



Home Office

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Statistical News Release

'Hate crime, cyber security and the experience of crime among children: Findings from the 2010/11 British Crime Survey. Supplementary Volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11'

This statistical bulletin is the third in the series of supplementary volumes that accompany the main annual crime bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales 2010/11' and presents more detailed information from the British Crime Survey (BCS) on hate crime, cyber security and the experience of crime among children aged 10 to 15.

Hate Crime

The BCS asks victims of crime whether they perceived the incident to be motivated (entirely or partially) by a hostility or prejudice to a personal characteristic or perceived personal characteristic. A number of Criminal Justice System agencies monitor five strands of hate crime, four of which were asked about in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 BCS: disability; race; religion/faith; and sexual orientation. Data from the two survey years have been combined to provide more robust estimates of hate crime.

According to the 2009/10 and 2010/11 BCS, 0.5% of adults were victims of one of these four strands of hate crime in the 12 months prior to interview. This equates to 260,000 incidents of hate crime on average per year.

Of the four strands (disability, race, religion/faith and sexual orientation), race was most commonly perceived by the victim as an offender's motivation for committing a crime (0.3% of adults were victims of a crime they perceived was motivated by race, accounting for an estimated 136,000 incidents on average per year).

The police were more likely to come to know about incidents of hate crime than BCS crime overall; 49% of incidents of hate crime came to the attention of the police compared with 39% of BCS crime overall.

Of those adults who said that they were victims of hate crime, 53% were satisfied with the police handling of the incident. This level of satisfaction is lower than for victims of BCS crime overall, where 69% of victims of a crime were satisfied.

In 45% of incidents of hate crime, victims thought the police took the matter as seriously as they should, compared with 65% of incidents of BCS crime overall.

Cyber security

According to the 2010/11 BCS, 78% of adults had used the internet in the last year; men were more likely than women to have done so (81% and 75% respectively). Levels of usage decreased with increasing age, from 98% of 16 to 24 year olds to 19% of those aged 75 or older.

The most commonly mentioned actions taken by adults to protect their personal details online were: having up-to-date security software installed on their home computer (67%), using only well-known, popular or trusted sites (67%), and using secure sites (such as those indicated by a closed padlock, 61%).

The level of worry among adults about the security of personal details entered online varied by what they used the internet for; 44% of adults who had used the internet for buying goods or services online said they were worried about the security of personal details. This compares with 37% who used the internet for banking or managing finances and around a quarter of adults (26%) who had used the internet for government services.

Concern about personal details being insecure online was given as a reason by 34% of adults for not using the internet for online banking or managing finances. A lower proportion of adults gave this reason for not buying goods and services online (26%) and not accessing online government services (10%).

Concern about losing money or having money stolen was given as a reason by 16% of adults for stopping them accessing online banking or managing finances; 12% gave it as a reason for not buying goods and services online while just 3% said this concern stopped them accessing online government services.

Experimental statistics on the experience of crime among children aged 10 to 15

Questions were asked in the 2010/11 BCS of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales who had experienced a crime about the circumstances of the incident, details on the offender(s) and their views of the incident.

The vast majority of violent incidents experienced by children took place on a weekday (89%) and during daylight (88%). This contrasts with adults, who tended to experience violent incidents during the evening or at night (67%). The majority of violent incidents experienced by children took place in or around school (56%).

Violent incidents experienced by children were more likely to involve an offender that was well known to the victim (56%) than incidents experienced by adults (34%).

Incidents of thefts experienced by children were also most likely to take place in or around a school (46%). Similar to violent incidents, thefts experienced by children were most likely to have occurred during a weekday (85%) and to have taken place during daylight hours (86%).

Levels of victimisation differed by factors such as gender. For example, boys were around twice as likely as girls to have been a victim of violence (9% and 4% respectively). Furthermore, children who had been bullied in the last 12 months had a much higher violence victimisation rate (21%) than those who had not been bullied (3%). This is not unexpected as children perceived that three in five violent incidents (62%) were part of a series of bullying.

Notes to editors

In 2007, the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Prison Service (now the National Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the Criminal Justice System agreed a common definition of hate crime and five 'strands' that would be monitored centrally: disability; gender-identity; race; religion/faith; and, sexual orientation.

Figures from BCS interviews with 10 to 15 year olds have not yet been considered for accreditation as National Statistics but statistics in this bulletin have been produced in accordance with the Official Statistics Code of Practice.

'Hate crime, cyber security and the experience of crime among children: Findings from the 2010/11 British Crime Survey, Supplementary Volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11', is available online via the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0612/>

Also published today are BCS 'Open Data' tables covering the 2010/11 BCS. These have been produced as part of the government's commitment to transparency and making data open and available to the public. They make a large number of BCS estimates available for the first time as data tables, allowing users to look through a range of BCS estimates in a more versatile and easily re-usable format:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/bcs-datasets/>

Also published today is the Home Office response to the recent consultation on proposed changes to recorded crime classifications and presentation of recorded crime statistics:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/home-office-science/consult-reccrime-class/>