>
25-44	1.1	<i>5,733</i>
45-64	0.6	<i>5,801</i>
65-74	0.4	<i>2,253</i>
75+	0.0	<i>1,727</i>
Women	1.7	<i>20,928</i>
16-24	3.3	<i>1,734</i>
25-44	1.5	<i>7,188</i>
45-64	1.5	<i>6,545</i>
65-74	1.3	<i>2,731</i>
75+	1.3	<i>2,703</i>
Living arrangements		
Married	0.7	<i>18,668</i>
Cohabiting	0.9	<i>2,781</i>
Single	2.7	<i>7,458</i>
Separated	2.1	<i>1,154</i>
Divorced	1.8	<i>3,275</i>
Widowed	1.6	<i>4,573</i>
Respondents' employment status		
In employment	1.3	<i>19,754</i>
Unemployed	2.2	<i>530</i>
Economically inactive	1.9	<i>6,391</i>
Hours out of home on an average weekday		
Less than 3 hours	1.0	<i>11,638</i>
3 but less than 7 hours	1.5	<i>10,058</i>
7 hours or more	1.5	<i>16,159</i>
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month		
None	1.2	<i>18,045</i>
Less than 3 times a week	1.2	<i>10,973</i>
More often	1.9	<i>8,907</i>
ALL ADULTS	1.4	<i>37,931</i>

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

Table 4.07 Proportion of households victims of criminal damage by household type

Percentages				BCS
	Criminal damage to a vehicle ²	Criminal damage to the home and other property	All criminal damage	Unweighted n
% victims once or more				
Age of head of household				
16-24	6.6	3.7	7.3	1,319
25-44	7.9	3.1	9.5	12,930
45-64	5.4	2.8	7.2	13,748
65-74	3.3	2.9	5.0	5,224
75+	1.6	1.5	2.1	4,657
Head of household under 60				
Single adult & child(ren)	10.3	4.5	10.0	2,060
Adults & child(ren)	7.1	2.9	9.2	8,395
No children	6.5	2.9	8.0	14,574
Head of household over 60				
	3.2	2.4	4.2	12,849
Household income				
Less than £5,000	7.3	2.9	5.2	2,824
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.8	2.8	5.0	4,932
£10,000 less than £20,000	5.2	3.3	7.1	6,968
£20,000 less than £30,000	6.2	2.7	8.2	5,346
£30,000 or more	6.7	2.8	9.0	9,559
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	5.6	2.7	7.3	27,110
Social renters	7.3	3.4	6.4	7,043
Private renters	7.3	2.3	7.1	3,518
Head of household employment status³				
In employment	6.7	2.8	8.6	21,541
Unemployed	5.9	2.0	4.6	407
Economically inactive	6.5	3.7	7.3	4,839
Accommodation type				
Houses	5.8	2.9	7.3	31,896
<i>Detached</i>	3.5	2.6	5.6	9,306
<i>Semi-detached</i>	5.5	2.5	6.9	12,418
<i>Terraced</i>	8.4	3.5	9.2	10,172
Flats/maisonettes	8.2	2.5	6.4	4,352
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday				
Never	5.3	2.7	6.2	4,676
Less than 3 hours	5.0	2.4	5.6	12,126
3 but less than 5 hours	5.6	3.1	7.2	7,024
5 hours or more	6.9	2.9	8.6	14,018
Area type				
Inner-city	7.5	3.3	7.0	3,395
Rural	3.7	1.8	5.0	9,564
Urban	6.7	3.0	7.9	24,972
Council estate⁴				
Council estate ⁴	7.8	3.6	8.1	7,096
Non-council estate	5.6	2.6	6.9	30,824
Number of cars owned in household				
None	n/a	3.1	3.3	8,710
One	5.4	2.9	7.9	16,300
Two	6.3	2.5	8.6	10,177
Three or more	9.0	2.1	10.9	2,636
Level anti-social behaviour				
High	14.0	7.3	16.8	5,084
Low	4.5	1.9	5.4	29,274
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	6.0	2.8	7.1	37,931

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

2. Based on vehicle-owning households.

3. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).

4. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

5. 'n/a' = not applicable.

Table 4.08 Proportion of households victims by type of area (ACORN), 2003/04

Percentages					BCS
	All burglary	Vehicle-related theft ³	Theft from the person	Criminal damage	Unweighted n
% victims once or more					
Wealthy Achievers	1.8	6.7	0.9	4.9	10,000
Wealthy Executives	2.3	6.3	0.6	4.8	3,265
Affluent Greys	1.4	5.3	1.0	4.3	3,418
Flourishing Families	1.8	8.3	1.1	5.6	3,317
Urban Prosperity	5.3	13.5	2.9	9.3	2,963
Prosperous Professionals	4.2	10.6	0.9	8.2	689
Educated Urbanites	5.0	14.0	4.5	7.4	1,179
Aspiring Singles	6.3	14.9	2.2	12.0	1,095
Comfortably Off	2.4	8.8	1.0	6.6	11,408
Starting Out	3.5	12.7	2.5	8.7	945
Secure Families	2.5	9.3	0.9	6.4	6,385
Settled Suburbia	1.7	6.4	0.8	5.9	3,027
Prudent Pensioners	2.5	8.6	1.1	7.9	1,051
Moderate Means	3.8	12.4	1.4	10.3	5,248
Asian Communities	6.0	16.2	1.2	9.7	266
Post Industrial Families	2.6	11.3	1.6	11.0	1,444
Blue Collar Roots	4.1	12.6	1.3	10.1	3,538
Hard Pressed	4.5	12.3	1.6	7.2	8,231
Struggling Families	4.3	11.0	1.0	8.2	5,464
Burdened Singles	4.7	14.7	1.5	5.9	1,679
High Rise Hardship	5.3	17.5	2.4	5.8	482
Inner City Adversity	5.2	17.0	4.5	4.6	606
ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS	3.2	9.7	1.4	7.1	37,931

1. Source: 2003/04 BCS.

2. See Glossary for more information about the ACORN geo-demographic classification.

3. Prevalence of vehicle-related theft based on vehicle owning households.

Table 4.09 Burglaries recorded by the police and BCS rates by police force area and region

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME						BCS		
	Total burglary in a dwelling	Burglary in a dwelling per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households	Total burglary other than in a dwelling	Burglary other than in a dwelling per 10,000 population	All burglary per 10,000 households	Burglary with entry per 10,000 households	Attempted burglary per 10,000 households
Cleveland	6,484	287	977	43	6,911	128			
Durham	2,843	114	n/a	n/a	4,240	72			
Northumbria	10,223	171	1,652	28	9,860	71			
North East Region	19,550	182	2,629	24	21,011	84	480	278	203
Cheshire	5,780	139	758	18	7,339	74			
Cumbria	1,799	85	204	10	2,814	58			
Greater Manchester	37,762	361	6,914	66	28,783	115			
Lancashire	8,821	149	1,161	20	10,750	76			
Merseyside	12,760	225	1,223	22	12,111	89			
North West Region	66,922	236	10,260	36	61,797	91	481	282	200
Humberside	10,410	283	1,420	39	13,351	159			
North Yorkshire	4,936	155	435	14	6,126	81			
South Yorkshire	13,465	252	1,923	36	13,098	103			
West Yorkshire	30,127	344	4,389	50	29,672	142			
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	58,928	281	8,167	39	62,247	125	646 *	322	324 *
Derbyshire	7,680	190	1,220	30	8,372	87			
Leicestershire	6,514	172	1,125	30	6,281	67			
Lincolnshire	3,438	124	477	17	5,614	85			
Northamptonshire	5,284	201	665	25	6,947	109			
Nottinghamshire	15,980	372	n/a	n/a	15,355	150			
East Midlands Region	38,896	222	3,487	20	42,569	101	326	164 *	162
Staffordshire	6,165	144	1,053	25	7,907	75			
Warwickshire	3,192	149	393	18	4,469	87			
West Mercia	5,925	122	934	19	9,090	78			
West Midlands	26,636	255	4,336	41	26,480	103			
West Midlands Region	41,918	193	6,716	31	47,946	90	517	305	213
Bedfordshire	5,006	213	928	40	4,039	71			
Cambridgeshire	4,290	145	642	22	5,967	83			
Essex	7,055	103	1,000	15	9,412	58			
Hertfordshire	5,649	131	4,548	106	7,134	69			
Norfolk	2,944	85	348	10	5,225	65			
Suffolk	2,385	84	219	8	4,011	60			
Eastern Region	27,329	120	7,685	34	35,788	66	290 *	167 *	123 *
London, City of	33	+	1	+	421	+			
Metropolitan Police	67,996	212	7,336	23	37,365	51			
London Region	68,029	212	7,337	23	37,786	51	461	270	191
Hampshire	7,030	94	967	13	10,984	61			
Kent	7,510	114	1,050	16	10,320	65			
Surrey	3,914	88	500	11	5,786	55			
Sussex	7,920	120	n/a	n/a	8,510	57			
Thames Valley	14,505	169	2,333	27	15,571	74			
South East Region	40,879	121	4,850	14	51,171	64	391	240	151
Avon & Somerset	10,966	174	1,792	28	13,598	91			
Devon & Cornwall	6,027	88	597	9	7,997	50			
Dorset	3,099	101	447	15	4,516	60			
Gloucestershire	3,335	139	86	4	5,737	101			
Wiltshire	2,553	101	362	14	3,376	55			
South West Region	25,980	123	3,284	16	35,224	71	329	174	155
Dyfed-Powys	944	46	118	6	1,759	36			
Gwent	3,199	141	387	17	4,342	78			
North Wales	2,484	89	270	10	4,817	72			
South Wales	7,275	147	1,090	22	9,852	82			
Wales	13,902	116	1,865	16	20,770	71	213 *	117 *	96 *
ENGLAND AND WALES	402,333	182	56,280	25	416,309	78	422	239	184
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	334,304	177	48,943	26	378,523	82	416	234	182

- Source: Recorded crime and 2003/04 BCS.
- Only regional figures are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level.
- Statistical significance at the 5% level of the differences from the national average is indicated by a single asterisk.
- n/a Not available.
- + Data for London Region includes the City of London

Table 4.10 Vehicle-related theft recorded by the police and BCS rates by region and police force area

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS			
	Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle	Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle per 10,000 population	Theft from a vehicle	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 population	Attempted theft of motor vehicle	All motor vehicle theft per 10,000 households	Theft of a vehicle per 10,000 households	Theft from a vehicle per 10,000 households	Attempted theft of and from a motor vehicle per 10,000 households
Cleveland	4,463	82	8,030	148	105				
Durham	2,369	40	4,704	80	n/a				
Northumbria	6,445	47	11,644	84	100				
North East Region	13,277	53	24,378	97	205	691 *	103	464 *	125 *
Cheshire	3,994	41	8,850	90	227				
Cumbria	1,060	22	3,054	63	17				
Greater Manchester	21,870	87	37,414	149	816				
Lancashire	5,231	37	11,468	81	96				
Merseyside	11,403	84	14,961	110	131				
North West Region	43,558	64	75,747	112	1,287	1,032	166 *	582	283
Humberside	7,619	88	13,810	159	n/a				
North Yorkshire	2,672	35	6,844	91	2,096				
South Yorkshire	9,621	76	19,573	154	85				
West Yorkshire	19,473	93	36,287	174	133				
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	39,385	79	76,514	154	2,314	1,244 *	211 *	713	320
Derbyshire	3,571	37	10,787	112	110				
Leicestershire	3,986	43	10,030	107	120				
Lincolnshire	1,932	29	4,571	69	155				
Northamptonshire	3,642	57	9,069	142	12				
Nottinghamshire	8,014	78	20,303	198					
East Midlands Region	21,145	50	54,760	130	397	893	71 *	596	226
Staffordshire	4,209	40	9,576	91	14				
Warwickshire	2,125	41	5,131	100	6				
West Mercia	3,432	29	8,702	74	36				
West Midlands	23,217	90	33,894	132	363				
West Midlands Region	32,983	62	57,303	108	419	873	109	506	258
Bedfordshire	2,834	50	7,337	129	98				
Cambridgeshire	3,307	46	7,365	103	132				
Essex	7,283	45	13,757	85	42				
Hertfordshire	4,323	42	11,916	115	50				
Norfolk	2,173	27	6,223	78	20				
Suffolk	1,459	22	4,323	64	64				
Eastern Region	21,379	39	50,921	94	406	721 *	67 *	466 *	187
London, City of	226	+	357	+	8				
Metropolitan Police	55,158	75	103,899	141	1,432				
London Region	55,384	75	104,256	142	1,440	1,205 *	109	797 *	298
Hampshire	5,822	33	14,947	84	366				
Kent	6,749	42	12,492	79	104				
Surrey	2,947	28	6,973	66	89				
Sussex	5,313	35	13,463	90	n/a				
Thames Valley	8,753	42	26,710	127	250				
South East Region	29,584	37	74,585	93	809	940	82	629	229
Avon & Somerset	8,705	58	20,303	136	129				
Devon & Cornwall	3,396	21	13,205	83	26				
Dorset	2,199	32	6,404	92	55				
Gloucestershire	2,264	40	6,143	108	17				
Wiltshire	1,265	21	4,185	68	90				
South West Region	17,829	36	50,240	101	317	835	52 *	581	202
Dyfed-Powys	795	16	1,530	31	7				
Gwent	3,507	63	5,416	98	9				
North Wales	2,038	30	5,575	83	47				
South Wales	9,793	81	17,289	144	100				
Wales	16,133	55	29,810	102	163	726 *	90	437 *	199
ENGLAND AND WALES	290,657	55	598,514	114	7,757	950	108	599	243
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	235,273	52	494,258	110	6,317	909	108	567	234

1. Source: Recorded crime and 2003/04 BCS.
2. Only regional figures are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level.
3. Statistical significance at the 5% level of the differences from the national average is indicated by a single asterisk.
4. n/a Not available.
5. + Data for London Region includes the City of London

5 Violent crime

Anna Upson, David Povey and Alan Gray

5.1 SUMMARY

- The 2003/04 British Crime Survey (BCS) estimated that there were 2,708,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales.
- The number of violent incidents has fallen by 36 per cent since a peak in 1995 according to the BCS. Comparison between 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews shows BCS violent crime to be stable (the apparent fall of three per cent was not statistically significant).
- Half of all violent incidents reported to the BCS did not result in any injury to the victim. Thirty-nine per cent of all BCS violent incidents were common assault with no injury.
- Only 30 per cent of incidents of domestic violence resulted in no injury, compared with 50 per cent of incidents of acquaintance violence, 52 per cent of stranger violence and 71 per cent of mugging (robbery and snatch theft).
- Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk of being a victim of violent crime in 2003/04; 15.5 per cent experienced a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to their BCS interview.
- There were 1,109,017 violent crimes (i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences and robberies) recorded by the police in 2003/04, an increase of 12 per cent since 2002/03 though much of the increase is likely to be due to the continuing impact of changes in recording. The number of recorded violence against the person offences increased by 14 per cent, robberies fell by six per cent and sexual offences increased by seven per cent.
- At least 52 per cent of all recorded violence against the person involved no injury in 2003/04.
- Twenty-four per cent of police recorded violent crime was common assault¹ and 16 per cent harassment, both of which involve no physical injury to the victim. Many of the 'less serious woundings' (39% of violent crime) will have resulted in only minor injuries, such as bruising, grazes and black eyes.
- The changes in both homicides and firearm offences were small in 2003/04: there was an increase of less than one per cent in firearm offences, and a fall of around two per cent in homicides (after excluding retrospectively recorded Harold Shipman murders from the 2002/03 total).

¹ Including assault on a constable.

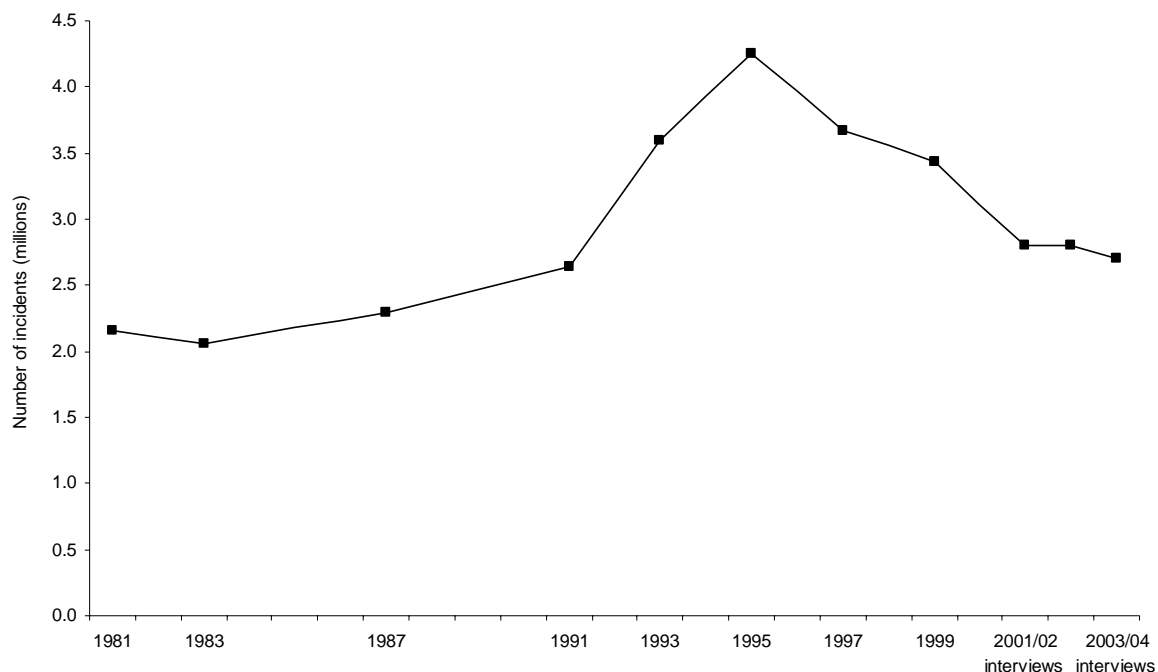
5.2 EXTENT AND TRENDS

- The latest BCS results estimated that there were 2,708,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales, based on incidents reported to the 2003/04 survey.
- There were 1,109,017 violent crimes recorded by the police in 2003/04, 955,752 of which were incidents of violence against the person.

The British Crime Survey and recorded crime statistics present contrasting trends in violent crime. Estimates from the BCS show large falls in violent crime since a peak of 4,256,000 in 1995, while police recorded violent crime has increased every year apart from one since 1995. Part of the explanation for these differences will lie in the changes in reporting and recording of crime that have taken place over the last decade (Smith and Allen, 2004).

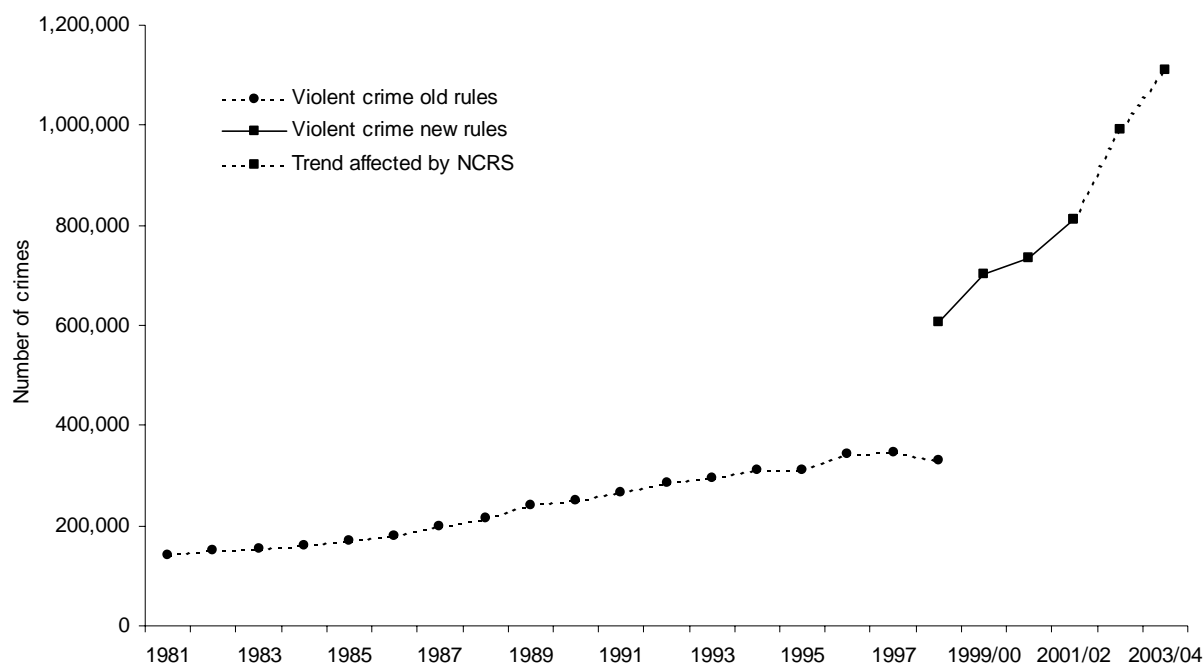
- Longer-term trends in BCS violence show significant declines. Violent crime reported to the BCS fell by 36 per cent from the peak in 1995 to the current level and by 26 per cent since 1997 (Figure 5.1, Table 2.01).
- The 2003/04 BCS suggests that since 2001/02 the incidence of violent crime has levelled off. The number of violent crimes experienced by adults living in private households was stable between the 2002/03 and 2003/04 interviews (the apparent fall of three per cent from the 2002/03 survey, and that from 2001/02, was not statistically significant) (Figure 5. 1, Table 2.01).

Figure 5.1 All BCS violent crime, 1981 to 2003/04



- In contrast, police recorded violent crime figures show substantial increases in recent years, almost double the number in 1998/99 following changes to the counting rules in that year requiring the police to record crimes of common assault and harassment for the first time. Factoring out the effect of the 1998 counting rule changes, recorded violent crime increased by a further 95 per cent between 1995 and 2003/04. About a quarter of this is due to increases in recording of violent crime following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. The remainder of the increase is likely to be largely due to increased reporting of violent crime by the public, increased police activity and other improvements in recording by the police in previous years (Figure 5.2, Table 2.04).
- Between 2002/03 and 2003/04 overall recorded violent crime rose by 12 per cent. Within this total, violence against the person increased by 14 per cent. There is still thought to be some residual NCRS effect in this area, as follow-up audits identified under-recording in some forces. As with the NCRS itself, this is thought to be concentrated in the more minor offences that the BCS shows to have been under-reported in the past (Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003) (Table 2.04).
- The contrasting trends in BCS and recorded violent crime can be largely explained by the increase in violence reported to and recorded by the police, which will have affected a wide range of types of offence (see also Chapter 2) (Simmons, 2001; Simmons, Legg and Hosking, 2003; Smith and Allen, 2004).

Figure 5.2 Violent crime recorded by the police, 1981 to 2003/04¹



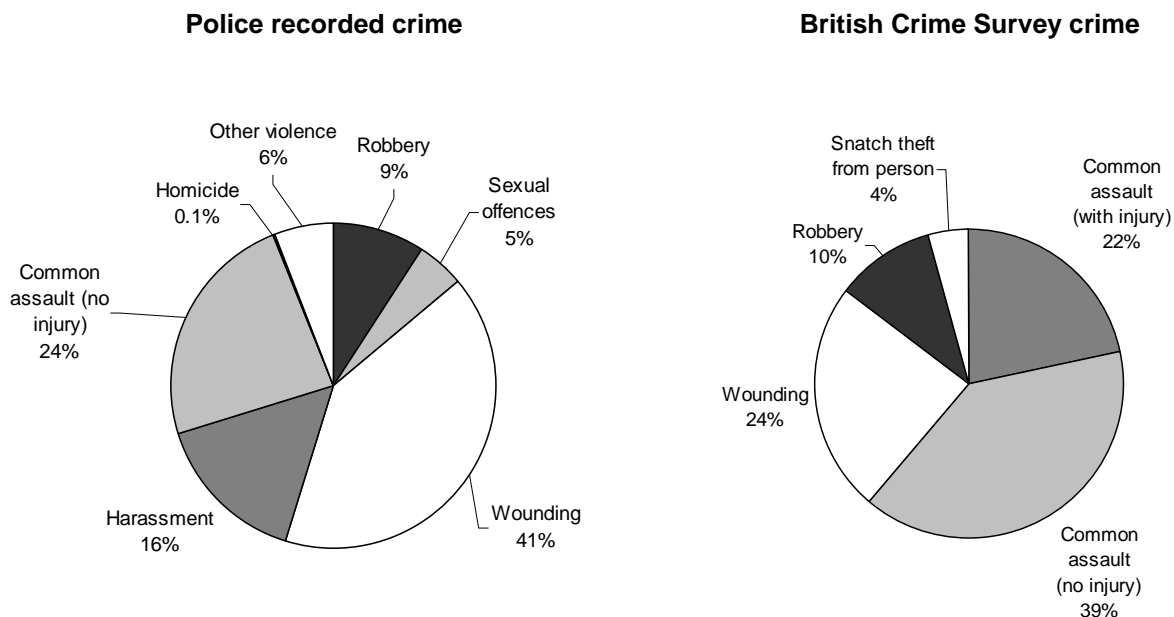
1. There is a discontinuity in the police recorded trend for violence in 1998 when new offence categories were added to police recorded violence, notably common assault, and new crime counting rules were introduced. The numbers of recorded violent crimes before and after this change should not be compared.

- The number of homicides fell by 18 per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 853, but most of the difference is accounted for by the inclusion of retrospectively recorded Harold Shipman murders in the 2002/03 figures. After excluding these offences the fall between the two years was around two per cent (see Section 5.6 for more details).
- Within the broad category of recorded violent crime, the number of recorded robberies fell by six per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04 to 101,195, the lowest number for three years (see Section 5.8).
- Provisional figures estimate that there were 10,340 firearm offences in 2003/04, an increase of less than one per cent since 2002/03. Firearm offences accounted for less than 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime in 2003/04 (see Section 5.9).

5.3 TYPES OF VIOLENT CRIME

The category of violent crime covers a wide range of different types of incidents. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents within the same crime classification and, as noted in Section 5.4 below, only 50 per cent of violent incidents involved injury.

Figure 5.3 Police recorded and BCS violence broken down by offence, 2003/04



Types of violent crime

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings:

Violence against the person

Recorded crime includes a wide range of offences. The more serious offences include homicide, threat or conspiracy to murder, and serious wounding inflicted intentionally (i.e. grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent). The 'less serious wounding' category includes less serious injury (such as assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)) or GBH without intent. It also includes offences that are generally viewed less seriously by the courts, such as common assault (see text box on p.72), harassment and possession of weapons.

Among these offences the BCS covers wounding and common assault. As for all personal offences, coverage is restricted to adults living in private households.

Sexual offences

Recorded crime covers most unlawful sexual activity, including rape, buggery, indecent assault, incest, unlawful sexual intercourse with an under-age girl, and gross indecency with a child. It also includes kerb crawling and procuration (e.g. pimping), but excludes prostitution and indecent exposure. Not all offences included are violent: e.g. bigamy.

The number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS is too small to provide reliable estimates; therefore these figures are not presented in this publication.

Robbery

Robbery is included as a violent crime, although the category can include a wide variety of different events including, in police recorded robbery, a bank robbery, mobile phone robbery, street mugging and violence between schoolchildren over small amounts of money or property.

Recorded crime offences distinguish between robbery of personal property and business property. A robbery of business property is 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.

Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. If there is no threat of force, an offence of theft from the person is recorded.

In the BCS, mugging is comprised of snatch theft (when there is no threat of force), robbery and attempted robbery.

BCS violence typology

Violent crime measured by the BCS can alternatively be sub-divided into a typology of four groupings, broadly on the basis of the relationship between suspect and victim:

Domestic violence – includes all violent incidents, except mugging, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives.

Mugging – comprises robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person.

Stranger violence – includes common assaults and woundings in which the victim did not know any of the offenders in any way.

Acquaintance violence – comprises woundings and common assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.

- Common assaults accounted for 61 per cent of BCS violence. Of these, 39 per cent involved no injury at all and the remaining 22 per cent involved minor injury.
- In police recorded crime common assault and assault on a constable involve no injury (see text box below), and accounted for 24 per cent of recorded violence in 2003/04. This lower proportion, in comparison with BCS common assault with no injury, is a reflection of the relatively low recording and reporting rates for common assault, and the wider range of offences included in recorded violent crime (Figure 5.3).
- Sixteen per cent of recorded violence comprised harassment, which (like recorded common assault) resulted in no physical injury to the victim.
- Wounding accounted for just under a quarter of BCS violence, compared with 41 per cent of police recorded violence.

Common assault

From April 2002, the definition of common assault for recorded crime changed and differs from that used in the BCS. In recorded crime only assaults involving no injury are now included. Previously assaults resulting in injuries no more serious than grazes, scratches, abrasions, minor bruising, swellings, reddening of the skin, superficial cuts or black eyes were recorded as common assaults (in accordance with guidance on charging). They are now included in less serious woundings (formerly known as 'other wounding').

The BCS definition did not change in April 2002, and includes assaults involving at most minimal injury (which is broadly in line with the previous recorded crime definition). However, it is possible to separate out BCS assaults involving no injury, and this narrower measure is used in the text, where stated, for comparative purposes.

BCS common assaults include those on a police officer. There is a separate offence of assault on a constable in recorded crime, but when comparing results in the text, this is combined with common assault.

- Between 2002/03 and 2003/04 police recorded violent crime showed substantial increases in most offence types; recent recording changes are continuing to have an effect. However, there were also some falls (Table 2.04). Within the category of more serious violence, the majority of offences were 'threat or conspiracy to murder' (22,232 offences) and 'more serious wounding or other act endangering life' (19,358). The former offence, while not involving injury, is nevertheless serious. However, there is evidence of some NCRS effect since 2002, which has resulted in some less serious threats being recorded in this category (Simmons, 2001).
- In the less serious violence category, within recorded violence against the person, the most numerous offence type was less serious wounding (including racially and religiously

aggravated offences) which rose by 24 per cent from 2002/03 to 433,361 offences in 2003/04 (Table 2.04). Common assault (also including racially and religiously aggravated offences) also accounted for a large number of offences of less serious violence, with 241,718 offences recorded in 2003/04, an increase of one per cent on the previous year.

- There were 172,853 cases of harassment recorded by the police in 2003/04, with 12 per cent of recorded harassment being racially or religiously aggravated in 2003/04. This compares with two per cent of common assaults and one per cent of less serious woundings.
- As noted above, the continuing effects of the NCRS and the subsequent audits of police recording make recent trends in types of recorded violence difficult to interpret.
- The 2003/04 BCS suggests that incidents of common assault declined by three per cent compared with the previous year, but this fall was not statistically significant. However, there have been significant falls in BCS common assault since 1997 (33%) and 1995 (43%) (Table 2.01).
- Incidents of wounding, as estimated by the BCS, have generally been decreasing over the last decade, with a significant fall of 28 per cent since 1995. Although incidents of robbery have also shown an apparent downward trend these differences were not statistically significant, mainly due to the relatively small number of victims of these crimes identified by the survey (Table 2.01).

Types of BCS violence

- Just over one-third of the 2,708,000 violent incidents reported to the BCS in 2003/04 were incidents of stranger violence, and a further third were incidents of acquaintance violence. Sixteen per cent of violent incidents were incidents of domestic violence (see text box on p.71) (Table 5.01).
- Differences can be seen between men and women in the experience of the different violence types within the BCS typology. Sixty-seven per cent of victims of domestic violence were women and 81 per cent of victims of stranger violence were men (Table 5.01).
- Men were more likely than women to experience stranger violence: 44 per cent of incidents against men were stranger violence, compared with 19 per cent of incidents against women. Thirty-one per cent of violent incidents against women were domestic violence, compared with nine per cent of incidents against men (Table 5.01).
- Although there are apparent regional differences in the level of violent crime, few of the regions differed significantly from the national average. There were, for example, significantly fewer incidents of stranger violence per 10,000 adults in the West Midlands (146 incidents per 10,000 adults), compared with the national average (226 incidents). However, none of the regions had significantly different rates of domestic or acquaintance violence (Table 5.02). (See Chapter 6 for more information on regional trends).

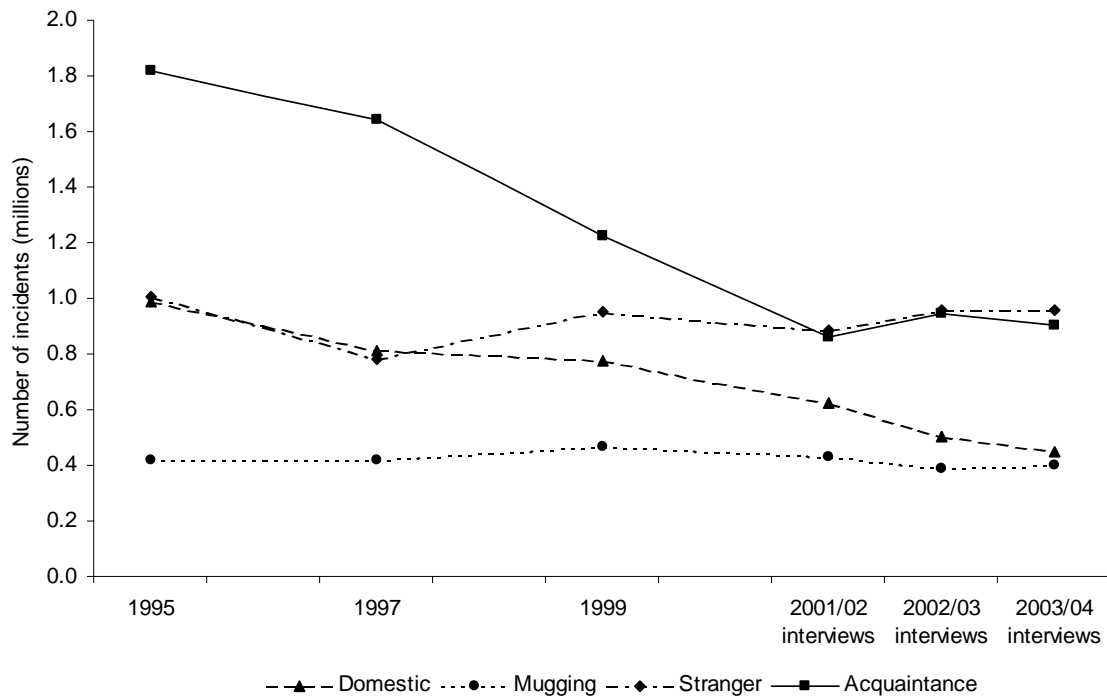
Interpreting BCS statistics on violent crime

Estimates of the number of violent crimes can be compromised by changes in the willingness of victims to draw incidents to the attention of both interviewers and the police. A decrease in the tolerance of aggressive behaviour may increase violent crime figures over time. The relative rarity of some types of violent crime also means that trends are difficult to track reliably through the BCS.

The issue of willingness to disclose incidents is very important for domestic violence. Respondents may not wish to disclose such sensitive information face-to-face. The 1996 and 2001 BCS questionnaires included self-completion modules on domestic violence. These are viewed as providing a more complete measure of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004). Prevalence rates for domestic violence derived from the 2001 self-completion module were around five times higher for all adults than those obtained from the face-to-face interviews.

When interpreting changes in domestic violence in this report some caution is required as results only relate to those incidents reported face-to-face to BCS interviewers.

Figure 5.4 Trends in BCS violent crime, by type of violence, 1995 to 2003/04



- Since 1995 there have been large and statistically significant falls in both domestic and acquaintance violence. Between 1995 and 2003/04 there was a 55 per cent fall in domestic violence and a 50 per cent fall in acquaintance violence. Muggings and stranger violence have remained relatively stable over this period, leading to a change in the composition of violent crime, with a decrease in the proportion of incidents committed by someone known to the victim (Figure 5.4, Table 2.01).

5.4 SERIOUSNESS AND INJURY

Both police recorded crime and the BCS cover a wide range of violent offences, of varying levels of seriousness (see text box on p.71). It is important to remember that the majority of the incidents categorised as violent crimes do not involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of these crimes may still be traumatic for their victims. Assaults can vary considerably in the level of violence and also the involvement of victims, ranging from drunken brawls to unprovoked acts of extreme violence.

- In half (50%) of all BCS violent incidents (from 2003/04 interviews) there was no injury, with the proportion rising to 60 per cent and 64 per cent for robbery and common assault respectively (Table 5.03).
- There was also no injury in at least half (52%) of all recorded violence against the person in 2003/04².
- The category of 'more serious offences' of violence against the person (such as serious wounding, homicide and threat or conspiracy to murder) accounted for four per cent of recorded violence (Table 2.04).
- Twenty-seven per cent of all BCS violent incidents involving injury resulted in minor bruising or a black eye and 14 per cent in cuts, while more than half of incidents of wounding resulted in cuts, and half in severe bruising.
- Victims in 11 per cent of BCS violent incidents received medical attention from a doctor, with this rising to 32 per cent for wounding. Victims in only four per cent of incidents of common assault saw a doctor.
- One per cent of all BCS violent incidents resulted in a hospital stay; in four per cent of incidents of wounding victims had to stay in hospital, while in less than one per cent of incidents of common assault victims had to stay in hospital.
- Within the BCS violence typology (see text box on p.71), only 30 per cent of incidents of domestic violence resulted in no injury, compared with 50 per cent of incidents of

² These 'no injury' offences comprise common assault, assault on a constable, harassment, possession of weapons, and the specific offences against children within less serious violence. The percentage is likely to be higher if one also includes threats to kill, which is currently included within threat or conspiracy to murder in more serious violence.

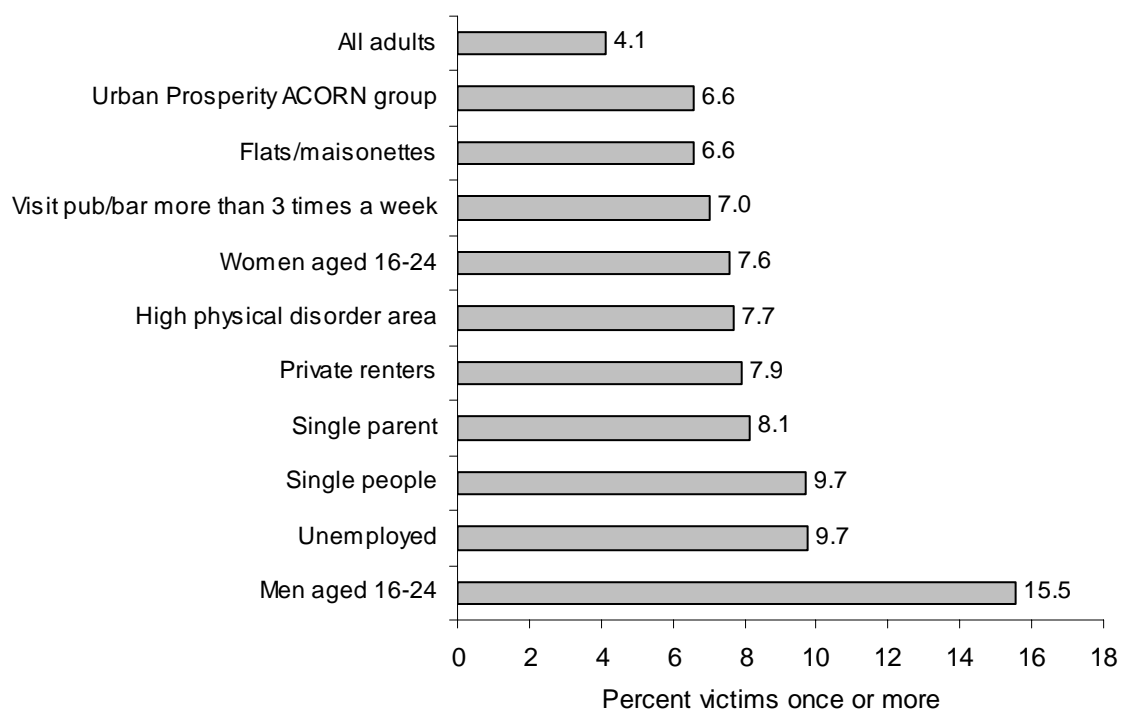
acquaintance violence, 52 per cent of stranger violence and 71 per cent of mugging (robbery and snatch theft).

- There was relatively little difference in the proportion of incidents requiring medical attention from a doctor across the BCS violence typology. Fifteen per cent of domestic violence incidents resulted in medical attention from a doctor, compared with 13 per cent of acquaintance violence and nine per cent of both muggings and stranger violence (Table 5.03).

5.5 RISKS OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

- The risk of being a victim of violent crime for people interviewed in the 2003/04 BCS was 4.1 per cent. Young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk, with 15.5 per cent experiencing a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to interview (Table 5.04).
- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime was considerably lower for the older age groups across all types of violence. For men, the risk of suffering any violent crime decreased to 2.5 per cent for those aged 45 to 64 years old, and to 0.2 per cent for men aged 75 and over. For women the risk of suffering violent crime was lower overall; the risk of becoming a victim was 7.6 per cent for women aged 16-24, reducing to 1.7 per cent for women aged 45-64 and 0.5 per cent for those women aged 75 and over.

Figure 5.5 Adults most at risk of violence, 2003/04 BCS interviews



- Other particularly high-risk groups were unemployed people (9.7% of this group experienced one or more violent incidents); single people (9.7%); single parents (8.1%); private renters (7.9%); those living in areas categorised as having a high level of disorder (7.7%); and women aged 16 to 24 (7.6%) (Figure 5.5). This pattern is broadly consistent with results from the 2002/03 BCS.
- ACORN is A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods, which groups areas according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the neighbourhood (see glossary for more information). People living in urban prosperity ACORN areas (prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas) were most at risk of victimisation of violent crime in the 2003/04 BCS. While people living in wealthy achiever areas (wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families) were least at risk (6.6% and 2.4% respectively) (Table 5.05).
- The risk of being mugged for adults aged 16 and over was 0.8 per cent and the risk of being a victim of domestic violence 0.6 per cent. The risks of experiencing acquaintance violence and stranger violence were higher, at 1.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively.
- Domestic violence was the only category of violence where the risks for women (0.7%) were higher than for men (0.4%). Risks of stranger and acquaintance violence were substantially greater for men than for women; for example 2.7 per cent of men were victims of stranger violence in 2003/04, compared with 0.8 per cent of women (Table 5.04).
- People who had visited a pub or wine bar more than three times a week in the month before their 2003/04 BCS interview had a higher risk of victimisation of all types of violence. These respondents were particularly likely to experience stranger violence: 3.5 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent of respondents who had not visited a pub or wine bar (Table 5.04).

Many socio-demographic characteristics relate to risk of victimisation of violence; however, these characteristics themselves may be inter-related. Multivariate analysis³ showed that once the influence of other characteristics was taken into account many of the relationships between the socio-demographic factors and risk of victimisation held true. The strongest predictors of victimisation of all BCS violence were:

- *being young, particularly aged 16-24⁴;*
- *being divorced, separated or single; and*
- *being male.*

³ Logistic regression (see Glossary for more information).

⁴ The odds of victimisation increased with the decreasing age of the respondent.

5.6 HOMICIDE

The most serious violent crime is homicide. The police statistics for the number of homicides include murders, manslaughters and infanticides that come to the attention of the police. Deaths that are not initially believed to be suspicious but are later categorised as homicides are counted in the year in which they have been recorded. Examples of this are the Harold Shipman murders, some of which were included in the 2002/03 total (see below).

- There were 853 deaths initially recorded as homicide by the police in 2003/04.
- The 2003/04 figure was 18 per cent lower than that recorded in 2002/03. This represents 190 fewer homicides, but most of these can be accounted for by the inclusion of 172 Harold Shipman murders in 2002/03. Although committed in previous years they came to light in the official inquiry and were therefore recorded by Greater Manchester Police in 2002/03. Excluding these offences, the fall was two per cent.
- Further analysis of 2003/04 homicides based on the more detailed information collected on the Home Office Homicide Index will be published when the full data are available.

5.7 SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual offences are significantly under-reported to the authorities. Police and government action to support the victims of sexual assaults is likely to have increased the numbers of such incidents reported to the police, and therefore recorded by them. The introduction of the NCRS in 2002 is likely to have further increased the recording rate, and the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act in May 2004 will have a further impact on the 2004/05 figures. Trends in the number of recorded sexual offences are therefore unlikely to reflect real experience of such crimes.

- Within the 2003/04 total of 52,070 sexual offences, the police recorded 26,709 indecent assaults on a female and 1,942 offences of gross indecency with a child.
- The number of recorded rapes was 13,247, 93 per cent of which were rapes of a female. There were also 4,070 recorded indecent assaults on a male.
- The total number of recorded sexual offences rose by seven per cent in 2003/04, to account for five per cent of total recorded violence and 0.9 per cent of all police recorded crime in 2003/04.

The number of sexual offences picked up by the BCS is too small to provide reliable estimates; therefore these figures are not presented in this publication. The 2001 BCS included a self-completion module on interpersonal violence, which comprises domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; the results of this module are published in Walby and Allen, 2004.

5.8 ROBBERY

Although all crime tends to be geographically concentrated, this is particularly the case for robberies. Around half of all recorded robberies occur in just 20 local authorities, largely in city-centre or metropolitan areas (see Chapter 6 for more information on regional trends).

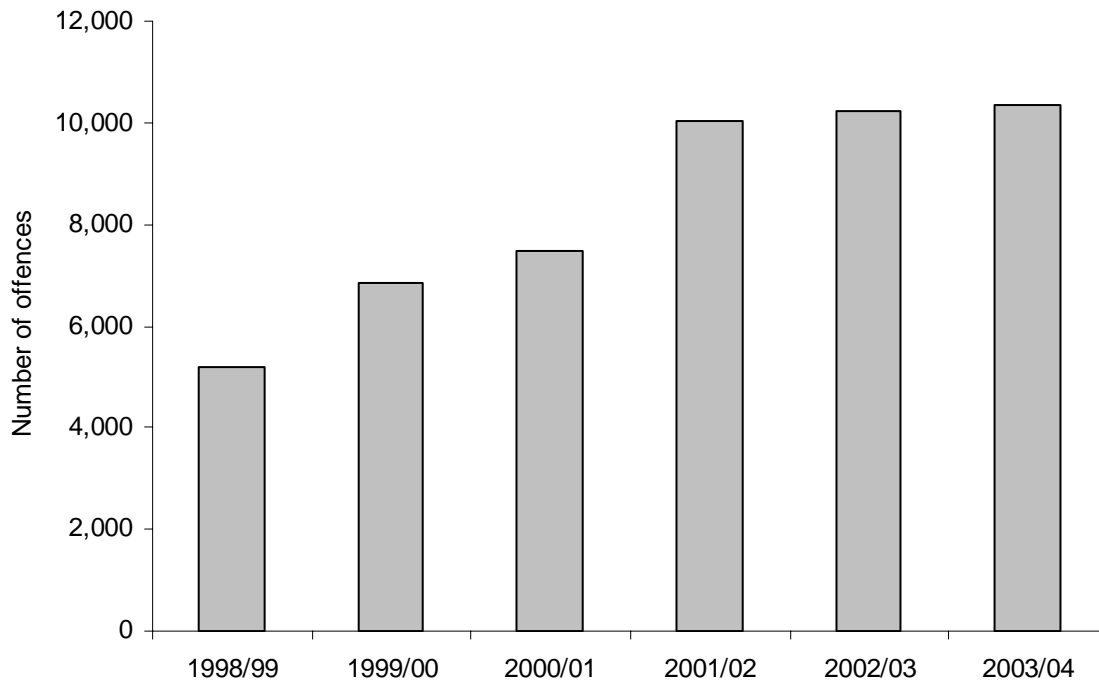
- The police recorded 101,195 robberies in England and Wales in 2003/04, the lowest total for three years and a fall of six per cent on 2002/03. Of these, 90 per cent were robberies of personal property, and the remainder robberies of business property.
- In 2003/04 robbery accounted for two per cent of total recorded crime and nine per cent of recorded violence. Robbery accounted for two per cent of all BCS crime and ten per cent of BCS violence.
- The number of robbery and snatch theft victims interviewed by the BCS is generally too small to provide reliable estimates in these categories. However, BCS estimates suggest a general decrease over the last decade, although none of these falls was statistically significant.

5.9 FIREARM OFFENCES

Provisional statistics are available for recorded crimes in 2003/04 involving firearms other than air weapons (referred to as 'firearm offences' in the remainder of this section). Firearms are taken to be involved in an offence if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used in a threat. A large majority of offences with these weapons are violent crimes, mainly in the categories of violence against the person and robbery. Around two-thirds of firearm offences occur in just three metropolitan forces: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.

- In 2003/04 there were a provisional 10,340 firearm offences in England and Wales. This was an increase of less than one per cent since 2002/03 (Figure 5.6). The number of offences has risen each year since 1997/98, but the 2003/04 rise is the smallest.
- Three per cent of serious incidents of violence against the person (other than homicide) involved firearms in 2003/04 (1,210 offences). In addition, 0.4 per cent of other offences of violence against the person involved firearms (3,490 offences).
- The number of serious crimes of violence against the person involving firearms increased by six per cent between 2002/03 and 2003/04, while other offences of violence against the person involving firearms increased by 16 per cent over the same period.
- There were 68 homicides involving firearms in 2003/04, 12 fewer (15%) than the previous year. Eight per cent of all homicides in 2003/04 involved firearms.
- The number of firearm robberies in 2003/04 was 4,030, four per cent of all robbery offences in 2003/04 and a reduction of 13 per cent from the previous year.

Figure 5.6 Recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, 2003/04



- There were 440 firearm offences that resulted in a serious injury in 2003/04 and 1,860 in slight injury. These represent a five per cent increase in firearm offences with serious injury compared with the previous year and an 11 per cent increase in firearm offences with slight injury.
- In 2003/04 there were 5,140 offences where handguns were used, a decrease of seven per cent from 2002/03. Imitation weapons were used in 2,150 offences in 2003/04, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year, and there were 720 offences where shotguns were used, a seven per cent increase.

Table 5.01 Number of violent incidents against men and women by BCS typology of violence

Numbers and percentages	BCS								
	Number of incidents (thousands)			Percentage of incidents by violence type ²			Percentage of incidents by sex		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
Domestic	150	298	446	9	31	16	33	67	100
Mugging	221	177	399	13	18	15	55	45	100
Stranger	764	183	958	44	19	35	81	19	100
Acquaintance	599	300	905	35	31	33	67	33	100
All violence	1,734	959	2,708	100	100	100	64	36	100
Wounding	449	201	655	26	21	24	69	31	100
Robbery	182	99	283	10	10	10	65	35	100
Common assault	1,063	581	1,654	61	61	61	65	35	100
All violence	1,734	959	2,708	100	100	100	64	36	100

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding and also, within the bottom half of the table, the exclusion of the snatch theft category.

Table 5.02 Violent crime recorded by the police and BCS, by police force area and region 2003/04

Police force area and region	RECORDED CRIME					BCS ¹				
	Total violent crime	Total violent crime per 10,000 population	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total BCS violence per 10,000 adults	Domestic per 10,000 adults	Mugging per 10,000 adults	Stranger per 10,000 adults	Acquaintance per 10,000 adults
Cleveland	11,321	209	9,199	767	1,355					
Durham	7,194	122	6,565	362	267					
Northumbria	27,381	198	24,798	1,360	1,223					
North East Region	45,896	183	40,562	2,489	2,845	618	181	44 *	189	204
Cheshire	15,417	156	14,074	696	647					
Cumbria	7,291	149	6,874	293	124					
Greater Manchester	66,418	264	53,972	3,200	9,246					
Lancashire	29,298	206	26,676	1,337	1,285					
Merseyside	30,077	221	26,446	1,284	2,347					
North West Region	148,501	219	128,042	6,810	13,649	668	61	76	258	273
Humberside	28,482	327	25,317	1,269	1,896					
North Yorkshire	10,507	139	9,610	502	395					
South Yorkshire	15,837	125	13,499	938	1,400					
West Yorkshire	51,945	249	45,864	2,343	3,738					
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	106,771	214	94,290	5,052	7,429	562	102	82	173	204
Derbyshire	18,336	191	16,397	920	1,019					
Leicestershire	20,069	215	17,593	1,000	1,476					
Lincolnshire	11,088	169	10,148	636	304					
Northamptonshire	12,834	201	11,070	544	1,220					
Nottinghamshire	22,242	217	18,631	1,055	2,556					
East Midlands Region	84,569	201	73,839	4,155	6,575	600	125	55 *	220	201
Staffordshire	24,708	236	22,774	1,025	909					
Warwickshire	7,671	150	6,866	349	456					
West Mercia	23,505	201	21,867	949	689					
West Midlands	69,434	270	55,856	3,207	10,371					
West Midlands Region	125,318	236	107,363	5,530	12,425	539	164	80	146 *	149
Bedfordshire	10,316	181	8,807	516	993					
Cambridgeshire	15,185	212	13,663	736	786					
Essex	28,782	177	26,010	1,296	1,476					
Hertfordshire	13,972	135	12,356	644	972					
Norfolk	12,819	160	11,586	774	459					
Suffolk	10,460	156	9,529	641	290					
East of England Region	91,534	169	81,951	4,607	4,976	635	71	60 *	300	205
London, City of	929	+	849	30	50					
Metropolitan Police	237,028	323	186,188	10,200	40,640					
London Region	237,957	324	187,037	10,230	40,690	772	80	243 *	251	198
Hampshire	38,222	214	35,148	2,034	1,040					
Kent	22,904	144	20,512	1,220	1,172					
Surrey	10,858	102	9,654	585	619					
Sussex	22,126	148	19,500	1,201	1,425					
Thames Valley	32,492	155	28,588	1,618	2,286					
South East Region	126,602	157	113,402	6,658	6,542	704	116	110	253	225
Avon and Somerset	30,954	208	26,530	1,516	2,908					
Devon and Cornwall	27,867	175	25,969	1,336	562					
Dorset	10,171	146	9,147	579	445					
Gloucestershire	9,248	163	8,304	403	541					
Wiltshire	7,214	117	6,302	584	328					
South West Region	85,454	172	76,252	4,418	4,784	601	111	34 *	229	227
Dyfed Powys	8,397	170	7,909	434	54					
Gwent	13,609	246	12,931	404	274					
North Wales	11,749	176	10,979	569	201					
South Wales	22,660	188	21,195	714	751					
Wales	56,415	193	53,014	2,121	1,280	524	104	29 *	153	238
ENGLAND AND WALES	1,109,017	211	955,752	52,070	101,195	640	105	94	226	214
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	871,060	193	768,715	41,840	60,505	618	110	70	222	216

1. Regional figures only are given for the BCS due to the variability of specific offence figures at police force area level.

2. Statistical significance at the 5% level of the differences from the national average is indicated by a single asterisk.

+ Data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 5.03 Injuries sustained in violent incidents

Percentages						BCS		
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Wounding	Robbery	Common assault
Physical injury²								
No injury	50	30	71	52	50	1	60	64
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,539	260	258	549	472	374	177	907
Minor bruise/black eye	27	42	15	28	25	28	19	30
Severe bruising	14	22	8	14	13	53	12	1
Scratches	12	19	5	13	11	29	6	7
Cuts	14	14	8	12	18	54	11	<1
Broken bones	2	3	1	2	2	8	1	-
Broken nose	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	-
Broken or lost teeth	1	1	-	1	<1	3	-	-
Chipped teeth	1	<1	-	1	<1	3	-	-
Concussion or loss of consciousness	3	2	2	3	4	12	3	<1
Other	3	3	2	2	4	7	3	2
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,539	260	258	549	472	374	177	907
Medical response³								
Medical attention from a doctor	11	15	9	9	13	32	8	4
Some form of medical attention	15	17	12	13	17	41	12	5
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,453	260	183	543	467	371	170	899
Hospital stay ⁴	1	<1	1	2	1	4	1	<1
<i>Unweighted n</i>	1,413	258	172	525	458	363	161	878

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.
2. More than one type of physical injury may have occurred.
3. Asked to victims where force or threat of force was used.
4. Whether respondent needed one night or more in hospital.
5. Results for muggings should be treated with caution due to the small number of incidents.
6. The BCS common assault definition includes minor injuries.
7. <1 indicates less than 0.5%.

Table 5.04 Proportion of adult victims of violence by personal characteristics and BCS typology of violence

Percentages	% victims once or more					BCS
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	Unweighted base
Men	5.4	0.4	1.0	2.7	1.9	17,003
16-24	15.5	0.8	3.6	7.1	6.1	1,476
25-44	6.0	0.6	0.8	3.1	2.0	5,733
45-64	2.5	0.2	0.3	1.3	0.8	5,801
65-74	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	2,253
75+	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	1,727
Women	2.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	20,928
16-24	7.6	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,734
25-44	3.4	1.1	0.5	0.9	1.1	7,188
45-64	1.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	6,545
65-74	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	2,731
75+	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2,703
Ethnic group						
White	4.0	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.4	35,705
Non-white	5.0	0.5	1.7	1.8	1.3	2,222
Living arrangements						
Married	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.6	18,668
Cohabiting	5.3	0.9	0.9	2.2	1.5	2,781
Single	9.7	1.1	2.3	4.1	3.3	7,458
Separated	5.4	1.8	0.3	1.7	1.7	1,154
Divorced	4.6	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.3	3,275
Widowed	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	4,573
Respondents' employment status²						
In employment	4.8	0.5	1.0	2.2	1.5	19,754
Unemployed	9.7	1.5	2.0	4.5	3.5	530
Economically inactive	5.3	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.9	6,391
Highest qualification						
None	2.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9	12,908
O level/GCSE	5.7	0.9	1.0	2.2	2.0	7,021
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	5.1	0.5	1.0	2.4	1.7	6,011
Degree or diploma	4.1	0.4	0.9	2.0	1.1	10,010
Other	2.6	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	1,767
Disability/illness						
No disability/illness	4.3	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.4	27,315
Non-limiting disability/illness	3.2	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.9	2,983
Limiting disability/illness	3.5	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.3	7,444
Hours out of home on an average weekday						
Less than 3 hours	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	11,638
3 hours less than 5 hours	2.6	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.9	6,319
5 hours or longer	5.5	0.6	1.1	2.4	1.8	19,898
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month						
None	2.5	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	18,045
Less than three times a week	4.0	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.3	10,973
More often	7.0	0.8	1.3	3.5	2.1	8,907
ALL ADULTS	4.1	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.3	37,931

1. Source 2003/04 BCS. Risks based on adults.

2. Based on men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59 (see Glossary for details).

Table 5.05 Proportion of adults victims of violence, by household and area characteristics

Percentages	% victims once or more					BCS Unweighted base
	All violence	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance	
Head of household under 60						
Single adult & child(ren)	8.1	3.4	1.4	1.4	2.8	2,060
Adults & child(ren)	4.7	0.7	0.9	1.8	1.8	8,395
No children	5.5	0.6	1.1	2.5	1.6	14,574
Head of household over 60	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	12,849
Household income						
Less than £5,000	4.2	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.7	2,824
£5,000 less than £10,000	3.6	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.2	4,932
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.7	0.5	0.8	1.6	1.3	6,968
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.7	0.4	0.5	1.5	1.5	5,346
£30,000 or more	4.1	0.4	0.7	1.9	1.3	9,559
Tenure						
Owner occupiers	3.1	0.3	0.6	1.4	1.1	27,110
Social renters	5.5	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.8	7,043
Private renters	7.9	1.1	1.9	3.5	2.2	3,518
Accommodation type						
Houses	3.8	0.5	0.7	1.6	1.3	31,896
<i>Detached</i>	2.5	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.0	9,306
<i>Semi-detached</i>	3.9	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.3	12,418
<i>Terraced</i>	4.9	0.7	1.0	2.0	1.6	10,172
Flats/maisonettes	6.6	0.8	2.1	2.5	1.8	4,352
ACORN category						
Wealthy Achievers	2.4	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.8	10,000
Urban Prosperity	6.6	0.5	2.3	2.9	1.5	2,963
Comfortably Off	3.5	0.5	0.6	1.4	1.2	11,408
Moderate Means	5.2	0.7	0.9	2.1	1.9	5,248
Hard Pressed	5.1	0.9	1.0	1.9	1.8	8,231
Area type						
Rural	2.7	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.1	9,577
Non-rural	4.6	0.6	1.0	1.9	1.4	28,354
Inner-city	5.8	0.6	1.7	2.2	1.8	3,395
Rural	2.7	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.1	9,564
Urban	4.4	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.4	24,972
Council estate ²	5.0	0.9	0.9	1.9	1.7	7,096
Non-council estate	3.9	0.5	0.8	1.7	1.3	30,824
Level of physical disorder³						
High	7.7	1.3	1.9	2.8	2.6	33,599
Low	3.9	0.5	0.8	1.6	1.3	2,492
ALL ADULTS	4.1	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.3	37,931

1. Source 2003/04 BCS. Risks based on all adults.

2. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.

3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was a 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For these variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

6 Patterns of crime

Louise Moore and Helen Yeo

6.1 SUMMARY

- BCS victimisation rates vary between and within the regions and Wales, particularly for household victimisation. Personal victimisation rates are highest in London and lowest in Wales. Household victimisation rates are highest in Yorkshire and the Humber and lowest in Wales.
- The eight metropolitan police forces recorded some of the highest rates of crime, accounting for 43 per cent of all offences recorded by the police. Thirty-five per cent of the population of England and Wales lives in these areas.
- BCS victimisation rates are lower in rural areas than either inner-city or urban areas, but are highest in the inner-city areas.
- The geographical concentration of crime varies between offences. Robbery is one of the most concentrated with 40 per cent of these offences occurring in just one police force area (Metropolitan Police).
- The gap between the 25 per cent of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) with the highest combined levels of robbery, vehicle crime and domestic burglary and the remaining 75 per cent of CDRPs is narrowing. This suggests that the risks of becoming a victim of crime are falling more quickly in higher than in lower crime areas.

6.2 GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATIONS

The geographic distribution of crime is similar to last year (Simmons and Dodd, 2003). There is considerable variation in patterns of crime across England and Wales. The distribution of crime varies both geographically and between crime types. Geographical fluctuations in crime at the regional and police force area level are discussed in this chapter. Chapters four and five examine the variations in property and violent crime at a lower level using ACORN, A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (see Glossary). Many of these differences reflect variations in the socio-economic make-up of different locations.

Variation by region

- BCS victimisation rates showed household crime to vary by ten per cent from 25 per cent of households in the Yorkshire and the Humber region to 15 per cent in Wales (Table 6.01).
- There was a six per cent variation in personal crime. In the London region, 11 per cent of people had been a victim of personal crime compared with five per cent of people in Wales (Table 6.01).
- The highest rate of recorded crime was in the London region with 145 offences per 1,000 population compared to 113 per 1,000 population across England and Wales. The South East region had the lowest rate of crime at 91 offences per 1,000 population. The apparent disparity

between BCS and police measures is largely explained by differences in the collation of these statistics (see box below).

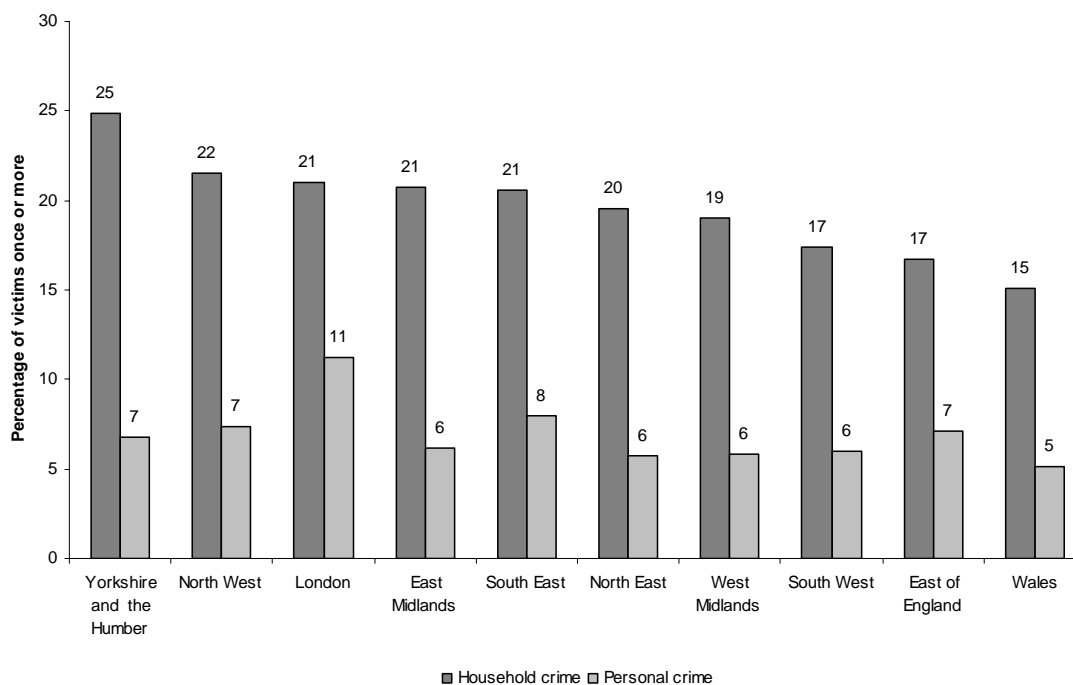
Differences in recording practices between BCS and recorded crime

There are differences in the way that crime is collated by the police and the British Crime Survey, which might explain some of the variations between BCS and recorded crime data and disparities relating to violence in particular.

- BCS incidents are always related back to where respondents live rather than the precise location of an incident. Therefore BCS rates for personal crimes in areas where the resident population commute to other areas to work or spend leisure time will tend to be higher than those based on recorded crime.*
- For example, the number of violent crimes per population is relatively high in the South East as measured by the BCS, but very low for recorded crime. This is because many of those victims responding to the BCS will have been victimised away from their home, either at work, travelling or whilst engaged in leisure activities. Many of the BCS crimes reported by individuals living in the South East will have been recorded by the police in the London region.*

- Rates of burglary as measured by the BCS were higher in Yorkshire and the Humber than in any other region at 646 offences per 10,000 households compared to 422 offences per 10,000 households across England and Wales (Table 4.09).
- Recorded burglary offences were also highest in the Yorkshire and the Humber region with 24 offences per 1,000 population compared with 16 per 1,000 population in England and Wales as a whole. The lowest rate of 11 offences per 1,000 population was recorded by police in the South East region (Table 6.03).
- Levels of worry about burglary, with the exception of London, generally reflected patterns of victimisation by region. The highest levels of worry about burglary were in the London and Yorkshire and the Humber regions.
- Incidence of vehicle thefts, as measured by the BCS, was highest in Yorkshire and the Humber region followed by London (Table 4.10).
- Yorkshire and the Humber had the highest recorded crime rate for vehicle crime with 23 offences per 1,000 population compared with 17 per 1,000 population in England and Wales. The lowest recorded rate of 13 offences per 1,000 population was recorded by police in the South East region.
- Worry about vehicle crime broadly reflected patterns of victimisation by region. The London region showed the highest levels of worry about car crime followed by Yorkshire and the Humber.

Figure 6.1 BCS victimisation rates by region, 2003/04

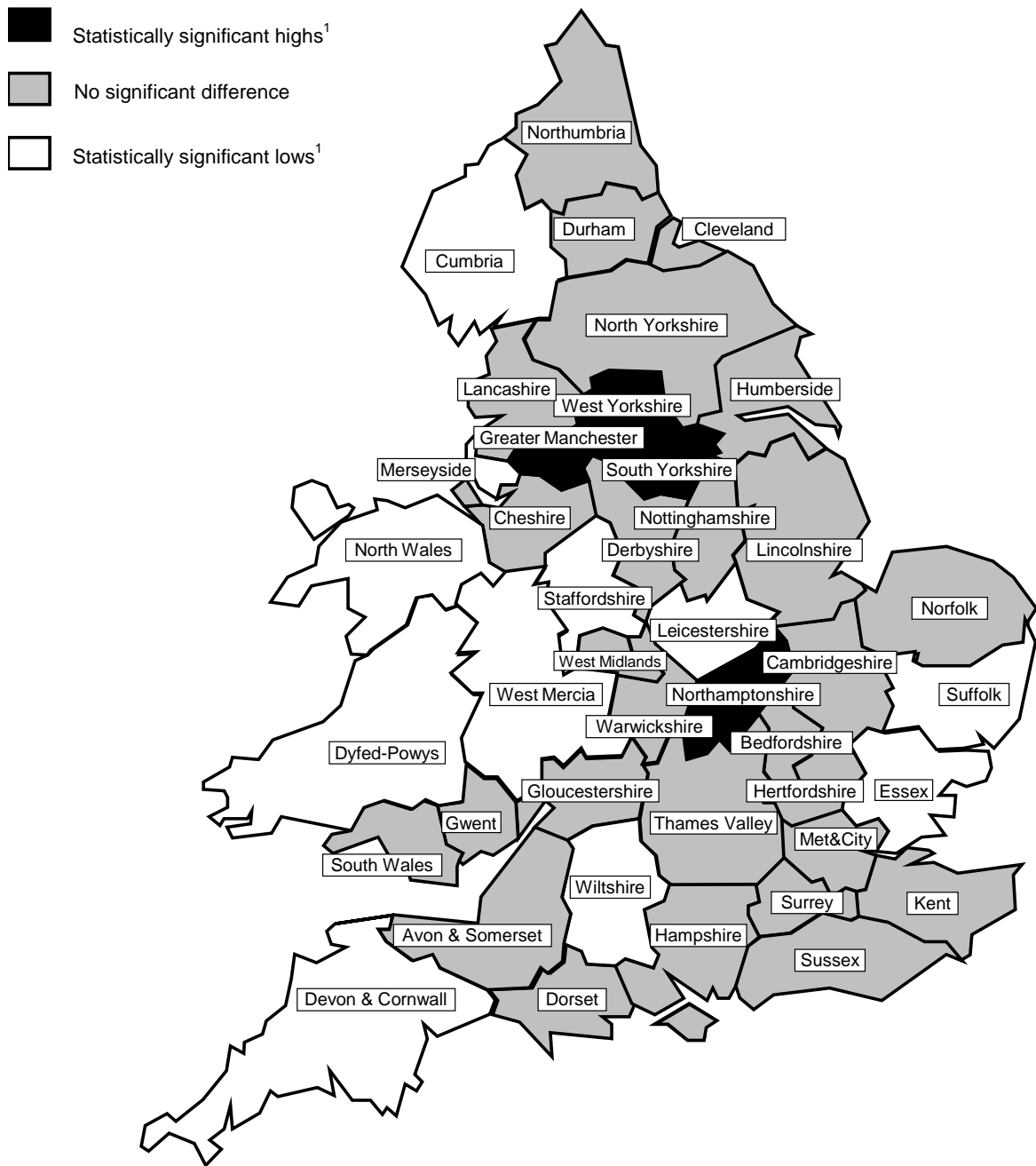


- The highest BCS rates of violent crime were in the London region showing 772 incidents per 10,000 adults as opposed to 640 over England and Wales as a whole. The second highest incidence rate was for the South East region at 704 incidents per 10,000 (Table 5.02).
- Recorded violent crime was highest in the London region (32 offences per 1,000 population) and lowest in the South East region (16 offences per 1,000 population). There were 21 offences for every 1,000 individuals across England and Wales (Table 6.03). The differences between police and BCS measures of violence reflect variations in the collation of this information (see box above 'Differences in recording practices between BCS and recorded crime').
- The level of worry about violent crime often did not reflect the likelihood of victimisation by region, although London displayed higher levels of worry about this crime type than any other region (Table 6.01).

Variation by police force area

- Victimization rates as measured by the British Crime Survey demonstrate considerable variation between police force areas. Household prevalence was highest in Northamptonshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, and lowest in Dyfed-Powys and Essex (Figure 6.2).
- Between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, a number of police forces saw a change in their household victimisation rates. However the only statistically significant change (at the five per cent level) was in Essex, where rates decreased from 16 per cent of households being a victim of a household crime in 2002/03 to 11 per cent of households in 2003/04.

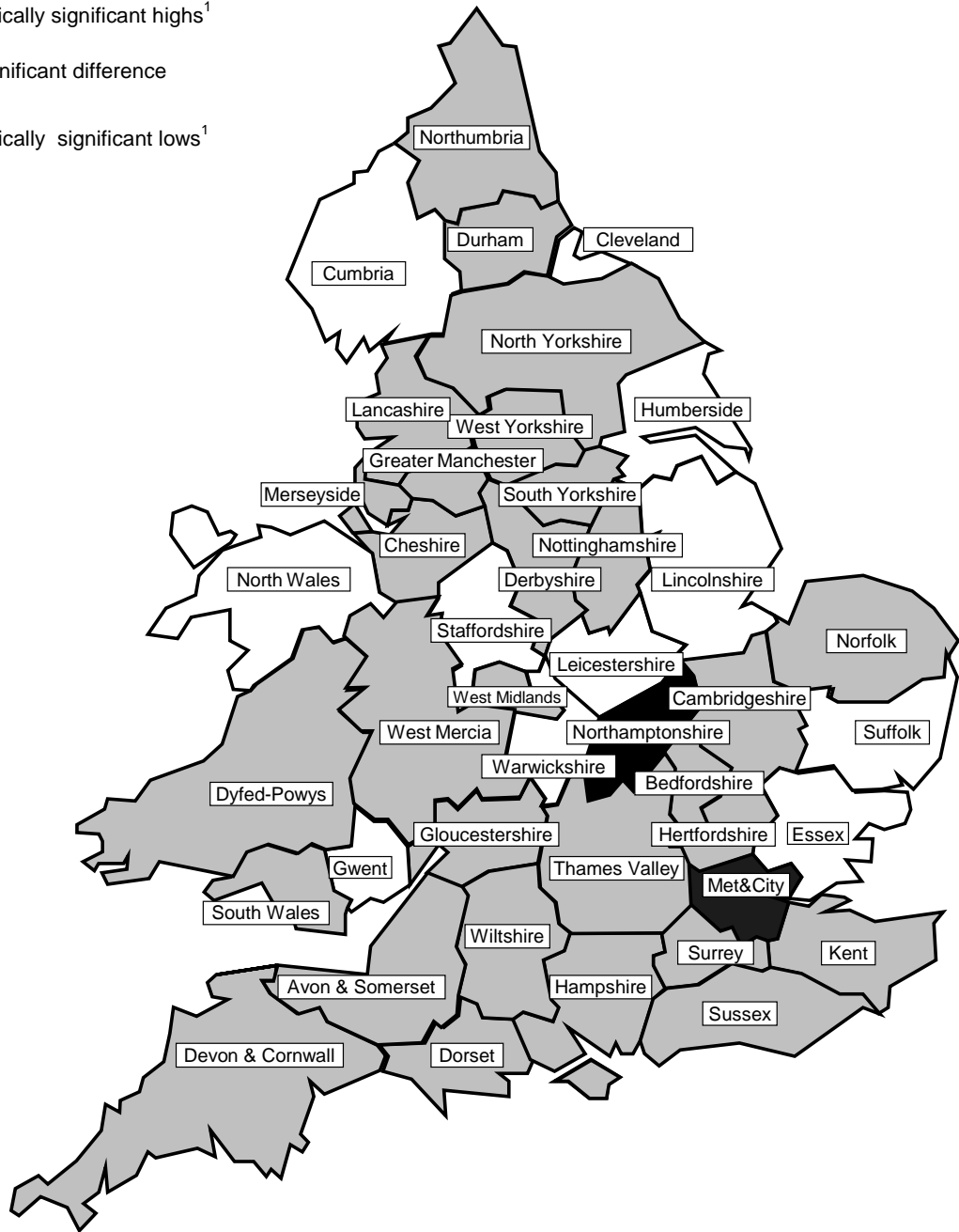
Figure 6.2 Levels of household victimisation by police force area, 2003/04 BCS compared to England and Wales



¹ Statistically significant at the 5% level

Figure 6.3 Levels of personal victimisation by police force area, 2003/04 BCS compared to England and Wales

- Statistically significant highs¹
- No significant difference
- Statistically significant lows¹

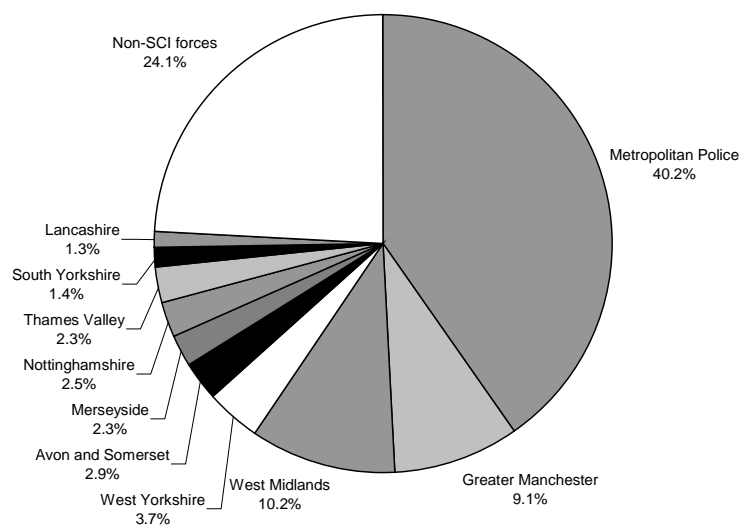


¹ Statistically significant at the 5% level.

Crime in England and Wales 2003/04

- As at a regional level, there was less variation in prevalence of personal crime. In London and Northamptonshire, 11 per cent of people had been a victim of personal crime compared with three per cent in Gwent and Humberside (Figure 6.3).
- Between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, a number of police forces saw a change in their personal victimisation rates. Humberside police force area saw a significant decrease in its personal prevalence rate falling from eight per cent of people in 2002/03 to three per cent in 2003/04. Conversely, Northamptonshire police force saw a significant increase rising from six per cent of people in 2002/03 to 11 per cent in 2003/04.
- Prior to the introduction of the NCRS, variation in recorded crime between forces will have partly reflected differences in recording practices¹. There were signs in 2003/04 that the variation had reduced somewhat. For example, excluding the City of London, the ratio between the highest and lowest forces for violent crime had fallen from 3.7 in 2002/03 to 3.2 in 2003/04.

Figure 6.4 Recorded robbery in the ten Street Crime Initiative forces, 2003/04



- In 2003/04, although the variation had reduced, there were still differences between the total number of offences recorded by police force areas, ranging from 63 offences per 1,000 population in Dyfed-Powys to 163 offences per 1,000 in Humberside². The highest recorded crime rates were mostly in the metropolitan police forces³. Some of this variation will reflect the

¹ Recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. In April 1998, the counting rules were expanded to include certain additional summary offences. In April 1999, the rules on counting detections were amended. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 to ensure greater consistency between forces in recording crime and to take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording, resulting in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. There is likely to be some further impact on the number of recorded crimes as a result of audits to further improve recording in 2003/04. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime.

² This excludes the City of London.

³ The metropolitan police forces are taken to be the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.

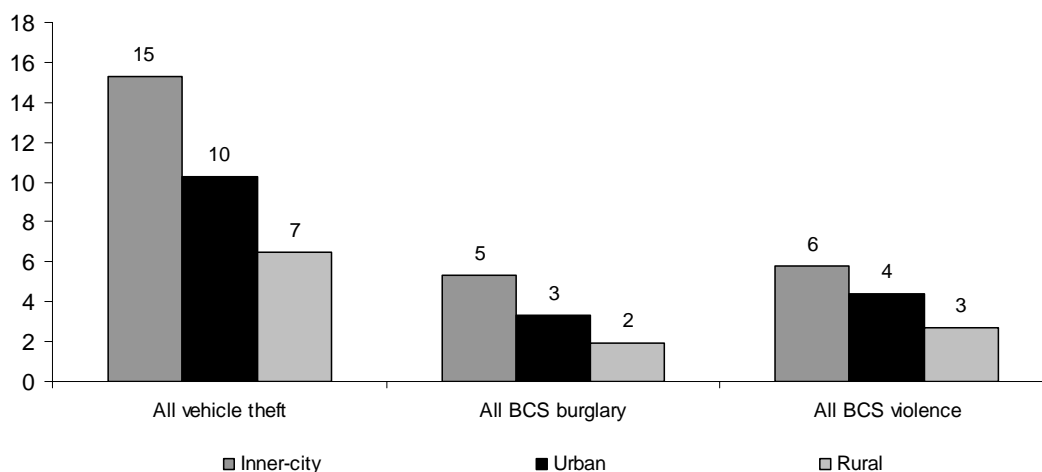
lower resident population in city centres and large numbers of potential victims who visit these areas either for work or leisure. Nonetheless, together the eight metropolitan forces accounted for 43 per cent of all crime (Table 6.03).

- The ratio between the highest and lowest recorded crime rates for burglary was greater than for other offence types at 5.6. The highest rate for a police force, excluding the City of London, was recorded for Nottinghamshire at 31 offences per 1,000 population; the lowest was for Dyfed-Powys at five per 1,000.
- Nottinghamshire also recorded the highest crime rate of all police forces, excluding the City of London, for vehicle crime (28 offences per 1,000 population). The lowest rate was again recorded in Dyfed-Powys (five offences per 1,000 population).
- The concentration of crime is particularly evident for robbery (see Figure 6.4). Three-fifths of all recorded robberies take place in just three police force areas: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands. The Metropolitan Police Service is responsible for recording 40 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales. The ten police forces covered by the government's Street Crime Initiative accounted for 76 per cent of all robberies in England and Wales in 2003/04 compared to 77 per cent in 2002/03.
- Recorded rates of violent crime also varied widely within each region. The highest rate for a police force, excluding the City of London, was 33 crimes per 1,000 population in the Humberside area. The lowest rates were recorded in Surrey (ten crimes per 1,000 population) (Table 6.03).

6.3 VARIATION ACROSS RURAL AND URBAN ENGLAND AND WALES

- Both the BCS and police statistics suggest that crime is lower in rural areas. Statistics published in 2002 showed that less than three per cent of people living in rural areas became victims of burglary in 1999, compared to almost five per cent in non-rural areas (Aust and Simmons, 2002). Over the past two decades, levels of burglary, vehicle-related thefts and violence in rural areas have been consistently lower than in non-rural areas.
- The BCS results from 2003/04 indicated that households in rural areas continued to be at less risk of burglary (2%) than those in non-inner-city urban areas (3%) and inner-city areas (5%). The higher levels of victimisation in inner cities and lower levels in rural areas can also be observed in relation to vehicle-related thefts and violent crime (Table 6.04).

Figure 6.5 Percentage of household victims of burglary, vehicle-related crime and adult victims of violent crime by area type, 2003/2004 BCS



6.4 GEOGRAPHICAL CONCENTRATION OF CRIME

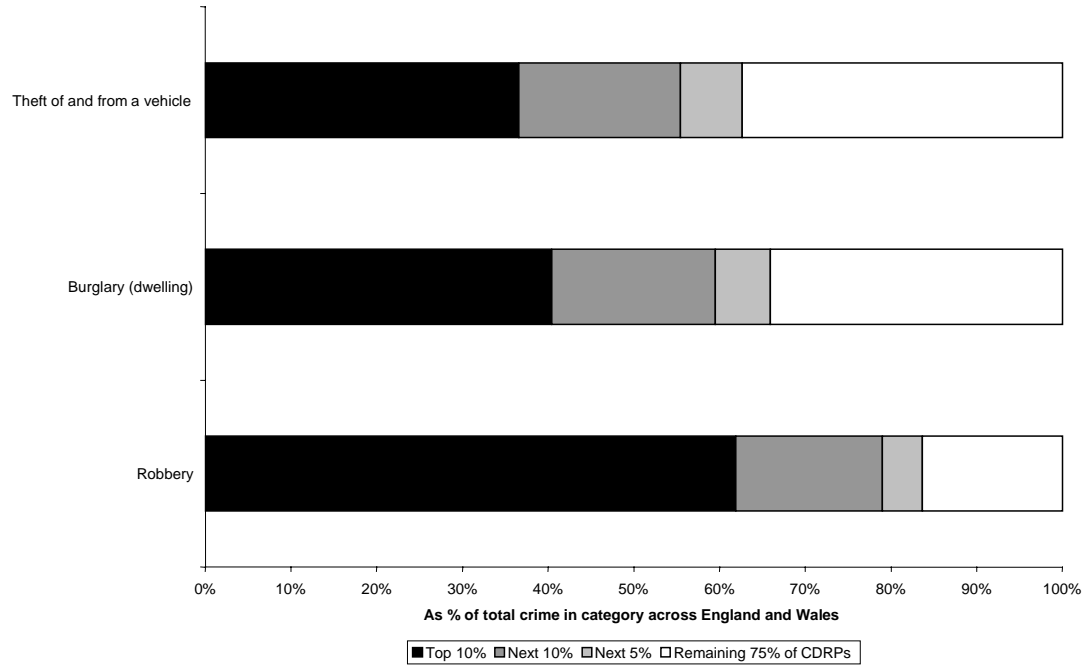
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as partnerships between police forces and local authorities (together with police authorities, health authorities, probation committees and other partners) to tackle crime within local authority boundaries. In Wales, the 22 CDRPs have changed to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to reflect their new identity subsequent to merging with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams. Basic Command Units (BCUs) are the units into which police forces divide their areas for management and accounting purposes.

Analysis of the recorded crime data for the 376 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships shows different levels of geographic concentration for different crime types.

- The 38 CDRPs with the highest numbers of recorded robberies (the top 10% of all CDRPs) accounted for 62 per cent of all recorded robberies in England and Wales. The 75 per cent of all CDRPs with the lowest numbers of robberies accounted for just 16 per cent of robberies recorded in England and Wales.

- The ten per cent of all CDRPs with the highest level of burglary offences accounted for 40 per cent of all burglaries in England and Wales. Similarly, 37 per cent of all recorded vehicle crimes took place in just 38 CDRPs.

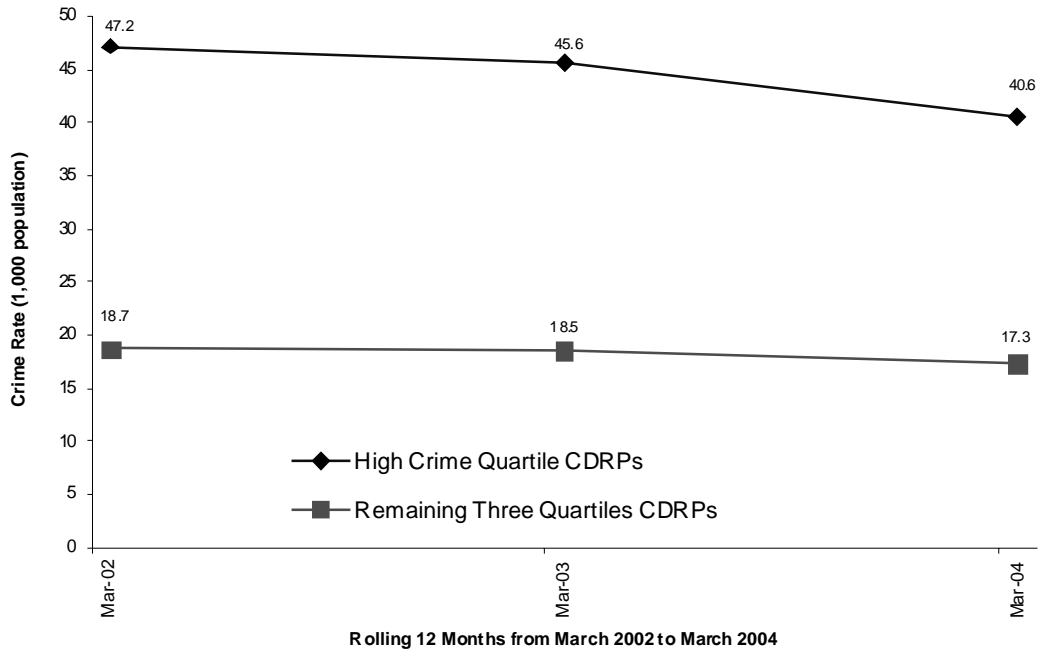
Figure 6.6 Concentration of selected crimes in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2003/04



Analysis of the combined recorded crime rate for vehicle crime, domestic burglary and robbery shows that the gap between the 25 per cent of CDRPs with the highest rates of these offences and the remaining 75 per cent of CDRPs is narrowing⁴. The difference in rates between these two groups decreased from 28.5 offences per 1,000 population in 2001/02, to 27.1 in 2002/03 and 23.3 per 1,000 in 2003/04. This suggests that the risk of becoming a victim of crime is falling more quickly in higher-crime than lower-crime areas.

⁴ Both this analysis and Figure 6.7 are based on the CDRPs with the highest crime rates in 2002/03.

Figure 6.7 Narrowing of crime rates for selected offences in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, 2003/04



Tables showing the recorded crime figures for the 354 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and 22 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales and for the Basic Command Units (BCUs) are available online at

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html>

Table 6.01 BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region, 2003/04 interviews

Percentages and numbers																			BCS
Police force and region	BCS household crime % victim at least once ²			BCS personal crime % victim at least once ²			Very worried about burglary % ³			High level of worry about car crime % ³			High level of worry about violent crime % ³			High levels of perceived disorder % ⁴			
	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Unweighted base ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Unweighted base ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Unweighted base ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Unweighted base ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Unweighted base ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Unweighted base ⁷	
Cleveland	21		815	4 **		816	15		816	18		515	17		383	21		770	
Durham	18		774	7		776	11		776	15		542	16		396	19		725	
Northumbria	20		826	6		826	15		826	17		461	18		448	23 **		787	
North East Region	20		2,415	6 **		2,418	14		2,418	17		1,518	18		1,227	21 **		2,282	
Cheshire	20		770	6		774	13		774	17		606	18		574	15		723	
Cumbria	14 **		776	5 **		777	9 **		777	10 **		603	10 **		708	13 **		766	
Greater Manchester	27 **		1,553	8		1,556	16 **		1,556	19 **		1,035	22 **		1,129	21		1,494	
Lancashire	22		901	8		901	13		900	13		665	16		419	18		840	
Merseyside	15 **		856	6		858	13		857	20 *		518	16		604	21		796	
North West Region	22 *		4,856	7		4,866	14		4,864	17 *		3,427	18		3,434	19		4,619	
Humberside	20		763	3 **		763	12		763	12		563	13		474	10 **		730	
North Yorkshire	19		728	6		729	8 **		729	9 **		577	10 **		578	10 **		691	
South Yorkshire	27 **		808	6		810	17 **		808	24 **		527	22 **		534	20		770	
West Yorkshire	28 **		1,092	9		1,095	16 **		1,095	19 **		735	20 *		961	16		1,027	
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	25 **		3,391	7		3,397	15 **		3,395	17 **		2,402	18		2,547	15		3,218	
Derbyshire	22		732	7		733	13		732	17		555	14		703	17		714	
Leicestershire	14 **		738	4 **		738	18 **		737	15		589	17		663	15		709	
Lincolnshire	18		754	5 **		754	8 **		754	9 **		625	8 **		688	7 **		738	
Northamptonshire	28 **		692	11 **		692	13		692	15		513	12 *		655	25 **		609	
Nottinghamshire	24		757	6		759	15		759	19		516	18		679	20		734	
East Midlands Region	21		3,673	6 **		3,676	14		3,674	15		2,798	14 *		3,388	17		3,504	
Staffordshire	14 **		716	4 **		718	13		717	14		552	14		536	14		674	
Warwickshire	19		775	5 **		775	12		775	15		619	14		599	14		750	
West Mercia	17 **		809	6		811	10 *		809	12		667	13		589	12 *		788	
West Midlands	22		1,446	7		1,449	16 **		1,449	20 **		931	21 **		1,167	19		1,364	
West Midlands Region	19		3,746	6 **		3,753	13		3,750	16		2,769	17		2,891	16		3,576	
Bedfordshire	22		758	8		758	12		757	14		603	16		622	18		711	
Cambridgeshire	24 *		733	11 *		734	11		734	15		565	24 **		444	17		693	
Essex	11 **		914	5 **		915	7 **		915	8 **		727	11 **		575	7 **		852	
Hertfordshire	19		717	9		719	9 **		719	13		568	16		610	20		678	
Norfolk	17 *		836	7		836	9 **		836	12 **		682	14		504	9 **		798	
Suffolk	14 **		722	5 **		723	6 **		723	9 **		570	14		393	8 **		667	
East of England Region	17 **		4,680	7		4,685	9 **		4,684	11 **		3,715	15		3,148	12 **		4,399	
Metropolitan/City of London	21		3,421	11 **		3,434	16 **		3,429	19 **		2,129	22 **		2,645	25 **		3,004	
London Region	21		3,421	11 **		3,434	16 **		3,429	19 **		2,129	22 **		2,645	25 **		3,004	

Table 6.01 (continued) BCS victimisation rates and fear of crime by police force area and region, 2003/04 interviews

Police force and region	Percentages and numbers																		BCS
	BCS household crime % victim at least once ²			BCS personal crime % victim at least once ²			Very worried about burglary % ³			High level of worry about car crime % ³			High level of worry about violent crime % ³			High levels of perceived disorder % ⁴			
	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Base number ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Base number ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Base number ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Base number ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Base number ⁷	Indicator value ⁵	Statistical sig ⁶	Base number ⁷	
Hampshire	21		1,005	8		1,009	11		1,009	13		765	12 **		802	19		933	
Kent	21		883	9		883	12		882	15		675	13		629	18		859	
Surrey	18		824	8		826	9 **		826	11 **		699	13 *		733	15		788	
Sussex	22		688	8		691	10 *		691	14		525	11 **		614	17		663	
Thames Valley	21		1,208	7		1,210	11		1,210	13		1,005	15		983	14 *		1,154	
South East Region	21		4,608	8		4,619	11 **		4,618	13 **		3,669	13 **		3,761	17		4,397	
Avon and Somerset	20		889	6		890	12		890	14		692	10 **		723	16		856	
Devon and Cornwall	16 **		834	6		834	7 **		834	10 **		668	13 **		721	13 *		815	
Dorset	19		788	6		788	7 **		788	14		625	12 **		503	13		768	
Gloucestershire	17		762	6 *		763	8 **		763	10 **		610	12		437	13		743	
Wiltshire	14 **		754	6		755	8 **		755	11 **		567	11 **		466	11 **		726	
South West Region	17 **		4,027	6 **		4,030	9 **		4,030	12 **		3,162	12 **		2,850	14 **		3,908	
Dyfed Powys	11 **		682	8		685	8 **		682	9 **		510	11 *		379	9 **		644	
Gwent	17		821	3 **		821	10 *		821	13		613	10 **		547	13 **		789	
North Wales	14 **		770	4 **		771	13		771	13		596	12 **		532	13 **		737	
South Wales	17		736	6		736	10		736	16		508	9 **		368	15		692	
Wales	15 **		3,009	5 **		3,013	10 **		3,010	13		2,227	11 **		1,826	13 **		2,862	
ENGLAND AND WALES	20		37,826	7		37,891	13		37,872	15		27,816	16		27,717	17		35,769	
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	20		34,405	7		34,457	12		34,443	14		25,687	15		25,072	16		32,765	

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. Best Value Performance Indicator 120 (See Glossary for explanation).

3. Best Value Performance Indicator 121 (See Glossary for explanation).

4. Best Value Performance Indicator 122 (See Glossary for explanation).

5. Estimated risk of being a victim once or more in a 12 month period, percentage of respondents worried about certain types of crime or percentage perceiving high levels of disorder.

6. Statistical significance of differences is indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and by a double asterisks at the 5% level.

7. The number of respondents on which the figures are based. Respondents who answer don't know or refuse to answer are excluded.

Table 6.02 Recorded crime by offence group by police force area and region, 2003/04

Police force area and region	Recorded crime									
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drugs and other offences	Theft of and from vehicles ¹
Cleveland	74,579	9,199	767	1,355	13,395	28,421	2,401	16,958	2,083	12,493
Durham	48,432	6,565	362	267	7,083	16,752	1,294	14,244	1,865	7,073
Northumbria	157,051	24,798	1,360	1,223	20,083	53,590	5,698	42,523	7,776	18,089
North East Region	280,062	40,562	2,489	2,845	40,561	98,763	9,393	73,725	11,724	37,655
Cheshire	92,223	14,074	696	647	13,119	34,098	4,128	22,556	2,905	12,844
Cumbria	39,539	6,874	293	124	4,613	13,210	1,118	11,629	1,678	4,114
Greater Manchester	367,959	53,972	3,200	9,246	66,545	129,331	13,577	81,123	10,965	59,284
Lancashire	151,835	26,676	1,337	1,285	19,571	50,660	7,157	39,447	5,702	16,699
Merseyside	169,181	26,446	1,284	2,347	24,871	59,520	6,966	39,966	7,781	26,364
North West Region	820,737	128,042	6,810	13,649	128,719	286,819	32,946	194,721	29,031	119,305
Humberside	141,644	25,317	1,269	1,896	23,761	52,068	5,117	28,635	3,581	21,429
North Yorkshire	71,473	9,610	502	395	11,062	29,406	3,330	14,732	2,436	9,516
South Yorkshire	141,794	13,499	938	1,400	26,553	57,001	6,239	30,933	5,231	29,194
West Yorkshire	325,556	45,864	2,343	3,738	59,799	120,030	16,916	68,476	8,390	55,760
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	680,467	94,290	5,052	7,429	121,175	258,505	31,602	142,776	19,638	115,899
Derbyshire	98,741	16,397	920	1,019	16,052	36,709	5,373	18,932	3,339	14,358
Leicestershire	96,355	17,593	1,000	1,476	12,795	34,837	5,829	19,480	3,345	14,016
Lincolnshire	60,377	10,148	636	304	9,052	20,665	2,320	15,176	2,076	6,503
Northamptonshire	78,582	11,070	544	1,220	12,231	29,507	4,908	17,295	1,807	12,711
Nottinghamshire	159,228	18,631	1,055	2,556	31,335	67,533	7,228	26,308	4,582	28,317
East Midlands Region	493,283	73,839	4,155	6,575	81,465	189,251	25,658	97,191	15,149	75,905
Staffordshire	109,396	22,774	1,025	909	14,072	36,493	5,395	24,447	4,281	13,785
Warwickshire	45,714	6,866	349	456	7,661	17,452	2,240	9,318	1,372	7,256
West Mercia	106,899	21,867	949	689	15,015	35,286	5,683	23,615	3,795	12,134
West Midlands	339,292	55,856	3,207	10,371	53,116	121,616	21,280	59,150	14,696	57,111
West Midlands Region	601,301	107,363	5,530	12,425	89,864	210,847	34,598	116,530	24,144	90,286
Bedfordshire	62,382	8,807	516	993	9,045	26,121	4,011	11,065	1,824	10,171
Cambridgeshire	79,960	13,663	736	786	10,257	31,402	4,584	16,534	1,998	10,672
Essex	144,512	26,010	1,296	1,476	16,467	53,653	7,470	34,253	3,887	21,040
Hertfordshire	95,117	12,356	644	972	12,783	37,976	7,875	19,887	2,624	16,239
Norfolk	69,846	11,586	774	459	8,169	26,123	3,005	17,462	2,268	8,396
Suffolk	53,443	9,529	641	290	6,396	18,205	2,725	12,817	2,840	5,782
Eastern Region	505,260	81,951	4,607	4,976	63,117	193,480	29,670	112,018	15,441	72,300
London, City of	9,250	849	30	50	454	5,471	1,163	319	914	583
Metropolitan Police	1,060,930	186,188	10,200	40,640	105,361	448,818	78,133	147,465	44,125	159,057
London Region	1,070,180	187,037	10,230	40,690	105,815	454,289	79,296	147,784	45,039	159,640
Hampshire	178,543	35,148	2,034	1,040	18,014	63,250	8,557	43,557	6,943	20,769
Kent	137,313	20,512	1,220	1,172	17,830	51,230	6,312	34,537	4,500	19,241
Surrey	73,252	9,654	585	619	9,700	28,986	4,561	16,571	2,576	9,920
Sussex	134,557	19,500	1,201	1,425	16,430	55,419	7,279	28,792	4,511	18,776
Thames Valley	210,256	28,588	1,618	2,286	30,076	90,256	12,640	37,320	7,472	35,463
South East Region	733,921	113,402	6,658	6,542	92,050	289,141	39,349	160,777	26,002	104,169
Avon & Somerset	164,943	26,530	1,516	2,908	24,564	67,159	8,218	29,949	4,099	29,008
Devon & Cornwall	131,453	25,969	1,336	562	14,024	47,156	5,993	30,116	6,297	16,601
Dorset	62,657	9,147	579	445	7,615	25,139	4,276	13,428	2,028	8,603
Gloucestershire	58,097	8,304	403	541	9,072	22,990	3,970	10,847	1,970	8,407
Wiltshire	42,956	6,302	584	328	5,929	16,546	2,326	9,446	1,495	5,450
South West Region	460,106	76,252	4,418	4,784	61,204	178,990	24,783	93,786	15,889	68,069
Dyfed-Powys	31,105	7,909	434	54	2,703	8,514	1,379	7,032	3,080	2,325
Gwent	59,296	12,931	404	274	7,541	20,310	1,954	13,681	2,201	8,923
North Wales	61,749	10,979	569	201	7,301	21,075	2,114	17,036	2,474	7,613
South Wales	137,113	21,195	714	751	17,127	58,159	5,207	28,519	5,441	27,082
Wales	289,263	53,014	2,121	1,280	34,672	108,058	10,654	66,268	13,196	45,943
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,934,580	955,752	52,070	101,195	818,642	2,268,143	317,949	1,205,576	215,253	889,171
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	4,864,400	768,715	41,840	60,505	712,827	1,813,854	238,653	1,057,792	170,214	729,531

1. Includes theft of motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking. These numbers are included in the totals for the theft and handling stolen goods offence group.

2. Numbers of recorded crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording.

Table 6.03 Recorded offences by offence group by police force area and region, number per '000 population in 2003/04

Police force area and region	Numbers per '000 population										Recorded crime	
	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Total violent crime	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drugs and other offences	Theft of and from vehicles	
Cleveland	138	17	1	3	21	25	53	4	31	4	23	
Durham	82	11	1	0	12	12	28	2	24	3	12	
Northumbria	114	18	1	1	20	15	39	4	31	6	13	
North East Region	111	16	1	1	18	16	39	4	29	5	15	
Cheshire	94	14	1	1	16	13	35	4	23	3	13	
Cumbria	81	14	1	0	15	9	27	2	24	3	8	
Greater Manchester	146	21	1	4	26	26	51	5	32	4	24	
Lancashire	107	19	1	1	21	14	36	5	28	4	12	
Merseyside	124	19	1	2	22	18	44	5	29	6	19	
North West Region	121	19	1	2	22	19	42	5	29	4	18	
Humberside	163	29	1	2	33	27	60	6	33	4	25	
North Yorkshire	95	13	1	1	14	15	39	4	20	3	13	
South Yorkshire	112	11	1	1	12	21	45	5	24	4	23	
West Yorkshire	156	22	1	2	25	29	57	8	33	4	27	
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	137	19	1	1	21	24	52	6	29	4	23	
Derbyshire	103	17	1	1	19	17	38	6	20	3	15	
Leicestershire	103	19	1	2	21	14	37	6	21	4	15	
Lincolnshire	92	15	1	0	17	14	31	4	23	3	10	
Northamptonshire	123	17	1	2	20	19	46	8	27	3	20	
Nottinghamshire	156	18	1	2	22	31	66	7	26	4	28	
East Midlands Region	117	18	1	2	20	19	45	6	23	4	18	
Staffordshire	104	22	1	1	24	13	35	5	23	4	13	
Warwickshire	89	13	1	1	15	15	34	4	18	3	14	
West Mercia	92	19	1	1	20	13	30	5	20	3	10	
West Midlands	132	22	1	4	27	21	47	8	23	6	22	
West Midlands Region	113	20	1	2	24	17	40	7	22	5	17	
Bedfordshire	109	15	1	2	18	16	46	7	19	3	18	
Cambridgeshire	112	19	1	1	21	14	44	6	23	3	15	
Essex	89	16	1	1	18	10	33	5	21	2	13	
Hertfordshire	92	12	1	1	13	12	37	8	19	3	16	
Norfolk	87	14	1	1	16	10	33	4	22	3	10	
Suffolk	80	14	1	0	16	10	27	4	19	4	9	
Eastern Region	93	15	1	1	17	12	36	5	21	3	13	
London, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Metropolitan Police	144	25	1	6	32	14	61	11	20	6	22	
London Region	145	25	1	6	32	14	62	11	20	6	22	
Hampshire	100	20	1	1	21	10	35	5	24	4	12	
Kent	86	13	1	1	14	11	32	4	22	3	12	
Surrey	69	9	1	1	10	9	27	4	16	2	9	
Sussex	90	13	1	1	15	11	37	5	19	3	13	
Thames Valley	100	14	1	1	15	14	43	6	18	4	17	
South East Region	91	14	1	1	16	11	36	5	20	3	13	
Avon & Somerset	111	18	1	2	21	16	45	6	20	3	19	
Devon & Cornwall	83	16	1	0	18	9	30	4	19	4	10	
Dorset	90	13	1	1	15	11	36	6	19	3	12	
Gloucestershire	102	15	1	1	16	16	41	7	19	3	15	
Wiltshire	70	10	1	1	12	10	27	4	15	2	9	
South West Region	93	15	1	1	17	12	36	5	19	3	14	
Dyfed-Powys	63	16	1	0	17	5	17	3	14	6	5	
Gwent	107	23	1	0	25	14	37	4	25	4	16	
North Wales	92	16	1	0	18	11	32	3	25	4	11	
South Wales	114	18	1	1	19	14	48	4	24	5	23	
Wales	99	18	1	0	19	12	37	4	23	5	16	
ENGLAND AND WALES	113	18	1	2	21	16	43	6	23	4	17	
ENGLAND AND WALES (excluding London Region)	108	17	1	1	19	16	40	5	23	4	16	

1. Numbers will be affected by the size of the resident population relative to the transient or visiting populations and may therefore over-represent the number of crimes relative to the real population of potential victims.

2. Numbers of crimes will be affected by changes in reporting and recording.

* Data for London Region includes the City of London.

Table 6.04 Percentage of household victims of burglary and vehicle-related theft and adult victims of violent crime 2003/04 interviews by area type

Percentages	BCS		
	% victims once or more		
Area type	All vehicle theft	All BCS burglary	All BCS violence
Inner-city	15.3	5.3	5.8
Urban	10.3	3.3	4.4
All non-rural	10.8	3.6	4.6
Rural	6.5	1.9	2.7
ALL HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS²	9.7	3.2	4.1

1. Source 2003/04 BCS.

2. Risks for burglary are based on households. Risks for violence are based on adults. Risks for vehicle crime are based on vehicle-owning households.

