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Home security, mobile phone theft and stolen goods:

Supplementary Volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2007/08

Findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey

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For further information about the British Crime Survey, please email bcinfo@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to the Crime Surveys team, Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

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Introduction

This bulletin is the third in a series of supplementary volumes that accompany the main annual crime volume, *Crime in England and Wales 2007/08* (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008). These supplementary volumes report on additional analysis not included in the main annual publication. Figures included in this bulletin are solely from the British Crime Survey (BCS), a large, nationally representative victimisation survey of approximately 47,000 adults living in private households in England and Wales.¹

Since 2001/02 the BCS has run continuously with interviewing being carried out throughout the year. Respondents are asked about their experiences of crime-related incidents in the 12 months prior to interview. BCS respondents are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police, criminal justice system, perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. The BCS did not cover those under 16 until it was extended to cover 10-to 15-year-olds from January 2009 (but since 2005/06 analysis has been carried out pertaining to theft of mobile phones belonging to children). The BCS does not cover commercial victimisation.

This bulletin provides summary information and reference tables from the 2007/08 BCS (with some previously unpublished figures on being offered and buying stolen goods from the 2005/06 BCS).

The first chapter presents findings from the 2007/08 BCS on the variation in possession of home security devices and home contents insurance, as well as looking at security-conscious behaviour related to domestic burglary such as use of home security devices and property marking.

The second chapter contains information on mobile phone ownership and theft from the 2007/08 BCS which includes updates to tables and figures published last year (using the 2006/07 BCS). The chapter includes figures relating to children's ownership and experience of theft.

The third chapter of this bulletin provides information on being offered and buying stolen goods in England and Wales, including variations in the likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods by personal, household and area characteristics.

The Glossary is in Appendix 1 and the Bibliography is in Appendix 2.

¹ For more information about the BCS see <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

Guide to tables and figures

BCS Reference periods

Prior to 2001/02, BCS respondents were asked about crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year but when the BCS changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview. As respondents are now interviewed on a rolling basis over the course of a year, the time period covered by the data is not directly comparable with any calendar year. Therefore tables including trends over time differentiate between the year in which the crime took place for interviews prior to 2001/02 (e.g. 1995), and the year in which the survey interviews took place for interviews since 2001/02 (e.g. 2007/08 ints). Other questions on the BCS (e.g. attitudes to policing, confidence in the criminal justice system) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes, and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed (e.g. 1996, 2007/08).

Weighting

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

Percentages

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

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

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

'No answers' (missing values)

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

Numbers of BCS incidents

Estimates are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

Table abbreviations

'ints' used as an abbreviation for 'interviews' and refers to BCS interviews conducted in the specified year.

'0' indicates no response in that particular category or less than 0.5% (this does not apply when percentages are presented to one decimal point).

'n/a' indicates that the BCS question was not applicable or not asked in that particular year.

'..' for the BCS, indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is less than 50, unless otherwise stated. For police recorded crime, indicates that the data are not available.

'*'** indicates that the change is statistically significant at the five per cent level (see Glossary). Where an apparent change over time is not statistically significant the figures are described in the text as 'stable'.

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1 Burglary and home security

Stephen Roe

1.1 SUMMARY

This chapter presents findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) on the variation in possession of home security devices and home contents insurance, as well as examining security-conscious behaviour related to domestic burglary such as use of home security devices and property marking.

The most common home security devices were double locks or deadlocks on outside doors *or* window locks and the proportion having such security has increased over time.

- The percentage of households with double locks or deadlocks on outside doors rose from 70 per cent in 1994 to 81 per cent in 2004/05 since when it has remained at a similar level.
- The percentage of households with locks on windows has increased from 62 per cent in 1994 to 87 per cent in 2007/08.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of households now have both double locks or deadlocks on doors *and* window locks. The likelihood of having at least 'basic security' (i.e. having both double locks or deadlocks *and* window locks) varied by characteristics of the household with those less likely to have such security generally having a higher than average risk of burglary.

- Five in ten (51%) households that privately rented had at least 'basic security', compared to six in ten (61%) social-rented households and eight in ten (81%) owner-occupied households.
- Just over half (54%) of households living in flats or maisonettes had at least 'basic security', compared to just over three-quarters (77%) of households living in some type of house.

The majority (82%) of households in England and Wales had the contents of their home insured against theft but this also varied by household characteristics. As with home security, the types of household less likely to have insurance were generally those with a higher than average risk of burglary.

- The likelihood of having home contents insurance generally rose with increasing age of the Household Reference Person (HRP) (48% of households with an HRP aged 16 to 24 had insurance while 89% of households with an HRP aged 65 to 74 had insurance).
- The likelihood of having home contents insurance rose with increasing household income (62% of households with a household income of less than £10,000 had insurance compared to 95% of households with a household income of £50,000 or more).

1.2 INTRODUCTION

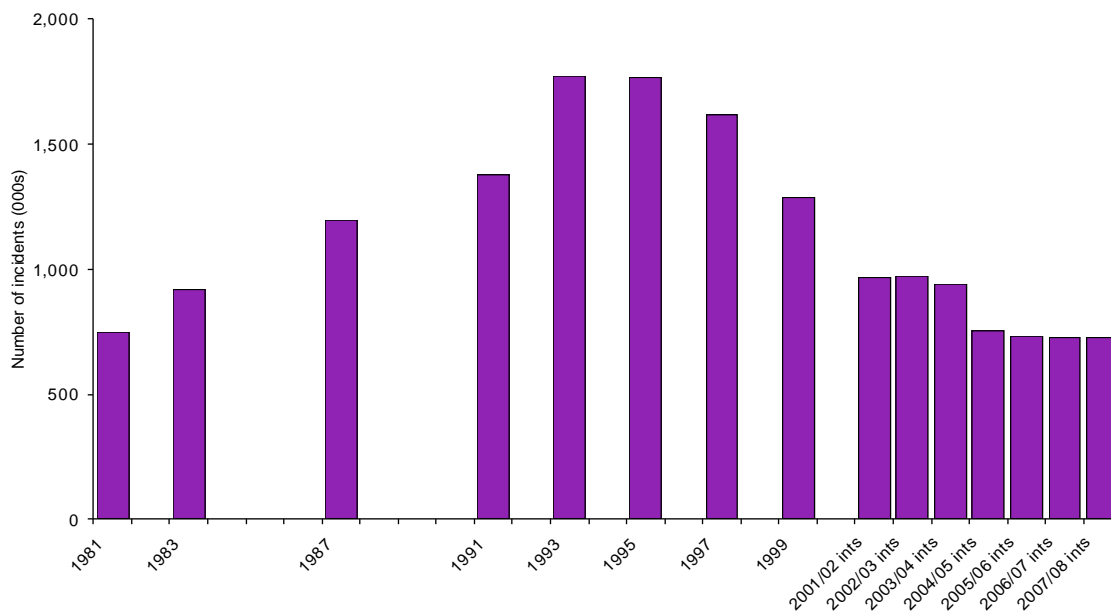
This chapter reports on the variation in possession of home security devices and home contents insurance by household and area characteristics. The chapter also looks at security-conscious behaviour related to domestic burglary such as use of home security devices and property marking. These analyses are intended to inform crime prevention measures in order to reduce burglary risk.

1.3 BACKGROUND

The latest annual estimates from the BCS indicate that the number of domestic burglaries¹ (including attempts) have decreased by more than half since peaking in 1995, while the risk of being a victim of domestic burglary remains low. Police recorded crime figures have also shown declines in the number of burglaries (both domestic and non-domestic) in recent years. (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).

- After increasing since the first BCS results in 1981 to a peak in 1995, the number of domestic burglaries in England and Wales have decreased by more than half (59%) from 1,770,000 incidents in 1995 to 729,000 in 2007/08 (although there have been no statistically significant changes in the number of burglaries since 2004/05) (Figure 1.1).
- The police recorded 280,704 domestic burglaries and 302,995 non-domestic burglaries in 2007/08, a fall in overall burglary of six per cent. This was the fifth consecutive year there has been a fall in burglary, according to police recorded crime figures.
- The risk of a household being a victim of burglary is low, with 2.4 per cent of households interviewed in the 2007/08 BCS experiencing one or more burglaries in the previous 12 months. The risk of being a victim of burglary has declined from 6.4 per cent in 1995 but remained stable between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Figure 1.1 Trends in domestic burglary, 1981 to 2007/08 BCS



¹ The BCS covers domestic burglaries only, which are defined as an unauthorised entry (including break-ins and attempts) into the victim's dwelling (any house or flat or any outhouse or garage linked to the dwelling via a connecting door), regardless of intent.

Levels of home security are a major factor in reducing the risk of burglary (Kershaw *et al.*, 2008).

- According to the 2007/08 BCS, households with no home security measures were around ten times more likely to be victims of burglary than households where there were simple security measures, such as double locks or deadlocks on doors or window locks (25.0% compared with 2.3%).

1.4 HOME SECURITY

The possession of most home security devices asked about in the BCS (see Box 1.1) has become more common over the past 15 years - see Table 1.1 and also in Supplementary Tables on the nature of crime 2007/08, available online at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0708_tables_bvv.html.

- The percentage of households with double locks or deadlocks on outside doors rose from 70 per cent in 1994 to 81 per cent in 2004/05 since when it has remained similar.
- The percentage of households with locks on windows has steadily increased from 62 per cent in 1994 to 87 per cent in 2007/08 (although the apparent increase between 2006/07 and 2007/08 was not statistically significant).
- The percentage of households with burglar alarms steadily increased from 18 per cent in 1994 to 28 per cent in 2003/04 since when there have been no statistically significant changes.

Box 1.1 BCS Home security measure

The BCS asks respondents if they have the following security measures fitted to their home:

- burglar alarms (including dummy alarms);
- double or deadlocks on some or all outside doors;
- security chains or bars on doors;
- security viewers in doors;
- locks that need keys to open them on some or all windows;
- indoor or outdoor lights on a timer or sensor; and
- bars or grilles on windows.

For the purposes of analysis, households with or without the most common security devices (window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors) have been classified as possessing at least 'basic security' or lacking 'basic security' and the following mutually exclusive sub-categories have been created:

- 'Basic security plus': households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors as well as additional security measures;
- 'Basic security only': households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors only;
- 'Less than basic security': households without both window locks and double locks or deadlocks on outside doors but with some security devices; and
- 'No security': households with none of the above security measures.

According to the 2007/08 BCS, the most common home security devices were double locks or deadlocks on outside doors or window locks (Tables 1.1 and 1.2).

- Eighty-two per cent of households in England and Wales had double locks or deadlocks on their doors and 87 per cent of households had locks on their windows.
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of households had at least 'basic security' (both double locks or deadlocks on doors and window locks).
- Just under two-thirds (62%) of households had 'basic security plus'. Eleven per cent of households had 'basic security only' while 24 per cent of households had 'less than basic security' (see Box 1.1 for definitions of different security levels).
- Only a small minority (2%) of households had no security measures at all.

The 2007/08 BCS showed the likelihood of having at least 'basic security' (double locks or deadlocks and window locks) varied by characteristics of the Household Reference Person² (HRP) and by other key household and area features (Tables 1.2 and 1.3 and Figure 1.2).

- Households with an HRP aged between 16 and 24 were less likely to have 'basic security' (51%) than households where the HRP was older (for example, 72 per cent of households where the HRP was aged 75 and over had 'basic security'). Also, about half (49%) of households with a full-time student as the HRP had at least 'basic security', compared to around three-quarters (77%) of households where they were in a managerial or professional occupation.
- Five in ten (51%) households that were privately rented had at least 'basic security', compared to six in ten (61%) social-rented households and eight in ten (81%) owner-occupied households.
- Just over half (54%) of households living in flats or maisonettes had at least 'basic security', compared to just over three-quarters (77%) of households living in houses.

The types of household that were less likely to have 'basic security' generally had a higher than average risk of burglary (Figure 1.2).

Several of the factors mentioned above as associated with having at least 'basic security' in a household, such as household tenure and accommodation type, would be expected to overlap with each other. Multivariate analysis was carried out to examine which characteristics were independently associated with a lower likelihood of having 'basic security' (Table 1.4).

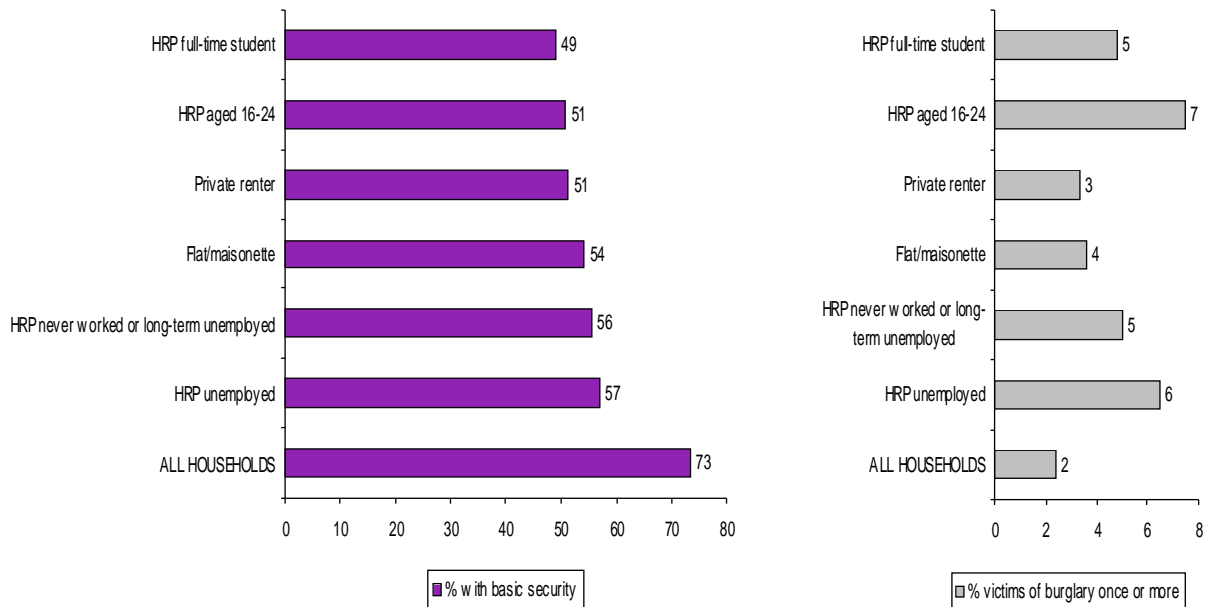
The factors most strongly independently associated with a lower likelihood of having basic security were:

- living in rented accommodation, particularly privately rented accommodation;
- living in a flat or maisonette; and
- living in a rural area.

² See the Glossary for the definition of Household Reference Person.

The first two factors are associated with increased risk of being a victim of burglary. The finding that those living in rural areas are less likely to have basic security is likely to reflect differences in perceptions of risk between those living in rural and urban areas rather than wider socio-demographic characteristics.

Figure 1.2 Households least likely to have ‘basic security’ and their risk of burglary, 2007/08 BCS



The BCS also included questions for households without double locks or deadlocks on doors or locks on their windows to ask why these devices are not fitted (Table 1.5).

- Amongst those without window locks or double locks or deadlocks on doors, the most common reason for not having them was that the home was rented and security was perceived to be the responsibility of the landlord (39% gave this as a reason for not having window locks and 29% for not having double or deadlocks). For those without these security devices who were living in rented accommodation over half gave this reason for not having window locks or double locks or deadlocks on doors (data not shown).
- Another common reason for not having window locks or double locks or deadlocks on doors, as mentioned by those without these security devices, was that the home was not perceived to be at risk (20% gave this as a reason for not having window locks and 23% for not having double or deadlocks).

1.5 INSURANCE

Another means of protection from the consequences of domestic burglary is to insure property. The 2007/08 BCS showed that the majority (82%) of households in England and Wales had the contents of their home insured against theft. The proportion of households with home contents insurance has fluctuated but generally remained stable around this level since 1988³ (Table 1.6).

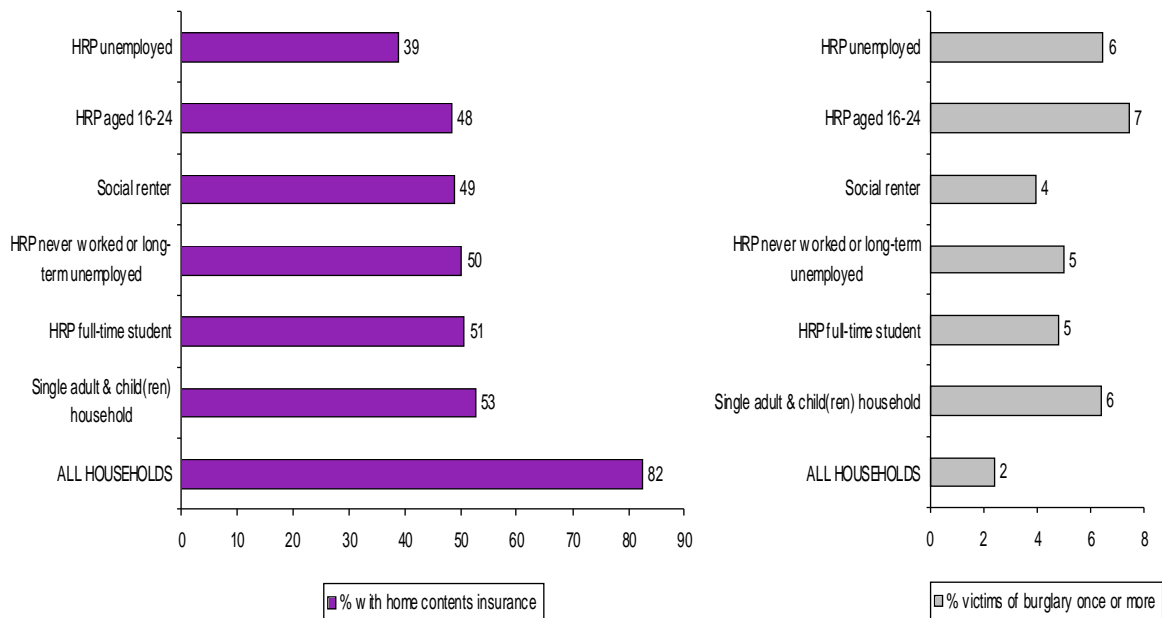
³ 1988 is the earliest date that a comparable question on home contents insurance has been included in the BCS.

The BCS indicated that having home contents insurance varied by characteristics of the HRP and by other key household and area features (Table 1.7 and Figure 1.3).

- The likelihood of having home contents insurance was particularly low amongst households where the HRP was unemployed (only 39% of households where the HRP's employment status was unemployed had insurance or 50% of households where the HRP's occupation was classified as 'Never worked or long-term unemployed'). This contrasted with a high likelihood of having insurance amongst households where the HRP was employed (86%) and particularly where the HRP was in a managerial or professional occupation (92%).
- The likelihood of having home contents insurance generally rose with increasing age of the HRP (48% of households with an HRP aged 16 to 24 had insurance while 89% of households with an HRP aged 65 to 74 had insurance).
- Five in ten (49%) social-rented households had home contents insurance compared to six in ten (59%) households that were privately rented, and more than nine in ten (96%) owner-occupied households.
- The likelihood of having home contents insurance rose with increasing household income (62% of households with a household income of less than £10,000 had insurance compared to 95% of households with a household income of £50,000 or more).

The types of household that were less likely to have insurance generally had a higher than average risk of burglary (Figure 1.3).

Figure 1.3 Households least likely to have home contents insurance and their risk of burglary, 2007/08 BCS



Some of the features mentioned above as associated with households having home contents insurance, such as the age and occupation of the HRP, would be expected to overlap with each other. Multivariate analysis was carried out to examine which characteristics were

independently associated with a lower likelihood of having home contents insurance (Table 1.8).

The factors most strongly independently associated with a lower likelihood of having home contents insurance were:

- living in rented accommodation, particularly social-rented accommodation;
- the HRP being younger than 35;
- having a household income of less than £20,000, particularly less than £10,000; and
- living in a flat or maisonette.

In addition to general questions about home contents insurance, the BCS also asked victims of burglaries involving property loss or damage whether they had an insurance policy at the time of the burglary that covered any of the stolen or damaged property. The 2007/08 BCS estimated that in only half (50%) of these burglaries the stolen or damaged property was covered by insurance (Table 1.9).

- This figure (50%) is far lower than the overall percentage of households with home contents insurance (82%), which can be accounted for by the fact that those households without insurance are also more likely to experience burglary (Figure 1.3).

Victims of burglary who were insured did not always claim on their insurance policies (Tables 1.10 and 1.11).

- A claim was made in approximately half (48%) of burglaries in which the victim was insured. This represents about a quarter (23%) of all burglaries involving stolen or damaged property (data not shown).
- Claims were met in full by the insurance company in three-quarters (75%) of incidents of burglary in which a claim for stolen or damaged property was made. (In a further 11 per cent of incidents the claim was partially met while in 13 per cent of incidents the respondent did not yet know at the time of the interview if the claim would be met or not).

1.6 SECURITY-CONSCIOUS BEHAVIOUR

Use of home security devices

Home security devices will not be effective unless people actually use them. The 2007/08 BCS indicated that double locks or deadlocks on doors were more frequently used by households who had them than either burglar alarms or window locks (Table 1.12). This is not surprising as some deadlocks lock automatically when the door is closed.

- Over a third (35%) of homes with a burglar alarm were left empty without the alarm on once a week or more, compared with a quarter (25%) of homes with window locks left empty without window locks on at least once a week and about one in eight (12%) homes with double locks or deadlocks left empty without the double locks or deadlocks on at least once a week.

As one would expect, security chains or door bars were more likely to be on at night than during the day (Table 1.13).

- About a fifth (21%) of households with a security chain or door bar on the inside of their doors always had it on when at home during the day compared to about half (49%) who always had it on at night.

Checking for bogus callers

The majority of households reported checking to see if they recognised the person calling at their home before fully opening the door and the majority of households also reported checking the identity card or official documents of officials who call at their door (Tables 1.14 and 1.15).

- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of households reported always or usually checking to see whether they recognised the person at the door before fully opening it (either by looking through a window, security viewer or letterbox or by using a security chain or bar).
- About three-quarters (76%) of households reported always or usually checking the identity card or documentation of officials (such as someone from a utility company) calling at their door before allowing them to enter their home.

Property marking

There are further steps that households can take to protect their property from the effects of domestic burglary. For example, valuable items can be marked or details recorded to help to ensure that these items can be recovered if stolen. According to the 2007/08 BCS, only a minority of households took such steps to record or mark their property (Table 1.16).

- Less than a third (32%) of households marked or recorded details of personal or household property in at least one of the ways asked about in the BCS.
- The most common actions taken were marking items with an identifier (such as a postcode) using an invisible marker (such as a UV pen) (16%), recording serial numbers of items and keeping them securely (15%) or taking photographs of items so that they can be identified (14%).

Table 1.1 Home security trends for all households

Percentages											BCS
	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	2005/06 ints	2006/07 ints	2007/08 ints
Police security survey ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	7	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Burglar alarm ²	18	20	24	25	27	27	28	30	30	30	30
Dummy alarm ²	N/A	N/A	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4
Double/deadlock ³	70	70	72	75	75	76	79	81	82	82	82
Security chains/bolts ^{3,4}	N/A	N/A	58	48	38	37	37	34	35	34	34
Window locks ³	62	68	71	75	79	80	82	83	85	86	87
Light timers/sensors ⁵	32	39	48	49	52	51	52	52	52	53	53
Internal	N/A	N/A	23	24	25	24	27	26	26	26	26
External	N/A	N/A	38	40	42	42	43	42	43	44	44
Window bars/grilles	7	9	8	7	6	4	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Unweighted base</i> ⁶	<i>7,204</i>	<i>7,942</i>	<i>7,355</i>	<i>4,783</i>	<i>4,075</i>	<i>4,564</i>	<i>4,777</i>	<i>5,663</i>	<i>5,980</i>	<i>5,808</i>	<i>5,746</i>

1. Between 2002/03 and 2004/05 respondents were asked if they had had a police security survey done since moving to the house in which they currently live. However, this question was dropped in 2005/06.

2. Results are not directly comparable over the whole time series due to changes in question wording. In 1994 and 1996 respondents were only asked if they had a burglar alarm, but from 1998 respondents were also asked if they had a dummy alarm box. From 2000 the question on burglar alarms specified that the alarm must be real and not a dummy (in 1998 this was not the case).

3. On at least some windows/doors.

4. Results are not directly comparable over the whole time series due to changes in question wording. In 2001/02 and 2002/03 the question only specified chains; in 1998 and 2000 chains and bolts were specified. In the 2000 BCS the question specified external doors but the 1998 BCS and onwards from the 2001/02 BCS did not. From 2001/02 the question specified chains on the inside of doors but 1998 and 2000 questions did not.

5. From 1998 there were separate questions for inside and outside security lights. In previous sweeps this distinction was not made.

6. Unweighted bases given are for 'double/deadlocks', bases for all other security measures will be higher.

Table 1.2 Proportion of households with levels of home security by household characteristics

Percentages							2007/08 BCS
	At least basic security	Basic security plus	Basic security only	Lacking basic security	Less than basic security	No security	Unweighted base
Age of household reference person							
16-24	51	36	15	49	42	7	204
25-34	64	54	10	36	33	3	754
35-44	76	65	11	24	22	2	1,205
45-54	74	64	10	26	24	1	1,062
55-64	77	64	14	23	21	2	1,029
65-74	82	70	12	18	16	1	803
75+	72	62	10	28	26	2	724
Household type							
Household reference person under 60:							
<i>Single adult & child(ren)</i>	64	49	14	36	33	4	292
<i>Adults & child(ren)</i>	76	65	11	24	23	2	1,287
<i>No children</i>	70	58	11	30	27	3	2,151
Household reference person over 60	77	66	11	23	21	2	2,051
Household income							
Less than £10,000	66	54	12	34	30	4	896
£10,000 less than £20,000	71	57	14	29	26	3	979
£20,000 less than £30,000	75	62	12	25	24	1	816
£30,000 less than £40,000	74	61	13	26	24	1	623
£40,000 less than £50,000	82	70	12	18	17	1	423
£50,000 or more	79	72	7	21	19	1	715
Tenure							
Owner occupiers	81	69	12	19	18	1	4,082
Social renters	61	53	9	39	36	3	954
Private renters	51	42	9	49	42	7	734
Household reference person's employment status							
In employment	74	63	11	26	24	2	3,571
Unemployed	57	36	21	43	40	3	59
Economically inactive	73	61	12	27	24	3	2,143
Household reference person's occupation							
Managerial and professional occupations	77	68	9	23	22	1	2,136
Intermediate occupations	74	62	12	26	23	3	1,133
Routine and manual occupations	72	59	13	28	26	2	2,256
Never worked and long-term unemployed	56	45	11	44	42	3	119
Full-time students	49	36	13	51	36	15	95
Accommodation type							
Houses	77	65	12	23	21	2	4,801
<i>Detached</i>	83	75	7	17	16	1	1,434
<i>Semi-detached</i>	79	67	13	21	19	1	1,805
<i>Terraced</i>	70	56	15	30	28	2	1,562
Flats/maisonettes	54	45	9	46	41	5	651
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday							
Never	74	63	10	26	23	3	662
Less than 3 hours	76	64	12	24	23	2	1,808
3 but less than 5 hours	74	63	10	26	24	2	1,087
5 hours or more	71	60	12	29	27	2	2,210
Number of years at address							
Less than 1 year	62	50	12	38	33	5	551
1 year, less than 2 years	66	57	8	34	31	3	433
2 years, less than 5 years	68	58	11	32	29	3	1,030
5 years, less than 10 years	76	65	11	24	22	2	1,007
10 years or more	79	66	12	21	20	1	2,760
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	73	62	11	27	24	2	5,781

1. See the Glossary for definitions of home security classifications and household characteristics.

Table 1.3 Proportion of households with levels of home security by area characteristics

Percentages							2007/08 BCS
	At least basic security	Basic security plus	Basic security only	Lacking basic security	Less than basic security	No home security	Unweighted base
ACORN category							
Wealthy Achievers	80	72	8	20	18	2	1,557
Urban Prosperity	61	53	8	39	36	3	424
Comfortably Off	77	64	13	23	21	2	1,810
Moderate Means	69	54	15	31	29	2	821
Hard Pressed	70	59	11	30	28	2	1,156
Area type							
Urban	74	63	11	26	24	2	4,299
Rural	69	57	12	31	28	3	1,482
Level of physical disorder							
High	60	49	11	40	36	4	306
Not high	74	63	12	26	24	2	5,132
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	73	62	11	27	24	2	5,781

1. See the Glossary for definitions of home security classifications and household characteristics.

Table 1.4 Logistic regression¹ model for likelihood of having double locks or deadlocks and window locks (basic security)

Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	2007/08 BCS Confidence interval	
				Lower	Upper
Tenure	Owner occupiers	**	2.94	2.46	3.51
	Social renters	**	1.39	1.10	1.74
	<i>Private renters</i>		1.00		
Accommodation type	Houses				
	Detached	**	2.37	1.80	3.10
	Semi-detached	**	2.00	1.62	2.46
	Terraced	**	1.47	1.20	1.80
	<i>Flats/maisonettes</i>		1.00		
Area type	Urban	**	1.88	1.59	2.22
	<i>Rural</i>		1.00		
Age of household reference person	<i>16-24</i>		1.00		
	25-34	ns	1.08	0.79	1.46
	35-44	**	1.43	1.05	1.93
	45-54	ns	1.27	0.93	1.73
	55-64	**	1.51	1.10	2.08
	65-74	**	2.18	1.55	3.08
	75+	ns	1.30	0.93	1.81
Household income	<i>Less than £10,000</i>		1.00		
	£10,000 less than £20,000	ns	1.07	0.86	1.32
	£20,000 less than £30,000	ns	1.24	0.97	1.57
	£30,000 less than £40,000	ns	1.20	0.92	1.56
	£40,000 less than £50,000	**	1.93	1.40	2.68
	£50,000 or more	**	1.44	1.10	1.88
ACORN category	Wealthy Achievers	ns	1.28	0.97	1.69
	<i>Urban Prosperity</i>		1.00		
	Comfortably Off	**	1.28	1.01	1.61
	Moderate Means	ns	1.03	0.80	1.33
	Hard Pressed	**	1.49	1.16	1.91
<i>Unweighted base</i>			<i>5,702</i>		
<i>Nagelkerke R square</i> ³			<i>0.14</i>		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around 14 per cent of the variation in the proportion of households with double locks or deadlocks and window locks based only on the factors shown in the table. Variables which were excluded from the analysis as highly correlated ($r > 0.40$) with other variables of interest were: household type, HRP's employment status, level of physical disorder in area and number of year at address. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be significantly associated with having double locks or deadlocks and window locks were: HRP's occupation, hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for 13 per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were least likely to have double locks or deadlocks and window locks and were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

Table 1.5 Reasons for not having home security devices

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Burglar alarm	Double/deadlocks on outside doors	Window locks
Home is rented (security is responsibility of landlord)	16	29	39
Don't think home is at risk	24	23	20
Haven't got around to it / never thought about it	19	17	11
Home already secure as it can be	19	16	15
Too expensive	11	8	5
Have dog or other animal in the house	11	6	N/A
Can't be bothered	2	2	2
No-one pays attention / no-one would hear alarm / don't want to annoy neighbours	3	N/A	N/A
Attracts burglars / shows you have stuff worth stealing	1	N/A	N/A
Unable to fit window locks / windows are unsuitable for locks	N/A	N/A	1
No particular reason	6	7	8
Other reason	4	2	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,014</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>678</i>

1. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one response could be given.

2. Unweighted bases refer to households without the relevant security device.

Table 1.6 Trend in home contents insurance coverage

Percentages	BCS											
	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2001/02 ints	2002/03 ints	2003/04 ints	2004/05 ints	2005/06 ints	2006/07 ints	2007/08 ints
Households with insurance coverage	81	83	82	81	82	83	83	83	83	83	83	82
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5,246</i>	<i>4,789</i>	<i>7,178</i>	<i>16,158</i>	<i>14,760</i>	<i>8,268</i>	<i>35,997</i>	<i>37,288</i>	<i>44,563</i>	<i>47,126</i>	<i>46,509</i>	<i>46,228</i>

Table 1.7 Home contents insurance coverage by household and area characteristics

Percentages	2007/08 BCS			
	Households with insurance coverage	Unweighted base	Households with insurance coverage	Unweighted base
Age of household reference person				
16-24	48	1,502	96	12,661
25-34	70	5,970	70	3,455
35-44	82	9,329	90	14,541
45-54	86	8,644	79	6,312
55-64	89	8,356	64	9,158
65-74	89	6,536		
75+	88	5,891		
Household type				
Household reference person under 60:				
<i>Single adult & child(ren)</i>	53	2,389		
<i>Adults & child(ren)</i>	84	10,188		
<i>No children</i>	79	16,912		
Household reference person over 60	89	16,739		
Household income				
Less than £10,000	62	7,370		
£10,000 less than £20,000	79	8,205		
£20,000 less than £30,000	87	6,422		
£30,000 less than £40,000	91	4,958		
£40,000 less than £50,000	94	3,487		
£50,000 or more	95	5,601		
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	96	32,798		
Social renters	49	7,670		
Private renters	59	5,676		
Household reference person's employment status				
In employment	86	28,134		
Unemployed	39	516		
Economically inactive	77	17,521		
Household reference person's occupation				
Managerial and professional occupations	92	17,361		
Intermediate occupations	86	9,054		
Routine and manual occupations	75	17,771		
Never worked and long-term unemployed	50	1,034		
Full-time students	51	735		
Accommodation type				
Houses	87	38,351		
<i>Detached</i>	97	11,612		
<i>Semi-detached</i>	89	14,512		
<i>Terraced</i>	79	12,227		
Flats/maisonettes	56	5,168		
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday				
Never	78	5,310		
Less than 3 hours	83	14,839		
3 but less than 5 hours	83	8,610		
5 hours or more	83	17,356		
Number of years at address				
Less than 1 year	64	4,585		
1 year, less than 2 years	73	3,350		
2 years, less than 5 years	78	7,899		
5 years, less than 10 years	84	8,232		
10 years or more	89	22,160		
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	82	46,228		

1. See the Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Table 1.8 Logistic regression¹ model for likelihood of having home contents insurance

Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio ²	2007/08 BCS Confidence interval	
				Lower	Upper
Tenure	Owner occupiers	**	9.22	8.45	10.06
	<i>Social renters</i>		1.00		
	Private renters	**	1.20	1.10	1.31
Age of household reference person	<i>16-24</i>		1.00		
	25-34	ns	1.02	0.89	1.16
	35-44	**	1.41	1.23	1.61
	45-54	**	1.81	1.58	2.09
	55-64	**	2.49	2.15	2.89
	65-74	**	3.76	3.21	4.40
	75+	**	4.83	4.12	5.65
Household income	<i>Less than £10,000</i>		1.00		
	£10,000 less than £20,000	**	1.69	1.54	1.85
	£20,000 less than £30,000	**	2.46	2.20	2.75
	£30,000 less than £40,000	**	3.20	2.81	3.66
	£40,000 less than £50,000	**	3.70	3.12	4.38
	£50,000 or more	**	3.84	3.28	4.48
Accommodation type	Houses				
	Detached	**	2.46	2.11	2.86
	Semi-detached	**	2.14	1.95	2.34
	Terraced	**	1.58	1.45	1.73
	<i>Flats/maisonettes</i>		1.00		
Household reference person's occupation	Managerial and professional occupations	**	3.30	2.77	3.93
	Intermediate occupations	**	2.27	1.91	2.71
	Routine and manual occupations	**	1.84	1.56	2.17
	<i>Never worked and long-term unemployed</i>		1.00		
	Full-time students	**	2.02	1.61	2.53
ACORN category	Wealthy Achievers	**	1.72	1.50	1.98
	Urban Prosperity	**	0.90	0.81	1.00
	Comfortably Off	**	1.40	1.28	1.53
	Moderate Means	ns	1.06	0.96	1.16
	<i>Hard Pressed</i>		1.00		
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday	<i>Never</i>		1.00		
	Less than 3 hours	**	1.23	1.11	1.36
	3 but less than 5 hours	**	1.30	1.17	1.46
	5 hours or more	**	1.21	1.09	1.33
Area type	<i>Urban</i>		1.00		
	Rural	**	1.29	1.17	1.41
Unweighted base			45,674		
Nagelkerke R square³			0.46		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around 46 per cent of the variation in the proportion of households with home contents insurance based only on the factors shown in the table. Variables which were excluded from the analysis as highly correlated ($r > 0.40$) with other variables of interest were: household type, HRP's employment status, level of physical disorder in area and number of year at address.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for 44 per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were least likely to have home contents insurance and were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

Table 1.9 Insurance coverage in incidents of burglary with loss or damage

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
	All burglaries involving loss or damage
Stolen or damaged property covered by an insurance policy	
Yes	50
No	50
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>824</i>

Table 1.10 Insurance claims made in incidents of burglary covered by an insurance policy

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
	Burglaries covered by an insurance policy
Insurance claim made	
Yes	48
No	49
Not yet	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>441</i>

Table 1.11 Insurance claims met in incidents of burglary in which an insurance claim was made

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
	Burglaries in which insurance claim made
Insurance claim met	
In full (less any policy excess)	75
In part	11
Not yet	13
Refused	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>205</i>

Table 1.12 How often house left empty without home security device on

Percentages	2007/08 BCS		
	Alarm	Double/deadlocks	Window locks
Every day	22	7	16
At least once a week (not daily)	14	5	9
At least once a fortnight	2	1	2
At least once a month	2	1	2
Less than once a month	7	3	5
Never	53	83	66
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,632	4,451	4,823

1. Unweighted bases refer to households with relevant security device.

Table 1.13 How often security chain or door bar is on when in the house

Percentages	2007/08 BCS	
	Day	Evening or night
Always	21	49
Usually	10	13
Some of the time	13	9
Rarely	13	9
Never	43	20
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,862	1,867

1. Unweighted bases refer to households with security chain or door bar.

Table 1.14 Proportion of households who check to see who is at the door before fully opening

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
Always	40
Usually	24
Some of the time	12
Rarely	10
Never	14
<i>Unweighted base</i>	5,781

Table 1.15 Proportion of households who check for ID/documentation at the door when an official calls

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
Always	49
Usually	27
Some of the time	10
Rarely	7
Never	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	5,774

Table 1.16 Proportion of adults who mark or record details of household and personal property

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
Marked any items with your postcode (or other identifier) using an INVISIBLE marker such as a UV pen, chemical or microdot	16
Recorded the serial numbers of any items and kept these details securely stored at home	15
Taken photographs of any items so they can be identified	14
Recorded the serial numbers of any items and kept these details and/or photos stored with a commercial asset register	4
Marked any items with your postcode (or other identifier) using a VISIBLE marker such as engraving or punching	4
None of these	68
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5,770</i>

1. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one response could be given.

2 Mobile phone ownership and theft

Philip Hall

2.1 SUMMARY

This chapter presents the latest information from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) on ownership and experience of theft of mobile phones among adults and children resident in households in England and Wales.

Mobile phone ownership continues to rise with the 2007/08 BCS showing 78 per cent of individuals owned mobile phones. Levels of ownership are greatest for adults aged 18 to 34 at 98 per cent among those aged 18 to 21 and 97 per cent in both the 22 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups.

The proportion of mobile phone owners experiencing a theft in the last 12 months remains low at two per cent and unchanged since the 2006/07 BCS.

Teenagers and young adults continued to suffer the highest levels of theft with six per cent of mobile phone owners in the 14 to 17 age group, and five per cent of the 18 to 21 age group, having had a mobile phone stolen in the last 12 months (compared with two per cent overall).

Due to the combination of both high levels of ownership and relatively high theft rates, young people comprise a large proportion of all victims of mobile phone theft.

- Around a quarter (24%) of victims of mobile phone theft were aged between 10 and 17 and nearly half (46%) were aged between 10 and 24.

Analysis of the circumstances of mobile phone theft experienced by adults (children's experiences were not asked about) showed:

- Amongst the range of offences covered, the most common type of offence involving theft of a mobile phone was 'other theft', where the phone was not in the owner's possession at the time it was stolen (42% of all incidents in which a phone was stolen), followed by theft from the person, where the phone was in the owner's possession when it was stolen but was taken without force (29%). The proportions of incidents occurring as part of a robbery (11%) and a burglary or theft in a dwelling (12%) were similar and there were relatively few that involved thefts of mobiles from a vehicle (7%).
- The most common locations for mobile phone thefts to take place were inside a pub, bar or club, in the street and on 'public transport or in another public place' (16%, 19% and 20% respectively of all incidents in which a phone was stolen).
- In six out of ten (61%) incidents of mobile phone theft, a mobile phone was the only item stolen.

A higher proportion of mobile phone thefts were reported to network service providers (77%) than to the police (52%).

2.2 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the latest information from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) on ownership and the experience of theft of mobile phones among adults and children resident in households in England and Wales.

The rapid increase in levels of mobile phone ownership in recent years and their attractiveness to criminals as objects of theft has led to a considerable interest in the topic. In addition to the standard victimisation questions, a supplementary module on mobile phone ownership¹ and theft has been included on the BCS since 2001/02. Since 2005/06 the BCS has also been used to identify levels of mobile phone ownership and theft among children aged under 16 in the respondent's household.

Analysis of these questions provides a more comprehensive picture of levels of mobile phone theft and comparative risks for population subgroups. Results presented below update previously published figures and tables (Hoare, 2007 and Hoare, 2008) with the latest 2007/08 data (comparisons are made with 2006/07 where appropriate). This chapter also presents new incident-level analysis on the circumstances and reporting of mobile phone theft.

2.3 MOBILE PHONE OWNERSHIP

Since 2005/06, analysis has been conducted on questions in the BCS asking the respondent for information about every household member's ownership and experience of mobile phone theft, including children. Analysis of these data provides details of the number of individuals of all ages who own or have experienced theft of a mobile phone.

The proportion of *individuals* of all ages owning a mobile phone was 78 per cent according to the 2007/08 BCS, significantly higher than the 2006/07 BCS (76%) and 2005/06 BCS (74%). Levels of ownership were greatest for adults aged 18 to 34 with levels of ownership at 98 per cent among those aged 18 to 21 and 97 per cent in both the 22 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups (Table 2.1).

Analysis of *individual* ownership (for all ages) by household and area characteristics shows a general increase in ownership across all characteristics included between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS (Table 2.2). This analysis also shows that there was generally little variation in ownership by area-based characteristics (for example, Government Office Region and urban/rural area type), but some evidence of variation by characteristics related to income (for example, household income, tenure, employment status, ACORN category).

2.4 MOBILE PHONE THEFT

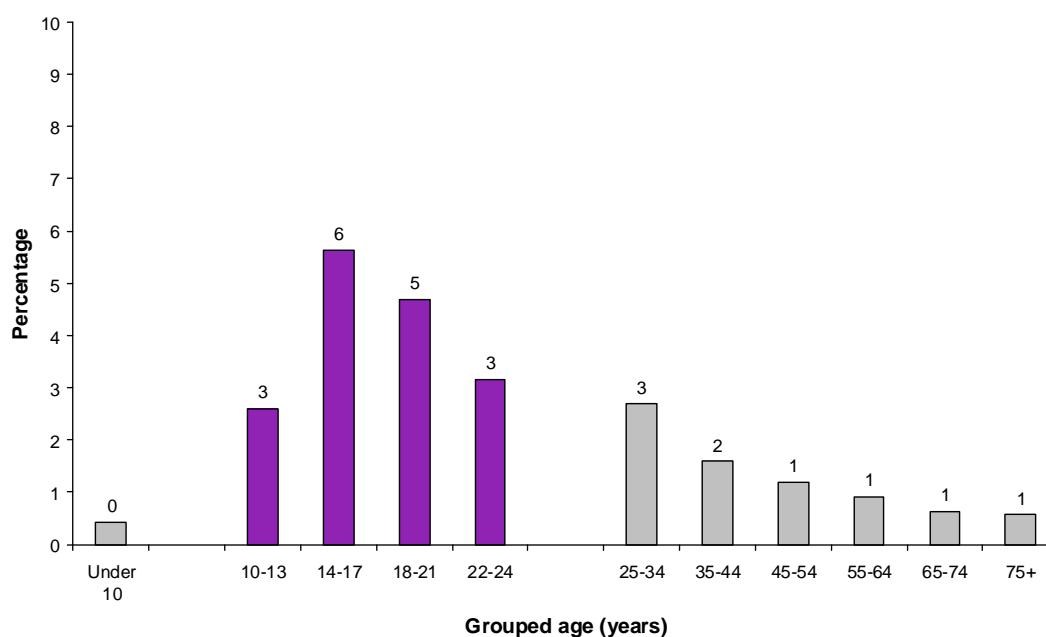
The 2007/08 BCS showed that the proportion of mobile phone owners of all ages experiencing theft remains low at two per cent and unchanged since the 2005/06 BCS, when analysis on the experience of all household members was first conducted (Table 2.3). This equates to approximately 850,000 individuals having experienced one or more mobile phone thefts in England and Wales.² There were no changes in levels of theft by age or sex (Table 2.3).

¹ The specific question asked about ownership or regular use of a mobile phone at any time in the last 12 months.

² This is not an estimate of the *number* of mobile phones stolen but of the number of people who had experienced a theft of at least one mobile phone. The BCS did not seek information on the number of mobile phones stolen from each person during the reference period.

As in previous years, the 2007/08 BCS shows that teenagers and young adult mobile phone owners were more likely than other age groups to have had their mobile phone stolen in the last 12 months. For example, six per cent of those aged 14 to 17 and five per cent of those aged 18 to 21 had experienced a theft in the last 12 months (compared with 2% of all mobile phone owners). Rates of theft declined in subsequent age groups with the lowest proportion of thefts experienced among those aged 45 and over (1%) (Table 2.3; Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 Proportion of individual mobile phone owners experiencing theft by age group³, 2007/08 BCS

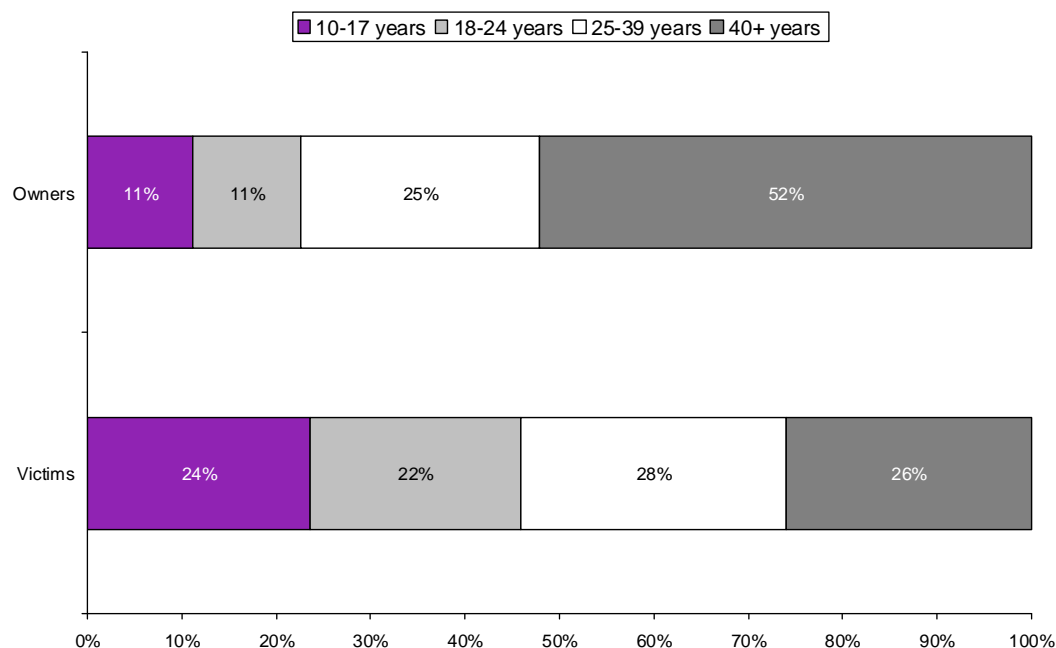


The combination of high rates of ownership and of theft results in young people comprising a disproportionate share of victims of mobile phone theft. Whilst approximately one in ten (11%) mobile phone owners were aged between 10 and 17, this age group made up nearly one in four (24%) victims of mobile phone theft. Similarly, around one in ten (11%) owners were aged between 18 and 24 but this age group also made up nearly one in four (22%) victims. Combined, this means that although just under a quarter (22%) of owners were aged between 10 and 24, this age group made up nearly half (46%) of all victims of mobile phone theft (Figure 2.2)⁴.

³ Age groups 10-13, 14-17, 18-21 and 22-24 each contain a narrower range of ages than other age groups.

⁴ This analysis does not consider those aged under 10 as they make up one per cent or less of all mobile phone owners and victims.

Figure 2.2 Age profile of mobile phone owners compared to age profile of victims of mobile phone theft, 2007/08 BCS



Analysis of individual theft (for all ages) by various household and area characteristics shows no change in risk of theft for any group between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS (Table 2.4)

The BCS collects details of the marital status and ethnicity of all adults aged 16 or over in the respondent's household. Analysis of these characteristics showed that owners who were single were more likely to have had their mobile phone stolen in the last 12 months (4%) than respondents of any other marital status. Also, owners who were described as being of Mixed (5%) or Black (4%) ethnicity had a higher than average chance of having had a mobile phone stolen in the last 12 months (Table 2.3). These three groups have a younger age profile than other groups by marital status or ethnicity (data not shown). Their increased risk of victimisation is therefore likely to be due to the younger age profile of these groups, shown above to be a factor related to an increased risk of mobile phone theft, rather than due to marital status or ethnicity itself.

2.5 CIRCUMSTANCES OF MOBILE PHONE THEFT

The circumstances of mobile phone theft are now considered at *incident* level. This analysis considers incidents in which respondents reported in the BCS victim form that they had either personally been a victim of mobile phone theft (for example as part of a robbery or theft from the person) or that their household had been a victim (such as a mobile phone stolen as part of a burglary or theft from a car). This analysis therefore excludes thefts of mobiles from those aged under 16 (and from other adults as part of a personal crime). Incident-based analysis for mobile phone theft has not been conducted on the BCS before and so these figures are not comparable to those published previously.

Offence type

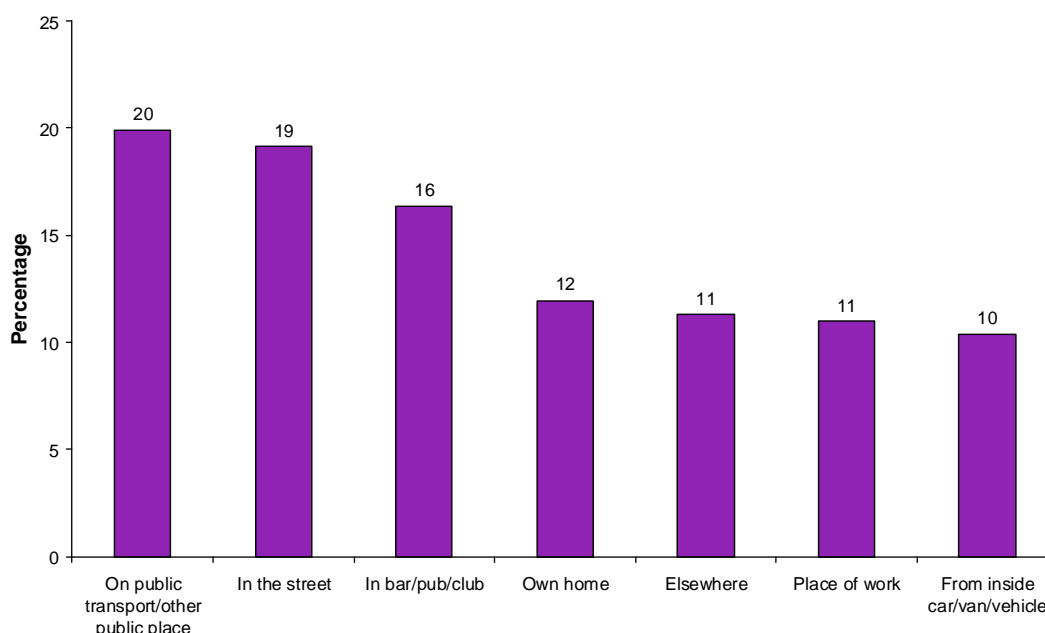
A number of different types of offence may involve the theft of a mobile phone. The most common type of offence involving theft of a mobile phone was 'other theft', where the phone

was not in the owner's possession at the time it was stolen (42% of all incidents in which a phone was stolen), followed by theft from the person, where the phone was in the owner's possession when it was stolen but was taken without force, such as in cases of pickpocketing (29%).⁵ A similar proportion of incidents occurred as part of a robbery (11%) and a burglary or theft in a dwelling (12%) and there were relatively few that involved thefts of mobiles from a vehicle (7%) (Table 2.5).

Location of theft

In one in five incidents (20%) reported, the phone was stolen on public transport or in another public place (e.g. shop, hospital),⁶ a further one in five (19%) reported that the phone was stolen in the street and 16 per cent reported that the phone was stolen from inside a pub, bar or club (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3 Proportion of incidents of mobile phone theft by location, 2007/08 BCS

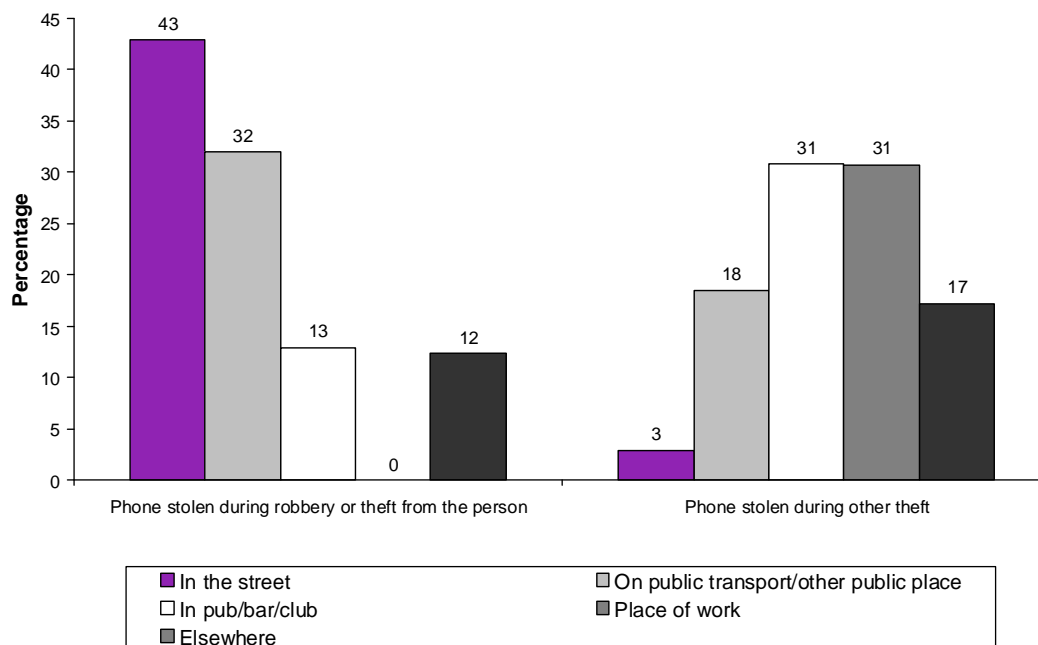


Household offences (burglary, theft in a dwelling and vehicle-related theft) are specific to certain locations by definition (i.e. a burglary takes place in the respondent's own home and a vehicle-related theft takes place from inside a car, van or vehicle). Focusing on personal crime shows that the street and public transport or another public place were the locations where mobile phones were most likely to be stolen during an offence of robbery or theft from the person. For incidents classified as an offence of other theft, it was the pub, bar, club or place of work that were most frequently mentioned (Figure 2.4).

⁵ See Glossary for an explanation of offences.

⁶ Base size is too small to provide an estimate for public transport alone as a location for mobile phone theft.

Figure 2.4 Proportion of incidents of mobile phone theft by offence type and location, 2007/08 BCS



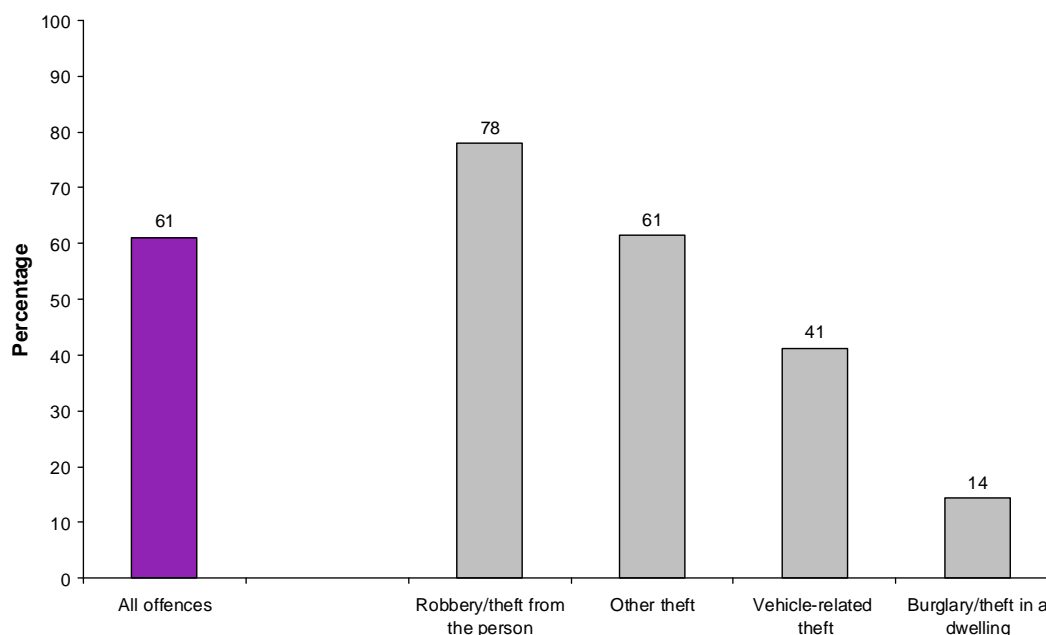
Items stolen

Respondents were asked if anything else was stolen in each incident of mobile phone theft and if so, what was stolen. In six out of ten incidents (61%), a mobile phone was the only item stolen. The most common other item to be stolen was cash or foreign currency (mentioned in 26% of all incidents involving mobile phone theft), followed by a purse or wallet (19% of all such incidents) (Table 2.6).

Analysis of incidents by offence type⁷ showed that in incidents in which a mobile phone was stolen, an offence of robbery or theft from the person was most likely to involve the theft of only a mobile phone (78%), followed by other theft (61%). In offences of vehicle-related theft and burglary or theft from the dwelling, other items as well as mobile phones were more likely to be stolen (Table 2.6; Figure 2.5). This reflects the different nature of the offences and the fact that mobile phones are more likely to be the target in offences of robbery/theft from the person than in other offences.

⁷ Due to small numbers it was necessary to collapse offences into broader groupings.

Figure 2.5 Proportion of incidents of mobile phone theft in which a mobile phone was the only item stolen by offence type, 2007/08 BCS



Time of theft

Respondents were asked when incidents of mobile phone theft occurred. These most commonly took place in the afternoon (31%) or evening (36%) (Table 2.7). This is a similar pattern to personal thefts in general and reflects the fact that the majority of incidents involving the theft of a mobile phone were personal offences.

Offender characteristics

In around 2 in 5 incidents (38%) of mobile phone theft, the respondent was able to say something about the offender(s). Reflecting the nature of the offences in which mobiles are stolen, in seven out of ten incidents (72%) the offender was not known to the respondent. Nine out of ten incidents in which the respondent was able to say something about the offender involved a male offender (88%) and one in six (17%) involved a female offender.⁸ The majority of these offenders (60%) were aged 16 to 24 (Table 2.8).

Reporting theft

Victims were more likely to report *incidents* involving the theft of a mobile phone to the relevant network service provider (77%) than they were to the police (52%) (data not shown). These figures show a similar pattern to that seen in previous years, although due to the different type of analysis involved, these figures are not comparable to those published previously.

⁸ These figures add to more than 100% as some offences involved a mix of both male and female offenders.

Box 2.1 Household-level analysis

The figures quoted in this chapter have focused upon the number of individuals who own or have experienced theft of a mobile phone.

Since 2001/02, there have been questions in the BCS asking the adult respondent whether anyone in their household owns a mobile phone and if so, whether any owners have experienced mobile phone theft. Analysis of these data provides trend figures over time on the number of households that own or have experienced theft of a mobile phone but no details on the number of owners or victims.

Ownership

The 2007/08 BCS showed that 90 per cent of households in England and Wales had at least one member who owned or had regular use of a mobile phone in the 12 months prior to interview. This is a significant increase since the 2006/07 BCS (89%). A table is provided on household ownership levels by various characteristics (Table 2.9).

Theft

The 2007/08 BCS showed that four per cent of households owning a mobile phone had experienced a mobile phone theft in the last year. This shows no change from the 2006/07 BCS, but is a significant decrease since 2001/02 (5%) when these questions were first included in the BCS (Table 2.10). A table is provided on household theft levels by various characteristics (Table 2.11).

Table 2.1 Proportion of individuals owning mobile phones by personal characteristics

Percentages	BCS			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Unweighted base 2007/08
Gender				
Male	74	76	78 *	53,938
Female	73	76	78 *	57,196
Age				
Under 10	6	7	8 *	12,477
10-13	69	70	73 *	5,774
14-17	90	93	94 *	5,869
18-21	97	97	98 *	4,964
22-24	96	96	97 *	3,434
25-34	95	96	97 *	12,655
35-44	94	96	96 *	16,706
45-54	90	92	94 *	15,142
55-64	81	85	88 *	14,482
65-74	62	68	72 *	10,466
75+	35	42	44 *	8,054
ALL	74	76	78 *	111,134
Marital status²				
Married & living with partner	83	86	88 *	48,654
Single	92	93	94 *	25,051
Separated	88	89	92 *	1,961
Divorced	86	88	90 *	6,655
Widowed	47	53	57 *	6,272
Ethnic group²				
White	83	86	88 *	81,935
Mixed	90	94	94	470
Asian	79	81	86 *	3,579
Black	87	90	92	1,474
Other	83	90	93	1,145
ADULTS (16 & over)	83	86	88 *	88,617

1. Bases given refer to number of people for whom information was collected; this includes both the respondent and all other members of the household.

2. Based on adults aged 16 and over.

3. See the Glossary for definitions of personal characteristics.

* denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS (see the Glossary for more information on statistical significance).

Table 2.2 Proportion of individuals owning mobile phones by household and area characteristics

Percentages	BCS			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Unweighted base 2007/08
Household type				
Household reference person under 60:				
<i>Single adult & child(ren)</i>	57	59	60	6,549
<i>Adults & child(ren)</i>	67	69	70 *	41,530
<i>No children</i>	92	93	95 *	34,765
Household reference person over 60	60	65	69 *	28,290
Household income				
Less than £10,000	59	62	64	12,468
£10,000 less than £20,000	68	71	73 *	17,314
£20,000 less than £30,000	77	79	80 *	15,531
£30,000 less than £40,000	79	82	83	13,338
£40,000 less than £50,000	81	82	83	9,873
£50,000 or more	82	82	83	16,653
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	75	77	79 *	78,932
Social renters	61	64	68 *	16,813
Private renters	80	82	83 *	14,904
Household reference person employment status				
In employment	80	81	83 *	77,043
Unemployed	67	72	77 *	1,167
Economically inactive	59	63	66 *	32,607
Accommodation type				
Houses:	74	76	78 *	95,941
<i>Detached</i>	77	79	80 *	29,485
<i>Semi-detached</i>	74	76	78 *	36,615
<i>Terraced</i>	72	74	76 *	29,841
Flats/maisonettes	71	72	77 *	8,554
Government Office Region				
North East	73	76	78	7,179
North West	72	75	77 *	12,958
Yorkshire & Humberside	73	76	77	10,173
East Midlands	75	77	79 *	12,451
West Midlands	71	74	77 *	11,270
East of England	76	78	78	14,595
London	72	74	77 *	8,884
South East	76	77	79 *	12,280
South West	74	77	78 *	11,478
Wales	74	76	78 *	9,866
Area type				
Urban	73	76	78 *	82,900
Rural	75	77	78	28,234
ACORN category				
Wealthy achievers	77	79	80 *	31,774
Urban prosperity	75	78	81 *	7,706
Comfortably off	74	77	79 *	34,151
Moderate means	72	74	77 *	15,633
Hard Pressed	68	71	73 *	21,634
Level of physical disorder				
High	74	71	73	6,117
Not high	68	76	78 *	98,302
ALL	74	76	78 *	111,134

1. Bases given refer to number of people for whom information was collected; this includes both the respondent and all other members of the household.

2. See Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

* denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS (see the Glossary for more information on statistical significance).

Table 2.3 Proportion of individual mobile phone owners experiencing theft by personal characteristics

Percentages				BCS
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Unweighted base 2007/08
Gender				
Male	2	2	2	41,833
Female	2	2	2	44,402
Age				
Under 10	1	0	0	1,545
10-13	3	3	3	4,358
14-17	5	5	6	5,542
18-21	5	4	5	4,838
22-24	3	4	3	3,335
25-34	2	2	3	12,274
35-44	2	2	2	16,130
45-54	1	1	1	14,269
55-64	1	1	1	12,732
65-74	1	1	1	7,547
75+	0	0	1	3,665
ALL	2	2	2	86,235
Marital status²				
Married & living with partner	1	1	1	42,462
Single	3	3	4	23,451
Separated	2	2	2	1,808
Divorced	2	2	2	5,991
Widowed	1	1	1	3,686
Ethnic group²				
White	2	2	2	71,488
Mixed	5	5	5	443
Asian	2	2	2	3,073
Black	3	4	4	1,356
Other	3	3	2	1,044
ADULTS (16 & over)	2	2	2	77,417

1. Bases given refer to number of mobile phone owners for whom information was collected; this includes both the respondent and all other members of the household.

2. Based on adults aged 16 and over.

3. See Glossary for definitions of personal characteristics.

4. No changes were statistically significant between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS.

Table 2.4 Proportion of individual mobile phone owners experiencing theft by household and area characteristics

Percentages	BCS			
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Unweighted base 2007/08
Household type				
Household reference person under 60:				
<i>Single adult & child(ren)</i>	4	4	4	4,110
<i>Adults & child(ren)</i>	2	2	2	29,476
<i>No children</i>	2	2	2	32,810
Household reference person over 60	1	1	1	19,839
Household income				
Less than £10,000	3	3	3	7,961
£10,000 less than £20,000	2	2	2	12,632
£20,000 less than £30,000	2	2	2	12,381
£30,000 less than £40,000	2	2	2	10,985
£40,000 less than £50,000	2	2	2	8,158
£50,000 or more	3	2	2	13,826
Housing tenure				
Owner occupiers	2	2	2	62,254
Social renters	3	3	3	11,460
Private renters	3	3	3	12,143
Household reference person employment status				
In employment	2	2	2	63,317
Unemployed	4	3	3	892
Economically inactive	2	2	2	21,796
Accommodation type				
Houses:		2	2	74,691
<i>Detached</i>	2	1	1	23,577
<i>Semi-detached</i>	2	2	2	28,445
<i>Terraced</i>	2	2	2	22,669
Flats/maisonettes	3	3	3	6,455
Government Office Region				
North East	2	2	2	5,534
North West	2	2	2	10,003
Yorkshire & Humberside	2	2	2	7,852
East Midlands	2	2	2	9,758
West Midlands	2	2	2	8,742
East of England	2	2	2	11,358
London	3	3	3	6,757
South East	2	2	2	9,672
South West	2	1	1	8,926
Wales	2	2	2	7,633
Area type				
Urban	2	2	2	64,330
Rural	1	1	1	21,905
ACORN category				
Wealthy achievers	2	1	1	25,324
Urban prosperity	3	3	3	6,111
Comfortably off	2	2	2	26,840
Moderate means	2	2	2	11,995
Hard Pressed	3	3	3	15,783
Level of physical disorder				
High	3	3	3	4,470
Not high	2	2	2	76,644
ALL	2	2	2	86,235

1. Bases given refer to number of mobile phone owners for whom information was collected; this includes both the respondent and other members of the household.

2. See the Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

3. No changes were statistically significant between 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS.

Table 2.5 Offences involving theft of a mobile phone

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
<hr/>	
All personal crime	81
Other theft	42
Theft from the person	29
Robbery	11
All household crime	19
Burglary/theft in a dwelling	12
Vehicle-related theft	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>450</i>

1. See the Glossary for definitions of offence types

Table 2.6 Items stolen along with mobile phones

Percentages		2007/08 BCS			
	All offences	Robbery/Theft from the person	Other theft	Vehicle-related theft	Burglary/theft in a dwelling
Nothing (mobile phone only item stolen)	61	78	61	41	14
Items stolen with mobile phone	39	22	39	59	86
Cash/foreign currency	26	18	29	29	44
Purse/wallet	19	16	20	18	24
Credit card/debit card/store card	17	12	20	17	21
Briefcase/handbag/shopping bag	11	6	15	14	12
Other items	27	10	25	50	81
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>92</i>

1. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one response possible.

Table 2.7 Timing of when incidents of mobile phone theft occurred

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
During the week	61
At the weekend ¹	39
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>446</i>
Morning/Afternoon²	43
Morning	9
Afternoon	31
Morning/afternoon (unsure which)	3
Evening/Night³	57
Evening	36
Night	19
Evening/night (unsure which)	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>438</i>

1. Weekend is from Friday 6pm to Monday 6am.

2. Morning is from 6am to noon; afternoon is from noon to 6pm.

3. Evening is from 6pm to midnight; night is midnight to 6am.

Table 2.8 Offender characteristics in incidents of mobile phone theft

Percentages	2007/08 BCS
Able to say something about offender	38
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>447</i>
Number of offenders	
One	52
Two	19
Three	10
Four or more	19
Sex of offender(s)	
Male	83
Female	12
Both	5
Age of offender(s)²	
School age or under	11
Aged 16 to 24	60
Aged 25 to 39	25
Aged 40 or older	1
Relationship to victim^{2,3}	
Stranger	72
Known by sight or to speak to	18
Known well	10
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)¹</i>	<i>155</i>

1. Base given is for the question asking about number of offenders, other bases are similar.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one offender could be involved.

3. The offender-victim relationship is classified as: 'strangers' if the victim did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before; 'known by sight or to speak to' if at least one offender falls into either category; and 'known well' if at least one offender falls into this category (for multiple offenders this takes priority over any less well-known offenders).

Table 2.9 Proportion of households owning mobile phones by household and area characteristics

Percentages	BCS		
	2006/07	2007/08	<i>Unweighted base 2007/08</i>
Household type			
Household reference person under 60:			
<i>Single adult & child(ren)</i>	97	98	2,409
<i>Adults & child(ren)</i>	99	99	10,324
<i>No children</i>	96	97 *	17,176
Household reference person over 60	73	76 *	16,841
Household income			
Less than £10,000	74	75	7,418
£10,000 less than £20,000	89	90	8,240
£20,000 less than £30,000	96	96	6,448
£30,000 less than £40,000	98	98	4,980
£40,000 less than £50,000	99	99	3,507
£50,000 or more	99	99	5,625
Housing tenure			
Owner occupiers	91	92 *	32,944
Social renters	79	81 *	7,766
Private renters	94	96 *	5,850
Household reference person employment status			
In employment	98	98 *	28,446
Unemployed	92	94	522
Economically inactive	76	77 *	17,655
Accommodation type			
Houses:	91	91 *	38,747
<i>Detached</i>	93	94 *	11,685
<i>Semi-detached</i>	90	91	14,665
<i>Terraced</i>	90	90	12,397
Flats/maisonettes	82	85 *	5,256
Government Office Region			
North East	86	88 *	3,079
North West	88	89	5,517
Yorkshire & Humberside	88	90	4,270
East Midlands	90	92 *	5,201
West Midlands	89	90	4,685
East of England	91	91	6,054
London	91	91	3,590
South East	91	92	5,156
South West	89	91 *	4,962
Wales	88	90 *	4,236
Area type			
Urban	89	90 *	34,805
Rural	90	91	11,945
ACORN category			
Wealthy achievers	93	94 *	12,748
Urban prosperity	91	92	3,516
Comfortably off	90	90	14,688
Moderate means	90	91	6,401
Hard Pressed	84	86 *	9,296
Level of physical disorder			
High	90	90	2,475
Not high	89	90 *	41,528
ALL HOUSEHOLDS	89	90 *	46,750

1. See Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

* denotes statistically significant change at the 5% level between the 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS (see the Glossary for more information on statistical significance).

Table 2.10 Trend in proportion of mobile phone owning households experiencing mobile phone theft

Percentages							BCS
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Mobile phone stolen from household	5	6	5	5	4	4	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>20,494</i>	<i>29,098</i>	<i>31,086</i>	<i>38,044</i>	<i>41,665</i>	<i>42,105</i>	<i>42,367</i>

Table 2.11 Proportion of mobile phone owning households experiencing theft by household and area characteristics

Percentages	BCS		
	2006/07	2007/08	Unweighted base 2007/08
Household type			
Household reference person under 60:			
<i>Single adult & child(ren)</i>	6	7	2,359
<i>Adults & child(ren)</i>	6	6	10,261
<i>No children</i>	4	5	16,646
Household reference person over 60	1	1	13,101
Household income			
Less than £10,000	4	4	5,558
£10,000 less than £20,000	3	3	7,388
£20,000 less than £30,000	4	4	6,214
£30,000 less than £40,000	4	4	4,892
£40,000 less than £50,000	4	5	3,464
£50,000 or more	5	5	5,575
Housing tenure			
Owner occupiers	3	3	30,383
Social renters	5	5	6,270
Private renters	6	6	5,552
Household reference person employment status			
In employment	5	5	27,935
Unemployed	6	5	484
Economically inactive	2	3	13,838
Accommodation type			
Houses:	4	4	35,487
<i>Detached</i>	3	3	10,947
<i>Semi-detached</i>	4	4	13,363
<i>Terraced</i>	4	5	11,177
Flats/maisonettes	5	5	4,379
Government Office Region			
North East	4	4	2,739
North West	4	5	4,917
Yorkshire & Humberside	4	4	3,834
East Midlands	3	4	4,777
West Midlands	4	3	4,256
East of England	3	3	5,525
London	7	7	3,268
South East	3	4	4,727
South West	3	2	4,515
Wales	3	3	3,809
Area type			
Urban	4	4	31,515
Rural	2	3	10,852
ACORN category			
Wealthy achievers	3	3	11,947
Urban prosperity	6	6	3,232
Comfortably off	3	3	13,309
Moderate means	4	5	5,812
Hard Pressed	5	5	7,980
Level of physical disorder			
High	7	6	2,238
Not high	4	4	37,635
ALL	4	4	42,367

1. See Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

3 Stolen goods

Sian Moley

3.1 SUMMARY

This chapter presents findings from the 2007/08 BCS on being offered and buying stolen goods.

Only a minority of people aged 16 to 59 have been offered or bought stolen goods.

- Fifteen per cent of people had been offered stolen goods in the last five years. Eleven per cent had been offered stolen goods but had declined to buy while four per cent had bought stolen goods in the last five years.
- Eight per cent of people had been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months. Seven per cent had been offered stolen goods but had declined to buy while only one per cent of adults aged 16 to 59 had bought them.

Both age and sex were shown to influence the likelihood of people being offered and buying stolen goods in the last 12 months.

- Younger people were generally more likely to be offered and to have bought stolen goods than those in older age groups. For example, 17 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women aged 16 to 24 had been offered stolen goods in the last year compared with eight per cent of men and two per cent of women aged 45 to 59.
- Men were more likely than women to have been offered and to have bought stolen goods. For example, two per cent of men had bought stolen goods in the past year compared to one per cent of women.

Experience of crime and lifestyle factors were also associated with being offered, as well as buying, stolen goods.

- Twelve per cent of victims of crime reported that they had been offered stolen goods in the last year, compared with seven per cent of those who had not been a victim.
- Among those who had visited a pub or wine bar once a week or more in the last month, two per cent had purchased stolen goods in the last year, compared with one per cent of those who had not done so.

The likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods varied by both household and area characteristics.

- Owner occupiers were less likely to have been offered or bought stolen goods. For example, seven per cent of owner occupiers had been offered stolen goods in the last year, compared with 13 per cent of social renters and ten per cent of private renters.
- People living in urban areas were more likely to have been offered and to have bought stolen goods. For example, in the last year, nine per cent of people in urban areas had been offered stolen goods compared with five per cent of those living in rural areas.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) on the extent and trends of people being offered and buying stolen goods within England and Wales. It also presents analysis of the characteristics of those who have been offered and have bought stolen goods.

Under the 1968 Theft Act buying or selling stolen goods is an offence. The number of incidents of handling stolen goods recorded by the police has been steadily falling in recent years, with 11,227 recorded incidents in 2007/08 compared with 18,817 incidents in 2002/03. However, these statistics underestimate the true extent of handling stolen goods, as a large proportion of such cases will not come to the attention of the police. The 2007/08 BCS provides an alternative measure based on asking a representative sample of adults aged 16 to 59 whether they had been offered or had bought stolen goods in the last five years or the last 12 months.¹ Given that it is an offence to buy stolen goods some respondents may be unwilling to disclose having bought them in a face-to-face interview, so these questions were asked via self-completion to ensure respondent confidentiality.

Questions on being offered and buying stolen goods have been included in the 1994, 2002/03 and 2005/06 BCS. The findings from the 1994 and 2002/03 BCS have previously been published (Finney and Wilson 2005; Sutton, 1998a and 1998b). It is not possible to make direct comparisons with these earlier findings due to changes to the coverage, ordering and response formats of the questions. Changes to the way we buy goods in recent years may also have had an impact on any trends in being offered and buying stolen goods. In particular, the buying and selling of stolen goods on the internet via auction sites may not be picked up by the existing questions (see Box 3.1).

Box 3.1 BCS questions on being offered and buying stolen goods

The 2007/08 BCS included a self-completion module on handling stolen goods, which asked respondents whether they had been offered or had bought stolen goods in the last five years or the last 12 months. The BCS asked:

- *In the last five years have you ever been offered any goods that you believed were stolen?*
- *And in the last five years how often have you actually bought goods that you believed to be stolen?*
- *Since the first of [DATE] have you been offered any goods that you believed were stolen?*
- *How many times has this happened?*
- *Since the first of [DATE] how often have you actually brought any goods you believed to be stolen?*

¹ The main BCS questions on victimisation were asked of all adults aged 16 and over but the self-completion questions reported here were restricted to adults aged 16-59 years.

3.3 EXTENT AND TRENDS

Offered stolen goods

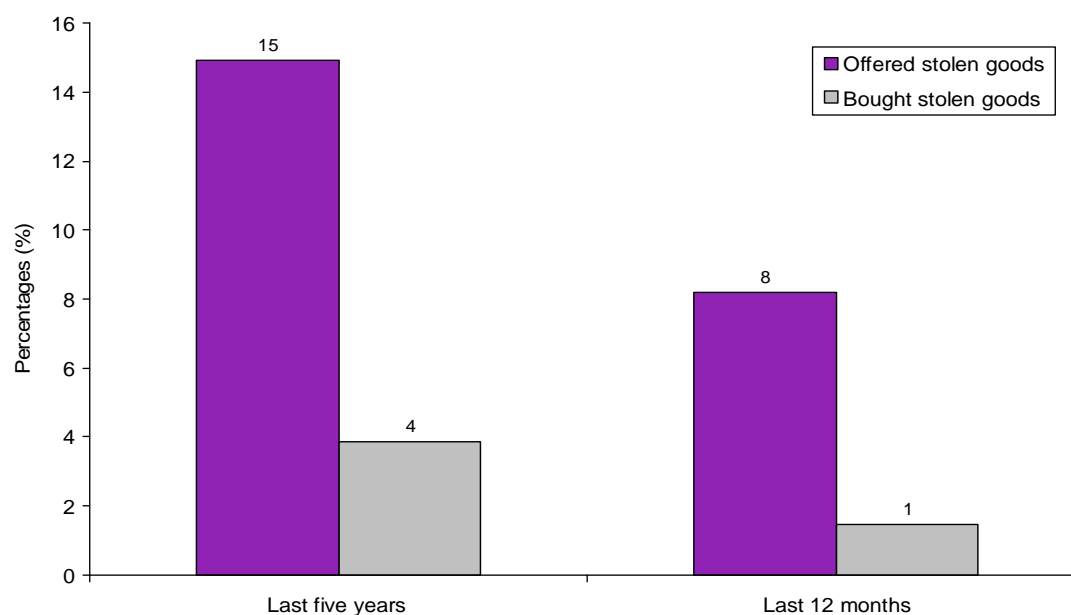
The 2007/08 BCS showed that only a minority of people had been offered stolen goods in either the last five years or in the last year.

- Fifteen per cent of people aged 16 to 59 said they had been offered stolen goods in the last five years, and eight per cent in the last 12 months (Table 3.1, Figure 3.1).
- Three per cent of adults aged 16 to 59 had been offered stolen goods on only one occasion in the last 12 months, five per cent on a 'few' occasions and only one per cent had 'often' been offered stolen goods in the last year (Table 3.1).

The proportion of 16 to 59 year olds who have been offered stolen goods in the last five years and the previous 12 months has remained unchanged since the 2005/06 BCS.

Although the BCS figures are not directly comparable, they suggest a decline in people being offered stolen goods over the longer-term. In the 2005/06 and 2007/08 BCS eight per cent of people had been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months, while in the 1994 and 2002/03 BCS 11 per cent had been offered stolen goods.

Figure 3.1 Proportion of adults aged 16 to 59 who had been offered and bought stolen goods in the last five years and in the last 12 months, 2007/08 BCS



Buying stolen goods

Among adults aged 16 to 59 relatively few people knowingly bought stolen goods (Table 3.3, Figure 3.1).

- Four per cent of adults aged 16 to 59 had bought goods they believed to be stolen in the last five years, with two per cent doing so on more than one occasion.
- Only one per cent had bought stolen goods in the last 12 months.

The 2007/08 BCS showed that only a minority of those offered stolen goods said they had gone on to buy them (Table 3.2).

- Twenty-six per cent of people who had been offered stolen goods in the last five years had also bought them in that time, with 15 per cent of those offered having bought stolen goods on more than one occasion.
- Around one in five (18%) of those who had been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months, had bought them in that time. Eight per cent of those offered stolen goods had bought them on more than one occasion in the last year, although less than one per cent said they had 'often' bought stolen goods in that time.

In summary, fifteen per cent of people had been offered stolen goods in the last five years. Eleven per cent had been offered stolen goods but had declined to buy while four per cent had bought stolen goods in the last five years. Eight per cent of people had been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months. Seven per cent had been offered stolen goods but had declined to buy while only one per cent of all adults had bought them.

Among all adults aged 16 to 59 the proportion buying stolen goods in the last five years and in the last 12 months has remained stable since 2005/06 (Table 3.3).

Although the figures are not directly comparable, previous BCS findings suggest that there was a decline in the proportion of people buying stolen goods in the last five years between 1994 and 2002/03 (from 11% to 5%) since when there has been little change (Table 3.3).

3.4 VARIATION IN BEING OFFERED AND BUYING STOLEN GOODS

The 2007/08 BCS showed that the likelihood of being offered stolen goods varied by demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Not surprisingly, given that buying stolen goods is dependent on being offered these goods, most of the characteristics shown to influence the likelihood of being offered stolen goods are also linked to the likelihood of having bought them.

The findings presented within this section will focus on the characteristics associated with being offered and buying stolen goods in the last 12 months.² While not shown, there were similar patterns of differences between groups in relation to the last five years.

Personal characteristics

Age and sex

Consistent with previous findings (Finney and Wilson, 2005), the likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods varied by age and sex. Across all age groups, men were considerably more likely to have been offered and to have bought stolen goods than women. (Table 3.4, Figure 3.2).

- Overall, men were twice as likely as women to have been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months (11% compared with 5%).

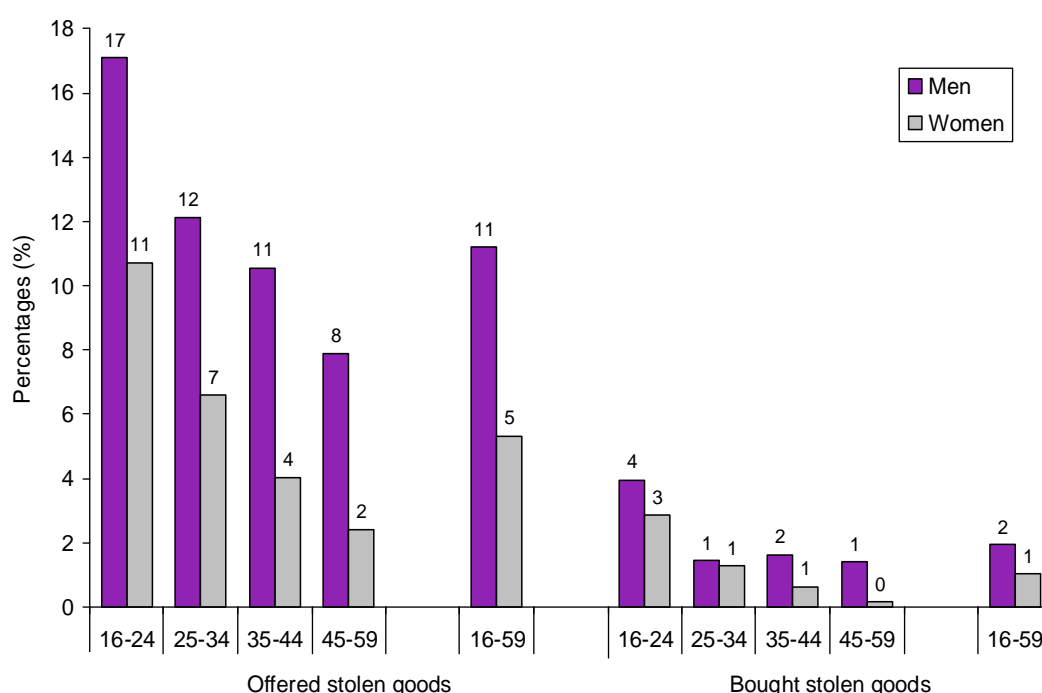
² As respondents are asked for information about their demographic and socio-economic status at the time of interview, this information may not be applicable to their status for all of the last five years.

- Two per cent of men had bought stolen goods in the past year compared to one per cent of women.

Among men and women, younger people were in general more likely than older people to have been offered and to have bought stolen goods in the last year. (Table 3.4, Figure 3.2).

- Among young people (aged 16 to 24) 17 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women had been offered stolen goods in the last year compared with eight per cent of men and two per cent of women aged 45 to 59.
- Women aged 16 to 24 were more likely to admit they had bought stolen goods in the last 12 months (3%) than those aged 35 to 44 and those aged 45 to 59 (1% and 0.2% respectively).

Figure 3.2 Proportion of adults aged 16 to 59 who had been offered and bought stolen goods in the last 12 months, by age and gender, 2007/08 BCS



Experience of crime

Many of the characteristics outlined within this section as being linked with being offered and buying stolen goods are also associated with having a higher risk of being a victim of crime (Kershaw et al., 2008). Unsurprisingly, the 2007/08 BCS also showed those who had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months had a higher chance of being offered stolen goods (Table 3.4).

- Twelve per cent of victims of crime reported that they had been offered stolen goods in the last year, compared with seven per cent of those who had not been a victim.

Victims of crime were also more likely to have purchased stolen goods.

- Three per cent of those who had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months said they had bought goods they believed to be stolen in the last 12 months compared with one per cent of non-victims.

Lifestyle factors

Some lifestyle characteristics are linked to the likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods. For example, people who frequently visited pubs or wine bars were more likely to report having been offered stolen goods and of having bought such goods (Table 3.4). This finding is not surprising given that previous research (for example, Sutton, 1988b) has shown that one of the five main markets for selling stolen goods involves selling directly to people in pubs and clubs.

- One in ten (11%) people who had visited a pub or wine bar once a week or more in the month prior to the interview had been offered goods they believed to be stolen in the last year, a higher proportion than those who had not visited a pub or wine bar in the last month (7%).
- Among those who had visited a pub or wine bar once a week or more in the last month, two per cent had purchased stolen goods in the last year, compared with one per cent of those who had not done so in the last month.

Being offered and buying stolen goods also varied by newspaper readership (Table 3.4).

- Those who read national tabloids and daily newspapers classified as 'other'³ were more likely to be offered stolen goods in the last year (10% and 12% respectively) than those who did not frequently read any newspapers (6%).

Household and area characteristics

Household tenure

The likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods varied by housing tenure; with those living in owner-occupied accommodation being generally less likely to have been offered or to have bought stolen goods than those living in rented accommodation (Table 3.5).

- Seven per cent of people living in the owner-occupied sector reported they had been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months, compared with 13 per cent and ten per cent of those living in the social and private rented sectors respectively.
- Social renters were also more likely than home owners to have bought stolen goods in the last 12 months (2% compared with 1%).

Area characteristics

People living in urban areas had a higher likelihood of being offered and buying stolen goods than those living in rural areas (Table 3.5).

- In the last 12 months, nine per cent of people in urban areas had been offered stolen goods compared with five per cent of those living in rural areas.
- Two per cent of people in urban areas had bought stolen goods in the last 12 months compared with one per cent of those living in rural areas.

³ Those who read regional or local daily newspapers accounted for the majority of those classified as 'other' daily newspaper readers.

There were also variations across ACORN areas, with those living in more affluent areas being less likely to report either being offered or buying stolen goods (Table 3.5). For example:

- People living in Wealthy Achievers areas (5%) were the least likely and those living in Urban Prosperity and Hard Pressed areas the most likely to be offered stolen goods in the last year (12% and 11%).
- Those in Wealthy Achiever areas were also less likely than those in Hard Pressed areas to have bought stolen goods in the last year (1% compared with 2%).

Region

There were some regional variations in the likelihood of being offered stolen goods, with those living in London the most likely to be offered stolen goods (13%) compared with those in other English Government Office regions and Wales (for example, East of England, 6%) (Table 3.5).

Overall, there was little variation across the regions in the likelihood of buying stolen goods.

3.5 MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

The findings presented above show that an array of demographic and socio-economic characteristics are associated with the likelihood of being offered or buying stolen goods. However, it is probable that many of these factors are inter-related, so multivariate analysis was used to identify which of these characteristics were independently associated with being offered stolen goods in the last 12 months or buying stolen goods in the last five years,⁴ after controlling for the effect of the other characteristics (Tables 3.6 and 3.7).

The multivariate analysis showed that the characteristics strongly independently associated with being offered stolen goods in the last 12 months (after controlling for all other factors included in the model) were:

- being male;
- being in an age group younger than 45 to 59;
- living in social-rented accommodation; and
- reading national tabloids or other daily newspapers (not national broadsheets).

Overall the model explained around eleven per cent of the variance in being offered stolen goods in the last 12 months.

The factors most strongly independent associated with buying stolen goods in the last five years were:

- being in an age group younger than 45 to 59;
- being male;
- being a victim of crime in the previous 12 months; and

⁴ The results for buying stolen goods in the last five years are presented, as the findings from the multivariate analysis for buying stolen goods in last 12 months was not robust enough to report, because of small cell sizes.

- living in an urban area.

Overall, the model predicted around 14 per cent of the variance in buying stolen goods in the last five years.

Table 3.1 Trends in the proportion of all adults aged 16 to 59 who had been offered stolen goods in the last five years and in the last 12 months

Percentages	Offered in the last 5 years				Offered in the last 12 months				BCS
	1994 ³	2002/03	2005/06	2007/08	1994	2002/03	2005/06	2007/08	
Not at all	N/A	79	85	85	89	89	92	92	
Once or more⁴	N/A	21	15	15	11	11	8	8	
<i>Just once</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	4	2	3	
<i>A few times</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	7	6	5	
<i>Often</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	N/A	11,751	6,751	6,609	9,637	11,731	6,721	6,584	

1. Base is all adults aged 16 to 59.

2. Excludes refusals and don't know responses.

3. In the 1994 BCS respondents were not asked if they had been offered stolen goods in the last five years.

4. Respondents are only asked how often they had been offered stolen goods if they had been offered stolen goods in the last 12 months.

5. The above figures for 1994 and 2002/03 are not directly comparable with the figures based on the 2005/06 and 2007/08 BCS due to changes in the question and response format and ordering. The figures have been provided to give a broad indication of trends in being offered stolen goods.

Table 3.2 Prevalence and frequency of buying stolen goods among those offered

Percentages	2007/08 BCS	
	Bought in the last five years	Bought in the last 12 months
Not at all	74	82
Once or more	26	18
<i>Just once</i>	12	10
<i>A few times</i>	13	8
<i>Often</i>	2	0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	838	464

1. Base is those who reported that they had been offered stolen goods.

2. Excludes refusals and don't know responses.

Table 3.3 Trends in the proportion of all adults aged 16 to 59 who had bought stolen goods in the last five years and in the last 12 months

Percentages	Bought in the last five years				Bought in the last 12 months				BCS
	1994	2002/03	2005/06	2007/08	1994 ³	2002/03	2005/06	2007/08	
Not at all	89	95	96	96	N/A	98	98	99	
Once or more	11	5	4	4	N/A	2	2	1	
<i>Just once</i>	5	2	2	2	N/A	1	1	1	
<i>A few times</i>	5	3	2	2	N/A	1	1	1	
<i>Often</i>	1	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	9,628	11,718	6,729	6,591	N/A	11,722	6,712	6,578	

1. Base is all adults aged 16 to 59.

2. Excludes refusals and don't know responses.

3. In the 1994 BCS respondents were not asked if they had bought stolen goods in the last 12 months.

4. The above figures for 1994 and 2002/03 are not directly comparable with the figures based on the 2005/06 and 2007/08 BCS due to changes in the question and response format and ordering. The figures have been provided to give a broad indication of trends in buying stolen goods.

Table 3.4 Proportion of adults aged 16 to 59 who have been offered and have bought stolen goods in the last five years and the last 12 months by personal characteristics

Percentages	In the last five years		In the last 12 months		2007/08 BCS <i>Unweighted base</i>
	Offered stolen goods	Bought stolen goods	Offered stolen goods	Bought stolen goods	
Men	21	6	11	2	3,038
16-24	30	12	17	4	354
25-34	26	7	12	1	643
35-44	20	5	11	2	867
45-59	13	3	8	1	1,174
Women	9	2	5	1	3,540
16-24	19	6	11	3	458
25-34	13	2	7	1	773
35-44	7	1	4	1	1,075
45-59	3	0	2	0	1,234
Ethnic group					
White	14	4	8	1	6,047
Non-White	22	5	13	2	530
Marital status					
Married	11	2	6	1	3,121
Cohabiting	19	5	10	3	808
Single	21	7	11	2	1,812
Separated	12	2	8	2	220
Divorced	13	4	9	2	523
Widowed	3	1	2	0	92
Respondent's employment status					
In employment	15	4	8	1	5,105
Unemployed	22	7	16	3	161
Economically inactive	14	4	8	2	1,305
<i>Student</i>	21	7	11	4	230
<i>Looking after family/home</i>	12	3	7	1	516
<i>Long-term/temporarily sick/ill</i>	10	2	6	1	349
<i>Retired</i>	5	0	3	0	129
<i>Other inactive</i>	10	1	5	0	81
Respondent's occupation					
Managerial and professional occupations	13	2	6	1	2,418
Intermediate occupations	16	3	9	1	1,320
Routine and manual occupations	15	5	8	2	2,299
Never worked and long-term unemployed	15	8	11	5	141
Full-time students	23	8	12	3	387
Highest qualification					
Degree or diploma	13	2	7	1	2,461
Apprenticeship or A/AS level	19	5	10	2	1,258
O level/GCSE	15	4	9	2	1,694
Other	15	4	9	2	227
No qualifications	13	4	7	2	933
Long-standing illness or disability					
Long-standing illness or disability	13	3	9	1	1,201
<i>Limits activities</i>	13	3	9	1	758
<i>Does not limit activities</i>	12	3	8	0	443
No long-standing illness or disability	15	4	8	2	5,372
Hours out of home on an average weekday					
Less than 3 hours	10	3	6	2	982
3 hours less than 7 hours	14	3	8	1	1,602
7 hours or longer	16	4	9	2	3,980
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month					
None	12	3	7	1	2,462
Less than once a week	13	3	7	1	2,212
Once a week or more often	21	6	11	2	1,904
Daily newspaper readership					
National broadsheets	13	3	7	1	747
National tabloids	17	5	10	2	1,943
Other daily newspaper	21	7	12	4	703
More than one	19	0	14	0	33
None more than 3 times a week	12	3	6	1	3,150
Experience of crime in past 12 months					
Victim	22	7	12	3	1,620
Non-victim	12	3	7	1	4,958
ALL ADULTS	15	4	8	1	6,578

1. Unweighted bases refer to bought stolen goods in the past 12 months. Other bases will be similar. Base excludes refusals and don't know responses

2. Base sizes for the student categories differ as they are based on different classifications. Economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in any other way economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding. For more information see the Glossary (NS-SEC and Employment Status)

3. See the Glossary for definitions of personal characteristics.

Table 3.5 Proportion of adults aged 16 to 59 who have been offered and have bought stolen goods in the last five years and the last 12 months by household and area characteristics

Percentages	In the last five years		In the last 12 months		2007/08 BCS
	Offered stolen goods	Bought stolen goods	Offered stolen goods	Bought stolen goods	Unweighted base
Household type:					
Household reference person under 60:					
Single adult & child(ren)	18	4	11	2	508
Adults & child(ren)	15	4	8	1	2,221
No children	15	4	9	2	3,604
Head of household 60 or over	8	2	4	1	239
Household income					
Less than £10,000	15	5	10	3	685
£10,000 less than £20,000	15	3	8	2	916
£20,000 less than £30,000	15	4	8	3	1,067
£30,000 less than £40,000	16	3	8	0	982
£40,000 less than £50,000	16	4	10	1	692
£50,000 or more	14	3	7	0	1,127
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	13	3	7	1	4,520
Social renters	21	5	13	2	969
Private renters	19	6	10	2	1,068
Area type					
Urban	16	4	9	2	5,030
Rural	10	2	5	1	1,548
ACORN category					
Wealthy Achievers	10	2	5	1	1,726
Urban Prosperity	22	5	12	2	559
Comfortably Off	14	4	8	1	2,006
Moderate Means	15	3	7	1	1,023
Hard Pressed	18	5	11	2	1,245
Government Office Region					
North East	11	4	7	2	450
North West	15	4	8	2	754
Yorkshire and the Humber	20	6	8	2	587
East Midlands	14	5	9	2	717
West Midlands	14	3	8	2	698
East of England	13	3	6	0	885
London	21	4	13	2	528
South East	14	4	8	1	715
South West	11	3	6	1	669
Wales	11	2	7	0	575
Years living in area					
Less than 12 months	17	6	10	4	528
12 months but less than 2 years	20	5	11	2	457
2 years but less than 3 years	15	4	10	1	384
3 years but less than 5 years	19	4	8	1	637
5 years but less than 10 years	16	3	9	2	1,161
10 years but less than 20 years	14	5	8	2	1,368
20 years or longer	12	3	6	1	2,043
Level of physical disorder in the area²					
High	21	6	12	2	394
Low	14	4	8	1	5,822
Perceived level of anti-social behaviour³					
High	23	5	13	2	1,056
Not high	13	4	7	1	5,323
ALL ADULTS	15	4	8	1	6,578

1. Unweighted bases refer to bought stolen goods in the past 12 months. Other bases will be similar. Base excludes refusals and don't know responses

2. Based upon the interviewer's assessment of the local area (see the Glossary for further details).

3. This measure is derived from responses to questions asking about how much of a problem seven different types of anti-social behaviours were in the local area (see the Glossary for further details)

4. See the Glossary for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Table 3.6 Logistic regression model for likelihood of being offered stolen goods in the last 12 months

Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio	2007/08 BCS	
				Lower	Upper
Sex	Male	**	2.31	1.89	2.82
	Female		1.00		
Age	16-24	**	2.56	1.81	3.62
	25-44	**	1.51	1.17	1.95
	45-59		1.00		
Tenure	Owner occupiers		1.00		
	Social renters	**	1.85	1.39	2.46
	Private renters	ns	1.05	0.82	1.36
Daily newspaper readership	National broadsheets	ns	1.18	0.85	1.63
	National tabloids	**	1.63	1.30	2.04
	Other daily newspaper	**	1.87	1.41	2.46
	None more than 3 times a week		1.00		
Experience of crime in past 12 months	Victim	**	1.61	1.32	1.96
	Non-victim		1.00		
Ethnic group	White		1.00		
	Non-White	**	1.73	1.32	2.28
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during the last month	None		1.00		
	Less than once a week	ns	1.02	0.79	1.32
	Once a week or more often	**	1.47	1.16	1.87
ACORN category	Wealthy Achievers		1.00		
	Urban Prosperity	**	1.76	1.25	2.48
	Comfortably Off	**	1.48	1.10	1.98
	Moderate Means	ns	1.21	0.86	1.71
	Hard Pressed	ns	1.39	1.00	1.95
Long-standing illness or disability	Long-standing illness or disability	**	1.36	1.05	1.76
	No long-standing illness or disability		1.00		
Marital status	Married		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	1.41	1.05	1.90
	Single	ns	1.04	0.79	1.38
	Separated or divorced	ns	1.45	0.97	2.17
Unweighted base			6,172		
Nagelkerke R³			0.11		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around 11 per cent of the variation in the proportion of respondents being offered stolen goods in the last 12 months based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be statistically significantly associated with being offered stolen goods in the past year were: respondent's occupation, highest qualification, hours out of home on an average weekday, number of years in area, tenure, household income, area type, level of physical disorder in area, Government Office Region. The variable employment status was excluded from this analysis as it was highly correlated ($r > 0.40$) with other variables of interest.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for 11 per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

Table 3.7 Logistic regression model for likelihood of buying stolen goods in the last five years

Characteristic		Significance	Odds ratio	2007/08 BCS	
				Lower	Upper
Age	16-24	**	3.29	1.97	5.51
	25-44	**	2.01	1.33	3.05
	45-59		1.00		
Sex	Male	**	2.88	2.14	3.87
	Female		1.00		
Experience of crime in past 12 months	Victim	**	2.13	1.62	2.78
	Non-victim		1.00		
Area type	Urban	**	2.29	1.40	3.73
	Rural		1.00		
Daily newspaper readership	National broadsheets	ns	1.23	0.76	1.99
	National tabloids	ns	1.33	0.96	1.84
	Other daily newspaper	**	2.06	1.43	2.98
	None more than 3 times a week		1.00		
Marital status	Married		1.00		
	Cohabiting	**	1.84	1.19	2.84
	Single	**	1.78	1.18	2.67
	Separated or divorced	**	2.12	1.15	3.92
Highest qualification	Degree or diploma		1.00		
	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	ns	0.83	0.55	1.26
	O level/GCSE	ns	0.82	0.54	1.27
	No qualifications	**	0.51	0.32	0.79
Number of visits to pub/wine bar in the evening during last month	None		1.00		
	Less than once a week	ns	0.77	0.54	1.12
	Once a week or more often	ns	1.22	0.88	1.69
<i>Unweighted base</i>			<i>6,180</i>		
<i>Nagelkerke R³</i>			<i>0.14</i>		

1. Forward stepwise logistic regression.

2. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable, when holding all factors constant; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

3. This model explains around 14 per cent of the variation in the proportion of respondents buying stolen goods in the past five years based only on the factors shown in the table. Additional variables which were included in the analysis but which were not shown in the model to be statistically significantly associated with buying stolen goods in the past five years were: ethnic group, long-standing illness or disability, respondent's occupation, hours out of home on an average weekday, number of years in area, tenure, household income, ACORN category, level of physical disorder in area. The variable employment status was excluded from this analysis as it was highly correlated ($r > 0.40$) with other variables of interest, while Government Office Region was excluded as cell sizes were too small.

4. Factors highlighted in bold are those that are considered strong predictors (contributing at least one per cent improvement in the model and accounting for twelve per cent of the variance). Categories highlighted in italics were used as reference categories.

*** Indicates that change is statistically significant at the five per cent level; 'ns' indicates that the change is not statistically significant at this level.

Appendix 1 Glossary

2007/08 Interview sample – This is the sample on which latest BCS results are based. It consists of all respondents interviewed by the BCS during the 2007/08 financial year and the crimes they experienced in the 12 months prior to interview.

ACORN – ‘A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods’, developed by CACI Ltd., which classifies households into one of 56 ACORN types according to demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The 2001 ACORN classification has been used in this report. The main five-group breakdowns have been used in this report and are characterised as follows:

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

Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS (<http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn/>).

Acquisitive crime – A BCS offence group which covers all household and personal crime where items are stolen. Household acquisitive crime includes: burglary and attempted burglary in a dwelling; theft in a dwelling; theft from outside a dwelling; theft and attempted theft of and from vehicles; and theft of pedal cycles. Personal acquisitive crime includes: snatch theft from the person; other theft from the person; attempted theft from the person; other theft; other attempted theft; robbery; and attempted robbery.

Anti-social behaviour – The BCS measures high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour from responses to seven individual anti-social behaviour questions:

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

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

Attempted burglary – An attempted burglary is recorded by the police and in the BCS if there is clear evidence that the offender made an actual, physical attempt to gain entry to a

building (e.g. damage to locks, or broken doors) but was unsuccessful. This offence type combines with **burglary with entry** to comprise total burglary in the BCS.

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

Burglary – An offence of burglary is recorded by the police if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. The BCS covers domestic burglary only, which is an unauthorised entry into the victim's dwelling. Burglary does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g. impersonating an official). Burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be in the dwelling at the time of the offence (see **theft in a dwelling**). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g. hallways) are not included. Using the BCS it is possible to differentiate between attempted burglaries and burglaries with entry and thus burglary can be classified as: **attempted burglary**; **burglary with entry**; **burglary with no loss (including attempts)**; and **burglary with loss**. Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary add up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus burglary with no loss (including attempts) also add up to total burglary.

Burglary with entry – This term is used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not. This offence type combines with **attempted burglary** to comprise total burglary.

Burglary with loss – This term is used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered and something was stolen. This offence type combines with **burglary with no loss (including attempts)** to comprise total burglary.

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

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

The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. They are based on calibrating on **population figures** provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from ONS. Calibration weights were applied from the 1996 BCS onwards using CALMAR (a SAS-based macro); the 2006/07 and 2007/08 BCS used g-Calib within a new SPSS-based data processing system (the weights produced by g-Calib are the same as those from CALMAR).

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

Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) – BCS interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on laptop computers (CAPI). The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and instructions for navigating through the questionnaire. Plausibility and consistency checks are incorporated to improve data quality. The self-completion modules on the BCS are conducted using Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing (CASI) where the interviewer gives the laptop to the respondent. CASI allows respondents to report behaviours or attitudes to more sensitive questions in private. The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI.

Confidence interval – The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie (also referred to as margin of error). Surveys produce statistics that are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that these confidence intervals would contain the true population value in 95 times out of 100. 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.

Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between years of the BCS and for differences between population subgroups. If a difference is outside a range set by a 95 per cent confidence interval then one judges the difference to be 'statistically significant at the five per cent level'. In this publication a five per cent significance level has been applied. See also the definition of **statistical significance**.

Domestic burglary – Burglary in a dwelling. The BCS only covers domestic burglary, whilst police recorded crime covers both commercial and domestic burglary (see also **Burglary**)

Ethnic group – See definition of **Black and Minority Ethnic groups**.

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

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

Base sizes for the student categories differ in the economic categories from those in the occupational classification (see **NS-SEC**) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

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

Harmonised classifications – National Statistics have developed a set of standard classifications that allow greater comparability of different surveys and other data collection systems. A number of these classifications have been adopted by the BCS. For more information on the harmonised classifications see:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/harmonisation/default.asp>.

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

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

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

Household reference person (HRP) – For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. Following the National Statistics' **harmonised classifications**, the BCS replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP) in 2001/02. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure – The classification of households in the BCS is on the basis of size, age of household reference person, and number of children. Households are divided into those where the household reference person is aged over 60, and those where the household reference person is aged 16 to 59. The latter group is subdivided into the following categories:

- one adult aged under 60, and one or more children (under 16). Note this does not necessarily denote a lone parent family, as the adult may be a sibling or grandparent of the child;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16);
- one or more adults with no children (under 16).

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

Level of home security – For the purposes of analysis, households with or without the most common security devices (window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors) have been classified as possessing at least 'basic security' or lacking 'basic security' and the following mutually exclusive sub-categories have been created:

- 'Basic security plus': households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors as well as additional security measures;
- 'Basic security only': households with window locks and double or deadlocks on outside doors only;
- 'Less than basic security': households without both window locks and double locks or deadlocks on outside doors but with some security devices; and
- 'No security': households with none of the above security measures.

Living arrangements – The BCS uses the following definitions for living arrangements, based on the National Statistics **harmonised classification**:

- persons living in a couple: married, cohabiting (includes same-sex couples);
- persons not living in a couple: single, separated, divorced or widowed.

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

The Nagelkerke statistic presented for each regression is a measure of how much variance in the dependent variable is explained by the model based on the factors which are listed in the text boxes. These factors are 'strongly independently associated' with the dependent variable; that is, each factor contributes around a one per cent improvement in explained variance to the overall model. All independent variables, including those which are not presented and those that did not make the final model, will be presented in online tables to be published subsequent to this report.

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

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

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

Other theft of personal property – A BCS offence category referring to theft of personal property away from the home (e.g. handbags from offices), where there was no direct contact between the offender and victim. Only the respondent can be the victim of this crime category.

Personal crimes – For personal offences, the respondent reports only on his/her experience to the BCS. This applies to the following offence categories: wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury, sexual offences, robbery, theft from the person, and other personal theft. Information is also collected on threats, though not reported in this publication as few meet the criteria of an offence. The BCS does not cover personal crimes against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. In the BCS data presented in this volume 'all personal crime' excludes sexual offences; the number of sexual offences picked up by the survey is too small to give reliable estimates and these figures are not provided in this publication.

Physical disorder – This term is used to describe a measure based on the interviewer's assessment of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. Using guidance, the interviewer has to make an assessment as to whether each of these problems is very common, fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for

each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The measurement of respondents' own perceptions is described under **anti-social behaviour**.

Population figures – The BCS uses population figures in the calibration weighting and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes. Following the 2001 Census, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued revised estimates of population involving the total numbers of people and the distribution by age and sex. **Calibration weighting** for the 2007/08 BCS and previous years has been calculated using population distributions, which have not fully incorporated the census revisions.

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

The latest available estimates were used for 2007/08:

- national population figures are mid-2006 based projections for the 2007 population from ONS;
- regional and Wales population figures are mid-2006 based estimates from ONS;
- national household figures are forecast from mid-2006 based projections for the 2007 population;
- regional household figures are mid-2004 based projections for 2007 from DCLG;
- Wales household figures are mid-2003 based projections for 2007 from the Welsh Assembly.

Some of the tables in this volume use population figures with recorded crime figures to calculate the number of crimes per 1,000 population. The population figures used are mid-2006 population estimates provided by ONS.

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

Prevalence rates – Prevalence rates show the percentage of the BCS sample who were victims of an offence once or more during the year. Unlike BCS incidence rates they only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the reference period, but not of the number of times victimised. Prevalence rates are taken as equivalent to risk of crime.

Reference period – (previously listed as recall period). This is the time period for which crimes experienced by BCS respondents are reported. Following the introduction of continuous sampling in 2001/02 the BCS reference period for offences relates to the 12 full calendar months prior to interview. Prior to this the reference period was between 1 January and 31 December of the previous year.

Risk of crime – The estimated risk of an adult being a victim once or more in the previous 12 months of a personal or household crime (excluding sexual offences). Risk is taken as equivalent to prevalence rates.

Robbery – An incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. If there is no use or threat of force an offence of theft from the person is recorded (this would be classified in the BCS as **snatch theft**, which together with **robbery** comprises the BCS mugging category). The BCS excludes robberies against those not living in private households and those aged under 16, as for all personal crimes.

Rural areas – The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Rural areas are those classified as ‘small town and fringe – sparse’, ‘village – sparse’, ‘hamlet and isolated dwelling – sparse’, ‘small town and fringe – less sparse’, ‘village – less sparse’ and ‘hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse’.

More information is available on the National Statistics website, see: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>.

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

Sample size – In the 2007/08 BCS the overall achieved core sample size was 46,983 and the response rate for the calendar year 2007 was 76 per cent. The survey was designed to achieve a minimum of around 1,000 core sample interviews in each police force area (PFA). For more information on BCS methodology see Bolling *et al.*, (2007).

Snatch theft – Incidents reported to the BCS where an offender snatches property away from the victim (there may be an element of force involved but this is just enough to snatch the property away) and the victim was clearly aware of the incident as it happened. The BCS does not cover snatch theft against those aged under 16 or not living in private households, the caveat for all personal crimes. See also **stealth thefts**, which are thefts from the person in which the victim was not aware of what was happening and are included as such in the recorded crime figures.

Statistical significance – Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this publication, tests at the five per cent significance level have been applied (the level at which there is a one in 20 chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance).

Statistical significance for change in all BCS crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS figures. This is because estimates of all BCS crime are calculated by combining estimates of all household and personal crimes, which are based on two distinct samples (household and personal with different statistical weights). Whether a change in all BCS crime is statistically significant is assessed by examining if changes in all personal and household crime are significant over the same period; if BCS household and personal crime each show a statistically significant increase or decrease, in the same direction, this indicates a statistically significant change in all BCS crime.

Stealth theft – Thefts from the person which involve no force and where, unlike **snatch theft**, the victim was not aware of what was happening at the time. The BCS does not cover stealth theft against those aged under 16 or not living in private households.

Stratification – One of the BCS requirements is a design that achieves a minimum of around 1,000 core sample interviews per police force area (PFA). The survey was designed to over-sample in the smaller PFAs to achieve the minimum number of interviews. One result of this is that the data have to be weighted to remove the effect of differences in the probability of selection of addresses within different PFAs. As well as stratifying disproportionately by PFA, the sample was stratified by other socio-demographic variables in order to maximise the precision of estimates. The stratifiers used in 2007/08 were the same as in previous surveys, namely population density and the proportion of household reference persons in non-manual occupations.

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

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

Theft from the person – Theft (including attempts) of a purse, wallet, cash etc. directly from the person of the victim, but without physical force or the threat of it. One BCS component of theft from the person is **snatch theft** (there may be an element of force involved but this is just enough to snatch the property away), which is added to **robbery** to create a category of **mugging**. The other is **stealth theft**.

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

Urban areas – The National Statistics rural and urban area classification 2004 has been used in this report. Urban areas are those classified as ‘urban – sparse’ and ‘urban – less sparse’. More information is available on the National Statistics website at: (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>).

Vehicle-related theft – In the BCS this covers three categories: (i) theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered); (ii) theft from motor vehicles (i.e. theft of parts, accessories and contents); and (iii) attempts. No distinction is made between attempted thefts of and attempted thefts from motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender’s intention. If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft of a motor vehicle. The BCS covers vehicle-related theft against private households only and includes cars, vans, motorbikes, motor-scooters or mopeds used for non-commercial purposes.

Weighted data – Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the BCS sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas; and the selection of multi-household addresses. Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response.

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Copies of recent Home Office publications based on the British Crime Survey, including reports that report jointly on the BCS and police recorded crime, can be downloaded from:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>

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