



**Home Office**

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**Statistical News Release**

**Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to June 2011**

The latest National Statistics on crime in England and Wales are released today. They are based on interviews from the British Crime Survey (BCS), and crimes recorded by the police, in the 12 months to June 2011. Each source has different strengths and weaknesses but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone (see Notes to editors).

There was no statistically significant change in BCS crime compared with the year to June 2010. The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by four per cent in the year to June 2011 compared with the previous year.

Neither the number of BCS personal crimes nor the number of BCS household crime showed a statistically significant change over this period, though there were changes in some specific offence categories. There were falls in most police recorded crime offence groups except robbery, 'other theft' offences and the most serious sexual crimes.

Levels of BCS violent crime showed no statistically significant change compared with the previous year. Police recorded violence against the person fell by eight per cent with falls in both violence with injury and violence without injury (by 9% and 6% respectively). Police recorded robbery rose by three per cent and the number of robberies involving knives was up by seven per cent.

The most serious sexual offences recorded by the police rose by two per cent compared with the previous year. This continues the pattern of rises in reporting and recording of such crimes seen since 2009, although the rate of increase appears to be slowing.

There was no change in BCS burglaries compared with the previous year (the apparent 10% rise was not statistically significant). This follows the BCS estimate for the year to March 2011 that did indicate a rise. The latest figures suggest it is still too early to be confident there has been a real change in the medium-term trend for BCS burglary which has been relatively stable since 2004/05. Police recorded crime figures showed a fall of three per cent in domestic burglary.

Both sources provide some evidence of increases in lower-level theft offences, such as pick-pocketing, shoplifting and theft of unattended property. Police recorded 'other theft' rose by five per cent and BCS 'other household theft' was up by 13 per cent (see Notes to editors for more information on these offence categories).

Both sources showed falls in vandalism offences. BCS vandalism was down nine per cent and police recorded criminal damage down 12 per cent.

Provisional statistics recorded by the police showed a 16 per cent fall in firearms offences.

BCS interviews in the 12 months to June 2011 showed that 54 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were dealing with the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter in the area, an increase from 52 per cent last year. The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area did a good or excellent job also increased (from 57% to 60%).

## **Notes to editors**

For the crime types and population groups it covers, the BCS provides a more reliable measure of trends in crime as it has a consistent methodology and is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, recording practice or police activity. The BCS does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime in England and Wales, but to produce estimates of crimes experienced by adults aged 16 and over resident in households. It does not cover all offences, with homicide, fraud and drug offences being notable exclusions.

Police recorded figures cover groups (e.g. residents of institutions and tourists) and sectors (e.g. commercial crime) excluded from the BCS sample and have a wider coverage of offences. However, police recorded crime does not cover those crimes that are not reported to or discovered by the police and is influenced by any changes in recording practice. Police recorded crime provides a robust measure of homicide (an offence not covered by the BCS) and is a good measure of well-reported crimes.

The BCS results are based on interviews conducted over a rolling 12 month period. In this bulletin, results are from interviews conducted in the year ending June 2011. Recorded crime figures in this bulletin relate to crimes recorded by the police in the year ending June 2011. The publication does not cover the period of the riots and disturbances in some areas in August 2011.

There is some overlap between the police recorded crime category of 'other theft' and BCS 'other household theft'. However, there are important differences in the coverage of the categories: police recorded crime figures for 'other theft' include offences such as theft from the person, shoplifting, bicycle theft, and theft of unattended property (including both offences against individuals and against organisations). By definition, the category of BCS 'other household theft' is restricted to the household population and comprises items stolen from outside the victim's home, for example from the garden. It also includes burglaries of non-connected buildings, such as sheds, and thefts in the victim's dwelling by someone entitled to be there, for example a workman.

'Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to June 2011' is available online via the National Statistics Publication Hub as well as the Science, Research and Statistics section of the Home Office website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1611/>

Also available today, via the above link, are:

- Figures at police force area level, covering a range of recorded crime offence groups and BCS findings on confidence and perceptions; and
- Recorded crime figures on a rolling 12 month basis going back to 2002/03 at police force and local authority area level.

Supplementary tables based on the findings from BCS interviews conducted in the 2010/11 financial year are also published today. The tables provide a picture of the nature of burglary, theft, violent crime and vandalism and a breakdown of victimisation and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour by personal, household and area characteristics. The tables expand on the information provided in the main publication 'Crime in England and Wales 2010/11' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/11) and should be read alongside this publication:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/>

Home Office Statistics is launching crime statistics consultations today. One relates to proposed changes to recorded crime classifications and the presentation of recorded crime statistics and another outlines proposed changes to the BCS sample design from April 2012. Users and producers of crime statistics are invited to comment on the proposals outlined in the consultation papers available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/about-home-office-science/consultations/>