

3 Violent and sexual crime (second edition)

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3.1 SUMMARY

There was no statistically significant change in the level of violent crime between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS. However, over recent years there has been an overall reduction in violent crime estimated by the BCS, consistent with trends in police recorded crime. Police recorded violence against the person fell by four per cent between 2008/09 and 2009/10.

- Longer-term trends from the BCS show that since 1995, the number of violent incidents has fallen by half (50%) and is now at a similar level to 1981. This fall represents two million fewer incidents and around 800,000 fewer victims in 2009/10 compared with 1995.
- Around half of both BCS and police recorded incidents of violence involved injury to the victim (51% and 46% respectively).
- Provisional data show that the police recorded 615 incidents of homicide in 2009/10, a six per cent decrease compared with 2008/09. There were 588 attempted murders, a two per cent increase compared with the previous year.
- Weapons were used in about one in five (19%) violent crimes as measured by the 2009/10 BCS.
- Provisional data on firearm offences recorded by the police show there were 7,995 firearm offences in England and Wales in 2009/10, a three per cent decrease since 2008/09 (8,208). There was an eight per cent increase in the number of firearm offences resulting in injury over the same period (from 1,764 to 1,901).
- The police collect additional information on selected violent offences involving knives and sharp instruments. There was a seven per cent fall in these knife offences (including homicide) between 2008/09 and 2009/10, from 36,335 offences to 33,771. The 2009/10 BCS estimates that knives were used in five per cent of violent incidents.

The BCS shows that risk of victimisation varies by personal characteristics, with men, and in particular young men, being at greatest risk of victimisation for overall violence.

- The risk of being a victim of violent crime in the 2009/10 BCS was 3.0 per cent. Men were more than twice as likely as women (4.2% compared with 1.8%) to have experienced violence in the year prior to interview. The risk was highest for men aged 16 to 24 at 13.3 per cent.
- The 2009/10 BCS self-completion module on violent and non-violent abuse carried out by a partner or family member (domestic abuse) shows that seven per cent of women were victims of domestic abuse in the past year compared with four per cent of men. There was no statistically significant change in either the proportion of men or the proportion of women experiencing domestic abuse between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS.

3.2 INTRODUCTION

Violent crime covered in this chapter contains the full spectrum of offences, from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the degree of violence can vary considerably between incidents. In around half of incidents identified by both BCS and police statistics, the violence resulted in no physical injury (see Section 3.4).

Both the BCS and police recorded crime data series provide information on violent crime and each have their own strengths and limitations. The BCS, which covers adults aged 16 and over resident in households in England and Wales, is a more reliable source for long-term trend comparisons for the crime types and population groups it covers as it has counted crimes in a consistent way since the survey began in 1982. It is unaffected by changes in levels of public reporting to the police or in police recording. It has previously not included the experiences of children but since January 2009 the survey has been extended to include a sample of children aged 10 to 15. Results from the first year of interviewing have recently been released as experimental statistics but are not incorporated into this bulletin (see Box 3.1).

Trends in police recorded violent crime can be difficult to interpret as they are influenced by a number of factors, including:

- Changes in police recording practices. For example, following the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002, police recorded violence against the person rose for three consecutive years. These rises did not reflect BCS trends in violence over this period. It is known that it took some forces several years to adjust to the new recording standard, so it is likely that these increases were influenced by the introduction of the NCRS. The numbers of violent crimes recorded by the police before and after the introduction of the NCRS are therefore not directly comparable. A further example is the clarification of the rules on classifying GBH with intent (see Chapter 2 for details).
- Levels of public reporting of incidents can impact on the number of crimes recorded by the police.
- Local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded crime. For example, an operation aimed at reducing disorder may result in more disorder offences coming to the attention of the police and a consequent increase in the number of disorder offences recorded by the police within the violence against the person category.

Police statistics are important for showing the mix of violent crime dealt with, and recorded by the police. Police recorded crime also provides data on homicides and crimes against those groups not covered by the BCS, such as those not resident in households. They also provide an indication of local policing activity and are a valuable source of information on local crime problems at a lower geographical level than is possible using the BCS.

As the BCS is a sample survey, relatively few victims of less frequently occurring crimes (such as robbery and those involving guns and knives) are interviewed and these figures are therefore subject to greater fluctuations between years. These offences are better represented within police recorded crime figures, though they are still subject to the above limitations and will only include those offences that come to the attention of the police.

The coverage of violent crimes contained in police recorded statistics and the BCS can be supplemented by additional sources to provide a more complete picture. NHS figures on hospital admissions for serious violence, which may capture incidents which the police do not come to know about, are also presented here.

Box 3.1 Experimental statistics on victimisation of children

Experimental statistics based on interviews with children between January and December 2009 were published in June 2010 (Millard and Flatley, 2010) together with a public consultation on the future use and presentation of the statistics.

The experimental statistics presented four different approaches to the classification of crimes against children: include all incidents that are in law a crime; use a norms based approach which excludes minor incidents, include “all in law” incidents except those occurring in school; or adopt a victim perceived approach where incidents were included only when the victim thought them to be a “crime”.

Across all four approaches, the number of incidents of violence experienced by children ranged between 248,000 and 1.7 million. Violent incidents comprised the largest number of personal crimes within each approach. However, as with the adult BCS, more serious violence such as wounding makes up a relatively small share of all violent incidents.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1110.pdf>

3.3 EXTENT AND TRENDS IN OVERALL VIOLENCE

The 2009/10 BCS estimates that there were 2,087,000 violent incidents against adults in England and Wales.¹ This estimate is not significantly different compared with the 2008/09 BCS (Table 2.01).

Within the overall category of BCS violence, there have also been no statistically significant changes for the specific offence types of wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury or robbery between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS (Table 2.01). As in previous years, assault without injury accounted for the largest proportion (39%) of all violent incidents measured by the BCS in 2009/10, followed by wounding (24%), assault with minor injury (21%), and robbery (16%) (Table 3.01).

There were 871,712 offences of violence against the person recorded by the police in 2009/10, four per cent less than in the previous year (Table 2.04). Within the overall category of police recorded violence against the person, both violence with injury and violence without injury fell, by five per cent and three per cent respectively (Table 2.04). Robbery is not included in police recorded violence against the person; this is described separately in Section 3.7.

In 2009/10 BCS interviews, victims reported that in 45 per cent of violent incidents the police came to know about the matter. Although BCS and police recorded crime data cover different populations and offences, this reporting rate estimated by the BCS is similar to the proportion of violent incidents recorded by the police out of the total number estimated by the 2009/10 BCS (42%) (Tables 2.01 and 2.11).

Long-term trends

For the population groups and offences it covers, the BCS is the best source for assessing long-term trends as it has used the same methodology since it began and is not influenced by reporting and recording changes that can impact on police figures. It shows that the number of violent incidents increased gradually through the 1980s and then sharply after 1991 to reach a peak in the mid 1990s. Since 1995, the number of violent incidents has fallen by half

¹ 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. For more information see Section 5.1 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics.

(50%) and is now at a similar level to 1981. This fall represents two million fewer incidents and around 800,000 fewer victims in 2009/10 compared with 1995 (Figure 3.1 and Table 2.01).

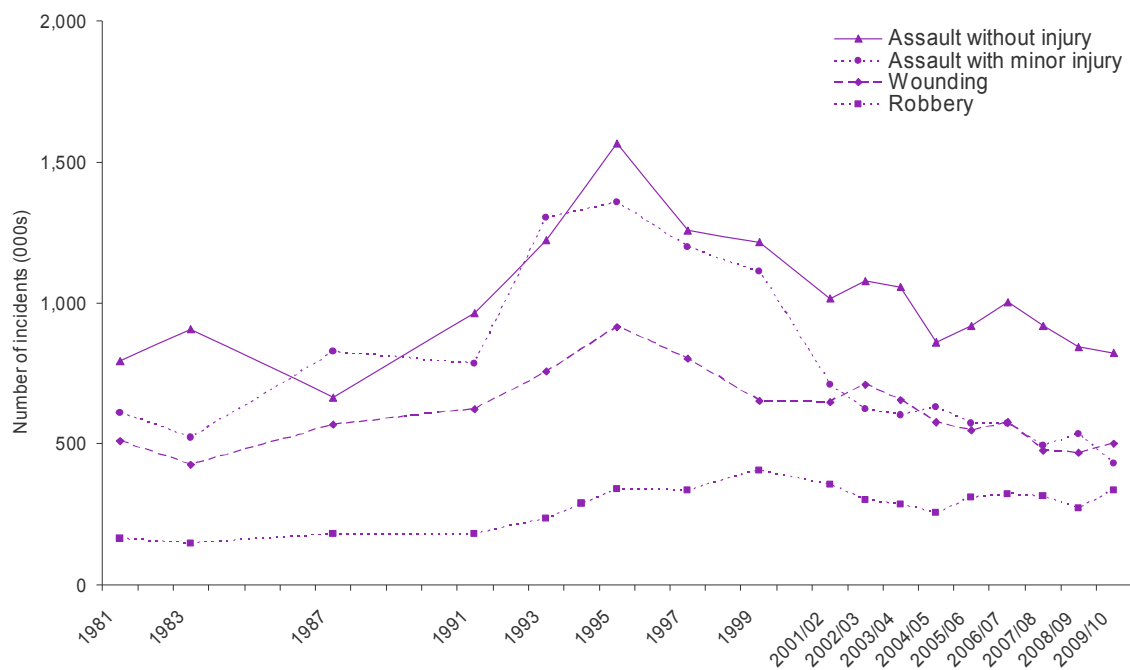
Figure 3.1 All violent crime, 1981 to 2009/10 BCS



1. For an explanation of year-labels, see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

The main trends in violence by offence type show a similar pattern to the overall trend in BCS violence (Figure 3.2 and Table 2.01).

- The number of incidents of BCS wounding showed a gradual rise between 1981 and 1995 and have since decreased by nearly half (45%). There were 501,000 incidents of wounding estimated by the 2009/10 BCS.
- Incidents of BCS assault with minor injury have decreased by over two-thirds (68%) since peaking in 1995 but with little change seen in recent years. The estimated number of assaults with minor injury was 428,000 based on the 2009/10 BCS.
- The BCS showed a steep increase in the number of assaults without injury between 1987 and 1995, reaching a peak of 1,567,000 incidents. The 2009/10 BCS estimated that there were 823,000 assaults resulting in no injury, an overall decline of around half (48%) since 1995.
- The small number of incidents of robbery reported to the BCS means that trends should be interpreted with caution. Over the long term, the number of robberies increased between 1981 and 1999. The number of robberies estimated by the 2009/10 BCS is not statistically significantly different from 1999.

Figure 3.2 Trends in violence by offence type, 1981 to 2009/10 BCS

1. For an explanation of year-labels, see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

Following the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002, police recorded violence against the person rose for three consecutive years (Table 2.04). These rises did not reflect BCS trends in violence over this period. It is known that it took some forces several years to adjust to the new recording standard, so it is likely that these increases were influenced by the introduction of the NCRS (Audit Commission, 2007). Subsequently, since 2005/06 recorded violence against the person has fallen by 18 per cent, a change that reflects more closely the 11 per cent fall in all violence between the 2005/06 and 2009/10 BCS (Table 2.01).

3.4 VIOLENCE AND INJURY

Both BCS and police recorded incidents of violence can be classified according to whether or not the victim sustained any form of injury as a result of the incident. Around half of both BCS and police recorded incidents of violence involved injury to the victim (51% and 46% respectively) (Tables 2.04 and 3.02).

All BCS violence includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. Injury is involved in all incidents of wounding and assault with injury, as well as two in five (41%) incidents of robbery (Table 3.02). Robbery is not included in police recorded violence against the person; this is described separately in Section 3.7.

Violence with injury

There was no statistically significant change in the number of incidents of violence with injury according to the 2009/10 BCS (1,065,000) compared with the previous year (Table 2.01). Violence with injury represents around half (51%) of all violent incidents.

Offences with injury accounted for nearly half (46%) of all police recorded violence against the person offences in 2009/10. The police recorded 401,743 violence against the person

offences that involved injury in 2009/10, five per cent less than in 2008/09, and the lowest figure since 2002/03 (Table 2.04).²

As with overall violence, after increases up to a peak in the mid 1990s, there has been an overall fall in BCS violence with injury since 1995. BCS interviews in 2009/10 show the number of violent crimes with injury to be at a similar level to that first reported in 1981 (Table 2.01).

Most injuries reported to the BCS are relatively minor, such as minor bruising or a black eye (31% of all violent incidents), cuts (15%), severe bruising (14%) and scratches (11%). The 2009/10 BCS shows that in 17 per cent of violent incidents the victim received some form of medical attention. Victims received attention from a doctor in ten per cent of incidents and three per cent of all violent incidents resulted in the victim having an overnight stay in hospital (Table 3.02).

Homicide and attempted murder

Homicide³ data presented here are taken from the main recorded crime returns sent to the Home Office by police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police. These figures are provisional; therefore caution should be taken in their interpretation.

In 2009/10 the police recorded 615 incidents of homicide, a six per cent decrease compared with 2008/09 (Table 2.04).⁴ The number of attempted murders recorded by the police was 588, a two per cent increase compared with the previous year.

More detailed data on homicide are collected through separate returns which are used to populate the Homicide Index. As the Homicide Index is continually being updated with revised information from the police and courts, it is a better source of data than the main recorded crime dataset. This also means that historically, figures differ between the two sources and when compared to the Homicide Index, the provisional figure of 615 homicides in 2009/10 is the lowest since 1997/98.

Further information on the Homicide Index can be found in Smith *et al.*, (2010). Findings for 2009/10 from the Homicide Index are planned for publication in January 2011.

Additional sources

Although not classified as National Statistics, further evidence on trends in violent crime involving injury is available from administrative data collected from health services. This is an important source of data as it includes incidents not reported to the police and those populations not covered by the BCS. The Violence and Society Research Group at Cardiff University (Sivarajasingam *et al.*, 2010) conduct an annual survey covering a sample of Emergency Departments and Walk-in Centres in England and Wales. The 2009 report showed a decrease of less than one per cent in violence-related Emergency Department attendances in 2009 compared with 2008. Longer-term trends from this study have reflected the downward BCS trends in violence since 2002. Further NHS data on admissions to hospital for assault with a sharp object are included in Section 3.6.

Violence without injury

Forty-nine per cent (1,021,000) of all violent incidents recorded by the 2009/10 BCS did not involve injury. The BCS shows that, in common with the general trend for violence, incidents of violence without injury increased up to a peak in 1995 followed by an overall fall, particularly between 1995 and 2001/02 (Tables 2.01 and 3.02).

² The 'with injury' offences include homicide, attempted murder, causing death by dangerous driving, grievous bodily harm with or without intent or other act endangering life and actual bodily harm and other injury.

³ The police statistics for the number of homicides include murders, manslaughters and infanticides that come to the attention of the police.

⁴ Figures for police recorded homicide prior to 1997 are available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/recorded-crime-1898-2002.xls>.

Police recorded crime figures show that the number of violence against the person offences that did not involve injury has decreased in the past year. The police recorded 469,969 such offences in 2009/10, three per cent less than in 2008/09 and the lowest figure since the introduction of the NCRS in 2002/03 (Table 2.04).⁵

3.5 RISKS OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

The overall risk of being a victim of violent crime in the 2009/10 BCS was 3.0 per cent although the proportion of adults who were a victim of violent crime in the last 12 months varied by personal characteristics. Younger people, and particularly younger men, were at greatest risk (Table 3.03).

- Both men and women aged 16 to 24 had a higher risk (13.3% and 4.3% respectively) than older age groups of being a victim of violent crime. Risks for both men and women aged 65 and over were less than one per cent.
- Overall, men were more than twice as likely as women (4.2% compared with 1.8%) to have experienced one or more violent crimes in the year prior to interview.
- Single people had the highest risk by marital status (7.2%). This is likely to reflect the younger age profile of this group.

Those most at risk remained broadly similar across all types of violence except domestic violence, for which women were at greater risk than men (0.4% compared with 0.2%) (Table 3.05). However, figures for domestic violence from the main BCS are known to be affected by underreporting. The BCS therefore also contains a self-completion module covering violent and non-violent abuse by a partner or family member (domestic abuse) which provides more reliable estimates for these types of incidents; see Section 3.9 for details.

A full breakdown of the risk of violent crime victimisation by personal, household and area characteristics is shown in Tables 3.03 to 3.06. Many of these characteristics will be closely associated (for example marital status and age) so caution is needed in the interpretation of the effects of these different characteristics when viewed in isolation. Further analysis using logistic regression can be used to control for interrelated characteristics and to identify which characteristics are independently associated with increased risk of victimisation; see Box 3.2 for more details.

⁵ The 'without injury' offences include threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children, and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).

Box 3.2 Analysis of risk of violence using logistic regression

Logistic regression can be used to estimate how much the risk of victimisation is increased or reduced according to different characteristics or behaviours, taking into account the fact that some variables may be interrelated. Although logistic regression can be used to explore associations between variables, it does not necessarily imply causation and results should be treated as indicative rather than conclusive.

Logistic regression shows that those characteristics that contributed most to explaining the risk of violence were **age**, **sex** and **marital status**. However, other variables such as having a long-term illness or disability, ethnicity and the number of visits to a nightclub in the past month were also important (Table 3.07).

The model shows that **men** had higher odds of being a victim of violence than women, and that both men and women **aged 16 to 24** had higher odds than people in older age groups. Further examination of the relationship between age and sex showed that the difference in the odds of being a victim of violence between men and women was greatest in the 16 to 24 age group and decreased with age.

People who were **separated**, **divorced** or **single** had higher odds of being a victim of violence compared with people who were married. Viewed in isolation, single people appear to have a higher risk than other groups due to their younger age profile. When age is controlled for using logistic regression, the increased effect of being separated or divorced becomes apparent.

Once other variables, particularly age, are controlled for, the effect of certain characteristics on the risk of being a victim of violence becomes clearer. For example, when viewed in isolation, having a long-term illness or disability has little effect on the risk of being a victim of violence. However, as people with a long-term illness or disability have an older age profile, this has the effect of lowering their overall risk. When age is controlled for, people with a long-term illness or disability have significantly higher odds of being a victim of violent crime compared with those without.

This model can be used to examine the relative risk of being a victim of violence for people with different demographic characteristics. For example, assuming all other characteristics in the model remain constant, the model predicts that a 23 year old single man had around 12 times the risk of being a victim of violence compared with a 55 year old married woman.

For more information on the methodology and interpretation of logistic regression presented here, [see Section 8.4 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#).

3.6 OFFENCES INVOLVING WEAPONS

Due to the small number of incidents involving weapons reported to the BCS, trends in these figures should be interpreted with caution. However, the BCS can provide an estimate of the number and type of weapons⁶ used in violent offences. Weapons were used in about one in five (19%) incidents of violent crime in the 2009/10 BCS (Tables 3.08 and 3.09).

According to the 2009/10 BCS, the most common types of weapons used in violent incidents were knives (5%), hitting implements⁷ (4%) and glasses or bottles (4%). Between 2008/09 and 2009/10, the use of knives decreased (from 8% to 5% of violent incidents), returning to a level similar to that seen in 2007/08 (6%), while there was no significant change in the use of hitting implements nor the use of glasses or bottles (Table 3.09).

⁶ BCS 'weapons' include bottles/drinking glasses, knives, screwdrivers/stabbing implements, hitting implements, firearms, stones and syringes.

⁷ This category includes sticks, clubs and other hitting implements.

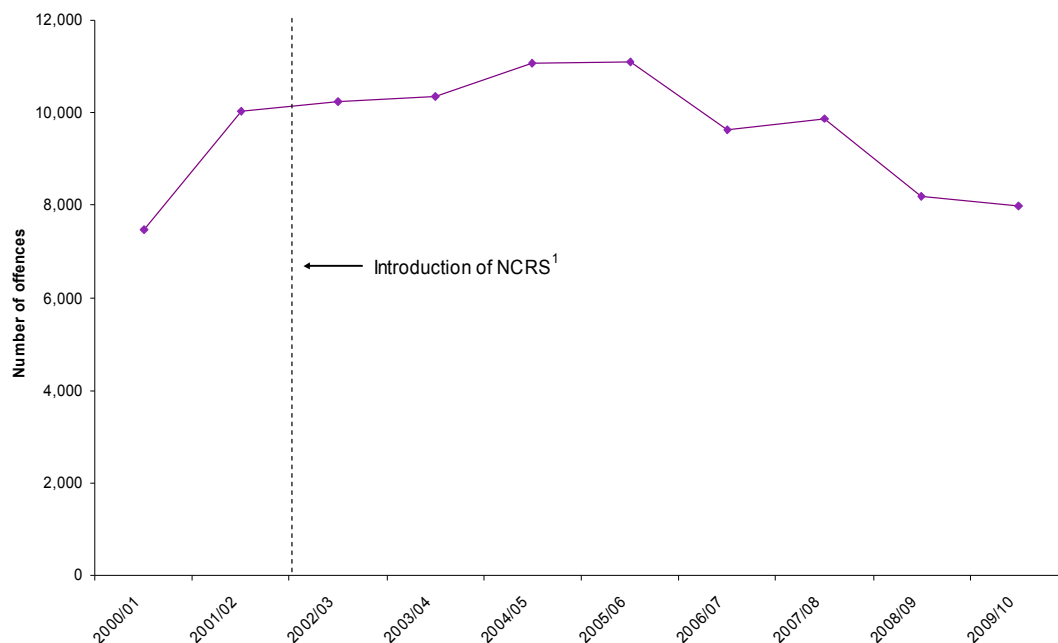
Police recorded crime data only contain details of weapon use in some instances. Information on the use of weapons is collected for offences involving the use of firearms, selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments and in homicides.

Offences involving firearms

Provisional statistics for 2009/10 are available for police recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons (referred to as 'firearm offences' in the remainder of this section). Firearms are taken to be involved in an incident if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used in a threat. Finalised figures are planned for publication in January 2011.

Provisional figures show that 7,995 firearm offences were recorded in England and Wales in 2009/10, a three per cent decrease from 2008/09 (8,208). Following the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002, there were small increases in the number of firearm offences recorded by the police until 2005/06, followed by a general downward trend since. This mirrors the trend in police recorded violence against the person. The number of firearm offences recorded in 2009/10 is 22 per cent lower than in 2002/03 (Figure 3.3 and Table 3.10).

Figure 3.3 Trend in recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, 2000/01 to 2009/10



1. The introduction of the NCRS in April 2002 means that figures prior to this date are not comparable with later figures.

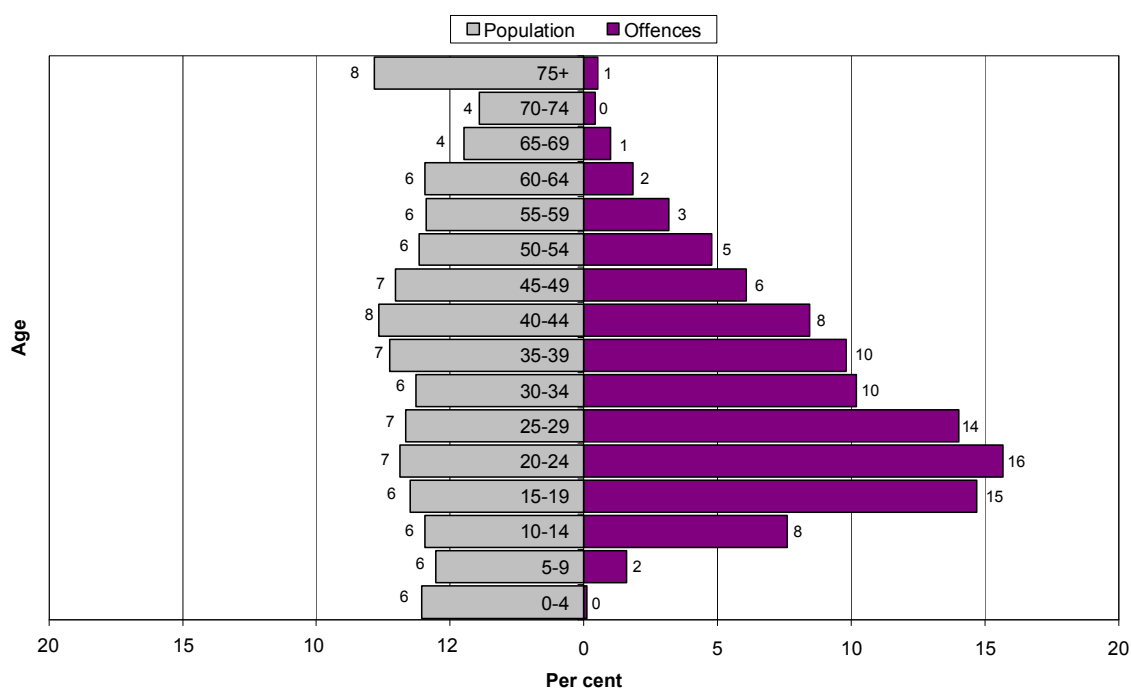
Provisional firearm offences can be broken down both by injury and by the type of weapon used (Tables 3.10 and 3.11).

- There were 39 firearm offences recorded by the police that resulted in a fatal injury in 2009/10, the same number as the previous year.
- The number of injuries resulting from firearm offences increased by eight per cent from 1,764 in 2008/09 to 1,901 in 2009/10. This follows a substantial 46 per cent decrease in the previous year, which was largely due to reductions in offences that resulted in slight injuries.

- Within firearm offences involving injury, 336 resulted in serious injury, an increase from 320 in 2008/09 and 1,526 resulted in slight injury, an increase from 1,405 in 2008/09.
- Offences involving threats to use a firearm fell from 5,215 in 2008/09 to 5,029 offences in 2009/10. Firearm offences that resulted in no injury fell from 1,229 to 1,065 offences over the same period.
- The decrease in firearm offences between 2008/09 and 2009/10 was largely due to a decrease in the number of offences involving handguns from 4,275 in 2008/09 to 3,705 in 2009/10. There were smaller decreases in the number involving shotguns and imitation firearms. There was an increase in the number of firearm offences involving unidentified firearms from 953 in 2008/09 to 1,373 in 2009/10.

Those aged 15 to 29 were disproportionately affected by firearm offences. Fifteen to 29 year olds make up 20 per cent of the population of England and Wales but were victims in 44 per cent of firearm offences. In contrast, people aged 60 and over constitute 22 per cent of the population, but were victims in four per cent of firearm offences and those aged under 15 make up 18 per cent of the population but were victims in nine per cent of firearm offences (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4 Age profile of victims of recorded crimes involving firearms other than air weapons, compared with the population profile for England and Wales, 2009/10



1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Firearm offences tend to be concentrated in just three police force areas: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands. In 2008/09 these three forces accounted for 60 per cent of all police recorded firearm offences across England and Wales (Smith *et al.*, 2010). The most recent figures for police force areas are planned for publication in January 2011.

Offences involving knives and sharp instruments

Since April 2007, the Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on offences involving knives and sharp instruments⁸ (referred to as 'knife offences' in the remainder of this section). Knives are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. In 2007/08 this group of offences consisted of attempted murder, Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery. In 2008/09, the offence coverage was expanded to include offences of threats to kill, Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), sexual assault and rape. Although the knife crime collection began in April 2007, due to the changes in the offence coverage and issues relating to a clarification in Counting Rules for GBH with intent (see Chapter 2), it is not possible to compare total police recorded knife crime levels between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Four forces include offences involving the use of unbroken bottles and glasses among offences in their knife and sharp instrument data returns to the Home Office, which are outside the scope of this collection.⁹ It is estimated that the inclusion of these offences results in national knife and sharp instrument figures being overstated by around three per cent.¹⁰ However, as practice within each force has remained consistent over time, trends are not affected.

In 2009/10, for the selected offences, the police recorded 33,566 offences where a knife or sharp instrument was involved, a fall of seven per cent from the previous year. There were falls over this period for all the offence categories (Tables 3.12 and 3.13).

- Of the selected offences involving knives, most were accounted for by offences of ABH and GBH (15,864) and robbery (15,592). However, while knives were used in 21 per cent of robbery offences, they were used in four per cent of offences of ABH and GBH. Overall, knives were involved in around six per cent of the total offences in the selected categories.
- In 2009/10, there were 262 attempted murders involving a knife, a fall from the 275 recorded the previous year.

Provisional information on the involvement of knives in homicides is taken from the Homicide Index.¹¹ These figures (and those for attempted murder) should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of offences involved. Homicides and attempted murders account for around one per cent of all knife offences (Table 3.12).

- The police provisionally recorded 205 knife homicides in 2009/10, a decrease from the 255 recorded in 2008/09.¹²

Information on offences recorded by the police can be supplemented by that obtained from the BCS, although the small number of incidents involving a knife reported means that trends should be interpreted with caution. The 2009/10 BCS estimates that knives were used in five per cent of violent incidents, down from eight per cent in 2008/09, returning to a level similar to that seen in 2007/08 (6%). This figure has remained between five and eight per cent since 1996 (Table 3.09).

⁸ A sharp instrument is any object that pierces the skin (or in the case of a threat, is capable of piercing the skin), e.g. a broken bottle.

⁹ The four forces that include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns are: West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police. In Quarterly Updates, it was reported that Derbyshire also included these offences but they have now revised their data.

¹⁰ This estimate is based on analysis of the April – June 2009 period when five forces included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns. The overstatement of around three per cent was largely due to the inclusion of these offences within the ABH and GBH categories. The use or threat of an unbroken bottle or glass was less common for other offence types.

¹¹ Final data for knife homicides for 2009/10 are due to be published in January 2011.

¹² The knife homicide figures for 2009/10 are provisional and will not be finalised until their publication in January 2011. Full details of methods and circumstances of homicides recorded in 2008/09 were published earlier this year in *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09* (Smith *et al.*, 2010).

Additional sources

The NHS provides an additional source of information for the more serious incidents of knife crime by reporting the number of admissions to NHS hospitals in England involving wounds suffered as the result of assault with a sharp object. Although these figures can be affected by changes in NHS practice and recording they are not likely to be affected by police enforcement activity, changes to public reporting or police recording practices.

The provisional 'Hospital Episode Statistics'¹³ show that in the 12 months from March 2009 to February 2010 there were 4,708 admissions for assault by a sharp object in England, four per cent less than the same period the previous year. This is in line with decreases seen in police recorded crime and the BCS, although hospital admissions will only involve the more serious incidents covered by these sources. Assaults with a sharp object comprise around 11 per cent of hospital admissions for assault. It should be noted that these figures are for admissions only and do not include those people who attended an Accident and Emergency department but were not subsequently admitted to hospital.

3.7 ROBBERY

Robbery is an offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. It covers a wide variety of different incidents such as bank robberies or street robberies, regardless of the amount of money or property stolen.

Police recorded robberies fell by six per cent from 80,134 in 2008/09 to 75,101 in 2009/10 and are at their lowest level since the introduction of the NCRS in April 2002. There were 66,928 robberies of personal property in 2009/10, down five per cent compared with 2008/09 and 8,173 robberies of business property (such as robberies in a shop or of cash in transit), down 13 per cent (Table 2.04). In 2009/10, 89 per cent of robberies were of personal property.

All crime tends to be geographically concentrated, but this is particularly the case for robberies. In 2009/10, 62 per cent of robberies in England and Wales were recorded by three police forces: the Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester and West Midlands (Table 7.05).

The BCS covers personal robberies against adults resident in households. The small number of robbery victims interviewed in the BCS means that estimates are prone to fluctuation from one year to the next and trends should be interpreted with caution. The number of robberies estimated by the 2009/10 BCS (335,000) is not statistically significantly different from the 2008/09 BCS (Figure 3.2 and Table 2.01).

3.8 SEXUAL OFFENCES

It is difficult to obtain reliable information on the extent of sexual offences as there is a degree of under-reporting of these incidents, affecting both BCS and police recorded crime figures. Figures on sexual offences are heavily influenced by the willingness of victims to report, however steps have been taken in both sources to improve the quality of data collected.

- The main BCS estimates are based on face-to-face interviews. Due to the sensitivity of questions on sexual offences, a separate self-completion module is included in the BCS which asks 16 to 59 year old respondents about their experience of sexual assault in the previous 12 months. These questions have been included in the BCS on a consistent basis since 2004/05. Headline figures from this module are presented here and additional analysis is planned for publication in January 2011.
- Over the last year, police forces have reported taking some additional steps to improve their recording of rape and other sexual offences. This may be reflected in the increases for recorded sexual offence figures that can be seen in 2009/10. Extra

¹³ The figures presented are the latest provisional data available from <http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk>. Hospital Episode Statistics for the 12 months to March 2010 will be published on 29 July 2010.

guidance for the recording of sexual offences has been incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules from 1 April 2010. While this guidance had not been issued during 2009/10 it reflected good practice that the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) had been promoting within forces over the previous year.

Based on the 2009/10 BCS self-completion module, approximately two per cent of women aged 16 to 59 and less than one per cent of men (of the same age) had experienced a sexual assault (including attempts) in the previous 12 months. The majority of these are accounted for by less serious sexual assaults. Less than one per cent of both women and men reported having experienced a serious sexual assault (Table 3.14).¹⁴

There were no changes in the overall prevalence of sexual assault between 2008/09 and 2009/10. The overall prevalence of sexual assault has fallen since 2004/05 (Tables 3.15 and 3.16).

Police recorded statistics on sexual offences are likely to be more heavily influenced by under-reporting than the BCS and therefore should be interpreted with caution. Analysis of the 2007/08 BCS self-completion module showed that 11 per cent of victims of serious sexual assault told the police about the incident (Povey *et al.*, 2009). There were 54,509 sexual offences recorded by the police in 2009/10, a six per cent increase compared with the previous year (Table 2.04).

Most serious sexual crime

The police recorded crime category of most serious sexual crime encompasses rape, sexual assault, and sexual activity with children. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of these offences, affecting long-term trends in these figures.

The police recorded 43,579 most serious sexual offences in 2009/10, a seven per cent increase compared with the 40,748 recorded in 2008/09. Most serious sexual offences accounted for 80 per cent of total sexual offences and one per cent of all recorded crime in 2009/10. Within this total, police recorded rapes of a female increased by 15 per cent to 13,991 offences, and sexual assaults on a female increased by one per cent to 19,873 offences. Rapes of a male increased by 22 per cent to 1,174 offences and sexual assaults on a male decreased by two per cent to 2,270 offences (Table 2.04). As mentioned above, these increases may be affected by steps forces have been taking to improve their recording of sexual offences.

The category of serious sexual assault used in the BCS self-completion module includes incidents of rape and assault by penetration. The 2009/10 BCS self-completion module showed that 0.1 per cent of men and 0.4 per cent of women had been the victim of a serious sexual assault (including attempts) in the year prior to interview. These estimates were not significantly different compared with the 2008/09 BCS (Table 3.15).

Other sexual offences

The police recorded 10,930 other sexual offences in 2009/10, a two per cent increase compared with 2008/09 (Table 2.04). The police recorded crime category of other sexual offences covers unlawful sexual activity, some of which involves consenting adults. It also includes exploitation of prostitution and soliciting, but not prostitution itself.¹⁵ Figures for these offences are particularly influenced by local police activity, rather than reporting by victims.

The BCS self-completion module includes a category of less serious sexual assault which covers incidents of indecent exposure, sexual touching and sexual threats. The 2009/10 BCS self-completion module showed that 0.4 per cent of men and 2.1 per cent of women had been victims of less serious sexual assault in the year prior to interview (again, not a significant change compared with 2008/09) (Table 3.15).

¹⁴ See Section 5.1 of the User Guide for definitions of categories of intimate violence.

¹⁵ Prostitution in itself is not a notifiable offence; trafficking for sexual exploitation is included in most serious sexual crime.

3.9 DOMESTIC ABUSE

In addition to questions on sexual assault, the BCS self-completion module also contains questions on violent and non-violent¹⁶ abuse carried out by a partner or family member (domestic abuse). Headline figures from this module are presented here and additional analysis is planned for publication in January 2011.

Based on the 2009/10 BCS, seven per cent of women aged 16 to 59 were victims of domestic abuse in the past year compared with four per cent of men (Table 3.14). There was no statistically significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse for either men or women between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS, but these estimates are at a lower level than in 2004/05 (Tables 3.15 and Table 3.16).¹⁷

In 2009/10, as in previous years, (non-sexual) partner abuse was the most common type of domestic abuse, experienced by five per cent of women and three per cent of men in the last year. Prevalence of (non-sexual) family abuse was lower with two per cent of women and one per cent of men aged 16 to 59 reporting having experienced this form of abuse (Table 3.14).

Among both men and women the prevalence of both (non-sexual) partner abuse and (non-sexual) family abuse did not differ significantly between 2008/09 and 2009/10 but both are at a lower level than the 2004/05 BCS (Table 3.15).

3.10 VIOLENCE BY TYPE OF OFFENDER

Victims were able to provide some details about the offender(s) in nearly all (99%) incidents of violence reported to the BCS (Table 3.17). Based on this information, violent crime measured by the BCS can be subdivided into four types (domestic, acquaintance, stranger violence and mugging), broadly on the basis of the relationship between the offender(s) and victim ([see Section 5.1 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#)). Unlike the main BCS measure of violence, this method of categorising violent offences includes incidents of snatch theft (as part of mugging).

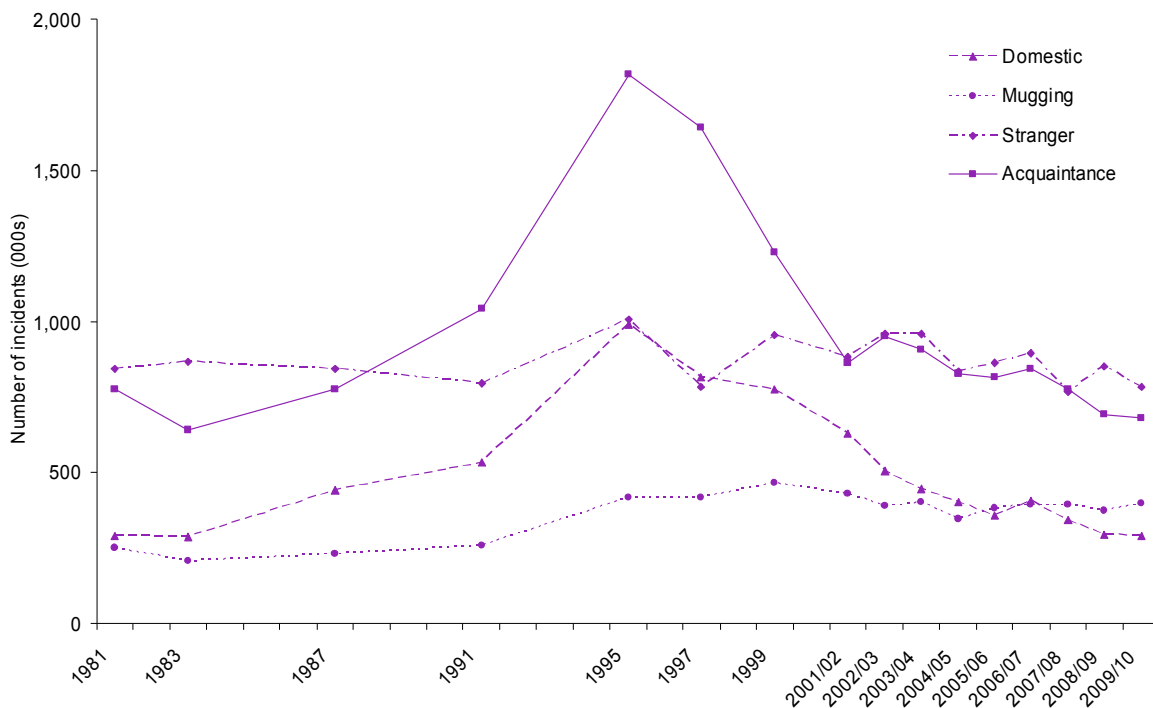
Offender-victim relationship

The increase seen in overall violence between 1981 and the mid-1990s was reflected in increases in the number of incidents for each type of BCS violence (apart from mugging). Following the peak in 1995, there have been large falls in domestic and acquaintance violence (71% and 63% respectively) and a smaller fall in stranger violence (22%). Estimates of the number of muggings have remained relatively consistent over the entire period from 1981 to 2009/10 (Figure 3.5 and Table 2.01).

Thirty-eight per cent of the 2,087,000 violent incidents estimated by the 2009/10 BCS were incidents of stranger violence, and a further 33 per cent were incidents of acquaintance violence. Domestic violence accounted for 14 per cent of violent incidents as measured on the main BCS (Table 3.01). Domestic violence is likely to be under-reported in face-to-face BCS interviews and so figures on domestic abuse from a self-completion module are used to supplement these figures (see Section 3.9). Prevalence rates for domestic violence from the self-completion module are around five times higher than rates obtained from face-to-face interviews on the main BCS (see Walby and Allen, 2004).

¹⁶ To assess the extent of non-violent abuse, respondents are asked whether a partner or family member has 'prevented you from having your fair share of household money', 'stopped you from seeing friends and relatives' or 'repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless'.

¹⁷ Domestic abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member. However, stalking has been removed from figures for domestic abuse used in trend analysis to create a comparable measure with previous years as questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence. 'Domestic abuse' is not directly comparable to the main BCS 'domestic violence' category.

Figure 3.5 Trends in violent crime by type of violence, 1981 to 2009/10 BCS

1. For an explanation of year-labels, see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

Stranger violence is more likely to be experienced by men while women are at greater risk of domestic violence.

- The risk of being a victim of stranger violence was 2.2 per cent for men compared with 0.6 per cent for women. In contrast, the risk of being a victim of domestic violence was 0.4 per cent for women and 0.2 per cent for men (Table 3.05).
- According to the 2009/10 BCS, most (79%) victims in incidents of stranger violence were men. In nearly three-quarters (73%) of incidents of domestic violence the victims were women (Table 3.01).

Offender characteristics

As with victims of overall violent crime, offenders in violent incidents were most likely to be young and male. In around half of violent incidents (53%) the offender was believed to be aged between 16 and 24 years and nine out of ten (91%) involved male offenders. In around half (48%) of violent incidents reported to BCS interviewers the offender was a stranger (Table 3.17).

Between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS there has been an increase in the proportion of violent incidents involving a male offender (from 86% to 91%) and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of violent incidents involving only female offenders (from 14% to 9%). There has also been an increase in the proportion of offences involving offenders of school age or under (from 8% to 12%), returning to a similar level to the 2007/08 BCS (Table 3.18).

3.11 INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

According to the 2009/10 BCS, victims believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in half (50%) of all violent incidents, similar to the level in the 2008/09 survey.¹⁸ Based on the 2009/10 BCS, there were 986,000 violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol (Tables 3.19 and 3.20).

In one in five (20%) violent incidents the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of drugs; again the difference was not statistically significant compared with 2008/09. The 2009/10 BCS estimates that there were 396,000 incidents where the victim perceived the offender(s) to be under the influence of drugs.

The number of alcohol-related and drug-related violent incidents are similar to the levels in 2008/09 (the apparent differences are not statistically significant).

Within the context of an overall fall in the number of violent crimes, longer-term trends show there have also been significant decreases since 1995 in the number of violent incidents in which victims believed offender(s) were under the influence of either alcohol or drugs. However, the proportion of both alcohol-related and drug-related violent incidents has increased over this period (Table 3.20).

¹⁸ Questions were asked if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), which they could do in nearly all (99%) incidents. If there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender was perceived to be under school age.

Table 3.01 Number of violent incidents against men and women by violence category

Numbers and percentages				England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS					
	Number of incidents (thousands)			Percentage ² of incidents by offence/type			Percentage of incidents by sex		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
All violence¹	1,391	695	2,087	100	100	100	67	33	100
Wounding	315	186	501	23	27	24	63	37	100
Assault with minor injury	254	174	428	18	25	21	59	41	100
Assault without injury	576	246	823	41	35	39	70	30	100
Robbery	245	89	335	18	13	16	73	27	100
Domestic	78	212	290	6	30	14	27	73	100
Acquaintance	449	230	679	32	33	33	66	34	100
Stranger	618	165	783	44	24	38	79	21	100
Mugging (<i>robbery & snatch theft</i>)	269	129	398	19	19	19	68	32	100

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See [Section 5.1 of User Guide](#) for more information.

2. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding and also, within the bottom half of the table, the inclusion of the snatch theft category within 'mugging'.

Table 3.02 Injuries sustained in violent incidents

Percentages		England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS							
	All violence ¹	Offence type				Violence type			
		Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault with no injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)
Sustained physical injury²	51	100	100	0	41	68	53	48	34
Type of injury²									
Minor bruise/black eye	31	36	91	n/a	22	38	34	29	18
Cuts	15	54	0	n/a	13	15	15	16	11
Severe bruising ³	14	47	2	n/a	11	24	14	11	9
Scratches	11	21	15	n/a	18	17	10	7	15
Broken bones	3	10	0	n/a	3	3	2	3	3
Concussion or loss of consciousness	2	7	0	n/a	5	2	2	2	4
Broken nose	2	5	0	n/a	3	2	2	1	2
Facial or head injuries (no bruising)	1	4	1	n/a	0	0	1	2	0
Chipped teeth	1	2	0	n/a	2	0	1	0	2
Broken or lost teeth	1	3	0	n/a	0	0	1	1	0
Eye/face injuries due to acid/paint etc. thrown into face	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	6	3	n/a	3	1	2	3	2
No physical injury	49	0	0	100	59	32	47	52	66
Some form of medical attention	17	46	10	1	19	12	16	18	19
Medical attention from a doctor	10	30	4	1	8	10	11	10	8
Hospital stay ⁴	3	8	0	0	4	2	2	3	4
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	<i>1,256</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>391</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>245</i>

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one type of physical injury may have been sustained. By definition, all incidents of wounding and assault with minor injury will involve a physical injury; conversely assault with no injury does not include any incidents where a physical injury was sustained.

3. A small proportion of assaults with minor injury involved severe bruising – these incidents have been coded as such based on additional information provided by the victim.

4. This question asks whether the victim stayed in hospital for at least one night and is asked of those who sought medical attention (excluding dentists); base is victims of all violent incidents.

5. The base given is for the question about injury sustained in violent incidents; base sizes for overnight hospital stay will be lower as not all victims were asked this question.

Table 3.03 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by offence type and personal characteristics

Percentages							England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS						
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Unweighted base		All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Unweighted base
	% victims once or more							% victims once or more					
ALL ADULTS	3.0	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.6	44,559	Respondent's employment status						
							In employment	3.3	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.6	24,042
16-24	8.9	2.5	2.3	3.1	1.9	3,666	Unemployed	7.7	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.6	1,409
25-34	4.0	0.8	0.9	1.8	0.7	5,998	Economically inactive	2.0	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5	18,992
35-44	2.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.4	8,007	Student	7.2	1.5	1.3	2.5	1.9	1,120
45-54	1.9	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.2	7,312	Looking after family/home	1.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.2	2,387
55-64	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.2	7,627	Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	3.7	1.3	0.6	1.6	0.7	1,942
65-74	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	6,321	Retired	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	12,899
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	5,628	Other inactive	3.7	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.2	644
Men	4.2	1.1	0.9	1.8	0.8	20,079	Respondent's occupation						
							Managerial and professional occupations	2.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.4	14,731
16-24	13.3	3.7	3.2	4.8	3.2	1,708	Intermediate occupations	2.2	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.3	9,016
25-34	5.6	1.2	1.1	2.8	0.8	2,572	Routine and manual occupations	2.9	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.5	17,060
35-44	2.9	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.5	3,539	Never worked and long-term unemployed	3.6	0.6	0.7	1.3	1.4	1,685
45-54	2.2	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.3	3,468	Full-time students	8.2	1.8	1.9	2.7	2.0	1,732
55-64	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.2	3,654	Not classified	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	335
65-74	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	2,921							
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	2,217	Highest qualification						
							Degree or diploma	2.8	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.6	14,403
Women	1.8	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	24,480	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	4.0	1.1	0.9	1.7	0.5	7,463
							O level/GCSE	4.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.9	8,540
16-24	4.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.7	1,958	Other	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.4	1,893
25-34	2.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.6	3,426	None	1.7	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.3	12,170
35-44	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4	4,468							
45-54	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.2	3,844	Long-standing illness or disability						
55-64	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.2	3,973	Long-standing illness or disability	2.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.6	12,715
65-74	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	3,400	Limits activities	2.6	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.6	9,052
75+	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	3,411	Does not limit activities	3.0	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.5	3,657
							No long-standing illness or disability	3.1	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.6	31,761
Ethnic group							Hours out of home on an average weekday						
White	3.1	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.5	41,226	Less than 3 hours	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	13,527
Non-White	2.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.0	3,255	3 hours less than 7 hours	2.9	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.6	12,136
Mixed	3.6	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.0	316	7 hours or longer	3.9	1.0	0.9	1.6	0.7	18,814
Asian or Asian British	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.0	1,482							
Black or Black British	2.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	1.0	877	Number of evening visits to bar in last month						
Chinese or other	2.6	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.8	580	None	1.9	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.4	23,053
							Less than once a week	3.2	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	12,427
Marital status							Once a week or more often	5.2	1.5	1.3	2.1	0.8	9,075
Married	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	20,956							
Cohabiting	3.0	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.5	3,957	Number of visits to a nightclub in last month						
Single	7.2	1.9	1.7	2.6	1.5	9,072	None	2.2	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.4	40,568
Separated	4.7	1.6	1.3	1.9	0.3	1,415	Less than once a week	8.0	2.0	2.1	2.5	1.9	3,228
Divorced	2.9	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.5	4,061	Once a week or more often	12.0	4.7	3.6	3.3	2.2	759
Widowed	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	5,087							

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. See Section 7.3 of User Guide for definitions of personal characteristics.

Table 3.04 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by offence type, household and area characteristics

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS					Unweighted base
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	
	<i>% victims once or more</i>					
ALL ADULTS	3.0	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.6	44,559
Structure of household						
Single adult & child(ren)	4.4	1.6	1.8	1.2	0.2	2,259
Adults & child(ren)	3.1	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.7	9,709
Adult(s) & no children	2.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.5	32,591
Total household income						
Less than £10,000	3.3	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.7	6,223
£10,000 less than £20,000	2.4	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.5	8,828
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.9	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.4	6,122
£30,000 less than £40,000	2.4	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.6	4,541
£40,000 less than £50,000	3.4	1.0	0.8	1.6	0.3	2,983
£50,000 or more	3.0	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.6	6,073
No income stated or not enough information provided	3.5	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.8	9,738
Tenure						
Owners	2.2	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.3	30,624
Social renters	3.6	1.0	0.8	1.4	0.8	7,440
Private renters	5.4	1.4	1.2	2.1	1.2	6,337
Accommodation type						
Houses	2.9	0.7	0.6	1.2	0.5	38,141
<i>Detached</i>	1.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	11,767
<i>Semi-detached</i>	3.2	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.6	14,150
<i>Terraced</i>	3.6	1.0	0.8	1.4	0.7	12,224
Flats/maisonettes	3.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.9	5,596
Other accommodation	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	132
Output area classification						
Blue collar communities	3.9	1.1	1.0	1.7	0.5	7,536
City living	3.8	1.1	0.9	1.5	0.6	2,028
Countryside	1.9	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.2	6,880
Prospering suburbs	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.2	10,731
Constrained by circumstances	3.9	1.0	1.1	1.5	0.6	4,501
Typical traits	3.1	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.5	9,136
Multicultural	3.4	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.7	3,747
Area type						
Urban	3.2	0.8	0.7	1.2	0.7	32,984
Rural	2.4	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.2	11,575
Level of physical disorder						
High	3.5	0.9	0.6	1.7	0.7	2,384
Not high	3.0	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.6	41,758
Employment deprivation index						
20% most deprived output areas	3.6	0.9	0.9	1.3	0.9	7,779
Other output areas	3.0	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.5	24,554
20% least deprived output areas	2.6	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.5	8,398

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. See Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of User Guide for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Table 3.05 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by type of violence and personal characteristics

Percentages							England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS						
	All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	Unweighted base		All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	Unweighted base
	% victims once or more							% victims once or more					
ALL ADULTS	3.0	0.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	44,559	Respondent's employment status						
							In employment	3.3	0.2	1.0	1.7	0.7	24,042
16-24	8.9	0.5	3.0	4.0	2.2	3,666	Unemployed	7.7	1.0	3.0	2.7	2.0	1,409
25-34	4.0	0.4	1.0	2.1	0.9	5,998	Economically inactive	2.0	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	18,992
35-44	2.5	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.6	8,007	Student	7.2	0.4	2.1	2.9	2.0	1,120
45-54	1.9	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.3	7,312	Looking after family/home	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.6	2,387
55-64	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.2	7,627	Long-term/temporarily sick/ill	3.7	0.8	1.1	1.4	0.8	1,942
65-74	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	6,321	Retired	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	12,899
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	5,628	Other inactive	3.7	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	644
Men	4.2	0.2	1.3	2.2	0.9	20,079	Respondent's occupation						
							Managerial and professional occupations	2.4	0.2	0.6	1.2	0.5	14,731
16-24	13.3	0.2	4.2	6.5	3.3	1,708	Intermediate occupations	2.2	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.5	9,016
25-34	5.6	0.2	1.4	3.5	1.0	2,572	Routine and manual occupations	2.9	0.3	1.0	1.2	0.6	17,060
35-44	2.9	0.3	0.9	1.5	0.7	3,539	Never worked and long-term unemployed	3.6	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.9	1,685
45-54	2.2	0.2	0.8	1.0	0.3	3,468	Full-time students	8.2	0.3	2.2	3.9	2.2	1,732
55-64	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.2	3,654	Not classified	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	335
65-74	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	2,921	Highest qualification						
75+	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	2,217	Degree or diploma	2.8	0.3	0.7	1.4	0.8	14,403
Women	1.8	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	24,480	Apprenticeship or A/AS level	4.0	0.3	1.2	2.1	0.6	7,463
							O level/GCSE	4.2	0.4	1.3	1.8	1.1	8,540
16-24	4.3	0.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	1,958	Other	1.8	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	1,893
25-34	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	3,426	None	1.7	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	12,170
35-44	2.0	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4	4,468	Long-standing illness or disability						
45-54	1.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3	3,844	Long-standing illness or disability	2.8	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.7	12,715
55-64	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	3,973	Limits activities	2.6	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.8	9,052
65-74	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	3,400	Does not limit activities	3.0	0.4	0.9	1.4	0.6	3,657
75+	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	3,411	No long-standing illness or disability	3.1	0.2	0.9	1.4	0.7	31,761
Ethnic group							Hours out of home on an average weekday						
White	3.1	0.3	1.0	1.4	0.6	41,226	Less than 3 hours	1.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	13,527
Non-White	2.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	1.3	3,255	3 hours less than 7 hours	2.9	0.4	1.0	1.2	0.7	12,136
Mixed	3.6	0.5	0.8	1.3	1.6	316	7 hours or longer	3.9	0.2	1.1	2.0	0.9	18,814
Asian or Asian British	2.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.3	1,482	Number of evening visits to bar in last month						
Black or Black British	2.5	0.3	0.0	1.2	1.8	877	None	1.9	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.6	23,053
Chinese or other	2.6	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.8	580	Less than once a week	3.2	0.4	0.9	1.4	0.8	12,427
Marital status							Once a week or more often	5.2	0.3	1.8	2.6	1.0	9,075
Married	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	20,956	Number of visits to a nightclub in last month						
Cohabiting	3.0	0.2	1.0	1.6	0.6	3,957	None	2.2	0.3	0.6	1.0	0.5	40,568
Single	7.2	0.5	2.3	3.2	1.8	9,072	Less than once a week	8.0	0.5	2.8	3.0	2.2	3,228
Separated	4.7	1.9	0.8	1.8	0.4	1,415	Once a week or more often	12.0	0.6	3.7	6.6	2.6	759
Divorced	2.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	4,061							
Widowed	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	5,087							

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. See Section 7.3 of User Guide for definitions of personal characteristics.

Table 3.06 Proportion of adults who were victims of violence by type of violence, household and area characteristics

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS					Unweighted base
	All violence ¹	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)	
% victims once or more						
ALL ADULTS	3.0	0.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	44,559
Structure of household						
Single adult & child(ren)	4.4	2.2	1.2	1.0	0.5	2,259
Adults & child(ren)	3.1	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.8	9,709
Adult(s) & no children	2.9	0.2	0.8	1.4	0.7	32,591
Total household income						
Less than £10,000	3.3	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.9	6,223
£10,000 less than £20,000	2.4	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.6	8,828
£20,000 less than £30,000	2.9	0.3	0.9	1.5	0.4	6,122
£30,000 less than £40,000	2.4	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.7	4,541
£40,000 less than £50,000	3.4	0.1	1.1	2.1	0.6	2,983
£50,000 or more	3.0	0.1	0.7	1.6	0.7	6,073
No income stated or not enough information provided	3.5	0.2	1.1	1.6	0.9	9,738
Tenure						
Owners	2.2	0.1	0.7	1.1	0.4	30,624
Social renters	3.6	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.1	7,440
Private renters	5.4	0.5	1.5	2.5	1.5	6,337
Accommodation type						
Houses	2.9	0.2	0.9	1.3	0.6	38,141
<i>Detached</i>	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.4	11,767
<i>Semi-detached</i>	3.2	0.2	0.9	1.5	0.7	14,150
<i>Terraced</i>	3.6	0.4	1.2	1.5	0.8	12,224
Flats/maisonettes	3.9	0.7	0.9	1.7	1.3	5,596
Other accommodation	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	132
Output area classification						
Blue collar communities	3.9	0.4	1.5	1.8	0.6	7,536
City living	3.8	0.4	0.5	2.4	0.9	2,028
Countryside	1.9	0.1	0.9	0.8	0.3	6,880
Prospering suburbs	2.0	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.3	10,731
Constrained by circumstances	3.9	0.6	1.4	1.5	0.8	4,501
Typical traits	3.1	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.6	9,136
Multicultural	3.4	0.3	0.4	1.2	2.0	3,747
Area type						
Urban	3.2	0.3	0.8	1.5	0.8	32,984
Rural	2.4	0.2	1.2	0.9	0.3	11,575
Level of physical disorder						
High	3.5	0.4	1.1	1.4	0.8	2,384
Not high	3.0	0.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	41,758
Living environment deprivation index						
20% most deprived output areas	3.6	0.5	1.0	1.4	1.1	7,779
Other output areas	3.0	0.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	24,554
20% least deprived output areas	2.6	0.2	0.7	1.3	0.5	8,398

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. See Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of User Guide for definitions of household and area characteristics.

Table 3.07 Explanatory factors associated with risk of being a victim of violence (using logistic regression)

Dependent variable: Respondent was a victim of BCS violence in the 12 months prior to interview; yes (1), no (0)¹

England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS

Iteration 1			Iteration 2			Iteration 3					Variables [*]
β -coefficient	p-value ²	Odds ratio ³	β -coefficient	p-value ²	Odds ratio ³	β -coefficient	Standard error	p-value ²	Odds ratio ³	Confidence interval	
-3.87			-5.48			-5.79					Constant
1.41	0.000	4.08	1.37	0.000	3.93	1.32	0.12	0.000	3.75	2.95 - 4.78	Sex**
	0.000	1.00		0.000	1.00			0.000	1.00		Male
	0.000	1.00		0.000	1.00			0.000	1.00		Female
-0.91	0.000	0.40	-0.63	0.000	0.53	-0.50	0.10	0.000	0.61	0.50 - 0.73	Age**
-1.54	0.000	0.21	-1.11	0.000	0.33	-0.90	0.12	0.000	0.41	0.32 - 0.51	16 - 24
-1.99	0.000	0.14	-1.50	0.000	0.22	-1.27	0.14	0.000	0.28	0.21 - 0.37	25 - 34
-2.61	0.000	0.07	-1.91	0.000	0.15	-1.67	0.17	0.000	0.19	0.14 - 0.26	35 - 44
-4.05	0.000	0.02	-3.10	0.000	0.04	-2.82	0.25	0.000	0.06	0.04 - 0.10	45 - 54
											55 - 64
											65+
0.23	0.000	1.25	0.21	0.000	1.24	0.21	0.04	0.000	1.23	1.13 - 1.34	Interaction: Female by age**
	0.000			0.000				0.000			Ethnic group**
0.59	0.000	1.80	0.68	0.000	1.98	0.58	0.11	0.000	1.78	1.42 - 2.23	White
	0.000	1.00		0.000	1.00			0.000	1.00		Non-White
0.80	0.000	2.22	0.80	0.000	2.22	0.84	0.10	0.000	2.32	1.92 - 2.80	Long-standing illness or disability**
0.48	0.000	1.62	0.46	0.000	1.58	0.47	0.11	0.000	1.60	1.28 - 2.00	Long-standing illness or disability - limiting
	0.000	1.00		0.000	1.00			0.000	1.00		Long-standing illness or disability - non-limiting
											No long-standing illness or disability
											Respondent's marital status**
											Married
			0.07	0.544	1.07	0.03	0.11	0.803	1.03	0.82 - 1.29	Cohabiting
			0.73	0.000	2.07	0.61	0.10	0.000	1.84	1.51 - 2.23	Single
			1.23	0.000	3.43	1.18	0.17	0.000	3.25	2.34 - 4.52	Separated
			0.84	0.000	2.31	0.76	0.15	0.000	2.14	1.61 - 2.85	Divorced
			0.45	0.099	1.56	0.40	0.27	0.139	1.49	0.88 - 2.53	Widowed
				0.000	1.00			0.000	1.00		Respondent's employment status**
											In employment
			0.24	0.038	1.27	0.34	0.12	0.004	1.41	1.12 - 1.78	Unemployed
			-0.36	0.000	0.70	-0.23	0.10	0.021	0.79	0.65 - 0.97	Economically inactive
				0.039	1.00			0.045	1.00		Respondent's occupation**
											Managerial and professional occupations
			-0.05	0.612	0.95	-0.04	0.10	0.674	0.96	0.79 - 1.16	Intermediate occupations
			-0.09	0.304	0.91	-0.09	0.09	0.325	0.92	0.77 - 1.09	Routine and manual occupations
			0.04	0.800	1.04	0.13	0.17	0.453	1.14	0.81 - 1.60	Never worked and long-term unemployed
			0.22	0.068	1.25	0.22	0.12	0.078	1.24	0.98 - 1.59	Full-time students
			-1.26	0.086	0.28	-1.24	0.74	0.091	0.29	0.07 - 1.22	Not classified
				0.029	1.00			0.048	1.00		Highest qualification**
			0.23	0.033	1.26	0.18	0.11	0.113	1.19	0.96 - 1.48	Degree or diploma
			0.23	0.034	1.26	0.14	0.11	0.215	1.15	0.92 - 1.42	Apprenticeship or A/AS level
			0.28	0.006	1.33	0.26	0.10	0.011	1.30	1.06 - 1.59	O level/GCSE
			-0.12	0.550	0.89	-0.14	0.20	0.471	0.87	0.59 - 1.28	Other
					1.00				1.00		None
				0.033	1.00			0.042	1.00		Total household income**
											Less than £10,000
			-0.07	0.554	0.93	-0.07	0.12	0.558	0.93	0.73 - 1.18	£10,000 less than £20,000
			-0.02	0.898	0.98	-0.03	0.13	0.838	0.97	0.76 - 1.26	£20,000 less than £30,000
			-0.22	0.128	0.80	-0.24	0.15	0.096	0.79	0.59 - 1.04	£30,000 less than £40,000
			0.19	0.191	1.21	0.19	0.15	0.210	1.20	0.90 - 1.61	£40,000 less than £50,000
			0.15	0.258	1.16	0.12	0.13	0.388	1.12	0.86 - 1.46	£50,000 or more
			-0.06	0.610	0.94	-0.07	0.11	0.554	0.94	0.75 - 1.17	Not stated/not enough information
				0.584	1.00			0.578	1.00		Tenure
											Owners
			0.08	0.408	1.08	0.10	0.10	0.327	1.10	0.91 - 1.33	Social renters
			0.07	0.371	1.07	0.05	0.08	0.476	1.05	0.91 - 1.22	Private renters
				0.009	1.00			0.014	1.00		Accommodation type**
			0.34	0.000	1.41	0.33	0.10	0.001	1.39	1.15 - 1.69	Detached house
			0.26	0.012	1.30	0.26	0.11	0.016	1.29	1.05 - 1.59	Semi-detached house
			0.33	0.011	1.39	0.32	0.13	0.013	1.38	1.07 - 1.78	Terraced house
			-0.88	0.569	0.41	-0.83	1.54	0.589	0.43	0.02 - 8.94	Flats/maisonettes
											Other accommodation
				0.608	1.00			0.437	1.00		Area type
											Urban
			0.05	0.608	1.05	0.07	0.09	0.437	1.07	0.90 - 1.29	Rural
				0.000	1.00			0.000	1.00		Output Area Classification**
			0.45	0.000	1.57	0.47	0.11	0.000	1.59	1.29 - 1.97	Blue collar communities
			0.20	0.179	1.22	0.15	0.15	0.311	1.16	0.87 - 1.55	City living
			0.03	0.852	1.03	0.04	0.14	0.787	1.04	0.79 - 1.36	Countryside
					1.00				1.00		Prospering suburbs
			0.48	0.000	1.62	0.51	0.13	0.000	1.66	1.30 - 2.12	Constrained by circumstances
			0.26	0.013	1.29	0.26	0.10	0.013	1.30	1.06 - 1.59	Typical traits
			0.37	0.004	1.44	0.36	0.13	0.004	1.44	1.12 - 1.85	Multicultural
				0.113	1.00			0.136	1.00		Level of physical disorder
											High
			0.18	0.113	1.20	0.17	0.12	0.136	1.19	0.95 - 1.49	Not high
								0.074	1.00		Hours out of home on an average weekday
											Less than 3 hours
						0.22	0.11	0.048	1.24	1.00 - 1.54	3 hours less than 7 hours
						0.25	0.11	0.025	1.28	1.03 - 1.59	7 hours or longer
								0.461	1.00		Number of evening visits to bar in last month
											None
						0.07	0.08	0.393	1.07	0.92 - 1.25	Less than once a week
						0.11	0.09	0.217	1.11	0.94 - 1.32	Once a week or more often
								0.000	1.00		Number of visits to a nightclub in last month**
											None
						0.49	0.08	0.000	1.63	1.39 - 1.90	Less than once a week
						0.63	0.12	0.000	1.88	1.50 - 2.36	Once a week or more often
											Unweighted base ⁴
		43,468			43,468					43,468	Nagelkerke R square ⁵
		0.128			0.151					0.158	-2 log-likelihood ⁷
		10346.708 (df=10)			10097.250 (df=46)**					10026.20 (df=52)**	

1. Estimates may be biased due to the skewed frequency distribution of the dependent variable: 97.0% of respondents had not been a victim of violence in the 12 months prior to interview.

2. Where variables or categories are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level (p<0.05) values are highlighted in bold. Categories in italics are those which were used as reference categories.

3. Odds ratios of greater than one indicate relatively higher odds compared with the reference category in that variable; less than one indicates relatively lower odds.

4. *** denotes a statistically significant impact of that variable on the dependent variable.

5. The unweighted base includes all respondents resident in households in England and Wales who gave a valid response to all questions included in the model.

6. The Nagelkerke R square indicates which model has the highest model fit. The higher the value the better the model predicts the outcome.

7. The -2 log-likelihood (-2LL) is a measure implying what remains unexplained by the model. If the -2LL difference exceeds a critical value that model explains the dependent variable significantly better than the model from the previous iteration (indicated by **).

8. See Section 7 of User Guide for definitions of personal, household and area characteristics.

Table 3.08 Use of weapons in violent incidents

Percentages		England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS							
	All violence ¹	Offence type				Violence type			
		Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)
Weapon used	19	14	10	24	24	15	19	18	20
No weapon used	80	85	88	75	75	85	81	79	77
Not known (<i>not able to say anything about offender/no contact</i>)	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	3	3
Knife	5	3	1	5	15	4	3	3	12
Hitting implement ²	4	4	3	5	5	3	6	3	4
Glass/bottle	4	8	3	3	1	2	5	5	0
Stabbing implement ³	2	1	0	4	1	0	3	2	1
Firearm ⁴	2	1	0	3	2	0	3	2	2
Stones	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	2
Syringe	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other	4	1	5	7	2	6	7	3	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,205</i>	<i>285</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>469</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>231</i>

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. Includes sticks, clubs and other hitting implements.

3. Includes screwdrivers and other stabbing implements.

4. Includes pistol, rifle, shotgun, airgun, air rifle, and any gun which could not be identified.

5. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one weapon could be used.

Table 3.09 Use of weapons in violent incidents, 1996 to 2009/10 BCS

Percentages	England and Wales, BCS												
	All violence ¹												
	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Statistically significant change 2008/09 to 2009/10
Weapon used	23	20	16	23	26	21	25	22	24	24	21	19	
No weapon used	76	79	82	76	72	78	74	78	74	76	78	80	
Not known (<i>not able to say anything about offender/no contact</i>)	<1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	
Knife	8	5	5	7	8	5	6	7	7	6	8	5	**
Hitting implement ²	6	4	8	7	6	7	7	7	6	7	4	4	
Glass/bottle	3	6	3	6	5	5	6	4	5	4	5	4	
Stabbing implement ³	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	
Firearm ⁴	1	1	<1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Stones	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	
Syringe	n/a	n/a	n/a	<1	<1	<1	<1	0	0	1	1	0	**
Other	7	7	<1	3	5	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,111	949	1,065	1,346	1,474	1,478	1,545	1,574	1,691	1,477	1,391	1,205	

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5.1 of User Guide for more information.

2. Includes sticks, clubs and other hitting implements.

3. Includes screwdrivers and other stabbing implements.

4. Includes pistol, rifle, shotgun, airgun, air rifle, and any gun which could not be identified.

5. Figures may add to more than 100 as more than one weapon could be used.

6. <1 notation is used to indicate a value greater than zero but less than 0.5%.

7. For consistency with incidence and prevalence rates presented elsewhere, since 2008/09 use of weapons in violent incidents excludes incidents that were experienced in the month of interview.

Table 3.10 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by level of injury

Numbers and percentage changes			England and Wales, Recorded crime								
Nature of injury	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	% change 2008/09 to 2009/10
<i>Numbers</i>											
Fatal injuries	72	96	80	68	76	49	56	53	39	39	-
Serious injuries ¹	244	392	416	437	412	476	412	402	320	336	5
Slight injuries	1,066	1,391	1,683	1,862	3,416	3,297	2,543	2,786	1,405	1,526	9
Total injuries	1,382	1,879	2,179	2,367	3,904	3,822	3,011	3,241	1,764	1,901	8
Threats	5,498	7,192	6,986	6,659	5,521	5,400	5,042	5,060	5,215	5,029	-4
No injuries	591	953	1,083	1,312	1,644	1,866	1,592	1,564	1,229	1,065	-13
Total	7,471	10,024	10,248	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865	8,208	7,995	-3

1. A serious injury is one which required a stay in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet, or multiple shot wounds.

2. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.

3. Data for police recorded firearms offences are provisional and are submitted via an additional detailed return. Final data are due for publication in January 2011.

Table 3.11 Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by type of weapon

Numbers and percentage changes			England and Wales, Recorded crime								
Type of weapon	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	% change 2008/09 to 2009/10
<i>Numbers</i>											
Shotgun	608	712	672	718	597	642	612	602	619	585	-5
Handgun	4,110	5,874	5,549	5,144	4,360	4,672	4,173	4,172	4,275	3,705	-13
Rifle ¹	36	64	52	48	54	71	69	71	89	65	-27
Imitation firearm ²	787	1,246	1,814	2,146	3,373	3,277	2,516	2,562	1,511	1,486	-2
Unidentified firearm	950	1,176	1,431	1,356	1,500	1,362	1,276	1,325	953	1,373	44
Other firearm ³	980	952	730	926	1,185	1,064	999	1,133	761	781	3
Total	7,471	10,024	10,248	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865	8,208	7,995	-3

1. Because of the small number of offences involving rifles the percentage change should be treated with caution.

2. Imitation handguns, which are converted to fire bullets like handguns, are counted as handguns.

3. Other firearms include CS gas, disguised firearms, machine guns, pepper spray, stun guns and other specified weapons (the majority being paintball guns).

4. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.

5. Data for police recorded firearms offences are provisional and are submitted via an additional detailed return. Final data are due for publication in January 2011.

Table 3.12 Selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments, numbers of selected offences and percentage change, by offence type

Selected offence type	England and Wales, Recorded crime		
	Number of selected offences involving a knife		% change compared with previous year ¹
	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09-2009/10
Attempted murder	275	262	-5
Threats to kill	1,564	1,524	-3
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ¹	17,182	15,864	-8
Robbery	16,693	15,592	-7
Rape	232	230	-1
Sexual assaults ²	134	94	-30
Total selected offences³	36,080	33,566	-7
Homicide ⁴	255	205	-20
Total selected offences including homicides³	36,335	33,771	-7

1. Includes wounding or carrying out an act endangering life.

2. Includes indecent assault on a male/female, sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).

3. Four police forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces. The four forces are: West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

4. Includes provisional figures for 2009/10. For 2008/09, offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 24 November 2009 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. Updated figures for both years will be included within a forthcoming Supplementary Bulletin, scheduled for early 2011.

5. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection.

Table 3.13 Proportions of selected violent and sexual offences recorded by the police involving knives or sharp instruments, by offence type

Selected offence type	England and Wales, Recorded crime	
	Proportion of selected offences that involved a knife	
	2008/09	2009/10
Attempted murder	48	44
Threats to kill	16	16
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ¹	4	4
Robbery	21	21
Rape	2	2
Sexual assaults ²	1	0
Total selected offences³	7	6
Homicide ⁴	39	34
Total selected offences including homicides³	7	6

1. Includes wounding or carrying out an act endangering life.

2. Includes indecent assault on a male/female, sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).

3. Four police forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces. The four forces are: West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

4. Includes provisional figures for 2009/10. For 2008/09, offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 24 November 2009 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available. Updated figures for both years will be included within a forthcoming Supplementary Bulletin, scheduled for early 2011.

5. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection.

Table 3.14 Prevalence of intimate violence by category among adults aged 16 to 59

Percentages	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS					
	Since the age of 16			In the last year		
	Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
	<i>% victims once or more</i>					
Any domestic abuse (partner or family non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	15.8	29.4	22.6	4.2	7.5	5.8
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	12.7	26.0	19.3	3.1	5.8	4.4
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault or stalking)	6.7	10.1	8.4	1.6	2.6	2.1
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) – non-sexual	11.2	22.6	16.9	2.6	4.6	3.6
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	7.4	15.4	11.4	1.9	2.9	2.4
Threats or force	6.2	17.4	11.8	1.1	2.8	2.0
Threats	1.0	9.8	5.4	0.2	1.5	0.8
Force	6.0	15.9	10.9	1.0	2.3	1.7
- Minor	2.8	12.6	7.7	0.5	1.6	1.0
- Severe	5.0	11.7	8.4	0.8	1.5	1.1
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) – non-sexual	6.2	8.9	7.6	1.4	2.3	1.9
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	3.5	5.4	4.4	1.0	1.4	1.2
Threats or force	3.7	6.0	4.8	0.6	1.2	0.9
Threats	1.1	2.5	1.8	0.2	0.5	0.4
Force	3.3	5.2	4.2	0.5	0.9	0.7
- Minor	1.4	3.5	2.5	0.1	0.5	0.3
- Severe	2.7	3.7	3.2	0.4	0.6	0.5
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	2.3	19.7	10.9	0.5	2.3	1.3
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.3	5.1	2.7	0.1	0.4	0.2
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.2	4.3	2.2	0.0	0.3	0.2
Rape including attempts	0.3	4.7	2.5	0.0	0.4	0.2
Rape excluding attempts	0.2	3.8	2.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.1	1.8	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.1
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.1	1.5	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.1
Less serious sexual assault	2.2	19.0	10.5	0.4	2.1	1.3
Stalking	9.3	18.7	14.0	2.9	4.4	3.6
<i>Unweighted base</i> ¹	<i>9,971</i>	<i>11,988</i>	<i>21,959</i>	<i>9,892</i>	<i>11,728</i>	<i>21,620</i>

1. Bases given are for any domestic abuse; bases for other measures will be similar.

2. See User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics for definitions of different categories of intimate violence.

3. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse, any family abuse, partner abuse (non-sexual) and any sexual assault differ from those originally published in Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 due to revisions in analysis.

Table 3.15 Prevalence of intimate violence in the last year among men and women aged 16 to 59, 2004/05 to 2009/10 BCS

Percentages	England and Wales, BCS														
	Men							Women							
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 ¹	2008/09	2009/10	Statistically significant change 2004/05 to 2009/10	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 ¹	2008/09	2009/10	Statistically significant change 2004/05 to 2009/10	2008/09 to 2009/10
	% victims once or more							% victims once or more							
Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	5.6	5.5	5.8	5.2	4.0	3.6	**	8.1	8.2	7.9	6.9	6.4	6.6	**	
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.3	2.7	2.7	**	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.3	4.7	5.0	**	
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.8	1.5	**	3.3	3.2	3.3	2.3	2.6	2.4	**	
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) – non-sexual	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.2	2.7	2.6	**	5.6	5.7	5.6	4.9	4.4	4.6	**	
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	1.8	1.9	**	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	2.8	2.9	**	
Threats or force	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.2	1.1	**	3.3	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.8		
Threats	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2		1.5	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.5		
Force	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.0	**	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.3		
- Minor	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.5	**	1.9	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6		
- Severe	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.8	**	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.5		
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) – non-sexual	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.4	1.8	1.4	**	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.1	2.4	2.3	**	
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.0		1.7	1.8	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.4		
Threats or force	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.6	**	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.5	1.2	**	
Threats	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2		0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.5		
Force	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.5	**	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.2	0.9	**	
- Minor	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	**	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.5	**	
- Severe	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4	**	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6	**	
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5		2.8	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.3	**	
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4		
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0		0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3		
Rape including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0		0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4		
Rape excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0		0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3		
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	**	
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1		
Less serious sexual assault	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4		2.6	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.1	**	
Stalking	6.3	4.8	4.2	n/a	2.8	2.9	**	6.6	6.5	5.9	n/a	4.4	4.4	**	
<i>Unweighted base³</i>	<i>10,369</i>	<i>11,159</i>	<i>11,127</i>	<i>10,810</i>	<i>10,964</i>	<i>10,011</i>		<i>12,570</i>	<i>13,423</i>	<i>12,873</i>	<i>12,410</i>	<i>12,866</i>	<i>11,833</i>		

1. The 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence did not include questions on stalking.

2. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse and any family abuse have excluded stalking in order to create a comparable measure across years (questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS).

3. The bases given are for any domestic abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

4. See Section 5 of the User Guide for definitions of the various types of intimate violence.

5. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse, any family abuse, partner abuse (non-sexual) and any sexual assault differ from those originally published in Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 due to revisions in analysis.

Table 3.16 Prevalence of intimate violence in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, 2004/05 to 2009/10 BCS

Percentages							England and Wales, BCS		
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 ¹	2008/09	2009/10	Statistically significant change 2004/05 to 2008/09 to 2009/10 2009/10		
	<i>% victims once or more</i>								
Any domestic abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.1	5.2	5.1	**		
Any partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	5.1	5.1	5.2	4.8	3.7	3.8	**		
Any family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats, force or sexual assault)²	2.7	2.6	2.7	1.8	2.2	1.9	**		
Partner abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) – non-sexual	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.5	3.5	3.6	**		
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.3	2.4	**		
Threats or force	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.4	1.9	2.0	**		
Threats	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8			
Force	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.7	**		
- Minor	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	**		
- Severe	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.1	**		
Family abuse (non-physical abuse, threats or force) – non-sexual	2.6	2.5	2.6	1.8	2.1	1.9	**		
Non-physical abuse (emotional, financial)	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.2	**		
Threats or force	1.4	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.9	**	**	
Threats	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4			
Force	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.7	**	**	
- Minor	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3	**	**	
- Severe	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.5	**	**	
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts)	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.3	**		
Serious sexual assault including attempts	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2			
Serious sexual assault excluding attempts	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2			
Rape including attempts	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2			
Rape excluding attempts	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2			
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	**		
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1			
Less serious sexual assault	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.3	**		
Stalking	6.4	5.7	5.1	n/a	3.6	3.6	**		
<i>Unweighted base³</i>	<i>22,939</i>	<i>24,582</i>	<i>24,000</i>	<i>23,220</i>	<i>23,830</i>	<i>21,844</i>			

1. The 2007/08 BCS self-completion module on intimate violence did not include questions on stalking.

2. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse and any family abuse have excluded stalking in order to create a comparable measure across years (questions on stalking were not included in the 2007/08 BCS).

3. The bases given are for any domestic abuse; the bases for the other measures presented will be similar.

4. See Section 5 of the User Guide for definitions of the various types of intimate violence.

5. Figures for any domestic abuse, any partner abuse, any family abuse, partner abuse (non-sexual) and any sexual assault differ from those originally published in Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 due to revisions in analysis.

Table 3.17 Offender characteristics in violent incidents

	England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS								
	Offence type					Violence type			
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)
Able to say something about offender(s)	99	99	98	99	99	100	100	97	97
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,215	286	269	472	188	179	380	468	237
Number of offenders									
One	61	69	73	60	37	97	67	53	40
Two	13	7	11	13	25	1	10	15	23
Three	7	6	6	6	14	0	4	10	13
Four or more	19	18	10	22	24	1	20	22	23
Sex of offender(s)									
Male(s)	84	87	80	79	95	79	80	85	93
Female(s)	9	6	17	10	3	19	10	7	4
Both	7	7	2	11	3	2	10	8	3
Age of offender(s)²									
Aged under 16 ³	12	16	6	13	9	3	22	7	9
Aged 16 to 24	53	44	48	53	72	28	51	56	72
Aged 25 to 39	31	35	37	28	25	40	25	35	24
Aged 40 or older	12	17	12	14	1	30	16	7	2
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)⁴</i>	1,195	280	266	466	183	179	379	454	227
Relationship to victim⁵									
Stranger	48	37	41	49	69	0	0	100	73
Known by sight or to speak to	23	18	23	26	22	0	58	0	19
Known well	29	45	36	25	9	100	42	0	8
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)⁶</i>	1,236	291	272	486	187	182	391	476	233

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of the User Guide for more information.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one offender could be involved.

3. Prior to 2008/09, categories of age under 16 were split into 'school age' and 'under school age'. Therefore, only the combined category is comparable to previous years.

4. Figures here are based on incidents in which the victim could say something about the offender(s); base given is for the question asking about number of offenders, other bases are similar.

5. The relationship to the offender(s) is classified as: 'stranger' if the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before; 'known by sight or to speak to' if at least one offender falls into either category; and 'known well' if at least one offender falls into this category (for multiple offenders this takes priority over any less well-known offenders).

6. All victims were asked about their relationship to the offender(s).

Table 3.18 Offender characteristics in violent incidents, 2002/03 to 2009/10 BCS

Percentages	All violence ¹								England and Wales, BCS
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Statistically significant change 2008/09 - 2009/10
Able to say something about offender	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	99	100	99	99	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,690	1,490	1,428	1,215	
Number of offenders									
One	63	58	60	56	57	54	65	61	
Two	11	14	11	13	13	13	9	13	**
Three	7	8	9	9	8	8	7	7	
Four or more	19	20	21	22	21	25	19	19	
Sex of offender(s)									
Male(s)	79	80	75	78	78	76	81	84	
Female(s)	14	11	15	14	11	13	14	9	**
Both	7	9	10	9	11	11	5	7	
Age of offender(s)²									
Aged under 16 ³	n/a	n/a	12	14	12	13	8	12	**
Aged 16 to 24	n/a	n/a	50	50	51	52	55	53	
Aged 25 to 39	n/a	n/a	34	32	34	31	30	31	
Aged 40 or older	n/a	n/a	13	12	12	13	13	12	
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)⁴</i>	n/a	n/a	1,530	1,564	1,656	1,468	1,376	1,195	
Relationship to victim⁵									
Stranger	45	47	46	46	44	44	50	48	
Known by sight or to speak to	24	23	23	23	24	26	21	23	
Known well	32	30	32	30	32	30	29	29	
<i>Unweighted base (victim was able to say something about offender)⁶</i>	1,536	1,540	1,612	1,631	1,705	1,528	1,403	1,236	

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury.

2. Figures add to more than 100 as more than one offender could be involved.

3. Prior to 2008/09, categories of age under 16 were split into 'school age' and 'under school age'. Therefore, only the combined category is comparable to previous years.

4. Detailed questions about offender(s) are only asked of victims who experienced three or less offences in the last year to minimise respondent burden. Figures here are based on incidents in which the victim could say something about the offender(s); base given is for the question asking about number of offenders, other bases are similar.

5. The offender-victim relationship is classified as: 'strangers' if the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before; 'known by sight or to speak to' if at least one offender falls into either category; and 'known well' if at least one offender falls into this category (for multiple offenders this takes priority over any less well-known offenders).

6. All victims were asked about their relationship to the offender(s) – this includes detailed questions of victims who experienced three or less offences and brief questions to those who experienced more than three but less than six offences in the last year. Figures here are based on incidents in which the victim could say something about the offender(s).

7. For consistency with incidence and prevalence rates presented elsewhere, since 2008/09 offender characteristics in violent incidents excludes incidents that were experienced in the month of interview.

Table 3.19 Proportion of violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Percentages		England and Wales, 2009/10 BCS							
		Offence type				Violence type			
	All violence ¹	Wounding	Assault with minor injury	Assault without injury	Robbery	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging (robbery & snatch theft)
Offender(s) perceived to be under influence of alcohol²									
Yes	50	63	55	50	21	37	52	65	19
No	42	31	41	42	56	63	44	25	57
Don't know	9	6	3	8	23	0	5	10	24
Offender(s) perceived to be under influence of drugs²									
Yes	20	23	19	16	25	18	22	16	23
No	51	49	56	54	41	75	55	42	42
Don't know	29	28	25	30	33	6	23	41	35
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,196</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>466</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>456</i>	<i>229</i>

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of the User Guide for more information.

2. Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

Table 3.20 Violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 1995 to 2009/10

Percentages and numbers (000s)	England and Wales, BCS											Statistically significant change	
	1995	1997	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	1995 to 2009/10	2008/09 to 2009/10
<i>Proportion of all violent incidents¹</i>													
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:²													
Alcohol	41	43	48	45	51	49	45	46	46	47	50	**	
Drugs	16	18	21	20	20	18	23	17	19	17	20	**	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,078</i>	<i>915</i>	<i>1,285</i>	<i>1,397</i>	<i>1,398</i>	<i>1,455</i>	<i>1,512</i>	<i>1,658</i>	<i>1,477</i>	<i>1,449</i>	<i>1,196</i>		
<i>Number of violent incidents (000s)</i>													
Offender(s) perceived to be under the influence of:²													
Alcohol	1,656	1,457	1,244	1,177	1,299	1,105	1,023	1,087	971	973	986	**	
Drugs	655	603	549	544	474	390	531	398	390	334	396	**	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>16,348</i>	<i>14,947</i>	<i>32,824</i>	<i>36,479</i>	<i>37,931</i>	<i>45,120</i>	<i>47,729</i>	<i>47,138</i>	<i>46,903</i>	<i>46,220</i>	<i>44,559</i>		

1. 'All violence' includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery. See Section 5 of the User Guide for more information.

2. Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

3. For an explanation of year-labels see 'Conventions used in figures and tables' at the start of this volume.

ERRATA

Tables 3.14, 3.15 and 3.16 have been amended due to changes in the method of analysis for calculating these figures. Please see Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England & Wales 2009/10 (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf>) for details of these changes to analysis. In addition, there was an error in the calculation of the figure for partner abuse (non-sexual) since 16 previously published.

Amended 20th January 2011