Urban crime rankings

Blair Gibbs

Andrew Haldenby

REFORM

Revised version – July 2006

The Authors

Blair Gibbs is the Crime Research Officer at *Reform*. He studied at Merton College Oxford before joining *Reform* in March 2005.

Andrew Haldenby is Director of *Reform*. He established *Reform* with Nick Herbert in 2001.

Reform

Reform is an independent, non-party think tank whose mission is to set out a better way to deliver public services and economic prosperity.

We believe that by reforming the public sector, increasing investment and extending choice, high quality services can be made available for everyone.

Our vision is of a Britain with 21st Century healthcare, high standards in schools, a modern and efficient transport system, safe streets, and a free, dynamic and competitive economy.

CONTENTS

Executive Summary

- The publication of information is a key means to improve the performance of public services. For services such as health and education, it allows users to exercise choice between providers, often supported by advisers such as GPs. There has been a dramatic increase in consumer information for health and education in recent years. For services such as policing, where choice does not apply, it allows local communities to compare the performance of different police units and to demand better performance.

- The performance of public law and order agencies in England and Wales needs improvement. Despite recent falls, on the latest surveys crime remains amongst the highest in the developed world. The Cabinet Office Strategy Unit has described England and Wales' performance on violent crime as a "weakness" compared to other countries. The latest British Crime Survey results show that crime ceased falling in the last quarter of 2005.

- Accurate, relevant and easily intelligible local data on crime would put pressure on police forces to improve. At present, however, such data is not available:

  - Police recorded crime is a measure of all crime reported to the police and subsequently recorded by them as an offence. Police recorded crime at the national and regional level is published quarterly.

  - The Home Office has recently begun to record crime by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), based on local government boundaries. It does not however publish a ranking of CDRPs. Only a minority of individual police forces present detailed data on recorded crime in their area although all are required by law to compile it.

  - The annual British Crime Survey is a national survey based on 40,000 adults living in private households. While it records many crimes not reported to the police, such as domestic violence and failed burglaries, it does not record many others including crimes against children and shoplifting.

  - Performance assessments for each police force as part of the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) are published annually by the Home Office. While full of useful data, the results are opaque to the general reader and resist comparisons between forces on the key issue of crime levels in urban areas.

- The independent Statistics Commission has recently criticised the crime statistics for England and Wales. In December 2005 it said: "We think there is a need to explore alternative ways to convey trends in crime concisely and unambiguously – whilst being mindful of the need to avoid adding to public confusion." In January 2006 the Home Office announced a major cross-party review of how crime statistics are compiled and published to increase public understanding of crime trends.

- A better way to present statistics on crime may be to measure crime by city. Cities are understandable geographical units in a way that local authority areas or police force areas are not. They also contain the highest levels of crime.

- A similar American project, by the researchers Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan, now in its twelfth year of publication, has shown that presenting crime data by city can have a powerful incentive effect on local agencies. The Prosecutor of Camden County, New Jersey, the city with highest crime in the last two years, has commented that the publication of the rankings "helped to coalesce the Camden Police Department, an array of law enforcement agencies at the county, state and federal levels, the Camden community and its neighbors to focus on the crime problem with new vigor and to find solutions."

- *Reform* has therefore compiled data on levels of recorded crime in 2005 for each city in England and Wales with a population of over 100,000. Information where necessary for specific offences was obtained using Freedom of Information requests to police forces.

- The crimes covered were: murder, rape, assault, burglary, robbery and vehicle crime. These were chosen to allow accurate comparisons and to follow the precedent set by the American edition. These offences were deemed to be readily understandable and popularly associated with the main types of crime perceived as a threat to one's property or person. And so while it does not cover some high frequency crimes such as criminal damage or drug offences, it can nevertheless be taken as a starting point. Together the offences surveyed typically represent a third (34 per cent) of all property crime and more than two thirds (69 per cent) of all violent crime.[1]

- Crime levels were divided by population totals for the town or city in question (drawn from the ONS mid-year population estimates) to give a rate per 1,000 (for robbery, burglary, vehicle crime and overall crime), per 10,000 (for rape) and per 100,000 population (for murder).

- The results produced the following key findings:
  - Dramatic variation between the best and worst performers. At 105 crimes per 1,000 population, Nottingham had almost five times the level of crime as the safest town in the rankings: Colchester, which recorded 22 crimes per 1,000 population, and almost twice the average crime rate of 57 crime per 1,000 population for all the places surveyed.

  - Dramatic variation between towns of similar size. Nottingham's crime rate can be contrasted with the much better performance of towns of a similar size (approximately 275,000 people) in other parts of the country, such as Stockport (49 per 1,000) or Newcastle (45 per 1,000).

- In terms of the different categories of individual offences, the results found:
  - Nottingham had the highest number of murders per 100,000 population, followed by Southend. Brighton and Hove and Cambridge had no murders in 2005.

  - Portsmouth had the highest number of rapes per 10,000 population, followed by Middlesbrough. Exeter and Swansea had the lowest.

---

[1] These percentages relate to the six categories of offences surveyed as a proportion of the respective recorded crime figures for the whole of England and Wales for the financial year 2004-05, as published in Nicholas, S., Povey, D., Walker, A. and Kershaw C., 'Crime in England and Wales 2004-05', *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05*, Home Office, July 2005.

- Leicester had the highest number of assaults per 1,000 population, followed by Bradford. Colchester and York had the lowest.

- Nottingham had the highest number of burglaries per 1,000 population, followed by Bradford and Hull. Colchester had the lowest rate.

- Manchester had the highest number of robberies per 1,000 population, followed by London and Nottingham. Rotherham and Poole had the lowest.

- Nottingham had the highest rate of vehicle crime per 1,000 population, followed by Manchester. Ashford and Colchester had the lowest.

▪ It could be argued that the London boroughs should be included as separate "cities" in the overall ranking since each has a population of over 100,000, and they are incorporated in this way in Table 13.

- The results for London also show a wide variation between the safest boroughs (Sutton, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond), and the most dangerous (Westminster, Hackney, Islington and Southwark).

- When London boroughs are included in the overall ranking for serious offences, five out of the ten worst performing areas, and 11 out of the twenty most dangerous towns and cities in the rankings are in London.

▪ These rankings can be compared with the Home Office's data on crime by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) and the performance assessments for police forces. The CDRP data shows that local authorities such as Nottingham, Hull, Bristol and many London boroughs have comparatively high levels of crime across a range of offences. The performance assessments for police forces for "reducing crime" give Nottinghamshire Police and the Metropolitan police poor results and Essex Police an excellent result.

▪ More importantly, the evidence contained in this report makes clear that while some areas of the country have relatively low, or at least not exceptional levels of crime, a number of our larger towns and cities remain high crime areas with a wide variation between the worst and the safest localities which is all too easily masked by national figures.

▪ The findings suggest that the Home Office's key target – that the crime in high crime areas should fall more quickly than in other areas – is insufficiently challenging. It is, however, local rather than central initiatives that will have the greatest impact on crime.

▪ As in Camden, New Jersey, the data presented here should provoke much greater efforts on the parts of local communities, and their police forces, in areas of high crime. Such efforts could focus on understanding the good practice of forces such the Essex Police and techniques pioneered by police forces in the United States.

▪ These efforts would be greatly accelerated if the police were made accountable for their performance. *Reform* has previously argued that local police authorities do not make forces accountable to their communities, with the result that there is little incentive to improve performance. New forms of accountability, alongside better and clearer information on levels of crime in urban areas, should drive the change in police performance that many British cities need.

1. Crime in England and Wales

According to the British Crime Survey, for the last decade the crime trend overall in England and Wales has been downwards. Since 1995, the overall volume of crime has fallen by 44 per cent. In large part this has been aided by particularly pronounced falls in two main crime categories: burglary and vehicle theft. The numbers of burglaries and car thefts have both fallen by 57 per cent since 1995.[2]

Table 1: Crime as measured by the British Crime Survey 1995 – 2004-05				
Offences	1995	2001/02	2004/05	Percentage +/- 1995-2004-05
Common Assault	2,923,000	1,724,000	1,488,000	-49
Burglary	1,770,000	969,000	756,000	-57
Robbery	339,000	356,000	255,000	-25
Mugging (Snatch theft)	419,000	430,000	347,000	-17
All vehicle theft	4,350,000	2,494,000	1,886,000	-57
Vandalism	3,366,000	2,603,000	2,564,000	-24
All BCS crime	19,351,000	12,618,000	10,850,000	-44

Source: Nicholas, S., Povey, D., Walker, A. and C. Kershaw, Crime in England and Wales 2004-05, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05, Home Office, July 2005.

The latest crime figures for the last quarter of 2005 show overall crime to be "stable". British Crime Survey interviews during the 12 months ending December 2005 showed a total of 10.8 million BCS crimes committed against adults living in private households. This was the same level as for the preceding 12 month period. The overall level of crime recorded by the police in October to December 2005 was also stable compared with the same period in the previous year.[3] This is the first year in which crime has not fallen since the early 1990s.

The BCS has provided further evidence that shows generally higher rates of crime in urban areas throughout the developed world. In Britain, the Home Office has conducted victimisation studies as part of the British Crime Survey which illustrate that across most categories of crime, rates in urban and inner-city areas (although at no more detailed a level than this) are between two and three times higher than in rural areas.

---

[2] It is worth noting that in respect of property crimes, there is a broad consensus that the biggest cause of the decline in vehicle theft and burglary was independent of the criminal justice system. As a direct consequence of people and car manufacturers paying for better anti-theft protection (the ICVS confirmed that Britons invest in more burglar alarms than elsewhere in the developed world) and the changing nature of the black market in stolen goods today (in particular, the much lower resale value of items like VCRs and televisions), the pay-offs associated with this type of property crime have changed and made it less lucrative.

[3] Bangs, M. and Kaya M., "Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2005", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/06,* Home Office, 27 April 2006.

Table 2: Crime rates in urban and rural areas compared			
Area type	% victims once or more		
	All vehicle theft	All BCS burglary	All BCS violence
Inner-city	15.3	5.3	5.8
Urban	10.3	3.3	4.4
All non-rural	10.8	3.6	4.6
Rural	6.5	1.9	2.7
All households/adults	**9.7**	**3.2**	**4.1**
Source: Crime in England and Wales 2003-04, Table 6.04			

Several studies have speculated on the cause of higher crime rates in cities. [4] The attraction of cities for the criminal class include the higher pecuniary benefits for crime in large cities and the greater opportunity to profit from crime (including contextual factors like access to black-markets and other avenues to profit quickly from criminal action) although, this would not explain higher rates of crime for offences such as rape or assault in cities. The attraction of urban environments for criminals may therefore also be linked to lower arrest probabilities, and greater anonymity and hence lower chance of recognition and police detection in communities where populations are mobile and residency more temporary.   The higher concentration of licensed premises and late-night entertainment venues would also clearly play a part in higher rates of violence in cities compared with rural locations.

True level of crime

The independent think tank Civitas has shown that the real level of crime is much higher than the British Crime Survey suggests.[5] Because the BCS is based on interviews with adult house holders, it omits offences against those under 16 and offences against businesses and manufacturers, such as shoplifting. It also omits illegal drug use, murder (where no victim is available for interview), sexual offences and offences against those living in institutions. We can get a sense of the scale of this "missing" crime with the results of other Home Office surveys.

The Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) carried out by the Home Office in 1994 and 2002 gives some guide to the volume of crime in these categories.[6] The survey found 14,648,000 thefts by retailers' customers or unknown persons in 2002 but true levels of shoplifting are likely to be even higher. In 2004-05, the BCS recorded about 10.8 million crimes. Civitas estimates, with conservative assumptions employed

---

[4] See for example, Glaeser, E. L. and Sacerdote B., 'Why is there more crime in cities?', *Journal of Political Economy,* Vol. 107 (6), December 1999.
[5] Green, D. and Cackett B., *Do the official figures tell the full story?,* Civitas, 2005.
[6] Shury, J., Speed, M., Vivian, D., Kuechel, A. and Nicholas S., "Crime against retail and manufacturing premises: findings from the 2002 Commercial Victimisation Survey", *Home Office Online report 37/05,* Home Office, July 2005.

elsewhere by the Home Office themselves, that there is at least an additional 14.6 million crimes committed against commercial retailers and manufacturers, assuming the rate of shoplifting remained roughly similar between 2002 and 2004-05. This figure itself is at the lower end of a larger estimate of the total number of shoplifting offences each year made by Professor David Farrington.[7] The same Civitas authors also calculated the number of crimes committed against under 16s – not covered by the BCS – at just under half a million offences.[8]

Civitas's calculations – checked and confirmed privately by the Home Office – led them to conclude that as many as 21.9 million offences take place that don't show up in the BCS, but which the Government acknowledges elsewhere in other publications. They conclude that a more realistic grand total for all crime last year, including those reported by the BCS is 32.7 million.[9] If this figure were true, the fall in crime measured by the BCS would only be the outline of a trend which in itself was somewhat insignificant next to the huge scale of the crime problem in the country as a whole.

International comparisons

The International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS) is regarded as the most reliable measure of victimisation on a cross-country basis, and gives a good indication of Britain's place in a crime league of nations.[10] The latest International Crime Victim Survey (2000) [11], which covered 17 countries, shows that only Australia has a higher rate of victimisation than England and Wales. 26 per cent of people in England and Wales reported being a victim of crime, compared, for example, to 21 per cent in the USA and France.   Despite a low murder rate, England and Wales were 16th out of 17 for "contact crime", including robbery, assaults with force and sexual assaults.[12]

The ICVS found that:

- There was more crime per head in England and Wales – 54.5 crimes per 100 inhabitants compared with an average of 35.2 per 100 – than any other country in the survey.
- People in England and Wales face the second highest risk of being a victim of crime. Australia was the worst with 30 per cent of its people victims of crime in 2000, followed by England and Wales with 26.4 per cent.
- England and Wales had the worst record for "very serious" offences, scoring 18 for every hundred inhabitants, followed by Australia with 16.

---

[7] Green, D. and Cackett B., *Do the official figures tell the full story?*, Civitas, 2005.

[8] *Ibid.*

[9] For a more detailed discussion, see: Green, D. and Cackett B., *Do the official figures tell the full story?,* Civitas, 2005

[10] Barclay, G., and Tavares C., "International comparisons of criminal justice statistics", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/03,* Home Office, October 2003

[11] The next edition of the ICVS is due for publication in 2006, with the full international results available in 2007.

[12] Barclay, G., Tavares, C., and Siddique A., "International comparisons of criminal justice statistics 1999", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 6/01,* Home Office, May 2001.

- At 3.6 per cent of those surveyed, "contact crime", defined as robbery, sexual assault, and assault with force, was second highest in England and Wales (behind Australia on 4.1 per cent). The figure for the USA was 1.9 per cent and for Japan, 0.4 per cent.

Based on the ICVS, in a benchmarking exercise in 2003 of the UK's performance against other countries, the Downing Street Strategy Unit described England & Wales' performance on violent crime as a "weakness".[13]

---

[13] "Weaknesses remain including high crime despite recent falls", *Strategic Audit – discussion document*, Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, November 2003.

2. Measuring crime

The publication of information is a key means to improve the performance of public services. For services such as health and education, it allows users to exercise choice between providers, often supported by advisers such as GPs. There has been a dramatic increase in consumer information for health and education in recent years, both by public sector and independent sources. For services such as policing, where choice does not apply, it allows local communities to compare the performance of different police units and to demand better performance.

Crime statistics for England and Wales

The debate on the reduction of crime in England and Wales has been hindered by unsatisfactory statistics. Each of the major statistics are incomplete in some way and none conveys in an easily intelligible way the level of crime in their area.

In December 2005, in a highly unusual step, the Statistics Commission recognised the inadequacy of current statistics. In an important report, the Commission said that "there are questions over the adequacy of the available data" for measuring crime, and that changes in methodology (especially in police recorded crime) have served to fuel public mistrust in the accuracy of Home Office statistics on crime. It concluded: "We think there is a need to explore alternative ways to convey trends in crime concisely and unambiguously – whilst being mindful of the need to avoid adding to public confusion".[14]

Police recorded crime

Police recorded crime is a measure of all crime reported to the police (by victims, witnesses or third parties) and subsequently recorded by them as an offence. As a result, police recorded crime is inadequate as a measure of total crime in a given locality because so much crime goes unreported. The British Crime Survey suggests that only a quarter of violent crimes end up in the police figures.[15]

All police forces are required to record a crime in relation to a standardised Home Office category, at the time or soon after the offence comes to their attention, with later revisions only possible following a formal redefinition procedure (e.g. if an offence is later deemed to be racially motivated, or judged not to have been a crime). However, the methods of recording crime have changed so substantially over recent years that it makes comparisons of the crime rate over time difficult, if not impossible by this measure alone. Since 1998, the police have recorded any crime reported by a victim unless it can be shown to be a bogus claim and the new recording methodology now requires each victim to count as a proxy for each crime (a row of

---

[14] *Crime Statistics: User Perspectives,* Interim Report, Statistics Commission, December 2005.
[15] Nicholas, S., Povey, D., Walker, A. and Kershaw C., "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05,* Home Office, July 2005.

four bicycles vandalised by one offender in one incident counts as four offences of vandalism, rather than one).

In 2002, the methodology was altered for a second time when the National Crime Reporting Standard (NCRS) was introduced to make figures from different police forces more reliable and the recording more consistent. Both the more "victim-focused" approach and the attempt to lay down general principles to aid consistency were expressed in a Home Office note:

> "The [NCRS] … accords with three basic principles:
> - 'All reports of incidents, whether from victims, witnesses or third parties and whether crime related or not, will result in the registration of an incident report by the police.'
> - 'Following the initial registration, an incident will be recorded as a crime (notifiable offence) if, on the balance of probability: (a) the circumstances as reported amount to a crime defined by law (the police will determine this, based on their knowledge of the law and counting rules), and (b) there is no credible evidence to the contrary.'
> - 'Once recorded, a crime would remain recorded unless there was additional verifiable information to disprove that a crime had occurred.'
> - 'It is important that the Standard supports a victim focused approach to crime recording where the public's call for service is met, as opposed to a proactive one where the police are required to trawl for potential crimes.'"[16]

These changes have in many cases substantially increased the numbers of crimes recorded by the police (especially in the violence category), making it look like more crimes were committed, when that might or might not be the case. For example, the Home Office estimated that the total figure for all crime in 2002-03 was 10 per cent higher than it would have been under pre-NCRS recording, reflecting a change in recording practice. However, not all crime types were equally affected.[17]

Home Office definitions for offences recorded by the police have also not remained static in the last decade. A major reorganisation of offence categories took place in 1998 when many new offences were added to the overall list (particularly in the categories of less serious violent crimes, frauds and drug offences), and again in 2004 as a result of new sexual offence definitions outlined in the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Using police recorded crime for the purposes of this report makes certain assumptions about the integrity and consistency of the data collected, but insofar as it is possible to use any existing data on offences to help illustrate disparities in crime, police recorded crime is at least a robust measure in the narrow sense of relating to actual offences committed in a locality, while also being more consistent for cross-force comparisons now, than it was ten years ago. Furthermore, in 2004,

---

[16] *Home Office Counting Rules For Recorded Crime,* Home Office, April 2006, Annex A.
[17] For more information see Chapter 3 of Simmons, J. and Dodd T. (Eds.), "Crime in England and Wales 2002-03", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/03,* July 2003.

the Audit Commission published their assessment of crime recording and concluded that the quality of recording by the police has improved considerably. The new Police Standards Unit, based in the Home Office, has the specific function of ensuring data quality in the collection and presentation of crime statistics.

The role of police forces in the standardised collection of offence data is statutory, but the ongoing presentation of crime statistics by the police force themselves is less of a requirement. The Metropolitan Police and Cleveland Constabulary have both led the way in providing well-presented, easily-accessible and comprehensive crime data which can be viewed via the force websites (the Met has recently begun to record rolling crime data on a monthly basis down to the level of the council ward). But the record of other forces is mixed at best, with the worst failing to have any information on their websites about recorded offences at all (with crime data sometimes presented as separate from any verdict on the force's "performance").

The British Crime Survey

The other main method of recording crime is the British Crime Survey. This is one of the most sophisticated and extensive survey-based measures of crime in the developed world. It has maintained a consistent methodology since the first survey in 1981, and is now a rolling survey published annually. The British Crime Survey (BCS) is the Government's favoured measure of gauging the crime rate and Ministers frequently use the survey to claim that crime has fallen since 1997.

The greatest advantage of the BCS is its ability to record offences not reported to the police. The British Crime Survey suggests that only a quarter of violent crimes end up in the police figures, very often because victims themselves feel the crime is too trivial or they prefer to deal with the matter themselves. However, the BCS is by no means a perfect measure of the level of crime. It is based on interviews with about 40,000 adults living in private households in England and Wales. While it records many crimes not reported to the police, such as domestic violence and failed burglaries, it does not record a huge number of other crimes, in particular those against children and shoplifting.

Furthermore, because it is a survey of householders, there are those who claim that it cannot accurately represent the experience of crime amongst the people most likely to be victims. Professor Marian Fitzgerald, a former Home Office adviser, has said: "One of the reasons the Government has been so misled and so complacent is that they rely so much on the BCS. The BCS simply doesn't reach the people who are most likely to be victims of crime – young people and people who live in high crime inner-city areas."[18] For the purposes of this report, the BCS had one other crucial handicap. Although it measures crimes whether or not they come to the police's attention, and despite its large sample size (which is often an indicator of accuracy), results are not publicly available below police force area level.

---

[18] *The Sunday Times,* 23 June 2002.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

The Home Office has started to publish recorded crime figures for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships per 1,000 population. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to tackle crime within local authority boundaries. They are partnerships between police forces and local authorities, together with police authorities, health authorities, probation committees and other partners in some areas.

Recorded crime data for the 376 CDRPs in England and Wales showed that there were different levels of geographic concentration for different crime types and that in 2004-05, a third of recorded crime BCS comparator offences took place in 40 CDRPs.[19]

This is very helpful data but not completely so. Few members of the public will know in which Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership they live. More importantly, the Home Office does not use the data to rank between areas of high and low levels. The furthest that it goes is to identify the 40 CDRPs with the highest level of per capita crime, designated "High Crime Areas". These are listed in Table 24 in the Appendix and provide an interesting comparison with the results of this survey.

Council wards

In April 2006, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) unveiled the Neighbourhood Statistics resource, which was based on a project to collect recorded crime data for council wards which the public could access via a postcode search on the ONS website. [20]

However, even this new facility, while adding to the information publicly available in a more localised form than before, is relatively incomplete (only 13 police force areas have taken part) and most of the data refers to the financial year 2003-04 – and so is already dated. Moreover, it is difficult to interpret out of context (is "X" no. of violent offences in a given postcode area high?). As a source of crime figures that provides the public with greater understanding, it also repeats the flaws of most existing measurements: it is not based on commonly recognised geography, unlike the data presented in this report.

Other measures

There are a range of other measures of crime, and most are survey-based using direct questioning of a resident population who are asked to account for their experiences of crime. These measures are usually framed in the context of assessing "risk" rather than absolute number of offences. Various industry groups (particularly motoring organisations) conduct ad hoc surveys of sections of the population relating to certain types of crime, but these are usually very limited in scope and not generally

---

[19] Nicholas, S., Povey, D., Walker, A. and Kershaw C., "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05*, Home Office, July 2005.
[20] http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/

applicable. One typical sort of industry survey is by insurers who use price-signals in the marketplace to provide another more narrow (but no less insightful) means of gauging "risk". For several years, insurance companies have provided data on their household and contents premiums for different parts of the country, based on the number and frequency of claims.

In April 2006, one such survey by the insurance company Endsleigh, reported research that showed that compared with the national average, Nottingham residents were more than twice as likely to claim for household theft. The survey examined the frequency of theft claims, comparing the rate with the national average reported to Endsleigh. The survey found that people in Nottingham were 109 per cent more likely to make a claim for household theft, while those in Hull were 88 per cent more likely and Leeds 65 per cent.[21] As another method of gauging crime, this has a value, although it clearly only relates to one narrow offence category (burglary) and has its own weaknesses (omitting claims not made and failure to account for uninsured householders).

Police performance assessments

Since 2003, the Government has had its own means of gauging the performance of police forces, known as the "Police Performance Assessment Framework" (PPAF), with the reduction of crime, a key component of how force's are judged. In February 2003 the first set of PPAF monitors was published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), providing for the first time a high level summary of relative force performance across different police areas and between groups of most similar forces. A second set of monitors was published in October 2003.

For each force, 32 "performance indicators" (such as the burglary detection rate) plus 26 "baseline areas" (such as forensic management) have been assessed. Assessments of these 58 components are then aggregated to form an assessment of seven key performance areas: "Reducing Crime"; "Investigating Crime", "Promoting Safety", "Providing Assistance", "Citizen Focus", "Resource Use" and "Local Policing".

---

[21] *The Daily Telegraph,* 18 April 2006

3. Methodology

A better way to present statistics on crime may be to measure crime by city and population. Cities and towns are understandable geographical units in a way that local authority areas or police force areas are not. They also contain the highest levels of crime. *Reform's* work for this report was inspired by the work of Kathleen O'Leary Morgan and Scott Morgan for the US publishing house Morgan Quitno Press.

Currently in its 14th Edition, the American version has shown that presenting crime data by city can have a powerful incentive effect on local agencies. The Prosecutor of Camden County, New Jersey, the city with highest crime rate in the last two years, has commented that the publication of the rankings "helped to coalesce the Camden Police Department, an array of law enforcement agencies at the county, state and federal levels, the Camden community and its neighbors to focus on the crime problem with new vigor and to find solutions." This is clear evidence of the potential value of such an exercise.

In earlier editions, the American version sought to weight the value of different crimes, utilising a formula which was later criticised as unnecessarily complicated while also not adequately accounting for "outliers" in the data.[22] *Reform* has not followed this approach. Instead, the methodology for *Urban crime rankings* has been simplified, basing the results for all the categories of crime and for the final overall ranking, on figures for offences per 1,000 population only. Following the lead of CDRP figures per 1,000 population, this report therefore provides data in a format to take account of population size and on a recognizable geographic basis – city or town area.

The number of offences in each category were used to compile individual rankings for each type of crime. The total number of crimes for all the categories surveyed was then summed for each city and the outcome converted into a 1-number summary rate per 1,000 population for the final "score".[23] The data has not been modified in any other way to take account of context (societal factors, economy, deprivation, demography etc.), or any recording or reporting variations that may or may not exist.

Offences surveyed

The following table outlines the six generic categories of offences that this report has surveyed, including their specific definition and Home Office code. An extended list

---

[22] The Morgan Quitno formula is further explained here -
http://www.camconnect.org/documents/summary_most_dangerous_12-1.pdf
[23] In the ranking of cities for each offence category, where two cities have equal per capita offence ratings for a given crime, they are ranked equally. For some cities, the number of offences was equal (for instance, the number of murders in some London boroughs in 2005). In the case of London, those boroughs that recorded no murders (Bromley, Hillingdon, Sutton), are ranked according to the size of their population, with the largest deemed the "safest".

of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary category offences for England and Wales is contained in the Appendix.[24]

Table 3: Offences Surveyed			
Offence	**Code**	**Definition**	**Excluding**
1. Murder	1	Murder	Attempted murder; threat / conspiracy to murder; manslaughter; infanticide; child destruction; causing death by dangerous / careless driving / when under influence of drink /drugs; cause allow death of a child or vulnerable
2. Rape – All categories	19A 19B 19C 19D 19E 19F 19G 19H	Rape of a female Rape of a male Rape of a female aged 16 and over Rape of a female child under 16 Rape of a female child under 13 Rape of a male aged 16 and over Rape of a male child under 16 Rape of a male child under 13	Indecent assault; other sexual offences
3. Assault – Common assault – Grievous Bodily Harm / Wounding – Actual Bodily Harm	105A 5 8A	Common assault; Wounding or other act endangering life; Other wounding;	Assault on a constable; racially / religiously motivated assault.
4. Burglary – Dwelling and non-dwelling	28 28.02 29 30 31	Burglary in a dwelling; Distraction burglary; Aggravated burglary in a dwelling; Burglary in a building other than a dwelling; Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling;	Attempted burglary in a dwelling/non-dwelling;
5. Robbery – Business and personal	34A 34B	Robbery of business property; Robbery of personal property	
6. Car crime – Theft from AND of a vehicle	45 48	Theft from a motor vehicle; Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle;	Criminal damage to; interfering with a vehicle; racially or religiously motivate criminal damage to a vehicle; aggravated vehicle taking
Source: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary			

---

[24] The sample of offences chosen for this report gives an illustration of the crime problem in different parts of the country, although there are clearly offences not surveyed in this report which generate a great deal of public concern (such as vandalism, theft from shops and drug offences).

Freedom of Information requests

The compilation of evidence in this report, required in most cases a full-scale data request under the powers provided for in the Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA, 2000) – if only to receive information for the calendar year, and a detailed breakdown of offence categories that are otherwise not specific in themselves ("Rape" is more revealing than the general measure of "Sexual Offences"). The information was forthcoming in all but a few cases in the requisite time (20 working days since the receipt of the FOI request).

Population

The Home Office reports crime rates (usually per thousand population) as well as total crime levels because, as the Research Development and Statistics (RDS) division makes clear on its website "crime rates better reflect the risk of being a victim [and] …. Crime rates are also used to help us compare areas".[25] Although this information on crime rates is publicly available, it is contained in detailed data tables not easily accessible to the public. Furthermore, the most widely publicised crime statistics – the annual recorded crime and British Crime Survey data on all offences for the preceding financial year – is contained in the Home Office's publication "Crime in England and Wales" released each July, which priorities trends in crime as its theme, and does not contain evidence on crime rates for towns and cities across the country (although in some past editions, government office regions have been included).

In determining population, the Home Office draws on The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates to calculate crime rates per thousand residents. Mid-year population estimates are currently produced with around a one-year time lag (i.e. mid-2005 estimates will be released in the autumn of 2006). The Home Office defines crime rates by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), based on local government boundaries, or by Basic Command Unit (BCU), with the populations of the latter, extrapolated internally by researchers in the Home Office.[26]

Reform has followed the lead of the Home Office by calculating rates of crime for different offences and has related this to populations of major urban areas (defined as towns over 100,000 population[27]). In most cases, the populations that are

---

[25] http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

[26] "Population and household estimates for each Basic Command Unit (BCU) are calculated from mappings to local authority areas produced internally in the Home Office".

[27] The decision to include only those towns with a population of 100,000 or more was taken on practical grounds. A lower population threshold would have yielded hundreds more towns – doubling the statistical workload – and the current threshold of 100,000, while not providing data for a town in each Parliamentary constituency, at least allows for comparisons based on at least three towns and cities per English region, and in most cases, one or two in any given county. The 100,000 threshold also lent itself to an easier comparison of police recorded crime statistics, which are usually compiled on the basis of police force area, and then broken down further into regions within that particular force's jurisdiction. In most cases, this aligns with the largest town in that area, so statistical "overspill" is less of a problem. A description provided by each police force of the unit used for the geographic location in question is provided in the Appendix.

coterminous with the data provided by police forces relates to the local authority or CDRP area, and these are taken from the RDS website.[28] In the cases where crime figures were supplied by Basic Command Unit, these BCU populations are taken as the basis for determining a crime rate, or where appropriate a summed total of a number of neighbouring BCUs. In addition, the Home Office crime rates refer to broad categories of crime such as "Sexual Offences", rather than this report which uses figures for specific crimes such as "Rape".

In the case of London, population data rounded to the nearest 1,000 from the ONS mid-year 2004 estimates (released in December 2005) was used to give the most accurate measure of borough populations – but for all other cities and towns in this report, data from the mid-2004 estimates taken by the Home Office was used.

City boundaries

In a number of cases, crime statistics collected by police forces did not correspond with city boundaries. In these cases, the most coterminous area was used as the basis for collecting population figures on the advice of the police force concerned. At times, these were figures for the Metropolitan Borough Council area which best corresponded to the geographic area of the city or alternatively, the Basic Command Unit (BCU) for the police force which, for example, in the case of Liverpool (Liverpool North and Liverpool South), together corresponded to the local authority area of Liverpool. In many cases, the CDRP zone was the area most coterminous with the city in question. Table 23 in the Appendix gives details of which areas were surveyed for each city.

Number of crimes covered

The 55 towns and cities surveyed for this report have a total population of 20,309,285 representing over a third (37 per cent) of the entire population of England and Wales. Based on the proportion of all recorded crime in 2004-05 the crimes selected for this survey represent a significant proportion of all crimes reported to the police in any typical year. The categories included here of Murder, Rape, Robbery and Assault (comprising "Wounding", "Less Serious Wounding" and "Common Assault"), total 821,276 for the 55 towns and cities being assessed. This represents over two thirds (69 per cent) of the total number of violent crimes recorded in 2004-05 (1,184,702 offences). The total number of vehicle thefts and burglaries recorded for the town and cities in this report represent 34 per cent of all property crimes (the remaining majority of these will be other theft offences, criminal damage and fraud).[29] In total, for all offences surveyed, there were 1,150,318 crimes in the 55 towns and cities in 2005, representing 21 per cent of all recorded crime (5,562,691 offences) in the corresponding (2004-05) financial year.

---

[28] http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls
[29] Nicholas, S., Povey, D., Walker, A. and Kershaw C., "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05,* Home Office, July 2005.

Missing data

The vast majority of police forces provided all the data on offences as requested. The exception was total vehicle crime in Swindon (Wiltshire Constabulary). This town has been excluded from the offence ranking where data was missing, and not incorporated in the overall crime ranking.

Not all large towns in England and Wales were included because some did not meet the 100,000 population threshold. Towns that are commonly regarded as larger than this – such as Guildford in Surrey (a town which is also commonly included in crime comparisons as an example of a "safe" southern town) – in fact have less than 100,000 residents in the town itself, and so were not included. According to the mid-2004 ONS estimate, Guildford's population was 130,700; but only approximately 70,000 people lived in the town itself. Population totals for towns were considered on the grounds of whether the urban areas surveyed by the Office for National Statistics are commonly recognised geographically as towns.

The only towns over 100,000 population not to have data were Preston and Blackburn in Lancashire, and Huddersfield in West Yorkshire. The Lancashire Constabulary provided data for Blackpool but was unable to meet the publication deadline for the other two requests. Huddersfield was the only town not to have data available in a form which related closely (or even exactly) to the area in question. Instead, West Yorkshire Police provided data for the larger area of the Kirklees division of the force, which would not have been suitably coterminous for population analysis. A decision was therefore taken to exclude Huddersfield from the analysis for reasons of statistical integrity. If more accurate data is forthcoming, it may be included in a future edition.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

Scotland's distinct legal system impacts on any criminal justice comparison between the two countries in the Union. For the sake of statistical integrity and because police recorded crime in Scotland is not included in the Home Office's figures (which cover only England and Wales and also exclude Northern Ireland), towns and cities of over 100,000 population in both Scotland and Northern Ireland (a total of five) have not been compared with cities in England and Wales. Variations in recording and police practice will have impacted greatly on the comparability of more common offences such as assault, distorting the place of Celtic towns and cities in the overall results for the UK.

London

Because of the large size of London's population (7,419,985 in 2004), it was felt that a further subdivision would be helpful for readers to gauge levels of crime in London's 31 boroughs – most of which have a population larger than half of the other cities included in the rankings and form urban communities in their own right. Furthermore, because the Metropolitan Police provide crime figures broken down by

London borough (and from April 2006, for local council wards as well[30]), the subdivision on this level seemed justified. This intra-population breakdown has not been followed for any other cities in the survey.

Crime figures for the City of London were submitted by the City of London Police. The intra-London results exclude the City of London (although the results for the City are shown elsewhere). London's place in the final ranking is based on an overall London figure, which includes the City of London.

Validity of comparison

Some critics of the American analysis by Morgan Quitno have argued that the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports which were used as a record of offences in the US, were not an accurate way to make inter-city comparisons because of inconsistencies in data collection, in particular, the strong influence of variation in how police record crime. The total number of assaults for instance, being both a product of the number of offences and the variation of the local police in recording these crimes.

Similar complaints have been raised by police forces in this country who have on occasion defended rises in recorded crime on the grounds of increased police activity. This factor was highlighted in the most recent Home Office report on crime figures: "Local policing activity and priorities also affect the levels of recorded violent crime. Where the police are proactive in addressing low-level violence, anti-social behaviour and other types of crime, this can lead to more of these crimes being brought to their attention and therefore included in the recorded crime number". While it is clearly possible for police forces to deploy in a "blitz" on street crime in a city over a three month period and therefore inflate the statistics by recording more offences, it is still largely speculation exactly to what extent this leads to wide variations across the country. Furthermore, it is less likely that variations in police activity have significantly affected the total count for the specific sub-categories of serious crime included in this report.

Furthermore, *Reform's* analysis on the basis of recorded crime is made more accurate than the American figures by the Home Office's introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002, which established a common procedure for the recording of offences and made consistent the approach across police force areas in England and Wales. The NCRS has been the legally required method for recording offences in England and Wales since 2002, but has taken several years to bed down in practice.

---

[30] See: http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/

4. Key findings

The results of this survey produced the following key findings:

Large variations in levels of crime

- Dramatic variation between the best and worst performers. At 105 crimes per 1,000 population, Nottingham had almost five times the level of crime as the safest town in the rankings: Colchester, which recorded 22 crimes per 1,000 population, and almost twice the average crime rate of 57 crime per 1,000 population for all the places surveyed.

- Dramatic variation between towns of similar size. Nottingham's crime rate can be contrasted with the much better performance of towns of a similar size (approximately 275,000 people) in other parts of the country, such as Stockport (49 per 1,000) or Newcastle (45 per 1,000).

Most dangerous city

No formal attempt has been made to "weight" crimes recorded in the cities under assessment. The overall ranking is therefore a 1-number summary rate per 1,000 for the six offences in this report. On these grounds, Nottingham, with 104.8 serious offences per 1,000 population in 2005 was the most dangerous city surveyed. The next most dangerous city was Bradford, with 98.3 serious offences per 1,000 population.

There were a total of 9 murders, 144 rapes, 7,265 assaults, 9,567 burglaries, 1,600 robberies, and 10,058 thefts of or from vehicles in the city of Nottingham last year. Not only did Nottingham have the highest overall rate for the seven serious offences but it also frequently came at, or near, the top of the rankings for each of the six offences surveyed:

Table 4: Most dangerous city			
Nottingham – population 275,069			
Offence	Number of crimes	Rate	Offence ranking
Murder (per 100,000)	9	3.27	1
Rape (per 10,000)	144	5.24	8
Assault (per 1,000)	7,265	26.41	4
Burglary (per 1,000)	9,567	34.78	1
Robbery (per 1,000)	1,600	5.82	3
Vehicle crime (per 1,000)	10,058	36.57	1
Total *(overall rate /1,000)*	**28,837**	*104.82*	**1**

Safest towns

With a rate of 22.02 crimes per 1,000 population, Colchester in Essex recorded the lowest rate of serious crimes per 1,000 population, followed closely by Southend in Essex and Poole in Dorset. Southend came below average in the rankings for most offences, as shown by the table below, although it was in second place for murder, with an unusually high number of murders in 2005 for a town of its size. Poole, a town of a similar size, was in the bottom 10 for each offence ranking (with the exception of rape) and recorded the lowest number of robberies in 2005. The two safest towns in the report are summarised below:

Table 5: Safest Towns						
	Southend (159,561)			Colchester (160,735)		
Offence	**Number**	**Rate**	**Ranking**	**Number**	**Rate**	**Ranking**
Murder (per 100,000)	5	3.13	2	2	1.24	33
Rape (per 10,000)	47	2.95	38	53	3.30	37
Assault (per 1,000)	657	4.12	53	653	4.06	54
Burglary (per 1,000)	1,892	11.86	42	1,276	7.94	55
Robbery (per 1,000)	293	1.84	23	118	0.73	48
Vehicle crime (per 1,000)	1,955	12.25	46	1,374	8.55	53
Total *(overall rate /1,000)*	**4,953**	*31.04*	**53**	**3,539**	22.02	**54**

Police force performance

The cities and towns surveyed for this report cover the majority of police forces in England and Wales. In total 39 police forces had towns of over 100,000 population in their jurisdiction out of a total of 43 police forces. The forces not included were: Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Dyfed Powys, Lincolnshire, North Wales, Surrey and Warwickshire.

The results of this report are an indication of which police forces contain the most high crime urban centres. Aside from Nottinghamshire Police, when including the London boroughs, 11 of the top twenty highest crime locations are in the Metropolitan Police force area. These results may be compared with the Government's own performance assessment for the police. The PPAF assessments for police forces for "Reducing Crime" give Nottinghamshire Police and the Metropolitan Police poor results and Essex Police an excellent result.

For example:

- The performance of the Met on the key target of "Reducing Crime" was below average for similar forces and described as "Fair" in the latest PPAF report (October 2005), with "volume crime reduction" and "volume crime investigation" both graded as poor.

– For the total number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population, the Met's position was described as "deficient" nationally, with it placed 40th out of 42 forces.
– The Met recorded a 6 per cent increase in violent crimes per 1,000 population in 2004-05. The rate of 34.1 violent crimes per 1,000 population was significantly above the national average and ranked the Met 42nd out of 42 on this category.
– On robbery, where London overall performs badly in the *Reform* rankings, the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Baseline Assessment also showed poor performance for the Met. There were 5.3 robberies per 1,000 population recorded by the Met in 2004-05, compared to a national average of 1.7; again, ranking it as the worst performing force in the country for robbery coming 42nd out of 42 forces.
– The Met also performed badly with respect to forces of a similar size and composition, such as West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, being ranked 5th out of 5 for its record on overall crime against the forces identified as most similar to the Met. The report concluded: "Comparative performance is not good".

This PPAF assessment mirrors the poor record for violent crime – especially robbery – for the London boroughs in the Metropolitan Police Force area surveyed for this report, with the force's performance on detecting high-volume crime also inadequate. The Met's overall sanction detection rate in 2004-05 in the category of "Investigating Crime" was graded as "poor".[31]

In contrast, Essex police,[32] which includes the towns of Southend (ranked 53 overall) and Colchester (ranked 54), is a much better performing force, according to the latest PPAF assessment:

– On the important category of "Reducing Crime", the Essex force is judged to be an "excellent" performer with Essex placed first in the MSF group for its fall in total recorded crime.
– Total recorded crime per 1,000 population reduced from 88.68 in 2003-04 to 82.71 in 2004-05, which the HMIC report notes is well below the national average of 105.37 (including all recorded offences).
– There were 8.54 burglaries per 1,000 households in 2004-05 in Essex, a reduction from 10.26 the previous year. This achievement places the force second in its group and 12th out of 43 forces. This result is mirrored by the excellent performance of Colchester and Southend in the burglary rankings (46 and 49 respectively out of 57).

Similar high performance is noted for the Dorset force, particulary in the areas of vehicle crime and domestic burglary. Again, this mirrors the ranking of Dorset towns for those offences in this report: Poole in Dorset is 54 out of 55 for burglary and 50 out of 54 for vehicle crime and Bournemouth in Dorset is 40 out of 55 for burglary and 32 out of 54 for vehicle crime.

---

[31] *Metropolitan Police Service - Baseline Assessment,* HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, October 2005.
[32] *Essex Police - Baseline Assessment,* HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, October 2005.

5. Crime in London

The results for recorded crime offences for 2005 show a varied picture of crime in the capital with wide disparities between the number of serious offences in boroughs of a similar size (for instance, burglaries in Islington compared to Sutton). The 10 worst performing boroughs for overall number of serious offences (Westminster, Islington, Hackney, Southwark, Newham, Camden, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Lambeth and Hammersmith & Fulham) are concentrated in the centre and east of the city, with the lowest crime rates associated with outlying boroughs such as Sutton, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond.

London boroughs
Ranked by population size
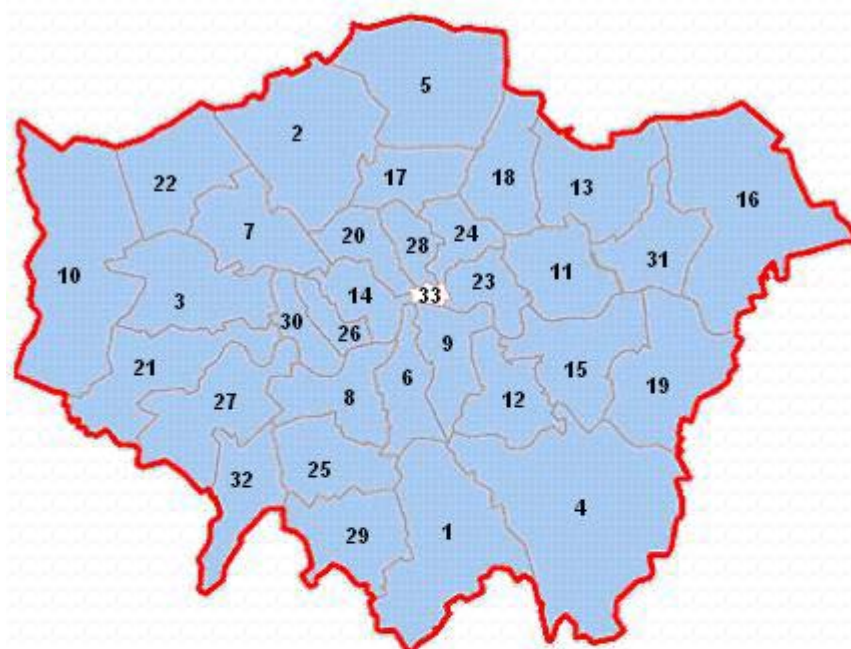
1. Croydon	12. Lewisham	23. Tower Hamlets
2. Barnet	13. Redbridge	24. Hackney
3. Ealing	14. Westminster	25. Merton
4. Bromley	15. Greenwich	26. Kensington & Chelsea
5. Enfield	16. Havering	27. Richmond upon Thames
6. Lambeth	17. Haringey	28. Islington
7. Brent	18. Waltham Forest	29. Sutton
8. Wandsworth	19. Bexley	30. Hammersmith & Fulham
9. Southwark	20. Camden	31. Barking & Dagenham
10. Hillingdon	21. Hounslow	32. Kingston upon Thames
11. Newham	22. Harrow	33. The City of London

Source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year 2004 population estimates, 2005;
Map – Metropolitan Police Service, 2006

The data on recorded crime by London borough found that:

- The worst performing borough overall was Westminster, which recorded a total of 16,628 offences of murder, rape, assault, robbery, burglary and car crime. This equates to a rate of 91.8 serious offences per 1,000 population in 2005. The London average for all boroughs was 57.1.

- Westminster topped the rankings for assault, with a rate of 27 assaults per 1,000 population in 2005 compared to the lowest, Richmond, which recorded only 9 per 1,000 population. The London average was 18.5.

- Westminster was followed closely in the overall rankings for London by Islington, with more than 86 serious offences per 1,000 population. Islington was also the worst borough for rates of vehicle crime and burglary.

- The borough of Hackney came third in the overall London rankings, with 81.4 crimes per 1,000 population and topped the rankings for rape with more than 7 rapes per 10,000 population. In contrast this is ten times the rate in the safest borough: there were only 13 rapes in the whole borough of Richmond in 2005, a rate of 0.71 per 10,000 population.

- The safest borough in London was Kingston upon Thames, with a total of 5,307 serious offences last year at a rate of 36.1 per 1,000 population. When subsumed into the overall results for the other cities and towns in England and Wales, Kingston ranks 78 out of 85.

The position of London is a metaphor for the whole of the country in regard to variations in crime. London contains some of the safest communities in the country, notably Richmond and Kingston upon Thames and Sutton. These good results help improve London's average ranking in our survey of cities – placing it a respectable 21st out of 55 for the overall rate of serious offences, just above the national average.

However, this result masks the wide disparity in crime rates in the capital because London is also comprised of some of the most dangerous urban areas in the country, which when listed individually alongside the other towns and cities surveyed (Table X), shows many London boroughs very high up the list. Of the top twenty worst performing cities on the six measures of serious crimes, eleven are London boroughs. Westminster, when compared individually with other towns, has a serious offence rate per 1,000 population that places it at number three in the overall rankings.

6. Recommendations

The purpose of *Urban crime rankings* is to draw public attention to the disparity in crime rates between cities and towns throughout England and Wales. This has not been an exercise in criminological analysis, designed to advance an argument about the causes of crime, the influences (demographics, cultural, economic) on crime rates, or the factors that affect whether crime is rising or falling. These are important albeit supplementary debates concerned with trends and causation, rather than a statement of evidence based on the information provided by the authorities.

In addition, this information is not a complete representation of crime in a given locality and many crimes will go undetected, and it therefore suffers from all the well-documented flaws associated with police recorded crime. It is however as close to a standardised measure as it is possible to get for the purposes of comparison, even accepting variations in police performance with regard to detection of offences and factors affecting the willingness of the public in different areas of the country to report crime.

The police remain resistant to comparative measures of performance based on recorded crime, and the Home Office has been reluctant to rank crime data for cities as one way of judging the performance of a local force. The data supplied by the FOI Unit of the West Midlands Police was accompanied by a statement of the police force's views on the usefulness of such data, strongly urging against any comparison with data collected for other forces, and illustrating the reluctance to use data to hold police forces to account:

> "Please note that these data should be interpreted with caution. These areas differ in terms of size and they may have different ethnic, cultural or economic compositions. Therefore comparing numbers of crimes can be misleading and does not necessarily indicate the likelihood of someone being a victim of crime. In addition, the number of crimes recorded in an area over a period of time can be influenced by a number of factors. Consequently statistics on crimes for one period may not necessarily be a good indicator of future incidents in that area.
>
> Furthermore, police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive."[33]

Despite this view, the existing police data, drawn up according to national guidelines, mean that it is legitimate to draw comparisons. This report does not intend to gloss over the myriad reasons that exist to explain variations in crime rates locally. Nor does it seek to prevent a conclusive or definitive picture of levels of crime. It simply seeks to present existing police data in a clear and accessible form. As a contribution to the debate, this report adds to the information available on crime

---

[33] Email from Assistant Manager of the FOI Unit in the Corporate Services Department, West Midlands Police, 11 May 2006.

in England and Wales today, which can only aid understanding, and over time increase the accountability of police forces to local communities. In response, *Reform* actively seeks to encourage further debate on the causes of this disparity, how it can be explained and the potential solutions available to rectify this inequity of protection, but the first step is always information.

One important consideration is that this report's findings, which highlight very great disparities in crime rates, are all too frequently masked by the annual Home Office crime figures which give an overall national picture only. The importance of local variation cannot be overstated. As this report has shown, not only do crime rates vary between urban centres, but the Audit Commission's recent analysis of crime at a local level even suggested that crime rates could vary dramatically within council wards in the same city and even between adjacent streets in the same ward.[34] Overall, the findings of this report suggest that certain cities and towns need to learn the lessons of other, more successful cities in other areas and that new forms of policing are needed most urgently in cities with the highest levels of crime. This is likely to include learning from the best practice of forces such as the Essex Police and importing more successful policing tactics from overseas – particularly the United States.

Some may argue that these findings present a case for greater resources for policing in high crime areas. Such an argument is unlikely to be successful however, in the light of the very tight public spending environment in coming years. In the 2006 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that spending on the Home Office will be frozen in real terms from 2008-09.[35] Regardless of the public spending environment, the police and other law and order agencies should not be immune from the need for value for money shared by other public services. Given that the Home Office's spending allocation will rise by 75 per cent in real terms between 1997-98 and 2007-08, the focus should be on improvements in productivity.

The Home Office's Public Service Agreement does include a target which differentiates between crime in high crime areas and other areas: "Reduce crime by 15 per cent, and further in high crime areas, by 2007-08." This target will be achieved if crime in the 40 highest crime CDRPs falls more quickly than in the other CDRPs: "Success Criteria: This target will have been achieved if, between the baseline year and 2007-08, both of the following are met: "(a) nationally, the reduction in overall BCS crime is more than or equal to 15 per cent; and (b) the average reduction in the 40 high crime areas is more than the average reduction in the remaining CDRP areas, as measured by the recorded crime BCS comparator." The very wide variations in crime identified by this report suggest that the target is insufficiently challenging.

Considerable evidence has shown that police performance can improve radically in response to a change in culture which prioritises so-called "broken windows" crime

---

[34] *Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour,* Audit Commission, May 2006.
[35] "Between 1997-98 and 2007-08, spending by the Home Office on crime, justice, security and communities will have risen by 75 per cent in real terms. To lock in this increased funding, Budget 2006 announces as part of the CSR an early spending settlement for the Home Office which maintains the Home Office's 2007-08 Departmental Expenditure Limit in real terms over the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11", *Budget 2006 – A strong and strengthening economy: Investing in Britain's future*, HM Treasury, 2006.

prevention, including beat-based patrols and community policing, alongside swift intervention by the police in apparently minor crimes such as graffiti, touting and prostitution. Evidence has also shown that effective frameworks of direct accountability help to achieve such a change in culture. The Cabinet Office Strategy Unit, for example, has shown that levels of violent crime in America began to fall in the early 1990s following reforms to the criminal justice system, including "broken windows" style policing, rather than increases in police resources.

These efforts would be greatly accelerated if the police were made accountable for their performance. *Reform* has previously argued that local police authorities do not make forces accountable to their communities, with the result that there is little incentive to improve performance.[36] Greater accountability requires more and better information, publicly available, and this will be fostered by better crime statistics. As such the current review of crime statistics being undertaken for the Home Office is of great importance. The results presented here, while not a definitive statement, suggest that the review should focus considerable attention on variations in crime at the local level and particularly in and between urban centres, as well as on how crime data is measured and presented to the public, which has until now been inadequate at best. More and better information about crime along with new forms of accountability should drive the change in police performance that many British cities need.

---

[36] *A Better Way: Commission on the Reform of Public Services,* Reform, 2003

Appendix

List of tables

Murder

- Nottingham has the highest murder rate in England and Wales with 9 murders in a city with a population 275,000. At 3.2 murders per 100,000 inhabitants, it is two thirds higher than the average for all the other cities (1.9 murders per 100,000 population) and significantly higher than a town of a similar size like Stockport which had just 3 murders last year. Brighton and Hove, a city not significantly smaller than Nottingham (250,000 inhabitants), recorded no murders in 2005.

- There were 380 murders in the 55 towns and cities surveyed for this report, which as a proportion represents 44 per cent of the latest Home Office total for all murders for the last financial year (April 2004-March 2005).

- The number of murders in each of the ten worst cities were: Nottingham (9), Southend (5), St. Helens (5), Hull (7), Blackpool (4), Ashford (3), Manchester (12), Bradford (8), Leeds (19) and Ipswich (3).

- There were no murders in Cambridge or Brighton and Hove in 2005.

Table 6: Murder					
Ranking	**City**	**Police Force Area**	**Population**	**Murders**	**Rate per 100,000**
1	*Nottingham*	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	9	3.27
2	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	5	3.13
3	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	5	2.83
4	*Hull*	Humberside Police	248,530	7	2.82
5	*Blackpool*	Lancashire Police	142,662	4	2.80
6	*Ashford*	Kent County Constabulary	107,707	3	2.79
7	*Manchester*	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	12	2.75
8	*Bradford*	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	8	2.67
9	*Leeds*	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	19	2.64
10	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	3	2.55
11	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	3	2.40
12	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	19	2.32
13	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	7	2.30
14	*Liverpool*	Merseyside Police	444,480	10	2.25
15	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	6	2.23
16	*Luton*	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	4	2.17
17	*Sheffield*	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	11	2.13
18	*LONDON*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	158	2.13
19	*Reading*	Thames Valley Police	144,030	3	2.08
20	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	5	1.98
	City crime average				**1.88**
21	*Slough*	Thames Valley Police	117,608	2	1.70
22	*Wolverhampton*	West Midlands Police	239,066	4	1.67
23	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	3	1.59
24	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	4	1.59
25	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	5	1.58

26	*Bristol*	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	6	1.52
27	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	4	1.51
28	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	3	1.38
29	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	2	1.38
30	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	3	1.36
31	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	2	1.35
32	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	4	1.25
33	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	2	1.24
34	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	2	1.19
35	*Peterborough*	Cambridgeshire police	174,416	2	1.15
36	*Swindon*	Wiltshire Police	181,200	2	1.10
37	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	3	1.06
38	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	3	1.06
39	*Leicester*	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	3	1.05
40	*Northampton*	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	2	1.03
41	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	3	0.99
42	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	2	0.92
43	*Gloucester*	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	1	0.90
44	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	1	0.87
45	*Stoke*	Staffordshire Police	238,023	2	0.84
46	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	2	0.82
47	*Middlesbrough*	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	1	0.73
48	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	1	0.72
49	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	1	0.67
50	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	1	0.62
51	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	1	0.58
52	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	1	0.54
53	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	1	0.44
54	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire police	118,500	0	0.00
55	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	0	0.00
	Totals		20,490,485	380	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Rape

- Portsmouth has the highest number of rapes per 10,000 people of all the cities surveyed. There were 123 rapes in the city in 2005, which amounts to a rape rate of 6.53. This is almost double the average for all the cities of 3.64 per 10,000 population.

- A town the similar size to Portsmouth – York – had only 41 rapes in 2005, exactly a third of the Portsmouth rate. The lowest number of rapes in 2005 occurred in Exeter with just 14 rapes (1.2 per 10,000 population).

- The overall London result for rape (2,685 in 2005 – a rate of 3.61 per 10,000 population) places the city at number 37, but masks wide variations between boroughs in the capital (see Chapter 5). If the boroughs were included separately in the rankings for rape, Hackney with 7.44 rapes per 10,000 population would top the results, followed closely by the south London borough of Lambeth with 192 rapes in 2005 (a rate of 7.16).

- There were a total of 7,452 rapes in the 55 towns and cities surveyed. This figure represents 53.2 per cent as a proportion of the total number of rapes for the whole country in 2004-05 (14,002 rapes), even though the total population of the cities concerned only amounts to 37 per cent of the total population for England and Wales.

Table 7: Rape					
Ranking	City	Police Force Area	Population	Rape	Rate per 10,000
1	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	123	6.53
2	*Middlesbrough*	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	82	5.95
3	*Luton*	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	108	5.87
4	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	128	5.79
5	*Bradford*	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	161	5.37
6	*Leicester*	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	152	5.33
7	*Hull*	Humberside Police	248,530	131	5.27
8	*Nottingham*	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	144	5.24
9	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	64	5.12
10	*Peterborough*	Cambridgeshire police	174,416	85	4.87
11	*Manchester*	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	211	4.83
12	*Stoke*	Staffordshire Police	238,023	114	4.79
13	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	117	4.64
14	*Bristol*	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	177	4.49
15	*Blackpool*	Lancashire Police	142,662	61	4.28
16	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	350	4.27
17	*Slough*	Thames Valley Police	117,608	50	4.25
18	*Gloucester*	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	47	4.24
19	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	102	4.17
20	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	64	3.81

21	*Wolverhampton*	West Midlands Police	239,066	91	3.81
22	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	96	3.80
23	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	114	3.75
24	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire police	118,500	44	3.71
25	*Liverpool*	Merseyside Police	444,480	165	3.71
26	*Reading*	Thames Valley Police	144,030	53	3.68
27	*Leeds*	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	263	3.65
28	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	53	3.65
29	*Swindon*	Wiltshire Police	181,200	66	3.64
	City crime average				**3.64**
30	*Ashford*	Kent County Constabulary	107,707	39	3.62
31	*LONDON*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	2,685	3.62
32	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	97	3.60
33	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	42	3.58
34	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	53	3.53
35	*Northampton*	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	66	3.39
36	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	107	3.34
37	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	53	3.30
38	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	47	2.95
39	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	41	2.77
40	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	48	2.72
41	*Sheffield*	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	128	2.48
42	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	62	2.46
43	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	42	2.44
44	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	52	2.38
45	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	33	2.37
46	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	41	2.22
47	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	62	2.19
48	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	45	2.08
49	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	65	2.05
50	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	30	1.86
51	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	56	1.84
52	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	47	1.77
53	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	48	1.70
54	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	33	1.46
55	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	14	1.22
	Totals		**20,490,485**	**7,452**	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Assault

- The assault category comprised wounding (more and less serious) and common assault. For this composite figure, the results show that with 10,218 assaults in the city in 2005, Leicester has the highest assault rate (35.8 per 1,000 population).

- The rate for Leicester is twice the average rate (17.62) – equivalent to cities like Middlesbrough and Brighton – and more than nine times the rate of York, the city which at 3.8 per 1,000 population had the fewest assaults in 2005.

- Again, Nottingham, with over 7,200 assaults in the city (a rate of 26.4) was near the top of the rankings for this category at number 4, fractionally behind Blackpool (27.5) and Bradford (30.24).

- There were a total of 355,872 assaults in the 55 towns and cities surveyed. This represents half of the total number of such offences recorded in the whole of England and Wales for the financial year 2004-05, despite these locations amounting to only 37 per cent of the population of England and Wales.

Table 8: Assault					
Ranking	City	Police Force Area	Population	Assaults	Rate per 1,000
1	*Leicester*	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	10,218	35.84
2	*Bradford*	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	9,068	30.24
3	*Blackpool*	Lancashire Police	142,662	3,931	27.55
4	*Nottingham*	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	7,265	26.41
5	*Hull*	Humberside Police	248,530	6,449	25.95
6	*Stoke*	Staffordshire Police	238,023	5,448	22.89
7	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	4,183	22.19
8	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	4,837	21.87
9	*Bristol*	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	8,576	21.77
10	*Liverpool*	Merseyside Police	444,480	9,572	21.54
11	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	5,057	20.69
12	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	2,494	19.96
13	*Gloucester*	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	2,172	19.60
14	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	2,685	19.25
15	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	3,214	19.12
16	*Manchester*	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	8,162	18.68
17	*LONDON*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	137,765	18.57
18	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	2,116	18.02
19	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	3,110	17.60
20	*Reading*	Thames Valley Police	144,030	2,533	17.59
21	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	4,428	17.58
22	*Luton*	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	3,220	17.50
	City crime average				**17.39**
23	*Middlesbrough*	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	2,355	17.08
24	*Leeds*	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	12,165	16.90

25	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	4,996	16.42
26	*Northampton*	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	3,198	16.42
27	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	13,432	16.37
28	*Wolverhampton*	West Midlands Police	239,066	3,836	16.05
29	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	5,052	15.78
30	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	1,815	15.76
31	*Peterborough*	Cambridgeshire police	174,416	2,686	15.40
32	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	2,479	15.40
33	*Slough*	Thames Valley Police	117,608	1,755	14.92
34	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	3,760	14.90
35	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	3,668	14.51
36	*Sheffield*	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	7,486	14.50
37	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	1,987	13.70
38	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	2,933	13.53
39	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	3,580	13.29
40	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	3,649	12.91
41	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	2,697	11.96
42	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	1,756	11.88
43	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	3,737	11.80
44	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire police	118,500	1,382	11.66
45	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	3,082	11.64
46	*Ashford*	Kent County Constabulary	107,707	1,245	11.56
47	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	1,692	11.26
48	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	3,315	10.89
49	*Swindon*	Wiltshire Police	181,200	1,862	10.28
50	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	1,652	9.61
51	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	1,821	8.34
52	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	2,283	8.09
53	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	657	4.12
54	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	653	4.06
55	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	703	3.80
	Totals		**20,490,485**	**355,872**	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Burglary

- Nottingham recorded the highest burglary rate at just over 34 burglaries per 1,000 population, followed closely by Bradford which suffered 9,693 burglaries in 2005 (a rate of 32.3 per 1,000) and Hull with 7,551 (a rate of 30.4 per 1,000).

- The average number of burglaries for the places surveyed was 15.7 per 1,000 population with Colchester in Essex recording the lowest rate of 7.9 (representing 1,276 burglaries) in 2005.

- With a population of 275,000, the burglary crime capital – Nottingham – can be contrasted with Sunderland – one of the safest towns for burglary of a similar size surveyed. There were 9,693 burglaries in Nottingham in 2005 compared to just 3,108 in Sunderland.

- There were a total of 321,567 burglaries in the 55 towns and cities surveyed. This represents 47 per cent of the total number of such offences recorded in the whole of England and Wales for the financial year 2004-05, despite amounting to only 37 per cent of the population of England and Wales.

Table 9: Burglary					
Rankings	City	Police Force Area	Population	Burglaries	Rate per 1,000
1	Nottingham	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	9,567	34.78
2	Bradford	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	9,693	32.32
3	Hull	Humberside Police	248,530	7,551	30.38
4	Manchester	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	11,324	25.92
5	Leeds	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	17,954	24.95
6	Middlesbrough	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	3,439	24.94
7	Bristol	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	9,194	23.34
8	Reading	Thames Valley Police	144,030	3,252	22.58
9	Northampton	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	4,299	22.07
10	Slough	Thames Valley Police	117,608	2,381	20.25
11	Stockport	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	5,608	19.87
12	Liverpool	Merseyside Police	444,480	7,857	17.68
13	Gloucester	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	1,927	17.39
14	Sheffield	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	8,972	17.38
15	Bolton	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	4,456	16.83
16	Oldham	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	3,635	16.65
17	Wolverhampton	West Midlands Police	239,066	3,902	16.32
18	Stoke	Staffordshire Police	238,023	3,880	16.30
19	Peterborough	Cambridgeshire police	174,416	2,839	16.28
20	Newcastle	Northumbria Police	269,465	4,347	16.13
21	Leicester	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	4,531	15.89
	City crime average				15.72
22	Luton	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	2,818	15.32
23	Blackpool	Lancashire Police	142,662	2,133	14.95

24	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	2,742	14.83
25	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	2,149	14.54
26	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	4,571	14.43
27	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	3,622	14.35
28	*LONDON*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	104,721	14.11
29	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	3,115	14.08
30	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	3,164	14.03
31	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	1,623	13.82
32	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	2,188	13.59
33	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	1,951	13.45
34	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	1,848	13.25
35	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	3,347	13.24
36	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire police	118,500	1,543	13.02
37	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	2,285	12.93
38	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	3,810	12.53
39	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	3,105	12.33
40	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	2,063	12.27
41	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	2,266	12.02
42	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	1,892	11.86
43	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	3,766	11.76
44	*Ashford*	Kent County Constabulary	107,707	1,253	11.63
45	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	2,502	11.54
46	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	1,302	11.30
47	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	1,942	11.29
48	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	9,023	11.00
49	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	3,108	11.00
50	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	2,634	10.78
51	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	3,073	10.09
52	*Swindon*	Wiltshire Police	181,200	1,736	9.58
53	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	1,167	9.34
54	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	1,221	8.13
55	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	1,276	7.94
	Totals		20,490,485	321,567	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Robbery

- Manchester has the highest level of robberies per 1,000 population in England and Wales, recording 3,462 robberies in the city for the year 2005. This represents 7.9 robberies per 1,000 population, followed by London with 5.8.

- The closest city in population to Manchester was Liverpool which came seventh, and although slightly larger (with 444,000 inhabitants), recorded just less than half the number of robberies (1,755 or 3.9 per 1,000 population).

- The average number of robberies for the cities surveyed was 3.6 per 1,000 with the fewest robberies per 1,000 population recorded in Poole (just 44) – a rate of 0.3.

- There were a total of 73,810 robberies in the 55 towns and cities surveyed. This represents *83 per cent* of the total number of such offences recorded in the whole of England and Wales for the financial year 2004-05; this despite the fact that these 55 towns and cities amount to only 37 per cent of the population of England and Wales.

- This confirms that the vast majority of robberies in England and Wales occur in urban areas, with the twenty worst performing cities and towns in the rankings, recording 65,368 robberies – or 89 per cent of all the robberies recorded in this report. This total also means that just under three quarters (74 per cent) of all the robberies that occurred in the England and Wales in the parallel financial year (2004-05), occurred in just twenty towns and cities, the combined population of which amounts to only a quarter of the total for England and Wales (13.2 million).

Table 10: Robbery					
Ranking	**City**	**Police Force Area**	**Population**	**Robberies**	**Rate per 1,000**
1	*Manchester*	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	3,462	7.92
2	*LONDON*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	43,343	5.84
3	*Nottingham*	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	1,600	5.82
4	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	3,796	4.63
5	*Luton*	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	829	4.51
6	*Wolverhampton*	West Midlands Police	239,066	995	4.16
7	*Liverpool*	Merseyside Police	444,480	1,755	3.95
8	*Bristol*	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	1,542	3.91
	City crime average				**3.60**
9	*Leicester*	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	1,001	3.51
10	*Northampton*	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	611	3.14
11	*Middlesbrough*	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	378	2.74
12	*Hull*	Humberside Police	248,530	677	2.72
13	*Gloucester*	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	297	2.68
14	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	457	2.66
15	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	386	2.61
16	*Slough*	Thames Valley Police	117,608	286	2.43

17	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	732	2.41
18	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	652	2.31
19	*Bradford*	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	626	2.09
20	*Leeds*	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	1,486	2.06
21	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	287	1.98
22	*Reading*	Thames Valley Police	144,030	277	1.92
23	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	293	1.84
24	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	457	1.81
25	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	533	1.75
26	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	372	1.70
27	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	416	1.65
28	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	229	1.64
29	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	524	1.64
30	*Peterborough*	Cambridgeshire police	174,416	277	1.59
31	*Sheffield*	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	782	1.52
32	*Stoke*	Staffordshire Police	238,023	346	1.45
33	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	319	1.44
34	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire police	118,500	158	1.33
35	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	248	1.32
36	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	278	1.28
37	*Blackpool*	Lancashire Police	142,662	181	1.27
38	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	339	1.26
39	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	145	1.23
40	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	319	1.20
41	*Swindon*	Wiltshire Police	181,200	196	1.08
42	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	315	0.99
43	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	165	0.98
44	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	264	0.93
45	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	113	0.90
46	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	193	0.79
47	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	132	0.75
48	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	118	0.73
49	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	125	0.68
50	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	103	0.64
51	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	67	0.58
52	*Ashford*	Kent County Constabulary	107,707	61	0.57
53	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	111	0.49
54	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	112	0.44
55	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	44	0.29
	Totals		**20,490,485**	**73,810**	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Vehicle crime

- Nottingham leads the rankings for vehicle crime as well as murder and burglary, with 10,058 thefts of or from a vehicle in the city (a rate of 36.6 per 1,000).

- Nottingham's rate was almost twice the average (19.1) for the cities surveyed and more than four times the rate of Ashford in Kent (8.2 car crimes per 1,000 population – just 882 offences for the year).

- At number 52, a city of a similar size, Sunderland in Northumbria, recorded a vehicle crime rate of 9.82 – roughly a quarter of the Nottingham rate. Birmingham in the West Midlands recorded only 11,962 thefts of and from vehicles for the year in question, with a rate of 14.6 per 1,000 population.

- There were a total of 387,853 thefts of and from vehicles in the 55 towns and cities surveyed. This represents 53 per cent of the total number of such offences recorded in the whole of England and Wales for the financial year 2004-05; this is despite the fact that these 55 towns and cities amount to only 37 per cent of the population of England and Wales.

Table 11: Vehicle crime					
Ranking	City	Police Force Area	Population	Vehicle crimes	Rate per 1,000
1	*Nottingham*	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	10,058	36.57
2	*Manchester*	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	15,634	35.78
3	*Sheffield*	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	17,207	33.34
4	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	10,417	32.88
5	*Bradford*	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	9,565	31.90
6	*Bristol*	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	11,821	30.01
7	*Middlesbrough*	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	4,079	29.58
8	*Hull*	Humberside Police	248,530	7,217	29.04
9	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	3,570	28.57
10	*Slough*	Thames Valley Police	117,608	3,246	27.60
11	*Reading*	Thames Valley Police	144,030	3,923	27.24
12	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	3,190	22.87
13	*Liverpool*	Merseyside Police	444,480	9,985	22.46
14	*Peterborough*	Cambridgeshire Police	174,416	3,812	21.86
15	*Northampton*	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	4,174	21.43
16	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	4,761	21.11
17	*Luton*	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	3,868	21.02
18	*Leeds*	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	15,085	20.96
	City crime average				**19.09**
19	*London*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	136,208	18.36
20	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	5,042	17.87
21	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	4,705	17.77
22	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	3,844	17.61
23	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	3,276	17.38

24	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	3,830	17.31
25	*Gloucester*	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	1,869	16.87
26	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	2,988	16.16
27	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	2,349	15.90
28	*Stoke*	Staffordshire Police	238,023	3,768	15.83
29	*Leicester*	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	4,423	15.51
30	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	3,782	15.48
31	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	3,811	15.07
32	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	2,502	14.89
33	*Wolverhampton*	West Midlands Police	239,066	3,502	14.65
34	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	3,162	14.59
35	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	11,962	14.58
36	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	4,292	14.11
37	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	3,488	13.82
38	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	2,442	13.82
39	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	2,376	13.82
40	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	1,567	13.60
41	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	1,597	13.60
42	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	3,566	13.23
43	*Blackpool*	Lancashire Police	142,662	1,847	12.95
44	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	1,874	12.92
45	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	2,068	12.84
46	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	1,955	12.25
47	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	3,744	11.69
48	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	3,550	11.66
49	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire Police	118,500	1,379	11.64
50	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	1,719	11.44
51	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	2,723	10.81
52	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	2,775	9.82
53	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	1,374	8.55
54	*Ashford*	Kent County Constabulary	107,707	882	8.19
	*Excluding Swindon				
	Totals		**20,309,285**	**387,853**	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

				Total serious crimes	Number of serious crimes per 1000
Ranking	City	Police Force Area	Population		
1	*Nottingham*	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	28,833	104.82
2	*Bradford*	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	29,489	98.34
3	*Hull*	Humberside Police	248,530	22,234	89.46
4	*Manchester*	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	38,920	89.07
5	*Bristol*	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	31,417	79.76
6	*Middlesbrough*	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	10,341	74.99
7	*Leicester*	Leicestershire Constabulary	285,097	20,396	71.54
8	*Reading*	Thames Valley Police	144,030	10,086	70.03
9	*Sheffield*	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	34,634	67.11
10	*Liverpool*	Merseyside Police	444,480	29,423	66.20
11	*Leeds*	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	47,524	66.04
12	*Slough*	Thames Valley Police	117,608	7,762	66.00
13	*Northampton*	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	12,544	64.40
14	*Cardiff*	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	19,146	60.44
15	*Norwich*	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	7,421	59.39
16	*Luton*	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	10,920	59.35
17	*Stoke*	Staffordshire Police	238,023	13,737	57.71
18	*Blackpool*	Lancashire Police	142,662	8,228	57.67
19	*Newport*	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	8,000	57.36
20	*Gloucester*	Gloucestershire Constabulary	110,797	6,347	57.28
21	*London*	Metropolitan Police Force	7,419,985	424,880	57.26
	City crime average				**56.40**
22	*Peterborough*	Cambridgeshire Police	174,416	9,737	55.83
23	*Southampton*	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	12,268	55.46
24	*Portsmouth*	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	10,115	53.66
25	*Wolverhampton*	West Midlands Police	239,066	12,349	51.66
26	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	13,666	48.43
27	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	11,770	48.16
28	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	10,784	47.81
29	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	8,033	47.79
30	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	12,625	47.67
31	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	5,541	47.19
32	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	38,663	47.12
33	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	13,975	45.94
34	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	8,024	45.41
35	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	6,688	45.26
36	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	11,395	45.07
37	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	9,741	44.62
38	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	11,985	44.48
39	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	11,063	43.84
40	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	10,809	42.91
41	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	6,869	42.66
42	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	6,177	42.58
43	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	13,341	41.66
44	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	8,974	41.41
45	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	4,766	41.37

Table 12: Urban Crime Rankings 2006 – all selected crimes

46	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire Police	118,500	4,535	38.27
47	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	6,492	37.75
48	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	6,607	35.72
49	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	9,894	35.00
50	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	10,535	34.60
51	*Ashford*	Kent Police	107,707	3,483	32.89
52	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	4,737	31.54
53	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	4,953	31.04
54	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	3,539	22.02
	Totals		**20,309,285**	**1,146,415**	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Metropolitan Police; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Table 13: Urban Crime Rankings 2006 – including London boroughs

Ranking	City	Police Force Area	Population	Total serious crimes	Rate of serious crimes per 1000
1	Nottingham	Nottinghamshire Police	275,069	28,833	104.82
2	Bradford	West Yorkshire Police	299,878	29,489	98.34
3	Westminster*	Metropolitan Police Force	181,000	16,628	91.87
4	Hull	Humberside Police	248,530	22,234	89.46
5	Manchester	Greater Manchester Police	436,953	38,920	89.07
6	Islington*	Metropolitan Police Force	176,000	15,132	85.98
7	Hackney*	Metropolitan Police Force	203,000	16,527	81.41
8	Southwark*	Metropolitan Police Force	245,000	19,545	79.78
9	Bristol	Avon & Somerset Police	393,910	31,417	79.76
10	Newham*	Metropolitan Police Force	244,000	18,873	77.35
11	Camden*	Metropolitan Police Force	198,000	15,096	76.24
12	Tower Hamlets*	Metropolitan Police Force	196,000	14,880	75.92
13	Middlesbrough	Cleveland Constabulary	137,907	10,341	74.99
14	Haringey*	Metropolitan Police Force	217,000	15,872	73.14
15	Leicester	Leicestershire Police	285,097	20,396	71.54
16	Lambeth*	Metropolitan Police Force	266,000	18,754	70.5
17	Reading	Thames Valley Police	144,030	10,086	70.03
18	Hammersmith & Fulham*	Metropolitan Police Force	165,000	11,484	69.6
19	Waltham Forest*	Metropolitan Police Force	218,000	15,007	68.84
20	Sheffield	South Yorkshire Police	516,111	34,634	67.11
21	Greenwich*	Metropolitan Police Force	214,000	14,211	66.41
22	Liverpool	Merseyside Police	444,480	29,423	66.20
23	Leeds	West Yorkshire Police	719,626	47,524	66.04
24	Slough	Thames Valley Police	117,608	7,762	66.00
25	Northampton	Northamptonshire Police	194,789	12,544	64.40
26	Lewisham*	Metropolitan Police Force	249,000	15,937	64
27	Cardiff	South Wales Constabulary	316,797	19,146	60.44
28	Brent*	Metropolitan Police Force	263,000	16,544	62.9
29	Ealing*	Metropolitan Police Force	301,000	18,725	62.21
30	Barking & Dagenham*	Metropolitan Police Force	164,000	9,965	60.76
31	Norwich	Norfolk Constabulary	124,952	7,421	59.39
32	Luton	Bedfordshire Police	184,000	10,920	59.35
33	Hounslow*	Metropolitan Police Force	212,000	12,289	57.97
34	Stoke	Staffordshire Police	238,023	13,737	57.71
35	Blackpool	Lancashire Police	142,662	8,228	57.67
36	Newport	Gwent Constabulary	139,458	8,000	57.36
37	Gloucester	Gloucestershire Police	110,797	6,347	57.28
	City crime average				**57.12**
38	Kensington & Chelsea*	Metropolitan Police Force	159,000	8,884	55.87
39	Peterborough	Cambridgeshire Police	174,416	9,737	55.83
40	Southampton	Hampshire Constabulary	221,211	12,268	55.46
41	Portsmouth	Hampshire Constabulary	188,502	10,115	53.66
42	Barnet*	Metropolitan Police Force	315,000	16,376	51.99
43	Wandsworth*	Metropolitan Police Force	260,000	13,446	51.72
44	Wolverhampton	West Midlands Police	239,066	12,349	51.66
45	Hillingdon*	Metropolitan Police Force	243,000	12,495	51.42

46	*Redbridge**	Metropolitan Police Force	239,000	12,086	50.57
47	*Enfield**	Metropolitan Police Force	274,000	13,523	49.35
48	*Stockport*	Greater Manchester Police	282,188	13,666	48.43
49	*Plymouth*	Devon & Cornwall Police	244,371	11,770	48.16
50	*Swansea*	South Wales Constabulary	225,549	10,784	47.81
51	*Bournemouth*	Dorset Police	168,086	8,033	47.79
52	*Bolton*	Greater Manchester Police	264,833	12,625	47.67
53	*Croydon**	Metropolitan Police Force	331,000	15,737	47.54
54	*Ipswich*	Suffolk Constabulary	117,431	5,541	47.19
55	*Birmingham*	West Midlands Police	820,462	38,663	47.12
56	*Bromley**	Metropolitan Police Force	296,000	13,612	45.99
57	*Coventry*	West Midlands Police	304,189	13,975	45.94
58	*St. Helens*	Merseyside Police	176,716	8,024	45.41
59	*West Bromwich*	West Midlands Police	147,753	6,688	45.26
60	*Walsall*	West Midlands Police	252,810	11,395	45.07
61	*Oldham*	Greater Manchester Police	218,332	9,741	44.62
62	*Newcastle*	Northumbria Police	269,465	11,985	44.48
63	*Havering**	Metropolitan Police Force	224,000	9,859	44.01
64	*Rotherham*	South Yorkshire Police	252,343	11,063	43.84
65	*Brighton & Hove*	Sussex Police	251,912	10,809	42.91
66	*Telford*	West Mercia Police	161,013	6,869	42.66
67	*Oxford*	Thames Valley Police	145,077	6,177	42.58
68	*Derby*	Derbyshire Constabulary	320,236	13,341	41.66
69	*Milton Keynes*	Thames Valley Police	216,734	8,974	41.41
70	*Exeter*	Devon & Cornwall Police	115,193	4,766	41.37
71	*Bexley**	Metropolitan Police Force	218,000	8,657	39.71
72	*Merton**	Metropolitan Police Force	188,000	7,437	39.56
73	*Harrow**	Metropolitan Police Force	207,000	8,097	39.12
74	*Cambridge*	Cambridgeshire Police	118,500	4,535	38.27
75	*Sutton Coldfield*	West Midlands Police	171,964	6,492	37.75
76	*Richmond Upon Thames**	Metropolitan Police Force	172,000	6,330	36.8
77	*Sutton**	Metropolitan Police Force	180,000	6,577	36.54
78	*Kingston upon Thames**	Metropolitan Police Force	147,000	5,307	36.1
79	*York*	North Yorkshire Police	184,941	6,607	35.72
80	*Sunderland*	Northumbria Police	282,652	9,894	35.00
81	*Dudley*	West Midlands Police	304,474	10,535	34.60
82	*Ashford*	Kent Police	107,707	3,483	32.89
83	*Poole*	Dorset Police	150,201	4,737	31.54
84	*Southend*	Essex Police	159,561	4,953	31.04
85	*Colchester*	Essex Police	160,735	3,539	22.02
	* - indicates London borough				
	Totals		**20,054,300**	**1,145,427**	

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Metropolitan Police; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

City	**Police Force Area**	**Murder**	**Rape**	**Assault**	**Burglary**	**Robbery**	**Vehicle**	**Totals**

Table 14: Total recorded offences January-December 2005 for six crime categories

City	Police Force Area	Murder	Rape	Assault	Burglary	Robbery	Vehicle	Totals
Ashford	Kent County Constabulary	3	39	1245	1253	61	882	3483
Birmingham	West Midlands Police	19	350	13432	9023	3796	11962	38582
Blackpool	Lancashire Police	4	61	3931	2133	181	1847	8157
Bolton	Greater Manchester Police	4	47	3082	4456	319	4705	12613
Bournemouth	Dorset Police	2	64	3214	2063	165	2502	8010
Bradford	West Yorkshire Police	8	161	9068	9693	626	9565	29121
Brighton & Hove	Sussex Police	0	117	4428	3105	416	2723	10789
Bristol	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	6	177	8576	9194	1542	11821	31316
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	0	44	1382	1543	158	1379	4506
Cardiff	South Wales Constabulary	5	65	3737	4571	315	10417	19110
Colchester	Essex Police	2	53	653	1276	118	1374	3476
Coventry	West Midlands Police	7	114	4996	3810	732	4292	13951
Derby	Derbyshire Constabulary	4	107	5052	3766	524	3744	13197
Dudley	West Midlands Police	3	56	3315	3073	533	3550	10530
Exeter	Devon & Cornwall Police	1	14	1815	1302	67	1567	4766
Gloucester	Gloucestershire Constabulary	1	47	2172	1927	297	1869	6313
Huddersfield	West Yorkshire Police	7	103	6039	5419	295	5714	17577
Hull	Humberside Police	7	131	6449	7551	677	7217	22032
Ipswich	Suffolk Constabulary	3	42	2116	1623	145	1597	5526
Leeds	West Yorkshire Police	19	263	12165	17954	1486	15085	46972
Leicester	Leicestershire Constabulary	3	152	10218	4531	1001	4423	20328
Liverpool	Merseyside Police	10	165	9572	7857	1755	9985	29344
London	Metropolitan Police Force	158	2685	137765	104721	43343	136208	424880
Luton	Bedfordshire Police	4	108	3220	2818	829	3868	10847
Manchester	Greater Manchester Police	12	211	8162	11324	3462	15634	38805
Middlesbrough	Cleveland Constabulary	1	82	2355	3439	378	4079	10334
Milton Keynes	Thames Valley Police	3	45	2933	2502	278	3162	8923
Newcastle	Northumbria Police	6	97	3580	4347	339	3566	11935
Newport	Gwent Constabulary	1	33	2685	1848	229	3190	7986
Northampton	Northamptonshire Police	2	66	3198	4299	611	4174	12350
Norwich	Norfolk Constabulary	3	64	2494	1167	113	3570	7411
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire Police	9	144	7265	9567	1600	10058	28643
Oldham	Greater Manchester Police	2	52	1821	3635	372	3844	9726
Oxford	Thames Valley Police	2	53	1987	1951	287	1874	6154
Peterborough	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	2	85	2686	2839	277	3812	9701
Plymouth	Devon & Cornwall Police	2	102	5057	2634	193	3782	11770
Poole	Dorset Police	1	53	1692	1221	44	1719	4730
Portsmouth	Hampshire Constabulary	3	123	4183	2266	248	3276	10099
Reading	Thames Valley Police	3	53	2533	3252	277	3923	10041

		Murder	Rape	Assault	Burglary	Robbery	Vehicle	Totals
Rotherham	South Yorkshire Police	4	62	3760	3622	112	3488	11048
Sheffield	South Yorkshire Police	11	128	7486	8972	782	17207	34586
Slough	Thames Valley Police	2	50	1755	2381	286	3246	7720
Southampton	Hampshire Constabulary	3	128	4837	3115	319	3830	12232
Southend	Essex Police	5	47	657	1892	293	1955	4849
St. Helens	Merseyside Police	5	48	3110	2285	132	2442	8022
Stockport	Greater Manchester Police	3	48	2283	5608	652	5042	13636
Stoke	Staffordshire Police	2	114	5448	3880	346	3768	13558
Sunderland	Northumbria Police	3	62	3649	3108	264	2775	9861
Sutton Coldfield	West Midlands Police	1	42	1652	1942	457	2376	6470
Swansea	South Wales Constabulary	1	33	2697	3164	111	4761	10767
Swindon	Wiltshire Police	2	66	1862	1736	196		3862
Telford	West Mercia Police	1	30	2479	2188	103	2068	6869
Walsall	West Midlands Police	5	96	3668	3347	457	3811	11384
West Bromwich	West Midlands Police	2	41	1756	2149	386	2349	6683
Wolverhampton	West Midlands Police	4	91	3836	3902	995	3502	12330
York	North Yorkshire Police	1	41	703	2742	125	2988	6600
		Murder	**Rape**	**Assault**	**Burglary**	**Robbery**	**Vehicle**	**Totals**

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Metropolitan Police 2006.

Table 15: Total Crimes in London – all selected offences

	Borough	Murder	Rape	Assault	Robbery	Burglary	Vehicle crime	Total	Rate
1	Westminster	6	112	6,213	1,513	4,407	4,377	16,628	91.87
2	Islington	4	83	4,410	1,406	3,608	5,621	15,132	85.98
3	Hackney	3	154	5,297	1,816	3,788	5,469	16,527	81.41
4	Southwark	10	151	6,516	2,832	4,290	5,746	19,545	79.78
5	Newham	9	148	5,745	2,418	4,031	6,522	18,873	77.35
6	Camden	8	76	4,983	1,255	4,042	4,732	15,096	76.24
7	Tower Hamlets	1	107	4,822	1,611	3,409	4,930	14,880	75.92
8	Haringey	7	105	4,706	2,007	3,978	5,069	15,872	73.14
9	Lambeth	7	192	6,591	3,069	3,960	4,935	18,754	70.5
10	Hammersmith & Fulham	2	57	3,097	1,282	3,172	3,874	11,484	69.6
11	Waltham Forest	7	83	4,610	2,240	3,266	4,801	15,007	68.84
12	Greenwich	4	121	5,557	1,244	3,209	4,076	14,211	66.41
13	Lewisham	8	103	5,986	2,044	3,610	4,186	15,937	64
14	Brent	12	99	5,489	2,256	4,022	4,666	16,544	62.9
15	Ealing	7	101	5,588	1,822	4,983	6,224	18,725	62.21
16	Barking & Dagenham	6	72	3,953	785	1,935	3,214	9,965	60.76
17	Hounslow	4	78	4,225	849	2,965	4,168	12,289	57.97
	City average								**57.12**
18	Kensington & Chelsea	5	43	2,367	827	2,431	3,211	8,884	55.87
19	Barnet	8	93	4,305	1,241	4,347	6,382	16,376	51.99
20	Wandsworth	4	58	4,349	1,641	3,223	4,171	13,446	51.72
21	Hillingdon	0	54	4,057	713	3,244	4,427	12,495	51.42
22	Redbridge	8	48	3,043	1,300	3,207	4,480	12,086	50.57
23	Enfield	7	69	3,946	1,283	3,842	4,376	13,523	49.35
24	Croydon	6	122	5,844	1,672	3,540	4,553	15,737	47.54
25	Bromley	0	52	4,046	807	4,143	4,564	13,612	45.99
26	Havering	1	49	3,033	487	2,356	3,933	9,859	44.01
27	Merton	2	41	2,684	569	1,826	2,315	7,437	39.56
28	Bexley	2	52	3,067	457	2,314	2,765	8,657	39.71
29	Harrow	3	42	2,179	777	2,391	2,705	8,097	39.12
30	Richmond upon Thames	3	13	1,752	443	2,290	1,829	6,330	36.8
31	Sutton	0	48	2,393	334	1,451	2,351	6,577	36.54
32	Kingston upon Thames	2	53	2,566	311	1,078	1,297	5,307	36.1
33	City of London	2	6	346	363	32	239	141.29	
	LONDON TOTAL	**158**	**2,685**	**137,765**	**43,674**	**104,390**	**136,208**	**423,892**	**57.12**

Sources: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests March-May 2006; Metropolitan Police; Office for National Statistics, 2004 mid-year estimates, available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/house_pop_est_2004.xls

Table 16: Murder – London boroughs

London Ranking	Borough	Population, to nearest 1,000	Total number of murders	Murder rate per 100,000
1	Brent	268,000	12	4.48
2	Southwark	255,000	10	3.92
3	Camden	217,000	8*	3.69
4	Barking & Dagenham	165,000	6	3.64
5	Newham	248,000	9	3.63
6=	Lewisham	247,000	8	3.24
6=	Redbridge	247,000	8	3.24
7	Waltham Forest	222,000	7	3.15
8	Haringey	224,000	7	3.13
9	Kensington & Chelsea	184,000	5	2.72
10=	Lambeth	268,000	7	2.61
10=	Westminster	230,000	6	2.61
11	Enfield	280,000	7	2.5
12	Barnet	327,000	8	2.45
13	Ealing	303,000	7	2.31
14	Islington	180,000	4	2.22
	City average			**2.13**
15	Hounslow	212,000	4	1.89
16	Greenwich	226,000	4	1.77
17	Croydon	340,000	6	1.76
18	Richmond	183,000	3	1.64
19	Hackney	207,000	3	1.45
20	Wandsworth	277,000	4	1.44
21	Harrow	211,000	3	1.42
22	Kingston	152,000	2	1.32
23	Hammersmith & Fulham	177,000	2	1.13
24	Merton	192,000	2	1.04
25	Bexley	220,000	2	0.91
26	Tower Hamlets	209,000	1	0.48
27	Havering	225,000	1	0.44
28	Sutton	178,000	0	0
29	Hillingdon	249,000	0	0
30	Bromley	299,000	0	0
	City of London	9,000	2	

Source: Metropolitan Police, Office for National Statistics

* NB. The official figures for the number of murders in Camden in July included 13 victims of the Tavistock Square suicide bus bombing on the 7 July 2005. These have been omitted from the results. The victims of the other attacks on the Underground that day would have been recorded as homicides by the British Transport Police in London, not the Metropolitan Police.

London ranking	Borough	Population to nearest 1,000	Total number of rapes	Rape rate per 10,000
	Table 17: Rape – London boroughs			
1	Hackney	207,000	154	7.44
2	Lambeth	268,000	192	7.16
3	Newham	248,000	148	5.97
4	Southwark	255,000	151	5.92
5	Greenwich	226,000	121	5.35
6	Tower Hamlets	209,000	107	5.12
7	Westminster	230,000	112	4.87
8	Haringey	224,000	105	4.69
9	Islington	180,000	83	4.61
10	Barking & Dagenham	165,000	72	4.36
11	Wandsworth	277,000	58	4.17
12	Waltham Forest	222,000	83	3.74
13	Brent	268,000	99	3.69
14	Hounslow	212,000	78	3.68
	City average			**3.61**
15	Croydon	340,000	122	3.59
16	Camden	217,000	76	3.5
17	Kingston upon Thames	152,000	53	3.49
18	Ealing	303,000	101	3.33
19	Hammersmith & Fulham	177,000	57	3.22
20	Barnet	327,000	93	2.84
21	Sutton	178,000	48	2.7
22	Enfield	280,000	69	2.46
23	Bexley	220,000	52	2.36
24	Kensington & Chelsea	184,000	43	2.34
25	Havering	225,000	49	2.18
26	Hillingdon	249,000	54	2.17
27	Merton	192,000	41	2.14
28	Lewisham	247,000	103	2.09
29	Harrow	211,000	42	1.99
30	Redbridge	247,000	48	1.94
31	Bromley	299,000	52	1.74
32	Richmond upon Thames	183,000	13	0.71
	City of London	9,000	6	

Source: Metropolitan Police, Office for National Statistics

London Ranking	Boroughs	Population to nearest 1,000	Total number of assaults	Assault rate per 1,000
**Table 18: Assault – London boroughs**			
1	Westminster	230,000	6,213	27.01
2	Hackney	207,000	5,297	25.59
3	Southwark	255,000	6,516	25.55
4=	Lambeth	268,000	6,591	24.59
4=	Greenwich	226,000	5,557	24.59
5	Islington	180,000	4,410	24.5
6	Lewisham	247,000	5,986	24.23
7	Barking & Dagenham	165,000	3,953	23.96
8	Newham	248,000	5,745	23.17
9	Tower Hamlets	209,000	4,822	23.07
10	Camden	217,000	4,983	22.96
11	Haringey	224,000	4,706	21.01
12	Waltham Forest	222,000	4,610	20.77
13	Brent	268,000	5,489	20.48
14	Hounslow	212,000	4,225	19.93
	City average			**18.5**
15	Ealing	303,000	5,588	18.44
16	Hammersmith & Fulham	177,000	3,097	17.5
17	Croydon	340,000	5,844	17.19
18	Kingston	152,000	2,566	16.88
19	Hillingdon	249,000	4,057	16.29
20	Wandsworth	277,000	4,349	15.7
21	Enfield	280,000	3,946	14.09
22	Merton	192,000	2,684	13.98
23	Bexley	220,000	3,067	13.94
24	Bromley	299,000	4,046	13.53
25	Havering	225,000	3,033	13.48
26	Sutton	178,000	2,393	13.44
27	Barnet	327,000	4,305	13.17
28	Kensington & Chelsea	184,000	2,367	12.86
29	Redbridge	247,000	3,043	12.32
30	Harrow	211,000	2,179	10.33
31	Richmond	183,000	1,752	9.57
	City of London	9,000	346	

Source: Metropolitan Police, Office for National Statistics

Table 19: Burglary – London boroughs

London Ranking	Boroughs	Population to nearest 1,000	Total number of burglaries	Burglary rate per 1,000 population
1	Islington	180,000	3,608	20.04
2	Westminster	230,000	4,407	19.16
3	Camden	217,000	4,042	18.63
4	Hackney	207,000	3,788	18.3
5	Hammersmith & Fulham	177,000	3,172	17.92
6	Haringey	224,000	3,978	17.76
7	Southwark	255,000	4,290	16.82
8	Ealing	303,000	4,983	16.45
9	Tower Hamlets	209,000	3,409	16.31
10	Newham	248,000	4,031	16.25
11	Brent	268,000	4,022	15.01
12	Lambeth	268,000	3,960	14.78
13	Waltham Forest	222,000	3,266	14.71
14	Lewisham	247,000	3,610	14.62
15	Greenwich	226,000	3,209	14.19
	City average			**14.04**
16	Hounslow	212,000	2,965	13.99
17	Bromley	299,000	4,143	13.86
18	Enfield	280,000	3,842	13.72
19	Barnet	327,000	4,347	13.29
20	Kensington & Chelsea	184,000	2,431	13.21
21	Hillingdon	249,000	3,244	13.03
22	Redbridge	247,000	3,207	12.98
23	Richmond	183,000	2,290	12.51
24	Barking & Dagenham	165,000	1,935	11.73
25	Wandsworth	277,000	3,223	11.64
26	Harrow	211,000	2,391	11.33
27	Bexley	220,000	2,314	10.52
28	Havering	225,000	2,356	10.47
29	Croydon	340,000	3,540	10.41
30	Merton	192,000	1,826	9.51
31	Sutton	178,000	1,451	8.15
32	Kingston	152,000	1,078	7.09
33	City of London	9,000	32	

Source: Metropolitan Police, Office for National Statistics

	Table 20: Robbery – London boroughs			
London Ranking	**Boroughs**	**Population to nearest 1,000**	**Total number of robberies**	**Robbery rate per 1,000**
1	Lambeth	268,000	3069	11.45
2	Southwark	255,000	2832	11.11
3	Waltham Forest	222,000	2240	10.09
4	Newham	248,000	2418	9.75
5	Haringey	224,000	2007	8.96
6	Hackney	207,000	1816	8.77
7	Brent	268,000	2256	8.42
8	Lewisham	247,000	2044	8.28
9	Islington	180,000	1406	7.81
10	Tower Hamlets	209,000	1611	7.71
11	Hammersmith & Fulham	177,000	1282	7.24
12	Westminster	230,000	1513	6.58
13	Ealing	303,000	1822	6.01
14	Wandsworth	277,000	1641	5.92
	City average			**5.83**
15	Camden	217,000	1255	5.78
16	Greenwich	226,000	1244	5.5
17	Redbridge	247,000	1300	5.26
18	Croydon	340,000	1672	4.92
19	Barking & Dagenham	165,000	785	4.76
20	Enfield	280,000	1283	4.58
21	Kensington & Chelsea	184,000	827	4.49
22	Hounslow	212,000	849	4
23	Barnet	327,000	1241	3.8
24	Harrow	211,000	777	3.68
25	Merton	192,000	569	2.96
26	Hillingdon	249,000	713	2.86
27	Bromley	299,000	807	2.7
28	Richmond	183,000	443	2.42
29	Havering	225,000	487	2.16
30	Bexley	220,000	457	2.08
31	Kingston	152,000	311	2.05
32	Sutton	178,000	334	1.88
	City of London	9,000	363	

Source: Metropolitan Police, Office for National Statistics

Table 21: Vehicle crime – London boroughs

London Ranking	Boroughs	Population to nearest 1,000	Car crimes	Car crime rate per 1,000
1	Islington	180,000	5,621	31.23
2	Hackney	207,000	5,469	26.42
3	Newham	248,000	6,522	26.3
4	Tower Hamlets	209,000	4,930	23.59
5	Haringey	224,000	5,069	22.63
6	Southwark	255,000	5,746	22.53
7	Hammersmith & Fulham	177,000	3,874	21.89
8	Camden	217,000	4,732	21.81
9	Waltham Forest	222,000	4,801	21.63
10	Ealing	303,000	6,224	20.54
11	Hounslow	212,000	4,168	19.66
12	Barnet	327,000	6,382	19.52
13	Barking & Dagenham	165,000	3,214	19.48
14	Westminster	230,000	4,377	19.03
15	Lambeth	268,000	4,935	18.41
	City average			**18.3**
16	Redbridge	247,000	4,480	18.14
17	Greenwich	226,000	4,076	18.04
18	Hillingdon	249,000	4,427	17.78
19	Havering	225,000	3,933	17.48
20	Kensington & Chelsea	184,000	3,211	17.45
21	Brent	268,000	4,666	17.41
22	Lewisham	247,000	4,186	16.95
23	Enfield	280,000	4,376	15.63
24	Bromley	299,000	4,564	15.26
25	Wandsworth	277,000	4,171	15.06
26	Croydon	340,000	4,553	13.39
27	Sutton	178,000	2,351	13.21
28	Harrow	211,000	2,705	12.82
29	Bexley	220,000	2,765	12.57
30	Merton	192,000	2,315	12.06
31	Richmond	183,000	1,829	9.99
32	Kingston	152,000	1,297	8.53
33	City of London	9,000	239	

Source: Metropolitan Police, Office for National Statistics

Table 22: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary – Offences by Code

Offence	Sub Category	Offence ID	Offence Description
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	More Serious Crime	1	Murder
		2	Attempted Murder
		3	Threat Or Conspiracy To Murder
		4.01	Manslaughter
		4.02	Infanticide
		4.03	Child Destruction
		4.04	Causing Death By Dangerous Driving
		4.06	Causing Death By Careless Driving While Under Influence Of Drink / Drugs
		4.07	Cause/Allow Death Of a Child or Vulnerable Person
		5	Wounding Or Other Act Endangering Life
		6	Endangering A Railway Passenger
		37.01	Causing Death By Aggravated Vehicle Taking
	Less Serious Crime	7	Endangering Life At Sea
		11	Cruelty To And Neglect Of Children
		12	Abandoning Child Under Two Years
		13	Child Abduction
		14	Procuring An Illegal Abortion
		15	Concealment Of Birth
		104	Assault On a Constable
		105A	Common Assault
		105B	Racially Or Religiously Aggravated Common Assault
		8A	Other Wounding
		8B	Possession of Weapons
		8C	Harassment
		8D	Racially Or Religiously Aggravated Other Wounding
		8E	Racially Or Religiously Aggravated Harassment
SEXUAL OFFENCES	Rape	19A	Rape Of a Female
		19B	Rape Of a Male
		19C	Rape Of a Female Aged 16 And Over
		19D	Rape Of a Female Child Under 16
		19E	Rape Of a Female Child Under 13
		19F	Rape Of a Male Aged 16 And Over
		19G	Rape Of a Male Child Under 16
		19H	Rape Of a Male Child Under 13
	Indecent assault on a female	20	Indecent Assault On a Female
		20A	Sexual Assault On a Female Aged 13 And Over
		20B	Sexual Assault On a Female Child Under 13
	Other sexual offences	16	Buggery
		17	Indecent Assault On a Male
		17A	Sexual Assault On a Male Aged 13 And Over
		17B	Sexual Assault On a Male Child Under 13
		18	Gross Indecency Between Males
		21	Sexual Activity Involving a Child Under 13
		22	Unlawful Sexual Intercourse With Girl Under 16
		22B	Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 16
		23	Familial Sexual Offences
		24	Exploitation Of Prostitution
		25	Abduction
		26	Bigamy
		27	Soliciting Of Women By Men
		70	Sexual Activity etc With A Person With A Mental Disorder

		71	Abuse Of Children Through Prostitution & Pornography
		72	Trafficking For Sexual Exploitation
		73	Abuse Of Trust
		74	Gross Indecency With A Child
		88A	Sexual Grooming
ROBBERY	Robbery of business property	34A	Robbery Of Business Property
	Robbery of personal property	34B	Robbery Of Personal Property
BURGLARY	Burglary in a dwelling	28	Burglary In A Dwelling
		28.01	Attempted Burglary In A Dwelling
		28.02	Distraction Burglary
		29	Aggravated Burglary In A Dwelling
	Burglary in other dwelling	30	Burglary In A Building Other Than A Dwelling
		30.01	Attempted Burglary In A Building Other Than A Dwelling
		31	Aggravated Burglary In A Building Other Than A Dwelling
THEFT & HANDLING	Theft from the person	39	Theft From The Person
	Theft of a pedal cycle	44	Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of A Pedal Cycle
	Theft from shop	46	Theft From A Shop
	Theft from a vehicle	45	Theft From A Vehicle
	Theft of a vehicle	37.02	Aggravated Vehicle Taking
		48	Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of a Motor Vehicle
		48.01	Attempted Theft Of a Motor Vehicle
	Other theft	38	Proceeds Of Crime
		40	Theft In A Dwelling Other Than From An Automatic Machine Or Meter
		41	Theft By An Employee
		42	Theft Or Unlawful Taking Of Mail
		43	Abstracting Electricity
		47	Theft From An Automatic Machine Or Meter
		49	Other Theft
FRAUD & FORGERY	Fraud and forgery	51	Frauds By Company Directors Etc.
		52	False Accounting
		55	Bankruptcy And Insolvency Offences
		60	Forgery Etc. Of Drug Prescription
		61	Other Forgery Etc.
		53A	Cheque and Credit Card Fraud
		814	Fraud, Forgery Etc. Associated With Vehicle Or Driver Records
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	Arson	56	Arson
	Other criminal damage	58A	Criminal Damage to a Dwelling
		58B	Criminal Damage to a Building Other Than a Dwelling
		58C	Criminal Damage to a Vehicle
		58D	Other Criminal Damage
		58E	Racially of Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage to a Dwelling
		58F	Racially of Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage To a Building Other Than a Dwelling
		58G	Racially of Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage To a Vehicle
		58H	Racially of Religiously Aggravated Other Criminal Damage
		59	Threat Or Possession With Intent to Commit Criminal Damage
DRUG OFFENCES	Trafficking in controlled drugs	92A	Trafficking in controlled drugs
	Possession of controlled drugs	92D	Possession Of Controlled Drugs (Excluding Cannabis)
		92E	Possession Of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis)
Source: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary			

Table 23: Geographic areas defined

City	Police Force Area	Definition
London	Metropolitan Police Force	31 London boroughs, City of London, City of Westminster
Birmingham	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Units E1, E2, E3, F1, F2, F3, D1, D3
Liverpool	Merseyside Police	Basic Command Unit E Liverpool North and F Liverpool South
Leeds	West Yorkshire Police	Divisions: Pudsey/Weetwood, Chapeltown, Killingbeck, City & Holbeck Division
Sheffield	South Yorkshire Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone (Central, North and South)
Bristol	Avon & Somerset Constabulary	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Manchester	Greater Manchester Police	Divisions A , B and C – equivalent to CDRP
Leicester	Leicestershire Constabulary	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Coventry	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Unit M1, M2, M3
Hull	Humberside Police	Division D
Bradford	West Yorkshire Police	Bradford North and South Divisions
Cardiff	South Wales Constabulary	Cardiff Basic Command Unit
Stoke	Staffordshire Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Wolverhampton	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Unit G1 and G2
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire Police	Nottingham City Basic Command Unit (C)
Plymouth	Devon & Cornwall Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Southampton	Hampshire Constabulary	Operational Command Unit
Reading	Thames Valley Police	Reading Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Derby	Derbyshire Constabulary	Division D (including Swadlincote and the city suburbs of Peartree and Merrill)
Brighton & Hove	Sussex Police	Divisions - Brighton East, Central and West
Dudley	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Unit J1, J2
Newcastle	Northumbria Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Northampton	Northamptonshire Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Portsmouth	Hampshire Constabulary	Operational Command Unit
Luton	Bedfordshire Police	Division C
Milton Keynes	Thames Valley Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Sunderland	Northumbria Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Norwich	Norfolk Constabulary	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Walsall	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Unit H1, H2
Swansea	South Wales Constabulary	Swansea Basic Command Unit
Bournemouth	Dorset Police	Basic Command Unit
Southend	Essex Police	Basic Command Unit
Swindon	Wiltshire Police	Unitary Authority of Thamesdown - "D" (Swindon) Division – equivalent to CDRP
Poole	Dorset Police	Basic Command Unit
Oxford	Thames Valley Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Middlesbrough	Cleveland Constabulary	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Blackpool	Lancashire Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Bolton	Greater Manchester Police	Division K
Ipswich	Suffolk Constabulary	Ipswich Division – equivalent to CDRP
Telford	West Mercia Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone

York	North Yorkshire Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone (Telford & Wrekin)
West Bromwich	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Unit - K1
Peterborough	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	Northern Division (includes Peterborough East/South/West units)
Stockport	Greater Manchester Police	Division J
Slough	Thames Valley Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Gloucester	Gloucestershire Constabulary	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Rotherham	South Yorkshire Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Newport	Gwent Constabulary	Division A
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	"Cambridge City" - bespoke sub-division of Southern Division
Exeter	Devon & Cornwall Police	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership zone
Sutton Coldfield	West Midlands Police	Operational Command Unit - D2
Colchester	Essex Police	Basic Command Unit
Oldham	Greater Manchester Police	Division Q
Ashford	Kent County Constabulary	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
St. Helens	Merseyside Police	Division D (St. Helens Local Authority)

Source: Definitions as provided by police force FOI departments

Table 24: Crime rate per 1,000 population for selected categories of offence by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), 2004-05

Rank	Force	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	Violence against the person offences per 1,000 population	Sexual offences per 1,000 population	Robbery offences per 1,000 population	Burglary dwelling offences per 1,000 population	Theft of a motor vehicle offences per 1,000 population	Theft from a vehicle offences per 1,000 population	Recorded crime BCS comparator offences per 1,000 population
1	Nottinghamshire	Nottingham	33	2	6	23	10	26	**156**
2	Humberside	North East Lincolnshire	37	2	2	12	11	19	**132**
3	Humberside	Kingston upon Hull	41	3	3	13	10	18	**130**
4	Greater Manchester	Manchester	32	2	8	17	11	21	**128**
5	Metropolitan Police	City of Westminster	47	3	7	8	5	16	**127**
6	Metropolitan Police	Islington	42	2	7	14	7	20	**121**
7	Cleveland	Middlesbrough	26	3	3	12	12	23	**121**
8	Avon & Somerset	City of Bristol UA	33	2	4	13	10	23	**112**
9	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough UA	33	2	2	7	8	18	**111**
10	Merseyside	Liverpool	37	1	3	12	10	15	**110**
11	Metropolitan Police	Hackney	35	2	9	13	9	17	**108**
12	Northamptonshire	Corby	30	1	2	8	7	11	**106**
13	Metropolitan Police	Camden	36	3	6	11	6	18	**104**
14	Northamptonshire	Northampton	24	1	2	11	8	17	**103**
15	Metropolitan Police	Southwark	37	2	9	11	9	14	**102**
16	Thames Valley	Reading UA	32	2	2	11	8	21	**102**
17	Lancashire	Blackpool	41	2	2	6	5	9	**100**
18	Leicestershire	Leicester	40	2	4	10	5	13	**100**
19	Metropolitan Police	Lambeth	37	2	11	12	6	12	**100**
20	Norfolk	Norwich	33	2	1	6	4	12	**99**

21	Metropolitan Police	Tower Hamlets	38	2	7	8	9	17	**99**
22	Lincolnshire	Lincoln	33	2	1	7	3	11	**98**
23	Metropolitan Police	Hammersmith & Fulham	27	1	8	13	5	21	**97**
24	Lancashire	Preston	32	2	2	7	4	12	**97**
25	Greater Manchester	Salford	20	1	3	12	10	13	**97**
26	Thames Valley	Slough UA	28	1	3	12	7	23	**94**
27	Hampshire	Southampton	33	2	1	4	5	12	**94**
28	Metropolitan Police	Haringey	28	2	6	14	9	13	**93**
29	Staffordshire	Stoke on Trent	33	2	1	7	5	11	**92**
30	Nottinghamshire	Mansfield	26	1	1	10	7	17	**90**
31	West Yorkshire	Leeds	21	1	2	13	8	14	**90**
32	Gloucestershire	Gloucester	26	1	2	8	6	14	**89**
33	Hampshire	Portsmouth	35	2	1	6	5	10	**89**
34	South Wales	Cardiff	18	1	1	8	6	22	**89**
35	Northumbria	Newcastle upon Tyne	21	2	1	10	5	12	**88**
36	Gwent	Newport	29	1	2	8	7	14	**88**
37	Metropolitan Police	Newham	32	2	8	8	9	15	**87**
38	Kent	Gravesham	17	1	2	5	6	17	**86**
39	Lancashire	Burnley	28	2	1	6	4	12	**85**
40	Metropolitan Police	Greenwich	35	2	5	8	8	10	**85**

Source: Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships - Recorded Crime for Key Offences 2003/04 to 2004/05, Home Office Data Tables available at
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html

References

A Better Way: Commission on the Reform of Public Services, Reform, 2003.

Bangs, M. and Kaya M., "Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2005", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/06,* Home Office, 27 April 2006.

Barclay, G., Tavares, C., and Siddique A., "International comparisons of criminal justice statistics 1999", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 6/01,* Home Office, May 2001.

Barclay, G., and Tavares C., "International comparisons of criminal justice statistics", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/03,* Home Office, October 2003.

Budget 2006 – A strong and strengthening economy: Investing in Britain's future, HM Treasury, 2006.

Crime Recording – Improving the Quality of Crime Records in Police Authorities and Forces in England and Wales, Audit Commission, December 2004.

Crime Statistics: User Perspectives, Interim Report, Statistics Commission, December 2005.

European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, 2003 (see: www.europeansourcebook.org).

Essex Police - Baseline Assessment, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, October 2005.

Glaeser, E. L. and Sacerdote B., "Why is there more crime in cities?", *Journal of Political Economy,* Vol. 107 (6), December 1999.

Greater Manchester Police - Baseline Assessment, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, October 2005.

Green, D. and Cackett B., *Do the official figures tell the full story?,* Civitas, 2005.

Green, D., Grove, E. and Martin N., *Crime and Civil Society – can we become a more law-abiding people?,* Civitas, 2005.

Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, Home Office, April 2006.

Home Office Five Year Plan 2004-2008, July 2004.

Key Statistics for local authorities in England and Wales Table KS01, Office for National Statistics, February 2003.

Key Statistics for urban areas in England and Wales Table KS01, Office for National Statistics, June 2004.

Manifesto for Reform, Reform, February 2005.

Morgan, K. O'Leary and Morgan S. (Eds.), *Urban crime rankings, 12th Edition,* Morgan Quitno Press, 2005.

Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, Audit Commission, May 2006.

Nicholas, S., Povey, D., Walker, A. and Kershaw C., "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/05,* Home Office, July 2005.

De Silva, N., Cowell, P. and Chow T., "Updated and revised prison population projections 2005-2011 England and Wales", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/05,* Home Office, July 2005.

Strategic Audit – discussion document, ["Weaknesses remain including high crime despite recent falls"], Prime Ministers Strategy Unit, Cabinet Office, November 2003.

Shury, J., Speed, M., Vivian, D., Kuechel, A. and Nicholas S., "Crime against retail and manufacturing premises: findings from the 2002 Commercial Victimisation Survey", *Home Office Online report 37/05,* Home Office, July 2005.

Simmons, J. and Dodd T. (Eds.), "Crime in England and Wales 2002-03", *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/03,* July 2003.