

Crime in England and Wales 2009/10: Wales factsheet

Neil Higgins, Jennifer Innes, Andrew Britton and Paul Robb

Levels of crime in Wales

Police recorded crime (Table 1, Figure 1)

- In 2009/10, the total recorded crime rate in Wales (74 offences per 1,000 population) was below the rate for England and Wales as a whole (79 offences per 1,000 population). The recorded crime rates in Wales were the same or lower than the overall England and Wales rates in all the main offence groups with the exception of criminal damage.
- The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Wales fell by six per cent in 2009/10 compared with a reduction of eight per cent across England and Wales as a whole.
- There were reductions across all the main offence groups, compared with 2008/09. The number of offences against vehicles fell by 16 per cent and criminal damage fell by 13 per cent, while violence against the person and burglary both decreased by two per cent.

British Crime Survey (Tables 2 and 3, Figure 2 and 'Understanding BCS data' text box on page 6)

- The risk of victimisation (the proportion of the population who were victimised once or more in the last 12 months) for both personal and household crime was lower in Wales overall than for England and Wales as a whole.
- The incidence¹ rate of BCS burglary was lower in Wales, while the incidence rates of vehicle-related theft and violence were similar, compared with the average for England and Wales.
- For those offence groups reported separately for Wales, there were no statistically differences in crime levels between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS.

Levels of crime by police force area

Police recorded crime (Table 1)

- Rates of total recorded crime were above the rate for England and Wales as a whole in two of the four police force areas in Wales. The lowest rate in Wales was in Dyfed-Powys (44 offences per 1,000 population) while the highest rate was recorded in Gwent (91 offences per 1,000 population).
- Rates of recorded crime in Dyfed-Powys were lower than England and Wales across all the main offence groups. In North Wales the rates were lower than England and Wales for burglary, offences against vehicles and other theft offences but similar for criminal damage and higher for violence against the person.
- The rates in South Wales were the same as those for England and Wales for violence against the person and other theft offences, lower for burglary but higher for offences against vehicles and criminal damage. Gwent had lower rates than England and Wales for other theft offences but for the other main groups they were higher.
- Total recorded crime decreased by 12 per cent between 2008/09 and 2009/10 in South Wales, by seven per cent in Dyfed-Powys and by three per cent in North Wales. Gwent saw a three per cent increase over the same period.
- Offences of violence against the person decreased by seven per cent between 2008/09 and 2009/10 in Dyfed-Powys and South Wales, remained stable in Gwent and increased by eight per cent in North Wales. Burglary increased by 28 per cent in Gwent, and by two per cent in North Wales but decreased by 19 per cent in Dyfed-Powys, and by 14 per cent in South Wales. All Welsh forces recorded a reduction in criminal damage.

¹ The incidence rate is the number of crimes experienced per household or adult [see section 2 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics].

Table 1 Recorded crime by police force area and England and Wales, 2009/10¹

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, Recorded crime						
	Total recorded crime (number) ²	Recorded crime rates per 1,000 population					
		Total recorded crime (rates)	Violence against the person	Burglary	Offences against vehicles ³	Other theft offences ⁴	Criminal damage
Wales	221,391	74	16	8	9	16	16
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	22,377	44	10	4	3	9	10
<i>Gwent</i>	50,842	91	17	13	14	17	20
<i>North Wales</i>	44,919	66	18	7	5	14	15
<i>South Wales</i>	103,253	83	16	9	12	19	18
England	4,057,139	79	16	10	9	19	15
England and Wales	4,338,604	79	16	10	9	19	15
% change 08/09 to 09/10							
Wales	221,391	-6	-2	-2	-16	-1	-13
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	22,377	-7	-7	-19	-17	-1	-17
<i>Gwent</i>	50,842	3	0	28	5	6	-6
<i>North Wales</i>	44,919	-3	8	2	-19	3	-13
<i>South Wales</i>	103,253	-12	-7	-14	-24	-5	-15
England	4,057,139	-8	-4	-7	-16	-4	-14
England and Wales	4,338,604	-8	-4	-7	-16	-4	-14

1. The listed recorded crime offences are a selection of the main offence groups. For more detail on what offences are contained under these groupings, see the Recorded crime list in [Appendix 2 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics]. The population figures used are the mid-2008 population estimates provided by the Office for National Statistics and are consistent with those used in Crime in England and Wales 2009/10.

2. Total recorded crime offences include: violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, offences against vehicles, other theft offences, fraud and forgery, drug offences, criminal damage and other offences. The England and Wales total row includes offences recorded by the British Transport Police (BTP). However, BTP figures are not included in the rest of the table.

3. Offences against vehicles includes: theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.

4. See the Recorded crime list in [Appendix 2 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for the list of offences included in 'Other theft offences'.

Table 2 BCS risk and incidence rates for household and personal crime by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, BCS							
	Household crime				Personal crime			
	% victim at least once	Different from England & Wales	Rate per 10,000 households ¹	Change 08/09 to 09/10	% victim at least once	Different from England & Wales	Rate per 10,000 adults ¹	Change 08/09 to 09/10
Wales	14	**	2,081		5	**	691	
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	8	**	1,081		2	**	186	**↓
<i>Gwent</i>	21	**	3,600		6	**	1,132	**↑
<i>North Wales</i>	11	**	1,639		3	**	528	
<i>South Wales</i>	16	**	2,167		6	**	824	
England	17	**	2,550	**↓	6	**	824	**↓
England and Wales	16	**	2,525	**↓	6	**	817	

1. Rates for household crime (including burglary and vehicle-related theft) are calculated per 10,000 households. Rates for personal crime (including violent crime) are calculated per 10,000 adults.

Table 3 BCS rate of crime by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, BCS								
	Burglary			Vehicle-related theft ²			All BCS violence		
	Rate per 10,000 households ¹	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	Rate per 10,000 households ¹	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	Rate per 10,000 adults ¹	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10
Wales	168	**		546			445		
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	39	**		260	**		66	**	**↓
<i>Gwent</i>	262	**	**↑	741			750	**	**↑
<i>North Wales</i>	112	**		356			438		
<i>South Wales</i>	222	**		712			489		
England	287	**		521		**↓	469		
England and Wales	280	**		522		**↓	467		

1. Rates for household crime (including burglary and vehicle related theft) are calculated per 10,000 households. Rates for personal crime (including violent crime) are calculated per 10,000 adults.

2. 'Vehicle-related theft' consists of thefts of and from, and attempted thefts of and from, vehicles. [See Appendix 2 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

Figure 1 Rates of recorded crime per 1,000 population, by police force area, 2009/10

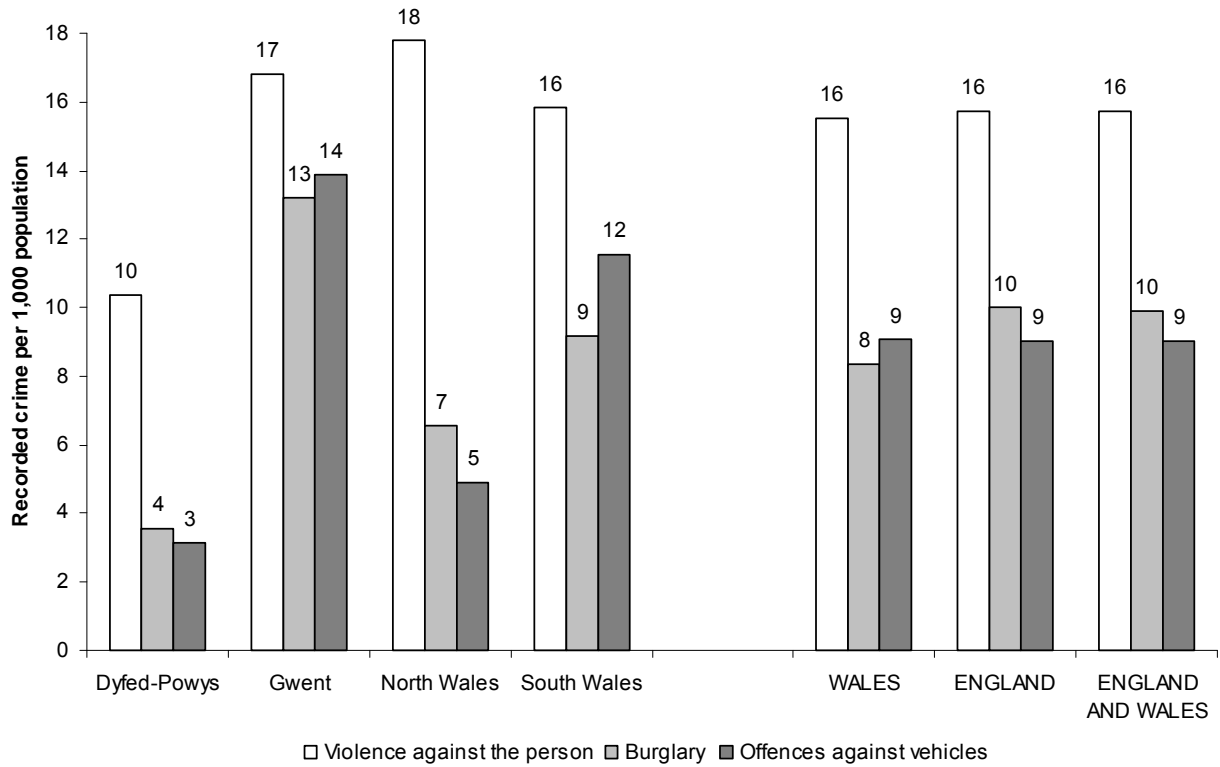
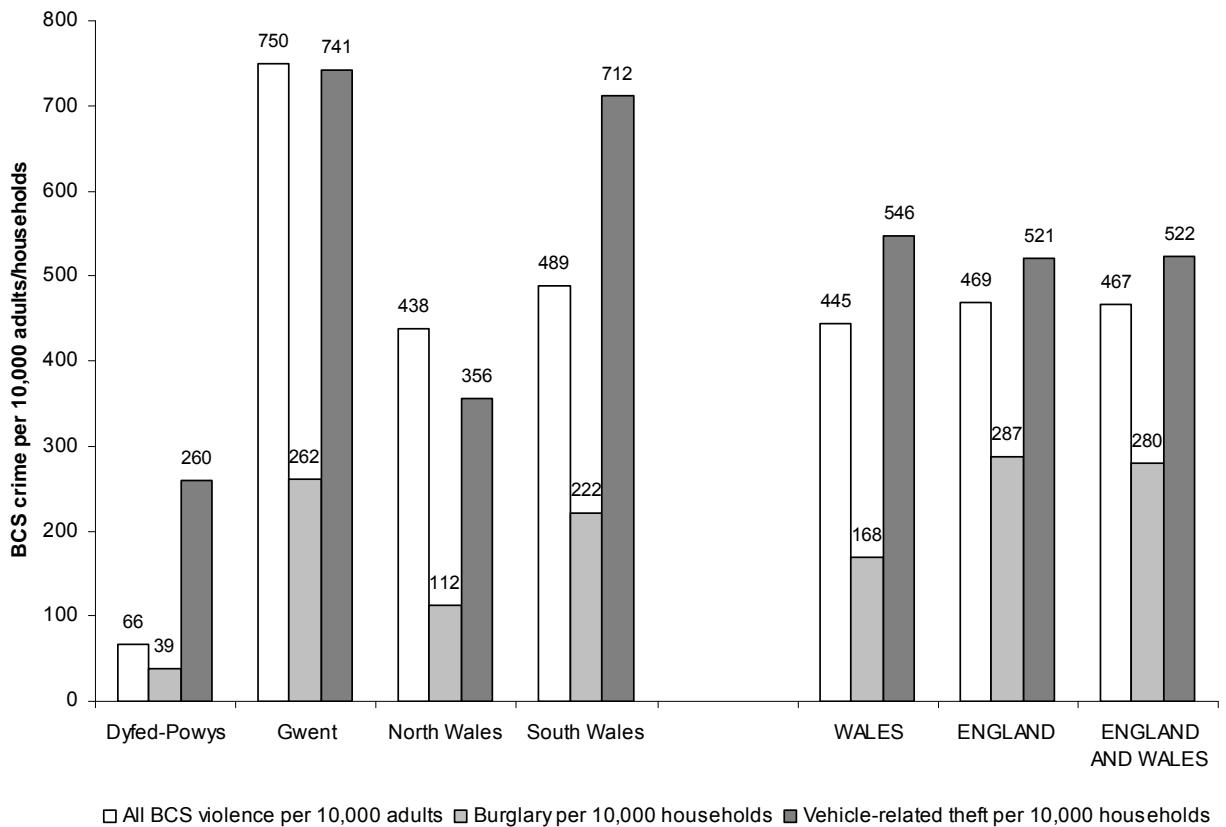


Figure 2 BCS incidence rate by type of crime for police force area and England and Wales, 2009/10



British Crime Survey (Tables 2 and 3)

Unless stated otherwise, all changes in BCS estimates described in the main text are statistically significant (see text box 'Understanding BCS data' on page 6 and [Section 8 of the User Guide]).

- The risk of both household and personal crime was lower in Dyfed-Powys and North Wales compared with the average for England and Wales. Household crime was higher in Gwent than in England and Wales.
- The incidence rate of personal crime and all BCS violence decreased in Dyfed-Powys between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS. The rate of personal crime, burglary and violence increased in Gwent over the same period.

Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in Wales (Table 4)

- Sixteen per cent of people in Wales had a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour in their local area, similar to the England and Wales average (14%). There were lower levels of perceived anti-social behaviour in Dyfed-Powys and North Wales, and higher levels in Gwent and South Wales, compared with the average for England and Wales.
- The proportion of people perceiving drug use or dealing as a problem was greater in Wales overall (31%) and in Gwent and South Wales in particular (37% and 38% respectively), compared with England and Wales (26%). The proportion of people in Dyfed-Powys perceiving drug use or dealing as a problem was significantly lower than in England and Wales. In Wales overall, there was no difference in the proportion of people perceiving drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem compared with the average for England and Wales. A higher proportion of people in Gwent and South Wales perceived it to be a problem, but in Dyfed-Powys a lower proportion did.
- All three perception measures showed decreases in England and Wales between the 2008/09 and 2009/10 BCS, although apparent reductions in Wales were not statistically significant. In Dyfed-Powys the level of perceived anti-social behaviour and drunk or rowdy behaviour decreased, these being the only statistically significant changes for a Welsh force on these perceptions measures.

Table 4 BCS perceptions of anti-social behaviour by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, BCS								
	High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ¹			Drug use or dealing problem in area ²			Drunk or rowdy behaviour problem in area ³		
	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10
Wales	16			31	**		26		
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	5	**	**↓	20	**		16	**	**↓
<i>Gwent</i>	22	**		37	**		31	**	
<i>North Wales</i>	10	**		23			20		
<i>South Wales</i>	21	**		38	**		33	**	
England	14		**↓	26		**↓	24		**↓
England and Wales	14		**↓	26		**↓	24		**↓

1. Measured using the seven-strand measure of anti-social behaviour. [See Section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

2. The percentage of people who perceived there to be a very/fairly big problem with drug use or dealing in their local area.

3. The percentage of people who perceived there to be a very/fairly big problem with drunk or rowdy behaviour in their local area.

Effectiveness and fairness of the criminal justice system (CJS) in Wales (Table 5)

- Fifty-five per cent of people in Wales were confident that overall the CJS was fair, which was lower than in England and Wales (59%). Confidence was lower in Gwent (51%) and in South Wales (54%) than in England and Wales overall.
- Thirty-six per cent of people in Wales felt confident that overall the CJS was effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice. This was significantly lower than in England and Wales overall (41%). Of the police forces in Wales, confidence was lowest in Gwent (30%) and South Wales (35%).

Table 5 BCS fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, BCS					
	CJS fairness ¹			CJS effectiveness ²		
	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10
Wales	55	**		36	**	
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	59			38		
<i>Gwent</i>	51	**		30	**	
<i>North Wales</i>	58			42		
<i>South Wales</i>	54	**		35	**	
England	60		**↑	41		**↑
England and Wales	59		**↑	41		**↑

1. The percentage of people who were very/fairly confident that the CJS as a whole was fair. [See section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

2. The percentage of people who were very/fairly confident that the CJS as a whole was effective. [See section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

Attitudes to the local police in Wales (Table 6)

- Fifty-two per cent of people in Wales agreed that the police were doing a good or excellent job which was lower than the average for England and Wales (56%). The proportion of people who agreed was lowest in Gwent (45%).
- The proportion of people in Wales who agreed that the police understand and deal with local concerns was lower than in England and Wales (53% compared with 56%). In Dyfed-Powys the proportion was higher than in England and Wales (61%); in Gwent and South Wales it was lower (47% and 50% respectively).
- The proportion of people in Wales who agreed that the police were doing a good or excellent job and understood and dealt with local concerns in 2009/10 was not significantly different from in 2008/09.

Table 6 BCS attitudes to local police by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, BCS					
	Rating of local police ¹			Police deal with local concerns ²		
	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10
Wales	52	**		53	**	
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	58			61	**	
<i>Gwent</i>	45	**		47	**	
<i>North Wales</i>	53			57		
<i>South Wales</i>	52			50	**	
England	57		**↑	56		**↑
England and Wales	56		**↑	56		**↑

1. The percentage of people saying their local police did a good/excellent job. [See Section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

2. The percentage of people agreeing that the police in the area are dealing with the things that matter to people in the community. [See section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

Attitudes to the local police working in partnership in Wales (Table 7)

- Forty-eight per cent of people in Wales agreed that the police and local council were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area, which was lower than the average for England and Wales (51%). The proportion of those agreeing was lowest in Gwent (45%), followed by North Wales (47%).
- The proportion of people in Wales who agreed that the police and local council sought people’s views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered in their area was similar to the average for England and Wales (45% compared with 47%).

Table 7 BCS attitudes to the local police working in partnership by police force area and England and Wales

Police force area, England and Wales	England and Wales, BCS					
	Police and local council are dealing with issues ¹			Police and local council seek people's views ²		
	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10	%	Different from England & Wales	Change 08/09 to 09/10
Wales	48	**	**↑	45		**↑
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	49			46		
<i>Gwent</i>	45	**		45		**↑
<i>North Wales</i>	47	**		44		
<i>South Wales</i>	50		**↑	45		
England	52		**↑	47		**↑
England and Wales	51		**↑	47		**↑

1. The percentage of people who strongly/tend to agree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area. [See Section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

2. The percentage of people who strongly/tend to agree that the police and local council seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area. [See section 6 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics] for more information.

Understanding BCS data

- As BCS estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. Small sample sizes mean that apparently large changes between years or differences between groups may not be statistically significant.
- Statistically significant differences from England and Wales and between 2008/09 and 2009/10 are shown in Tables 2 to 7. A double asterisk indicates significant differences at the five per cent level. The arrows indicate direction of change.
- Only BCS results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level are highlighted in the text within this factsheet.
- BCS incidents are geographically located in the area where the respondent lives rather than at the precise location of the incident.
- For unweighted bases, please see tables for Chapter 7 ‘Geographic patterns of crime’, in Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 (Flatley *et al.*, 2010).

Violent and sexual offences involving the use of knives and other sharp instruments

Police recorded crime (Table 8)

In 2009/10, there were 765 selected serious offences² recorded by the police that involved a knife or other sharp instrument³ in Wales, a fall of 18 per cent compared with last year. This is a greater fall than seen in England and Wales overall, where there was a seven per cent decrease. There were falls in all of the selected offences in Wales, including an 18% fall in robbery offences involving a knife (from 231 offences to 190) and a 17 per cent fall ABH and GBH, offences involving a knife (from 584 offences to 482).

The proportion of offences involving a knife in Wales, at three per cent, was lower than the proportion for England and Wales overall (6%). This is true for all offence groups; for robberies the proportion where a knife was used was 19% (compared with 21% for England and Wales overall) and for ABH and GBH the proportion was two per cent (compared with 4% for England and Wales). Comparisons for the other offence groups are not made as the numbers of offences are too small for these to be meaningful.

In 2009/10 the recorded crime rate for selected serious offences¹ that involved a knife or other sharp instrument in Wales (0.26 offences per 1,000 population) was below the rate for England and Wales overall (0.62 offences per 1,000 population).

Table 8 Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, 2008/09 and 2009/10¹

Selected offence type	England and Wales, Recorded crime				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife ¹		% change compared with previous year	Proportion of selected offences that involved a knife	
	2008/09	2009/10	2008/09 to 2009/10	2008/09	2009/10
Wales					
Attempted murder	12	7	-	-	-
Threats to kill	96	83	-14	19	14
ABH & GBH ²	584	482	-17	3	2
Robbery	231	190	-18	19	19
Rape and sexual assaults ³	5	3	-	0	0
Total selected offences	928	765	-18	4	3
England					
Attempted murder	262	254	-3	48	44
Threats to kill	1,459	1,430	-2	16	16
ABH & GBH ²	16,496	15,333	-8	4	4
Robbery	16,232	15,234	-7	21	21
Rape and sexual assaults ³	357	319	-12	1	1
Total selected offences	34,806	32,570	-7	7	7
England and Wales⁴					
Attempted murder	275	262	-5	48	44
Threats to kill	1,564	1,524	-3	16	16
ABH & GBH ²	17,182	15,864	-8	4	4
Robbery	16,693	15,592	-7	21	21
Rape and sexual assaults ³	366	324	-13	1	1
Total selected offences	36,080	33,566	-7	7	6

1. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.

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

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

4. Includes British Transport Police

- Indicates that data are not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50.

² Total of selected serious offences only includes the five offence types: Attempted Murder; Threats to Kill; ABH and GBH; Robbery; Rape and Sexual assaults, as shown in Table 8. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

³ Referred to as knife offences for the remainder of this section.

Detection rates by method of detection by police force area and England and Wales

Police recorded crime (Table 9)

Detected crime is a term that describes offences which have been ‘cleared up’ by the police. Detections can be divided into two categories namely: sanction and non-sanction detections. The former occurs where the offender receives some formal sanction and the latter occurs where the offence was cleared up but no further action is taken against the offender. Following the restrictions on the use of non-sanction detections, sanction detection rates are now the preferred measure, providing a more meaningful comparison of individual forces. Detection rates show some differences between forces; however, these need to be interpreted with care (see Chapter 6 of the Flatley et al., 2010 for more information).

The proportion of recorded crimes cleared up by a sanction detection in Wales was 33 per cent in 2009/10 which is higher than England and Wales overall (28%). The highest rate in Wales was in Dyfed-Powys (48%) while the lowest rate was recorded in South Wales (30%). North Wales had a sanction detection rate of 41 per cent and Gwent had a sanction detection rate of 26 per cent.

Table 9 Detection rates by method of detection, police force area and England and Wales, 2009/10¹

Police force area, England and Wales	Recorded offences	Detection rate ²	Sanction detection rate	2009/10 Recorded Crime					
				Charge/ summons	Cautions	Detection rate by method of detection		Penalty Notices for Disorder	Cannabis Warnings ³
						Taken into consideration Previously recorded	Not previously recorded		
Wales	221,391	34	33	19	7	1	0	3	2
<i>Dyfed-Powys</i>	22,377	48	48	24	15	1	0	4	4
<i>Gwent</i>	50,842	26	26	14	7	1	0	3	1
<i>North Wales²</i>	44,919	43	41	23	9	2	0	5	2
<i>South Wales</i>	103,253	30	30	19	5	2	0	3	2
England	4,057,139	28	27	15	6	2	0	2	2
England and Wales⁴	4,338,604	28	28	15	6	2	0	2	2

1. Percentage of offences detected.

2. The overall detection rate includes a small number of Youth Restorative Disposals submitted to the Home Office as part of a pilot scheme undertaken by North Wales and seven English police forces [see Section 3 of the Home Office Crime Statistics User Guide].

3. Since 26 January 2009, PNDs can be given for cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted together with Cannabis Warnings.

4. Includes British Transport Police.

References and further reading

Flatley, J., Kershaw, C., Smith, K., Chaplin, R. and Moon, D. (2010) *Crime in England and Wales 2009/10*, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/10. London: Home Office.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210.pdf>

User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics (2010). London: Home Office.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/crimestats-userguide.pdf>

For further detailed information, please see the ‘Geographic patterns of crime’ chapter in the main publication.

Additional tables reporting statistics for individual Community Safety Partnerships in Wales, Basic Command Units, police force areas and regions are available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0910.html>