

Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Wales factsheet

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Levels of crime in Wales

Police recorded crime (Tables 1 and 2)

- In 2008/09 the total recorded crime rate in Wales (79 offences per 1,000 population) was below the rate for England and Wales as a whole (86 offences per 1,000 population). The recorded crime rates in Wales as a whole were the same or lower than the overall England and Wales rates in all the main offence groups with the exception of criminal damage.
- The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Wales fell by three per cent in 2008/09 compared with a reduction of five per cent across England and Wales as a whole.
- There were reductions across all the main offence groups compared with 2007/08 with the exception of other theft offences which rose by one per cent. The number of offences against vehicles fell by seven per cent, while violence against the person and burglary both decreased by four per cent. Criminal damage fell by five per cent.

British Crime Survey (Tables 3 and 4 and 'Understanding BCS data' text box on page 6)

- The risk of victimisation (the proportion of the population who were victimised once or more in the last 12 months) for both personal and household crime was lower in Wales overall than for England and Wales as a whole.
- The incidence rate of all BCS violence was lower in Wales, while the incidence rates of vehicle-related theft and burglary were the same, compared with the average for England and Wales.
- The incidence rate of household and personal crime in Wales remained stable showing no significant change between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS.
- Burglary, all vehicle-related theft and all BCS violence remained stable showing no significant change between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS.

Levels of crime by police force area

Police recorded crime (Tables 1 and 2)

- Rates of total recorded crime were below the rate for England and Wales as a whole in two of the four Police force areas in Wales. The lowest rate in Wales was in Dyfed-Powys (48 offences per 1,000 population) while the highest rate was recorded in South Wales (95 offences per 1,000 population).
- Rates of recorded crime in Dyfed-Powys were lower than England and Wales across all the main offence groups. In North Wales the rates were lower than England and Wales for burglary, offences against vehicles and other theft offences but the same as the England and Wales figure for violence against the person and criminal damage. Conversely, the rates in South Wales were higher than those for England and Wales in all the main offence groups except burglary where it was the same. Gwent had lower rates than England and Wales for burglary and other theft offences but for the other main groups they were higher.
- Total recorded crime decreased by six per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09 in Dyfed-Powys, and by five per cent in South Wales. North Wales and Gwent saw a one per cent increase over the same period.
- Offences of violence against the person decreased by eight per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09 in Gwent, five per cent in Dyfed-Powys, four per cent in South Wales and remained stable in North Wales. Burglary decreased by ten per cent in South Wales but rose by six per cent in North Wales, five per cent in Gwent and one per cent in Dyfed-Powys. All Welsh forces recorded a reduction in criminal damage.

British Crime Survey (Tables 3 and 4)

Only BCS results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level are highlighted in the text (see text box 'Understanding BCS data' on page 6).

- The risk of household crime was lower in Dyfed-Powys and North Wales compared with the average for England and Wales.
- The risk of personal crime was lower in Gwent, North Wales and South Wales compared with the average for England and Wales.
- The incidence rates of household and personal crime decreased in Gwent between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS but remained stable in all other police force areas in Wales. The incidence rate of vehicle-related theft decreased in North Wales while the incidence rates of burglary and all BCS violence decreased in Gwent between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Table 1 Recorded crime by police force area and England and Wales, 2008/09¹

Police force area, England and Wales	Total recorded crime (number) ²	Recorded crime rates per 1,000 population					
		Total recorded crime (rates)	Violence against the person	Burglary	Offences against vehicles ³	Other theft offences ⁴	Criminal damage
Wales	236,615	79	16	9	11	16	19
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	24,114	48	11	4	4	9	12
<i>Gwent</i>	49,171	88	17	10	13	16	22
<i>North Wales</i>	46,134	68	16	6	6	14	17
<i>South Wales</i>	117,196	95	17	11	15	20	22
England	4,402,332	86	16	11	11	20	17
England and Wales	4,703,814	86	16	11	11	19	17

1. The listed recorded crime offences are a selection of the main offence groups. For more detail on what offences are contained under these groupings, see the Recorded Crime List in Volume 2 of the main report. The population figures used are the mid-2007 population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics and are consistent with those used in the main volume.

2. Total recorded crime offences include: violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, offences against vehicles, other theft offences, fraud and forgery, drug offences, criminal damage and other offences. The England and Wales total row includes offences recorded by the British Transport Police (BTP). However, BTP figures are not included in the rest of the table.

3. Offences against vehicles includes: theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

4. See the Recorded Crime List in Volume 2 of the main report for the list of offences.

Table 2 Percentage change in recorded crime by police force area and England and Wales, 2007/08 to 2008/09¹

Police force area, England and Wales	Recorded crime					
	% change 07/08 to 08/09					
	Total recorded crime ²	Violence against the person	Burglary	Offences against vehicles ³	Other theft offences ⁴	Criminal damage
Wales	-3	-4	-4	-7	1	-5
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	-6	-5	1	-8	-3	-11
<i>Gwent</i>	1	-8	5	5	6	-3
<i>North Wales</i>	1	0	6	11	7	-9
<i>South Wales</i>	-5	-4	-10	-14	-3	-3
England	-5	-6	0	-10	-4	-10
England and Wales	-5	-6	0	-10	-4	-10

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2. Total recorded crime offences include: violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, offences against vehicles, other theft offences, fraud and forgery, drug offences, criminal damage and other offences. The England and Wales total row includes offences recorded by the British Transport Police (BTP). However, BTP figures are not included in the rest of the table.

3. Offences against vehicles includes: theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

4. See the Recorded Crime List in Volume 2 of the main report for the list of offences.

Figure 1 Rates of recorded crime per 1,000 population, by police force area, 2008/09

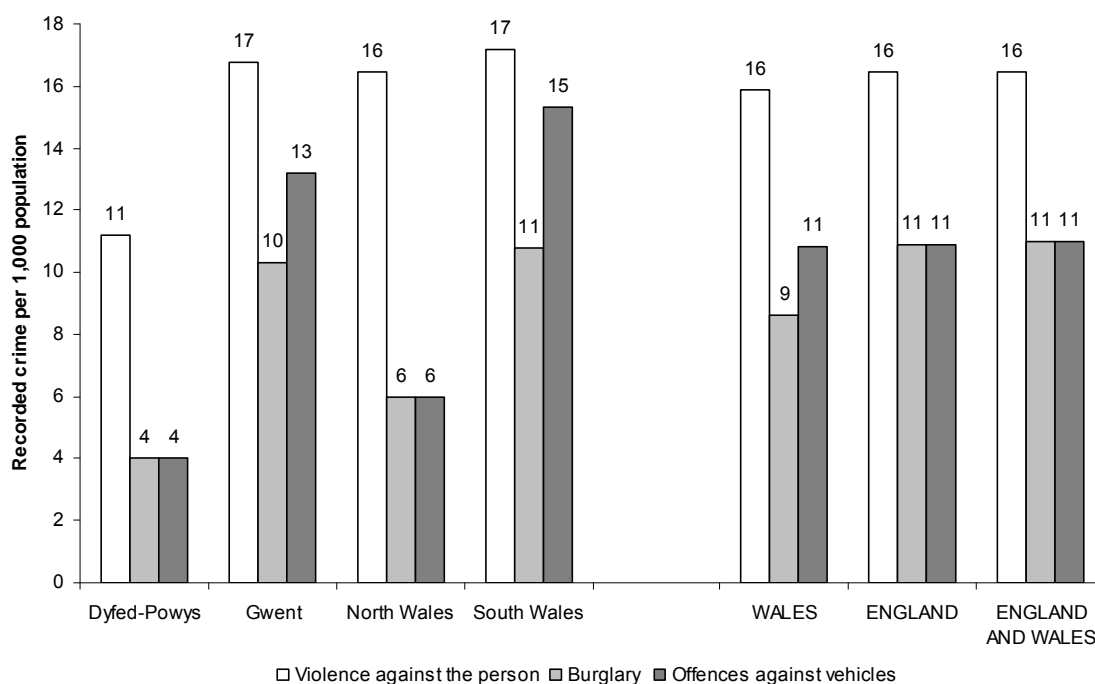


Table 3 BCS risk and incidence rates for household and personal crime by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	Household crime				Personal crime			
	% victim at least once	Different from England & Wales	Rate per 10,000 households ¹	Change 07/08 to 08/09	% victim at least once	Different from England & Wales	Rate per 10,000 adults ¹	Change 07/08 to 08/09
Wales	14	**	2,203		4	**	557	
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	9	**	1,290		4	**	736	
<i>Gwent</i>	18		2,916	**↓	4	**	482	**↓
<i>North Wales</i>	9	**	1,258		4	**	486	
<i>South Wales</i>	17		2,746		5	**	560	
England	18		2,868	**↑	6		909	
England and Wales	18		2,831		6		889	

1. Rates for household crime (including burglary and vehicle crime) are calculated per 10,000 households. Rates for personal crime (including violent crime) are calculated per 10,000 adults.

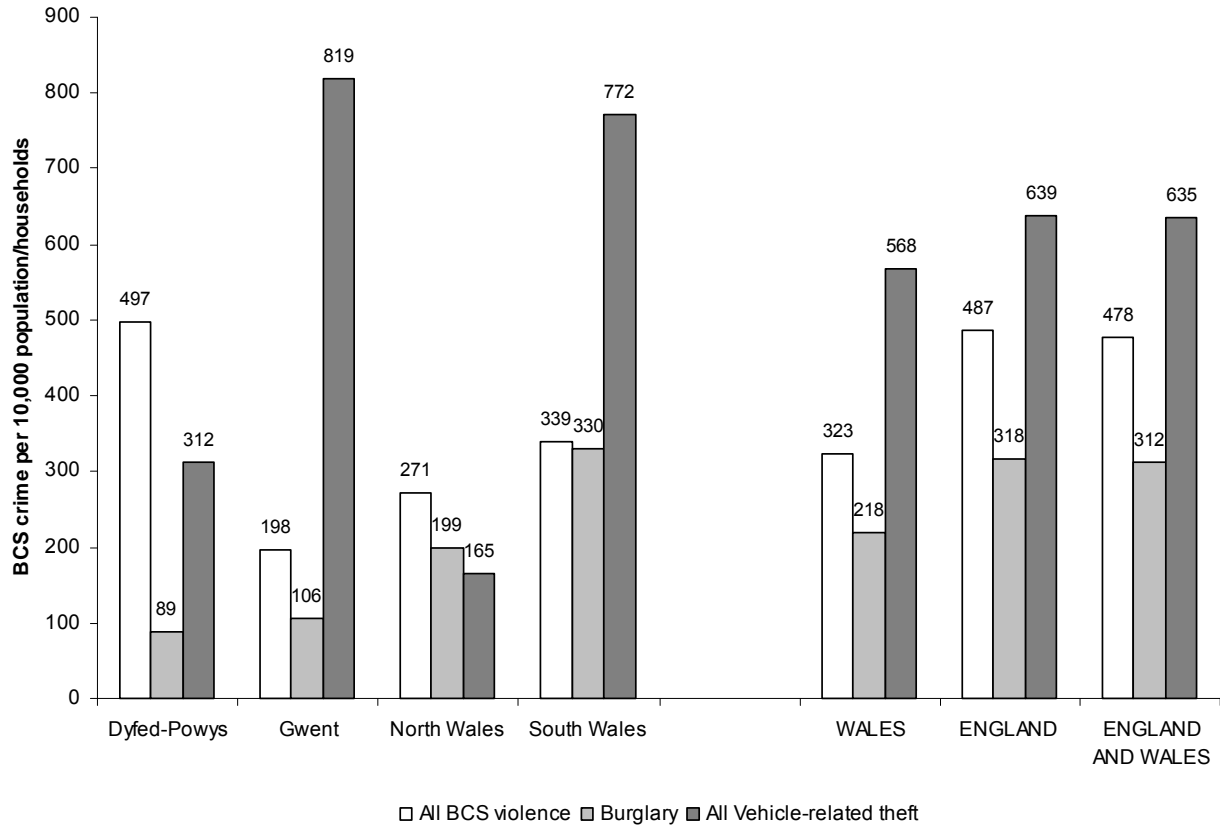
Table 4 BCS rate of crime by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	All burglary			All vehicle-related theft ²			All BCS violence		
	Rate per 10,000 households ¹	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09	Rate per 10,000 households ¹	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09	Rate per 10,000 adults ¹	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09
Wales	218			568			323	**	
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	89	**		312	**		497		
<i>Gwent</i>	106	**	**↓	819			198	**	**↓
<i>North Wales</i>	199			165	**	**↓	271	**	
<i>South Wales</i>	330			772			339		
England	318			639			487		
England and Wales	312			635			478		

1. Rates for household crime (including burglary and vehicle crime) are calculated per 10,000 households. Rates for personal crime (including violent crime) are calculated per 10,000 adults.

2. Vehicle-related theft² consists of thefts of and from, and attempted thefts of and from, vehicles. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

Figure 2 BCS incidence rate by type of crime for police force area and England and Wales, 2008/09



Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in Wales (Table 5)

- Eighteen per cent of people in Wales had high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour in their local area, similar to the England and Wales average (17%). There were lower levels of perceived anti-social behaviour in Dyfed-Powys and North Wales compared with the average for England and Wales.
- The proportion of people perceiving drug use or dealing as a problem was greater in Wales overall (32%) and in South Wales (36%) in particular, compared with England and Wales (28%). There was no significant difference in the proportion of people perceiving drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem in Wales or for any Welsh police force compared with the average for England and Wales.
- Between the 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS levels of perceived anti-social behaviour, drug use or dealing as a problem and drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem remained stable in Wales and in each Welsh police force area. Perception of drug use or dealing as a problem increased in England and Wales overall.

Table 5 BCS perceptions of anti-social behaviour by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	2008/09 BCS								
	High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ¹			Drug use or dealing problem in area ²			Drunk or rowdy behaviour problem in area ³		
	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09
Wales	18			32			28		
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	11	**		25			24		
<i>Gwent</i>	21			34			29		
<i>North Wales</i>	11	**		26	**		22		
<i>South Wales</i>	23			36	**		33		
England	16			27		**↑	26		**↑
England and Wales	17			28		**↑	26		

1. Measured using the seven-strand measure of anti-social behaviour. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.
 2. The percentage of people who perceived there to be a very/fairly big problem with drug use or dealing in their local area.
 3. The percentage of people who perceived there to be a very/fairly big problem with drunk or rowdy behaviour in their local area.

Effectiveness and fairness of the criminal justice system (CJS) in Wales (Table 6)

- Fifty-six per cent of people in Wales were confident that overall the CJS was fair, which was lower than in England and Wales (59%). Confidence was lower in Gwent (52%) than England and Wales overall.
- Thirty-six per cent of people in Wales felt confident that overall the CJS was effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice. This was similar to the England and Wales average of 38%. Confidence was lower in Gwent (31%) compared with the average for England and Wales.

Table 6 BCS fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	2008/09 BCS			
	CJS fairness ¹		CJS effectiveness ²	
	%	Different from England & Wales	%	Different from England & Wales
Wales	56	**	36	
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	55		36	
<i>Gwent</i>	52	**	31	**
<i>North Wales</i>	60		40	
<i>South Wales</i>	56		37	
England	59		38	
England and Wales	59		38	

1. The percentage of people who were very/fairly confident that the CJS as a whole was fair. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

2. The percentage of people who were very/fairly confident that the CJS as a whole was effective. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

Attitudes to the local police in Wales (Table 7)

- Forty-nine per cent of people in Wales agreed that the police were doing a good or excellent job which was lower than the average for England and Wales (53%). In Gwent and South Wales the proportion of people who agreed was also lower compared with the average for England and Wales (47% and 48% respectively).
- The proportion of people in Wales who agreed that the police understand and deal with local concerns was similar to England and Wales (52% compared with 54%). In Gwent (50%) and South Wales (48%) police force areas the proportion of those who agreed was lower compared with England and Wales but the overall proportion was higher in Dyfed-Powys (60%).
- In Gwent there were significant increases between 2007/08 and 2008/09 BCS interviews in the proportion of people agreeing that the police were doing a good or excellent job and understood and dealt with local concerns.

Table 7 BCS attitudes to local police by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	2008/09 BCS					
	Rating of local police ¹			Police deal with local concerns ²		
	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 07/08 to 08/09
Wales	49	**		52		
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	53			60	**	
<i>Gwent</i>	47	**	**↑	50	**	**↑
<i>North Wales</i>	52			55		
<i>South Wales</i>	48	**		48	**	
England	53			54		**↑
England and Wales	53			54		**↑

1. The percentage of people saying their local police did a good/excellent job. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

2. The percentage of people agreeing that the police in the area are dealing with the things that matter to people in the community. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

Attitudes to the local police working in partnership in Wales (Table 8)

- Forty-four per cent of people in Wales agreed that the police and local council were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area, which was lower than the average for England and Wales (49%). The proportion of those agreeing was also lower in South Wales (40%) than in England and Wales overall.
- The proportion of people in Wales who agreed that the police and local council sought people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area was lower compared with the average for England and Wales (41% compared with 45%). The proportion of those agreeing was lower in Gwent (38%) than England and Wales overall.

Table 8 BCS attitudes to the local police working in partnership by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	2008/09 BCS			
	Police and local councils are dealing with issues ¹		Police and local councils seek people's views ²	
	%	Different from England & Wales	%	Different from England & Wales
Wales	44	**	41	**
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	48		44	
<i>Gwent</i>	46		38	**
<i>North Wales</i>	46		43	
<i>South Wales</i>	40	**	40	
England	49		45	
England and Wales	49		45	

1. The percentage of people who strongly/tend to agree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

2. The percentage of people who strongly/tend to agree that the police and local council seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area. See Volume 2 of the main report for more information.

Understanding BCS data

- *As 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. Small sample sizes mean that apparently large changes between years or differences between groups may not be statistically significant.*
- *Statistically significant differences from England and Wales and between 2007/08 and 2008/09 are shown in Tables 3 to 8. A double asterisk indicates significant differences at the five per cent level. The arrows indicate direction of change.*
- *Only BCS results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level are highlighted in the text within this factsheet.*
- *BCS incidents are geographically located in the area where the respondent lives rather than at the precise location of the incident.*
- *For unweighted bases, please see tables for Chapter 7 'Geographic patterns of crime', in Volume 1 of the main report (referenced below).*

Violent and sexual offences involving the use of knives and other sharp instruments

Police recorded crime (Table 9)

In 2008/09, there were 951 selected serious offences¹ recorded by the police that involved a knife or other sharp instrument in Wales, representing four per cent of the total of selected serious offences.

For all offence types except threats to kill, the proportion of offences involving a knife was lower in Wales than in England and Wales overall. The proportion of robberies where a knife was used fell from 22 per cent to 17 per cent between 2007/08 and 2008/09. The number of recorded robberies in Wales where a knife was involved fell by 27 per cent over the period. Comparisons for the other offence groups are not made for three reasons: the number of offences are too small for meaningful comparison to be made; the collection was expanded in 2008/09 so for certain offences there is only data for one year; and because there was a clarification in the Counting Rules for GBH without intent offences that means they are not comparable across the two years.

Table 9 Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2008/09¹

Police force area, English regions and Wales	Total of selected serious offences ¹		Attempted murder		Threats to kill		ABH and GBH ²		Robbery		Recorded crime Rape and sexual assaults	
	Offences involving a knife		Offences involving a knife		Offences involving a knife		Offences involving a knife		Offences involving a knife		Offences involving a knife	
	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife	% involving a knife
Wales	951	4	10	-	85	17	645	3	207	17	4	0
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	83	3	2	-	15	21	65	2	1	3	0	0
<i>Gwent</i>	206	3	3	-	18	10	170	3	13	6	2	1
<i>North Wales</i>	212	4	2	-	19	18	165	4	26	17	0	0
<i>South Wales</i>	450	4	3	-	33	21	245	2	167	21	2	0
England	36,562	7	260	48	1,455	16	18,219	5	16,267	21	361	1
England and Wales³	37,830	7	271	47	1,549	16	18,940	5	16,701	21	369	1

1. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.

2. Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

3. Includes British Transport Police.

- Indicates that data are not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50.

Detection rates by method of detection by police force area and England and Wales, 2008/09

Police recorded crime (Table 10)

Detection rates show some differences between forces; however, these need to be interpreted with care (see Chapter 6 of Volume 1 of the main publication for more information). Sanction detection rates, where an offender is subject to some formal sanction, are now the preferred measure, providing a more meaningful comparison of individual force performance.

The proportion of recorded crimes cleared up by a sanction detection in Wales was 33 per cent in 2008/09 which is higher than England and Wales overall (28%). The highest rate in Wales was in Dyfed-Powys (44 per cent) while the lowest rate was recorded in South Wales (28%). North Wales had a sanction detection rate of 42 per cent and Gwent had a sanction detection rate of 30 per cent.

¹ Figures for certain types of offence recorded by police that involve the use of a knife or other sharp instrument have been collected since April 2007. In 2007/08 these offences comprised attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with and without intent, and robbery. The offence coverage was extended from April 2008 to include other categories of violent and sexual offences likely to involve knife use (threats to kill, actual bodily harm, rape and sexual assaults).

Table 10 Detection rates by method of detection, police force area and England and Wales, 2008/09¹

Numbers and percentages									
Police force area, England and Wales	Recorded offences	Detection rate ²	Sanction detection rate	Detection rate by method of detection					
				Charge/ summons	Cautions	Taken into consideration		Penalty notices for disorder	Cannabis Warnings ³
						Previously recorded	Not previously recorded		
Wales	236,615	33	33	18	8	2	0	3	2
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	24,114	44	44	22	15	1	1	3	3
<i>Gwent</i>	49,171	30	30	14	9	1	0	3	2
<i>North Wales</i> ²	46,134	43	42	21	10	2	1	6	2
<i>South Wales</i>	117,196	28	28	17	5	2	0	2	2
England	4,402,332	28	28	15	7	2	0	2	2
England and Wales⁴	4,703,814	28	28	15	7	2	0	2	2

1. Percentage of offences detected.

2. The overall detection rate includes a small number of Youth Restorative Disposals submitted to the Home Office as part of a pilot scheme, together with non-sanction detections undertaken by North Wales and seven English forces.

3. Since 26 January 2009, PNDs can be given for cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted together with Cannabis Warnings.

4. Includes British Transport Police.

References and further reading

Walker, A., Flatley, J., Kershaw, C and Moon, D. (2009) *Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Volume 1. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/09.* London: Home Office.

Smith, K. and Hoare, J. (2009) *Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Volume 2. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/09.* London: Home Office.

For further detailed information, please see the 'Geographic patterns of crime' chapter in the main publication.

Additional tables reporting statistics for individual Community Safety Partnerships in Wales (termed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England), Basic Command Units, police force areas and regions are available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0809.html>