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Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2008

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MAIN POINTS

- Based on British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews in the year to September 2008, the overall level of crime is stable compared with September 2007. The apparent decreases in household and personal crime were not statistically significant. The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by three per cent for the period July to September 2008 compared with the same quarter a year earlier.
- BCS interviews also showed the risk of being a victim of crime (23%) is stable compared with the previous year. The risk of being a victim remains at a historically low level.
- Based on BCS interviews in the year to September 2008, the level of violent crime is stable compared with the year to September 2007. Recorded violence against the person for July to September 2008 fell by six per cent compared with the same period in 2007.
- Police recorded robberies fell by three per cent overall, but robberies involving knives or sharp instruments increased by 18 per cent over the same period (see Annex A).
- BCS interviews to September 2008 indicated domestic burglary and vandalism remained stable and vehicle-related thefts fell by ten per cent compared with the year to September 2007.
- For the period July to September 2008, police recorded domestic burglaries rose by four per cent, whilst there were falls in recorded offences against vehicles (6%) and criminal damage (8%).
- Police recorded drug offences for July to September 2008 increased by nine per cent compared with the same period in 2007.
- There was a 29 per cent fall in firearm offences in July to September 2008, compared to the same period in 2007.
- BCS interviews showed that 46 per cent of people agreed that the police and local agencies were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. There was no change in the overall level of perceived anti-social behaviour (17%).

This statistical bulletin is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Statistics Unit. The governance arrangements in the Home Office for statistics were strengthened on 1 April 2008 to place the statistical teams under the direct line management of a Chief Statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.

This update presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime. Both data sets represent the most up-to-date information, but they cover different time periods. The BCS results are from interviews conducted in the period October 2007 to September 2008; police recorded crime refers to the July to September 2008 quarter. Figures presented in quarterly updates are always provisional. Work is still being undertaken within forces to quality assure figures with respect to grievous bodily harm with intent which means that trends and numbers for this category cannot be reliably presented (see Box 1 on page 3). Following advice from the National Statistician after reviewing the quality issues surrounding the data, the breakdown of violence against the person has been restricted to the broader categories of 'violence against the person with injury' and 'violence against the person without injury'. Once figures are finalised, a full breakdown will be presented in the annual crime bulletin to be published in July 2009.

LEVELS OF CRIME

Based on BCS interviews in the year to September 2008, overall crime against adults living in private households is stable compared with September 2007 (Figure 1 and Table 1). Neither the apparent one per cent decrease in BCS household crime nor the apparent five per cent decrease in personal crime were statistically significant.¹

The overall level of crime recorded by the police in July to September 2008 decreased by three per cent compared with the same quarter in 2007 (Figure 2 and Table 2).

The BCS showed the risk of being a victim of crime (23%) remained stable compared with the year to September 2007 (the apparent decrease is not statistically significant). The risk of being a victim of crime remains at a historically low level.

BCS interviews for the year to September 2008 showed levels of violent crime to be stable compared with the year to September 2007; the apparent nine per cent decrease was not statistically significant. There were no statistically significant changes in the two sub-categories of violence either; that is, violence with injury (apparent 9% decrease) and violence with no injury (apparent 8% decrease). The number of robberies and sexual offences identified by the BCS are too small to provide reliable estimates of trends.

The level of violence against the person² recorded by the police showed a six per cent fall between July to September 2007 and the same quarter in 2008 – this is unaffected by a clarification in counting rules for grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent (see Box 1 on page 3). Recorded robbery figures showed a three per cent fall in July to September 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007, but robberies involving knives or sharp instruments increased by 18 per cent over the same period (see Annex A for a full discussion of issues in interpreting knife crime trends, together with latest figures). There was a seven per cent fall in recorded sexual offences over the same period.

The provisional figures presented here for firearms offences exclude offences involving air weapons. They account for 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime and show that there was a 29 per cent fall from 2.9 thousand to 2.0 thousand in these offences in July to September 2008, compared with the same period in 2007, continuing recent quarterly falls. It should be noted that figures are not entirely comparable as, since April 2008, figures include offences in the Metropolitan Police area where a threat was made but the firearm was not seen. These offences have not previously been included in the Metropolitan Police figures. Povey *et al.* (2009), published at the same time as this bulletin, contains a detailed breakdown of finalised firearm offence figures for 2007/08.

BCS burglary remained stable based on interviews to September 2008 compared with the previous year. Police recorded crime figures showed a rise of four per cent in recorded domestic burglaries in July to September 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007.

¹ See note entitled 'What do we mean by statistical significance?' on page 9.

² This definition does not cover sexual offences or robbery.

Based on BCS interviews to September 2008, the level of vandalism remained stable whilst vehicle-related thefts fell by ten per cent compared with the previous year. There was an eight per cent decrease in police recorded criminal damage and also a six per cent fall in recorded offences against vehicles³ in July to September 2008 compared with the same period a year earlier.

Drug offences recorded by the police rose by nine per cent in July to September 2008 compared with the same quarter in the previous year. The rise continues to follow the increase in police use of powers to issue cannabis warnings since they first became available in 2004.

Fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police showed a 16 per cent rise in July to September 2008 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The increase in the previous quarter was ten per cent which followed several decreases because of changes in the way cheque and plastic card fraud is recorded (see footnote 7 in Table 2). However, BCS estimates and figures supplied by the financial industry are now used in the annual crime statistics publications to provide a better indication of the scale of plastic card fraud as they provide a much more comprehensive picture as to the scale of fraudulent transactions (see Kershaw *et al.* (2008) for more information).

Box 1 Police recording of violence against the person

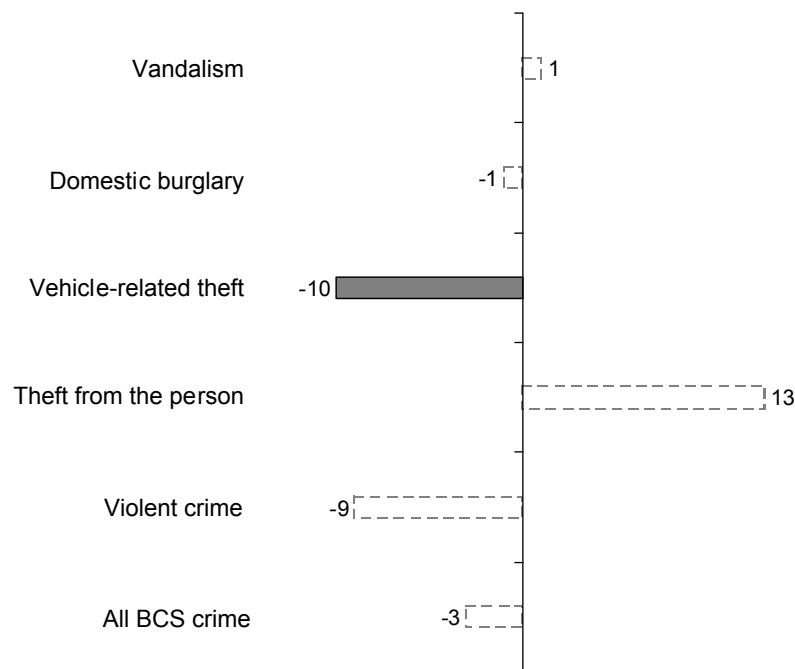
Since April 2008, the following factors have influenced the way in which offences within violence against the person are categorised, in particular, offences of most serious violence against the person. It should be noted that most serious violence accounted for two per cent of violence against the person (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008). It should also be stressed that these clarifications do not alter the overall figure for the violence against the person offence group, which shows a six per cent fall between July to September 2008 and the same period in 2007.

- With the introduction of Public Service Agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 23, grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent has been moved into the 'most serious violence against the person' offence category (annual comparisons are not yet available).
- There was a clarification in the counting rules (around the circumstances that may indicate intent) covering offences of GBH with intent and thus when it is appropriate to record a crime as attempted GBH with intent. This had the effect of increasing figures in some forces, GBH with intent being a major component of 'most serious violence'.

Figures presented in quarterly updates are always provisional. Work is still being undertaken within forces to quality assure figures with respect to GBH with intent which means that trends and numbers for this category cannot be reliably presented. Following advice from the National Statistician after reviewing the quality issues surrounding the data, the breakdown of violence against the person has been restricted to the broader categories of 'violence against the person with injury' and 'violence against the person without injury'. Once figures are finalised, a full breakdown will be presented in the annual crime bulletin to be published in July 2009.

³ Theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a vehicle.

Figure 1 Percentage change in BCS crime based on interviews in the 12 months to September 2008 compared with the previous 12 months



Survey changes which are statistically significant at the 5% level (see Notes) are indicated by a fully shaded bar. Other apparent changes, denoted by dotted lines, are not statistically significant at the 5% level. Statistical significance for the change in all BCS crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS figures.

Figure 2 Percentage change in numbers of recorded crimes, July to September 2008 compared with the same quarter a year earlier

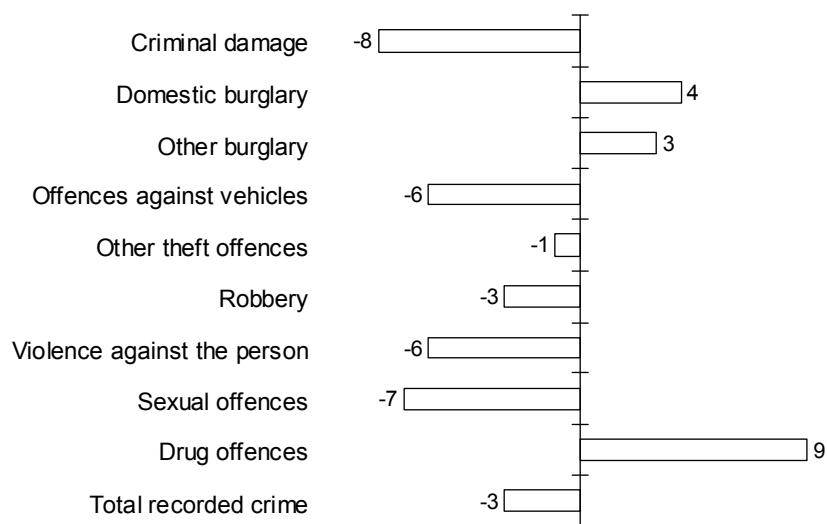


Table 1 Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in the year to September 2008 compared with the previous year

	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ¹	Interviews in October 2007 to September 2008	Change between years ²	BCS Statistically significant change ³
<i>Number of crimes (000s) and percentage change</i>				
All household crime	6,822	6,733	-1	
Vandalism	2,816	2,853	1	
Domestic burglary	753	745	-1	
Vehicle-related theft	1,653	1,483	-10	**
All household acquisitive ⁴	4,006	3,881	-3	
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>47,676</i>	<i>45,652</i>		
All personal crime	3,989	3,789	-5	
Theft from the person	563	636	13	
BCS violence ⁵	2,367	2,163	-9	
<i>with injury</i>	<i>1,199</i>	<i>1,088</i>	<i>-9</i>	
<i>with no injury</i>	<i>1,168</i>	<i>1,074</i>	<i>-8</i>	
All personal acquisitive ⁶	1,939	1,942	0	
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>47,805</i>	<i>45,778</i>		
All BCS crime	10,811	10,523	-3	N/A
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more and percentage point change⁷</i>				
All household crime	18.1	17.8	-0.3	
Vandalism	7.6	7.9	0.3	
Domestic burglary	2.5	2.5	-0.1	
Vehicle-related theft ⁸	7.2	6.4	-0.8	**
All household acquisitive ⁴	12.3	11.8	-0.4	
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>47,676</i>	<i>45,652</i>		
All personal crime	6.4	6.2	-0.2	
Theft from the person	1.2	1.3	0.1	
BCS violence ⁵	3.5	3.3	-0.2	
<i>with injury</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	
<i>with no injury</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	
All personal acquisitive ⁶	3.7	3.7	0.0	
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>47,805</i>	<i>45,778</i>		
All BCS crime	23.5	23.1	-0.4	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending September 2007 have been revised and differ slightly from those previously published. For more information see Notes.

2. A percentage change of less than 0.5 is shown as 0.

3. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS crime. See Notes.

4. All household acquisitive comprises burglary, vehicle theft, bike theft and other household theft.

5. All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury.

6. All personal acquisitive comprises robbery, theft from the person and other thefts of personal property.

7. A discrepancy may appear between trends in number of crimes and risk of being a victim (the proportion of the population victimised once or more) due to repeat victimisation.

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

Table 2 Number of recorded crimes and percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year

Offence group	Number of crimes recorded by the police (000s) ^{1,2}					Percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year ³			
	Jul-Sep 2007	Oct-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008
Violence against the person	252.9	231.0	222.0	237.1	237.3	-10	-6	-7	-6
<i>Violence against the person - with injury</i> ⁴	119.3	108.4	103.8	110.6	110.3	-11	-8	-8	-8
<i>Violence against the person - without injury</i> ⁵	133.5	122.6	118.2	126.5	126.9	-9	-4	-6	-5
Sexual offences	14.4	12.1	13.0	14.3	13.4	-9	2	1	-7
Robbery	20.0	21.0	20.5	19.3	19.5	-21	-19	-17	-3
Domestic burglary	66.9	72.5	74.4	65.3	69.7	-5	1	-2	4
Other burglary	72.9	72.6	76.4	73.7	74.9	-11	-9	-9	3
Offences against vehicles ⁶	163.6	159.3	163.5	152.4	153.9	-19	-14	-10	-6
Other theft offences	288.0	271.7	259.3	287.3	285.6	-8	-7	-5	-1
Fraud and forgery ⁷	37.8	36.8	40.7	44.2	43.8	-24	-8	10	16
Criminal damage	250.0	256.7	258.6	243.3	231.0	-17	-12	-10	-8
<i>Total property crime</i>	879.2	869.5	872.9	866.2	858.9	-14	-9	-7	-2
Drug offences	56.3	58.7	58.4	59.9	61.2	21	14	8	9
Other miscellaneous offences	18.0	16.3	17.0	18.8	18.5	-10	0	4	3
Total recorded crime - all offences	1,240.7	1,208.5	1,204.0	1,215.6	1,208.8	-12	-8	-6	-3
of which: Firearms offences ⁸	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	-5	-9	-17	-29

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).

2. The figures given in the table are the latest available. They may therefore differ slightly from figures published in previous bulletins. The table does not contain a breakdown of offences for most serious violence (see Box 1 on page 3).

3. Comparisons are made with the same quarter in the preceding year in order to take seasonality into account. Comparisons with the previous quarter are not shown.

4. Violence against the person with injury includes homicide, attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking and less serious wounding offences.

5. Violence against the person - without injury includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

6. Includes aggravated vehicle taking, theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

7. The Fraud Act 2006 commenced on 15 January 2007, altering the definition and coverage of fraud and forgery offences. At that time, the counting of cheque and plastic card fraud changed to a 'per account' basis rather than a 'per transaction' basis. From 1 April 2007, account holders who suspect fraud on their account report the matter to their financial institution who will, in most circumstances, then determine whether to report the crime.

8. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons. Since April 2008 figures include offences in the Metropolitan Police area where a threat was made but the firearm was not seen.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

According to BCS interviews in the year ending September 2008, the proportion of people who had a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour in their local area remained stable compared with the previous year. Of the seven indicators that make up the composite measure, one showed a statistically significant decrease since the previous year: abandoned or burnt-out cars (from 8% to 6%) and one showed a statistically significant increase: people being drunk or rowdy in public places (from 25% to 26%) (Table 3).

Table 3 Anti-social behaviour indicators

Percentages			BCS
	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ¹	Interviews in October 2007 to September 2008	Statistically significant change ²
	<i>Percentage</i>		
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ³	17	17	
	<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>		
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	8	6	**↓
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10	10	
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	25	26	**↑
People using or dealing drugs	27	27	
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	32	31	
Rubbish or litter lying around	30	31	
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	28	27	
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	<i>45,494</i>	<i>43,659</i>	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending September 2007 have been revised and differ slightly from those previously published. For more information see Notes.

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes for an explanation of statistical significance.

3. This measure is derived from responses to the seven individual anti-social behaviour strands reported in the table.

4. Unweighted bases refer to high level of perceived ASB. Bases for each individual strand will be similar.

BCS interviews during the 12 months to September 2008 showed a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about violent crime (16% to 14%). However, the apparent one percentage point decreases in the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about car crime and the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about burglary were not statistically significant (Table 4).

Table 4 Worry about crime

Percentages			BCS
	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ¹	Interviews in October 2007 to September 2008	Statistically significant change ²
	<i>Percentage with high level of worry about³:</i>		
Burglary	12	11	
Car crime	13	12	
Violent crime	16	14	**↓
<i>Unweighted base⁴</i>	<i>47,789</i>	<i>28,011</i>	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending September 2007 have been revised and differ slightly from those previously published. For more information see Notes.

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes for an explanation of statistical significance.

3. See Kershaw *et al.* (2008) for more information on the definitions of the worry about crime indicators.

4. Unweighted bases refer to high levels of worry about burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but for car crime they will be slightly lower as these are based on those residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle only. Since April 2008, this question has only been asked of a quarter of the sample and therefore bases for the year ending September 2008 will be lower than in previous years.

The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area did an excellent or good job remained at 52 per cent in the 12 months to September 2008, the same figure as in the year to September 2007 (Table 5).

A new set of questions was included in the BCS from October 2007 relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local councils to tackle the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area. The first full annual results from BCS interviews between October 2007 and September 2008 showed that 46 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were

dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area, 25 per cent disagreed and 29 per cent had no opinion (Table 5).

At the same time a new set of questions relating to the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS) was also introduced. Based on the first complete annual data collection from October 2007 to September 2008, 37 per cent of people were confident that the CJS as a whole is effective and 57 per cent thought that the CJS as a whole is fair (Table 5).⁴

Table 5 Confidence in the police and CJS

Percentages			BCS
	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ¹	Interviews in October 2007 to September 2008	Statistically significant change ²
	<i>Percentage agreeing</i>		
Police in the local area doing a good or excellent job	52	52	
Police and local council dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area	N/A	46	N/A
<i>Unweighted base</i> ³	46,638	44,798	
	<i>Percentage confident</i>		
Confidence that the CJS as a whole is effective	N/A	37	N/A
Confidence that the CJS as a whole is fair	N/A	57	N/A
<i>Unweighted base</i> ⁴	N/A	32,723	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending September 2007 have been revised and differ slightly from those previously published. For more information see Notes.

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes for an explanation of statistical significance.

3. Unweighted base refer to police doing a good or excellent job. Base for the other measure will be similar.

4. Unweighted base refer to effectiveness of the CJS. Base for the other measure will be similar.

N/A denotes questions not asked during interviews to September 2007 and thus no annual comparison can be made.

⁴ Previous questions measuring seven aspects of public confidence in the CJS are no longer included in the BCS.

NOTES

The latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures are based on interviews with adults aged 16 or over living in private households in England and Wales conducted between October 2007 and September 2008 (BCS year ending September 2008) and incidents experienced by survey respondents in the 12 months prior to their interview. Averaging over the moving reference period generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures for the 12 months up to the end of March 2008, about six months behind the latest recorded crime figures reported here. BCS results for the year ending September 2008 are compared with the results from the interviews in the year ending September 2007.

The BCS fieldwork was carried out by BMRB Social Research. In the year ending September 2008 the BCS had a nationally representative sample of 45,839 adults with a response rate of 76 per cent.⁵ Further information about the BCS and access to recent publications can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

What do we mean by statistical significance?

BCS estimates are based on a representative sample of the population of approximately 46,000 respondents aged 16 or over each year. Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of this difference depends on the sample size, the size and variability of the estimate and the design of the survey.

Because of this difference (known as sampling error), changes in estimates between sweeps of the survey may occur by chance. In other words, the difference may be simply due to which adults were randomly selected for interview. We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests. Survey results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level, according to these tests, are identified by asterisks in the tables. Only results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level are commented on within this bulletin.

The BCS uses Labour Force Survey (LFS) population estimates for calibration weighting, to make adjustments for known age, sex and regional differentials in response rates (see the Glossary in Kershaw *et al.* (2008)). Latest and back series of LFS microdata were published on 14th May 2008 reweighted to the latest (2007) population estimates⁶. Previously they had been based on population totals published in 2003. The LFS population estimates used in calibration weighting are linked to the dates of the BCS reference period, not the dates of interview, so this quarterly bulletin is the first where the reweighted figures are required (this is usual statistical practice and consistent with revisions policies).

To allow direct comparison with the current figures, BCS estimates from interviews in the year to September 2007 have been revised using the reweighted LFS microdata and will vary slightly from previously published estimates. However, the effect is minimal and key estimates presented in this quarterly update for year to September 2007 remain within the confidence intervals of the original estimates (see Table A1) with no change to the overall picture.

Recorded crime figures relate to crime recorded by the police in England and Wales in the quarterly period. Unlike the BCS, it does not include crimes that have not been reported to the police, and does not include those that the police decide not to record, but does cover crimes against those aged under 16 and businesses.

The annual National Statistics on police recorded crime at police force level are published after a full reconciliation and quality assurance process has been completed by the Home Office Statistics Unit in liaison with individual police forces. The figures are published as part of the annual bulletin in July.

⁵ Based on BCS interviews achieved during the year ending March 2008. The response rate for the year ending September 2008 cannot be calculated as finalised response figures are not yet available.

⁶ See <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=342> for more details.

Table A1 Previously published and revised estimates with confidence intervals for BCS interviews in the year to September 2007

	Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ¹		Interviews in October 2006 to September 2007 ²	
	Original estimate	Original range	Revised estimate	Revised range
<i>Number of crimes (000s)</i>				
All household crime	6,794	6,557 - 7,032	6,822	6,583 - 7,062
Vandalism	2,810	2,672 - 2,949	2,816	2,676 - 2,955
Domestic burglary	744	681 - 808	753	688 - 818
Vehicle-related theft	1,640	1,555 - 1,726	1,653	1,566 - 1,740
All household acquisitive ³	3,984	3,826 - 4,142	4,006	3,847 - 4,166
All personal crime	3,941	3,708 - 4,175	3,989	3,752 - 4,226
Theft from the person	560	495 - 625	563	498 - 629
BCS violence ⁴	2,328	2,139 - 2,517	2,367	2,174 - 2,560
with injury	1,176	1,049 - 1,302	1,199	1,070 - 1,328
with no injury	1,152	1,020 - 1,284	1,168	1,034 - 1,302
All personal acquisitive ⁵	1,926	1,789 - 2,063	1,939	1,800 - 2,077
All BCS crime	10,736	N/A - N/A	10,811	N/A - N/A
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more</i>				
All household crime	18.1	17.6 - 18.5	18.1	17.6 - 18.6
Vandalism	7.6	7.3 - 7.9	7.6	7.3 - 7.9
Domestic burglary	2.5	2.3 - 2.7	2.5	2.4 - 2.7
Vehicle-related theft ⁶	7.1	6.8 - 7.4	7.2	6.8 - 7.5
All household acquisitive ³	12.2	11.8 - 12.6	12.3	11.9 - 12.7
All personal crime	6.3	6.0 - 6.6	6.4	6.1 - 6.7
Theft from the person	1.2	1.1 - 1.3	1.2	1.1 - 1.4
BCS violence ⁴	3.4	3.2 - 3.6	3.5	3.2 - 3.7
with injury	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	1.9	1.7 - 2.0
with no injury	1.8	1.6 - 1.9	1.8	1.6 - 2.0
All personal acquisitive ⁵	3.7	3.4 - 3.9	3.7	3.5 - 3.9
All BCS crime	23.4	22.8 - 24.0	23.5	22.9 - 24.1
<i>Percentage</i>				
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour⁷	16.8	16.2 - 17.5	16.9	16.3 - 17.5
<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>				
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	7.6	7.2 - 8.1	7.7	7.2 - 8.1
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10.3	9.8 - 10.7	10.3	9.9 - 10.7
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	25.2	24.5 - 25.9	25.3	24.6 - 26.0
People using or dealing drugs	27.0	26.2 - 27.8	27.1	26.3 - 27.9
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	32.1	31.4 - 32.9	32.2	31.4 - 32.9
Rubbish or litter lying around	30.4	30.0 - 31.1	30.5	29.7 - 31.2
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	27.8	27.1 - 28.5	27.9	27.1 - 28.6
<i>Percentage with high level of worry about⁸:</i>				
Burglary	12.1	11.6 - 12.5	12.0	11.6 - 12.5
Car crime	12.6	12.1 - 13.0	12.6	12.1 - 13.1
Violent crime	16.0	15.4 - 16.6	16.0	15.4 - 16.5

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

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

3. All household acquisitive comprises burglary, vehicle theft, bike theft and other household theft.

4. All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury.

5. All personal acquisitive comprises robbery, theft from the person and other thefts of personal property.

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

7. This measure is derived from responses to the seven individual anti-social behaviour strands reported in the table.

8. See Kershaw *et al.* (2008) for more information on the definitions of the worry about crime indicators.

ANNEX A: VIOLENT AND SEXUAL OFFENCES INVOLVING THE USE OF KNIVES AND OTHER SHARP INSTRUMENTS

Figures for certain types of offences that involve the use of a knife or other sharp instrument have been collected quarterly since April 2007. In 2007/08 these offences comprised attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with and without intent, and robbery. The offence coverage was extended from April 2008 to include other categories of violent and sexual offences likely to involve knife use (threats to kill, actually bodily harm, rape and sexual assaults). Provisional homicide figures are available quarterly from the separate Homicide Index collection.

Usage of a knife or other sharp instrument is taken to be an actual stabbing (or cutting/slashing), or a threat/attempt. The Metropolitan Police had previously not included in their knife crime figures offences where a threat is made but the knife is not seen. Following audit work they have submitted revised figures back to the start of 2007/08 and these are now reflected in national figures on a consistent basis.

Comparisons between July to September 2007 and July to September 2008 are made for the offences of homicide, attempted murder and robbery.

Changes and clarifications in recording GBH offences mean that figures are not comparable with those collected in 2007/08. Figures for GBH are included in a new wider actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm category in Table A2. Figures are unavailable for 2007/08 for this category.

There was an overall 18 per cent increase in robbery involving knives and sharp instruments. However, robbery figures overall (see Table 2) have seen a three per cent fall. For the period July to September 2008 these robberies involving knives and sharp instruments represented 22 per cent of all robberies.

It should be noted that quarterly figures for some of the rarer categories of offence can be quite erratic. For example, the percentage of homicides accounted for by knife/sharp instruments was 39 per cent in the April to June quarter as compared with the 47 per cent for the most recent quarter, (with a decrease of two homicides from 69 to 67 in April to June and an increase of seven from 73 to 80 in July to September compared with the respective quarters in 2007). Annual figures provide a better indication for these rarer crimes. Povey *et al.* (2009), published at the same time as this bulletin, contains finalised figures for homicide for 2007/08.

Table A2 Knife and sharp instrument offences, quarterly comparison and proportions of all offences, by offence type

Offence type	Number of crimes recorded by the police				Percentage change compared with the the same quarter in the previous year ¹		Percentage of total offences	
	Apr-Jun 2007	Jul-Sep 2007	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008
Homicide ²	69	73	67	80	-3	10	39	47
Attempted murder	55	66	65	71	18	8	44	48
Robbery	4,340	3,551	3,951	4,207	-9	18	20	22
Threats to kill	..	..	423	433	..	..	16	17
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm	..	..	5,245	5,408	..	..	5	5
Rape	..	..	67	78	..	..	2	2
Sexual assaults	..	..	30	35	..	..	1	1
Total³	..	..	9,848	10,312	..	..	7	7

1. Comparisons are made with the same quarter in the preceding year in order to take seasonality into account. Comparisons with the previous quarter are not shown.

2. Figures currently recorded by the police as at 4 November 2008. Figures provisional and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

3. Full offence collection not available before April 2008.

.. Not available.

References

Povey, D. (Ed.), Coleman, K., Kaiza, P. and Roe, S. (2009). *Homicide, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2007/08.* Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/09. London: Home Office

Home Office (2008). *Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to June 2008.* Home Office Statistical Bulletin 14/08. London: Home Office

Kershaw, C., Nicholas, S. and Walker, A. (Eds.) (2008) *Crime in England and Wales 2007/08.* Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/08. London: Home Office.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf>

Further information

Copies of other Home Office publications are available from the Research Development and Statistics Internet pages:

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

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

Erratum

In Table A2 in Annex A the percentage of total offences that included a knife or sharp instrument in both April–June and July–September 2008 was seven per cent. This figure was incorrectly shown as nine per cent in the original version.