

Crime in England and Wales 2006/07

A Summary of the Main Figures



Home Office





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Crime in England and Wales 2006/07

How is crime measured in England and Wales?

Crime is measured using two different sources.

The British Crime Survey (BCS)

- A large survey of a representative sample of people aged 16 and over in England and Wales
- Asks about people's experiences and perceptions of crime
- Provides the most reliable measure of the extent of victimisation and of national trends over time
- Not affected by whether the public report crime or by changes to the way the police record crime

Police recorded crime

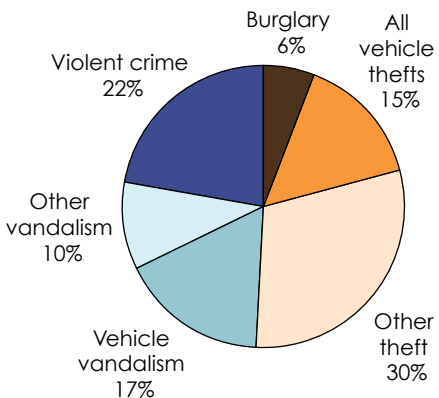
- Covers crimes which are reported to and recorded by the police
- A good measure of trends in well-reported crimes and also the less common but more serious crimes
- An important indicator of police workload
- Provides information for local areas



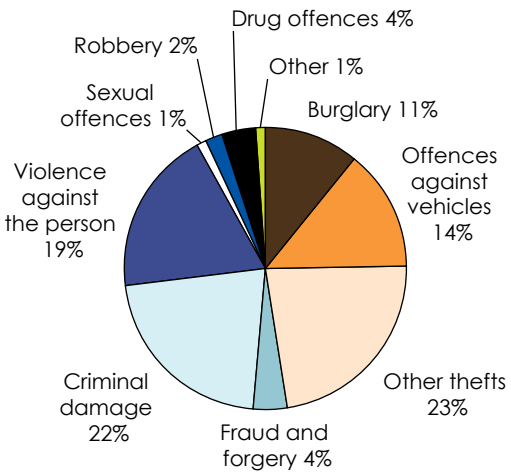


Which crimes are included?

British Crime Survey



Police Recorded Crime



- The majority of crimes are property related. These include burglary, vehicle theft, vandalism/criminal damage and other theft.
- Around a fifth are violent crimes.
- Almost half of violent crime involves no injury and only a small proportion involves serious violence.

Differences in the profile of offences between the two sources are influenced by the different coverage of the BCS and police recorded crime. For example, recorded crime includes crime experienced by under 16s and commercial premises, and the BCS does not.

Some crimes are more likely to be reported and recorded than others and this will also have an impact on these proportions. Overall, less than half of BCS crime is reported to the police.



Is there more crime than last year?

Although the figures show some variation, both BCS and police recorded crime indicate little change overall from last year.

BCS CRIME

- ➡ All BCS crime stable at 11.3 million crimes – no statistically significant change
- ➡ Violent crime – no statistically significant change
- ➡ Burglary – no statistically significant change
- ➡ Vehicle theft – no statistically significant change
- ➡ Personal theft – no statistically significant change
- ⬆ Vandalism up by 10%

POLICE RECORDED CRIME

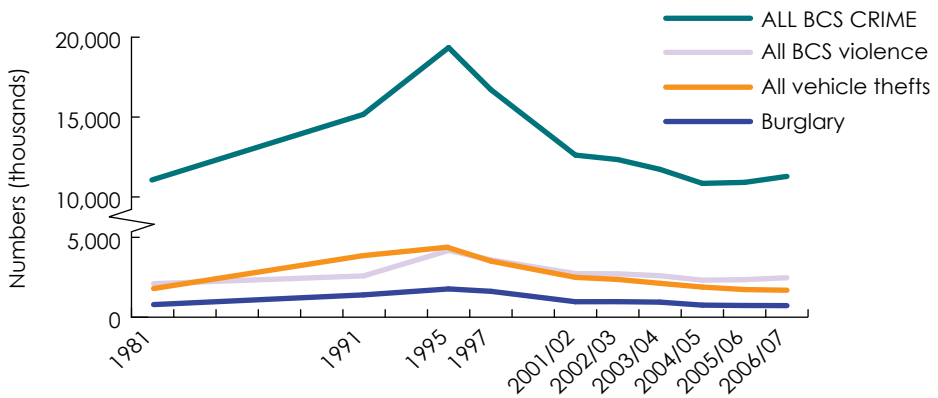
- ⬇ All police recorded crime down 2% to 5.4 million crimes
- ⬇ Violence against the person down 1%
- ⬇ Most serious violence against the person down 9%
- ⬇ Burglary down 4%
- ⬆ Robbery up 3%
- ⬇ Offences against vehicles down 4%
- ⬇ Other theft down 4%
- ➡ Criminal damage stable



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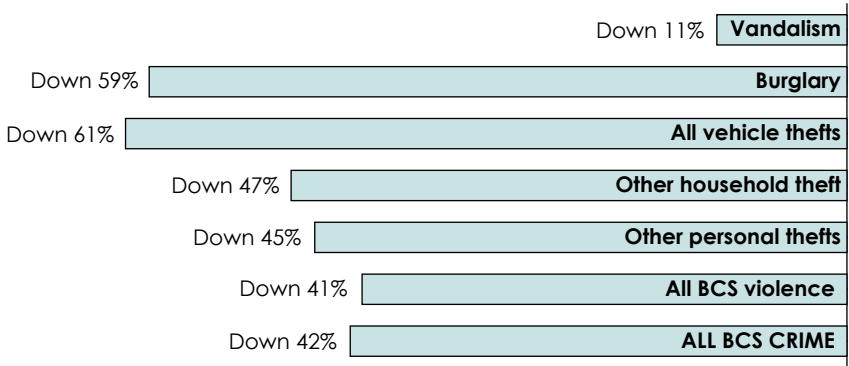
Crime over the last 25 years

Trends in BCS crime, 1981 to 2006/07



Crime in England and Wales increased between 1981 and 1995, it then fell sharply and has recently stabilised. There has been an overall fall of 42% since 1995.

Percentage change in BCS offences, 1995 to 2006/07



Trends in police figures are affected by changes in recording practices, coverage, public reporting and police activity. However, recent guidance for the police (2002) has led to high standards in police recording of crime.



Focus on violent crime

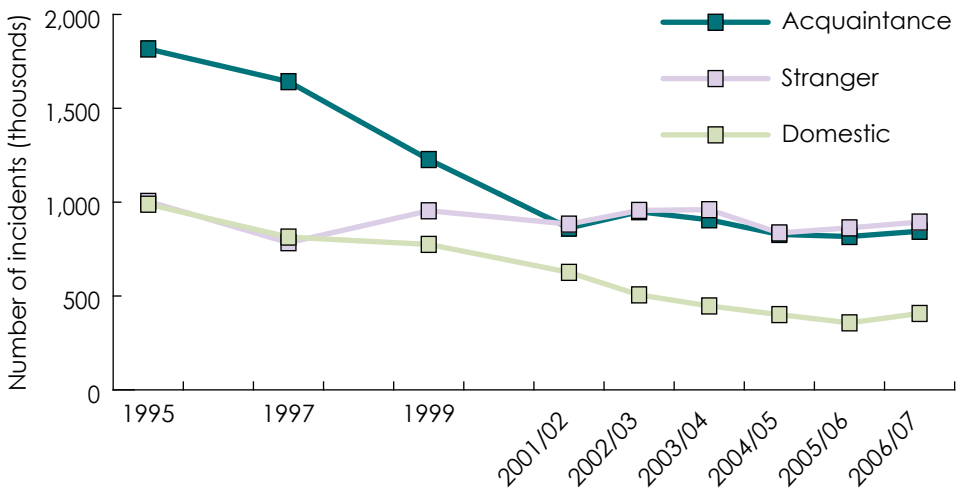
- BCS violent crime did not show a statistically significant change over the last year but there have been substantial falls since the mid 1990s (a fall of 41% or over half a million fewer victims since 1995).
- Police recorded violence against the person fell by 1% from last year. This was the first fall in the recorded number for eight years. There was a 9% decrease in most serious violence against the person last year.
- Most serious violence against the person accounted for just 2% of total violence against the person offences in 2006/07, but includes the crimes of homicide, attempted murder and more serious woundings.
- Police recorded robbery increased by 3% over the last 12 months. This is 16% below the 2001/02 peak in robbery.





Focus on violent crime

Trends in BCS violent crime, by type of violence, 1995 to 2006/07



- Since 1995 there have been large falls in both BCS domestic and 'acquaintance' violence. Stranger violence has remained stable.

The BCS is considered to be the most reliable general indicator of trends in violent crime, as police recorded crime is susceptible to reporting and recording changes (especially in less serious offences).

Recorded crime provides a better measure of less frequent, serious violence, which is less likely to be identified in the BCS.



For more information on violent crime:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/violent-crime/>

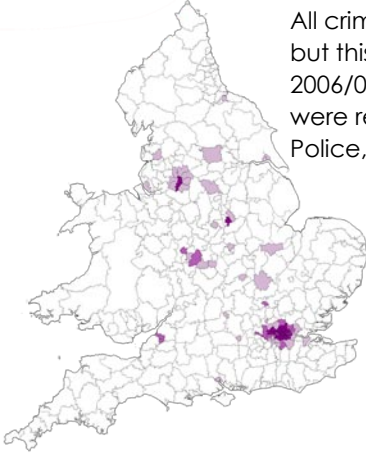


Regional variations

Crime is not evenly distributed and can be highly concentrated in particular areas. The national picture may not therefore reflect people's experiences in their own locality.

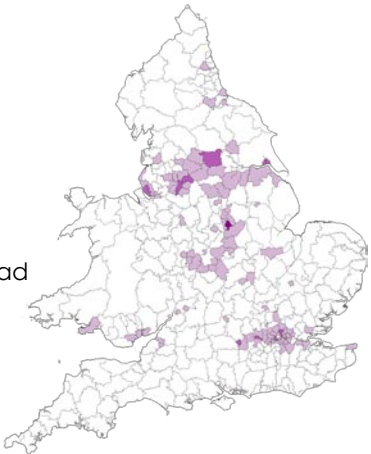
Distribution of domestic burglary and robbery in England and Wales

Robbery



All crime tends to be geographically concentrated, but this is particularly the case for robbery. In 2006/07, 62% of robberies in England and Wales were recorded by three forces: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands.

Burglary



Domestic burglary rates are more evenly spread across England and Wales but there are also areas with a high concentration of offences.

Compared with the average for England and Wales:

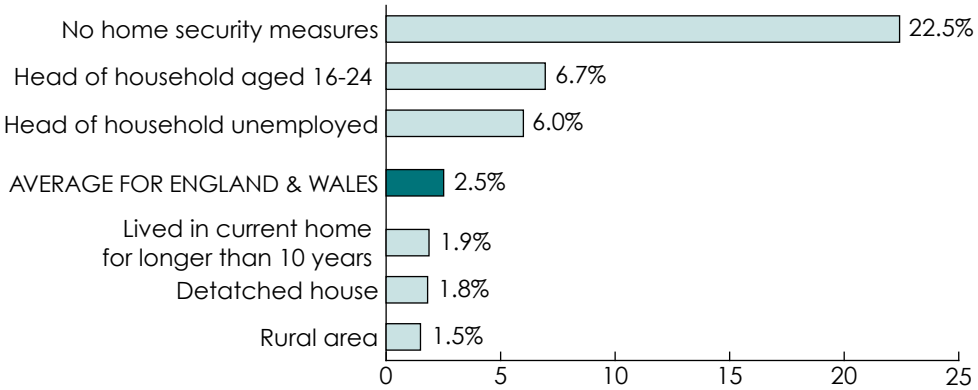
- More than 3 times
- Above, but less than twice
- Between 2 and 3 times
- Below average



Who is at risk of crime?

Nationally, around one in four people (24%) experienced a crime against themselves or their household (2006/07 BCS). This is higher than the previous year (23%) but significantly lower than the peak of 40% recorded by the BCS in 1995.

Risks of burglary (2006/07 BCS)



Those most at risk of burglary are:

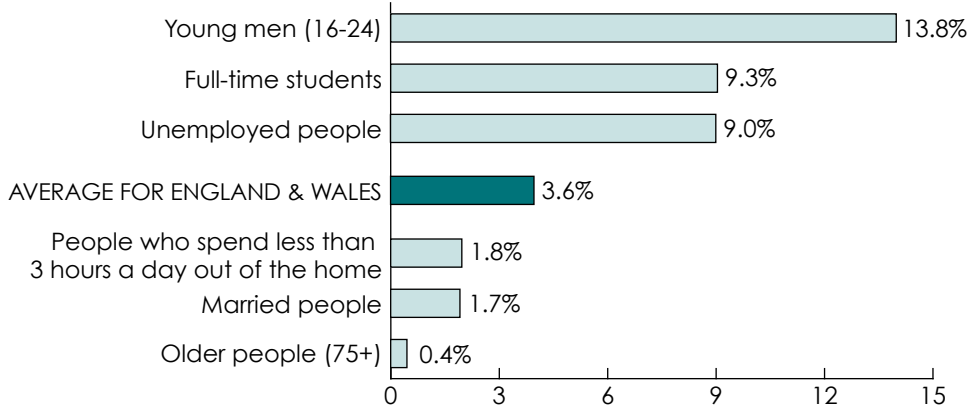
- Households with no security measures
- Households headed by someone aged 16-24
- Households headed by an unemployed person

The level of home security is the key defence against burglary, not only in reducing overall risk but also in foiling burglary attempts.



Who is at risk of crime?

Risks of violence (2006/07 BCS)



Those most at risk of violence are:

- Young men (aged 16-24)
- Full-time students
- Unemployed people

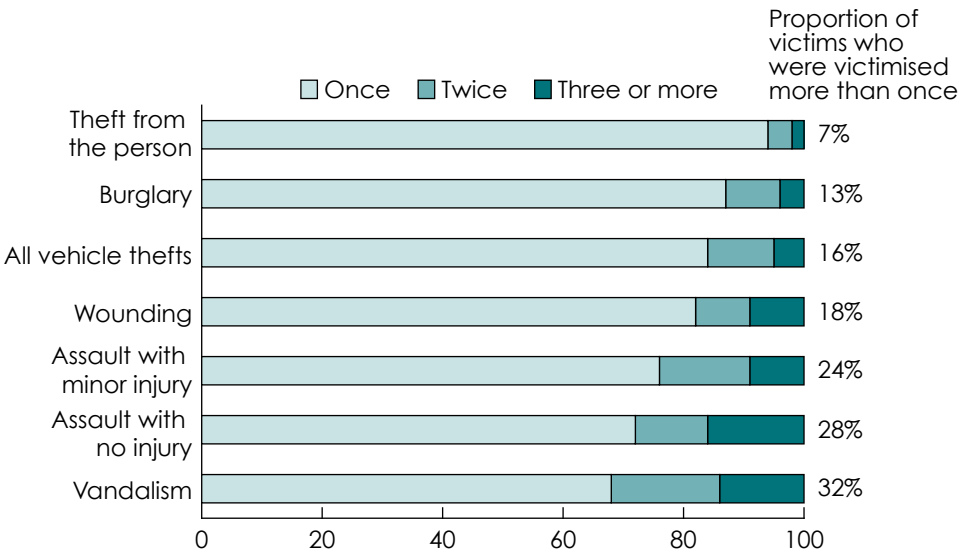
The risk of violence varies by lifestyle characteristics, reflecting differences in people's social interactions. For example, people who visit pubs and bars regularly are more at risk of violence than those who do not.



Repeat victimisation

When a person or household is a victim of a particular offence or group of offences more than once in the same year, this is classed as repeat victimisation.

Proportion of victims who were victimised once, twice and three or more times by offence type, 2006/07 BCS



- Victims of vandalism are the most likely to experience repeat victimisation (32% of vandalism victims), followed by victims of assault with no injury (28%) and minor injury (24%).
- Victims of theft from the person (7%) are the least likely.

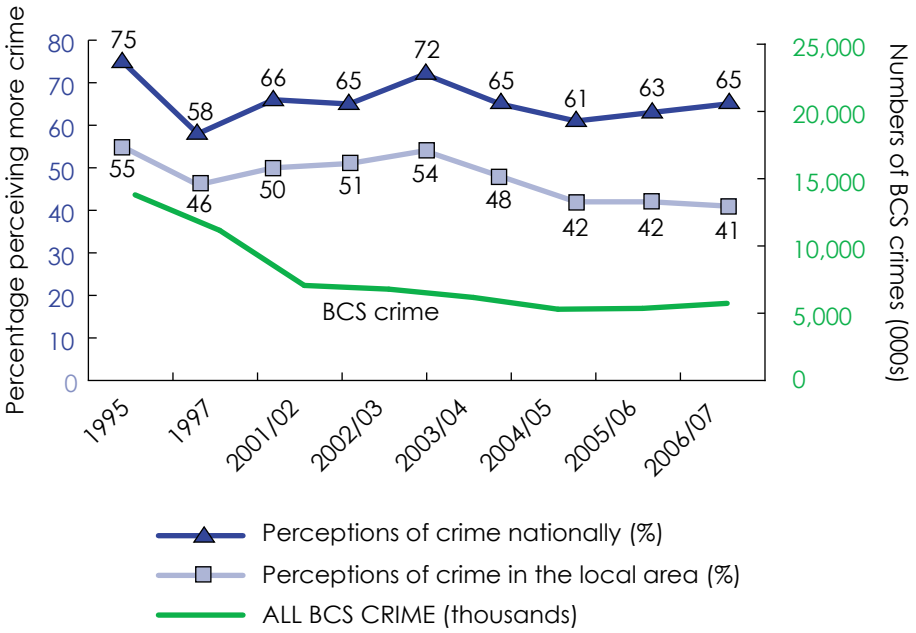
Repeat victimisation affects a minority of people. For example, of people who were victims of vandalism, 68% were victims once, 18% were victims twice and 14% were victims three or more times.



Perceptions of crime levels

- Even though BCS crime has fallen since 1995, people believe that crime is rising. Around two in three people believe that crime nationally has increased in the last two years.
- People tend to have more positive perceptions about crime in their own local area, but two in five people still thought crime locally had increased.

Perceptions of changing crime levels, 1996 to 2006/07 BCS compared with trend in BCS crime





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Perceptions of anti-social behaviour

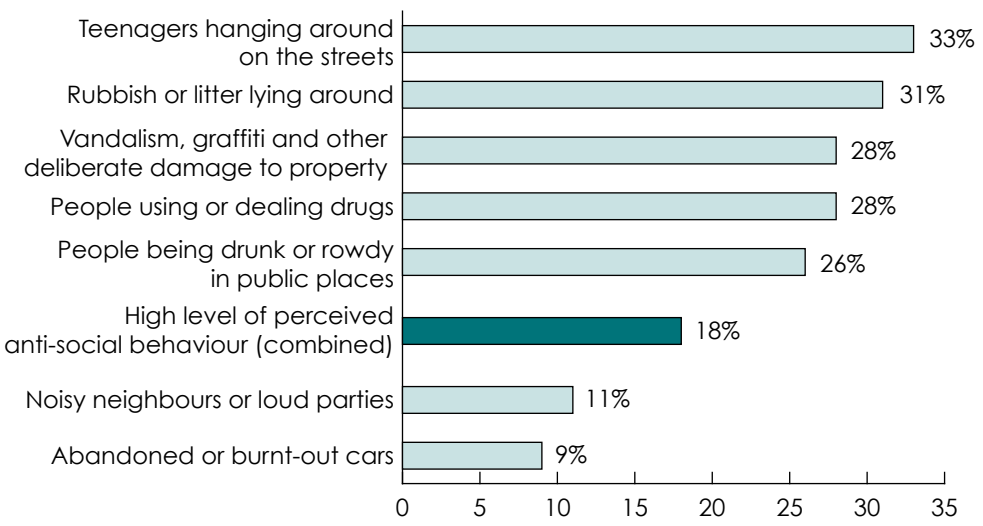
- Nearly one in five people think that anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area (18% – combined measure). This has remained stable compared to last year.
- Of the seven strands of anti-social behaviour that make up the overall Home Office measure, the most common type of perceived anti-social behaviour was teenagers hanging around, with a third saying this was a problem in their local area.
- Abandoned cars and noisy neighbours were least common (9% and 11% respectively perceiving it to be a problem in their local area).
- Other types of anti-social behaviour that people reported as being a problem included illegally parked cars, fireworks being set off and being pestered or intimidated.
- Not all people who experience these sorts of behaviours perceive them to be a problem.





Perceptions of anti-social behaviour

Proportion of people perceiving anti-social behaviour to be a problem in their area, 2006/07 BCS




High levels of anti-social behaviour were more likely to be perceived:

- In urban areas (twice as likely as in rural areas)
- By young people, particularly women
- By people living in social rented property

These findings have been produced by the Research Development and Statistics Directorate within the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group in the Home Office. They have been produced to the standards for National Statistics.

**More detailed information can be found in:
HOSB 11/07 Crime in England and Wales 2006/07**

**Available from:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0607.html>**

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