



Home Office

BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND TOLERANT SOCIETY

Home Office Statistical Bulletin

The 2001 British Crime Survey

First Results, England and Wales

18/01

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MAIN POINTS

The British Crime Survey (BCS) has moved to an annual cycle, with interviews taking place throughout the year. First results from the 2001 BCS are reported here. The results are based on a subsample of respondents, mostly interviewed in the first quarter of 2001, and the methodology used is the same as in previous sweeps.

The BCS shows a fall between 1999 and 2000 in nearly all the offences it measures. Falls were statistically significant for burglary (17%), all vehicle-related theft (11%), other household theft (16%) and violent crime (19%) (Section 3; Figure below).

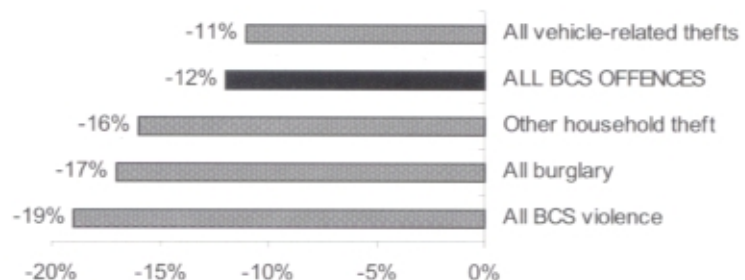
Overall there was a 12% fall between 1999 and 2000 in BCS crime. Between 1995 and 2000, BCS crime fell by 33%, averaging around 6% per year (Section 3).

There was a 13% fall between 1999 and 2000 in BCS crimes that can be directly compared to police recorded offences. The estimated fall in comparable police recorded crimes was 3% (Section 3).

The greater decrease in BCS crime than in police figures is largely associated with increases in the estimated proportion of crimes reported to the police, this being most evident for violent crime and some increases in recording (Section 3).

There have also been general increases in victims' assessment of the seriousness of their crime (Section 3). However, between 2000 and 2001 the level of concern about crime has slightly decreased across several crime categories (Section 5).

Significant changes in BCS crime, 1999 to 2000



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We also very much appreciated the support given to us during the preparation of the report by Andy Myhill and Penelope Maggs (both of the Crime Surveys Section) and past members of the section who contributed to questionnaire development and production of analysis systems. Thanks are also due to Pat Mayhew, Jon Simmons and other colleagues who made very useful comments as the report was nearing completion.

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*The views expressed in this report are those of the authors,
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For further information about the survey please email the Crime Surveys Section, Crime and Criminal Justice Unit, at bcsinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, or write to the Crime Surveys Section at Room 839 at the above address.

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Preface

Results presented here show that BCS crime has fallen by a third between 1995 and 2000, with burglary and vehicle-related thefts both declining by 39% and violence by 36%. Between 1999 and 2000 there has been the largest ever annual decrease in BCS crime (12%) with large falls for burglary (17%), vehicle thefts (11%) and violence (19%). This is the third successive sweep of the BCS where the overall level of household and personal crime has fallen. The overall victimisation rate is also at its lowest since the survey's inception in 1981.

Over this five-year period police-recorded crime has also fallen, being down by close to 10%. This Bulletin discusses at length comparisons between BCS and police-recorded crime figures. The greater decline in BCS crime as compared with police-recorded crime can be largely explained by increases in police recording of crimes reported to them. This may have been prompted by guidance from ACPO (1995, 2001) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC, 1996).

Explaining the trends

The main report on the 2000 BCS (Kershaw et al., 2000) discusses in detail possible reasons that account for these downward trends in crime. Increased levels of home and vehicle security are very likely to have played in these reductions. Local policing and crime reduction initiatives may have also played a part, such as the statutory local crime partnerships introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the various initiatives funded by the Crime Reduction Programme and the efforts of police forces in response to new performance targets.

The state of the economy, with low levels of unemployment, may well have depressed levels of property crime. Traditional economic models for crime (for example, see Dhiri et al., 1999) have tended to predict increases in crime levels. These may need to be revisited, as growing evidence emerges that there has been a departure from historic crime trends. Furthermore, it is possible that the nature of crime is changing, and that crimes of the future will less concern the familiar household crimes – such as burglary or vehicle theft – but rather new types of crime involving fraud, or the Internet, or personal crimes such as stalking and sexual abuse. Traditional tools for measuring crime, including this one, are still grappling with the problem of measuring these forms of crime.¹

Whatever underlies these trends, one further point is worth making. The picture of declining property crime since the mid 1990s reflects that in many other countries. For example, Barclay et al. (2001) report that between 1995 and 1999 there was an average 14% fall in police-recorded domestic burglary across all European Union Member States, with the greatest decrease in England and Wales (31%) followed by Germany (29%), Austria (26%), the Netherlands (22%) and France (20%). The picture with respect to all police-recorded crime is more mixed, with an overall 1% decline in EU States between 1995 and 1999, with the greatest decrease in the Irish Republic (21%) followed by England and Wales (10%), Scotland (8%) and Denmark (8%). Barclay et al. also report that between 1995 and 1999 domestic burglary in the US fell by 19% and all crime by 16%. Killias and Aeby (2000) reported that average crime rates for 36 European countries showed lower figures in 1996 than 1992 for a variety of thefts, including burglary and vehicle theft – although drug offences, assault and robbery figures rose. Many Canadian property crime rates have also fallen since the early 1990s (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 1999).

1. Some questions on 'crimes of the future' are planned for the 2002 BCS.

2001 British Crime Survey

Results from the US National Crime Victimization Survey (Rennison, 2001) show sustained falls in crime, with the 2000 sweep of the survey reporting the lowest levels of property crime and also violent victimisation since the inception of the survey in 1973 (between 1999 and 2000 the NCVS records a fall in property crime of 10% and in violent crime of 15%). Closer to home, the Scottish Crime Survey (MVA Ltd, 2000) recorded a 13% fall in overall crime between 1995 and 1999, though the survey records a 33% increase for violent crime over this period (part of the increase being attributed to new 'screener' questions on domestic violence). The International Crime Victims Survey (Van Kesteren et al., 2000), a survey conducted across a wide range of industrialised countries, suggests that crime rose between 1988 and 1991, stabilised or fell in 1995, then fell back more in 1999. Trends in crime in England and Wales should be within the context of the various reductions in crime across many countries over recent years.

Concern about crime

Results presented here indicate that the public is now more positive about national crime trends, with only around a quarter believing that the national crime rate has risen 'a lot' in the previous two years (down from a third in 2000). Responses to a range of questions on levels of 'worry' indicate a declining level of public concern since peak levels of concern in 1994. There is some apparent logic to these trends, in that levels of worry have tended to decline as levels of crime measured by the BCS and by the police have declined. However, levels of worry do not necessarily follow and often lag behind changes in levels of crime. For example, between 1992 and 1994 recorded crime figures fell by 6%, yet worry was higher in 1994.

Although the BCS provides strong evidence that fear of crime is related to levels of crime and disorder in a respondent's neighbourhood, this does not mean that fear of crime is directly related to an individual's crime risk. For example, young men tend to express lower than average levels of worry for most crimes (with the exception of vehicle-related crime) even though they are at highest risk of being victims of a violent crime. Reducing risk for high risk groups may not always reduce general levels of concern. This suggests that strategies for reducing public concern about crime will not be identical with those used to reduce crime itself, with there being a need to communicate with and reassure the public that effective action is being taken to reduce crime and disorder.

Results from the enlarged annual BCS sample are due to appear in the summer of 2002, at the same time as those from the police recorded crime statistics. This will provide the public with a much more comprehensive picture of crime in England and Wales than has been available in the past. The BCS will continue to provide an important source of information on crime and related matters that will serve to inform and evaluate policy.

Summary

METHODS

- The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures crimes against adults (16 and over) living in private households in England and Wales. It has been conducted by the Home Office nine times since 1982. This is the first report from the 2001 sweep, which measured crime occurring in 2000.
- **This paper reports on the results of 8,985 respondents – ‘the 2001 old methodology sample’.** The BCS has increased its sample size from around 20,000 interviews in 2000 to approximately 40,000 in 2001. In preparation for this enlargement a methodological review was commissioned. The main recommendation of this review was to sample respondents *continuously* throughout the year, rather than continue with the traditional design that sampled most respondents in the first quarter of the year. This change has been accepted. It may affect the survey estimates and to test for any effects from this change the 2001 survey had embedded within it an ‘old methodology’ sample that uses the methodology applied since 1982. This Bulletin reports on the findings of this ‘old methodology’ sample only. The achieved sample size for the replica is 8,985 respondents with a response rate of 71%.
- It is important to note that the sample size for the ‘old methodology’ sample is around half of that in the 2000 BCS. For this reason the confidence intervals around the estimates reported within are wider than in previous years. Full results of the 2001 continuous sample are planned to be published in the summer of 2002 along with a technical report assessing the effect of the changes on the estimates. However, an initial analysis of the new-style interviews covering the first six months of 2001 has not suggested that the new methodology is giving rise to crime estimates any greater than those under the old methodology. Further details are provided in Section 1 of this Bulletin.

EXTENT OF CRIME IN 2000

- The BCS estimates there were 12,899,000 crimes against adults living in private households in 2000. Table A shows details by offence category.

Table A **Number of crimes estimated by the BCS in 2000**

	<i>Estimated number of crimes in thousands</i>
Vandalism (against vehicles and other private property)	2,608
All property thefts	7,672
All burglary	1,063
All vehicle-related thefts	2,619
Bicycle thefts	377
Other household thefts	1,616
Other theft of personal property and stealth thefts	1,997
All violence	2,618
Mugging (robbery and snatch thefts)	312
Wounding	417
Common assault	1,890
All BCS crime	12,899

Notes: Subtotals do not add to total due to rounding.

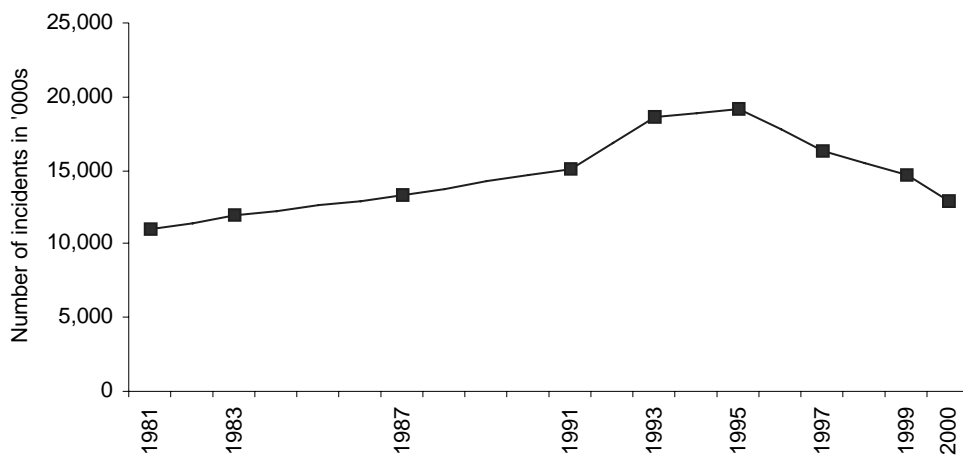
Comparison of BCS and recorded crime

- About three-quarters of BCS crimes measured in 2000 fall into offence categories that can be compared with police-recorded crime statistics, and half of recorded crime can be compared with BCS crime. For this comparable subset, there are around four times as many crimes according to the BCS than the police record. This is mainly because only 45% of comparable crimes are reported to the police.
- Not all reported crimes are recorded by the police. In 2001 the BCS estimates that 56% of the comparable subset were recorded. Thefts of and from cars and burglaries with loss are most likely to be recorded; attempted burglary, theft from the person and common assault are the least likely to be recorded.

TRENDS IN CRIME

- The BCS estimates there was a 12% fall in crimes against people living in private households between 1999 and 2000. This is the third successive fall recorded by the BCS, with BCS crime falling by 15% between 1995 and 1997 and 10% between 1997 and 1999.
- The BCS shows falls between 1999 and 2000 in nearly all the offences it measures. Falls were statistically significant for burglary (17%), all vehicle-related theft (11%), other household theft (16%) and violent crime (19%).
- Among individual crime categories there were statistically significant falls for attempted vehicle theft (19%) and wounding (34%). There was a large decrease for robbery (22%), but this is not statistically significant being subject to a large margin of error given the small number of cases on which this figure is based (see Table A2.2). There was also a decline for common assault (14%) but again this was not statistically significant.
- There were increases for theft from the person (2%) and theft of vehicles (1%), but neither of these was statistically significant.
- The long-term trend over 1981 to 2000 shows that the gradual rise in BCS crime during the 1980s and the early 1990s continue to be reversed (Figure A). Even so, the number of crimes measured by the BCS is still 17% higher than in 1981.

Figure A Trends in BCS crime 1981 to 2000

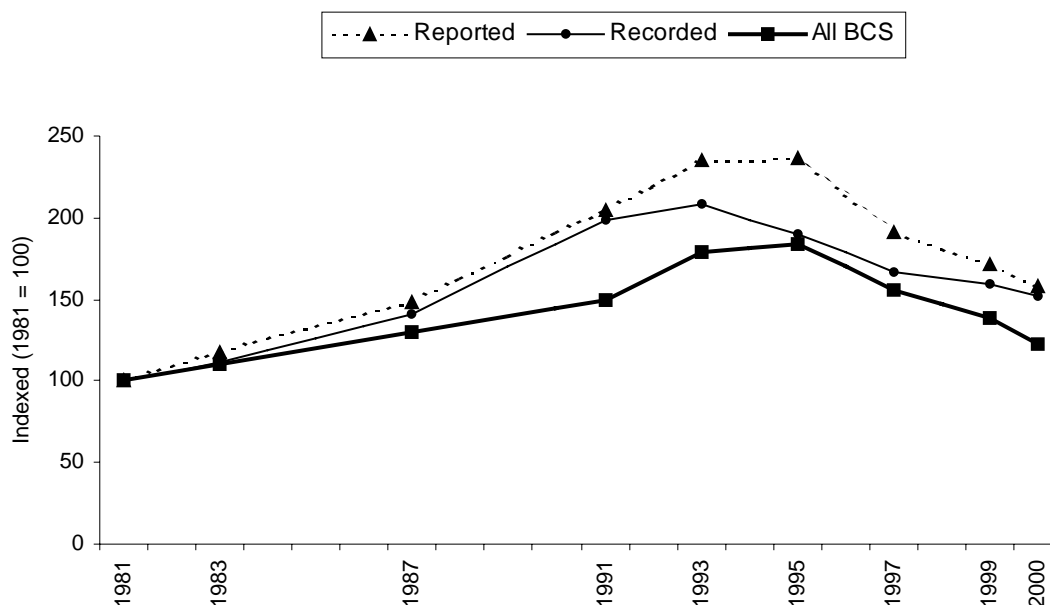


- The proportion of people who were victims of some type of crime once or more during the year (prevalence rate) fell from 30% in 1999 to 27% in 2000. This is the lowest overall victimisation rate ever measured by the BCS. This is consistent with the 17% estimated increase in crime since 1981, as there have been increases in population numbers and the degree of repeat victimisation over this period.
- The most common household crimes were 'other household theft' (5.3% of households victims in 2000) and theft from a vehicle (5.2%). In all, 6.8% of vehicle-owning households experienced a theft from their vehicle in 2000 and 6.1% were victims of vehicle vandalism. The most common violent crime was common assault, with 2.8% of adults being victims in 2000.

Trends in comparable crime

- Between 1999 and 2000, the police recorded a 3% fall in those crimes that can be compared to BCS categories. Comparable BCS crime fell by 13%. Both measures therefore suggest a fall in crime over this period.
- Trends in recorded crime are influenced by variations in people's willingness to report crime to the police, and in police recording practice. Figure B compares trends in recorded crime, BCS crime and reported BCS crime, since 1981. To ensure consistency, trends in comparable crimes since 1981 use what is termed an 'old comparable' subset (see Glossary for more details).

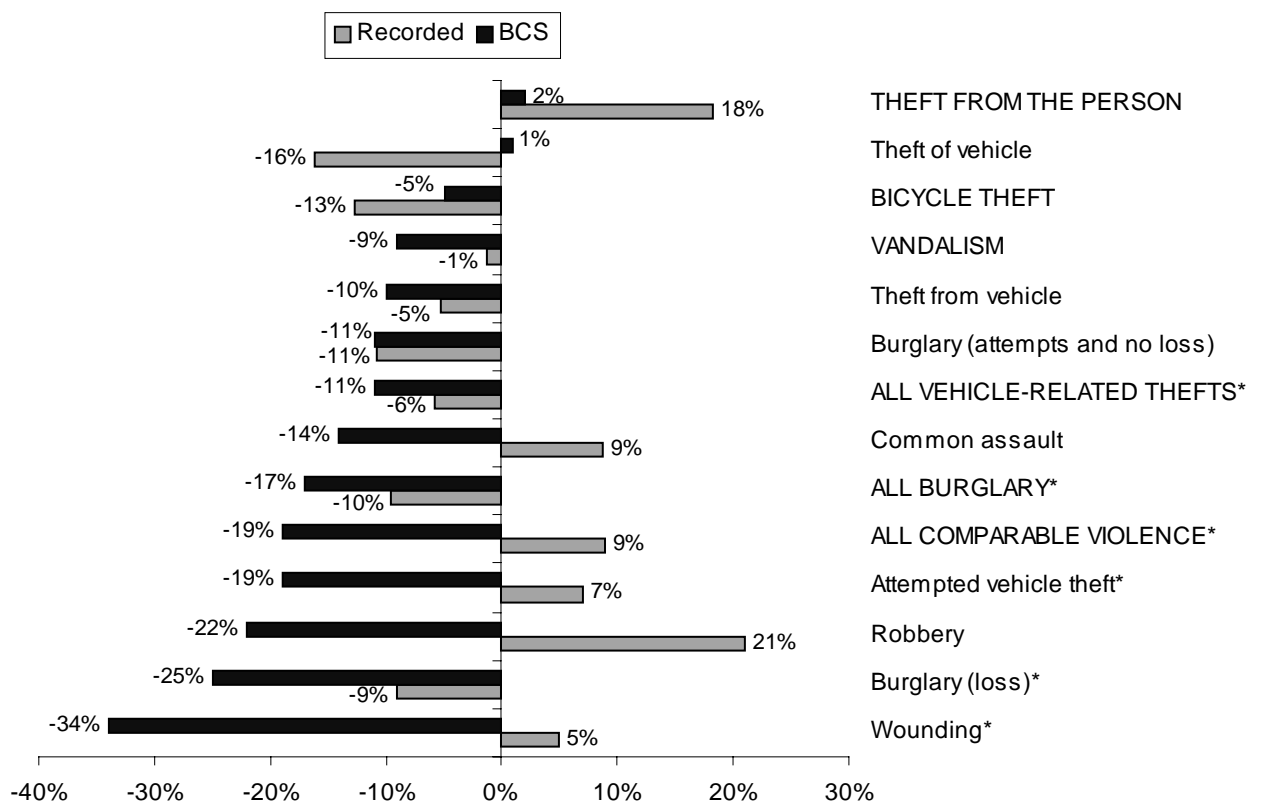
Figure B Indexed trends in BCS and police recorded crime, 1981 to 2000 (1981=100)



Notes: Based on all old comparable crime, as per Table A2.1 and Glossary.
 Reported crime is the BCS estimate of the number of crimes that people/households reported to the police. The figure is worked out from the rate of BCS crimes reported to the police multiplied by the population for personal offences and the number of households for household offences in England and Wales.
 Recorded crime is adjusted for changes in police counting rules and limited to those crimes that can be compared with BCS.

- During the 1980s, the steeper rise in recorded crime was consistent with an increase in reported incidents. When in 1991 recorded crime started first to level off and then fall, this was more consistent with a fall in the proportion of reported crimes being recorded by the police. Between 1995 and 1997 recorded crime showed the same trend as BCS crime, partly because levels of reporting and recording did not change significantly over this period. Between 1997 and 1999, the greater fall in BCS crime and reported crime compared to recorded crime is consistent with the overall pattern of an **increase** in the extent to which crimes reported to the police are recorded by them. Between 1999 and 2000 the greater decrease in BCS crime than in police figures is largely associated with **increases in the estimated proportion of crimes reported to the police**, this being most evident for violent crime and **some increases** in recording.
- For most offences that can be compared, the BCS gives a more favourable picture of trends between 1999 and 2000 than do police figures, with larger decreases, or smaller rises (Figure C). The greater decrease in BCS crime than in police figures is consistent with increases in the proportion of crimes reported to the police and some increase in police recording of reported crime. This increase in reporting was particularly high for violent crime.

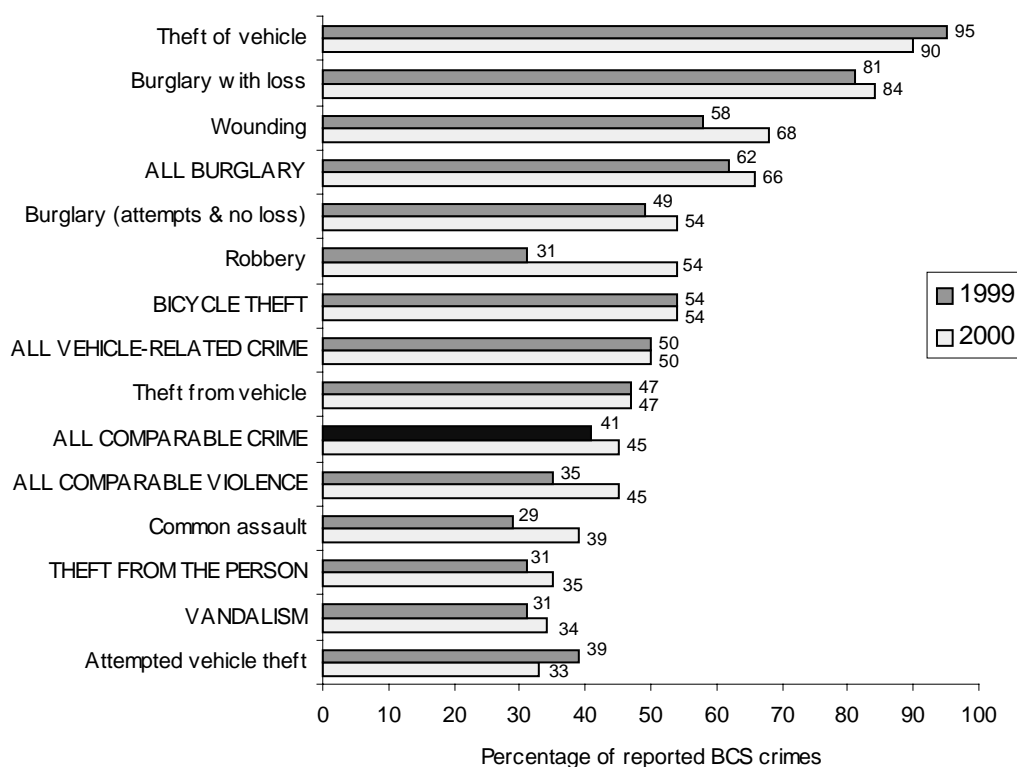
Figure C Change in police recorded and BCS crime, 1999 to 2000



Notes: Offences in capital letters are the broad offence categories that the others fall into. Those cases where the BCS change from 1999 to 2000 was significant are noted with an asterisk.

- Figure D looks at the proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police in 1999 and 2000. The figure shows the number of people who suffered a crime and the percentage for each crime category who reported the crime to the police. In the last year the percentage of crimes reported to the police has increased from 41% to 45% for all comparable crime and 39% to 42% for all BCS crime respectively. The increases in reporting are most marked for violence, 35% to 45%.

Figure D Proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1999 to 2000



RISK OF VICTIMISATION

Domestic burglary

- The estimated number of domestic burglaries has fallen significantly between 1999 and 2000 from 1,283,000 to 1,063,000, a decrease of 17%.
- Overall, 3.4% of households had a burglary (one or more) or attempted burglary in 2000 (compared with 4.3% in 1999). As in 1999, young households, single-parent households and those in areas of high physical disorder were particularly at risk. There were, however, decreases in risk for these higher risk groups as well as almost all other groups.
- The risk of burglary in rural areas (1.9%) is well below the national average. Between 1995 and 2000 the chance of being burgled in rural areas has declined and continues to be a little around half that for non-rural areas.

Non-commercial vehicle-related thefts

- The number of vehicle-related thefts has fallen significantly between 1999 and 2000 from 2,954,000 to 2,619,000, a decrease of 11%.
- There has been a decrease in the percentage of vehicle-owning households that had a vehicle theft (one or more) from 13% in 1999 to 11% in 2000. As in previous years younger households are particularly at risk. Other higher risk groups include people living in flats or maisonettes, and those in areas with a high level of disorder.
- The risk of being the victim of vehicle-related theft is lower in rural areas (6.9%) than in non-rural areas (12.5%). Since 1995 the risk has declined in both rural and non-rural areas.
- The estimated number of theft of vehicles increased by 1% between 1999 and 2000. A note of caution is in order, however, as comparable police-recorded thefts of vehicle declined by 16% over this period. Thefts of vehicles have had traditionally high reporting and recording rates, and police figures are thought to give a reliable guide to trends for such offences. The BCS increase on theft of vehicles is *not* statistically significant and when attention is limited to *reported* thefts of vehicles then numbers actually decrease by 4%.¹ Thefts of vehicles are relatively rare offences and the small numbers mean that estimates of reporting and police recording rates should also be treated with caution. When results are available from the full annual 40,000 sample we will be in a much better position to judge the trend between 1999 and 2000.

Violent crime

- The number of violent crimes has fallen significantly between 1999 and 2000 from 3,246,000 to 2,618,000, a decrease of 19%.
- The average risk of being a victim of violent crime in 2000 was 3.7% as compared with 4.2% in 1999. Merged figures for 1999 and 2000 show that young men aged 16 to 24 were most at risk – 18.8%. Other higher risk groups include single people (9.8%), single parents (9.2%), private renters (8.9%), young women aged 16 to 24 (8.7%), and the unemployed (8.2%).
- Among individual violent crime categories there was a statistically significant fall between 1999 and 2000 for wounding (34%). There were declines for other categories such as common assault (14%) and robbery (22%) but these are not statistically significant. Again, when results are available from the full annual 40,000 sample, we will be in a much better position to judge the trend between 1999 and 2000 for rarer crimes such as robbery.
- The risk of becoming a victim of violent crime in rural areas in 2000 was 2.4% and in non-rural areas 4.1%.

1. Estimated number of reported thefts of vehicles decreased from 315,000 in 1999 to 303,000 in 2000.

CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

- The public were slightly more positive about crime trends in 2001 than they have been over the previous three sweeps of the BCS. Around a quarter of respondents believed crime at the national level had risen 'a lot' as compared with around a third asked an analogous question in the 2000 BCS. The percentage of respondents believing that crime had increased 'a little' was slightly down as compared with the 2000 BCS (from 34% to 32%).
- A third (34%) thought it very or fairly likely that that they would have items stolen from a car, 31% their car stolen and 24% their home burgled. More than one in ten (12%) thought it likely they would be mugged, a similar proportion as those thinking it likely they would be attacked by a stranger (11%).
- Between 2000 and 2001, the proportion who were 'very worried' about rape, physical attack, theft of a car, burglary, theft from a car and mugging fell. The 1994 BCS saw levels of worry for all types of crime reach their highest level. Though since then levels of those very worried have continued to fall. Across all crimes, the percentage of those who were very worried in 2001 is the lowest ever recorded by the BCS.
- Women were most worried about rape (26% very worried) and physical attack (25%), whilst men were most worried about having their car stolen (17% – vehicle owners only) and having something stolen from their car (15%). The BCS indicates that in 2000, less than 4% of adults suffered any form of violence, and less than 2% of vehicle-owning households had their vehicle stolen.
- Concern about crime will be linked both to people's beliefs about their chances of being victimised and what they feel about the consequences of victimisation. Levels of worry are higher among those living in high crime areas, recent victims, those who consider it likely they will be victimised and those who are socially or economically vulnerable.
- The Home Office has the aim of ensuring that by the 31 March 2002 the levels of worry for burglary, car crime and violence are lower than in 1998. The BCS is being used to monitor progress in achieving this target. Figures for 1998, 2000 and 2001 show that, for all three measures, fear has continued to fall over successive sweeps of the BCS. Between 1998 and 2000 only the fall for violence was statistically significant. However, between 1998 and 2001, both the decrease in worry about violence and burglary were statistically significant.

1 Introduction

The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures crimes against adults (16 and over) living in private households in England and Wales. It has been conducted by the Home Office nine times since 1982. This is the first report from the 2001 sweep, which measured crime occurring in 2000.

The main purposes of the BCS are to:

- **provide an alternative measure of crime to offences recorded by the police**
- **provide information on crime risks**
- **provide a picture of the nature of crime**
- **take up other crime-related issues.**

The BCS and police-recorded figures are complementary series which together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. Police figures provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, are an important indicator of police workload, and can be used for local crime pattern analysis. For the crime types it covers, the BCS can provide a better reflection of the true extent of crime because it includes crimes that are not reported to the police. The BCS count also gives a better indication of trends in crime over time because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, and in police recording practices. From 2002 it is planned to publish the main BCS findings at the same time as those from the police recorded crime statistics in order to provide a comprehensive picture of crime in England and Wales. Table 1.1 at the end of this section compares the main features of the two measures of crime.

CHANGES INTRODUCED IN 2001

Since 1982 the British Crime Survey has varied in sample size from around 10,000 to 20,000 respondents. Starting in January 2001 the BCS moved to an annual cycle, with a target sample size of 40,000 interviews per year. This is almost double the sample size in the 2000 sweep. The principal reason for the increased sample size is to monitor crime trends to the degree of accuracy required. In particular, a larger sample will enable better tracking of violent offences than is possible at present. The larger sample size will also allow for better monitoring of performance indicators (for example, on fear of crime and a range of Best Value Indicators for the police at force area level) and meet growing demands on the BCS to collect evidence useful for informing and evaluating policy.

In preparation for the enlargement of the survey the Home Office commissioned a methodological review (Lynn and Elliot, 2000). The key recommendations of the review have been accepted. The most important was to sample respondents *continuously* throughout the year, rather than continue with the traditional design that sampled most respondents in the first quarter of the year. In making this recommendation, Lynn and Elliot expressed serious concern regarding the feasibility of sticking with the original sample design with the much-increased annual sample. They also recommended that under continuous sampling the recall period for victimisation should be the 12 months prior to the interview, rather than relate back to the previous calendar year, and that a "spliced design", to allow comparison of the old and new methodology, should be adopted initially.

A “spliced design”, along the lines of that proposed by Lynn and Elliot, has been used during the first six months of 2001. Over this period close to half of those interviewed were sampled using the old BCS methodology and the traditional recall period (Type A interviews) and half were sampled using the continuous sampling design and new recall period (Type B interviews). The 20,000 interviews in the second half of 2001 will all be Type B interviews.

Results presented here relate to the Type A sample that replicates the old BCS design, and are based on 8,985 respondents. This is less than half the core sample size for the 2000 BCS and results in increased sampling variation. It is still, however, possible to identify statistically significant changes in levels of crime for several crime categories.

Until all the sampling for 2001 is completed it will not be possible to fully assess the impact of the change in methodology. A study of the differences between the estimates collected by sample Types A and B will be made to allow for a full assessment of the impact of the change in methodology (a detailed technical report on this is planned for publication in the summer of 2002). First results do, however, indicate that the new methodology is not giving rise to crime estimates any greater than those achieved under the old methodology. Indeed, for some categories the change in methodology appears to generate lower estimates. This possibly reflects a new system introduced in the Type B interviews that use a calendar to help respondents determine more precisely the date of their victimisation incident (see Appendix B).

STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

For ease in comparability with previous years, this paper follows the same structure and content as the 2000 BCS report. However, as mentioned above, this paper contains results for the **Type A sample (old methodology sample)** with a sample size of 8,985 people aged 16 and over. It is important to note that although this sample has been drawn using the methodology used in past BCS sweeps, the sample size is about half of last year’s resulting in wider confidence intervals¹ around the estimates. The response rate for this sweep of the survey was 71%. Appendix B gives further details of survey design and methods.

Section 2 of this Bulletin starts with BCS findings relating to the extent of crime in 2000 and how this compares with police figures for those offences which can be compared. Section 3 discusses trends in crime since the first survey measure for 1981 and between 1999 and 2000. It looks at both the trend in all BCS crimes as well as in the subset of offences that can be compared with police figures. Section 4 looks in more detail at these trends in crime for burglary, vehicle and violent crime, identifies those most at risk of victimisation, and examines the extent of multiple victimisation. Section 5 discusses public concern about crime.

As well as measuring victimisation, each BCS sweep covers a variety of other crime-related issues. Topics in the 2001 sweep included contacts with and attitudes to the police, attitudes towards sentencing and the criminal justice systems, and knowledge and use of illicit drugs. There were also special modules covering experience of fires and inter-personal violence (domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking). Two booster samples have been included, an ethnic minority booster and a youth booster, which will allow analysis of ethnic minority and young people’s experiences of crime. The boosters are all in the Type B sample interviews (see Appendix B). Reports on these topics will appear in due course.

1. See Glossary of terms for a definition of Confidence intervals.

This Bulletin does not discuss ethnic minority victimisation as the number of ethnic minority respondents in the 'old methodology' sample is too small to allow reliable analysis of results. There is some discussion of ethnic minority experience of crime in Kershaw et al. (2000). A detailed report on ethnic minority experience of crime and policing has been recently published (Clancy et al., 2001) based on results from the 2000 BCS and previous BCS sweeps.

Table 1.1 Comparison of the British Crime Survey and police-recorded crime

The British Crime Survey	Police-recorded crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting in 1982, it measures both reported and unreported crime. As such it provides a measure of trends in crime not affected by changes in reporting, or changes in police recording rules or practices • In recent years has measured crime every two years. From 2001 the BCS has moved to an annual cycle • Measures based on estimates from a sample of the population. The estimates are therefore subject to sampling error and other methodological limitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected since 1857. Provides measure of offences both reported to and recorded by the police. As such they are influenced by changes in reporting behaviour and recording rules and practices • The police figures are published annually in Home Office statistical bulletins • Only includes 'notifiable' offences which the police have to notify to the Home Office for statistical purposes • Provides an indicator of the workload of the police
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not measured crime at the small area level well, but more reliable regional information will be available from 2001 sweep onwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides data at the level of 43 police force areas and for Basic Command Units (similar in size to Local Authorities)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include crimes against: • Those under 16 • Commercial and public sector establishments • Those in institutions, and the homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes crime against: • Those under 16 • Commercial and public sector establishments • Those in institutions, and the homeless
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not measure: • Victimless crimes • Crimes where a victim is no longer available for interview • Fraud • Sexual offences (due to the small number of incidents reported to the survey and concerns about willingness of respondents to disclose such offences, estimates are not considered reliable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures: • Victimless crimes • Murder and manslaughter • Fraud • Sexual offences <p>where these have been reported to the police</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects information on what happens in crime (e.g., when crimes occur, and effects in terms of injury and property loss) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects information about the number of arrests, who is arrested, the number of crimes detected, and by what method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides information about how the risks of crime vary for different groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not show which groups of the population are most at risk of victimisation

2 Extent of crime in 2000

Offences recorded by the police are still widely used to measure levels and trends in crime. They give year-on-year changes for the full range of recorded offence categories, and across 43 police force areas. The British Crime Survey (BCS) has more restricted coverage of offences, and until 2001 has not been conducted annually. Its estimates are subject to sampling error, and it is less able to pinpoint local area differences. Results from the BCS 2001 sweep, with an enlarged annual sample size of 40,000, will provide more information at the Police Force Area (PFA) and regional level. The results presented here relate to an 'old methodology' sample consisting of 8,985 respondents.

For the offences it covers, the BCS gives a more complete estimate of crime in England and Wales since it covers both unreported and unrecorded crime. It also gives a more reliable indication of trends in crime. This is because the BCS has been conducted in the same way, and the same rules for coding crimes into offence categories have been applied, in each sweep. Moreover, its estimates are unaffected by any change in levels of reporting to the police, or in police recording practices. The 'old methodology' sample has been drawn to allow direct comparisons with results from past BCS sweeps and also to allow us to make a full assessment of the impact of moving to continuous sampling.

This section starts by looking at the total number of crimes estimated by the BCS in 2000, and numbers for the main types of crime. It then moves on to differences between BCS and police estimates for the offence categories that can be compared. It highlights the two main factors that explain the differences: incomplete reporting and incomplete recording. Trends in crime are discussed in Section 3.

Please note that due to changes in the 'counting rules' for offences recorded by the police introduced in April 1998 this report uses two comparable subsets: the 'comparable subset' is used for the study of extent in crime and comparisons between 1999 and 2000; and, the 'old comparable subset' is used for the study of trends. Further details on the comparable subsets are given in this section.

BCS CRIMES IN 2000

The BCS measures crimes against people living in private households in the year preceding the survey. The crime rates are worked out by including all crimes that are reported in the survey to have happened between January 2000 and December 2000. The 2001 'old methodology' sample therefore gives a count of these crimes in 2000 – an estimated 12,899,000. Full details of the crimes counted by the survey are given in Table A2.1 in Appendix A.¹

The numbers of BCS crimes given here are best estimates of the true number in the population of England and Wales. As these estimates are derived from a sample, they are subject to sampling error. However, the precision of estimates can be calculated and Table A2.2 indicates the range within which there is a 90% chance that the true value lies. With small samples of the population, confidence intervals can be wide. This is particularly relevant for this Bulletin's results as they are

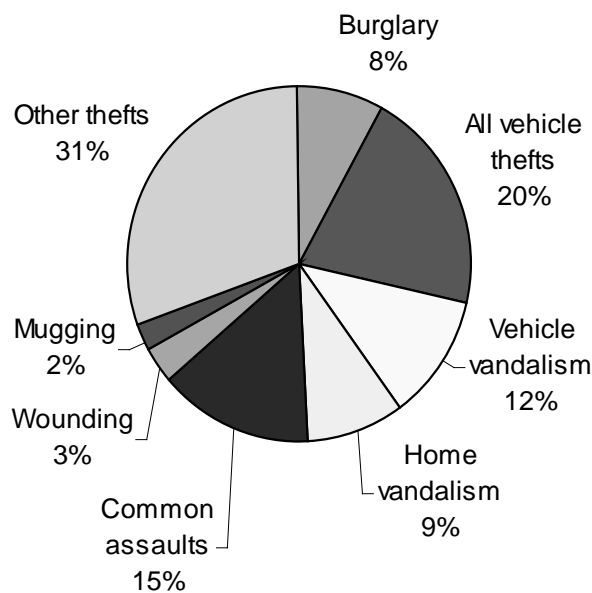
1. The number of crimes is derived by applying the rate of crime per 10,000 households or adults in the sample to the household and adult populations of England and Wales. Further details are given in Appendix C. Rates of offences per 10,000 households or adults are given in Table A2.3.

based on a sample of about half the size of the sample for the 2000 BCS. There are, however, several crime categories for which it is possible to identify statistically significant changes in levels of crime. Results also point to a definite downward trend in overall levels of crime.

The distribution of all BCS offences follow a very similar pattern to that of 1999. The most common offences involve some type of theft, 59% of the total (see Figure 2.1). Vandalism against vehicles and other household and personal property make up a further 20%. A similar proportion (20%) comprises violent offences. The majority of these are common assaults that involve at most minimal injury (15% of all BCS crimes); 3% of BCS crimes involve more significant injury (wounding) and 2% are muggings (robbery and snatch thefts).

This breakdown of crime has been fairly similar over time. Compared to the first count for 1981, vandalism is now a smaller proportion (20% as against 25% in 1981). Thefts involving vehicles is now a slightly larger proportion: they form 20% of the total now, as against 16% in 1981 though the proportion now is lower than it was in 1991 (25%). Violence is now the same as 1981 at 20%.

Figure 2.1 Breakdown of 2000 BCS crime by offence category



Between 1999 and 2000 there was a 12% fall in the number of crimes measured by the BCS. This follows a 10% fall between 1997 and 1999, with crime in 2000 being 21% lower than in 1997. Since 1995 (the peak year for BCS crime) there has been an overall fall of 33% in BCS crime. Crime in 2000 is still 17% higher than in 1981 and 8% higher than 1983. Crime is lower than in 1987 (3%), 1991 (15%) and 1993 (30%). Trends in crime are discussed in detail in Section 3 – both in relation to all BCS crimes and to the subset of offences that can be compared to police figures.

COMPARING BCS AND POLICE STATISTICS

The comparable subset

Comparisons between BCS and police figures can only be made for certain offences: the comparable subset. First, the BCS does not cover all the offences that appear in police figures, as explained in Section 1. It excludes, for instance, homicide, fraud and so-called 'victimless' crimes. Second, BCS thefts involving household and personal property cannot be compared because while they might be included in police figures they would fall into a miscellaneous category of thefts. The Glossary at the back of this Bulletin gives definitions of the various BCS offence categories, and highlights those that can be compared to police figures.

Changes to police counting rules

There is a difference between the comparable subset used in BCS analyses up to 1999 (old comparable subset) and that which can now be used. This reflects two changes:

- New 'counting rules' for offences recorded by the police were introduced in April 1998 (see Povey and Prime, 1999, for details). Certain offences are 'added up' rather differently – principally to reflect the number of victims involved in an offence rather than the occasion of the offence.
- There are two new types of offence for which the police have to provide figures, which can then be compared with the BCS. One covers common assault and assault on a constable. They have always been measured by the BCS. The other is vehicle interference and tampering. This is included here in the police count of attempted vehicle theft, because a victim will have no idea whether interference with their vehicle (e.g., a damaged lock) signified an attempt at theft or simply tampering.

The comparable subset offences that can now be used includes common assaults and vehicle tampering and interference, and provides a rather fuller police count of the relevant offences. This new *comparable subset* is used below in comparing *extent* of crime in 2000 according to the BCS and the police and when *comparing 1999 to 2000* (Section 3). However, where *trends* across the full time span of the BCS are assessed, the *old comparable subset* is used to ensure consistency (Section 3). This excludes common assault, and police figures for 1999 and 2000 are estimated to be what they would have been under the old counting rules.²

In both subsets, various adjustments are made to police figures to take account of the fact that the BCS does not cover offences against non-domestic targets (e.g., businesses) and those under 16. (Full details of the adjustments are in Appendix C.)

THE EXTENT OF CRIME ACCORDING TO POLICE AND BCS FIGURES

Of all BCS crimes, around three-quarters fall within the new comparable subset; and a half of recorded crimes do so. BCS crimes in the subset totalled 9,879,000 in 2000, as against 2,501,000

2. This was done on the basis of results from an exercise carried out by the police for the financial year 1998/9 whereby, to estimate the effect of the changes, they counted offences under both the new and old rules (see Povey and Prime, 1999). Adjustments here are based on the estimated effects of the changes in 2000 for individual offence categories. In fact, for the offences in the comparable subset, the inflationary effect of the new counting procedures was relatively small. The total number of offences in 2000 in the subset (excluding common assault and vehicle tampering and interference) was 2,235,000 according to the old rules and 2,253,000 according to the new rules. Adding in common assault and vehicle tampering and interference increases the total under the new rules to 2,501,000.

2001 British Crime Survey

recorded crimes. For this comparable subset, the BCS count for this year is close to four times higher than the recorded crime. Put another way, this means that only 25% of crimes against private individuals and their households end up in the recorded crime count. The remaining 75% make up the 'dark figure' of crime.

Including common assault in the comparable subset makes the difference between the BCS and police count rather greater than it would previously have been (28% of BCS crimes would have been counted by the police had the old subset been applied). This is because reporting rates for common assault are relatively low, and a relatively small proportion of those reported are recorded.

Table 2.1 Crimes estimated by the British Crime Survey and recorded by the police in 2000

	Police (000s)	BCS (000s)	% BCS reported	% recorded of reported	% recorded of all BCS ¹
Vandalism	481	2,608	34%	54%	18%
All comparable property crime (acquisitive crime)²	1,553	4,689	51%	65%	33%
Burglary	409	1,063	66%	59%	38%
Attempts and no loss	106	660	55%	30%	16%
Burglary with loss	303	403	84%	90%	75%
All vehicle thefts	938	2,619	49%	73%	36%
Thefts from vehicles	478	1,626	47%	63%	29%
Thefts of vehicles	235	337	90%	78%	70%
Attempted vehicle theft	224	656	33%	[100%] ³	34%
Bicycle theft	119	377	54%	58%	31%
Theft from the person	88	629	35%	40%	14%
All comparable violence⁴	466	2,582	45%	40%	18%
Wounding	195	417	68%	69%	47%
Robbery	78	276	54%	52%	28%
Common assault	193	1,890	39%	26%	10%
All comparable crime	2,501	9,879	45%	56%	25%

Notes:

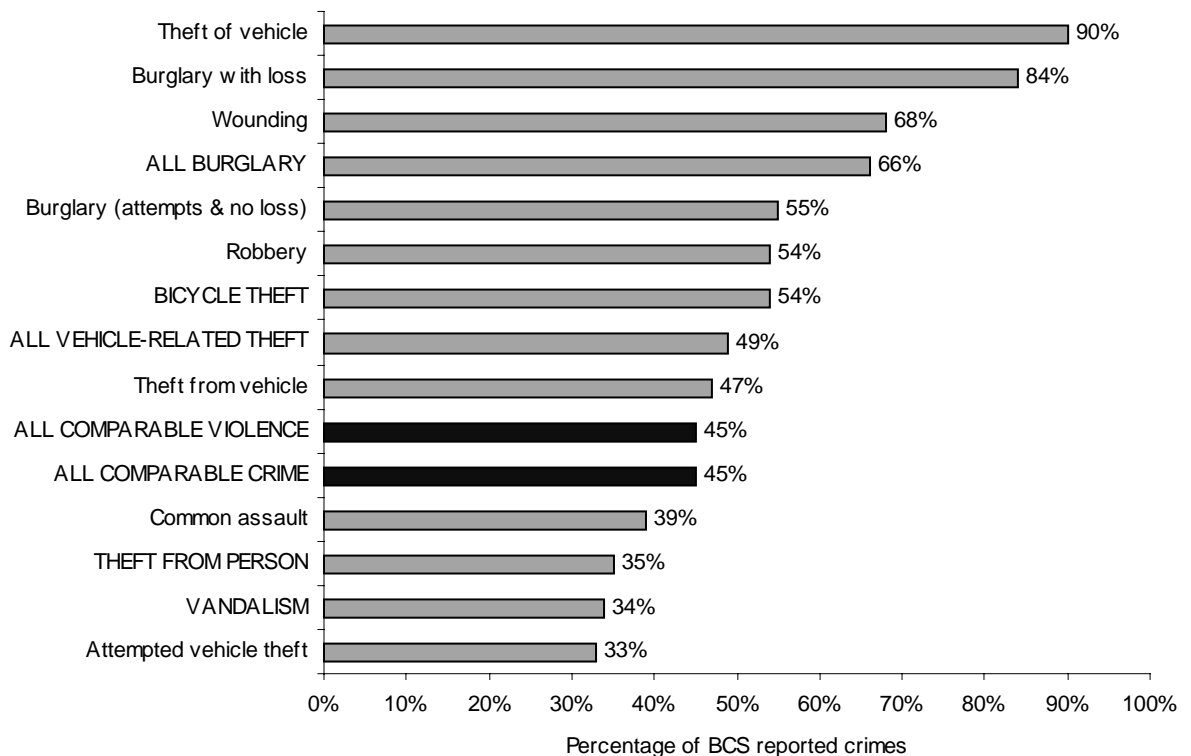
1. The remaining crimes that are unrecorded make up the 'dark figure' of crime.
2. Acquisitive crime includes: all burglary, all vehicle thefts, bicycle theft and theft from the person.
3. The number of attempted thefts of and from vehicles is actually 3% higher than the estimated number of reported incidents/ Sampling error on the BCS figures is likely to partly explain this. Vehicle interference and tampering also became a comparable crime from 1 April 1998; this has been added to attempted thefts of and from, but in some instances may be coded as a nuisance incident or vehicle vandalism when reported to the BCS.
4. Figures in the table above for violence will differ from figures in Table A2.1 because All *BCS violence* includes: common assault, wounding, robbery and *snatch theft*. Comparable violence (above) does not include *snatch theft*.

There are two main reasons for the difference between the BCS and the recorded crime counts. First, many crimes are not reported to the police; and second, not all those that are, are recorded in equivalent offence categories or recorded at all. Because reporting and recording rates vary across offence types, so do the resulting gaps between the BCS and police counts.

Reporting

Of all comparable BCS crimes in 2000, 45% were said by victims to have been reported to, or become known to the police.³ This represents an increase of four percentage points in the reporting rate since 1999, or to put it another way 9% more of the offences were reported to the police than if the reporting rate had not changed. The majority of crimes (55% of the comparable crimes), then, are not reported to the police at all. This is the main reason why the BCS estimate is so much higher than the recorded crime figure.

Figure 2.2 Proportion of offences reported to the police, 2000 comparable subset



Reporting varies considerably by type of offence (see Figure 2.2 and Table A2.4). As in previous years, theft of vehicles are reported most often (90%) although reporting has gone down since 1999 by five percentage points. Burglaries in which something was stolen have relatively high reporting rates (84%).

Although the reporting rates for theft of vehicles remain high, the five percentage point fall in the rate should be remarked on. Thefts of vehicles are a relatively rare category of offence (in 2000 an estimated 2% of vehicle-owning households suffered a loss). The relative rarity of this offence means the estimate is subject to more sampling variation than for more common offences and the decrease in reporting is not statistically significant.

3. Reported crimes are those which the victim said the police came to know about. This includes incidents reported by the victim, those reported by someone else, and those which the police came to know about in some other way – for instance because they were already on the scene.

Previous sweeps of the BCS show that some of the violent crimes have the lowest rates of reporting. Although the reporting rates remain low in some of them, they have risen quite considerably in the last year with the overall reporting rate increasing from 35% in 1999 to 45% in 2000 (see Table A2.4). In part this may be due to sampling variation, though the increases in reporting rates for common assault and robbery are judged to be statistically significant. These changes may also be influenced by the reduced number of these crimes influencing the nature of the average incident and the propensity to report. There was also a statistically significant increase in the reporting rates for the subcategory of vehicle vandalism.

Reasons for not reporting

The BCS asks victims why they did not report incidents to the police. For most crimes the main reason for not reporting was that the incident was too trivial, there was no loss or the police could not do much about it (71% for all comparable crime – see Table A2.5), followed by the incident being considered a private matter and was dealt with by the victim (23%). However, for violent crime the main reason for not reporting is that the victim considered the issue as a private matter and dealt with it themselves (49%).

Reporting and the seriousness of crime

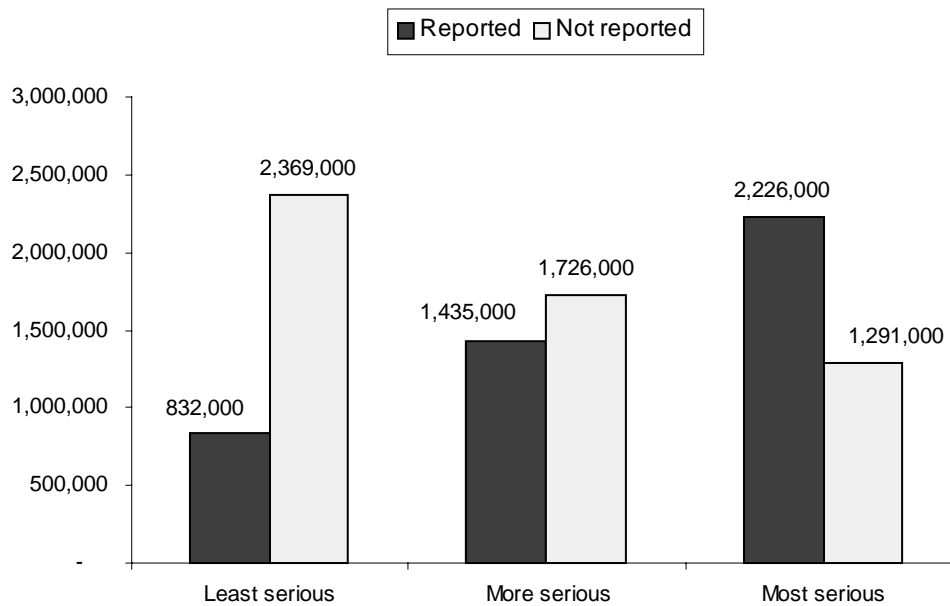
Although many crimes go unreported because victims feel it is not worth bothering the police, this does not mean that the police count provides a complete measure of all serious crime. As shown, many incidents that would commonly be thought of as serious in terms of their offence classification are not reported, such as robbery, wounding and burglary. This will in part be because legal definitions do not necessarily capture the circumstances of the crime, or its impact.

The BCS includes a measure to assess seriousness in terms of the impact on victims. They were asked to rate what happened to them using a 'seriousness scale' where zero represented a very minor offence, and 20 represented murder.⁴ Seriousness ratings are clearly influenced by objective factors such as financial loss, degree of injury etc. and it is not surprising that ratings were higher for well-reported offences. Nonetheless, the decision to report is not wholly a function of how serious the victim felt the incident was.

4. Although no meaning can be attached to isolated scores, the scale allows one to distinguish groups of offences according to seriousness. There is much variation within crime categories in ratings of seriousness, in that most have large standard deviations. This variation will partly reflect differences between respondents in the use of the scale, although previous work has shown much consensus between people in judgements about seriousness. The variations, then, may be more to do with the fact that offences within crime categories vary considerably in nature.

Figure 2.3 divides the BCS offences in the comparable subset into three levels of seriousness. It shows over a third of offences in the top seriousness band went unreported (37%); just over half of those in the medium seriousness band (54%) went unreported and three-quarters of the least serious ones (74%).⁵ Victims' interpretations may not be a perfect measure of the seriousness of the incidents, but the results demonstrate that there is a substantial proportion of crimes that are regarded by the victim as serious and yet go unreported.

Figure 2.3 Crime seriousness and reporting 2000, comparable subset



Recording

The number of incidents reported to the police is estimated by multiplying the proportion of BCS incidents said to have been *reported* by the total BCS count. This gives a total of 4,471,000⁶ reported crimes in 2000, whereas the recorded crime count is just over half of this – 2,501,000 offences. The so-called 'recording shortfall' is the difference between the number estimated to have been reported to the police and the number actually recorded in the comparable crime category.⁷

There is a great deal of variation by offence type in the recording shortfall (see Figure 2.4 and Table A2.7). The estimated number of reported vehicle thefts and burglaries with loss are relatively close to the number recorded. In contrast, the recording shortfall is much larger for common assault, no-loss burglaries and theft from the person.

The number of attempted theft of vehicles recorded by the police is 3% higher than the estimated number of reported incidents derived from the BCS. Sampling error on the BCS figures is likely to partly explain this. Also, for the purposes of comparison, police figures for vehicle interference and

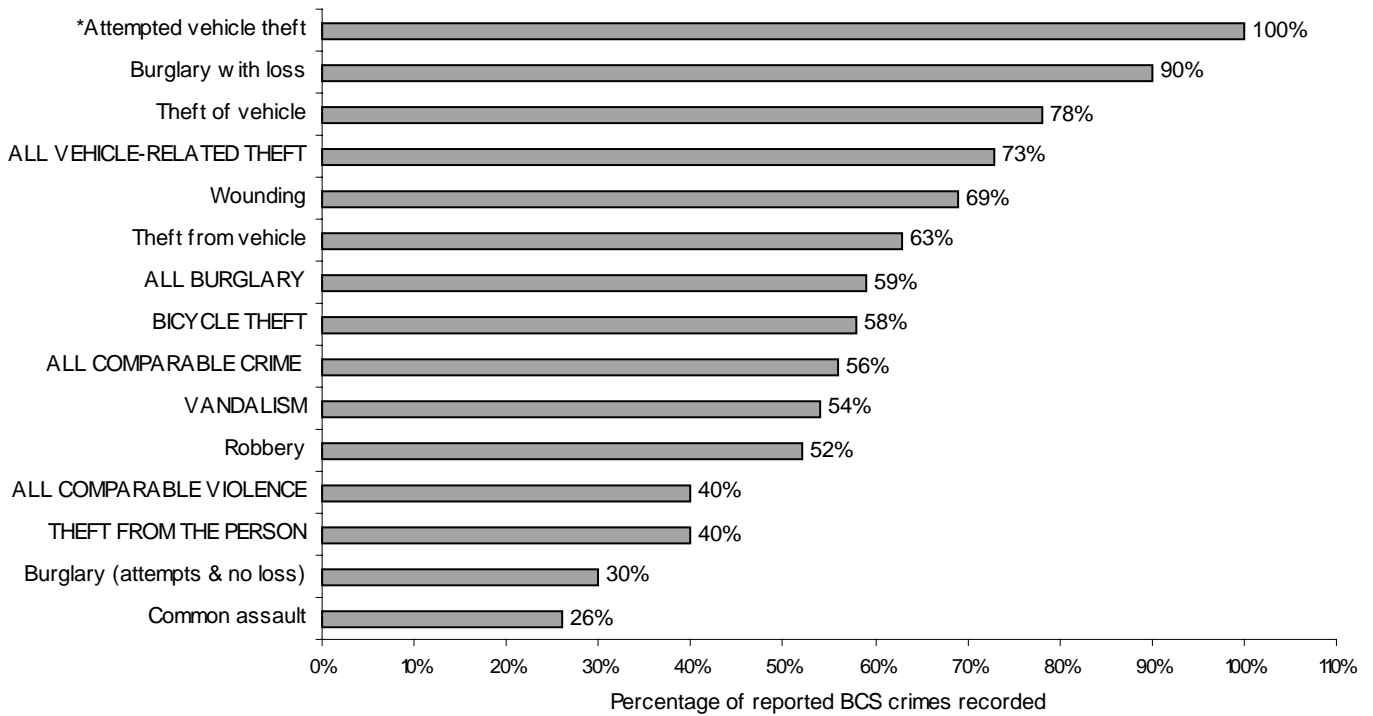
5. The estimates are derived by applying the percentage of incidents not reported in each seriousness band to the number of offences at this seriousness level, as estimated by the BCS. The 'least serious' offences were those with scores of 0 to 3; the 'more serious' offences had scores of 4 to 6; and the 'most serious' scores of 7 to 20.

6. The figure is estimated by multiplying the proportion of BCS incidents said to have been reported (45.252%) by the total comparable BCS count (9,879,171).

7. Comparing 1999 to 2000, indicates that the percentage of BCS incidents that are recorded has risen slightly from 55% in 1999 and 56% in 2000 (see Table A2.7).

tampering are included in attempted vehicle theft. It may well be the case that some instances of interference/tampering are coded either as a nuisance incident or vehicle vandalism when reported to the BCS.

Figure 2.4 Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police (the recording shortfall) for comparable crime



Note: *See previous paragraph for an explanation of the 100% estimate for 'reported BCS attempted vehicle thefts recorded'.

Offence 'dark figures'

As mentioned earlier, because both reporting and recording rates vary across offence types, the overall gap between BCS and police counts (or the 'dark figure')⁸ is much wider for some offences than others (see Table 2.1). For some offence types, the figures are not dissimilar: for example the majority of burglaries with loss (75%) are recorded. The greatest discrepancy is for common assault, only 10% of which end up in police records. The proportion is also low for vandalism (18%), no loss burglaries (16%) and theft from the person (14%).

8. The 'dark figure' is the estimated percentage of BCS crimes that have not been recorded by the police.

3 Trends in crime

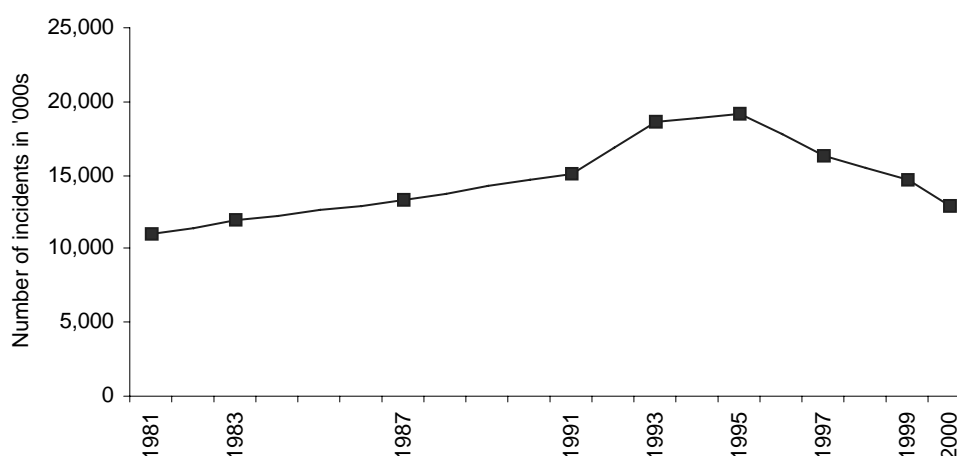
This section deals with trends in crime, both between 1999 and 2000 and over the full span of the BCS. It looks first at trends in all the crimes the BCS measures. It then turns to trends for the offences that can be compared with police figures since 1981, using the old comparable subset to ensure comparability over this period. Finally, it compares police figures and BCS estimates between 1999 and 2000 using the current comparable subset.

TRENDS IN BCS CRIME

All BCS crime: 1981 to 2000

The trend in all BCS crimes rose steadily over the decade between 1981 and 1991 (Figure 3.1 and Table A2.1). The average increase was close to 3% a year. The sharp increase between 1991 and 1993 (11% per year) was followed by a levelling off between 1993 and 1995 (less than 2% a year). BCS crime then fell back by 15% between 1995 and 1997 – the first fall registered by the BCS. BCS crime then fell again by 10% between 1997 and 1999 and have fallen again between 1999 and 2000 by 12%. The fall over the five years 1995 to 2000 equates to a 6% annual fall – or an overall fall of 33%. The level of crime in 2000 is slightly lower than in 1987 (lower by 3%), although it is still above that measured in 1981 (17% higher) and 1983 (8% higher).

Figure 3.1 Trends in BCS crime 1981 to 2000



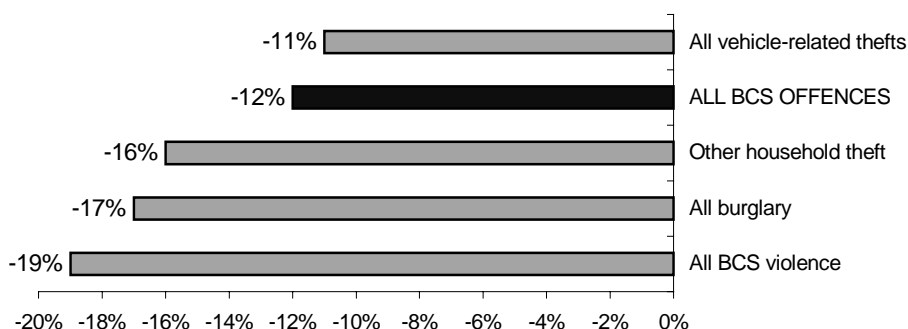
Note: All BCS crime includes all BCS household and all BCS personal crime

Trends by offence type, 1999 to 2000

All but one of the main offence categories measured by the BCS fell between 1999 and 2000. The exception was theft from the person (2% increase). Looking at the sub-categories within all vehicle-related thefts, theft of a vehicle has also increased by 1%. However, sampling error associated with the BCS estimates means that some apparent changes over time do not reach statistical significance. This was the case for theft from the person and theft of a vehicle, as well as for some of

the decreases. The main categories where the changes were statistically significant are shown in Figure 3.2.¹ Among individual crime categories there were statistically significant falls for attempted vehicle theft (21%) and wounding (34%). Decreases for burglary with entry (21%) and burglary with loss (25%) were also statistically significant. There were declines for other categories, such as common assault (14%) and robbery (22%) but these are not statistically significant.

Figure 3.2 Significant changes in BCS crime between 1999 and 2000



As mentioned above there was a 1% increase on the estimated number of thefts of vehicles that was not statistically significant. A further note of caution is in order, however, as comparable police recorded thefts of vehicles declined by 16% over this period. Thefts of vehicles have had traditionally high reporting and recording rates, and police figures are thought to give a reliable guide to trends for such offences. The BCS increase in thefts of vehicles is not statistically significant and when attention is limited to reported thefts of vehicles then numbers actually decrease by 4%.² Thefts of vehicles are relatively rare offences and the small numbers mean that estimates of reporting and police recording rates should also be treated with caution.

When results are available from the full annual 40,000 sample we will be in a much better position to judge the trend for thefts of vehicles between 1999 and 2000. Small sample sizes mean that results for other relatively rare offences, such as robbery and snatch theft, should also be treated with caution.

COMPARING TRENDS FOR BCS AND POLICE STATISTICS

The overall trend in comparable crime: 1981 to 2000

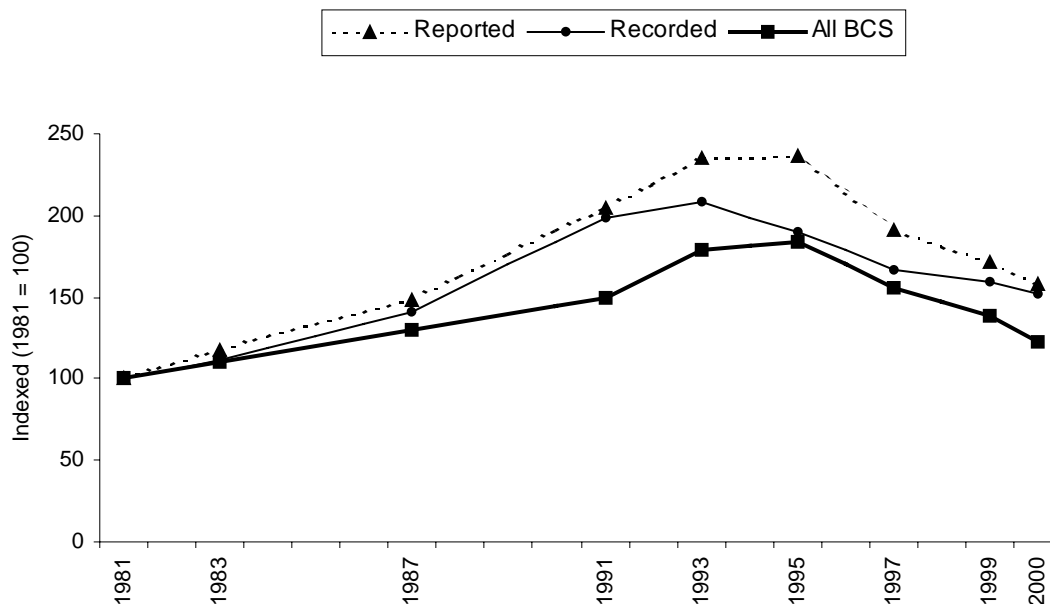
To compare trends in BCS and recorded crime over the period since 1981 the old comparable subset is used with adjustments for changes in counting rules. Figure 3.3 shows BCS and police trends for all comparable crime between 1981 and 2000. The figures for 1981 are indexed at 100. Over the full period, the number of *recorded crimes* rose by 52%, whereas the *total number of*

1. Tests of significance are based on incidence rates, that is the number of incidents per household or adult in 1999 and 2000, see Table A2.3. A 10% significance level was taken.

2. Estimated number of reported thefts of vehicles decreased from 315,000 in 1999 to 303,000 in 2000.

comparable BCS crimes³, whether reported or not, rose less, by 22%. The estimated number of comparable BCS crimes that had been *reported* to the police rose by 58%. The greater rise in police figures is consistent with an increase in the proportion of crimes that are reported to the police.

Figure 3.3 Indexed trends in BCS and police recorded crime, 1981 to 2000 (1981=100)



Note: See notes to Figure B of the summary section.

During the 1980s, the steeper rise in recorded crime was consistent with an increase in reported incidents. When in 1991 recorded crime started first to level off and then fall, this was more consistent with a fall in the proportion of reported crimes being recorded by the police. Between 1995 and 1997 recorded crime showed the same trend as BCS crime, partly because levels of reporting and recording did not change significantly over this period. Between 1997 and 1999, the greater fall in BCS crime is consistent with more reported crimes being recorded by the police. Between 1999 and 2000 the greater fall for BCS crime is accounted for by increased reporting and some increase in police recording.

To interpret these patterns, one has to take account of two factors that bear on the recorded crime count: changes in reporting rates, and possible changes in recording by the police.

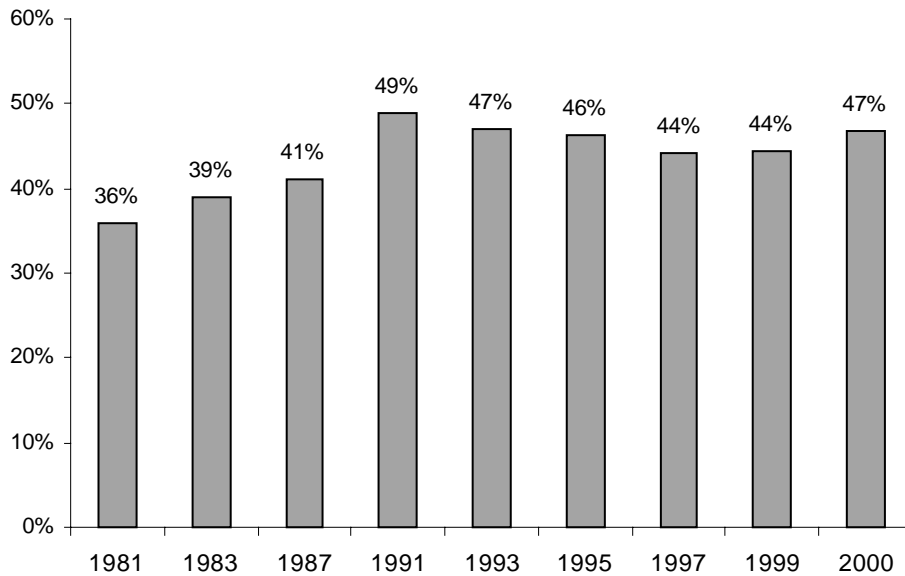
Changes in the proportion of crime reported to the police

Recorded crime levels will be affected by variations over time in the proportion of crime reported to the police – since these will obviously increase or decrease the number of crimes the police have to record. The trend in BCS reported crime indicates the **expected** trend in recorded crime.

Figure 3.4 shows the proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police from 1981 to 2000 for the old comparable subset for which there is trend data available. The figure looks at the number of people who suffered a crime and works out the percentage for each crime category from the number of people who had reported the crime to the police.

3. Relates to the old comparable subset.

Figure 3.4 Proportion of crimes reported to the police, 1981 to 2000 (old comparable subset)

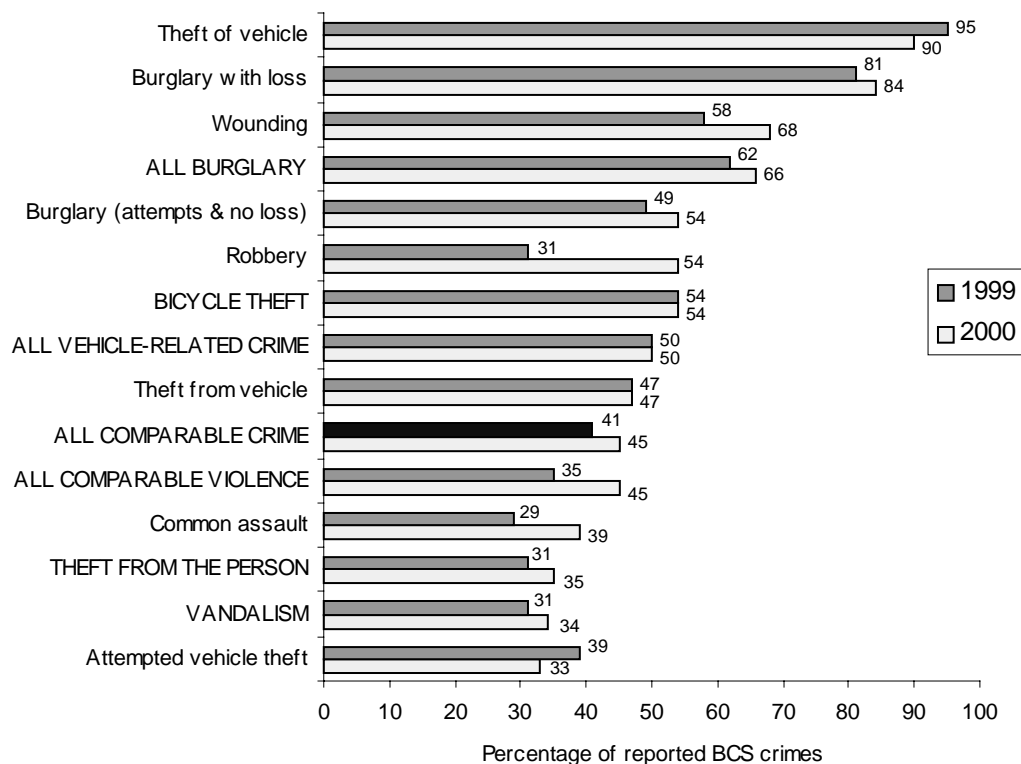


During the 1980s, the proportion of comparable crimes reported to the police increased. In 1981, for instance, only about a third of BCS comparable crimes were reported, compared to half in 1991. Reporting to the police fell back somewhat after 1991. In the last year the percentage of crimes reported to the police has increased from 44% to 47% for all comparable crime. Figure 3.4 shows the overall picture since 1981.

Changes in the proportion of crime reported to the police between 1999 and 2000

To look at changes between 1999 and 2000 the current comparable subset can be used; Table A2.4 and Figure 3.5 show details of comparable crimes reported since 1999 for all offence types. The increases in reporting are most marked for comparable violence,⁴ up from 35% in 1999 to 45% in 2000. Overall, the reporting rate for all comparable crime increased from 41% to 45%.

4. Unlike old comparable violence, this includes common assault.

Figure 3.5 Proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1999 to 2000

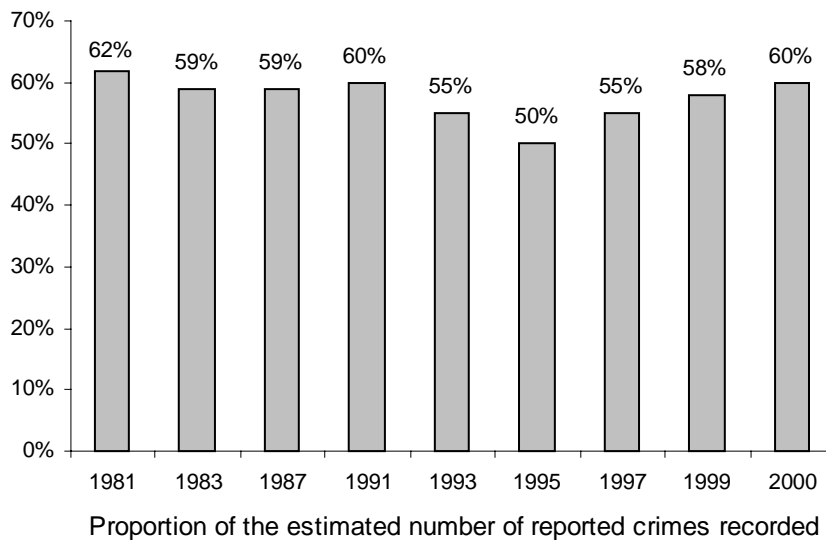
Changes in perception of the seriousness of crime

The 2001 BCS shows that there has been an increase in victims' assessment of seriousness in every crime type. In the 2000 BCS the mean seriousness scores (based on a scale of 20) were around one point below those in the 2001 BCS. The highest scores for seriousness were violent crimes and these have also increased most markedly in 2001: all BCS violence increased from 6.3 to 8.0; robbery from 7.7 to 10.4; wounding from 8.7 to 12.3; and common assault from 5.4 to 6.8 (see Table A2.10). Increases in the seriousness of the crimes experienced by victims may result in more of these crimes being reported to the police, and more being recorded. They may also be a reflection of declines in crime numbers that alter the typical seriousness level of offences. A further possibility is that the extent to which respondents disclose less serious incidents to interviewers may have declined, though we have no evidence for this and questions were posed in an identical way to previous BCS sweeps. Finally, it could also be the case that people are becoming less tolerant of crime, and therefore are ranking incidents higher.

Changes in the proportion of reported crime recorded by the police

The second reason for variations in police and BCS trends is that the recorded crime count is affected by variations in the proportion of reported crimes that are recorded. For those crime categories that can be compared since 1981 (old comparable subset), the police recorded 62% of reported crime in 1981. This fell to 55% in 1993 and to 50% in 1995. Since then the proportion has risen back to the levels of the late 1980s. Figure 3.6 shows the overall picture.

Figure 3.6 Proportion of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police (old comparable subset): the ‘recording shortfall’



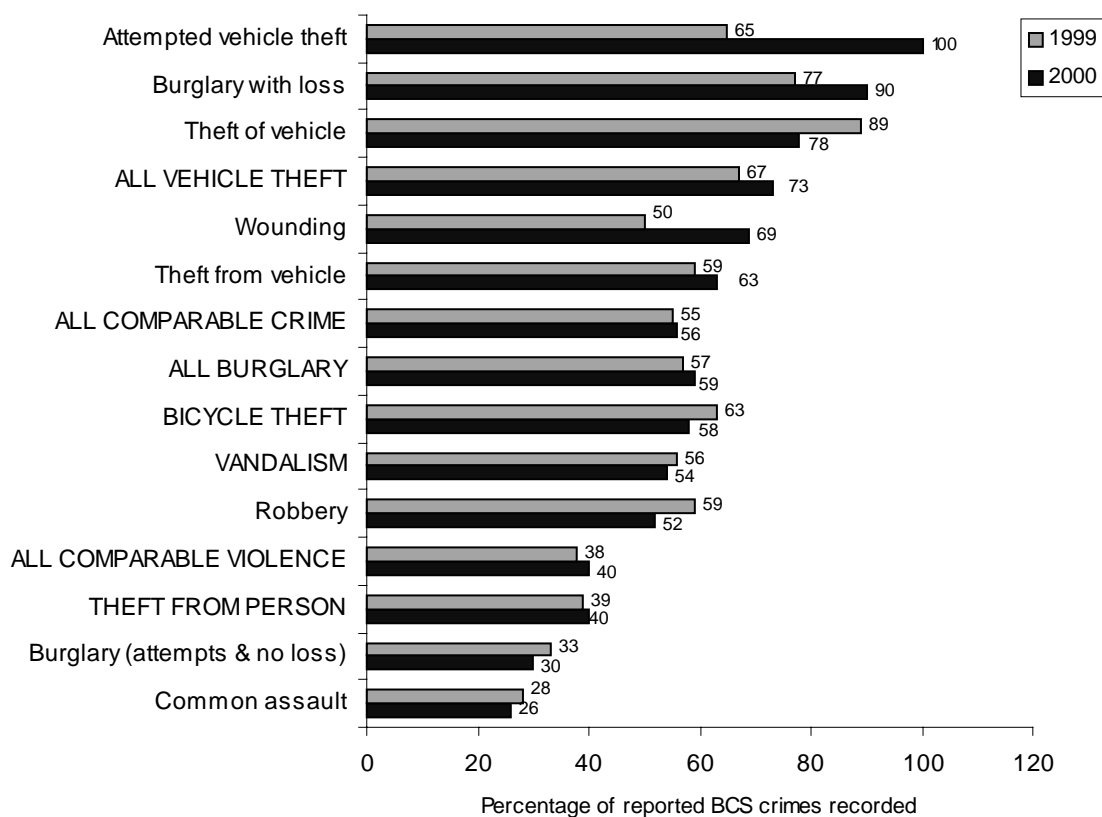
It should also be noted that the shift between 1999 and 2000 in the estimated percentage of reported crime recorded by the police was lower for all comparable crime (i.e., not restricted to old comparable crime), increasing from 55 to 56%.

It cannot be known for certain why recording fell in the early 1990s, but some commentators have suggested that the growing emphasis on ‘performance indicators’ swayed the police towards keeping marginal incidents out of the crime count. In contrast, the greater proportion of reported crime recorded in 1997 and 1999 is consistent with a move towards more complete recording. This could well have been prompted by guidance from ACPO (1995, 2001) and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC, 1996). An RDS review (Simmons, 2000), containing detailed recommendations on improvement to police recording systems, was released in 2000 and discusses the basis on which the police should record allegations. The relevant recommendations in this review are now being adopted by police forces through the implementation in a National Crime Recording Standard and this is likely to result in a continuation of the trend towards increased recording (Simmons, 2001).

Changes between 1999 and 2000 in the proportion of reported crime that is recorded

To study the trend in the last two years it is possible to use the current comparable subset. Between 1999 and 2000 the estimated percentage of reported crime that are recorded increased from 55% to 56% (see Table A2.7). Changes in recording practice can be better understood when looking at the different categories of crime that make the comparable subset. Figure 3.7 shows that recording increased between 1999 and 2000 for the major categories of all vehicle theft, all burglary and all comparable violence.

Figure 3.7 Proportion of reported BCS crimes estimated to have been recorded by the police in 1999 and 2000



Note: See paragraph prior to Figure 2.4 for an explanation of 100% estimate in 2000 for attempted vehicle theft.

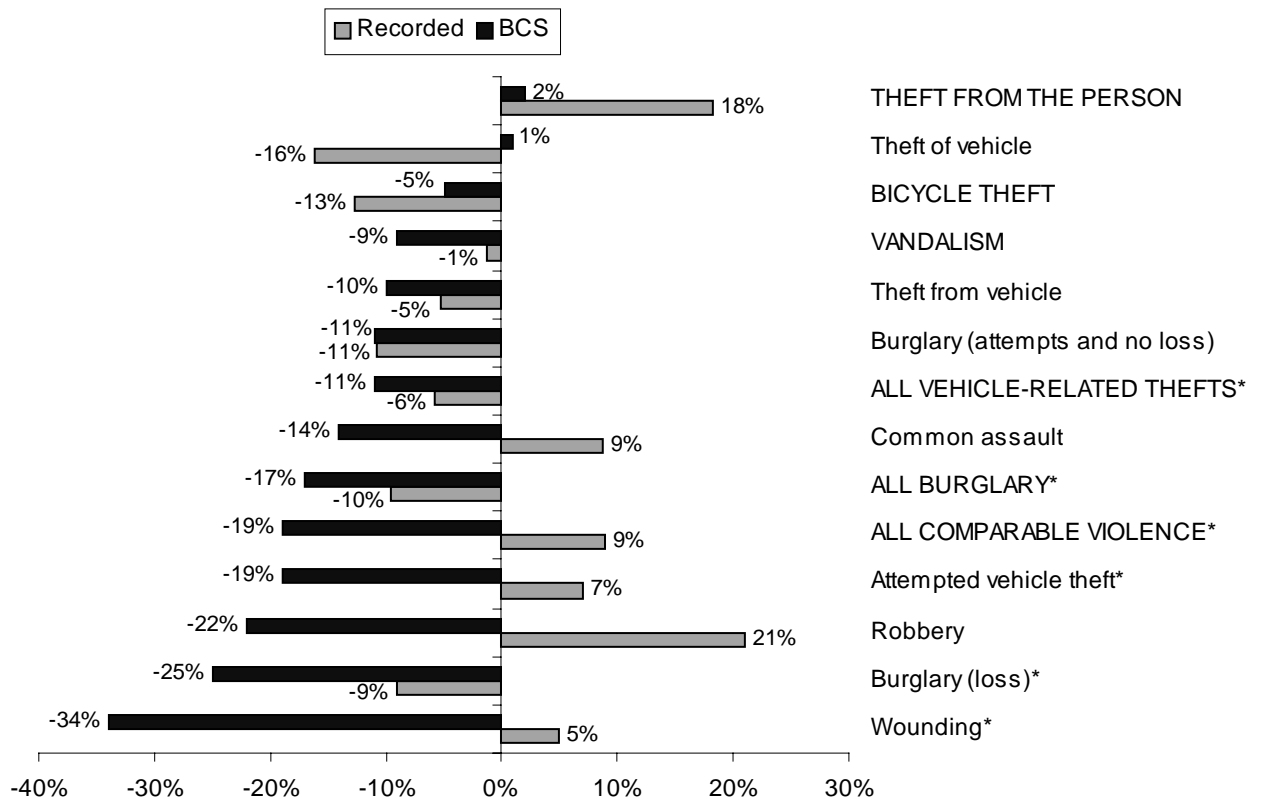
Between 1999 and 2000, comparable recorded crime showed a decrease of 3%, whereas comparable BCS figures fell by 13%. The proportion of BCS offences in the comparable subset reported to the police in 2000 (45%) is higher than in 1999 (41%); the estimated proportion of reported crimes that are recorded has also increased slightly (from 55% to 56%). On the face of it, then, the smaller fall in police figures since 1999 suggests more reporting and slightly more police recording. The changes between 1997 and 1999 indicated that the police were recording more of those crimes reported to them.

A comparison of police and BCS trends by offence type, 1999 to 2000

Figure 3.8 compares police and BCS trends between 1999 and 2000 for the offence types that can be compared. Bicycle theft, vandalism, theft from vehicle and burglary fell on both measures. Theft of vehicles increased slightly according to the BCS, but fell according to the police. Attempted vehicle thefts fell according to the BCS, but rose slightly according to the police.

Among violent crimes, robbery and wounding showed a large fall according to the BCS (although in the case of robbery this was not statistically significant), but a rise according to police figures. Theft from the person is an exception to the general pattern as both measures showed increases; police figures the most.

Figure 3.8 Change in police recorded and BCS crime, 1999 to 2000



Notes: Offences in capital letters are the broad offence categories that the others fall into. Those cases where the BCS change from 1999 to 2000 was significant are noted with an asterisk.

The interpretation of the patterns in Table 3.1 between BCS and recorded crime can cover all or many of the points mentioned in the summary box at the end of this section. There were statistically significant increases in the reporting rates for common assault and robbery. Overall reporting rates for current comparable crime rose from 41% in 1999 to 45% in 2000.

There was also a statistically significant increase in recording of attempted vehicle thefts (this is possibly associated with shifts in figures for vehicle interference/tampering). Overall the estimated rate of recording of reported crime for currently comparable offences rose from 55% to 56%.

The greater decrease in BCS crime than in police figures is consistent with an increase in public reporting of crime, particularly violent crime, and some indication that recording rates are also continuing to increase. Between 1997 and 1999 increases in police recording of reported offences appeared to be the main reason for divergence in BCS and recorded crime trends.

Table 3.1 Statistical significance of divergences between police and BCS trends, 1999 to 2000

	BCS change between 1999 and 2000 statistically significant?		Increase or decrease in <i>reporting rates</i> in 2000 as compared with 1999	Higher or lower proportion of BCS crime <i>recorded</i> by the police	Increase or decrease in the proportion of <i>reported</i> BCS crime <i>recorded</i> by the police
	% change	Significant?	Significant?	Significant?	Significant?
THEFT FROM THE PERSON	2				
Theft of vehicle	1				
BICYCLE THEFT	-5				
VANDALISM	-9				
Theft from vehicles	-10				
Burglary (attempts & no loss)	-11				
ALL VEHICLE THEFT	-11	✓✓			
Common assault	-14		✓✓ increase	✓✓ higher	
ALL BURGLARY	-17	✓✓			
Attempted vehicle theft	-19	✓✓		✓✓ higher	✓✓ increase
Robbery	-22		✓ increase		
Burglary (loss)	-25	✓✓			
Wounding	-34	✓		✓✓ higher	

Note: Test of significance are at the 10% level. Double ticks indicate significance also at the 5% level. Increase or decrease in the proportion of BCS crime recorded by the police indicates whether the BCS trend is statistically different from recorded crime trend and what the direction of the difference is.

In interpreting trends in BCS figures for personal crime it should be borne in mind that the BCS is a survey of respondents aged 16 and over. The police provide estimates of the proportion of offences that they record that are against those aged under 16. Appropriate adjustments are applied in making comparisons with police-recorded crime figures (see Appendix C), but it may be that some divergences in trends for personal crimes, such as robbery, may be due to changes in the levels of crime against those aged under 16.

TRENDS IN CRIME RISK

The BCS estimates that in 2000 the percentage of adults living in private households in England and Wales who have been either a victim of a personal crime or who live in a household where a household crime took place was 26.8% (see Table A2.8). This percentage increased from 27.7% to 39.2% between 1981 and 1993. The percentage remained at a similar level in 1995 (39.3%), but has since fallen. The overall victimisation rate for 2000 is the lowest ever measured by the BCS.

Explaining the divergences between BCS crime and police-recorded crime

The following factors may influence divergences between BCS and police-recorded crime figures:

- **Precision of the BCS estimates**

BCS estimates of changes over time are subject to sampling error. This means the BCS changes outlined between two sweeps are the best estimates set within a range of values (see Table A2.2). This is why the calculation of the statistical significance is important.

- **Reporting**

The changes in reporting levels could also underlie some of the divergences. If reporting increases, the fall in the recorded crime level will not be as great as the BCS fall, or recorded offences could rise.

The numbers of reported crimes are estimated from the BCS. They have a margin of error associated with them, partly because they are based on a sample and partly because of the difficulties of comparing like with like when matching BCS offence classifications with those used by the police.

Some victims may have said crimes were reported when in fact they were not (saying the police were informed would be seen more as the 'socially desirable' response). Also, some victims who said the incident was reported by others may have been mistaken.

- **Police recording practice**

The BCS has classified crimes in a consistent way across all sweeps. Any changes in police recording, though, could heighten discrepancies with the BCS trend.

Some incidents could have been recorded by the police in crime categories outside the comparable subset. Also, some incidents could have been recorded in a different crime category to that given by the BCS – where for example it is indisputable that criminal damage has been committed, but less clear that a burglary had been attempted.

Police discretion about what to record as an offence is another factor. The police may not record a complaint of crime, or may later 'no-crime' it. Some incidents may not be recorded because of police compliance with victims' wishes not to proceed. Other incidents may be regarded by the police as too trivial to warrant formal action, or they may feel the report is mistaken or disingenuous, or there is insufficient evidence to suggest a crime has been committed. The BCS allows no check on how the police deal with incidents reported to them, but there have been a number of studies which testify to under-recording. Burrows et al. (2000) have recently reviewed these studies in the course of their own look at recording practices in five forces. They found that 61% of all alleged 'crimes' they looked at ended up as recorded crimes, and 47% of a rather looser collection of allegations – figures in the same region as from the BCS.

4 Burglary, vehicle and violent crime

This section focuses on the extent, trend and risk of domestic burglary, vehicle theft and violence. First it examines the extent in 2000; secondly, it looks at the trend on the extent of crime year on year; thirdly, it explores how risks on these three types of crime vary across different types of household. A more comprehensive discussion of the nature of these crimes is contained in Kershaw et al. (2000). Budd (2001), Kinshott (2001) and Mattinson (2001) also discuss in detail how the findings from the BCS can inform strategies to reduce levels of burglary, vehicle crime and violence respectively.

DOMESTIC BURGLARY

The BCS is a survey of private households and so only measures domestic as opposed to commercial crime. Burglary¹ comprises the following:

- *Burglary with entry* – incidents in which the offender *entered* the dwelling as a trespasser with the *intention* of committing theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. To be classified as burglary with entry the offender must have entered the property but need not have carried out his/her intention.
- *Attempted burglary* – incidents in which there is clear evidence that the offender *tried* to enter the dwelling as a trespasser but failed.

Burglary does not necessarily entail the theft, or attempted theft, of property, or involve forced entry (it may be through an open window or involve the use of false pretences). Those burglaries with entry which involve the theft of items are referred to as burglaries with loss.

The extent of burglary in 2000

The 2001 BCS estimates that there were a total of 1,063,000 burglaries against domestic premises in 2000.² As for 1999, more than four in ten (466,000) were attempted burglaries in which the offender tried to gain entry to the dwelling but was unsuccessful. Under six in ten (597,000) were burglaries in which the offender did gain entry to the home. Close to two-thirds of burglaries with entry involved theft of property – a total of 403,000 incidents.³

Trends in burglary: 1981 to 2000

Between 1999 and 2000 the total number of burglaries fell significantly by 17%.⁴ This follows a fall of 27% from 1995 to 1999. The fall between 1995 and 2000, equates to an average of around 7% per

1. Domestic dwellings are houses, flats and domestic outhouses or garages directly linked to a dwelling via a connecting door. Communal areas of multi-occupancy buildings (e.g., hallways) are also included if usually secured. The BCS does not cover crimes against non-domestic properties (e.g., schools or businesses). The 1994 Commercial Crime Survey measured the extent of burglary against retail and manufacturing businesses (Mirrlees-Black and Ross, 1995).

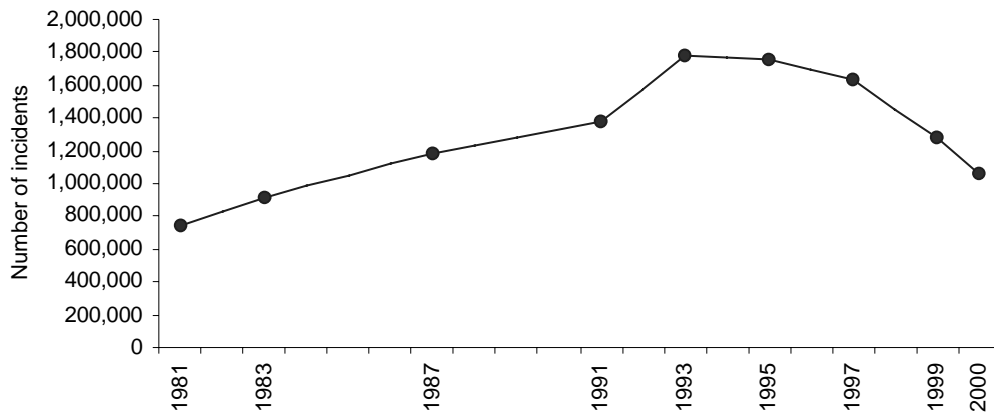
2. The estimated number of domestic burglaries is derived by applying the number of crimes per 10,000 households in the sample ('the burglary rate') to the household population of England and Wales (22,167,109 households). Offence rates are given in Table A2.3.

3. These figures are the best estimates of the true number of domestic burglaries in England and Wales in 2000. Table A2.2 shows the range of estimates in which there is a 90% chance the true value lies.

4. Tests of significance are based on the burglary rate (see Table A2.3).

year (39% fall overall). These recent falls reverse the trend of increasing levels of burglary during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Figure 4.1 Trends in burglary, 1981 to 2000



Between 1999 and 2000 the number of burglaries with entry and burglaries with loss fell significantly, by 21% and 25% respectively. The number of attempted burglaries fell by 11% although this was not statistically significant (see Table A2.1 and A2.3). The proportion of all burglaries in which property was stolen has also fluctuated over time, being 50% in 1981, 42% in 1999 and 38% in 2000.

Risk of burglary

On average, 3.4% of households in England and Wales experienced at least one burglary in 2000 (2.0% of households were victims of burglary with entry and 1.5% victims of attempted burglary).⁵ In 1999, 4.3% of households had been burgled (2.5% being victims of burglary with entry and 1.9% victims of attempts – see Table A2.8).

The BCS has consistently shown that the risk of burglary victimisation varies considerably across households with different characteristics and situated in different localities (see in particular, Budd, 1999). Figure 4.2 shows the types of household most at risk in 2000 by household characteristics.

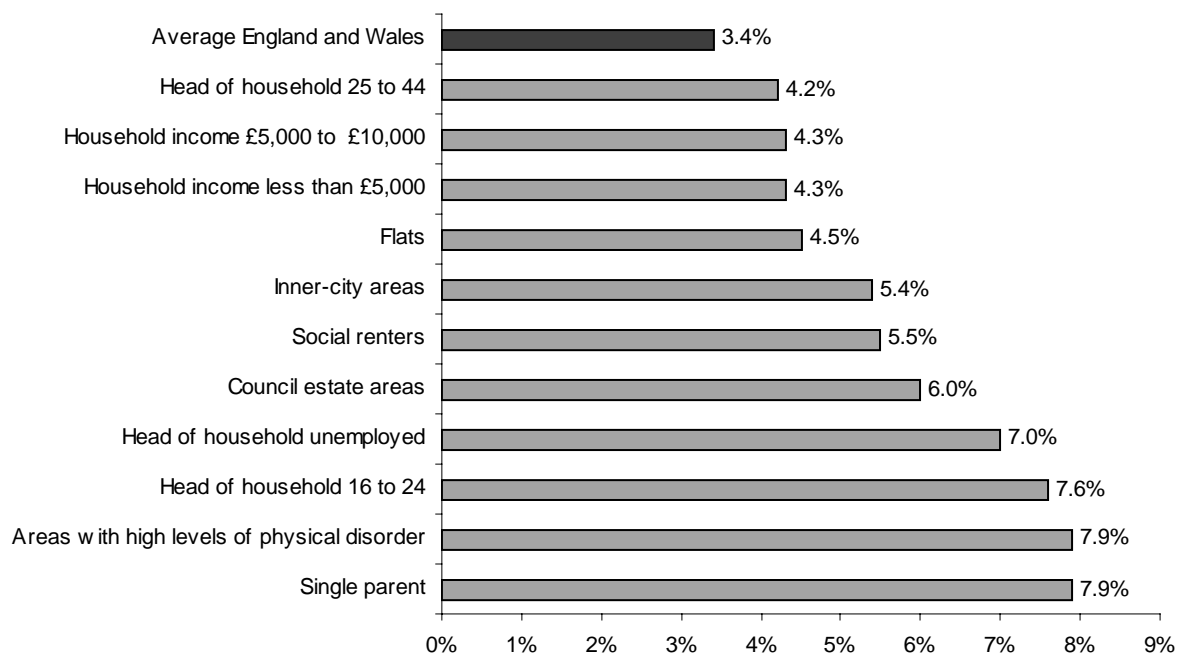
Tables A4.2 to A4.6 give the full results, including separate estimates for burglary with entry and attempted burglary. It is worth pointing out, however, that the estimates for burglary with entry and attempted burglary broken down by the different population subgroups are not as statistically reliable as they were in 1999 given the smaller sample size in the 2001 BCS ‘old methodology’ sample.

5. The prevalence risk for all burglary does not equal the addition of the risks for attempts and burglary with entry as some victims will have experienced both types of burglary during the year.

Estimates by region and ACORN relate to merged data from the 2000 BCS sample and 2001 'old methodology' sample; this was done to make the estimates more reliable.⁶

These results are based on bivariate analysis. However, many of the factors overlap to some degree and it is difficult to distinguish the individual impact of each. For example, low income households are more likely to be found in poorer urban and inner-city areas. High risks among lower income households may relate to the area in which they are located. To establish which individual factors are most important in increasing risk, multivariate analysis is required. Such analysis can be found in Budd (1999).

Figure 4.2 Households most at risk of burglary in 2000



Note: The chart indicates risk for those subgroups which have a prevalence rate of over 4%.

NON-COMMERCIAL VEHICLE-RELATED THEFTS

The BCS only measures vehicle-related thefts from private households as opposed to commercial vehicle thefts. Vehicle-related thefts comprise the following:

- *Thefts of vehicles* – where the vehicle itself was the target.
- *Thefts from vehicles* – including incidents where offenders either targeted property left inside or on the vehicle, or component parts of the vehicle.
- *Attempted thefts of or from a vehicle* – all attempted vehicle-related thefts are considered together as it is often impossible to determine whether the intention of an offender was to steal the vehicle, or property from the vehicle.

6. Equal weight to both years is given to each year, based on re-scaling estimated numbers of household crimes.

For BCS purposes, the term 'vehicle' includes private cars and light vans, motorbikes, motorscooters and mopeds. Commercial vehicles such as lorries and private hire vehicles are, of course, outside the scope of the BCS.

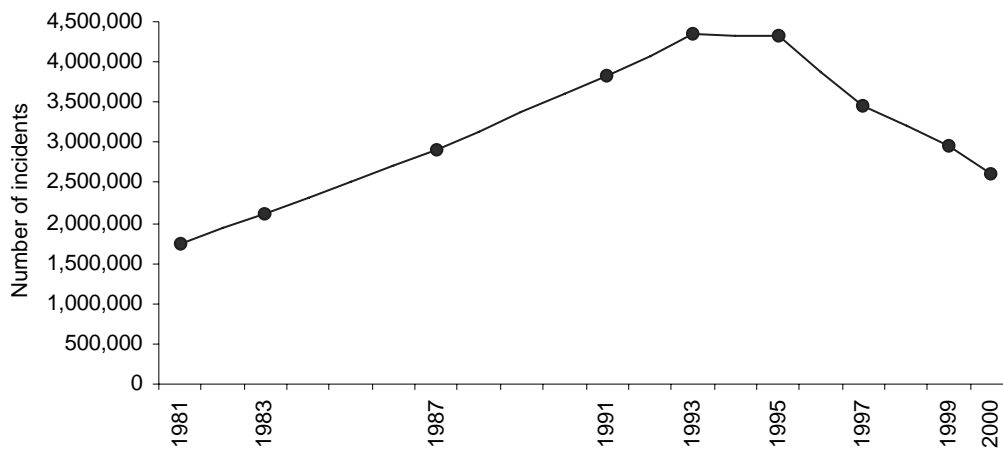
The extent of non-commercial vehicle-related thefts in 2000

The 2001 BCS estimates that there were 2,619,000 non-commercial vehicle-related thefts in 2000, representing 20% of all BCS crime (the same proportion as in 1999). Of these, 13% were thefts of vehicles (337,000). Around six in ten (1,626,000 – 62%) were thefts from vehicles, and a quarter (656,000 – 25%) were attempted thefts of or from vehicles.

Trends in non-commercial vehicle-related thefts: 1981 to 2000

Between 1999 and 2000 the number of attempted thefts fell significantly by 19%, thefts from vehicles fell by 10% although this was not statistically significant, thefts of vehicles increased by 1%, this change which was also not significant.⁷ Between 1995 and 2000 all non-commercial vehicle-related thefts fell significantly by 39%, an average of 8% per year. These falls followed a rise in vehicle-related thefts through the 1980s and early 1990s and a levelling off between 1993 and 1995.

Figure 4.3 Trends in vehicle-related theft, 1981 to 2000



Risk of vehicle-related theft

The fall in the number of vehicle-related thefts between 1999 and 2000 reflects the fall in the proportion of vehicle owning households victimised once or more (from 12.6% in 1999 to 10.9% in 2000). In 2000 1.8% of vehicle-owning households were victims of theft of vehicle; 6.8% of theft from vehicle; and, 3.1% of attempted theft of/from vehicle (in 1999 1.8% of vehicle-owning households were victims of theft of vehicle; 8.1% of theft from vehicle; and 3.7% of attempted theft of/from vehicle).

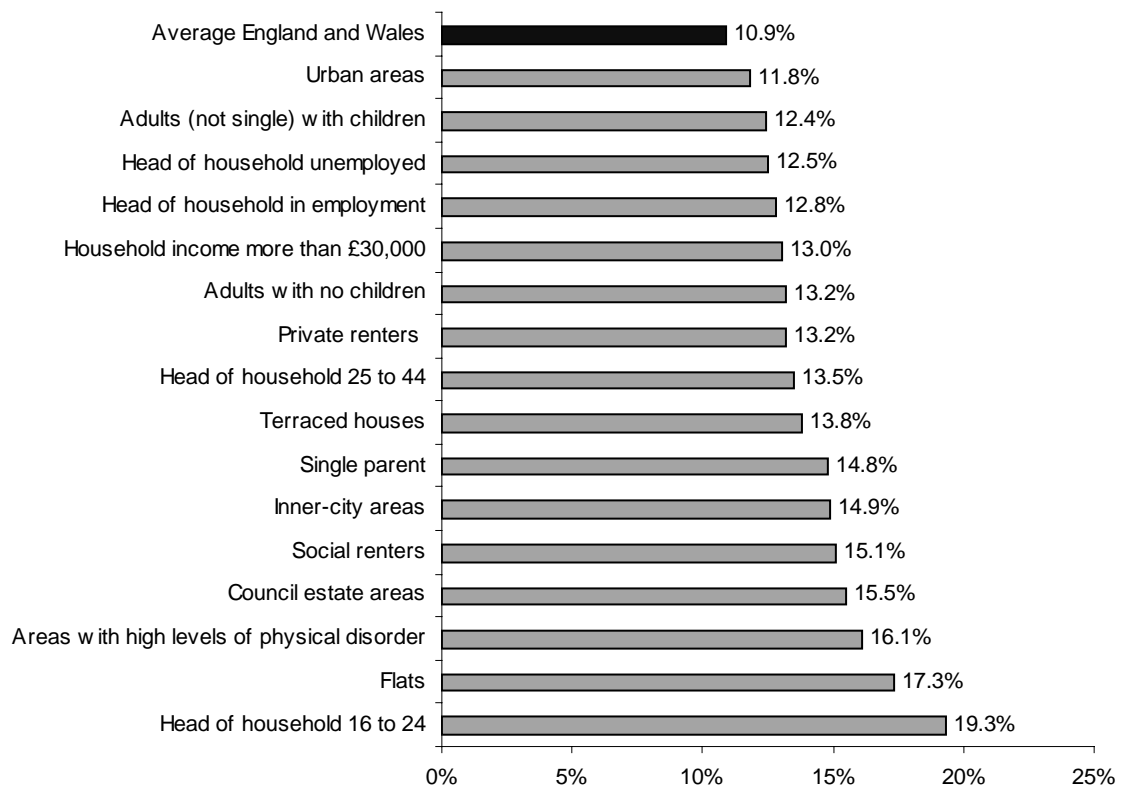
7. See the paragraph following Figure 3.2 for further discussion of the estimated increase in thefts of vehicles.

The risk of vehicle-related theft victimisation varies considerably across households with different characteristics and situated in different localities. Figure 4.4 shows the types of household most at risk in 2000 by household characteristics.

Tables A4.7 to A4.11 in Appendix A give the full results, including separate estimates for theft of vehicle, theft from vehicle and attempted theft. It is worth pointing out, however, that the estimates for theft of vehicle and attempted theft broken down by the different population subgroups are not deemed as reliable as they were in 1999 given the smaller sample size in the 2001 ‘old methodology’ sample. Estimates by region and ACORN relate to merged data from the 2000 and 2001 ‘old methodology’ samples in order to make the estimates more reliable.⁸

As with the burglary figures, these results are based on bivariate analysis. However, many of the factors overlap to some degree and it is difficult to distinguish the individual impact of each. For example, social renters are more likely to be found in council areas and inner-city areas. High risks among social renters may relate to the area in which they are located.

Figure 4.4 Households most at risk of vehicle-related theft in 2000



Note: The chart indicates risk for those subgroups which have a prevalence rate of over 11%.

8. Equal weight to both years is given to each year, based on re-scaling estimated numbers of household crimes.

VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime comprise the following:⁹

- *Wounding* – assaults with more than trivial injury.
- *Common assault* – assault or attempted assault with at most slight bruising.
- *Robbery* – actual or attempted theft using force or the threat of force.
- *Snatch theft* – thefts that have no element of threat and only minimal force.¹⁰

Violence typology

The violence typology has been developed to gain a better understanding of the nature of violent crime reported to the BCS. This categorises assaults (common assault and woundings) according to the relationship between offender(s) and victim. (Police figures cannot be broken down in this way.) Robberies and snatch thefts form a further category of mugging. The categories are:

- *Domestic* – assaults involving partners, ex-partners, household members and other relatives.¹¹
- *Acquaintance* – assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders at least by sight.
- *Stranger* – assaults in which the victim did not know any of the offenders.
- *Mugging* – comprising of robbery and snatch thefts.

The extent of violent crime in 2000

The 2001 BCS estimates that there were 2,618,000 violent crimes in 2000, representing 20% of all BCS crime, a slightly smaller proportion than in 1999 (22%). Of these, 72% were common assaults (1,890,000); 16% were woundings (417,000); 11% were robberies (276,000); and, a little over 1% were snatch thefts (36,000).

In 2000 there were 499,000 cases of domestic violence; 770,000 cases of acquaintance violence; 992,000 cases of stranger violence; and 312,000 muggings.

Trends in violent crime: 1981 to 2000

Between 1999 and 2000 the number of violent crimes has decreased significantly by 19%. Of the different categories of crime that comprise violent crime only woundings fell significantly by 34%, the

9. Sexual assaults are measured by the BCS, but due to the small number of incidents reported to the survey estimates are not considered reliable and are not reported here. Wounding with a sexual motive are, however, included in the wounding offence category.

10. Snatch thefts have no element of threat, and only minimal force; they involve speed rather than force or threat – e.g., snatching a purse from a shopping bag. They are a category within police figures but are often subsumed under theft from the person along with stealth theft.

11. This is a relatively broad categorisation of 'domestic' relationships as it includes non-partners. It was derived in previous surveys to match most closely ad hoc police measures of domestic violence (e.g., Davidoff and Dowds, 1989).

other falls were not statistically significant. There was a large decrease for robbery (22%), but this is not statistically significant being subject to large margin of error given the small number of cases in which this figure is based (see Table A2.2).

Looking at the violence typology, domestic violence and acquaintance violence have decreased significantly by 34% and 35% respectively. Mugging has decreased by 23%, although this is not statistically significant, and stranger violence increased by 13%, but this is also not significant.

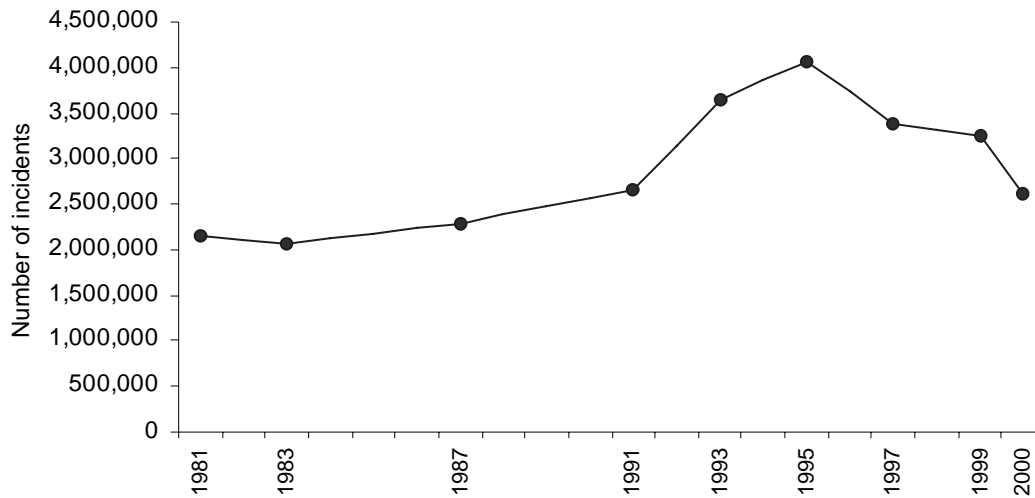
The declines in domestic violence and acquaintance violence are large and statistically significant. They also follow declines measured in the previous two sweeps of the BCS. However, in interpreting these changes some caution is in order on account of the relatively small sample size on which these results are based and the comparative rarity of categories covered by the violence typology. This means that the sampling variation on these estimates is relatively large (see Table A2.2). When results become available from the full annual 40,000 sample we will be in a better position to judge trends relating to the categories in the violence typology.

Results on domestic violence only relate to those incidents reported face to face to BCS interviewers. Respondents may not wish to disclose such sensitive information face to face and the extent to which they are willing to disclose may alter over time. The 1996 BCS included a self-completion module on domestic violence that is viewed as providing a more complete measure of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). Reporting rates were substantially higher than in face to face interviewing, admittedly in response to different questions that could cover some incidents that would not meet the legal definition of a crime. Prevalence rates for domestic assault in 1995 derived from the self-completion module were around three times higher for women and ten times higher for men. In the 2001 BCS there is a special self-completion module on inter-personal violence (domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking). A report is planned on results from the inter-personal violence module in 2002.

Between 1995 and 2000 all violent crime fell by 36%, an average of 6% per year. These falls followed a rise in violent crime through the 1980s and early 1990s. The overall level of violent crime is now 1% below that in 1991.

There has been a decrease in levels of repeat victimisation for violent crimes: in 1999 35% of victims were victimised more than once, in 2000 29% were victimised more than once. The decrease in repeat victimisation is mainly driven by an increase in the percentage of violent incidents that are common assaults combined with a reduction in the repeat victimisation rate for common assault. In 1999 35% of victims were a victim of common assault more than once, in 2000 only 27% were a victim more than once (see Table A2.9).

Figure 4.5 Trends in violent crime, 1981 to 2000



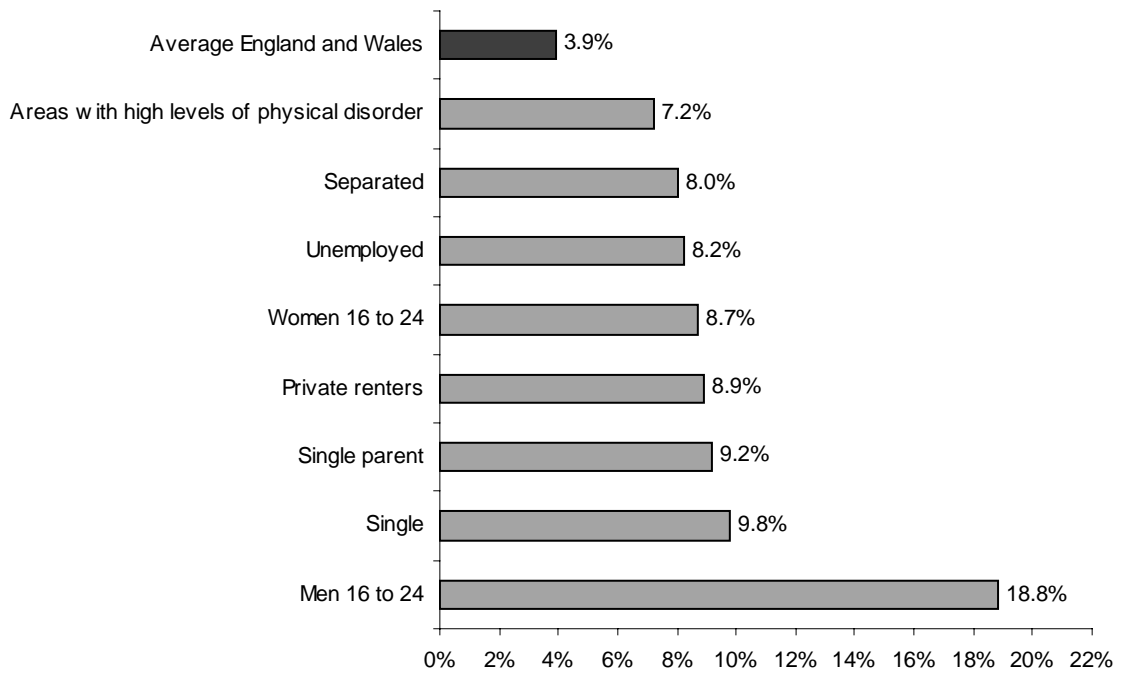
Risk of violent crime

The fall in the number of violent crime between 1999 and 2000 reflects the fall in the proportion of people victimised once or more (prevalence rate). On average, 3.7% of the population in England and Wales experienced at least one incident of violence in 2000 (down from 4.2% in 1999).

The risk of suffering a violent crime varies considerably across people with different characteristics and situated in different localities. Figure 4.6 shows the types of household most at risk in 1999 and 2000 by demographic characteristics. Results have been combined between 1999 and 2000 to increase the reliability of figures.¹² As in past sweeps of the BCS, the risks for men aged 16 to 24 are particularly high. Tables A4.12 to A4.16 in Appendix A give the full results, including separate estimates for the violence typology categories.

12. Equal weight to both years is given to each year, based on re-scaling estimated numbers of personal crimes.

Figure 4.6 Adults most at risk of violence in 1999 and 2000



Note: The chart indicates risk for those subgroups which have a prevalence rate of over 7%.

5 Concern about crime

The term 'concern about crime' encompasses a variety of different attitudes, feelings and reactions towards crime. The BCS covers concern about crime in a number of ways. These include beliefs about trends in crime and personal risks of victimisation, as well as more emotional responses such as worry about specific offences and feeling unsafe after dark. Many of the questions have been included in their current format since the 1984 sweep of the survey.

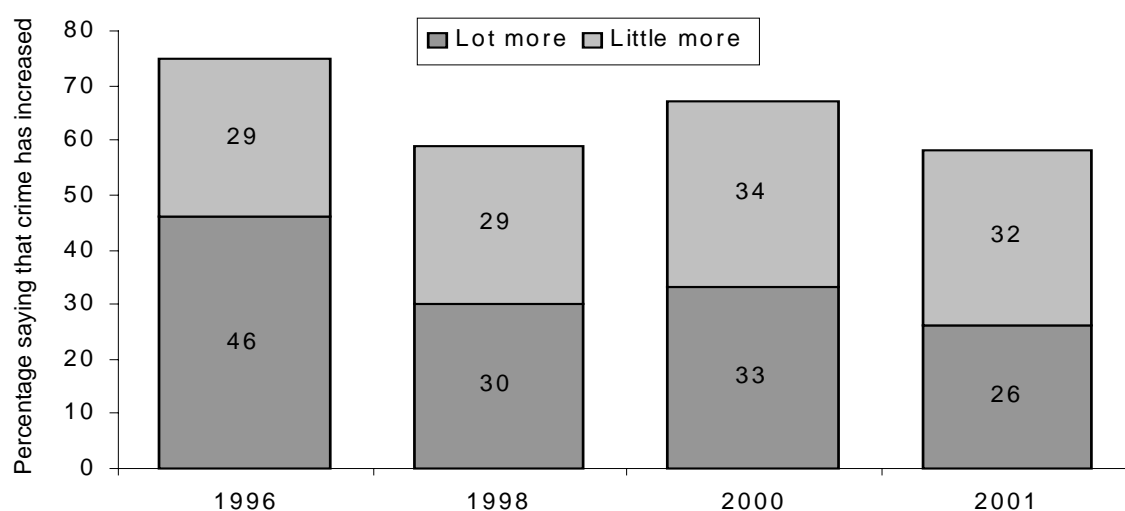
This section looks at the level of public concern in 2001 and where possible examines how this has changed over time. It goes on to describe which groups and areas have heightened level of concern. The section concludes by examining the effects of fear of crime, in terms of the impact it has upon an individual's behaviour and quality of life.¹

PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

National crime rates

In the 2001 BCS, as in the previous three sweeps, respondents were asked whether they thought the recorded crime rate for the country as a whole had changed over the previous two years. Figure 5.1 shows that the public was more positive about crime trends in 2001 than they have been over the previous three sweeps of the BCS (see Table A5.1). One-quarter of respondents believed that crime had risen 'a lot', and a third felt that crime had risen 'a little' over the previous two years. This is despite the total number of crimes reported to the BCS falling by 12% between 1999 and 2000. The total number of crimes recorded by the police increased by 1.2% over the two years to the end of March 2001, this being made up of a 3.8% increase to the end of March 2000 followed by a 2.5% decrease in the year to the end of March 2001 (see Povey and colleagues, 2001, for more details).

Figure 5.1 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate (1996 to 2001 BCS)

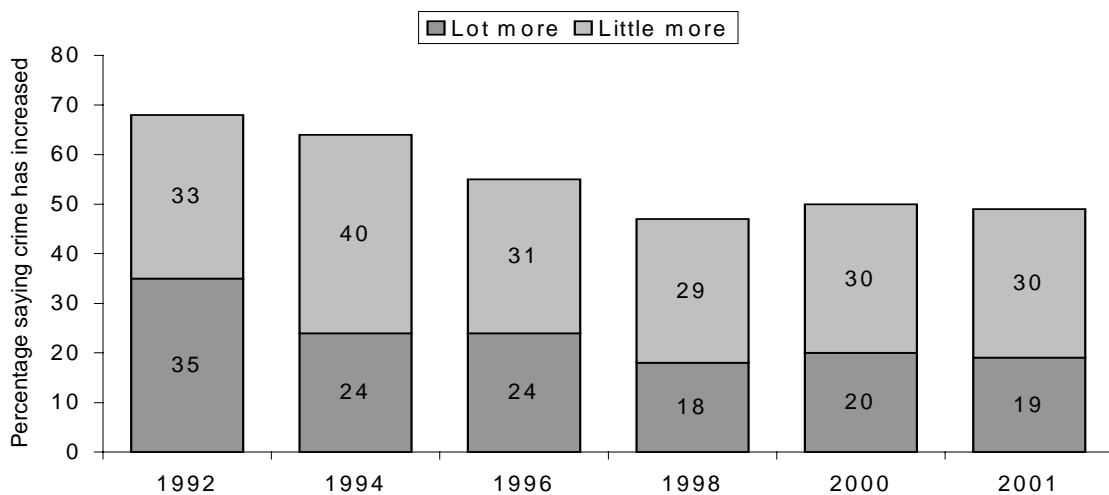


1. The term 'fear of crime' has been widely used to refer to a range of worries and anxieties about crime, rather than simply emotional response to fear. Following the common usage, 'fear of crime' is used here in this wider sense.

Local crime rates

People continue to be more optimistic about crime in their *own* area. Respondents who had lived in their area for more than three years were asked whether the local crime rate had changed compared to two years ago. Estimates from the 2001 BCS shows that half of all respondents thought that crime in their area had gone up. Whilst there is only very marginal decreases in the number who believe crime in their locality to have gone up ‘a lot’ compared to the 2000 BCS, people are more positive than they were in the early to mid 1990s (Figure 5.2; Table A5.2).

Figure 5.2 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate (1992 to 2001 BCS)



The likelihood of victimisation

In line with earlier sweeps, the 2001 BCS asked respondents how likely they thought the following crimes would happen to them in the next year:²

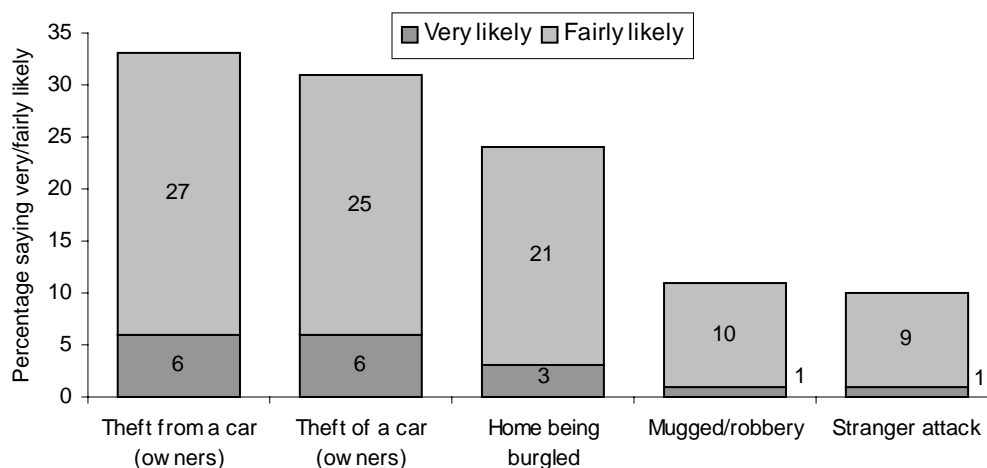
- being burgled
- having their car stolen
- having things stolen from their car
- being mugged or robbed
- being attacked by a stranger.

Very few people thought that these crimes were ‘very likely’ to happen to them, but a substantial minority thought that it was ‘fairly likely’ that their car would be stolen or that items would be stolen from it, or their home would be burgled. People felt that it was less likely that they would be a victim of violent crime (Figure 5.3; Table A5.3). To this extent, views were rational given that violent crime is less likely than the other offences. The 2001 estimates show a similar pattern, with respondents

2. Respondents were given a four-point response scale – ‘very likely’, ‘fairly likely’, ‘fairly unlikely’, and ‘very unlikely’. This scale was also used in the 2000 BCS, however earlier sweeps adopted a five-point scale, including a ‘certain’ code. This change means that results can only be compared to 2000 estimates.

thinking it more likely that they will be a victim to property crime as opposed to personal crime. Estimates from the 2001 BCS identified 'theft from a car' as being the most common crime that people felt they would experience in the year to come, and this is consistent with results from the 2000 BCS. Compared to the 2000 sweep, the 2001 BCS shows a slight increase in the number of people who felt it was likely they would be burgled, this is despite the number of burglaries reported to the BCS falling considerably over this period.

Figure 5.3 Percentage thinking it likely they will be a victim in the following year (2001 BCS)



It is difficult to judge whether or not people are unduly pessimistic about their chances of falling victim to crime. The average national risks of victimisation are far lower than the proportion who consider it likely that they will be a victim. In 2000, for instance, 3.4% of households were burgled, 6.8% of vehicle-owning households had items stolen from a vehicle, 1.8% a vehicle stolen, and 0.5% of adults were mugged. It is difficult to know how respondents form a view of their own risk. Are they considering their risk relative to the 'average' person or to those they consider to be at lower risk?

The BCS shows that perceptions are to some degree associated with actual levels of risk. People living in areas where the risk of victimisation was high in 2000 were more likely to consider that they would be victimised. Residents in inner-city areas or council estates felt particularly vulnerable. Respondents living in areas with high levels of physical disorder were much more likely to believe they would be victimised. Other groups who were more likely to believe that they would be victimised were those in poor health, on low incomes or living in social rented accommodation. This pattern of risk and victimisation is very similar to that elicited from the 2000 BCS. Results from the 2001 BCS also indicate that those people who rent privately are slightly more likely to believe they will be a burglary victim as compared with social renters and owner occupiers (in 2000 private renters, along with owner occupiers, had lower perceptions of risk than social renters).

Not surprisingly, personal experiences of crime are linked to perceptions of risk. For example over half of those who had been burgled in the previous year thought it likely they would be burgled in the following year (see Table A5.5). This is in line with 2000 estimates.

Tables A5.4 to A5.6 in Appendix A show how perceptions of risk vary across different social and demographic groups. Young men have perceptions of risk not far from the average, even though they are at much higher risk of being a victim of a violent incident (see Table A4.12). The elderly tend

to have perceptions of risk that are either similar to or below average. This has some logic as levels of risk for elderly households tend to be lower than average, particularly with respect to personal crime.

WORRY ABOUT VICTIMISATION

The BCS asks people how worried they are about various crimes.³ They can say they are either 'very worried', 'fairly worried', 'not very worried' or 'not very worried at all'. Figure 5.4 shows the national proportion who were either 'very' or 'fairly' worried in 2001.⁴

The picture differs somewhat depending on whether 'very' worried or both 'very' and 'fairly' worried are considered. Taking only those who are 'very' worried, then less than one-fifth of respondents consider themselves worried for all crimes listed. For racially motivated assaults and being insulted or pestered the figures are lower than a tenth. Including 'fairly' worried there is more variation in levels of concern across different crimes. This pattern is consistent with those elicited from the 2000 BCS, although the 2001 estimates are lower.

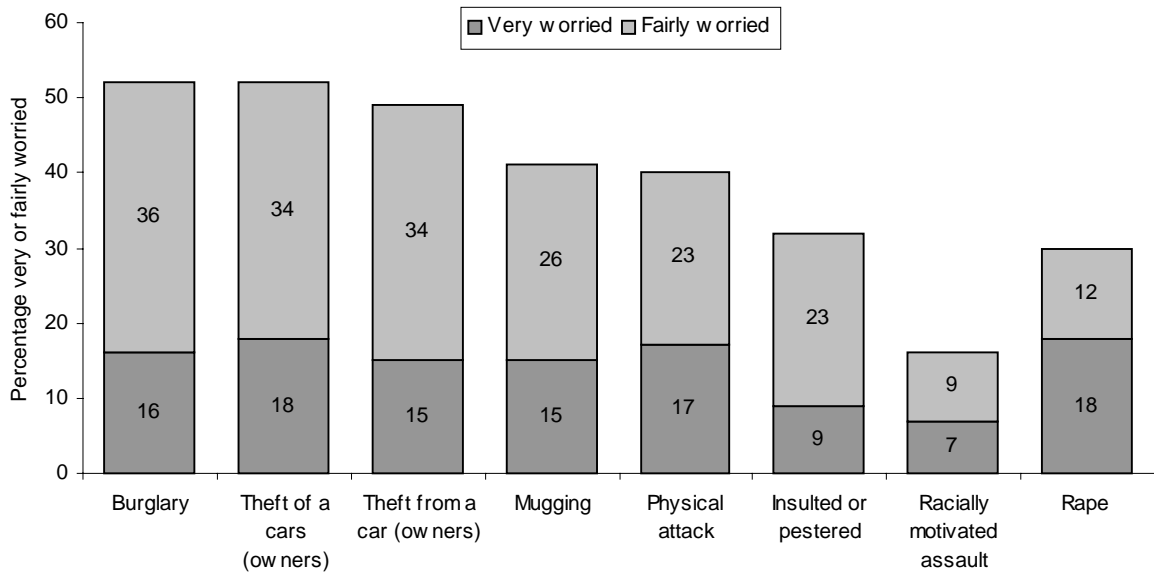
The low number of ethnic minority respondents in the 'old methodology' sample means that worry levels in 2001 for racially motivated assaults cannot be presented by ethnic groups. Results from past sweeps of the BCS (see Kershaw et al., 2000) show that levels of worry about such crime are much higher than average for Black and Asian respondents. In the 2000 BCS, 5% of White respondents were 'very' worried about such attack, as opposed to 28% of Black respondents and 33% of Asian respondents. A more detailed discussion of BCS results on ethnic minority experience of crime, including anxiety about crime is contained in Clancy et al. (2001).

For elderly men and women the levels of worry follow a similar pattern to perceptions of risk, with levels of worry being either similar to or below those for the averages for men and women.

3. Respondents are also asked how much they worry about being insulted or pestered which may fall short of being a criminal offence.

4. See Table A5.9 for separate male and female estimates on worry about rape.

Figure 5.4 Worry about crime (2001 BCS)



It is arguable that ‘very’ worried provides a more discriminating measure and it is this that is used in the rest of this section to examine trends in worry and which groups are most concerned.

Trends over time

The BCS has included questions on worry about different crimes since 1984. Figures 5.5 and 5.6 show the trends in levels of concern. The 1994 BCS saw levels of worry for all types of crime reach their highest level.⁵ Though, since then, levels of those very worried have continued to fall. Levels in worry do not necessarily follow levels in recorded crime. For example recorded crime figures show a fall of 6% between 1992 and 1994, yet worry was higher in 1994.

Between 2000 and 2001 the proportion ‘very’ worried about varying crimes fell, with the exception of racially motivated assaults and being insulted or pestered which remained stable. Apart from theft from cars, all of these decreases were statistically significant.⁶ Aside from those that remained stable, the percentage of those who were ‘very’ worried in 2001 is the lowest ever recorded by the BCS.

Considering both those who were ‘very’ and ‘fairly’ worried there are decreases across all crimes, with the exception of racially motivated assaults and being insulted or pestered which again remained stable.

This decrease in worry can be seen across nearly all social groups and areas.⁷

5. Figures for rape are not presented for the 1994 BCS because the question was placed in a different part of the questionnaire and the change in context renders comparison difficult.

6. Using a two-tailed significance test. Decreases were significant at the 5% level.

7. See Table A5.9 and Table A7.9 in Kershaw et al. (2000) for comparable 2000 estimates.

Figure 5.5 Trend in worry about property crime (1984-2001 BCS)

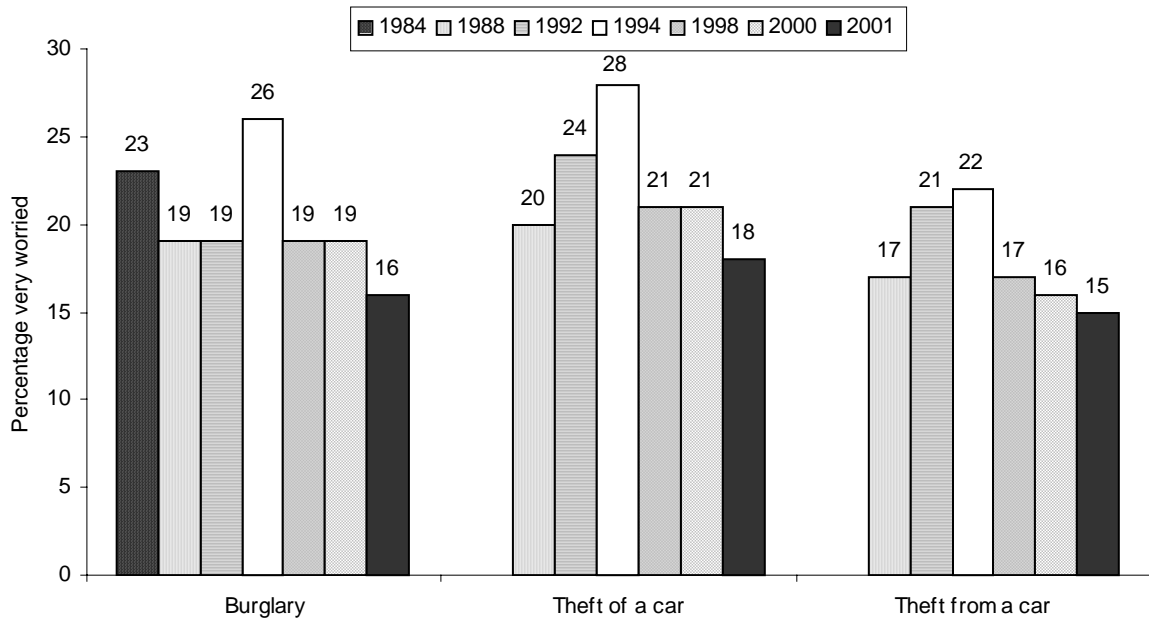
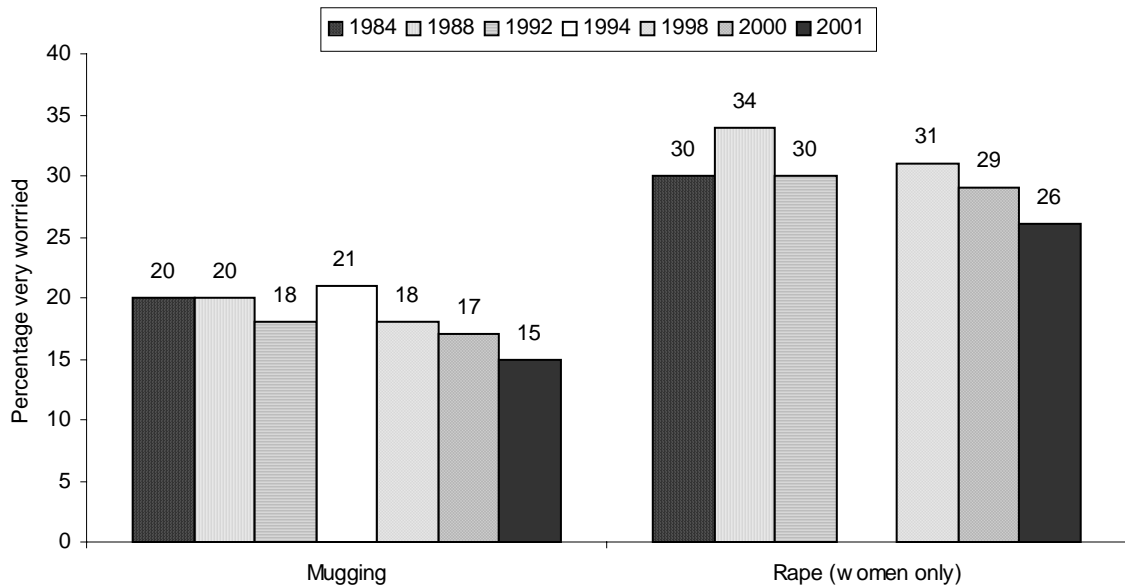


Figure 5.6 Trend in worry about violent crime (1984-2001 BCS)



The Home Office has the aim of ensuring that by 31 March 2002 the levels of worry for burglary, car crime and violence are lower than in 1998. The BCS is being used to monitor progress in achieving this target. Table 5.1 below shows the figures for 1998, 2000 and 2001. For all three measures, fear has continued to fall over successive sweeps of the BCS. Between 1998 and 2000 only the fall for violence was statistically significant. However, between 1998 and 2001, both the decrease in violence and burglary were statistically significant.⁸ The burglary figures are simply based on the

8. Using a two-tailed significance test. Decreases were significant at the 5% level.

percentage 'very' worried. The violence figure is the percentage with high levels of worry on a scale constructed from worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. The car crime figure is the percentage with high levels of worry on a scale constructed from the worry about theft of and from a car.

Table 5.1 Trends in indicators for fear of crime (1998 to 2001 BCS)

<i>Percentage with high levels of worry:</i>	1998	2000	2001	Significant 1998-2001
Burglary ²	19.4	19.2	16.5	Yes
Car crime ³	21.9	20.9	18.5	No
Violent crime ⁴	25.0	23.7	22.3	Yes

Notes:

1. Source: 1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. The percentage 'very' worried about burglary.
3. Based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about theft of a car and from a car. Figures in the table are the percentage who scored 3 or 4 on the scale. Each worry question was coded as 'very worried' = 2; 'fairly worried' = 1; 'not very worried' and 'not at all worried' = 0. Scores for individual respondents were calculated by summing the scores across each question, these ranging from 0 to 4.
4. Based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. Figures in the table are the percentage who scored 4 or more on the scale. The same coding system for question responses was used as for the vehicle crime questions. For violence the scale ranged from 0 (i.e., all responses are not very/at all worried) to 8 (i.e., all responses are very worried).

CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY

Apart from asking people how worried they are about different crimes, the BCS also asks how safe they feel when (a) walking alone in their area after dark and (b) alone in their home at night. These questions are frequently used in surveys but it should be emphasised that they make no reference to crime. There could be many reasons why people feel unsafe in such circumstances (e.g., fear of the dark, fear of a fall etc.). Furthermore, for some people the questions will be hypothetical because they are never or infrequently in these situations.

In 2001, 13% of respondents said that they felt 'very unsafe' walking alone in their area after dark and a further 20% felt 'a bit unsafe'. People were far less likely to feel unsafe alone in their own home, with 2% saying they felt 'very unsafe' and 6% 'a bit unsafe'. The proportion feeling unsafe has remained relatively stable over time (Table A5.8).

People are more likely to feel worried if they have been a victim of crime. Those that had been burgled were three times as likely to feel unsafe alone in their home at night.

WHO IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME

All sweeps of the BCS have shown marked social and demographic variations in levels of concern. The following correlates of fear emerge here:

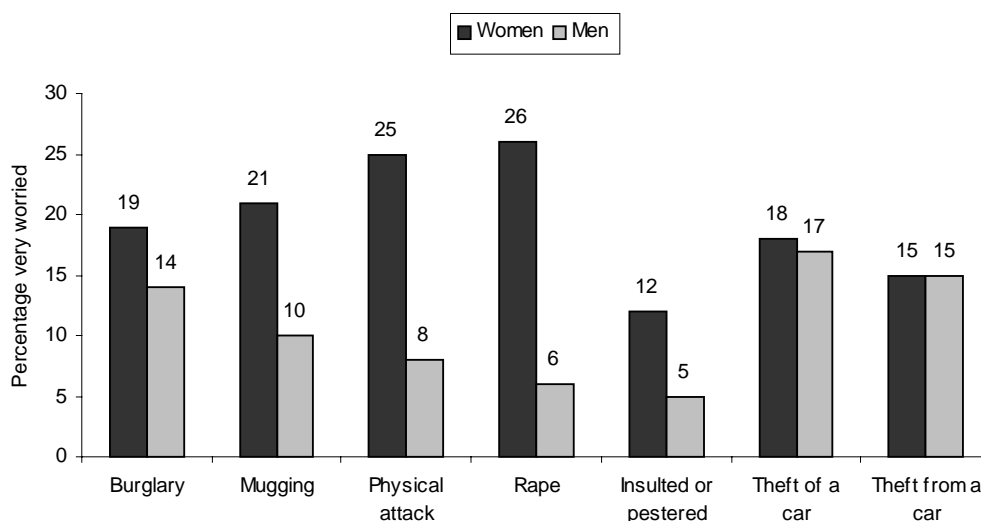
- demographic factors
- experience of crime
- perceptions of crime risk
- perceived levels of disorder
- neighbourhood cohesion

Each is discussed in turn below. The results are based on bivariate analysis and describe which groups were most likely to feel very worried/unsafe in 2001 taking each factor at a time. (See Hough 1995 for further discussion on factors which increase anxiety about crime.)

As in previous sweeps, the 2001 BCS shows that age and sex are strongly related to worry about crime and feelings of safety.

Women were somewhat more worried than men about burglary and far more worried about violent crime (Figure 5.7). Around a quarter of women said they were 'very worried' about being raped or physically attacked, and just over a fifth were 'very worried' about being mugged. Young women were particularly worried about being physically attacked (32%) or raped (35%) (Table A5.9).

In terms of concerns about personal safety, women were more likely to feel unsafe when walking alone at night than men, and older people were more anxious than younger people (Table A5.14). Women aged 60 and over were by far the most likely to say they felt or would feel 'very unsafe' in these circumstances (33%). These results do not necessarily mean that older women are more fearful of crime on the streets at night. Results for the question on walking alone in your area after dark differ in the pattern of response from those on worry and perception of risk (where the elderly do not generally have above average levels of concern). This adds weight to the suggestion that some answers to this safety question may be prompted by concerns other than about crime and that the question may also be asking the elderly to place themselves in a situation that they would naturally tend to avoid. Fear of going out because of crime is discussed later in this section.

Figure 5.7 Worry about crime, by sex (2001 BCS)

Health

The 2001 BCS shows that those who considered themselves to be in poor health or who had a limiting illness or disability had heightened levels of concern (Tables A5.9 and A5.14). It is difficult to know why this is, but there are several possible explanations. First, those who are in poor health may feel generally more vulnerable to a variety of misfortunes. Second, they may feel that they are seen to be an easy target by potential offenders. Third, those in poor health may feel that they would be less able to cope physically, emotionally or financially if they were to be victimised.

Socio-economic factors

Previous BCS analysis has indicated that socio-economic factors, such as social class, are associated with levels of concern about crime. The 2001 BCS consistently indicates that the following factors are associated with heightened levels of concern (Tables A5.9 and A5.14):

- being in a partly skilled or unskilled occupation
- living in low income households (less than £10,000 per annum)
- living in council or Housing Association accommodation.

Area

Levels of concern vary considerably across different types of locality with, not surprisingly, those living in areas where victimisation risks are relatively high being more likely to say they are worried about crime. Those living in inner-city areas and council estate areas and areas with high levels of physical disorder were particularly concerned (Tables A5.12 and A5.17).

Experience of crime

Victims of any BCS crime in the previous year were more likely to be very worried than non-victims (Table A5.10).⁹ Turning to crime-specific victimisation, victims of burglary were far more worried about burglary than non-victims, and victims of vehicle-related theft (including attempts) were more concerned about vehicle thefts than non-victims. Victims of a violent crime were more worried than non-victims about being mugged or attacked by a stranger and raped.

Perceptions of crime risk

Perceptions of risk are related to worry about specific crimes. Those who considered that they were 'very' or 'fairly' likely to be victims of crime in the next year were generally more worried about all crimes (Table A5.11).

Perceptions of risk were also linked to feelings of safety. Around a quarter of those who considered it likely that they would be mugged/robbed and around a fifth of those who considered it likely that they would be attacked by a stranger or burgled said they felt 'very unsafe' walking alone in their area at night (Table A5.16).

Perceived levels of disorder

Levels of concern were high in areas where the interviewer assessed physical disorder to be commonplace. Respondents were also asked their views as to how much of a problem various physical and social disorders were in their area. Those who perceived high levels of disorder (teenagers hanging around, vandalism or drug misuse) in their area were more concerned about crime and their own safety (Tables A5.12 and A5.17).

Neighbourhood cohesion

Respondents were asked whether they thought that their neighbourhood was one in which people did things together and tried to help each other or one in which people mostly went their own way. Levels of concern were slightly higher among people who lived in areas where there was less sense of community (Tables A5.12 and A5.17).

THE IMPACT OF CONCERN ABOUT CRIME

Worry about crime can be regarded as problematic if it has a detrimental impact on people's quality of life. However, not all those who express concern will necessarily be in a constant state of alarm about the prospect of victimisation. Furthermore, it is arguable that a certain level of concern or wariness is actually beneficial in encouraging people to take measures to reduce their risk of victimisation (e.g., installing household security devices or avoiding risky places).

This section briefly looks at the impact concern about crime has on people's behaviour and explores to what degree concern takes the form of apprehension and anxiety and to what degree it takes the form of a 'sensible' level of cautiousness.

9. Based on the full recall period from 1 January 2000 to the date of interview.

Never going out for fear of crime

Overall, 30% said that they never walked alone in their local area after dark and a further 13% said they went out less than once a month. Women were more likely to say they never walked in their local area alone after dark (43%), particularly those aged 60 or over (66%).

From 2001, interviewing for the BCS will take place throughout the year. To avoid, as far as possible, seasonal bias respondents are asked to think about the spring and autumn period in answering this question. This means that results are not directly comparable with past sweeps.

There are many reasons why people may not walk in their area after dark. For those people who go out less than once a month or never, the most common reason why was simply a lack of inclination (44%) – 19% of the whole sample.¹⁰ Fear of crime (mugging, physical attack, burglary or vandalism) was cited by 18% of those who went out less than once a month or never – 8% of the whole sample.

Impact of fear of crime on quality of life

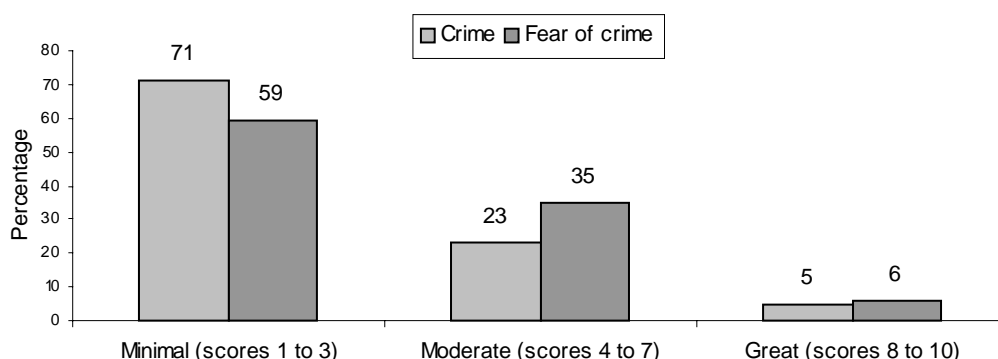
The 1998, 2000 and 2001 sweeps of the BCS included a question to try and assess to what extent fear of crime had an impact on people's quality of life. Respondents were asked:

“How much is your own quality of life affected by fear of crime, on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is no effect and 10 is total effect on your quality of life?”

In 2001, over half (59%) of those asked felt that fear of crime had a minimal impact (scores 1 to 3) on their quality of life and a further 35% said it had a moderate impact (scores 4 to 7). Only 6% considered that their quality of life was greatly affected because of their fear of crime (scores 8 to 10). See Table A5.19.

The 2001 BCS also asked a different random sample of respondents about how much *crime itself* affected their quality of life. The results indicate that crime has less of an effect on respondents than fear of crime (Figure 5.8), possibly reflecting concerns felt by respondents who had not been a recent victim of crime.

Figure 5.8 Impact of fear of crime/crime on quality of life (2001 BCS)



10. People who said that they had no reason to, were busy or content staying home or did not want to go out.

Appendix A Additional tables

Table A2.1 Number of BCS incidents of crime, 1981 to 2000 (in thousands) and percentage change

	1981	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000	% change 1981 to 2000	% change 1995 to 2000	% change 1999 to 2000
PROPERTY									
Vandalism	2,715	3,403	3,419	2,898	2,852	2,608	-4 **	-24 **	-9
Vehicle vandalism	1,559	1,801	1,853	1,605	1,575	1,488	-5 **	-20 **	-6
Other vandalism	1,156	1,602	1,566	1,293	1,277	1,120	-3 *	-28 **	-12
Burglary	750	1,775	1,755	1,628	1,283	1,063	42	-39 **	-17 **
Attempts	276	755	758	756	523	466	69 **	-38 **	-11
Attempts and no loss	377	957	976	970	746	660	75 **	-32 **	-11
With entry	474	1,020	997	872	760	597	26	-40 **	-21 **
With loss	373	818	779	658	537	403	8	-48 **	-25 **
All vehicle thefts	1,752	4,344	4,318	3,461	2,954	2,619	50 **	-39 **	-11 **
Theft from vehicle	1,287	2,564	2,525	2,150	1,810	1,626	26	-36 **	-10
Theft of vehicles	286	544	501	373	333	337	18	-33 **	1
Attempts of and from	179	1,237	1,292	937	811	656	266 **	-49 **	-19 **
Bicycle theft	216	602	660	544	397	377	74 **	-43 **	-5
Other household theft	1,518	2,366	2,267	2,054	1,916	1,616	6	-29 **	-16 **
Theft from the person	434	601	670	590	614	629	45	-6	2
Snatch theft from person	86	86	75	83	53	36	-58	-52 **	-32
Stealth theft from person	348	515	595	508	562	593	70 **	0	6
Other thefts of personal property	1,586	1,921	2,074	1,890	1,502	1,404	-11 *	-32 **	-7
VIOLENCE									
Common assault	1,403	2,550	2,820	2,278	2,206	1,890	35	-33 **	-14
Wounding	508	762	862	716	634	417	-18	-52 **	-34 *
Robbery	164	237	314	309	353	276	68	-12	-22
All BCS violence	2,160	3,635	4,071	3,387	3,246	2,618	21	-36 **	-19 **
Domestic violence	292	1,178	990	834	761	499	71	-50 **	-34 **
Acquaintance	774	1,320	1,730	1,462	1,178	770	-1	-55 **	-35 **
Stranger	844	811	935	683	881	992	18	6	13
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	250	323	389	392	406	312	25	-20	-23
Old comparable crime	6,538	11,723	12,227	10,148	9,088	7,989	22	-33	-12
Comparable crime	-	-	-	-	11,294	9,879	-	-	-13
All BCS crime	11,046	18,559	19,161	16,371	14,712	12,899	17	-33	-12
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>10,905</i>	<i>14,520</i>	<i>16,348</i>	<i>14,947</i>	<i>19,441</i>	<i>8,985</i>			

Notes:

1. Source 1982 to 2001 BCS.
2. **Old comparable** crime includes vandalism, burglary, all vehicle thefts, bicycle theft, snatch and stealth thefts from the person, wounding and robbery. **Comparable** crime also includes common assault, assault on a constable and vehicle interference and tampering. These became notifiable offences from 1 April 1998.
3. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft. The typology of violence does not add to the total because not all violent incidents can be categorised into the typology due to missing information.
4. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts the numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by **22,167,109** households in England and Wales (provisional estimate). For common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch thefts, stealth thefts and other thefts of personal property the numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by **42,275,388** adults in England and Wales. Note that estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to population estimates.
5. Statistical significance of changes are indicated by a single asterisk for significance at the 10% level and double at the 5% level (two tailed tests). Tests are based on comparing rates of victimisation per household or per number in the adult population (i.e. account is taken in shifts in household and population numbers before comparisons are made). Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS/comparable crime (see footnote 4 of Table A2.2).
6. Short Victim Forms were introduced in 1991 (see Appendix B, the short forms were the fourth and fifth out of a possible five). In 1991 the questions needed to distinguish between domestic, stranger and acquaintance were not asked on short victim forms.

Table A2.2 Range on BCS estimates of number of crimes in 2000 (in thousands) and statistical significance of changes between 1999 and 2000

	Best Estimate 2000	Lower Estimate 2000	Higher Estimate 2000	Statistical significance of changes from 1999 to 2000
PROPERTY				
Vandalism	2,608	2,366	2,850	
Vehicle vandalism	1,488	1,339	1,638	
Other vandalism	1,120	951	1,289	
Burglary	1,063	931	1,196	**
Attempts	466	383	550	
Attempts and no loss	660	556	764	
With entry	597	503	692	**
With loss	403	330	476	**
All vehicle thefts	2,619	2,391	2,847	**
Theft from vehicle	1,626	1,448	1,805	
Theft of vehicles	337	278	396	
Attempts of and from	656	563	749	**
Bicycle theft	377	320	434	
Other household theft	1,616	1,466	1,766	**
Theft from the person	629	510	748	
Snatch theft from person	36	15	57	
Stealth theft from person	593	473	704	
Other thefts of personal property	1,404	1,218	1,590	
VIOLENCE				
Common assault	1,890	1,597	2,183	
Wounding	417	285	549	*
Robbery	276	140	411	
All BCS violence	2,618	2,231	3,006	**
Domestic violence	499	362	637	**
Acquaintance	770	608	933	**
Stranger	992	762	1,222	
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	312	175	449	

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS.
2. See notes 2, 3, 4 and 5 to Table A2.1.
3. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval (margin of error) around the 2001 sample estimates. The best estimate is the estimate from the sample. The lower and higher estimates are for the 90% confidence interval. There is 90% certainty that the estimate for 2000 number lies between these two figures.
4. It is not possible to construct confidence ranges for all BCS/comparable crime because household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult. The two types of rate cannot be combined (see Glossary for details of household and personal offences).
5. ** indicates that the change between 1999 and 2000 is statistically significant at the 5% level (two tailed test) and * indicates significance at the 10% level (two tailed test). Significance is judged by comparing rates per household or per adult.

Table A2.3 Statistical significance of change in BCS rates of victimisation between 1981, 1995, 1999 and 2000

	Rates per 10,000 adults/households				% change 1981 to 2000	% change 1995 to 2000	% change 1999 to 2000
	1981	1995	1999	2000			
PROPERTY							
Vandalism	1,481	1,614	1,300	1177	-21 **	-27 **	-10
Vehicle vandalism	850	875	718	671	-21 **	-23 **	-7
Other vandalism	630	739	582	505	-20 *	-32 **	-13
Burglary	409	829	585	480	17	-42 **	-18 **
Attempts	150	358	239	210	40 **	-41 **	-12
Attempts and no loss	205	461	340	298	45 **	-35 **	-12
With entry	258	471	346	269	4	-43 **	-22 **
With loss	204	368	245	182	-11	-51 **	-26 **
All vehicle thefts	955	2,039	1,347	1182	24 **	-42 **	-12 **
Theft from vehicle	702	1,192	825	734	5	-38 **	-11
Theft of vehicles	156	236	152	152	-2	-36 **	0
Attempts of and from	98	610	370	296	203 **	-51 **	-20 **
Bicycle theft	118	312	181	170	44 **	-45 **	-6
Other household theft	828	1,070	874	729	-12	-32 **	-17 **
Theft from the person	112	163	146	149	33	-9	2
Snatch thefts from person	22	18	13	9	-62	-53 **	-32
Stealth thefts from person	90	145	134	140	56 **	-3	5
Other thefts of personal property	410	504	358	332	-19 *	-34 **	-7
VIOLENCE							
Common assault	362	685	525	447	23	-35 **	-15
Wounding	131	209	151	99	-25	-53 **	-35 *
Robbery	42	76	84	65	54	-14	-23
All BCS violence	558	989	773	619	11	-37 **	-20 **
Domestic violence	75	241	181	118	57	-51 **	-35 **
Acquaintance	200	420	281	182	-9	-57 **	-35 **
Stranger	218	227	210	235	8	3	12
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	65	94	97	74	-14	-22	-24

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1996, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. See notes 2, 3 and 4 to Table A2.1.
3. Rates for common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch theft, stealth theft and other theft of personal property are quoted per 10,000 adults. For vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts, rates are quoted per 10,000 households.
4. ** indicates the change is statistically significant at the 5% level (two tailed).
5. * indicates the change is statistically significant at the 10% level (two tailed).
6. It is not possible to construct a rate for all BCS/comparable crime because rates for household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult, and the two types of rate cannot be combined. Therefore, statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS/comparable crime.

2001 British Crime Survey

Table A2.4 Percentage of BCS incidents reported to the police, 1981 to 2000

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000	Statistical significance of changes from 1999 to 2000
PROPERTY										
Vandalism	22.2	22.0	23.7	27.0	26.5	29.0	26.3	30.7	34.2	
Vehicle vandalism	10.3	16.1	21.7	24.5	22.5	25.0	23.1	24.1	30.0	**
Other vandalism	36.4	31.6	26.2	30.9	31.0	33.7	30.3	38.7	39.9	
Burglary	66.2	67.8	62.8	73.0	67.8	66.4	64.4	62.2	65.5	
Attempts	42.0	48.1	37.9	48.1	47.5	45.8	47.5	46.8	55.3	
Attempts and no loss	48.4	50.2	43.7	53.0	51.6	52.2	50.3	48.8	54.5	
With entry	81.2	82.3	81.9	87.9	82.9	82.0	79.0	72.9	73.6	
With loss	84.7	86.6	86.3	92.2	86.8	84.3	85.1	80.9	83.6	
All vehicle thefts	40.8	43.1	46.4	55.9	53.1	51.2	47.1	50.3	48.9	
Theft from vehicle	30.0	38.2	39.9	52.6	50.3	50.0	43.0	47.0	46.8	
Theft of vehicle	94.9	96.4	94.9	98.6	96.3	97.4	96.4	94.7	89.8	
Attempts of and from	30.7	18.0	33.9	41.2	40.0	35.7	36.8	39.5	33.2	
Bicycle theft	63.9	68.2	62.4	69.0	71.9	62.9	63.8	54.2	54.0	
Other household theft	25.2	21.8	23.8	29.2	31.9	30.1	32.9	32.4	29.5	
Theft from the person	31.3	31.2	33.6	34.6	25.6	40.7	35.3	31.3	35.4	
Snatch theft from person	24.1	47.2	48.8	37.5	38.7	74.9	50.3	45.6	43.3	
Stealth thefts from person	32.9	28.8	31.1	33.9	23.4	36.4	32.8	29.9	34.9	
Other thefts of personal property	22.7	29.8	31.2	38.0	30.2	29.5	33.3	31.5	36.8	
VIOLENCE										
Common assault	25.1	30.5	32.5	25.5	23.2	34.4	31.2	29.0	39.2	**
Wounding	40.2	59.6	43.3	47.7	53.2	39.2	45.1	58.2	68.2	
Robbery	46.5	39.0	43.9	47.2	48.3	55.9	55.9	30.8	54.1	*
Old comparable violence	41.5	54.7	43.4	47.6	52.0	43.7	48.4	48.4	62.2	*
Comparable violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.0	45.4	**
All BCS violence	29.7	37.8	35.0	32.4	31.5	37.8	36.9	35.2	45.4	**
Domestic violence	19.6	13.3	46.3	23.4	21.6	30.0	26.3	31.3	43.4	*
Acquaintance	25.2	35.3	34.0	29.1	32.0	36.7	34.5	36.8	37.5	
Stranger	35.2	46.8	30.3	37.5	39.1	38.5	44.8	38.3	47.8	
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	37.8	41.6	44.9	47.2	45.7	59.5	54.7	32.7	52.8	*
Old comparable crime	36.0	38.7	41.1	49.4	47.1	45.6	44.3	44.5	46.7	
Comparable crime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5	45.3	
All BCS crime	31.2	34.2	36.7	43.0	40.1	40.9	39.8	39.3	42.4	

Notes:

1. The proportion of BCS incidents reported to the police is worked out from the actual number of BCS incidents (rate multiplied by households/population) and the actual number of BCS incidents reported to the police (reported incidents rate multiplied by the households/population).
2. Source 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
3. See notes 2, 3 and 4 to Table A2.1.
4. Old comparable violence includes robbery and wounding only.
5. Comparable violence includes robbery, wounding and common assault. From 1 April 1998 common assault became a notifiable offence.
6. All BCS violence includes robbery, wounding, common assault and snatch theft.
7. ** indicates the change is statistically significant at the 5% level (two tailed).
8. * indicates the change is statistically significant at the 10% level (two tailed).
9. It is not possible to test significance for old comparable crime, comparable crime and all BCS crime because rates for household offences are based on rates per household, and those for personal offences on rates per adult, and the two types of rates cannot be combined.

Table A2.5 Reasons for not reporting crime (2001 BCS)

	Burglary	Thefts from vehicles & attempts	Other household Theft	Other personal theft	BCS violence	Comparable subset ²	All BCS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Trivial/no loss/police could not do anything ³	69	80	79	68	41	71	72
Fear of reprisal	1	1	1	1	5	2	2
Police related reasons ⁴	1	<1	1	1	<1	1	1
Private/dealt with ourselves	29	14	19	24	49	23	22
Reported to other authorities	1	1	2	11	6	3	4
Inconvenient to report	5	6	5	7	4	6	6
Other	3	1	2	3	4	2	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>1,497</i>	<i>2,049</i>

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Don't knows excluded from the base. More than one reason could be given.
2. The comparable crime sub-set includes vandalism, burglary, vehicle theft, bicycle theft, wounding, common assault, robbery, snatch and stealth theft. Thefts of vehicles not shown as very few incidents were not reported.
3. Trivial/no loss and police could not do anything or would not be interested are merged due to the similarity in their definition for example: A respondent who thinks the incident was too trivial may code the incident as 'too trivial, no loss' or 'the police would not be interested' as these two codes may be understood as meaning the same.
4. Police related reasons include: dislike or fear of the police and previous bad experience with the police or courts.

Table A2.6 Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1981 to 2001 (old comparable subset – these are adjusted for old counting rules)

<i>Old comparable</i>	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000
PROPERTY									
Vandalism	33	37	44	56	51	46	58	53	51
Burglary	70	70	65	62	60	55	49	57	59
Attempts and no loss	41	39	37	41	38	33	29	33	30
With loss	87	87	84	74	76	72	67	77	90
All vehicle thefts	91	75	71	65	60	55	62	63	69
Theft from vehicle	88	64	68	61	59	52	59	59	62
Theft of vehicle	[100] ³	[100] ³	89	95	94	83	87	89	78
Attempts of and from	51	54	47	34	27	32	44	50	77
Bicycle theft	91	73	55	59	48	44	43	61	57
Theft from the person	26	21	37	26	32	23	29	39	40
VIOLENCE									
Robbery	24	35	38	47	44	33	30	59	52
Wounding	41	37	48	52	42	51	63	54	74
Old comparable crime	62	59	59	60	55	50	55	58	60

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. See notes 2 and 3 to Table A2.1.
3. The figures for thefts of vehicles recorded by the police in 1981 and 1983 are higher than the number reported. Sampling error on the BCS figures is likely to explain this.
4. Theft from the person includes snatch and stealth thefts from the person.
5. The 1999 figures are based on the adjusted old counting rules for recorded crime and the old comparable subset of BCS crime in order to preserve continuity.
6. Note that estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to population estimates.

Table A2.7 Percentage of BCS reported incidents recorded by the police, 1999 to 2000

<i>Comparable subset</i>	1999	2000
PROPERTY		
Vandalism	56	54
Burglary	57	59
Attempts and no loss	33	30
With loss	77	90
All vehicle thefts	67	73
Theft from vehicle	59	63
Theft of vehicle	89	78
Attempts of and from	65	[100] ³
Bicycle theft	63	58
Theft from the person	39	40
VIOLENCE		
Common assault	28	26
Robbery	59	52
Wounding	50	69
Comparable violence	38	40
Comparable crime	55	56

Notes:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. See notes 2 and 3 to Table A2.1.
3. The number of attempted theft of vehicles recorded by the police is 3% higher than the estimated number of reported incidents derived from the BCS. Sampling error on the BCS figures is likely to partly explain this. Vehicle interference and tampering also became a comparable crime from 1 April 1998; this has been added to attempted thefts of and from, but it may well be the case that some instances of interference/tampering may be coded as a nuisance incident or vehicle vandalism when reported to the BCS.
4. Theft from the person includes snatch and stealth thefts from the person.
5. The 1999 and 2000 figures are based on the adjusted new counting rules for recorded crime and the comparable subset of BCS crime.
6. Note that estimates may vary from those previously published due to revisions to population estimates.

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Table A2.8 Percentage of households/adults victims once or more, 1981 to 2000 (prevalence risks)

	1981	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000
<i>Percentage of households, victims once or more of:</i>							
Vandalism	9.2	8.6	10.0	10.2	8.2	7.8	7.2
Vehicle vandalism	5.7	5.7	6.1	6.3	5.1	5.0	4.7
Other vandalism	3.9	3.4	4.3	4.4	3.5	3.1	2.8
Burglary	3.4	5.3	6.5	6.3	5.6	4.3	3.4
Attempts	1.4	2.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.5
Attempts and no loss	1.9	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.1
With entry	2.2	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.2	2.5	2.0
With loss	1.8	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.6	1.9	1.5
All vehicle thefts	7.3	13.5	14.6	14.5	11.9	9.8	8.3
Theft from vehicle	5.6	8.8	9.2	9.1	7.7	6.3	5.2
Theft of vehicle	1.4	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.4
Attempts of and from	0.8	3.6	4.7	4.8	3.6	2.9	2.4
Bicycle theft	1.1	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.2	1.5	1.6
Other household theft	5.4	6.4	8.1	7.5	6.7	6.2	5.3
Theft from the person	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4
Snatch theft from person	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Stealth theft from person	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Other thefts of personal property	3.3	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.0	2.7
<i>Percentage of vehicle owners, victims once or more of:</i>							
All vehicle thefts	10.8	18.2	19.7	19.5	15.7	12.6	10.9
Theft from vehicle	8.2	11.8	12.3	12.2	10.2	8.1	6.8
Theft of vehicle	2.1	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.1	1.8	1.8
Attempts of and from	1.1	4.8	6.4	6.4	4.8	3.7	3.1
Vehicle vandalism	8.5	7.6	8.2	8.5	6.7	6.6	6.1
<i>Percentage of bicycle owners, victims once or more of:</i>							
Bicycle theft	2.7	5.5	5.4	5.8	4.8	3.3	3.8
<i>Percentage of adults (16+), victims once or more of:</i>							
Common assault	2.0	2.3	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.0	2.8
Wounding	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7
Robbery	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
Any BCS violence	3.2	3.6	4.7	5.2	4.7	4.2	3.7
Domestic violence	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6
Acquaintance	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.3
Stranger	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.6
Mugging (robbery and snatch theft)	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5
Any BCS crime³	27.7	34.9	39.2	39.3	34.1	30.5	26.8

Notes:

1. Source 1982, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. Risks for common assault, wounding, robbery, snatch theft, stealth theft and other theft of personal property are based on adults. Risks for vandalism, burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle thefts and other household thefts, are based on households.
3. This rate is calculated treating a household crime as a personal crime. It is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime.

Table A2.9 Number of times victims were victimised, 1999 and 2000

	1999			2000		
	Once	Twice	Three or more	Once	Twice	Three or more
PROPERTY						
Vandalism	68	16	16	66	20	14
Vehicle vandalism	75	16	9	73	18	9
Other vandalism	62	16	22	60	23	17
Burglary	80	13	7	79	11	10
Attempts	85	11	5	81	11	8
Attempts and no loss	83	11	6	80	12	9
With entry	81	11	8	85	7	8
With loss	83	11	7	88	5	6
All vehicle thefts	76	17	7	77	13	10
Theft from vehicle	79	16	5	77	14	9
Theft of vehicles	92	6	2	92	4	4
Attempts of and from	81	14	6	85	9	6
Bicycle theft	89	9	2	92	8	<1
Other household theft	77	14	9	77	15	8
Theft from the person	96	3	1	97	3	1
Snatch theft from person	100	-	-	100	-	-
Stealth theft from person	96	4	0	98	2	1
Other thefts of personal property	87	9	4	87	7	5
VIOLENCE						
Common assault	65	17	18	73	14	13
Wounding	74	12	14	73	12	15
Robbery	76	14	10	78	2	20
All BCS violence	65	17	18	71	14	15
Domestic violence	43	26	31	46	31	23
Acquaintance	72	14	15	77	14	9
Stranger	79	13	8	86	4	10
Mugging	80	12	8	82	2	16

Note:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS.

Table A2.10 Victim assessment of seriousness (1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS)

<i>Mean seriousness score</i>	1998	2000	2001
PROPERTY			
Vandalism	4.3	4.3	5.4
Vehicle vandalism	4.4	4.2	5.5
Other vandalism	4.2	4.5	5.3
Burglary	7.3	7.4	8.1
Attempts	6.2	6.1	7.3
Attempts and no loss	6.4	6.6	7.2
With entry	8.3	8.4	8.6
With loss	8.7	8.5	9.6
Vehicle thefts	5.1	5.2	5.9
Thefts of	8.7	8.8	9.1
Thefts from	4.5	4.7	5.3
Attempts of and from	4.9	5.0	5.9
Bicycle theft	4.9	5.0	5.6
Other household thefts	3.8	4.0	4.5
Theft from the person	5.3	5.1	6.3
Snatch theft from person	6.4	6.2	6.8
Stealth theft from the person	5.1	5.0	6.2
Other thefts of personal property	3.9	4.0	5.1
VIOLENCE			
Common assault	5.2	5.4	6.8
Wounding	8.6	8.7	12.3
Robbery	9.3	7.7	10.4
All BCS violence			
Domestic violence	7.6	7.3	9.3
Acquaintance	5.1	5.8	7.6
Stranger	6.1	5.8	6.7
Mugging	8.7	7.5	9.9

Notes:

1. Source 1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. Excludes don't knows.
3. Victims are asked to place the incident on a scale ranging from 0 to 20. 0 represents the most minor crime (e.g., theft of milk bottles) and 20 the most serious (murder).

Table A4.1 Risk of becoming a victim of burglary, violence or vehicle-related theft in rural and non-rural areas

	1995	1997	1999	2000
<i>Incidence Rates: Number of incidents per 10,000 adults/households</i>				
Burglary	829	756	585	480
Rural	468	429	343	234
Non-rural	938	859	662	560
Violence	989	815	773	619
Rural	621	597	462	543
Non-rural	1,108	887	876	645
Vehicle-related theft ¹	2,747	2,122	1,741	1,547
Rural	2,052	1,503	1,207	938
Non-rural	3,006	2,368	1,947	1,787
<i>Prevalence Rates: Percentage of adults/households victims once or more</i>				
Burglary	6.3	5.6	4.3	3.4
Rural	3.9	3.4	2.6	1.9
Non-rural	7.0	6.3	4.8	3.9
Violence	5.2	4.7	4.2	3.7
Rural	3.6	3.3	2.6	2.4
Non-rural	5.6	5.2	4.7	4.1
Vehicle-related theft ¹	19.5	15.7	12.6	10.9
Rural	15.7	12.0	9.0	6.9
Non-rural	20.9	17.1	14.0	12.5

Notes:

1. Source 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001 BCS.
2. Figures for vehicle-related theft relate to vehicle-owning households only.

Table A4.2 Percentage of burglaries with entry and with loss, 1981 to 2000

	1981	1983	1987	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000
Burglary in a dwelling	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Attempts	37	42	45	37	43	43	46	41	44
With entry	63	58	55	63	57	57	54	59	56
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Burglary in a dwelling	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
With loss	50	50	44	52	46	44	40	42	38
No loss	50	50	56	48	54	56	59	58	62
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Note:

1. Source 1982 to 2001 BCS.

Table A4.3 Percentage of households victims of burglary in 2000, by household type

	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Age of head of household			
16 -24	7.6	3.8	5.0
25 - 44	4.2	2.8	1.6
45 - 64	3.1	1.7	1.6
65 - 74	2.3	1.3	1.2
75+	2.0	1.4	0.7
Head of household under 60			
Single adult & child(ren)	7.9	4.2	4.4
Adults & child(ren)	3.4	1.9	1.7
No children	3.8	2.5	1.5
Head of household over 60	2.2	1.3	0.9
Household income³			
Less than £5,000	3.8	2.7	1.4
£5,000 less than £10,000	4.3	2.3	2.3
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.9	2.3	1.8
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.5	1.4	1.2
£30,000 or more	3.3	2.3	1.3
Tenure			
Owner occupiers	2.7	1.7	1.2
Social renters	5.5	3.1	2.9
Private renters	3.9	2.6	1.3
Head of household employment status²			
In employment	3.3	2.0	1.4
Unemployed	7.0	4.7	3.2
Economically inactive	5.7	3.1	2.9
Accommodation type			
All houses	3.2	2.0	1.4
Detached	2.3	1.6	0.7
Semi-detached	3.2	2.0	1.4
Terraced	3.9	2.3	1.9
Flats/maisonettes	4.5	2.5	2.4
Hours home left unoccupied on an average weekday			
Never	3.5	2.1	1.4
Less than 3 hours	3.2	2.0	1.3
3 but less than 5 hours	2.9	1.5	1.6
5 hours or more	3.7	2.3	1.7
All households	3.4	2.0	1.5

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. Based on men aged 16 - 64 and women aged 16 - 59 (see Glossary for definition of employment status).
3. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

Table A4.4 Percentage of households victims of burglary in 2000, by area type

	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Area type²			
Inner-city	5.4	3.4	2.6
Urban	3.5	2.0	1.6
Rural	1.9	1.3	0.6
Council estate area ³	6.0	3.5	3.0
Non-council estate area	2.8	1.7	1.2
Level of physical disorder⁴			
High	7.9	4.3	4.1
Low	2.8	1.8	1.2
All households	3.4	2.0	1.5

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Risks based on households.
2. Rural areas are those that fall into ACORN types 1 to 9 and 27. Inner-city areas are defined according to population density, level of owner-occupied tenure and social class profile. The remaining areas are defined as urban.
3. Council areas are those that fall into ACORN types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51.
4. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. For each the interviewer had to code whether it was 'very common', 'fairly common', 'not very common' or 'not at all common'. For both variables 'very' and 'fairly' common were set to 1, and 'not very' and 'not at all' to 0. These variables were then summated for each case. The incivilities scale ranged from 0 to 3. Those with a score of 2 or 3 were classified as being in high disorder areas.

Table A4.5 Percentage of households victims of burglary in 1999 and 2000, by Government Office Region

	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Region			
North East	3.4	1.3	2.2
North West	5.2	3.1	2.4
Yorkshire/Humberside	5.9	3.5	2.9
East Midlands	4.2	2.5	2.1
West Midlands	4.1	2.6	1.7
Eastern	2.1	1.1	1.0
London	4.0	2.8	1.3
South East	3.2	1.9	1.4
South West	2.5	1.5	1.1
Wales	2.6	1.3	1.4
All households	3.8	2.3	1.7

Note:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS (sweeps combined to improve reliability of results). Risks based on households.

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Table A4.6 Percentage of households victims of burglary in 1999 and 2000, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more		
	All burglary	With entry	Attempts
Thriving	2.4	1.6	0.8
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	2.3	1.6	0.8
Affluent greys, rural communities	1.7	0.8	0.9
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	3.0	2.2	1.1
Expanding	2.2	1.1	1.1
Affluent executives, family areas	2.1	1.1	1.0
Well-off workers, family areas	2.3	1.2	1.1
Rising	5.1	3.1	2.0
Affluent urbanites, town and city	4.5	2.0	2.7
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	4.8	3.3	1.7
Better-off executives, inner-city areas	5.6	3.9	1.7
Settling	3.4	1.9	1.6
Comfortable middle agers, mature home owning areas	2.6	1.4	1.2
Skilled workers, home owning areas	4.5	2.6	2.1
Aspiring	3.6	2.2	1.6
New home owners, mature communities	3.4	2.0	1.5
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	4.3	3.0	1.6
Striving	6.6	3.8	3.4
Older people, less prosperous areas	5.5	3.1	2.7
Council estates, better off homes	6.3	3.5	3.6
Council estates, high unemployment	7.5	3.7	4.0
Council estates, greatest hardship	9.7	7.0	3.3
Multi-ethnic, low income areas	5.6	2.6	3.0
All households	3.8	2.3	1.7

Notes:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS (sweeps combined to improve reliability of results). Risks based on households.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

Table A4.7 Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 2000, by household characteristics

	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle Theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted Thefts
Age of head of household				
16 - 24	19.3	3.7	12.6	5.3
25 - 44	13.5	2.5	8.1	4.0
45 - 64	11.0	1.3	7.5	3.1
65 - 74	4.7	1.0	2.5	1.5
75+	4.0	1.2	2.2	0.9
Household structure				
Single adult & child(ren)	14.8	1.9	11.6	3.1
Adults & child(ren)	12.4	2.2	7.9	3.4
No children	13.2	2.0	8.2	3.9
Head of household over 60	5.5	1.0	3.1	1.6
Household income²				
Less than £5,000	9.8	1.0	7.2	1.6
£5,000 less than £10,000	10.4	2.8	4.9	3.8
£10,000 less than £20,000	10.4	1.7	6.3	3.4
£20,000 less than £30,000	10.2	1.9	5.7	3.2
£30,000 or more	13.0	1.7	9.1	3.0
Tenure				
Owner occupiers	9.9	1.7	6.2	2.7
Social renters	15.1	2.8	9.2	5.0
Private renters	13.2	1.4	8.3	4.1
Head of household employment status³				
In employment	12.8	2.0	8.1	3.6
Unemployed	12.5	3.8	10.0	0
Economically inactive	10.2	1.3	6.5	3.6
Accommodation type				
All houses	10.2	1.6	6.4	2.9
Detached	8.1	1.3	5.2	2.0
Semi-detached	9.2	1.7	5.8	2.5
Terraced	13.8	1.7	8.6	4.5
Flats/maisonettes	17.3	3.8	10.6	4.8
All vehicle-owning households	10.9	1.8	6.8	3.1

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.
2. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.
3. Based on men aged 16 - 64 and women aged 16 - 59 (see Glossary for details).

Table A4.8 Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 2000, by area type

Area type	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
Inner-city	14.9	2.8	8.2	5.7
Urban	11.8	2.0	7.3	3.2
Rural	6.9	0.9	5.0	1.6
Council estate area	15.5	3.0	8.8	5.4
Non-council estate area	10.1	1.6	6.5	2.7
Level of physical disorder				
High	16.1	3.6	9.3	5.2
Low	10.4	1.6	6.6	2.9
All vehicle-owning households	10.9	1.8	6.8	3.1

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.
2. See notes 2 to 4 to Table A4.4.

Table A4.9 Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 1999 and 2000, by Government Office Region

Region	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
North East	11.9	2.5	7.8	3.2
North West	15.6	2.9	9.4	4.9
Yorkshire/Humberside	13.9	2.5	8.5	4.6
East Midlands	10.0	2.0	5.8	3.0
West Midlands	12.2	2.2	7.0	3.7
Eastern	9.0	1.0	6.2	2.4
London	14.7	1.7	10.0	3.9
South East	9.4	1.1	6.2	2.6
South West	10.3	1.1	6.7	3.2
Wales	10.3	1.5	6.9	2.4
All vehicle-owning households	11.7	1.8	7.5	3.4

Note:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.

Table A4.10 Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts in 1999 and 2000, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
Thriving	8.2	1.0	5.7	2.4
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	8.7	1.0	6.0	2.6
Affluent greys, rural communities	5.3	0.6	3.0	1.9
Prosperous pensioners, retirement areas	7.0	1.0	5.7	1.5
Expanding	11.6	1.8	7.4	3.1
Affluent executives, family areas	10.4	1.5	6.9	2.8
Well-off workers, family areas	12.2	2.0	7.7	3.3
Rising	16.5	2.7	11.0	3.3
Affluent urbanites, town and city	17.1	3.1	10.2	4.3
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	14.5	2.4	9.9	2.6
Better-off executives, inner-city areas	17.9	2.7	12.9	2.9
Settling	10.6	1.4	6.9	3.2
Comfortable middle agers, mature home-owning areas	8.7	1.1	5.7	2.4
Skilled workers, home-owning areas	13.5	1.7	8.6	4.3
Aspiring	12.8	1.9	7.8	4.1
New home owners, mature communities	12.0	2.2	7.0	3.9
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	14.9	1.0	9.7	4.7
Striving	16.9	3.4	9.8	5.5
Older people, less prosperous areas	14.8	1.6	9.6	4.7
Council estates, better off homes	17.5	3.6	9.4	5.8
Council estates, high unemployment	19.1	5.6	9.7	6.1
Council estates, greatest hardship	16.4	4.1	11.9	5.2
Multi-ethnic, low income areas	17.3	4.3	10.4	6.0
All vehicle-owning households	11.7	1.8	7.5	3.4

Notes:

1. Source combined 2000 and 2001 BCS to improve the reliability of estimates. Risks based on vehicle-owning households.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

Table A4.11 Percentage of households victims of vehicle-related thefts, by number of cars household owns/has use of (2000)

Number of cars/vans for household	% victims once or more			
	All vehicle Theft	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle	Attempted thefts
One	9.0	1.7	5.6	2.6
Two	12.4	1.4	7.9	3.8
Three	17.2	2.2	11.2	5.2
Four or more	20.2	4.2	15.0	2.1
All vehicle-owning households	10.9	1.8	6.8	3.1

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS.
2. Number of vehicles owned by the household for most of the year.

Table A4.12 Percentage of adults victims of violence in 1999 and 2000, by personal characteristics

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Men	5.0	0.4	1.8	2.5	0.7
16 - 24	18.8	1.4	8.9	8.5	2.9
25 - 44	5.4	0.5	1.6	3.2	0.5
45 - 64	2.4	0.2	0.7	1.2	0.4
65 - 74	0.4	-	<0.1	0.2	0.1
75+	0.5	-	0.1	0.1	0.3
Women	3.0	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.5
16 - 24	8.7	2.5	4.2	1.9	1.0
25 - 44	3.9	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.4
45 - 64	1.8	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.4
65 - 74	0.6	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.4
75+	0.6	-	<0.1	<0.1	0.5
Living arrangements					
Married	2.0	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.2
Cohabiting	5.4	1.1	1.8	2.2	0.6
Single	9.8	1.4	4.2	3.8	1.5
Separated	8.0	4.3	1.4	2.3	0.6
Divorced	6.2	1.9	2.0	1.7	0.8
Widowed	1.0	<0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6
Respondents' employment status²					
In employment	4.5	0.7	1.7	1.9	0.5
Unemployed	8.2	1.0	3.2	3.5	1.7
Economically inactive	5.1	1.1	2.0	1.7	0.7
Hours out of home average weekday					
Less than 3 hours	1.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4
3 hours less than 5 hours	2.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4
5 hours or longer	5.3	0.7	2.1	2.2	0.7
No. visits pub/wine bar in evening during last month					
None	2.7	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.5
Less than three times week	3.8	0.7	1.5	1.5	0.5
More often	6.5	1.1	2.2	2.9	0.8
All adults	3.9	0.7	1.5	1.6	0.6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS. Risks based on adults.
2. Based on men aged 16 - 64 and women aged 16 - 59 (see Glossary for details).

Table A4.13 Percentage of adults victims of violence in 1999 and 2000, by household characteristics

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Head of household under 60					
Single adult & child(ren)	9.2	6.1	1.8	0.9	1.1
Adults & child(ren)	4.8	0.7	2.2	1.8	0.6
No children	5.1	0.7	1.8	2.3	0.7
Head of household over 60	1.0	<0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Household income²					
Less than £5,000	4.7	1.2	1.6	1.6	0.6
£5,000 less than £10,000	3.7	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.6
£10,000 less than £20,000	3.7	0.8	1.4	1.4	0.4
£20,000 less than £30,000	3.1	0.3	1.1	1.7	0.3
£30,000 or more	4.4	0.4	1.7	2.1	0.7
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	2.9	0.4	1.1	1.3	0.4
Social renters	5.1	1.4	2.0	1.3	0.7
Private renters	8.9	1.5	3.1	3.9	1.3
Accommodation type					
All houses	3.8	0.6	1.5	1.5	0.5
Detached	2.5	0.3	1.0	1.1	0.3
Semi-detached	3.7	0.6	1.5	1.3	0.5
Terrace	5.1	1.0	1.9	2.1	0.6
Flats/maisonettes	5.1	0.9	1.5	2.0	1.1
All adults	3.9	0.7	1.5	1.6	0.6

Note:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS. Risks based on adults.
2. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

Table A4.14 Percentage of adults victims of violence in 1999 and 2000, by area type

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Area type					
Inner city	4.7	0.9	1.5	2.0	0.8
Urban	4.3	0.8	1.6	1.7	0.6
Rural	2.6	0.4	1.0	1.1	0.3
Council estate	5.2	1.2	2.0	1.7	0.7
Non-council estate	3.7	0.6	1.4	1.5	0.5
Level of physical disorder					
High	7.2	1.8	2.7	2.5	0.9
Low	3.6	0.5	1.3	1.5	0.5
All adults	3.9	0.7	1.5	1.6	0.6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS. Risks based on all adults.
2. See notes 2 to 4 to Table A4.4.

Table A4.15 Percentage of adults victims of violence in 1999 and 2000, by Government Office Region

Region	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
North East	4.2	0.8	2.0	1.2	0.3
North West	5.0	1.1	1.7	2.1	0.7
Yorkshire/Humberside	4.2	0.8	1.4	1.8	0.5
East Midlands	3.7	0.9	1.8	1.0	0.2
West Midlands	3.6	0.4	1.6	1.3	0.6
Eastern	3.0	0.3	1.6	1.2	0.3
London	4.5	0.6	1.0	1.8	1.6
South East	4.0	0.7	1.5	1.8	0.4
South West	3.6	0.5	1.3	1.6	0.4
Wales	2.4	0.5	1.4	0.8	<0.1
All adults	3.9	0.7	1.5	1.6	0.6

Note:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS.

Table A4.16 Percentage of adults victims of violence in 1999 and 2000, by ACORN

ACORN	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Thriving	2.6	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.3
Wealthy achievers, suburban areas	2.8	0.4	1.1	1.2	0.3
Affluent greys, rural communities	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Prosperous pensioners, retirement	2.4	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.2
Expanding	3.7	0.6	1.5	1.7	0.3
Affluent executives, family areas	4.8	0.5	2.3	1.9	0.4
Well-off workers, family areas	3.2	0.6	1.1	1.6	0.2
Rising	5.1	0.7	1.2	2.0	1.4
Affluent urbanites, town and city	3.0	1.0	0.4	1.3	0.6
Prosperous professionals, metropolitan areas	4.6	0.3	0.6	1.9	1.8
Better-off executives, inner-city areas	7.1	0.7	2.4	2.7	1.7
Settling	3.7	0.7	1.4	1.5	0.4
Comfortable middle agers, mature home-owning areas	3.0	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.4
Skilled workers, home-owning areas	4.6	0.9	1.6	1.9	0.5
Aspiring	4.7	0.5	2.1	1.7	0.8
New home owners, mature communities	4.0	0.6	2.0	1.4	0.3
White collar workers, better off multi-ethnic areas	6.7	0.5	2.4	2.5	2.0
Striving	5.0	1.2	1.9	1.8	0.7
Older people, less prosperous areas	3.9	0.7	1.4	1.6	0.5
Council estates, better off homes	4.6	1.1	1.9	1.5	0.5
Council estates, high unemployment	7.1	1.7	1.2	2.5	2.3
Council estates, greatest hardship	7.6	2.3	3.1	2.3	0.9
Multi-ethnic, low income areas	3.7	0.9	0.7	2.3	0.4
All adults	3.9	0.7	1.5	1.6	0.6

Notes:

1. Source 2000 and 2001 BCS sweeps combined to improve the reliability of estimates. Risks based on all adults.
2. ACORN is 'A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods' (further details can be found in the Glossary).

Table A5.1 Beliefs about the change in the national crime rate over the previous two years (1996 to 2001 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1996	1998	2000	2001
Lot more	46	30	33	26
Little more	29	29	34	32
Same	20	32	27	35
Little or lot less	4	9	6	7
<i>Unweighted N</i>	8,241	7,255	9,374	2,193

Note:

1. Source 1996 to 2001 BCS.

Table A5.2 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate over the previous two years (1992 to 2001 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001
Lot more	35	24	24	18	20	19
Little more	33	40	31	29	30	30
Same	27	28	35	37	36	39
Little or lot less	5	8	10	16	14	11
<i>Unweighted N</i>	7,986	12,714	7,303	5,994	7,822	1,799

Notes:

1. Source 1992 to 2001 BCS.
2. 1998 and 2001 based on respondents who had been living in their local area for more than three years, 1992, 1994 and 1996 based on respondents who had been living in their area for more than two years.

Table A5.3 Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (2001 BCS)

<i>How likely respondents think the following will happen to them in the next year (percentages)</i>					
	Very likely	Fairly likely	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely	<i>Unweighted N</i>
Home being burgled	3	21	55	21	2,287
Theft of a car	6	25	54	15	1,787
Theft from a car	6	27	50	16	1,794
Being mugged and robbed	1	10	60	28	2,284
Being physically attacked by a stranger	1	9	59	30	2,278

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. In previous sweeps the coding frame differed so comparisons are not possible.

Table A5.4 Perceptions of risk, by personal characteristics (2001 BCS)

<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
Men	25	31	36	12	13
16 - 29	24	33	39	11	12
30 - 59	25	33	39	11	12
60 or older	25	25	27	16	13
Women	23	32	31	12	9
16 - 29	27	35	32	15	12
30 - 59	23	33	33	10	8
60 or older	18	26	25	11	9
Health					
Very good or good	22	30	32	10	10
Fair	28	34	39	15	13
Very bad or bad	30	47	49	22	15
Disability/illness					
Limiting disability/illness	27	37	38	18	14
Non limiting disability/illness	22	26	30	13	8
No disability or illness	23	31	33	10	10
Household income³					
Less than £5,000	26	39	35	17	15
£5,000 less than £10,000	26	37	34	16	14
£10,000 less than £20,000	23	34	36	13	12
£20,000 less than £30,000	21	30	33	9	9
£30,000 or more	22	28	32	8	8
Tenure					
Owner occupier	24	30	32	10	9
Social renter	22	37	40	19	17
Private renter	27	36	39	12	9
Social class					
Professional	20	25	36	8	5
Managerial	23	28	30	9	9
Skilled – non manual	22	34	36	12	9
Skilled – manual	25	35	35	12	12
Partly skilled	27	34	38	17	14
Unskilled	23	33	35	13	15
All adults	24	31	34	12	11

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

Table A5.5 Perceptions of risk, by experiences of crime (2001 BCS)

<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
Victim in the last year of:					
Burglary	53	59	60	25	15
Vehicle-related theft	29	41	53	11	13
Violence	35	41	47	20	26
Any BCS crime	32	42	46	14	15
Not a victim of any BCS crime	20	27	29	11	9
All adults	23	31	34	12	11

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A5.6 Perceptions of risk, by type of area (2001 BCS)

<i>% saying very/fairly likely they will be a victim in next year:</i>	Burglary	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²	Mugging/Robbery	Stranger attack
Area type					
Inner-city	30	38	46	19	18
Urban	24	33	34	12	11
Rural	20	24	26	8	7
Council estate	28	43	41	16	14
Non-council estate	23	29	32	11	10
Level of physical disorder (interviewer)³					
Low	23	30	32	11	10
High	33	53	53	22	21
Type of area					
People help each other	19	26	27	8	8
People go their own way	27	37	40	16	14
Mixture	23	29	31	10	9
All adults	24	31	34	12	11

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.

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Table A5.7 Trend in worry about crime (1984 to 2001 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001
Burglary								
Very worried	23	19	19	26	22	19	19	16
Fairly worried	35	37	37	39	39	39	38	36
Not very worried	33	34	34	28	31	34	35	37
Not at all worried	10	11	10	7	7	7	8	10
<i>Unweighted N</i>	11,014	10,370	10,044	14,502	7,978	14,935	19,401	8,974
Mugging								
Very worried	20	20	18	21	19	18	17	15
Fairly worried	22	25	25	27	27	27	27	26
Not very worried	39	39	39	38	39	40	42	41
Not at all worried	19	16	18	14	15	15	14	17
<i>Unweighted N</i>	10,976	10,307	9,993	14,440	7,938	14,890	19,322	8,949
Physical attack								
Very worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	18	18	17
Fairly worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	25	25	23
Not very worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	38	39	39
Not at all worried	na.	na.	na.	na.	na.	19	18	21
<i>Unweighted N</i>						14,897	19,345	8,947
Racially motivated assault								
Very worried	na.	na.	na.	9	8	7	7	7
Fairly worried	na.	na.	na.	9	10	9	9	9
Not very worried	na.	na.	na.	28	30	27	31	28
Not at all worried	na.	na.	na.	55	52	57	53	56
<i>Unweighted N</i>				12,735	6,959	13,284	17,465	7,201
Being insulted or pestered in public place								
Very worried	na.	na.	na.	9	na.	na.	9	9
Fairly worried	na.	na.	na.	17	na.	na.	23	23
Not very worried	na.	na.	na.	41	na.	na.	44	41
Not at all worried	na.	na.	na.	32	na.	na.	24	27
<i>Unweighted N</i>				14,359			19,309	8,935
Rape (women only)²								
Very worried	30	34	30	*	32	31	29	26
Fairly worried	18	21	21	*	21	21	20	18
Not very worried	34	31	32	*	31	32	33	35
Not at all worried	18	14	18	*	16	17	17	21
<i>Unweighted N</i>	5,708	5,415	5,451	See footnote 5	4,308	8,368	10,432	4,867
Theft of a car³								
Very worried	na.	20	24	28	25	21	21	18
Fairly worried	na.	31	34	34	36	35	36	34
Not very worried	na.	35	30	28	30	33	33	35
Not at all worried	na.	14	12	10	10	11	11	13
<i>Unweighted N</i>		7,029	4,089	9,632	5,249	10,182	14,134	6,726
Theft from a car³								
Very worried	na.	17	21	22	20	17	16	15
Fairly worried	na.	32	35	36	36	36	37	34
Not very worried	na.	37	31	32	33	36	36	36
Not at all worried	na.	14	13	10	10	11	12	14
<i>Unweighted N</i>		7,027	4,086	9,616	5,239	10,163	14,103	6,695

Notes:

1. Source 1984 to 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Prior to the 1998 BCS only asked of female respondents.
3. Based on vehicle owners only.
4. 'na.' indicates that the question was not asked in that particular sweep.
5. '*' indicates that the results for the question on rape in the 1994 BCS are not comparable to other sweeps.

Table A5.8 Trend in concern about personal safety (1984 to 2001 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001
Walking alone in area after dark								
Very safe	31	28	27	24	25	25	25	26
Fairly safe	38	39	41	40	43	42	43	40
A bit unsafe	20	21	21	23	21	21	21	20
Very unsafe	12	12	11	13	11	11	11	13
<i>Unweighted N</i>	10,999	10,353	10,021	14,461	16,303	14,903	19,319	8,864
At home alone at night								
Very safe	na.	55	53	52	54	56	57	60
Fairly safe	na.	35	36	36	36	35	35	32
A bit unsafe	na.	9	9	9	8	7	7	6
Very unsafe	na.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<i>Unweighted N</i>		10,382	10,050	14,505	7,978	14,934	19,392	8,965

Notes:

1. Source 1984 to 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. 'na.' indicates that the question was not asked in that particular sweep.

Table A5.9 Worry about crime, by personal characteristics (2001 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Men	14	10	8	6	5	17	15
16 - 29	14	10	11	12	6	24	20
30 - 59	14	8	7	4	4	17	16
60 or older	13	12	7	5	5	14	11
Women	19	21	25	26	12	18	15
16 - 29	18	23	32	35	14	25	20
30 - 59	19	19	24	26	12	17	14
60 or older	18	22	20	20	11	16	13
Health							
Very good or good	15	13	15	17	7	17	14
Fair	18	19	20	19	11	20	18
Very bad or bad	28	30	25	26	16	30	26
Disability/illness							
Limiting disability/illness	21	24	22	22	14	23	19
Non limiting disability/illness	15	13	16	17	9	16	13
No disability or illness	15	14	15	17	7	17	14
Household income³							
Less than £5,000	23	28	26	25	16	27	23
£5,000 less than £10,000	21	21	21	21	11	24	19
£10,000 less than £20,000	20	19	21	20	10	20	17
£20,000 less than £30,000	15	12	15	17	8	17	15
£30,000 or more	10	8	9	12	4	13	11
Tenure							
Owner occupiers	15	13	14	16	7	16	14
Social renters	25	27	27	26	15	30	27
Private renters	15	15	16	17	8	19	15
Social class							
Professional	7	7	5	5	5	13	8
Managerial	12	10	10	10	5	12	11
Skilled – non manual	15	16	21	22	9	19	17
Skilled – manual	18	15	14	15	7	22	19
Partly skilled	22	21	23	24	13	20	17
Unskilled	30	32	31	31	15	30	24
All adults	16	15	17	18	9	18	15

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

Table A5.10 Worry about crime, by experiences of crime (2001 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Victim in the last year of:							
Burglary	32	26	26	26	11	27	22
Vehicle-related theft	18	16	17	19	9	26	27
Violence	24	25	25	25	17	29	18
Any BCS crime	20	18	19	20	11	24	22
Not a victim	15	15	16	17	9	16	12
All adults	16	15	17	7	9	18	15

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A5.11 Worry about crime, by perceptions of risk (2001 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Think it is very/fairly likely will in the next year be a victim of:							
Burglary	30	21	23	22	15	35	28
Mugging or robbery	31	32	34	29	25	42	36
Stranger assault	25	27	32	27	23	43	39
Theft of a car	23	17	21	21	12	36	30
Theft from a car	21	18	21	20	12	33	32
All adults	16	15	17	7	9	18	15

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

2001 British Crime Survey

Table A5.12 Worry about crime, by type of area (2001 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Area type							
Inner-city	23	22	22	23	11	25	20
Urban	17	16	18	19	9	19	16
Rural	10	9	9	11	5	11	10
Council estate							
Council estate	25	25	26	26	14	29	24
Non-council estate	15	13	15	16	7	16	14
Level of physical disorder(interviewer)³							
High	28	28	27	29	17	36	31
Low	15	14	15	17	7	16	14
Level of disorder (respondent)⁴							
High	36	34	36	35	21	40	39
Low	13	12	13	15	6	15	12
Type of area							
People help each other	11	10	12	14	4	13	11
People go their own way	17	17	20	21	13	22	19
Mixture	16	11	15	14	9	19	17
All adults	16	15	18	17	9	18	15

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.
3. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.
4. Based upon respondent's perception of how much of a problem the following were in their area (a) teenagers hanging around, (b) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property and (c) people using or dealing in drugs. See Glossary for further details.

Table A5.13 Worry about crime, by Government Office Region (2001 BCS)

<i>% very worried about:</i>	Burglary	Mugging	Physical attack	Rape	Insulted or pestered	Theft of a car ²	Theft from a car ²
Region							
North East	21	18	21	25	12	26	22
North West	18	19	20	23	9	21	16
Yorkshire/Humberside	21	19	21	19	11	22	20
East Midlands	18	16	18	20	9	20	16
West Midlands	19	17	20	24	10	22	14
Eastern	12	9	10	11	5	13	10
London	19	19	19	18	12	19	20
South East	12	10	12	14	6	12	11
South West	11	11	12	11	5	13	12
Wales	17	13	15	16	7	18	17
All adults	16	15	17	18	9	18	15

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based on vehicle owners only.

Table A5.14 Concern about personal safety, by personal characteristics (2001 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Men	5	1
16 - 29	3	<1
30 - 59	3	<1
60 or older	9	1
Women	20	3
16 - 29	15	4
30 - 59	16	2
60 or older	33	3
Health		
Very good or good	10	1
Fair	19	2
Very bad or bad	36	6
Disability/illness		
Limiting disability/illness	24	3
Non limiting disability/illness	13	1
No disability or illness	10	1
Household income²		
Less than £5,000	28	3
£5,000 less than £10,000	21	3
£10,000 less than £20,000	15	2
£20,000 less than £30,000	9	1
£30,000 or more	6	<1
Tenure		
Owner occupiers	11	1
Social renters	23	4
Private renters	11	2
Social class		
Professional	5	1
Managerial	9	1
Skilled – non manual	16	1
Skilled – manual	11	1
Partly skilled	17	3
Unskilled	19	4
All adults	13	2

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. The 2001 BCS sweep introduced additional prompts on equivalent monthly as well as annual income. This means that crime risks broken down by household income may not be directly comparable with past sweeps.

Table A5.15 Concern about personal safety, by experiences of crime (2001 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Victim in the last year of:		
Burglary	20	6
Vehicle-related theft	14	1
Violence	15	5
Any BCS crime	15	3
Not a victim	12	2
All adults	13	2

Note:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A5.16 Concern about personal safety, by perceptions of risk (2001 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Think it is very/fairly likely will in the next year be a victim of:		
Burglary	20	4
Mugging or robbery	27	5
Stranger assault	22	2
Theft of a car	15	3
Theft from a car	15	2
All adults	13	2

Note:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A5.17 Concern about personal safety, by type of area (2001 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Area type		
Inner-city	16	2
Urban	15	2
Rural	8	1
Council estate	22	3
Non-council estate	11	1
Level of physical disorder (interviewer)²		
High	24	4
Low	12	1
Level of physical disorder (respondent)³		
High	28	5
Low	10	1
Type of area		
People help each other	11	1
People go their own way	16	2
Mixture	11	2
All adults	13	2

Notes:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.
2. Based upon the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition. High disorder areas are those where the interviewer considered two or three of these to be very or fairly common.
3. Based upon respondent's perception of how much of a problem the following were in their area (a) teenagers hanging around, (b) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property and (c) people using or dealing in drugs. See Glossary for further details.

Table A5.18 Concern about personal safety, by Government Office Region (2001 BCS)

<i>% feeling very unsafe:</i>	Walking alone in area after dark	Alone in home at night
Region		
North East	13	1
North West	16	2
Yorkshire/Humberside	14	2
East Midlands	11	2
West Midlands	15	2
Eastern	13	2
London	16	2
South East	11	1
South West	10	1
Wales	11	1
All adults	13	2

Note:

1. Source 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Table A5.19 Impact of fear of crime/crime on quality of life (1998 - 2001 BCS)

<i>Percentages</i>	1998 (fear of crime)	2000 (fear of crime)	2001 (fear of crime)	2000 (crime)	2001 (crime)
Minimal (scores 1 to 3)	50	55	59	67	71
Moderate (scores 4 to 7)	43	38	35	29	23
Great (scores 8 to 10)	8	6	6	4	5
Mean	3.9	3.6	2.9	3.0	3.4
<i>Unweighted N</i>	7,427	4,769	1,353	4,823	1,028

Note:

1. Source 1998, 2000 & 2001 BCS. Excludes don't knows.

Appendix B Survey design and methods

INTRODUCTION

The 2001 British Crime Survey (BCS) is being conducted by BMRB Social Research with a significant proportion of the fieldwork and development work subcontracted to Ipsos-RSL. The survey represents the first one undertaken using a different survey design compared with previous sweeps of the BCS. The main changes introduced in the 2001 BCS were an increase in the overall sample size to 40,000; a move to annual sampling; a move to continuous interviewing throughout the calendar year; and a change in the reference period of the survey to the last 12 months rather than the last calendar year. The rationale for these changes is discussed in the Introduction to this Bulletin. To assess the effect of these changes, a spliced sample design was carried out in the first six months of 2001. Half the issued addresses were randomly assigned to a 'Type A' sample, which was intended to replicate the previous BCS sweeps, while the other half were assigned to a 'Type B' sample, which represented the new survey design. Results presented in this Bulletin refer only to the Type A 'old methodology' sample. The new design of the survey and development work on the questionnaire was shared between the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate and the two research organisations.

HISTORY OF THE SURVEY

The 2001 survey is the ninth time the survey has been carried out and it represents a significant increase in the size of the survey compared with previous sweeps. It is planned that over the whole of 2001, a total of 37,000 core interviews will be carried out. Additionally, a boost sample of 3,000 interviews will be carried out amongst the non-white population by means of focused enumeration. All of the ethnic boost interviews will be Type B interviews. The screening is based on the classifications used in the 2001 Census, and will include all non-white groups (not, as in past sweeps, just on Black, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups). It is planned that the ethnic boost be a permanent annual feature of the BCS.

A youth boost is also being undertaken in the second half of 2001, designed to increase the number of respondents aged 16 to 24 by 1,500. This boost relies on undertaking an additional interview at addresses where the originally selected respondent is not aged 16 to 24, but another eligible household member is in this age group.

Previous sweeps of the survey were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000 (Hough and Mayhew, 1983; Hough and Mayhew, 1985; Mayhew et al., 1989, Mayhew et al., 1993; Mayhew et al., 1994; Mirrlees-Black et al., 1996; Mirrlees-Black et al., 1998; Kershaw et al., 2000).

The British Crime Survey covers only England and Wales. In 1982 and 1988 the same questionnaire was used in Scotland, although the results for Scotland were reported separately (Hough and Mayhew, 1983; Mayhew et al., 1989 for England and Wales, and Chambers and Tombs, 1984 and Payne, 1992 for Scotland). The Scottish Crime Survey was conducted in 1993 (Anderson and Leitch, 1996), 1996 (MVA Consultancy, 1997) and 2000 (MVA Ltd., 2000). In 1996, the Northern Ireland Office commissioned its own Northern Ireland Crime Survey, using the questionnaire developed for that year's England and Wales BCS (Power et al., 1999). The Northern Ireland Office

are undertaking a further Northern Ireland Crime Survey in 2001, with results planned to appear in 2002.

THE INTERVIEW

The principal purpose of the British Crime Survey is to estimate the extent of victimisation in the previous year among the population resident in private households. A number of other crime-related issues are also covered by the survey, and these have changed over the years to reflect policy interest. The main topics covered by the 2001 British Crime Survey are shown in Table B1.

Respondents were questioned at home by interviewers using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). With CAPI, the interviewer enters responses into a laptop computer. The questionnaire is a computer program which specifies the questions, the range and structure of permissible answers, and the routing instructions. CAPI was introduced in the 1994 BCS.

There were seven sections to the questionnaire:

- the Main Questionnaire
- the Victim Form (a maximum of six per respondent)
- attitudes to the Criminal Justice System
- one of four Follow-up Questionnaires
- Fires in the Home
- the Demographic Questionnaire
- two Self-completion Questionnaires

Table B1 Main topics covered in the 2001 British Crime Survey

FULL SAMPLE	FOLLOW UP MODULES (QUARTER SAMPLE)
Victimisation 'screener' questions Attitudes to local crime and incivilities Fear of crime Attitudes to the Criminal Justice System Experience of household fires	<u>Follow Up A</u> Contacts with the police Attitudes towards the police and policing priorities <u>Follow Up B</u> Attitudes to the Criminal Justice System Attitudes towards sentencing Contacts with the Criminal Justice System <u>Follow Up C</u> Awareness of Neighbourhood Watch and Local crime Partnerships Home security measures Personal security measures Vehicle security measures <u>Follow Up D</u> Victims in the Criminal Justice System Concerns about crime Social cohesion Experience of antisocial behaviour Attitudes to road safety
VICTIMS	ALL THOSE AGED 16 TO 59 (self-completion)
Details of victimisation incident Reporting to the police Police response and satisfaction with the police Victim intimidation Victim Support	Knowledge and use of illicit drugs An inter-personal violence module that covered: experience of domestic violence experience of sexual attack experience of stalking

At each household one adult aged 16+ was selected at random to be interviewed. At the start of the interview all respondents were asked for socio-demographic details about everyone in the household, as well as some attitudinal questions on topics such as fear of crime, how crime affects their quality of life, and perceptions about the main causes of crime.

This was followed by a 'screener' questionnaire which is designed to establish whether the respondent or other household members have been the victims of crime during the reference period. These 'screener' questions have remained the same throughout the various sweeps of the survey and are deliberately couched in everyday language, rather than using precise terms such as 'burglary' or 'robbery'.

All previous sweeps of the survey have asked respondents about incidents that may have happened in the previous calendar year. As part of the spliced sample design, the Type A sample replicated the reference period used in previous sweeps. Thus, respondents were asked about crimes or incidents that may have happened in "the 13 to 14 months since the 1st of January 2000". The reference period was fixed, irrespective of when the respondent was interviewed. By contrast, the Type B sample used the last 12 months as a reference period, rather than the previous calendar

year. This meant that the reference period changed depending upon when the respondent was interviewed. Thus, respondents interviewed in January 2001 were asked about crimes or incidents that may have happened in “the 12 months since the 1st of January 2000”, while respondents interviewed in February 2001 were asked about crimes or incidents that may have happened in “the past 12 months since the 1st of February 2000”.

Evidence from previous studies suggests that when respondents are asked to recall events that have happened in the past, there is a certain element of ‘telescoping’. This is where respondents report events as being within a given reference period when in fact they took place outside the reference period. Telescoping can work in both directions so that respondents may remember incidents as happening more recently than they really did (forward telescoping) or they may remember incidents as happening longer ago than they really did (backward telescoping).

To try and improve the accuracy of respondent recall, a ‘life event calendar’ is being used for Type B interviews in the 2001 survey. This calendar had two purposes. First, it provided respondents with a visual aid throughout the screener questions of the precise reference period the screener questions were referring to. And second, it was used by respondents who were having difficulty recalling events to help them remember the exact month in which particular crimes or incidents took place. The calendar works by trying to place events or incidents in some sort of meaningful context for each respondent by building up a picture of events that have happened in the last year (e.g., birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, starting a new job, etc.) which are memorable to the respondent. To maintain consistency with previous sweeps of the survey the life event calendar was **not** used with respondents in the Type A sample.

In the screener questionnaires, respondents are asked both about **household crimes** (e.g., car theft, burglary) which may have affected any members of the household, and about **personal crimes** (e.g., assaults) which may have affected only them (not other members of the household). This distinction is made because the household represents a natural unit of analysis for some crimes, whereas for other crimes only the individual is a reliable source of information.

Details of each separate incident mentioned by respondents at the screener questions were then collected in Victim Forms, which provided the basis for classifying incidents.¹ There was a limit of six Victim Forms per respondent.² In a very small proportion of interviews the number of separate incidents elicited from the screener questions exceeded six. In such cases six incidents were selected following a procedure which gave priority to less common offences (specifically, personal incidents were more likely to be covered than household property incidents).

Although most Victim Forms corresponded to one incident, some victims experience a number of very similar offences. Offences of this kind are called series incidents. In the BCS, incidents are treated as a series if the respondent believes that they were all very similar in type, were done under the same circumstances and were probably committed by the same person(s). For crimes classified as series offences, full details are collected only about the most recent incident. This avoids repetitive questioning and Victim Forms being ‘used up’ on very similar offences. In calculating offence rates, series incidents are given a score equal to the number of incidents in the series which

1. See the discussion at the end of this appendix on classifying incidents into offence codes.

2. In the surveys until 1992, the maximum number of Victim Forms was four. In 1992 this was increased to five to reflect increased interest in repeat victimisation, and increased again to six in 1996. As in 1996 and 1998, the fourth, fifth and sixth Victim Forms were shortened versions of the full form, focusing on the details required for classification.

occurred in the reference period, with a maximum limit of five. This procedure for weighting series incidents is the same as used on previous sweeps of the survey.

After the screener questions and any Victim Forms, all respondents then completed a small number of questions about their perceptions of the Criminal Justice System. Respondents were then randomly allocated to one of four follow-up modules which covered different aspects of crime and policing. Within each follow-up module, some questions were asked of only some respondents. Allocation to a module and within module was done on the basis of the serial number. The allocation of respondents in the non-white sample was different to that of the main sample. Having completed the appropriate follow-up module, all respondents were then asked a short section on household fires and the demographic questionnaire.

Respondents aged 16 to 59 were asked to complete part of the questionnaire directly into the computer, a method known as Computer Assisted Self-Interviewing (CASI). This method was first used on the BCS in 1994 and is used to collect information on particularly sensitive topics. In 2001, the self-completion modules covered awareness and usage of drugs; experience of inter-personal violence, sexual attack and stalking.

Before starting the self-completion modules, interviewers went through some practice questions with the respondent to familiarise them with the different aspects of the laptop. Despite the sensitive nature of the topics and explicit language used within the modules, over 90% of those eligible completed the module, although a small proportion of respondents asked for the interviewer's help with entering their answers.

The average (mean) interview length during the first six months of 2001 was 49 minutes. The length of the interview was influenced primarily by whether the respondent had been the victim of a crime or not. The average interview length for non-victims was 41 minutes compared to an average of 65 minutes for victims. The length of interview increased with the number of Victim Forms completed. Of core sample respondents, 33% had any Victim Forms, and fewer than 3% had four or more. The interview length was based on timings derived from the clock on the laptop computer used by the interviewer. This means that the mean timings shown represent elapsed time between the first and last questions and do not include the time taken by the interviewer to introduce the survey, set up the computer or pack up. It should be noted that this method of timing differs from that used in previous rounds of BCS.

Table B2 Interview length by number of victim forms

Number of victim forms completed	0	1	2	3	4+	All
Average interview length (minutes)	41	57	72	84	92	49

SAMPLING

From 2001 two significant methodological changes were made to the conduct of BCS:

- a continuous sample design was adopted (replacing what had, in effect, been a series of separate surveys)
- the recall period was changed from previous calendar year to the 12 months prior to the interview

In order to assess whether these methodological changes had any impact on survey results it was decided to use a “spliced design” for the first half of 2001 in which both old and new methodologies would be used in parallel.

In the first six months of 2001, a sample of 13,772 addresses (termed Type A addresses) was issued at which the previous calendar year recall period was to be used as had been used on previous rounds of BCS. These addresses were issued in tranches during the first four months of 2001 in order to try to mimic the monthly interviewing profile achieved in earlier BCS rounds. In parallel with this, 13,782 addresses (termed Type B addresses) were issued at which the 12 months before interview recall period was to be used. Type B addresses were issued in equal batches every month.

Type B addresses were also used as a starting point for screening (by means of focussed enumeration) addresses for individuals eligible for inclusion in an ethnic minority boost sample.

Results reported in this document are taken from the Type A sample only.

The sample was designed so that the Type A sample (the sample covered on this report) taken alone was, after appropriate weighting, both a representative cross-section of private households in England and Wales, and of individuals aged 16 and over living in them. The Small Users Postcode Address File (PAF) was used as the sampling frame. The PAF, listing all postal delivery points in the country, represents the fullest and most up-to-date register of household addresses as almost all correspond to one delivery point, or letterbox. Where this is not the case, interviewers have strict procedures to select one household. The sample was clustered, with sampling points being postcode sectors, and with between five and 24 addresses being issued per sampling point. The sample was stratified by police force area.³

A stratified multi-stage random probability design was used to select the sample of addresses. Where one address had more than one household, a single household was selected using random selection procedures. One adult aged 16 or over in each selected household was identified for interview using similar random-selection procedures. No substitution of respondents was allowed. Further details on sampling procedures are presented in the 2001 BCS Technical Report (Bolling et al., forthcoming).

3. The City of London police force area was amalgamated with the Metropolitan police force area in the stratification by police force area.

FIELDWORK

Of the issued Type A sample of 13,772 addresses, 1,131 (8%) were empty, demolished, untraceable or ineligible for interview for other reasons.⁴ The remaining 12,642 addresses yielded 8,985 achieved interviews, a response rate of 71%. The main reason for non-response at eligible addresses was refusal (15%) – either by the selected person (12%) or by the household before a respondent could be selected (3%). Non-contact accounted for 10% of the unproductive outcomes, and other reasons (ill health, absence, etc.) for 4%. Table B3 shows the response rates across the surveys. In all sweeps the BCS has achieved relatively high response rates. However, it is clear that they have been declining at a rate of a little over two per cent per year since 1996. This is in line with recently reported trends in response rates.

Table B3 BCS response rates

Year	Response rate (%)
1982	80.8
1988	77.4
1992	76.7
1994	76.7
1996	82.5
1998	78.7
2000	74.0
2001	71.1

The majority of fieldwork was complete by the end of April; 88% of interviews had taken place by then (this being more than the corresponding 81% for 2000 although lower than the 95% of interviews achieved by this stage in 1998). A small number of interviews were conducted in July, these mainly being re-issues to ensure a satisfactory response rate. Table B4 shows the 1998, 2000 and 2001 fieldwork dates.

Table B4 Fieldwork period, 1998 and 2001 BCS (core samples)

	1998 Number	1998 Cumulative %	2000 Number	2000 Cumulative %	2001 Number	2001 Cumulative %
January	1,868	12.5	3,171	16.3	1,434	16.0
February	6,628	56.8	7,587	55.4	2,959	48.9
March	3,863	82.7	3,409	73.0	1,785	68.8
April	1,918	95.5	1,480	80.5	1,692	87.6
May	506	98.9	2,928	95.7	639	94.7
June	148	99.9	728	99.4	427	99.5
July	-	100	108	100	49	100
Not stated	16	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14,947	100	19,411	100	8,985	100

WEIGHTING

Data were weighted in a number of ways for analysis. Weighting serves two purposes: to correct for different sampling rates; and to take account of 'series' of similar incidents. In the 2001 BCS, the components of the weights were the same as those used in 2000, viz:

- an **inner-city weight** to correct for lower response rates in inner-city areas (where inner-city areas were defined using the same 1981 Census-based definition as was used in earlier rounds

4. Addresses that contained no private households were ineligible for the survey: examples include business premises, institutions, and temporary accommodation.

of BCS - it is planned that this definition be reviewed once relevant information becomes available from the 2001 Census)

- a **police force area weight** to correct for disproportionate sampling by police force area
- a **dwelling unit weight** to correct for cases where more than one household was at an address on the PAF file
- an **individual weight** to correct for the under-representation of individuals living in households with more than one adult (the chance of an adult being selected for interview is inversely related to the number of adults in the household)
- a **series** weight equal to the number of incidents in the series, applied to Victim Forms representing a series of incidents

Analysis based on households requires the use of the inner-city, police force area and dwelling unit weights. That based on persons additionally requires the use of the individual weight. The series weight is used in Victim Form analysis, together with the weights appropriate for a household or personal offence (full details and design effects of this sampling and weighting scheme will be provided in the Technical Report).

CLASSIFYING INCIDENTS

Classification of offences is based on the responses made to questions on the Victim Form, including a short description based on the respondent's own words.⁵

For the 2000 survey, a computer program generated an initial classification for a majority of the Victim Forms. The program suggested a possible offence code based on the responses given for a number of pre-coded questions included in the Victim Form. Coders then confirmed or modified the initial offence classification on the basis of other Victim Form information, including the respondent's description of the incident. Coders also assigned offence codes for those incidents which the program had been unable to classify.

All coder intervention was carried out by means of a newly developed computer program which was designed to minimise scope for inter-coder variability in offence code categorisation. This program prompted coders for answers to key classificatory questions until, by a process of elimination, the correct offence code was determined.

For some less common offences or where there was doubt about accurate classification, Victim Forms were referred to BMRB and Ipsos-RSL researchers and to the Home Office. The coding for some rare offences, such as arson, was always checked by the Home Office.

In the 2001 BCS the coders also indicated whether their offence classification was 'certain'. Coders and coding supervisors were certain for the great majority of coding decisions. Where coders were certain, a one in ten quality check was made by the Home Office of the coding decisions. Only a

5. The screener question at which the incident was mentioned is ignored for the classification of offences. The wording of screener questions tries to ensure that an incident is mentioned only once at that stage, but an incident may have two or more aspects. The Victim Form collects the details required for correct classification. The screener questions merely serve to establish that an incident likely to be within the scope of the BCS occurred within the reference period.

small proportion were reclassified and decisions fed back to influence later decisions by the coders. All the non certain codes were checked by Home Office researchers before a final code was allocated.

Appendix C Comparing BCS and police counts of crime

The BCS and offences recorded by the police both measure various aspects of crime at the national level. They are complementary series which together provide a better picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. The main features of the two measures were given in the introduction. This Appendix discusses further some of the technical aspects of comparing BCS and police counts of crime.

THE BCS COUNT OF CRIME

The BCS count of crime in England and Wales in 2000 is estimated by grossing up survey offence rates for that year. The offence rates are the number of incidents per 10,000 adults for personal offences and per 10,000 households for household offences. The multiplier for household rates was 22,167,109. For personal rates it was 42,275,388. The number of households in England and Wales in mid-2000 is a provisional estimate based on projections for the number of households supplied by DTLR. The number of adults is the 2000 mid-year estimate for the number of persons over the age of 16 in England and Wales supplied by ONS.

The household multiplier used to derive the number of offences in 1999 has been updated by DTLR. This leads to some changes in the number of household offences in 1999 from those previously published. All previous population multipliers remain unchanged, since the publication of the 2000 British Crime Survey (Kershaw et al., 2000).

TECHNICAL LIMITATIONS OF THE BCS

While the BCS undoubtedly increases our knowledge about crime as it typically affects householders, some technical limitations need to be acknowledged. These are less to do with restricted coverage than with the accuracy of the BCS count. They are summarised below.

- As in any sample survey, it is difficult to represent the population adequately. Some respondents are impossible for interviewers to locate at home, and others refuse to be interviewed. Victimization rates for non-respondents may differ. (Aye Maung, 1995, deals with the effect of non-response.) However, respondents who refused to take part in the 1996 BCS were asked a short set of questions to determine how crime risks varied for non-responders. The balance of the evidence is that, if anything, non-respondents face slightly lower crime risks (Lynn, 1997).
- As only a sample of the population is questioned, findings are subject to sampling error. The BCS is large by the standards of most surveys, but its estimates will be imprecise, in particular for rare crimes such as robbery and serious assault.
- The BCS will undercount crimes where victim and offender know each other. Respondents may not think of these as 'real crimes' and may in any case be reticent with interviewers.

This will affect counts of domestic and acquaintance violence in particular.¹ Police figures, though, will undercount these sorts of crime even more, since relatively fewer are reported to the police.

There is also a set of more specific limitations which arise from asking people to remember their experiences of crime. A qualitative follow-up study of 35 BCS respondents in the 1996 sweep has also explored the accuracy with which respondents report crime in the survey (White and Lewis, 1998). Various things can stand in the way of accurate answers. The respondent may:

- make an offence up
- fail to realise that an incident meets the terms of the questions
- remember the incident, but think it happened before the reference period – though this is less likely than remembering an earlier incident as happening within the reference period²
- simply forget a relevant incident

The overall conclusion from previous studies is that response biases work, on balance, to *undercount* survey-defined offences, but with differential losses across crime categories. For example, in checks where people have been asked about offences *known* to have been reported to the police, more trivial crimes (e.g., minor thefts, vandalism and some assaults) are less likely to be recalled in interview. More serious incidents are more likely to be, and indeed may even be overcounted, as more salient events tend to be pulled forward in time. From the point of view of the BCS, the most important point is that these response biases are likely to operate fairly consistently over all the sweeps. Special steps have been taken in the design of the 2001 BCS (see the Introduction) to estimate the effects of the move to a new methodology based on continuous sampling. All the results reported in this Bulletin relate to the 'old methodology' sample.

Some of the technical sources of error are linked to the distribution of victimisation itself, and this poses problems for the crime counting function of the survey, as well as for analysing patterns of risk. For instance, young men register the highest risks of violent crime in surveys, but as they are hard for interviewers to contact, and may 'define out' some assaults, their level of risk may be understated.

Police figures

Police-recorded crime figures of course only cover those crimes which are made known to the police and which they record. It is also the case that they:

- Will be subject to changes in reporting patterns, and possible changes in recording practices.
- Do not allow much scope for analysing 'what crime is like', and how risks are distributed across different groups.

1. In recognition of this, the 1996 BCS included a new computerised self-completion questionnaire on domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). A new self-completion questionnaire on inter-personal violence (covering domestic violence, sexual victimisation and stalking) is part of the 2001 BCS. Results from this module are planned to appear in 2002.

2. The full 'recall period' in the BCS is from the 1st January of the year preceding the interview until the date of the interview – an average of 14 to 15 months. In calculating figures for the year, only those incidents which happened in the previous calendar year are counted.

The BCS

- Will give a higher count because it includes any incident that is technically criminal, and because it covers unreported as well as reported crime. The largest discrepancy between the BCS figures and those of the police will be for poorly reported crimes such as common assault. The BCS count of *unreported* crime, however, is not simply a count of crimes 'not worth worrying about'. Many unreported incidents are judged by their victims to be serious (Section 2).

CRIMINAL STATISTICS ADJUSTMENTS

The following provides details of offences recorded by the police which can be compared with BCS offences and the adjustments to the police figures which enable this.

Offences recorded by the police

Various adjustments were made to the *Criminal Statistics* (CS) categories of offences recorded by the police. These take account, for instance, of the fact that crimes against people under 16 appear in police counts but are not covered by the survey. These adjustments were largely the same as those made in previous sweeps. The adjustments for 2000 crime figures were decided on the basis of information sent by police forces in England and Wales.

The *Criminal Statistics* (CS) classification numbers are shown below in brackets after each relevant offence group. British Transport Police (BTP) keep their own crime statistics, though crimes for which there were prosecutions, and very serious crimes, tend to be included in the statistics maintained by local police forces. BTP offences, which are not cleared up, are added to those recorded by the police, where appropriate. Totals are also quoted after adjustment for the changes in counting rules for police-recorded crime that were introduced in April 1998.

1. VANDALISM

Survey categories

- Arson
- Criminal damage to motor vehicles, £20 or under
- Criminal damage to motor vehicles, over £20
- Criminal damage to the home, £20 or under
- Criminal damage to the home, over £20

Criminal Statistics

- Arson (56)
- Other indictable offences of criminal damage:
 - Criminal damage to a dwelling (58A & 58E)
 - Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (58B & 58F)
 - Criminal damage to a vehicle (58C & 58G)
 - Other criminal damage (58D & 58H)

(Categories 58E, F, G & H refer to racially aggravated offences)

Adjustments

- i. The 8,460 cases of vandalism which were recorded by BTP, but not cleared up, were added to the CS total of 954,334 to make 962,794.
- ii. This figure of 962,794 is reduced by 50% to 481,397 to exclude the estimated number of offences committed against institutions and organisations.
- iii. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would reduce the total further to 457,129.

2. THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE (excluding attempts)

Survey categories

- Theft from car/van
- Theft from motorbike, motor-scooter or moped

Criminal Statistics

- Theft from vehicle (45)

Adjustments

- i. The CS total of 637,882 is reduced by 98,843 – the number of nil value thefts from motor vehicles – to exclude attempted thefts, yielding 539,039.
- ii. The 5,299 cases of theft from a motor vehicle which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the adjusted CS total of 539,039 to give 544,338. This figure is then reduced by 821 – the estimated number of BTP nil value thefts from motor vehicles – to give a total of 543,517.
- iii. This total of 543,517 is then reduced by 12% to 478,295 to exclude thefts from commercial vehicles.
- iv. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would reduce the total further to 474,829.

Note

- i. No adjustment has been made to allow for the very small proportion of thefts from bikes etc. recorded under the CS classification 45.11.

3. THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (excluding attempts)

Survey categories

- Theft of car/van
- Theft of motorbike, motor-scooter or moped

Criminal Statistics

- Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48)
- Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2)

Adjustments

- i. The CS total of 350,345 is reduced by 90,272 – the number of attempted thefts of motor vehicles – yielding 260,073.
- ii. The 1,832 cases of theft of a motor vehicle recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the adjusted CS total of 260,073 to give a figure of 261,905. This figure is then reduced by 472 – the estimated number of BTP attempted thefts of motor vehicles – giving a total of 261,433.
- iii. The figure of 261,433 yielded by ii, is reduced by 10% to exclude thefts of commercial vehicles, which would not have been covered by the BCS. The adjusted total is 235,290.
- iv. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would reduce the total slightly to 235,087.

4. ATTEMPTED THEFTS OF AND FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Survey categories

Attempted theft of/from car/van

Attempted theft of/from motorbike, motor-scooter or moped

Criminal Statistics

Theft from vehicle (45)

Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48)

Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2)

Adjustments

- i. The CS number of nil value thefts *from* motor vehicles, 98,843, consists mainly of attempted thefts. This figure is reduced by 12% to exclude attempted thefts *from* commercial vehicles, to 86,982. The estimated number of BTP nil value thefts *from* motor vehicles, 821, is also reduced by 12%, to 723. The adjusted CS and BTP figures are added to give a total of 87,705 attempted thefts *from* motor vehicles.
- ii. The CS number of attempted thefts *of* motor vehicles, 90,272, is reduced by 10% to exclude attempted thefts *of* commercial vehicles, to 81,245. The estimated number of BTP attempted thefts *of* motor vehicles, 472, is also reduced by 10% to 425. The adjusted CS and BTP figures are added to give a total of 81,670, attempted thefts *of* motor vehicles.
- iii. The total number of attempted thefts of and from motor vehicles is 169,374 (after rounding).
- iv. Vehicle interference and tampering figures are added to CS Attempted thefts of and from motor vehicles when comparisons are made with BCS figures for attempts. This has the effect of increasing the total for comparison to 224,119.
- v. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would reduce the CS figure for attempted thefts of and from motor vehicles to 168,668.

5. BURGLARY IN A DWELLING

Survey categories

Burglary in a dwelling (with loss)

Burglary in a dwelling (without loss)

Attempted burglary

Criminal Statistics

- Burglary in a dwelling (28)
- Aggravated burglary in a dwelling (29)

Adjustments

None

Notes

- i. Comparisons are made on the basis of incidents with and without loss. In 2000, it is estimated that 26.2% of the total of CS burglaries were nil value thefts. The adjusted total is 408,758.
- ii. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 increases the total to 408,831.

6. BICYCLE THEFT

Survey category

Theft of pedal cycle

Criminal Statistics

Theft of pedal cycle (44)

Adjustments

- i. Most police forces record incidents of bicycle theft by subsequently deleting or 'no crime-ing' the record if the bicycle is recovered. It is not known whether all forces follow this procedure in the same way. To the CS total of 113,942 is added 2,391 cases of bicycle theft recorded by BTP but not cleared up. This gives a total of 116,333 which is increased by 2% to include unauthorised takings recorded by the police and subsequently 'no-crimed' after the bicycle's recovery. The adjusted total is 118,660.
- ii. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would reduce the total to 115,540.

7. WOUNDING

Survey categories

- Serious wounding
- Other wounding
- Serious wounding with sexual motive
- Other wounding with sexual motive

Criminal Statistics

- Wounding or other act endangering life (5)
- Other wounding (8a & 8d (racially aggravated))

Adjustments

- i. The 897 cases of wounding which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 229,040 to make 229,937.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the figure of 229,937 has been reduced by 15% to make 195,446.

- iii. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would increase the total to 209,975.

8. ROBBERY

Survey categories

- Robbery
- Attempted robbery

Criminal Statistics

- Robbery (34a & b)

Adjustments

- i. The 2,172 cases of robbery which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 92,981 to make 95,153.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the figure of 95,153 has been reduced by 18% to 78,025.
- iii. Adjusting for the effect of counting rule changes in 1998 would reduce the total further to 77,253.

Note

- i. Attempted robberies are classified by the police as robberies. Some robberies recorded by the police involve business property (i.e. post offices, banks, and off-licences). An unknown proportion of these will have more than one victim. As the BCS assumes that there can be only one victim per robbery, there will be a slight tendency for the survey to overestimate the number of robberies – minimal enough to be disregarded.

9. THEFT FROM THE PERSON

Survey categories

- Snatch theft from the person
- Other theft from the person
- Attempted theft from the person

Criminal Statistics

- Theft from the person of another (39)

Adjustments

- i. The 10,162 cases of theft from the person which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared are added to the CS total of 86,489 to make 96,651.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the total of 96,651 has been reduced by 9% to 87,952.
- iii. There is no adjustment needed for the effect of counting rule changes.

Note

- i. Attempted thefts from the person are classified by the police as thefts from the person.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE COMPARABLE SUBSET

In April 1998, assaults (including common assaults and assaults on a constable) and vehicle interference and tampering were added to the list of notifiable offences which are recorded by the police. As both of these offences can be compared with BCS figures, these are added to the subset of comparable offences. This enlarged subset is termed the comparable subset in this Bulletin and is used in the comparison of 2000 BCS and police figures in Section 2 (see Table 2.1) and for trends analysis between 1999 and 2000 (Section 3). The 'old comparable subset', excluding these additions and with adjustment for changes in counting rules, is used in the trends analysis when comparing to years prior to 1999 (Section 3).

Vehicle interference and tampering

This category has been added to Attempted thefts of or from vehicles.

Adjustments

- i. The 1,197 cases of vehicle interference and tampering which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared are added to the CS total of 61,013 to make 62,210.
- ii. This figure is reduced by 12% to adjust for offences against commercial vehicles to make 54,745.

Assault

Common assault is a new separate category, but it is also added to the new BCS comparable violence category.

Survey categories

Common assault (13)
Attempted assault (21)

Criminal Statistics

Assault on a constable (104)
Common assault (105a)
Racially-aggravated common assault (105b)

Adjustments

- i. The 2,053 cases of common assault which were recorded by the BTP but not cleared up are added to the CS total of 204,602 to make 206,655.
- ii. To exclude cases where the victim was under 16, the figure of 206,655 has been reduced by 20% to make 165,324.
- iii. The adjusted number of 165,324 common assaults are added to the 27,525 assaults on constables to make a total of 192,849 (clearly no age adjustment is required for assaults on constables).

Glossary of terms

ACORN – ('A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods') classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN was developed by CACI Ltd., through the use of cluster analysis of variables from the 1991 Census. ACORN is most useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. Although there are a total of 54 ACORN types, the 17-group breakdown has been used in this report (the 17 groups are constructed from the 54 types). Data from the 1998 and 2000 British Crime Surveys (BCS) has been combined, to ensure a large enough sample size to provide reliable results. (Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS.)

Acquaintance violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It comprises woundings and common assault in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.

Asian respondents are those who describe themselves as Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi.

Assaults – These offences include the offences of common assault and wounding (see also **common assault** and **wounding**)

Attempted burglary – Burglary where there is clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to the property, but was unsuccessful.

Attempted vehicle theft – See **vehicle-related thefts**.

Bicycle theft – Thefts of pedal cycles. This offence category does not include all bicycle thefts picked up by the survey, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary) and are therefore classified as such. The survey covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any member of the household.

Black respondents are those who describe themselves as Black-African, Black-Caribbean or Black-Other.

Burglary – The BCS definition of burglary is based on the broad legal definition which involves any incident in which someone enters, or tries to enter, a dwelling as a trespasser with the intention of committing theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. 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 a meter reader). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g., hallways) are also included if usually secure. See also: **attempted burglary**, **burglary-no loss**, **burglary with entry**, **burglary with loss** and **theft in a dwelling**.

Burglary-no loss – Police recorded crime figures do not distinguish between burglary with entry and attempted burglary, only between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss. Burglary-no loss includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. This is used when comparing the BCS and recorded crime figures.

Burglary with entry – This comprises burglary where a house was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss – This comprises burglary where a house was successfully entered and something was stolen.

Common assault – An assault (or attempted assault) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but the incident did not result in an injury, or the injury was negligible (e.g., a black eye). The victim is unlikely to have required any medical attention (see also **assaults**).

Old comparable subset of crimes – 62% of BCS offences fall into categories which have been used, for BCS sweeps up to and including the 1998 sweep, to make comparisons with police figures. This excludes common assaults, ‘other household theft’ and ‘other theft of personal property’. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the BCS (see Appendix C for details). Comparable crime is used to compare trends in police and BCS figures, and to identify the amount of crime that is not reported to the police and not recorded by them. Trends for ‘old comparable’ police recorded crime have been extended to cover the last two sweeps of the survey by applying adjustments to take account of changes in police counting rules.

Comparable subset of crimes – 77% of BCS offences fall into categories which can be compared with crimes recorded under the **new police coverage of offences** adopted from 1 April 1998. The new comparable subset includes common assaults (and assaults on a constable), and vehicle interference and tampering. As with the old comparable subset, the new comparable subset is used to observe differences between police and BCS figures. However, it cannot be used to compare trends prior to 1999. Details regarding adjustments to the new comparable subset are provided at the end of Appendix C.

Old comparable violence – This comprises wounding and robbery – these are the violent crimes in the **old comparable subset** used for comparing BCS violence and police recorded violence back to the first BCS sweep. See also: **old comparable** and **comparable subsets of crime**, and **comparable violence**.

Comparable violence – This comprises wounding, robbery and common assault – the violent crimes measured by the BCS which can now be compared with violent crimes recorded by the police.

Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) – The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI, whereby the interviewer enters responses to the questionnaire into a laptop computer. The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and routing instructions. CAPI also facilitates a self-completion component within the BCS, for respondents under 60, to answer questions on self-reported drug use and other topics. The laptop enables respondents to read questions on the computer screen and key in their own responses in private. The results of the self-completion components are not covered in this Bulletin.

Confidence interval – Also called margin of error. The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie. Surveys produce statistics, which are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin on error of plus or minus a given range. A 95% confidence interval is the range within which one would expect the true value to lie one out of every 20 times solely due to chance variation; a 90% confidence interval relates to a one in ten chance of the true value lying outside the range. Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between BCS sweeps. If a change is outside a range set by a 95% confidence interval then one judges the change to be

'statistically significant at the 5% level'; if a change is outside a 90% confidence interval it is 'statistically significant at the 10% level'. In this bulletin a 10% significance level has been applied. See also the definition of **statistical significance**.

Criminal damage – This is mainly referred to in the report as vandalism. See also: **vandalism**; **vandalism to other property** and **vehicle vandalism**.

Domestic violence – A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It includes all violent incidents, excluding mugging, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives. A computerised self-completion component was included in the 1996 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999). See also: **acquaintance violence**, **mugging** and **stranger violence**.

Government Office Region (GOR) – An administrative division of England and Wales. *Merseyside* has now been merged into the *North West* region. See also **ONS harmonised variables**.

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

Household structure – A grouping of households on the basis of size, age of head of household, and number of children. Households are divided into those where the head of household is aged over 60, and those where the head of household is aged 16 to 59. The latter group is sub-divided into the following categories:

- one adult aged less than 60, and one or more children (under 16). Note this does not necessarily denote a lone *parent* family, as the adult may be related to the child in a sibling or grandparent relationship
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16)
- more than one adult with no children (under 16).

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

Inner-city areas – Inner-city areas are defined at the sampling stage as those postcode sectors with high population density, low owner-occupation and low proportions of professionals. See Hales et al. (2000), for full details.

Mugging – This is a popular rather than a legal term, comprising robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person. It is a component of the BCS **violence typology**.

Notifiable offences – Currently used to refer to offences which before 1979 were called 'indictable' and then (briefly) 'serious' offences. They relate to the type of offences recorded by the police, the totals of which are notified to the Home Office. Figures are published in *Criminal Statistics for England and Wales* and in periodic Statistical Bulletins.

Old methodology sample – The sample reported on in this Bulletin. This has been drawn using the methodology applied for previous BCS sweeps (see **Type A interviews** and **recall period**)

ONS harmonised variables – The Office for National Statistics have constructed core variables and variable categories which are becoming widely used in Government Surveys to provide comparable measures. The harmonised variables used in this Bulletin are:

Age breakdown (short) - 16 to 24; 25 to 44; 45 to 64; 65 to 74; 75+.

Employment status:

- Economically inactive – includes respondents of working age (16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women) who are retired; going to school or college full time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.
- Employed – 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.

GOR – Government Office Regions: North East; North West (Merseyside has now been merged into the North West region); Yorkshire and Humberside; East Midlands; West Midlands; Eastern; London; South East; South West and Wales.

Household accommodation type:

- House or bungalow – detached, semi-detached, terraced.
- Flat or maisonette – purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.

Living arrangements:

- Persons living as a couple – married, cohabiting (includes same-sex couples).
- Persons not living as a couple – single, separated, divorced and widowed.

Tenure:

- 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.

Other household theft – A survey category of household offences covering thefts and attempted thefts from domestic garages, outhouses, sheds, etc. not directly linked to the dwelling, as well as thefts from both inside and outside a dwelling (excluding thefts of milk bottles from the doorstep). The notifiable offence of ‘theft in a dwelling’ is included here. In principle, it could be in the comparable subset, but the number of offences is small and therefore changes over time are unreliable. This category is not in either the **comparable subset** or **old comparable subset**.

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. This category is not in the **old comparable subsets** or **new comparable subset**.

Personal crimes – For personal offences, the respondent reports only on his/her experience to the BCS. This applies to the following offence categories: assault, sexual offences, robbery, theft

from the person, and other personal theft. Information is also collected on threats, though not reported in this Bulletin as few meet the criteria of an offence.

Physical disorder – Two measures are used here. The first is based on the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. The interviewer had to say whether each of these problems was a very or fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common were set to 1 and not very and not at all to 0. A scale was then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranged from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The second measure is based on the respondent's perception of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) teenagers hanging around, and (c) people dealing or using drugs. The respondent had to say whether each of these was a very big problem, fairly big problem, not a very big problem or not a problem at all. For each, very big problem was set to 2, fairly big problem set to 1 and not very and not at all to 0. A scale was then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranged from 0 to 6, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 4, 5 or 6.

Postcode Address File (PAF) – This 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 victim of an offence once or more during the year. Unlike **incidence rates** they take no account of the number of victimisations experienced.

Recall period – This is the time over which respondents are asked to report offences they had experienced. For the results reported (relating to **Type A interviews**), the recall period was between the 1st of January 2000 and the date of the interview. Most interviews took place between January and April 2001. Only those incidents occurring in 2000 are counted when computing annual rates. Other information about victims and their experiences is usually derived from incidents occurring during the full recall period. Under the new arrangements for continuous sampling the BCS is moving to a recall period relating to the previous 12 months (**Type B interviews**).

Recorded crime – This covers **notifiable offences** which the police are required to notify to the Home Office.

Repeat victimisation – The recurrence of the same crime against those who have already been victimised once in the year.

Robbery – Incidents in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft.

Rural areas – Defined as those areas falling into Acorn types 1 to 9 and 27 (CACI Ltd.). See also: **ACORN**.

Sample – The results presented here related to a sample of 8,985 respondents interviewed following the same methodology as for previous BCS sweeps. After appropriate weighting, both a

representative cross-section of private households in England and Wales and of individuals aged 16 and over living in private households. During 2001 it is planned that close to 41,500 BCS interviews be undertaken, including an additional ethnic boost of 3,000 and a youth boost of 1,500 respondents aged 16 to 24 (both boosts being used for increasing the precision of analyses for these groups). See Appendix B for full details of the sample design.

Sampling error – A sample is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn. As such, the sample may produce estimates which differ from the figures which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of the error – which depends on the sample size, the size of the estimate, and the design of the survey – can be computed and be used to construct **confidence intervals**. The error is also taken into account in tests of **statistical significance**. Sampling error is to be distinguished from confidence interval (or margin of error). Sampling error does not include biases that are sometimes unknown to the researcher and therefore impossible to measure, such as, non-response bias, selection bias or biasing effects due to seasonal variations.

Sexual offences – Includes the offences of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault. Due to the small number of these picked up by the survey, results are too unreliable to report here. The 1994 BCS, however, included a computerised self-completion component on sexual victimisation to improve estimates (Percy and Mayhew, 1997). Woundings with a sexual nature are included in **wounding**. A Home Office Research Study on sexual victimisation, based on results from the 1998 and 2000 sweep is in preparation.

Snatch theft – Incidents where force was used just to snatch property away from the victim and the victim was clearly aware of the incident as it happened. See also **stealth thefts**, which are thefts from the person in which the victim was *not* aware of what was happening.

Statistical significance – Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, changes in estimates between sweeps of the survey may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which changes are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this Bulletin a 10% significance level has been applied (the level at which there is a one in ten chance of incorrectly identifying a difference solely due to chance variation).

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.

Stranger violence – A component of the **violence typology**, it includes common assaults and woundings, in which the victim did not know any of the offenders in any way.

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 component of theft from the person is **snatch theft** which is added to **robbery** to create a category of **mugging**. The other is **stealth theft**.

Theft from vehicles – See **vehicle-related thefts**.

Theft of vehicles – See **vehicle-related thefts**.

Theft in a dwelling – This 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**.

Type A and Type B interviews – Close to half interviews conducted in the first six months of 2001 were Type A interviews and the remainder were Type B. Type A interviews used the **old BCS methodology** and the traditional **recall period**, while Type B were part of the new continuous sampling design. For **Type B** interviews the new recall period relates to the previous 12 months and respondents are further assisted in determining the date of any incident by the use of a calendar. **Results in this Bulletin relate solely to the 8,895 Type A interviews.** See the Introduction and Appendix B for more details.

Urban areas – All **ACORN** types which are not classified as **rural** or **inner-city**.

Vandalism – Intentional and malicious damage to household property and vehicles – equated to the **recorded crime** category of criminal damage. Vandalism ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g., letting down car tyres) are not included. Where criminal damage occurs in combination with burglary, robbery or violent offences, these take precedence in offence coding.

Vandalism to other property – This comprises vandalism to the home and other property. It involves intentional or malicious damage to, for example, doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs etc. It also includes incidents involving arson. See also: **vehicle vandalism** and **vandalism**.

Vehicles – Unless otherwise specified, these cover cars, vans, motorcycles, scooters, mopeds etc. either owned or regularly used by anyone in the household, including company cars. Vehicles used solely for business purposes such as lorries or work vans, however, are excluded. See also **vehicle-related thefts** below.

Vehicle-related thefts – These cover 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.

Vehicle interference and tampering – This includes cases where there is evidence of intent to commit either theft of or from a vehicle, or taking without consent (TWOC), but there is either (i) no evidence of intent to commit one of these three offences specifically, or (ii) there is evidence of intent to commit TWOC (TWOC is a summary offence, but under the provisions of the 1981 Criminal Attempts Act, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence.) Vehicle interference therefore covers cases where there is, or may be, evidence of intent to commit TWOC.

Vehicle vandalism – This includes any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle such as scratching a coin down the side of a car, or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and therefore included in **vandalism to other property**.

Violence typology – This includes BCS offences in which the nature of the offence is such that the offender had some physical contact with the victim: wounding, common assault, robbery, attempted robbery and snatch theft. These offences form the BCS violence typology comprising: **mugging, domestic, acquaintance** and **stranger** violence.

Weighted data – Raw data from the survey is adjusted in various ways at the data processing stage to correct for imbalances introduced in sampling and by the design of the interview (see Appendix B for further details).

Wounding – A category of comparable violence that includes serious ‘wounding’ involving intentionally inflicted severe injuries, and ‘other wounding’, involving less serious injury or severe injuries inflicted unintentionally.

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