

Notifiable Offences

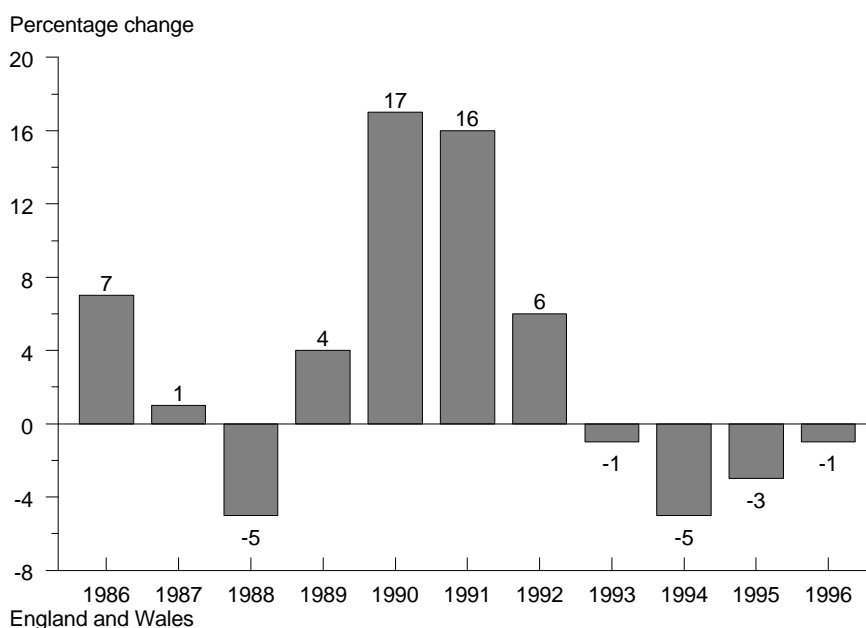
England and Wales, 1996

By David Povey, Julian Prime and Paul Taylor

MAIN POINTS

- 5.0 million offences were recorded by the police in 1996, a fall of 1.3 per cent from 1995, and the fourth consecutive annual fall. (*Figure 1 below*)
- 92 per cent of crimes were against property, 7 per cent were violent crimes. (*Paragraphs 1(b) and 1(c)*)
- Vehicle crime fell by 2 per cent or 28,800 offences, the fourth consecutive annual fall. Burglaries decreased by 6 per cent or 75,100 offences. (*paragraphs 2(c) and (e)*)
- Overall violent crime increased by 11 per cent or 33,400 offences. (*Paragraph 3(a)*)
- 28 of the 43 police forces recorded fewer crimes in the 1996 than in 1995. (*Paragraph 4(a)*)
- In total, 27 per cent of all offences - including two thirds of violent crimes - were cleared up in 1996, 1 per cent more than in 1995. (*paragraphs 5(a) and (b)*)

Figure 1 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE
Percentage change from the previous year



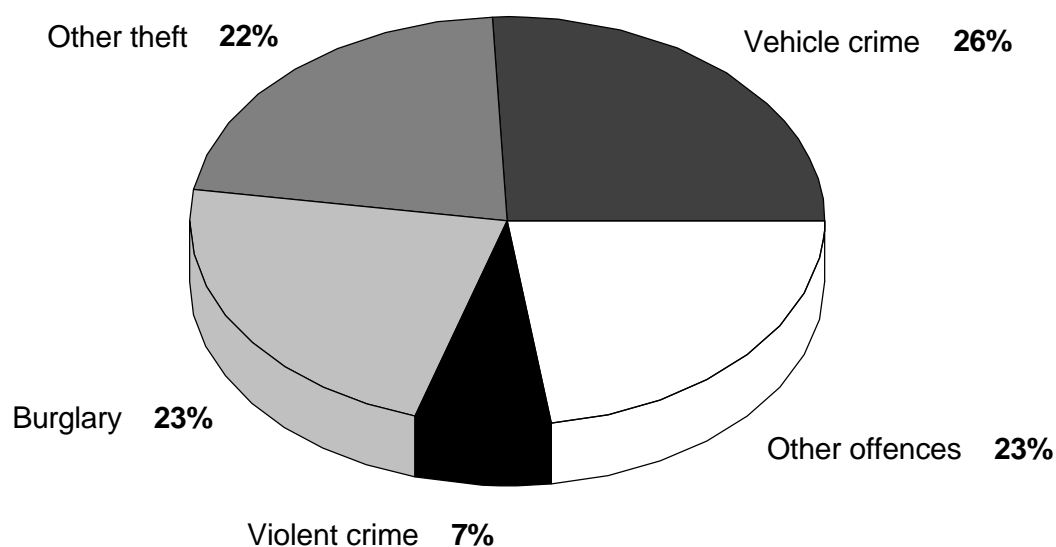
1. TOTAL CRIME (TABLES A, 1; FIGURES 1 - 5)

Table A Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence

England and Wales		Number of offences (thousands) and percentages					
Offence group	1995	1996	Change(1)				
			Number		Percentage		
Violence against the person	212.6	239.1	+26.5	(-5.8)	+12.5%	(-2.6%)	
Sexual offences	30.3	31.2	+1.0	(-1.7)	+3.2%	(-5.3%)	
Robbery	68.1	74.0	+5.9	(+8.1)	+8.6%	(+13.4%)	
<i>Total violent crime</i>	<i>310.9</i>	<i>344.3</i>	<i>+33.4</i>	<i>(+0.6)</i>	<i>+10.7%</i>	<i>(+0.2%)</i>	
Burglary	1,239.5	1,164.4	-75.1	(-17.2)	-6.1%	(-1.4%)	
Total theft & handling stolen goods	2,452.1	2,383.0	-69.2	(-112.5)	-2.8%	(-4.4%)	
<i>Vehicle crime</i>	<i>1,321.5</i>	<i>1,292.7</i>	<i>-28.8</i>	<i>(-62.9)</i>	<i>-2.2%</i>	<i>(-4.5%)</i>	
Fraud and forgery	133.0	135.9	+2.9	(-12.3)	+2.2%	(-8.4%)	
Criminal damage	914.0	950.7	+36.7	(-14.3)	+4.0%	(-1.5%)	
<i>Total property crime</i>	<i>4,738.6</i>	<i>4,633.9</i>	<i>-104.7</i>	<i>(-156.3)</i>	<i>-2.2%</i>	<i>(-3.2%)</i>	
Other notifiable offences	50.7	55.6	4.9	(+3.0)	+9.6%	(+6.2%)	
Total all offences		5,100.25,033.8	-66.4	(-152.7)	1.3%	(-2.9%)	

(1) Change between 1994 and 1995 in brackets.

Figure 2 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE, 1996



5.0 million offences

England and Wales

(a) In 1996, 5.0 million offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales, which is 66,400 offences or 1.3 per cent fewer than in 1995. This represents the fourth consecutive fall in the annual (ie calendar year) figures, and is the first time this has happened for over a century.

(b) The majority of crimes were property offences (burglary, theft, fraud and forgery, criminal damage), which accounted for 4.6 million or 92 per cent of all recorded crime. This included 1.3 million vehicle crimes and 1.2 million burglaries.

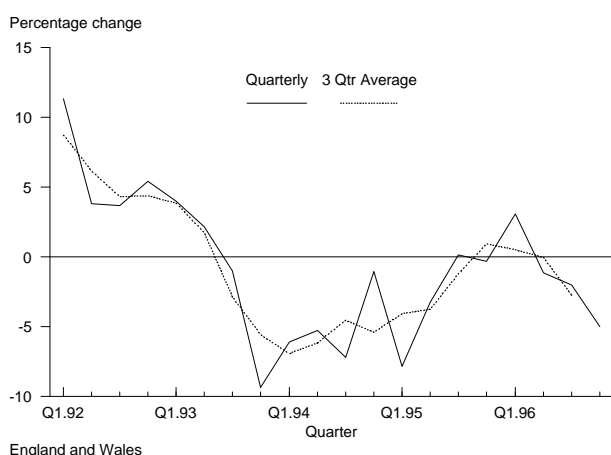
(c) Violent crimes (violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery) accounted for 7 per cent (344,300) of all offences recorded in 1996.

(d) Levels of recorded crime in 1996 were at the lowest level since 1990, and were 10 per cent lower than in 1992.

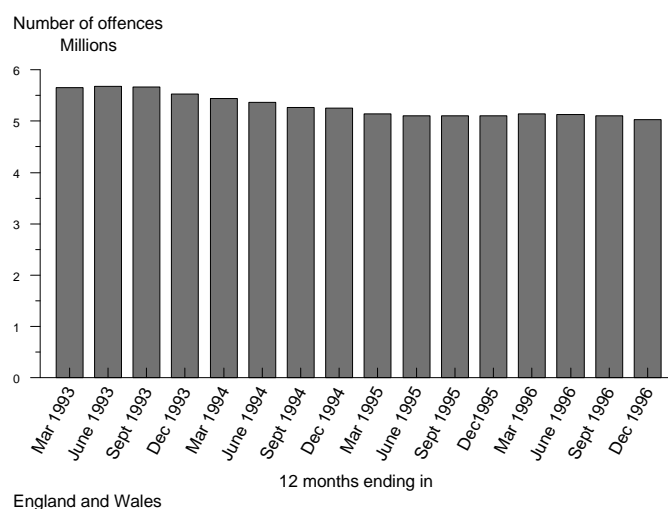
(e) Figure 3A shows the changes in the crime figures by quarter rather than over the whole year. This shows that whilst there was an increase of 3 per cent in the first quarter of 1996, the following three quarters showed falls of 1 per cent, 2 per cent and 5 per cent.

Figure 3 CHANGE IN NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES

A Percentage change, current quarter on corresponding quarter in previous year



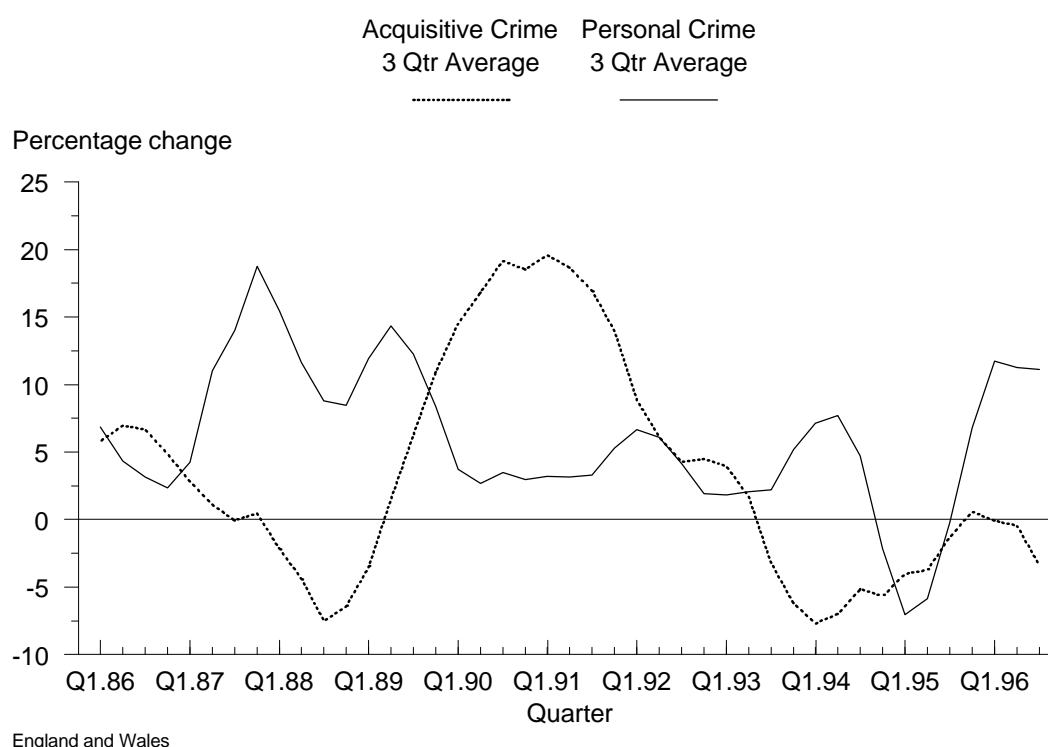
B Number of offences in 12 month periods ending in month shown



(f) An indication of the underlying trend is given by taking the average of three consecutive quarters (i.e. current, previous and following quarters) and comparing this to the average of the corresponding quarters in the previous year. The underlying trend going back to 1992 is shown in figure 3A.

(g) Figure 4 compares changes in the underlying trend (the three quarter moving average) in acquisitive crime (comprising property crime and robbery, as defined in a Home Office research study published in 1990, see paragraph 7(c)) and in personal crime (comprising violence against the person and sexual offences). The graph shows that while the trend in acquisitive crime is similar to the trend for all crime, the trend in personal crime has moved broadly in the opposite direction.

Figure 4 **PERSONAL AND ACQUISITIVE CRIME**
Current quarter on corresponding quarter in previous year



2. PROPERTY OFFENCES (TABLES A, 1; FIGURES 4, 5)

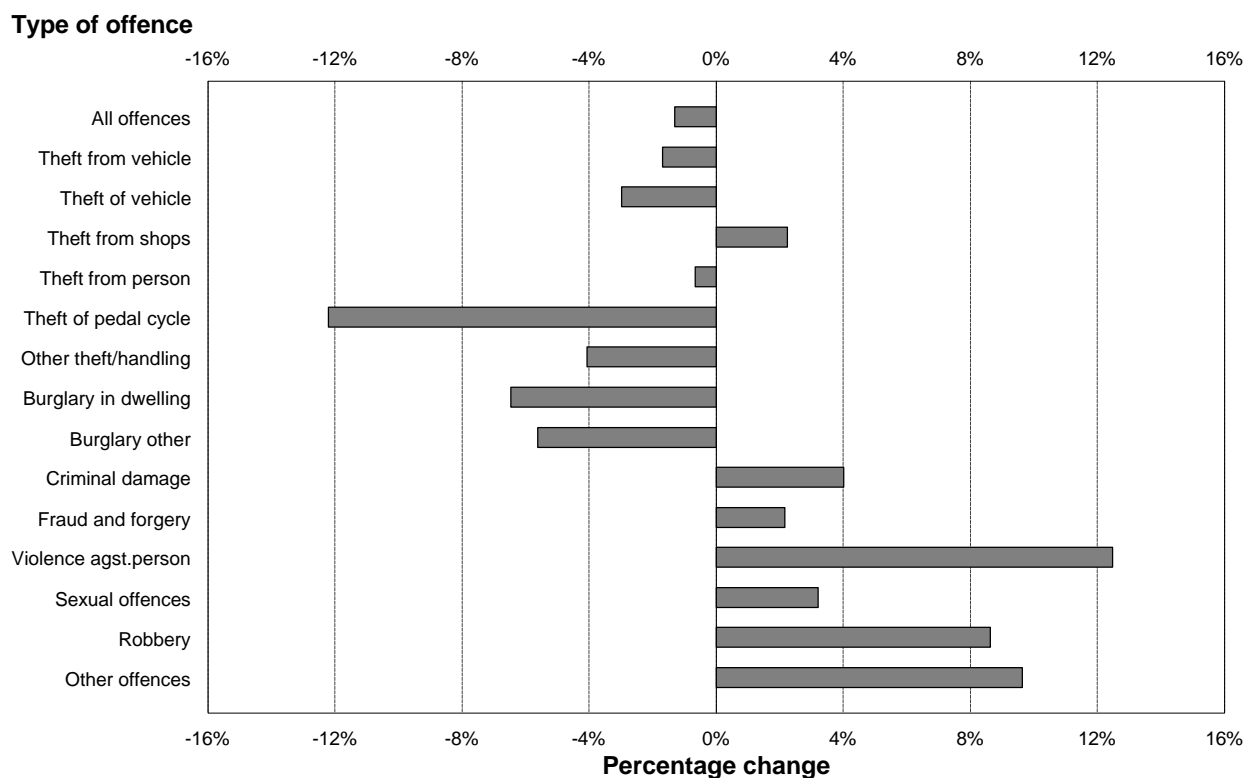
(a) The number of recorded property offences fell by 2 per cent, from 4.7 million offences in 1995 to 4.6 million offences during 1996. This is the fourth consecutive calendar year decrease in property offences.

(b) There were decreases in all offence groups within property crime except theft from shops, fraud and forgery, and criminal damage.

(c) Burglary offences, which make up about a quarter of all recorded property crimes, fell by 75,100, or 6 per cent. Falls of 8 and 1 per cent occurred in the previous two years. Despite the recent falls, the underlying trend in burglary over the last ten years has shown an average rise of 2 per cent per year.

(d) Thefts made up over one half of all recorded property crimes. During 1996 the number of recorded thefts fell by 69,200 (3 per cent) compared to 1995, the fourth successive calendar year fall. However since 1986, theft offences have increased on average by 2 per cent per year.

Figure 5 **CHANGES IN NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES**
Percentage change between 1995 and 1996



England and Wales

(e) Within the theft offence group, vehicle crimes decreased by 28,800, a fall of 2 per cent. Thefts from vehicles decreased by 13,600 (2 per cent) and thefts of vehicles decreased by 15,100 (3 per cent). The decrease in vehicle crime follows falls of 5 and 9 per cent in the previous two years.

(f) Offences of thefts from the person fell by 400 (1 per cent) between 1995 and 1996 - the first calendar year fall for seven years. Thefts of pedal cycles fell for the fourth year running (down 12 per cent) to a total of 148,800 offences. By contrast, there was an increase in recorded thefts from shops of 6,200 (or 2 per cent).

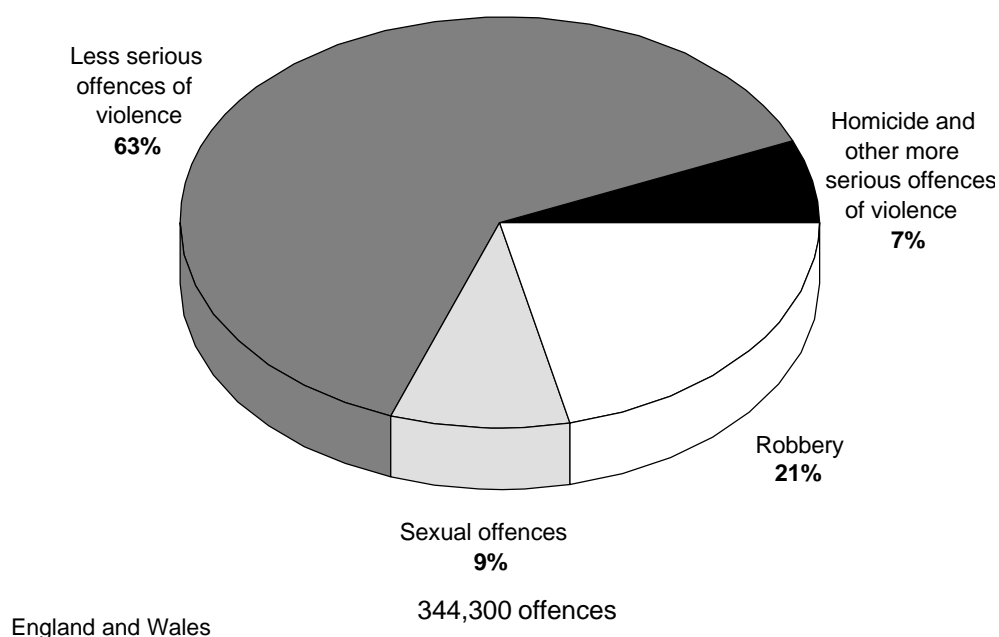
(g) Fraud and forgery offences rose by 2 per cent between 1995 and 1996; this is the first calendar year rise since 1991.

(h) 950,700 criminal damage offences were recorded in 1996, a rise of 4 per cent on the previous year. This total contained 31,000 arson offences, 1,100 or 4 per cent more than in the previous year.

3. VIOLENT CRIME (TABLES A, 1, 7; FIGURES 2, 6)

(a) A total of 344,300 violent offences were recorded by the police in 1996, an increase of 33,400 or 11 per cent on the total recorded in 1995. This is the largest increase in recorded violent crime since 1989.

Figure 6 OFFENCES OF VIOLENT CRIME, 1996



(b) The most common violent crime was violence against the person, which accounted for 69 per cent of all recorded violent crime. Twenty-one per cent of violent offences were robberies and the remaining 9 per cent were sexual offences. Homicide offences (which comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide) accounted for 0.2 per cent of all violent crime.

(c) Offences of violence against the person increased by 26,500 or 12 per cent to 239,100. As with violent crime overall, this is the largest increase since 1989. More serious offences, i.e. life threatening, increased by 17 per cent to 22,400, and less serious offences rose by 12 per cent to 216,700. Within the category of more serious offences, the number of homicides fell by 8 per cent to 680 offences.

(d) The number of sexual offences recorded in 1996 increased by 3 per cent, which is similar to the average increase over the last ten years. The increase in 1996 included a 15 per cent rise in offences of rape. (However, this figure does include around 230 male rape cases following the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994). The rise since 1986 has averaged around 10 per cent per year.

(e) Robbery offences increased by 5,900 (or 9 per cent) to 74,000. This follows a 13 per cent rise in 1995. Over the last ten years robberies have increased on average by 9 per cent per year. Most recorded robberies are street robberies (or muggings).

4. POLICE FORCE AREAS (TABLES 2, 3, 4; FIGURES 7, 8)

(a) Twenty-eight of the forty three police forces in England and Wales recorded fewer crimes in 1996 than in 1995. Just two forces - Cambridgeshire and Sussex - have recorded increases in crime in each of the last two years. However the number of forces which recorded rises in 1996 (15) is greater than in 1995 (8 forces) and 1994 (5 forces).

(b) Metropolitan forces (see note 2) recorded 26,300 fewer crimes in 1996 than in 1995, a fall of 1.2 per cent. Non-metropolitan forces recorded 40,200 fewer crimes, a fall of 1.4 per cent. Ten years ago, more crimes were recorded in metropolitan areas than in non-metropolitan areas, with 51 per cent of crimes recorded in metropolitan areas during 1986. Since then the situation has reversed, with only 44 per cent of crimes recorded in metropolitan areas in 1996. This follows average increases in recorded crime over the ten year period of 1 per cent per year in metropolitan areas and 4 per cent per year in non-metropolitan areas.

(c) The Metropolitan Police were the only metropolitan force to record more crime in 1996 than in 1995; Greater Manchester and West Midlands forces both recorded marginal falls in the number of crimes recorded. Recorded crime fell by 16 per cent in the City of London area, and by 13 per cent in Northumbria, the only force to have recorded five consecutive falls up to 1996.

(d) Changes in non-metropolitan areas ranged from a decrease of 10 per cent in North Yorkshire to a rise of 35 per cent in Gwent. However, much of the increase recorded in Gwent may be attributable to a boundary change affecting the force and South Wales; when combining these two forces there is a marginal decrease of 0.1 per cent. Only seven forces recorded decreases of over 5 per cent.

(e) The figures have been broken down according to type of offence (see table 4). [The City of London force records relatively few offences and is therefore excluded from the following analysis.] Crimes of violence against the person increased in all but 10 forces, the largest rise being 78 per cent recorded in both Bedfordshire and Gwent. However, Surrey and Northumbria recorded large decreases (15 and 10 per cent respectively).

Figure 7 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES IN METROPOLITAN AND NON-METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE AREAS

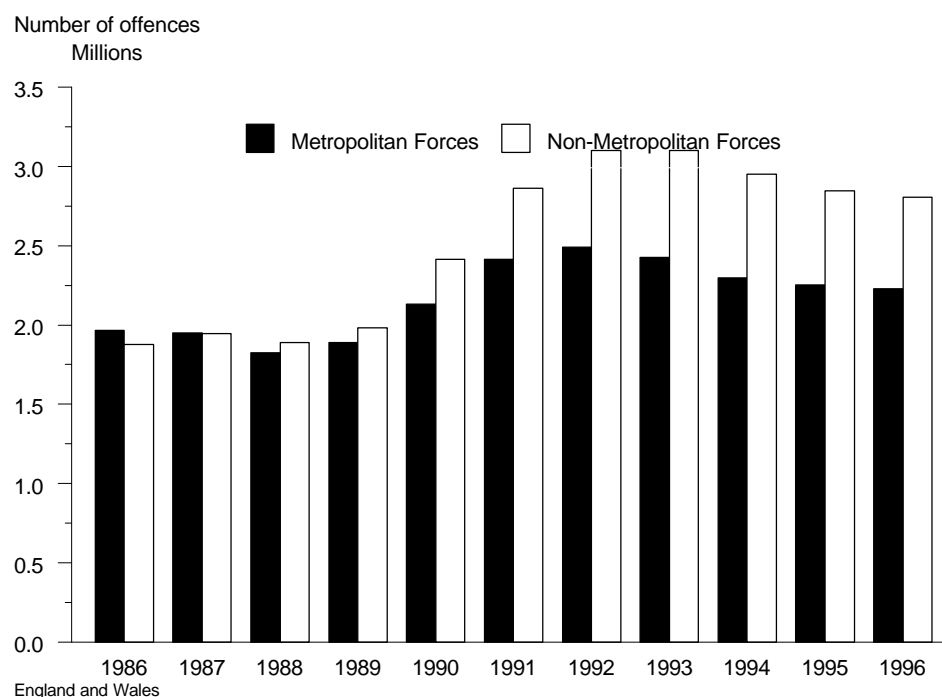
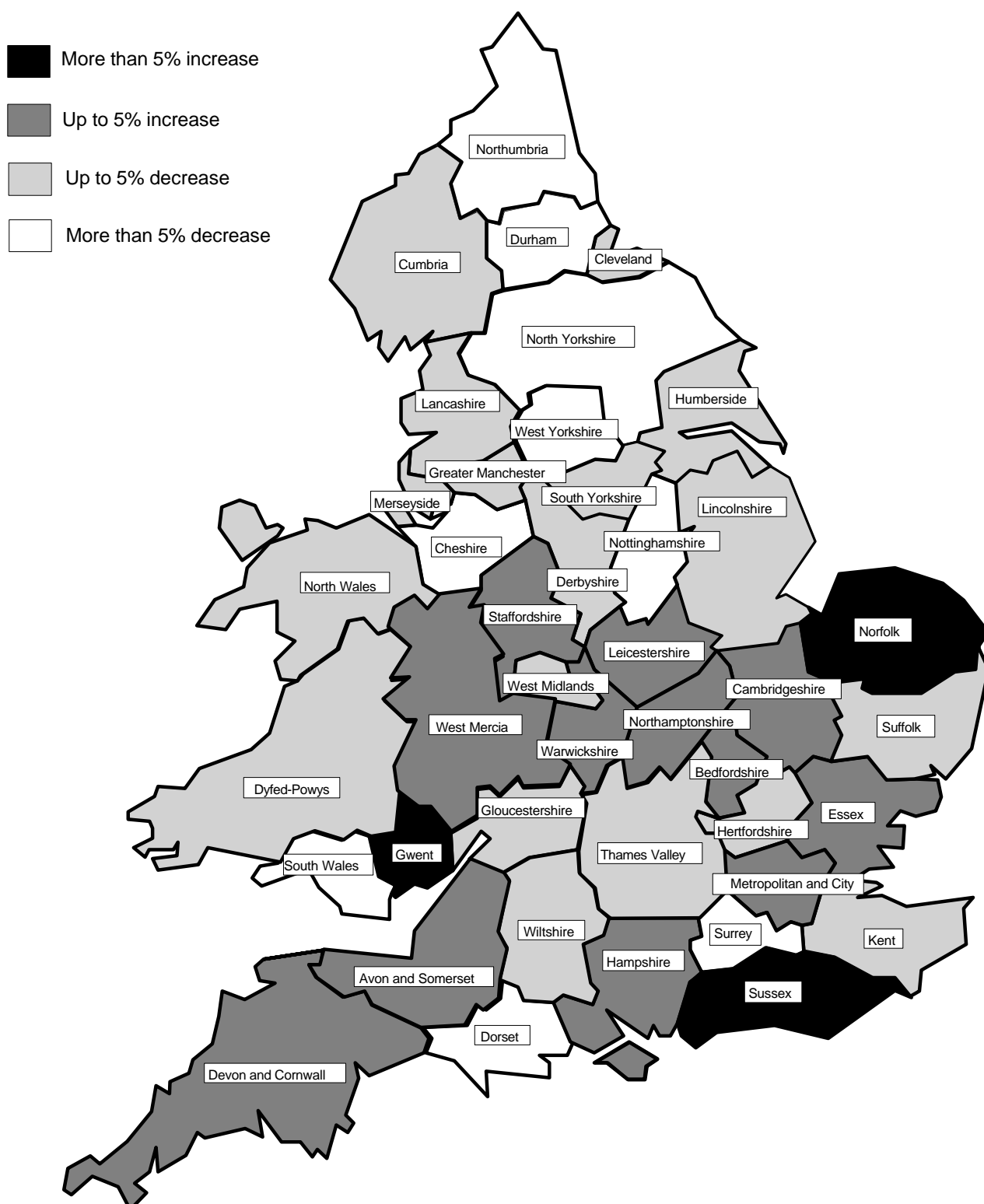


Figure 8 NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE

Percentage change between 1995 and 1996 by police force area



England and Wales

(f) Despite the overall increase in sexual offences, just over half the forces recorded decreases, with six forces recording falls of over 10 per cent. The largest fall was in Lincolnshire, where 20 per cent fewer offences were recorded compared to the previous year. In contrast, eleven forces recorded increases in excess of 10 per cent. Bedfordshire recorded the highest increase of 40 per cent.

(g) All but eight forces recorded rises in the number of robbery offences. The largest increase (81 per cent) was recorded by Dyfed-Powys; one quarter of the forces recorded increases of 20 per cent and over. Robberies in metropolitan areas increased by 8 per cent and 11 per cent in non-metropolitan areas. Three quarters of robberies are recorded by metropolitan police force areas.

(h) Burglary fell in all but 6 of the 42 forces. One-third of the forces recorded falls of over 10 per cent. The largest decrease was recorded in Dorset (down 20 per cent).

(i) Vehicle crime decreased in 26 forces. Five forces recorded falls of at least 10 per cent, the largest of which was in Cheshire (down 15 per cent). Northumbria recorded the largest fall amongst metropolitan areas (down 12 per cent).

(j) The number of recorded other theft offences fell in all but 7 areas; in 18 areas recorded theft offences fell by over 5 per cent. The largest decrease was seen in Lincolnshire (down 18 per cent).

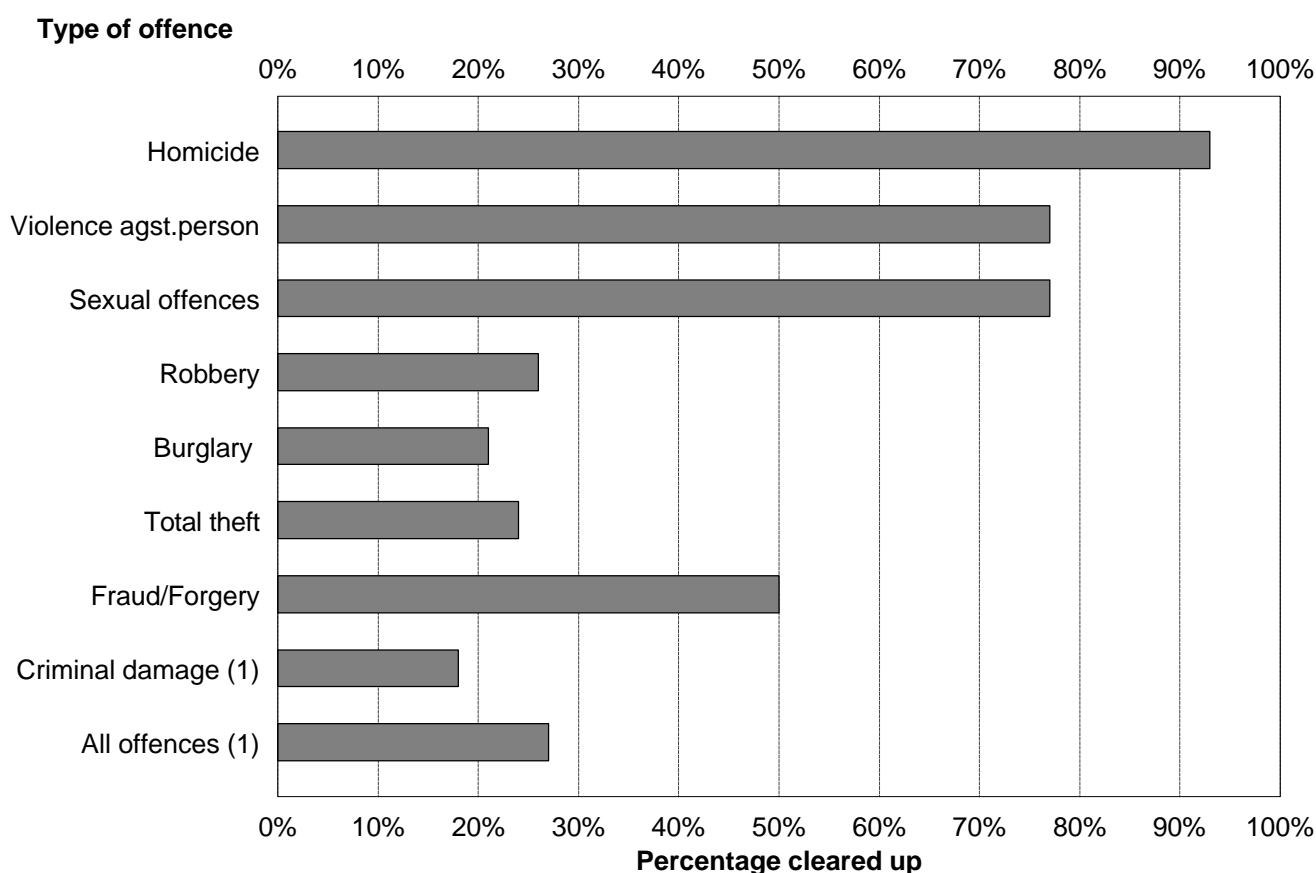
5. OFFENCES CLEARED UP (TABLES B, 5, 6, 7; FIGURE 9)

(a) The proportion of offences cleared up during 1996 increased by one per cent to 27 per cent. A total of 1.3 million offences were cleared up in 1996, amounting to 20,000 more offences than in 1995.

(b) A high proportion of violent crimes are cleared up. Overall two thirds of violent crime was cleared up in 1996, a rise of one percentage point since 1995. Within this total figure, offences of violence against the person and sexual offences both had clear-up rates of 77 per cent. The rate for robbery was only 26 per cent, but this figure is likely to be much higher for the more serious offences such as armed robberies.

(c) Within violence against the person, 93 per cent of homicides and 89 per cent of attempted murders were cleared up in 1996. The clear-up rate for rape offences was 77 per cent.

Figure 9 CLEAR-UP RATES BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, 1996



England and Wales

(1) Excluding criminal damage of value £20 and under

(d) Offences for which a low proportion were cleared up include theft from a person (12 per cent) and pedal cycle theft (9 per cent). Other offences for which less than one in five were cleared up were non-residential burglary, theft of a vehicle, theft from a vehicle, arson, and criminal damage. Together these offences made up over half of all recorded crimes.

(e) Clear-up rates varied widely among forces, from 17 per cent in Greater Manchester to 58 per cent in Dyfed-Powys. However, comparisons may reflect differences in the types of offences between areas and variations in recording practice. The clear up rate increased in 25 of the 43 police forces.

(f) There are several methods of clearing up a crime (see table 6); these can be divided into two main groups, "primary clear-ups" and "secondary clear-ups". A full explanation of the definitions used is given in note 3 on page 24. In 1996 22 per cent of recorded crimes were cleared up by primary means, representing 81 per cent of all clear-ups. The number of primary clear-ups increased by 47,000 (5 per cent), whilst the number of secondary clear-ups decreased by 27,000 (10 per cent).

Table B Notifiable offences recorded(1) and offences cleared up(2)

England and Wales		Number of offences (thousands) and percentages					
Year	Number recorded	Cleared up					
		Number			Percentage		
		Total	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary
1992	5,383	1,391	1,097	293	26%	20%	5%
1993	5,317	1,328	1,050	278	25%	20%	5%
1994	5,032	1,331	1,045	286	26%	21%	6%
1995	4,886	1,277	1,004	272	26%	21%	6%
1996	4,866	1,297	1,051	245	27%	22%	5%

(1) Excluding criminal damage of £20 and under.

(2) See note 3 on page 24.

(g) In thirty-seven forces over three quarters of clear-ups were by primary means. By contrast there was one force in which secondary clear-ups made up about two-fifths of all clear-ups (West Midlands).

(h) Looking at the method of clear-up in more detail, the most common was a charge or summons - a total of nearly 580,000 offences were cleared up in this way. In eight forces a sixth or more of all offences were cleared up using a charge or summons, however five forces cleared up less than 10 per cent of offences by this method.

(i) Four per cent of notifiable offences were cleared up by means of a caution, although Dyfed-Powys cleared up 11 per cent this way.

(j) Five per cent of all offences were cleared up by secondary means, within which the most common method was by interview of convicted prisoners. Although nationally 4 per cent of crimes were cleared up in this way, there was considerable variation amongst forces. This is largely as a result of differing policies towards the employment of this method.

6. NON-HOME OFFICE FORCES (TABLE C)

Crimes recorded by the main non-Home Office police forces (British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence and UK Atomic Energy Authority) are shown below for 1992 to 1996. These figures are shown separately from the figures for the Home Office forces because for operational reasons there is a small element of duplication between the two. The vast majority of these offences are recorded by the British Transport Police - about 89 per cent of the total 72,900 notifiable offences in 1996. Between 1995 and 1996 the number of offences recorded by the British Transport Police fell by 9 per cent, whilst the number recorded by the Ministry of Defence rose by 17 per cent.

Table C Notifiable offences recorded by non-Home Office police forces

England and Wales		Number of offences		
Year	Total	British Transport Police	Ministry of Defence	UK Atomic Energy Authority
1992	84,700	77,500	6,700	490
1993	79,400	72,800	5,900	700
1994	75,200	68,100	6,700	380
1995	78,100	71,500	6,300	340
1996	72,900	65,200	7,400	300

7. COMMENTS

NOTE: A large proportion of crime is unrecorded, as many offences are not reported to the police. The propensity of the public to report offences to the police also changes over time. Thus, statistics recorded by the police may not accurately reflect the underlying trend in all crime. The biennial British Crime Survey provides a measure of unrecorded crime.

(a) The propensity of the public to report offences to the police is related to various factors. These include actions of the insurance industry, which in some cases:

- require offences to be reported to the police before claims are considered;
- relate householders' premiums to the level of previous claims.

More details on the level of reporting can be found in reports of the British Crime Survey. Results from the 1996 BCS are reported in **The 1996 British Crime Survey** by Catriona Mirrlees-Black, Pat Mayhew and Andrew Percy, Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 19/96.

(b) Crimes that can be compared between the BCS and recorded crime are burglary, thefts of and from vehicles, theft of a pedal cycle, theft from the person, criminal damage, wounding and robbery.

(c) The results of the study are published in **Trends in crime and their interpretation** by Simon Field, Home Office Research Study 119, 1990.

Table 1 Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence

England and Wales

Offence group	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Number of offences					
Violence against the person	201,777	205,102	218,354	212,588	239,109
Sexual offences	29,528	31,284	31,971	30,274	31,247
Robbery	52,894	57,845	60,007	68,074	73,957
Total violent crime	284,199	294,231	310,332	310,936	344,313
Burglary					
Burglary in a dwelling	708,231	727,276	678,882	643,645	601,992
Burglary other than in a dwelling	647,043	642,308	577,800	595,839	562,372
Total burglary	1,355,274	1,369,584	1,256,682	1,239,484	1,164,364
Theft & handling stolen goods					
Theft from the person	39,111	47,743	51,119	59,692	59,302
Theft of pedal cycle	222,242	190,685	176,825	169,476	148,799
Theft from shops	288,672	275,607	269,017	275,802	281,982
Theft from vehicle	961,340	925,819	842,680	813,094	799,445
Theft of motor vehicle	587,856	597,519	541,749	508,450	493,302
Vehicle crime	1,549,196	1,523,338	1,384,429	1,321,544	1,292,747
Other theft & handling stolen goods	752,417	714,528	683,218	625,595	600,126
Total theft & handling stolen goods	2,851,638	2,751,901	2,564,608	2,452,109	2,382,956
Fraud and forgery	168,600	162,836	145,289	133,016	135,902
Criminal damage	892,623	906,746	928,329	913,991	950,698
Other notifiable offences	39,383	40,957	47,740	50,705	55,595
Total all offences	5,591,717	5,526,255	5,252,980	5,100,241	5,033,828
Percentage change from previous year					
Violence against the person	6.0	1.6	6.5	-2.6	12.5
Sexual offences	0.4	5.9	2.2	-5.3	3.2
Robbery	16.7	9.4	3.7	13.4	8.6
Total violent crime	7.2	3.5	5.5	0.2	10.7
Burglary					
Burglary in a dwelling	13.3	2.7	-6.7	-5.2	-6.5
Burglary other than in a dwelling	8.8	-0.7	-10.0	3.1	-5.6
Total burglary	11.1	1.1	-8.2	-1.4	-6.1
Theft & handling stolen goods					
Theft from the person	10.4	22.1	7.1	16.8	-0.7
Theft of pedal cycle	4.8	-14.2	-7.3	-4.2	-12.2
Theft from shops	2.6	-4.5	-2.4	2.5	2.2
Theft from vehicle	5.3	-3.7	-9.0	-3.5	-1.7
Theft of motor vehicle	1.0	1.6	-9.3	-6.1	-3.0
Vehicle crime	3.6	-1.7	-9.1	-4.5	-2.2
Other theft & handling stolen goods	2.1	-5.0	-4.4	-8.4	-4.1
Total theft & handling stolen goods	3.3	-3.5	-6.8	-4.4	-2.8
Fraud and forgery	-3.5	-3.4	-10.8	-8.4	2.2
Criminal damage	8.7	1.6	2.4	-1.5	4.0
Other notifiable offences	13.8	4.0	16.6	6.2	9.6
Total all offences	6.0	-1.2	-4.9	-2.9	-1.3

Table 2 Notifiable offences recorded by the police by police force area

England and Wales		Number of offences and percentages		
Police force area	1995	1996	Change	
			Number	Percentage
Avon and Somerset	152,886	156,557	3,671	2.4
Bedfordshire	51,104	52,005	901	1.8
Cambridgeshire	67,652	69,532	1,880	2.8
Cheshire	73,202	66,214	-6,988	-9.5
Cleveland	79,719	78,608	-1,111	-1.4
Cumbria	41,230	39,739	-1,491	-3.6
Derbyshire	82,380	78,896	-3,484	-4.2
Devon and Cornwall	102,193	103,121	928	0.9
Dorset	54,582	49,731	-4,851	-8.9
Durham	57,817	51,849	-5,968	-10.3
Essex	98,097	100,758	2,661	2.7
Gloucestershire	55,448	53,675	-1,773	-3.2
Greater Manchester	327,994	327,976	-18	0.0
Hampshire	134,319	135,915	1,596	1.2
Hertfordshire	55,891	54,441	-1,450	-2.6
Humberside	128,393	126,932	-1,461	-1.1
Kent	155,251	147,980	-7,271	-4.7
Lancashire	124,921	122,487	-2,434	-1.9
Leicestershire	93,607	94,125	518	0.6
Lincolnshire	48,015	47,077	-938	-2.0
London, City of	5,727	4,831	-896	-15.6
Merseyside	153,385	145,956	-7,429	-4.8
Metropolitan Police	817,082	841,784	24,702	3.0
Norfolk	51,716	55,314	3,598	7.0
Northamptonshire	56,524	57,378	854	1.5
Northumbria	194,141	169,656	-24,485	-12.6
North Yorkshire	63,539	56,919	-6,620	-10.4
Nottinghamshire	151,371	141,307	-10,064	-6.6
South Yorkshire	154,293	151,577	-2,716	-1.8
Staffordshire	91,495	92,155	660	0.7
Suffolk	38,233	37,094	-1,139	-3.0
Surrey	44,313	42,014	-2,299	-5.2
Sussex	110,300	118,086	7,786	7.1
Thames Valley	178,702	172,194	-6,508	-3.6
Warwickshire	38,906	38,926	20	0.1
West Mercia	80,013	82,254	2,241	2.8
West Midlands	318,087	317,892	-195	-0.1
West Yorkshire	283,938	268,716	-15,222	-5.4
Wiltshire	36,428	35,911	-517	-1.4
Dyfed-Powys	19,419	19,072	-347	-1.8
Gwent	33,034	44,572	11,538	34.9
North Wales	41,645	41,024	-621	-1.5
South Wales	153,249	141,578	-11,671	-7.6
Total met-forces (1)	2,254,647	2,228,388	-26,259	-1.2
Total non-met forces	2,845,594	2,805,440	-40,154	-1.4
Total	5,100,241	5,033,828	-66,413	-1.3

(1) See note 2 on page 24.

Table 3 Notifiable offences by police force area and type of offence

England and Wales 1996									Number of offences	
Police force area	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Vehicle crime	Other theft	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Other offences
Avon and Somerset	156,557	8,809	1,037	2,022	35,151	47,470	33,626	4,293	22,970	1,179
Bedfordshire	52,005	3,396	412	658	10,237	14,917	11,066	2,033	8,727	559
Cambridgeshire	69,532	3,246	427	427	14,544	20,743	17,778	1,500	10,339	528
Cheshire	66,214	3,616	575	390	15,521	15,472	15,027	2,359	11,635	1,619
Cleveland	78,608	2,957	314	678	22,234	21,315	15,915	1,475	12,977	743
Cumbria	39,739	2,562	208	103	8,419	8,679	9,505	995	8,796	472
Derbyshire	78,896	4,158	486	384	18,856	22,676	15,652	1,355	14,558	771
Devon and Cornwall	103,121	6,184	772	493	24,841	25,680	25,869	2,374	15,545	1,363
Dorset	49,731	2,019	324	189	9,924	13,693	12,960	1,303	8,679	640
Durham	51,849	1,895	351	221	13,084	12,589	10,041	1,279	11,575	814
Essex	100,758	4,859	635	461	19,007	26,614	25,323	2,485	20,381	993
Gloucestershire	53,675	1,697	272	423	12,928	16,760	12,575	1,652	6,962	406
Greater Manchester	327,976	11,069	1,406	6,271	83,780	93,746	51,144	5,532	72,272	2,756
Hampshire	135,915	6,745	1,073	576	23,008	34,535	35,982	3,907	28,178	1,911
Hertfordshire	54,441	2,108	300	326	10,353	18,458	10,434	1,237	10,738	487
Humberside	126,932	6,104	665	747	37,834	29,071	28,335	2,610	20,754	812
Kent	147,980	8,891	908	747	32,516	37,754	33,362	3,155	28,999	1,648
Lancashire	122,487	3,637	713	827	30,500	28,837	25,807	3,446	27,090	1,630
Leicestershire	94,125	5,228	478	1,439	24,997	25,242	18,726	3,365	13,897	753
Lincolnshire	47,077	2,701	293	138	12,819	9,956	11,129	1,148	8,297	596
London, City of	4,831	130	17	34	515	508	2,795	439	276	117
Merseyside	145,956	8,236	891	2,985	29,437	36,750	34,643	4,288	26,907	1,819
Metropolitan Police	841,784	49,639	7,355	32,867	164,926	176,216	208,944	38,983	151,829	11,025
Norfolk	55,314	2,492	428	219	11,751	12,296	15,980	1,251	10,222	675
Northamptonshire	57,378	2,766	345	473	12,542	15,785	11,422	1,246	12,241	558
Northumbria	169,656	5,148	601	1,403	42,822	38,503	30,189	2,109	47,725	1,156
North Yorkshire	56,919	2,333	311	177	13,972	13,828	14,745	1,052	10,036	465
Nottinghamshire	141,307	8,529	820	1,166	33,188	33,246	28,357	3,027	31,903	1,071
South Yorkshire	151,577	4,427	570	1,209	43,276	45,576	24,872	2,651	27,800	1,196
Staffordshire	92,155	7,329	532	503	24,511	21,902	17,659	2,004	16,904	811
Suffolk	37,094	2,136	351	156	6,384	7,531	10,603	1,333	7,965	635
Surrey	42,014	1,942	363	212	8,476	10,539	11,072	1,389	7,457	564
Sussex	118,086	6,407	759	682	21,534	27,641	31,771	2,815	25,015	1,462
Thames Valley	172,194	6,606	779	1,429	36,549	55,325	37,914	4,551	27,257	1,784
Warwickshire	38,926	1,278	207	196	9,181	11,496	8,419	975	6,805	369
West Mercia	82,254	3,085	526	331	16,435	22,076	21,034	1,894	15,866	1,007
West Midlands	317,892	8,404	1,124	8,150	88,860	96,015	50,867	6,365	55,856	2,251
West Yorkshire	268,716	8,376	1,588	3,229	80,010	69,457	51,344	5,071	45,842	3,799
Wiltshire	35,911	2,126	352	153	7,611	8,177	9,677	920	6,473	422
Dyfed-Powys	19,072	2,098	257	47	3,041	2,858	4,846	604	4,571	750
Gwent	44,572	4,540	431	121	8,717	9,731	9,850	1,305	8,925	952
North Wales	41,024	2,467	420	111	8,952	9,312	10,274	1,022	7,921	545
South Wales	141,578	6,734	571	584	31,121	43,772	22,676	3,105	31,533	1,482
England and Wales	#####	239,109	31,247	73,957	#####	#####	#####	135,902	950,698	55,595

Table 4 Percentage change in notifiable offences by police force area and type of offence - 1996 compared with 1995

England and Wales										Percentages
Police force area	Total	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Vehicle crime	Other theft	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Other offences
Avon and Somerset	2.4	15.2	1.1	27.8	3.0	-1.5	-1.9	6.9	8.9	23.7
Bedfordshire	1.8	77.7	40.1	-0.9	-7.2	-11.7	6.4	14.1	13.8	18.2
Cambridgeshire	2.8	17.8	-0.7	21.3	1.9	3.2	-2.2	9.6	6.1	18.1
Cheshire	-9.5	3.7	0.2	23.4	-14.5	-14.9	-6.9	-10.6	-4.2	4.1
Cleveland	-1.4	-0.1	12.5	39.2	-5.5	-1.1	6.5	-0.4	-5.6	0.5
Cumbria	-3.6	6.3	-8.8	7.3	-10.6	-5.8	-7.8	7.0	6.9	23.6
Derbyshire	-4.2	4.7	-11.6	-3.5	-5.1	-4.1	-2.2	-3.1	-7.4	-4.6
Devon and Cornwall	0.9	31.3	-2.5	11.0	-5.9	-1.4	1.0	-11.2	9.6	1.3
Dorset	-8.9	-6.4	-2.1	-7.8	-19.6	-1.2	-14.5	-13.2	3.7	-0.9
Durham	-10.3	-6.7	-5.9	34.8	-15.4	-13.5	-8.4	-23.0	-1.6	-3.6
Essex	2.7	8.3	-8.2	27.7	-4.0	6.0	-2.5	0.8	11.5	7.5
Gloucestershire	-3.2	-10.0	-16.0	41.5	-6.8	2.6	-8.1	-16.8	8.8	-39.9
Greater Manchester	0.0	22.5	9.9	9.7	-2.4	-2.2	-4.5	-5.3	6.3	-1.8
Hampshire	1.2	13.0	2.3	18.8	-6.9	2.9	-5.9	0.4	13.7	16.7
Hertfordshire	-2.6	3.4	6.8	16.0	-8.5	-0.1	-8.6	0.4	3.5	4.1
Humberside	-1.1	5.2	-14.9	9.9	-3.3	-1.1	-4.6	-12.0	7.6	17.2
Kent	-4.7	19.4	-8.7	-4.1	-4.0	-9.3	-7.0	-13.0	-1.8	7.6
Lancashire	-1.9	4.9	22.9	9.0	2.2	-9.1	-5.5	-1.1	2.8	15.0
Leicestershire	0.6	1.8	-11.2	15.7	-1.9	-0.7	-1.9	25.5	4.0	18.8
Lincolnshire	-2.0	7.4	-20.2	7.8	4.7	8.2	-18.0	-1.3	2.0	-13.4
London, City of	-15.6	3.2	0.0	6.3	-27.7	-35.0	-11.0	-10.0	-8.3	-7.9
Merseyside	-4.8	1.7	-4.9	7.8	-14.7	-0.4	-8.6	0.7	4.1	-16.3
Metropolitan Police	3.0	28.0	12.5	11.3	-3.9	2.9	-1.0	18.7	3.6	21.1
Norfolk	7.0	27.5	35.9	13.5	-10.3	4.1	9.4	-7.0	31.4	10.1
Northamptonshire	1.5	3.5	12.0	42.5	-10.4	6.0	-0.7	2.4	11.3	-6.7
Northumbria	-12.6	-10.2	8.1	-11.3	-19.0	-11.8	-14.2	-19.1	-6.3	10.8
North Yorkshire	-10.4	9.4	25.9	6.0	-16.0	-11.5	-7.6	1.9	-11.3	8.6
Nottinghamshire	-6.6	5.2	-15.5	-22.9	-12.5	-5.4	-5.3	-18.2	-3.9	22.8
South Yorkshire	-1.8	-9.8	-5.0	3.9	-4.9	0.9	-4.6	5.0	2.5	-4.2
Staffordshire	0.7	13.3	-5.5	0.6	-1.3	-7.8	-0.4	5.2	11.8	29.1
Suffolk	-3.0	4.2	-1.7	20.9	-10.3	0.5	-10.1	7.2	8.2	-9.2
Surrey	-5.2	-15.1	-8.6	7.1	-7.6	-5.2	-5.4	-3.7	1.7	-14.3
Sussex	7.1	44.3	2.8	12.2	-7.3	6.2	4.7	1.9	20.6	4.2
Thames Valley	-3.6	7.1	2.2	8.3	-5.7	-4.2	-5.9	-3.8	0.0	9.2
Warwickshire	0.1	1.6	-3.3	12.6	-1.3	0.1	-4.3	8.2	6.0	3.1
West Mercia	2.8	-4.3	12.6	14.5	9.0	2.4	-1.8	8.9	2.5	31.3
West Midlands	-0.1	-2.5	-9.7	3.5	-1.2	0.4	-4.3	-16.5	7.1	19.4
West Yorkshire	-5.4	0.2	12.1	-3.4	-11.2	-9.6	-0.1	5.3	2.3	32.3
Wiltshire	-1.4	-2.2	-4.3	11.7	-5.9	1.6	-1.3	-9.1	2.9	-16.6
Dyfed-Powys	-1.8	7.5	0.4	80.8	-13.5	-7.4	-3.4	4.7	3.8	27.8
Gwent	34.9	78.1	39.5	-9.0	33.8	21.6	24.0	39.9	51.4	27.1
North Wales	-1.5	9.3	21.0	18.1	-4.3	-1.1	0.3	-9.6	-3.1	-12.5
South Wales	-7.6	4.2	-2.7	8.8	-15.8	-7.4	-10.0	-8.6	0.5	1.2
England and Wales	-1.3	12.5	3.2	8.6	-6.1	-2.2	-3.6	2.2	4.0	9.6

Percentages in italics are based on totals of less than 100 offences.

Table 5 Notifiable offences recorded by the police: clear-up rate (1) by police force area

England and Wales 1992-1996				Percentages	
Police force area	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Avon and Somerset	17	17	21	23	24
Bedfordshire	20	21	22	22	33
Cambridgeshire	27	25	25	19	24
Cheshire	29	26	30	31	34
Cleveland	32	27	19	25	24
Cumbria	37	38	37	40	36
Derbyshire	22	21	21	20	21
Devon and Cornwall	18	25	27	27	30
Dorset	32	33	30	28	27
Durham	30	30	32	30	30
Essex	29	32	36	33	29
Gloucestershire	24	20	24	27	23
Greater Manchester	35	34	34	24	17
Hampshire	26	26	27	28	28
Hertfordshire	26	21	24	28	30
Humberside	23	16	17	19	20
Kent	27	25	29	26	32
Lancashire	37	35	33	34	33
Leicestershire	30	28	30	29	31
Lincolnshire	39	37	32	39	42
London, City of	20	22	27	23	27
Merseyside	42	39	33	27	29
Metropolitan Police	16	17	23	25	24
Norfolk	34	28	34	31	32
Northamptonshire	30	27	31	28	34
Northumbria	17	20	22	23	24
North Yorkshire	33	30	25	23	25
Nottinghamshire	26	29	28	23	28
South Yorkshire	26	20	24	24	23
Staffordshire	30	29	31	32	34
Suffolk	39	37	35	34	33
Surrey	22	20	30	31	29
Sussex	23	24	24	28	29
Thames Valley	19	21	22	23	25
Warwickshire	23	21	24	25	24
West Mercia	34	29	29	28	26
West Midlands	27	27	25	24	23
West Yorkshire	25	18	20	21	24
Wiltshire	37	35	36	32	29
England	25	25	26	26	26
Dyfed-Powys	53	50	53	57	58
Gwent	44	45	47	50	50
North Wales	33	36	39	32	33
South Wales	30	28	24	29	32
Wales	35	34	32	34	37
England and Wales	26	25	26	26	27

(1) Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under.

Table 6 Notifiable offences recorded by the police: percentage cleared up(1) by method of clear-up

England and Wales 1996		Percentages						
Police force area	Percentage of offences cleared up	Method of clear-up						
		Charge or summons	Cautions	TIC (previously recorded)	Other	Primary means (2)	TIC (not previously recorded)	Interview of convicted prisoner
Avon and Somerset	24	10	2	1	7	20	1	4
Bedfordshire	33	11	5	6	6	27	3	3
Cambridgeshire	24	10	3	2	5	20	1	4
Cheshire	34	23	3	3	3	32	1	1
Cleveland	24	13	5	5	1	23	1	1
Cumbria	36	19	4	3	5	30	2	3
Derbyshire	21	12	3	1	1	18	0	3
Devon and Cornwall	30	13	5	2	6	25	0	4
Dorset	27	12	2	1	7	22	1	4
Durham	30	19	2	3	2	26	1	3
Essex	29	11	5	2	4	22	1	5
Gloucestershire	23	10	3	2	3	18	1	4
Greater Manchester	17	11	3	1	1	17	0	0
Hampshire	28	14	4	0	5	23	1	3
Hertfordshire	30	13	4	2	3	22	1	7
Humberside	20	10	3	1	4	18	0	2
Kent	32	10	5	2	10	27	2	3
Lancashire	33	16	3	4	3	26	1	6
Leicestershire	31	11	4	4	4	23	2	6
Lincolnshire	42	15	3	2	8	27	1	14
London, City of	27	18	5	2	1	26	0	1
Merseyside	29	16	2	3	3	24	1	5
Metropolitan Police	24	9	3	1	7	20	1	4
Norfolk	32	15 (3)	5 (3)	2 (3)	4 (3)	25 (3)	0 (3)	6 (3)
Northamptonshire	34	13	4	5	7	28	1	5
Northumbria	24	11	5	6	1	24	0	0
North Yorkshire	25	14	3	2	3	22	1	2
Nottinghamshire	28	13	4	3	3	22	2	4
South Yorkshire	23	12	3	1	1	17	0	5
Staffordshire	34	14	4	2	5	25	1	8
Suffolk	33	17	5	2	5	29	0	3
Surrey	29	12	6	1	3	22	0	7
Sussex	29	11	5	1	6	23	2	5
Thames Valley	25	10	4	1	4	19	0	6
Warwickshire	24	10	4	2	2	18	0	5
West Mercia	26	12	4	1	3	21	0	5
West Midlands	23	9	3	2	1	14	0	9
West Yorkshire	24	13	2	4	2	21	0	3
Wiltshire	29	15	5	2	5	28	0	1
Dyfed-Powys	58	31	11	3	6	50	1	6
Gwent	50	25	6	3	7	41	3	6
North Wales	33	20	4	2	3	29	1	4
South Wales	32	14	2	2	2	20	0	11
England and Wales	27	12	4	2	4	22	1	4

(1) Excluding offences of 'other criminal damage' of value £20 and under.

(2) See note 3 on page 24.

(3) Based on estimates from January to November 1996.

Table 7 Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence

England and Wales			Number of offences and percentages			
Offence	1995	1996	Change 1995-6		Offences cleared up (1) 1996	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1 Murder) 4.1 Manslaughter) Homicide 4.2 Infanticide)	745	683	-62	-8.3	636	93
2 Attempted murder	634	671	37	5.8	598	89
3 Threat or conspiracy to murder	7,044	8,524	1,480	21.0	7,146	84
4.3 Child destruction	8	2	-6	-75.0	2	100
4.4) Causing death by dangerous driving 4.6) Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs	242	318	76	31.4	309	97
37.1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	21	34	13	61.9	28	82
5 Wounding or other act endangering life	10,445	12,165	1,720	16.5	9,025	74
6 Endangering railway passenger	12	12	0	0.0	8	67
More serious offences	19,151	22,409	3,258	17.0	17,752	79
7 Endangering life at sea	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Other wounding	193,016	216,251	23,235	12.0	166,391	77
12 Abandoning a child under the age of two years	46	65	19	41.3	52	80
13 Child abduction	355	373	18	5.1	207	55
14 Procuring illegal abortion	5	7	2	40.0	8	114
15 Concealment of birth	15	4	-11	-73.3	6	150
Less serious offences	193,437	216,700	23,263	12.0	166,664	77
Total violence against the person	212,588	239,109	26,521	12.5	184,416	77
16 Buggery	818	718	-100	-12.2	653	91
17 Indecent assault on a male	3,150	3,124	-26	-0.8	2,723	87
18 Indecency between males	727	551	-176	-24.2	532	97
19 Rape - of a female - of a male	4,986 150	5,703 227	717 77	14.4 51.3	4,416 178	77 78
20 Indecent assault on a female	16,876	17,592	716	4.2	12,592	72
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	178	170	-8	-4.5	153	90
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 17	1,260	1,257	-3	-0.2	1,140	91
23 Incest	185	156	-29	-15.7	132	85
24 Procuration	207	132	-75	-36.2	126	95
25 Abduction	364	307	-57	-15.7	145	47
26 Bigamy	86	98	12	14.0	81	83
74 Gross indecency with a child	1,287	1,212	-75	-5.8	1,075	89
Total sexual offences	30,274	31,247	973	3.2	23,946	77

Table 7 Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence (continued)

England and Wales			Number of offences and percentages			
Offence	1995	1996	Change 1995-6		Offences cleared up (1)	
					1996	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
34 Robbery	68,074	73,957	5,883	8.6	19,266	26
Total violent crime	310,936	344,313	33,377	10.7	227,628	66
28 Burglary in a dwelling	641,063	599,241	-41,822	-6.5	140,965	24
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	2,582	2,751	169	6.5	1,397	51
30 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	595,385	561,937	-33,448	-5.6	103,347	18
31 Aggravated burglary in building other than a dwelling	454	435	-19	-4.2	169	39
Total burglary	#####	#####	-75,120	-6.1	245,878	21
37.2 Aggravated vehicle taking	6,170	7,794	1,624	26.3	4,599	59
39 Theft from the person or another	59,692	59,302	-390	-0.7	6,859	12
40 Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	36,471	37,911	1,440	3.9	12,939	34
41 Theft by an employee	14,357	16,289	1,932	13.5	12,946	79
42 Theft or unauthorised taking of mail	4,641	3,901	-740	-15.9	741	19
43 Abstracting electricity	2,600	2,469	-131	-5.0	2,201	89
44 Theft of pedal cycle	169,476	148,799	-20,677	-12.2	13,564	9
45 Theft from vehicle	813,094	799,445	-13,649	-1.7	97,051	12
46 Theft from shops	275,802	281,982	6,180	2.2	211,936	75
47 Theft from automatic machine or meter	12,465	13,031	566	4.5	2,904	22
48 Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle	502,280	485,508	-16,772	-3.3	90,930	19
49 Other theft or unauthorised taking	513,493	488,673	-24,820	-4.8	66,432	14
54 Handling stolen goods	41,568	37,852	-3,716	-8.9	37,334	99
Total theft and handling stolen goods	#####	#####	-69,153	-2.8	560,436	24
51 Fraud by company director	29	39	10	34.5	32	82
52 False accounting	1,295	1,723	428	33.1	1,598	93
53 Other fraud	120,699	125,304	4,605	3.8	58,089	46
60 Forgery or use of false drug prescription	844	1,071	227	26.9	931	87
61 Other forgery	10,149	7,765	-2,384	-23.5	6,710	86
Total fraud and forgery	133,016	135,902	2,886	2.2	67,360	50

Table 7 Notifiable offences recorded by the police by offence (continued)

England and Wales			Number of offences and percentages			
Offence	1995	1996	Change 1995-6		Offences cleared up (1) 1996	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
56 Arson	29,985	31,042	1,057	3.5	4,879	16
57 Criminal damage endangering life	373	316	-57	-15.3	147	47
58 Other criminal damage: all values excluding value £20 and under	881,558	916,900	35,342	4.0
	667,261	748,761	81,500	12.2	134,594	18
59 Threat etc, to commit criminal damage	2,075	2,440	365	17.6	2,023	83
Total criminal damage: all values excluding value £20 and under	913,991	950,698	36,707	4.0
	699,694	782,559	82,865	11.8	141,643	18
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc	6,754	6,270	-484	-7.2	6,149	98
35 Blackmail	856	957	101	11.8	723	76
36 Kidnapping	1,247	1,421	174	14.0	1,165	82
64 Riot	12	2	-10	-83.3	3	150
65 Violent disorder	1,669	2,020	351	21.0	1,896	94
66 Other offence against the State or public order	11,794	14,084	2,290	19.4	13,410	95
67 Perjury	287	245	-42	-14.6	227	93
68 Libel	-	-	-	-	-	-
76 Aiding suicide	10	9	-1	-10.0	6	67
77 Trafficking in controlled drugs	21,272	22,025	753	3.5	21,957	100
79 Perverting the course of justice	4,394	5,903	1,509	34.3	5,651	96
80 Absconding from lawful custody	1,547	1,409	-138	-8.9	1,438	102
99 Other offences	863	1,250	387	44.8	1,136	91
Total other offences	50,705	55,595	4,890	9.6	53,761	97
Total: including all criminal damage excl. criminal damage £20 and under	#####	#####	-66,413	-1.3
	#####	#####	-20,255	-0.4	#####	27

(1) Offences cleared up in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year.

.. Not available.

Percentages in italics are based on totals of less than 100 offences.

NOTES

1. The coverage and more details of the series of notifiable offences recorded by the police can be found in Chapter 2 (which gives figures for 1985-95) and Appendices 2 and 3 of "Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 1995" (Cm 3421).
2. The metropolitan police force areas are taken to be the Metropolitan Police District, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.
3. The definition adopted by the Audit Commission for primary and secondary clear-ups has been used. The term "primary clear-up" refers to offences deemed to be cleared up by means of a charge, summons or caution, taken into consideration (previously recorded) and other methods. "Secondary clear-ups" include offences taken into consideration (not previously recorded), and those which involve attributing an offence to someone already charged or convicted of another offence.
4. This bulletin has been prepared by the members of the Recorded Crime section which forms part of the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit in the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate. The Crime and Criminal Justice Unit would like to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the police force statistics officers and the Home Office Data Collection Unit in providing and collating the statistics. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin or wish to request further analysis of the data (for which there may be a charge) you should contact David Povey or any member of his section. The address is: Crime and Criminal Justice Unit, Home Office, Research and Statistics Directorate, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT, telephone 0171-273 2711.
5. Copies of this bulletin are available from the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate, Information and Publications Group, Apollo House, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3RR, telephone 0181-760 8340 or internet email via <http://www.open.gov.uk>
6. Press enquiries should be made to the Home Office Press Office, Communication Directorate, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT, telephone 0171-273 4600.

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Research and Statistics Directorate
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