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# Home Office Statistical Bulletin



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## Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2008

06/09

23 April 2009

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## MAIN POINTS

- Based on British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews in the year to December 2008, the overall level of crime is stable compared with the year ending December 2007. The apparent increases in household and personal crime were not statistically significant. The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by four per cent for the period October to December 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.
- Compared with the BCS year ending December 2007, most estimates of BCS crime categories (including violence, domestic burglary, vandalism and vehicle-related thefts) remained stable. The one exception was theft from the person which rose by 25 per cent. This rise is not reflected in other categories of BCS personal acquisitive crime or in the comparable category of police recorded crime.
- Police recorded violence against the person for October to December 2008 fell by six per cent compared with the same period in 2007. Police recorded robberies fell by two per cent overall, but robberies involving knives or sharp instruments increased by five per cent over the same period.
- For the period October to December 2008, both police recorded domestic burglaries and other burglaries rose by four per cent, whilst there were falls in recorded offences against vehicles (7%) and criminal damage (9%).
- There was a 16 per cent fall in firearm offences recorded by the police in October to December 2008, compared to the same period in 2007.
- BCS interviews in the year to December 2008 showed that 47 per cent of people agreed that the police and local agencies were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area. There was no change in the proportion of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area compared with the previous year (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 January 2008 to December 2008; police recorded crime refers to the October to December 2008 quarter. Police recorded crime figures presented in quarterly updates are always provisional.

## LEVELS OF CRIME

Based on BCS interviews in the year to December 2008, overall crime against adults living in private households is stable compared with December 2007 (Figure 1 and Table 1). Neither the apparent two per cent rise in BCS household crime nor the apparent one per cent increase in personal crime were statistically significant.<sup>1</sup>

The overall level of crime recorded by the police in October to December 2008 decreased by four 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 December 2007. The risk of being a victim of crime remains at a historically low level.

BCS interviews for the year to December 2008 showed levels of violent crime to be stable compared with the year to December 2007; the apparent six 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 and violence with no injury. 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 person<sup>2</sup> recorded by the police showed a six per cent fall between October to December 2008 and the same quarter in 2007 – 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 two per cent fall in October to December 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007, but robberies involving knives or sharp instruments increased by five 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 one per cent fall in recorded sexual offences over the same period.

The provisional figures<sup>3</sup> presented here for firearm offences recorded by the police exclude offences involving air weapons. They account for 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime and show that there was a 16 per cent fall from 2.4 thousand to 2.0 thousand in these offences in October to December 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.

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

Based on BCS interviews to December 2008, the level of vandalism and vehicle-related thefts remained stable compared with the previous year. There was a nine per cent decrease in police recorded criminal damage and also a seven per cent fall in recorded offences against vehicles<sup>4</sup> in October to December 2008 compared with the same period a year earlier.

BCS interviews for the year to December 2008 showed estimated levels of theft from the person rose by 25 per cent compared with the year to December 2007. As with all sample surveys, BCS estimates are subject to a degree of random fluctuation and this is more marked

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<sup>1</sup> See Notes.

<sup>2</sup> This definition does not cover sexual offences or robbery.

<sup>3</sup> A detailed breakdown of finalised firearm offence figures for 2007/08 is published in Povey *et al.* (2009)

<sup>4</sup> Theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a vehicle.

for less frequently occurring crimes (see Notes). While the rise in personal theft reported is statistically significant, it is too early to say whether or not this is indicative of a change in recent trends. The rise in BCS theft from the person is not reflected in other categories of BCS personal acquisitive crime or in the comparable category of police recorded crime.

Drug offences recorded by the police rose by six per cent in October to December 2008 compared with the same quarter in the previous year. This follows rises of 10 per cent or more in the previous three quarters. Recent increases in drug offences continue to be mainly due to increases in the police use of powers to issue cannabis warnings. Figures for police issue of cannabis warnings will be published as part of the annual crime statistics bulletin published in July 2009.

Fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police showed a three per cent rise in October to December 2008, compared with the same quarter in 2007. This follows rises of 16 and 10 per cent in the previous two quarters. BCS estimates and figures supplied by the financial industry are now used in the annual crime statistics publication 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 recorded by the police in 2007/08 accounted for two per cent of violence against the person (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).

- With the introduction of Public Service Agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 23, grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent was moved into the 'most serious violence against the person' offence category and began to be separately identified (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 clarification had the effect of increasing GBH with intent figures in some forces.

It should 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 October to December 2008 and the same period in 2007.

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 in January 2009 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'.

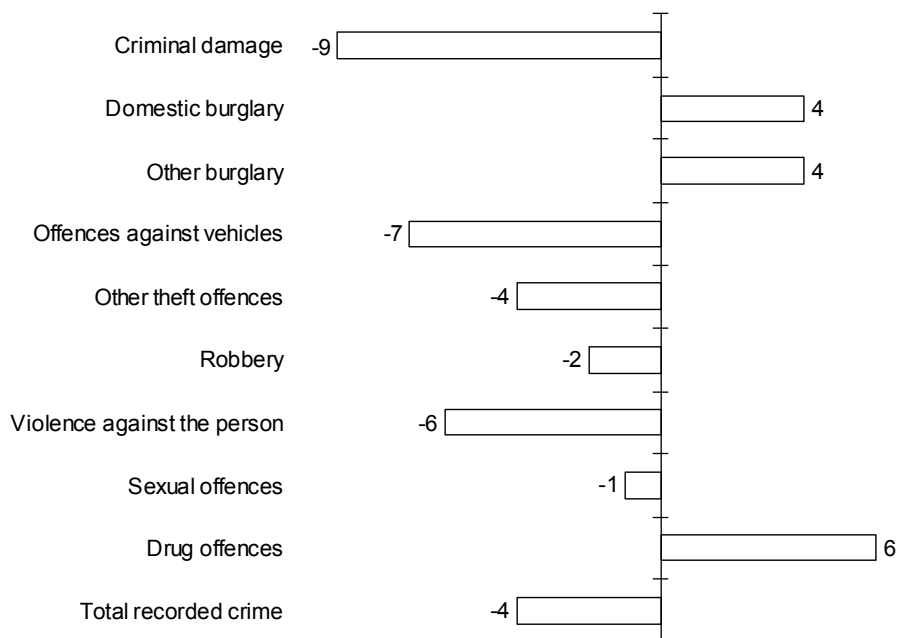
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is currently conducting a quality assurance exercise of all forces' recording of most serious violence offences. Their findings are not due to be published until the late summer but it is expected that interim findings will influence the presentation of the figures for these offences published in the annual crime statistics bulletin in July 2009.

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



Survey changes in Figure 1 which are statistically significant at the 5% level (see Notes) are indicated by a fully shaded bar. Other apparent changes 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, October to December 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 December 2008 compared with the previous year**

	Interviews in January 2007 to December 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Interviews in January 2008 to December 2008	Change between years <sup>2</sup>	BCS Statistically significant change <sup>3</sup>
<i>Number of crimes (000s) and percentage change</i>				
<b>All household crime</b>	<b>6,595</b>	<b>6,728</b>	<b>2</b>	
Vandalism	2,704	2,832	5	
Domestic burglary	747	750	0	
Vehicle-related theft	1,559	1,483	-5	
All household acquisitive <sup>4</sup>	3,892	3,896	0	
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>47,813</i>	<i>44,399</i>		
<b>All personal crime</b>	<b>3,851</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>1</b>	
Theft from the person	573	716	25	**
All BCS violence <sup>5</sup>	2,251	2,125	-6	
with injury	1,128	1,081	-4	
with no injury	1,123	1,043	-7	
All personal acquisitive <sup>6</sup>	1,927	2,023	5	
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>47,953</i>	<i>44,516</i>		
<b>All BCS crime</b>	<b>10,446</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more and percentage point change<sup>7</sup></i>				
<b>All household crime</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	
Vandalism	7.4	7.8	0.4	
Domestic burglary	2.5	2.5	0.0	
Vehicle-related theft <sup>8</sup>	6.8	6.4	-0.4	
All household acquisitive <sup>4</sup>	11.9	11.8	-0.1	
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>47,813</i>	<i>44,399</i>		
<b>All personal crime</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	
Theft from the person	1.2	1.4	0.2	
All BCS violence <sup>5</sup>	3.4	3.2	-0.1	
with injury	1.7	1.8	0.0	
with no injury	1.8	1.6	-0.1	
All personal acquisitive <sup>6</sup>	3.7	3.8	0.1	
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>47,953</i>	<i>44,516</i>		
<b>All BCS crime</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending December 2007 have been revised using LFS microdata reweighted to the latest (2007) population estimates and differ slightly from those previously published.

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) <sup>1,2</sup>				Percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year <sup>3</sup>				
	Oct-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008
Violence against the person	231.0	222.0	236.8	236.8	217.9	-6	-7	-6	-6
<i>Violence against the person - with injury<sup>4</sup></i>	108.4	103.8	110.5	110.2	100.7	-8	-9	-8	-7
<i>Violence against the person - without injury<sup>5</sup></i>	122.6	118.2	126.4	126.6	117.2	-4	-6	-5	-4
Sexual offences	12.1	13.0	14.2	13.3	11.9	2	0	-7	-1
Robbery	21.0	20.5	19.4	19.5	20.6	-19	-16	-3	-2
Domestic burglary	72.5	74.4	65.3	69.6	75.6	1	-2	4	4
Other burglary	72.6	76.4	73.7	75.0	75.3	-9	-9	3	4
Offences against vehicles <sup>6</sup>	159.3	163.5	152.2	153.7	148.3	-14	-11	-6	-7
Other theft offences	271.7	259.3	287.2	285.5	261.4	-7	-5	-1	-4
Fraud and forgery <sup>7</sup>	36.8	40.7	44.2	43.8	37.9	-8	10	16	3
Criminal damage	256.7	258.6	243.3	231.0	232.5	-12	-10	-8	-9
<i>Total property crime</i>	869.5	872.9	866.0	858.6	830.9	-9	-7	-2	-4
Drug offences	58.7	58.4	60.9	62.2	62.1	14	10	10	6
Other miscellaneous offences	16.3	17.0	18.9	18.6	16.8	0	4	4	4
<b>Total recorded crime - all offences</b>	<b>1,208.5</b>	<b>1,204.0</b>	<b>1,216.2</b>	<b>1,209.0</b>	<b>1,160.2</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-4</b>
of which: Firearm offences <sup>8</sup>	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	-9	-17	-29	-16

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 to the police.

8. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. Since April 2008 figures include offences in the Metropolitan Police area where a threat was made but the firearm was not seen.

## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

Based on BCS interviews in the year ending December 2008, the proportion of people who had a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour in the 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: problems with abandoned or burnt-out cars (from 7% to 6%) and one showed a statistically significant increase: problems with people being drunk or rowdy in public places (from 25% to 26%) (Table 3).

**Table 3 Anti-social behaviour indicators**

Percentages	Interviews		BCS Statistically significant change <sup>2</sup>
	in January 2007 to December 2007 <sup>1</sup>	in January 2008 to December 2008	
	<i>Percentage</i>		
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour <sup>3</sup>	17	17	
	<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>		
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	7	6	**↓
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	10	10	
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	25	26	**↑
People using or dealing drugs	27	28	
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	32	31	
Rubbish or litter lying around	31	30	
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	28	27	
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>45,768</i>	<i>42,301</i>	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending December 2007 have been revised using LFS microdata reweighted to the latest (2007) population estimates and differ slightly from those previously published.

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes.

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 December 2008 showed that the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime remained stable. The apparent one percentage point decreases in the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about burglary and about violent crime were not statistically significant (Table 4).

**Table 4 Worry about crime**

Percentages	Interviews		BCS Statistically significant change <sup>2</sup>
	in January 2007 to December 2007 <sup>1</sup>	in January 2008 to December 2008	
	<i>Percentage with high level of worry about<sup>3</sup>:</i>		
Burglary	12	11	
Car crime	12	12	
Violent crime	15	14	
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>47,940</i>	<i>18,997</i>	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending December 2007 have been revised using LFS microdata reweighted to the latest (2007) population estimates and differ slightly from those previously published.

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes.

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 December 2008 will be lower than in previous years.

The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area did a good or excellent job remained stable in the 12 months to December 2008 (53%). The apparent rise of one percentage point from the previous year was not statistically significant (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 agencies to tackle the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area. These questions form the basis for new targets set by the Home Secretary for police forces to improve the level of public confidence. BCS interviews in the year to December 2008 showed that 47 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area, 24 per cent disagreed and 29 per cent had no opinion (Table 5).

A fuller analysis examining the relationship between perceptions of the police and socio-demographic characteristics is available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0109supp.pdf>.

A new set of questions to measure confidence in the effectiveness and fairness of the criminal justice system (CJS) were also introduced in October 2007. Previous questions about confidence in seven aspects of the CJS ceased to be included with the introduction of these new questions. Based on interviews in the year to December 2008, 37 per cent of people were confident that the CJS as a whole is effective and 58 per cent thought that the CJS as a whole is fair (Table 5).

**Table 5 Confidence in the police and CJS**

Percentages			BCS
	Interviews in January 2007 to December 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Interviews in January 2008 to December 2008	Statistically significant change <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage agreeing</i>		
Police in the local area doing a good or excellent job	52	53	
Police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area	N/A	47	N/A
<i>Unweighted base<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>46,801</i>	<i>43,591</i>	
	<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	58	N/A
<i>Unweighted base<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>38,076</i>	

1. Estimates based on BCS interviews for the year ending December 2007 have been revised using LFS microdata reweighted to the latest (2007) population estimates and differ slightly from those previously published.

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes.

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 until October 2007, thus no annual comparison can be made.

## NOTES

The latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures are based on interviews with adults aged 16 or over resident in households in England and Wales conducted between January 2008 and December 2008 (BCS year ending December 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 June 2008, about six months behind the latest recorded crime figures reported here. BCS results for the year ending December 2008 are compared with the results from the interviews in the year ending December 2007.

The BCS fieldwork was carried out by BMRB Social Research. In the year ending December 2008 the BCS had a nationally representative sample of 44,580 adults with a response rate of 76 per cent.<sup>5</sup> Further information about the BCS and access to recent publications can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

### **Confidence Intervals and Statistical Significance**

BCS estimates are based on a representative sample of the population 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.

It is however possible to calculate the range of values between which population figures are estimated to lie (confidence interval). At the 95 per cent confidence level when assessing the results of a single survey it is assumed that there is a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate.

Because of this variation, changes in estimates between survey years may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which adults were randomly selected for interview. We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Only increases or decreases that are statistically significant at the five per cent level (and are therefore likely to be real) are described as changes within this bulletin. Survey results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level are identified by asterisks in the tables.

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.

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

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

Figures for certain types of offences recorded by the police 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.

Comparisons between October to December 2007 and October to December 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 A1 and Table A2. Figures are unavailable for 2007/08 for this category.

There was an overall five per cent increase in robbery involving knives and sharp instruments. However, robbery figures overall (see Table 2) have seen a two per cent fall. For the period October to December 2008 these robberies involving knives and sharp instruments represented 21 per cent of all robberies.

The percentage of selected violent offences where a knife or sharp instrument has been involved has been stable over the three quarters of 2008/09, at seven per cent.

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 involving knives/sharp instruments has fallen from 44 per cent in the July to September 2008 quarter to 35 per cent for the most recent quarter. Annual figures provide a more robust measure for these rarer crimes (see Kershaw *et al.* (2008) and Povey *et al.* (2009)).

**Table A1 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments with percentage change**

Selected offence type	Number of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police which involved knives or sharp instruments						Percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year <sup>1</sup>			
	Apr-Jun 2007	Jul-Sep 2007	Oct-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008
Homicide <sup>2</sup>	69	74	59	68	69	80	52	0	8	-12
Attempted murder	55	66	63	53	65	70	63	18	6	0
Robbery	4,340	3,551	4,067	4,255	3,945	4,191	4,283	-9	18	5
Threats to kill	..	..	..	..	422	420	370	..	..	..
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm	..	..	..	..	5,011	5,087	4,542	..	..	..
Rape	..	..	..	..	67	68	49	..	..	..
Sexual assaults	..	..	..	..	29	34	41	..	..	..
<b>Total selected violent offences<sup>3</sup></b>	..	..	..	..	<b>9,608</b>	<b>9,950</b>	<b>9,400</b>	..	..	..

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 10 March 2009. 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. Total selected violent offences collection not available before April 2008.
- .. Not available.

**Table A2 Proportion of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments**

Selected offence type	Percentage of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police which involved knives or sharp instruments					
	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008			
Homicide <sup>1</sup>	40	44	35			
Attempted murder	44	47	45			
Robbery	20	21	21			
Threats to kill	16	16	17			
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm	5	5	4			
Rape	2	2	2			
Sexual assaults	1	1	1			
<b>Total selected violent offences<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>			

1. Figures currently recorded by the police as at 10 March 2009. Figures provisional and subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
2. Total selected violent offences collection not available before April 2008.

## References

**Home Office** (2009). *Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2008*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/09. London: Home Office.  
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## 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 Home Office crime statistics and crime statistics publications including police recorded crime, please e-mail [crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or write to Home Office Statistics, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

For further information about the British Crime Survey or about any publications relating to the British Crime Survey please e-mail: [bcsinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bcsinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or write to Crime Surveys Programme, Home Office Statistics, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

Therefore -

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