



Home Office

Home Office Statistical Bulletin



Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2011

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ISSN 1759 7005
ISBN 978 1 84987 622 3

19 January 2012

HOSB: 01/12

Crime in England and Wales:

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This Quarterly Update presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime. Neither source provides a total count of crime and each has its strengths and weaknesses. However, by presenting findings from the two series together we aim to present a fuller picture of crime in England and Wales. For further information about the statistical sources refer to the [User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#) (Home Office, 2011). The Update focuses on the latest figures and shorter-term trends; discussion of longer-term trends can be found in '[Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)' (Chaplin *et al.*, 2011).

The BCS results are based on interviews conducted in the year ending September 2011. Recorded crime figures relate to crimes recorded by the police in the year ending September 2011. Tables published alongside this bulletin, and additional commentary in Annex B, provide a breakdown of police recorded crime by month so that users of the statistics can see the impact on the statistics of the disturbances in a number of urban areas in England in August 2011.

MAIN POINTS

- Based on British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews in the year to September 2011, there was no statistically significant change in the estimated number of crimes compared with the previous 12 months. The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by four per cent in the year ending September 2011 compared with a year earlier.
- There were decreases in all the main police recorded crime offence groups except robbery and other theft offences (which both increased by 4%) compared with the previous 12 months.
- Overall BCS personal crime showed a statistically significant increase of 11 per cent compared with the previous year.
- Police recorded crime figures showed a fall of four per cent in domestic burglaries compared with the previous year; but no change in the number of other burglaries. The apparent increase (of 5%) in the number of BCS burglaries was not statistically significant, and the underlying trend in BCS burglary has remained fairly flat since 2004/05.
- Both series showed falls in vandalism offences in the year to September 2011, with BCS vandalism down seven per cent compared with the previous year and police recorded criminal damage down 11 per cent.
- There was an increase of four per cent in police recorded 'other theft' figures; and within this category an eight per cent rise in 'theft from the person' offences. The apparent increases in BCS 'other personal theft' and 'theft from the person' were not statistically significant and analysis of the underlying trends since 2004/05 does not suggest strong evidence of a rise in such offences. However, although the apparent increase (of 4%) in BCS 'other household theft' was not statistically significant, there is some evidence of an overall upward trend in this category.
- There was a 19 per cent fall in the number of offences involving firearms recorded by the police compared with the previous 12 months (from 7,749 to 6,285 offences).
- BCS measures of confidence in the police all showed statistically significant increases. For example, 57 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area, up from 52 per cent in the previous year.

This statistical bulletin is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by staff working in the Home Office Statistics Unit in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics which covers our policy on revisions and other matters. The governance arrangements in the Home Office for statistics were strengthened on 1 April 2008 to place the statistical teams under the direct line management of a Chief Statistician, who reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters.

However, to further demonstrate the independence of the production of these figures, the Home Secretary accepted a recommendation from the National Statistician that future responsibility for the publication of crime statistics should transfer to the Office for National Statistics from 1 April 2012.

LEVELS OF CRIME

This Quarterly Update presents the most recent crime statistics for England and Wales from two different sources: the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime. Neither source provides a total count of crime and each has its strengths and weaknesses. This Update focuses on the latest figures and short and medium-term trends; discussion of longer-term trends can be found in '[Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)' (Chaplin *et al.*, 2011). It should be noted that in this Quarterly Update, six months of the data reported on overlap with the data contained in the annual bulletin; this Quarterly Update covers data for the 12 months from October 2010 to September 2011 while the annual volume reported on data for April 2010 to March 2011. The 12 months reported here includes the month of August 2011 when there were disturbances in a number of urban areas in England.

Based on interviews in the year to September 2011, there was no statistically significant¹ change in the level of BCS crime compared with the year ending September 2010 (Figure 1 and Table 1). However, the overall level of notifiable² crime recorded by the police in the year ending September 2011 decreased by four per cent compared with the previous year (Figure 2 and Table 2).

On the face of it, this set of headline figures suggests some discrepancies between the two sources with, as shown below, apparent divergence in figures for domestic burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime. However, it should be borne in mind that estimates from the BCS are subject to a degree of variation as a result of sampling, and this fluctuation can result in apparently large year-on-year changes. This effect can be more prominent during a period when the underlying trend is fairly flat (as has been the case for some BCS crime types since 2004/05). Putting the latest estimate in the context of a longer-term trend can assist in the interpretation of the most recent figures. To aid interpretation, trends since year ending September 2005 are presented in Annex C and this is drawn on in the commentary below.

BCS estimates for the year to September 2011 showed no statistically significant change in overall household crime compared to the previous year. The overall estimate of BCS personal crime showed an 11 per cent increase on the figure for the previous year (Table 1). However, despite this latest increase, the medium-term trend is fairly flat and the estimated number of personal crime incidents, at 3.9 million, is broadly similar to levels seen since the BCS year ending September 2005 (Annex C, Figure C10).

BCS interviews for the year to September 2011 showed no statistically significant change in the levels of violence compared with the year to September 2010 (the apparent 9% increase was not statistically significant). Put in the context of a time series, these latest estimates are not statistically significantly different from estimates since 2004/05 and do not provide evidence of an upward trend in BCS violence (Figure C9). The level of violence against the person³ recorded by the police showed an eight

¹ See Section 8 of the [User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#) for more information on statistical significance.

² Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by a jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with in this way) plus a few additional closely related offences, such as assault without injury.

³ Unlike the BCS measure of violence, police recorded violence against the person does not include sexual offences or robbery but does include a range of state based offences such as possession of weapons. Refer to section 5 of the [User Guide](#) for

per cent fall, compared with the previous year, consistent with the downward trend shown in the number of these crimes in the past five years. Violence with injury fell more, by nine per cent, than violence without injury, which fell by seven per cent.

Police recorded robbery figures showed a four per cent rise in the year ending September 2011 compared with the previous year. The rise has been driven by a five per cent increase in robberies of personal property (e.g. smart phones, bags, and cash) while robberies of business property have fallen (by 6%). Over the past three years robbery rates have been broadly flat.

Robbery is an offence which is concentrated in metropolitan areas, with around 50 per cent in the last year being recorded in London. A breakdown by force⁴ shows the national increase has been driven by a 13 per cent rise in the Metropolitan Police force area, and a 10 per cent increase in the West Midlands. However, some other metropolitan forces, such as Greater Manchester showed decreases in robberies compared with the previous 12 months (down 14%).

The number of robberies involving knives showed a larger increase, at ten per cent, than for robberies overall, in the year ending September 2011 (from 13,971 to 15,313 offences; excludes West Midlands Police⁵). More details are presented in Annex A.

Police recorded crime provides information on a number of further types of crime, such as sexual offences. Police recorded sexual offences fell by one per cent compared with the previous year. Within this category, most serious sexual crime increased by two per cent. This continues the pattern of increases in reporting and recording of such crimes seen since 2009, although the rate of increase appears to be slowing. It is known that a high proportion of sexual offences are not reported to the police and increases in recorded figures may represent improved reporting rates rather than increasing victimisation. For these reasons, caution should be used when interpreting trends in these offences (for more information see Chaplin *et al.*, 2011). Other sexual offences decreased by 13 per cent over the same period.

Provisional figures for firearm offences⁶ recorded by the police show they account for less than 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime. There was a 19 per cent fall in firearm offences from 7,749 to 6,285 in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year (Table 2).

There was no statistically significant change in levels of domestic burglaries estimated from the BCS (the 5% rise was not statistically significant). Despite some apparent fluctuations from year to year, the underlying trend has remained fairly flat in the BCS since 2004/05 (Figure C2). Over the same period, the police recorded crime series has seen steady reductions with the latest figures showing a fall of four per cent in domestic burglaries compared with the previous year. There was no change in the number of other burglaries recorded by the police.

The two series are consistent in showing falls in criminal damage/vandalism in the year to September 2011. Police recorded criminal damage showed a decrease of 11 per cent and BCS estimates of vandalism showed a fall of seven per cent. There has been a downward trend in BCS estimates of vandalism since 2005/06 (Figure C1).

The BCS showed no significant change in vehicle-related theft (the apparent increase of 7% was not statistically significant). The underlying trend over the last four years as measured by the BCS has been downwards (Figure C3). Police recorded crime figures showed a fall of eight per cent in the related, but broader offence group of offences against vehicles. All three categories of police recorded offences against vehicles fell, with interfering with a motor vehicle falling by 17 per cent.

Both sources provide some evidence of increases in lower-level theft offences, such as pick-pocketing and theft of unattended property. The police recorded crime category of other theft showed a four per cent increase in the year ending September 2011 compared with a year earlier. BCS interviews showed no significant change in other household theft compared with the previous year. However, the

more information regarding coverage of crime measures.

⁴ These are available at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0112/

⁵ Recording practice in West Midlands Police changed during the comparison period. See Annex A for further details.

⁶ These firearm offences cover those where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat. These figures exclude offences involving air weapons.

apparent increase (of 4%) was the second consecutive, albeit non-statistically significant, annual rise, which might suggest an overall upward trend (Figure C5).

There are important differences between the sources in the coverage of these theft categories; police recorded crime figures for other theft include offences such as theft from the person, shoplifting, bicycle theft, and theft of unattended property (including both offences against individuals and against organisations⁷). By definition, the category of BCS other household theft is restricted to the household population and comprises items stolen from outside the victim's home, for example from the garden. It also includes burglaries of non-connected buildings, such as sheds, and thefts in the victim's dwelling by someone entitled to be there, for example a workman.

There was an eight per cent increase in the number of theft from the person offences (i.e. pick-pocketing and snatch theft) recorded by the police in the year to September 2011. Theft from the person is also measured by the BCS; however the apparent 12 per cent increase in such crimes was not statistically significant. Furthermore, the underlying trend has been fairly flat since the 2004/05 BCS (Figure C7). The apparent increase (14%) in the BCS category of other theft of personal property was also not statistically significant. Again, these estimates are subject to large fluctuations from one year to the next and analysis of the medium-term trend does not suggest an underlying increase or decrease since 2004/05 (Figure C8).

Bicycle thefts recorded by the police rose by one per cent. The apparent eight per cent reduction in the number of incidents of BCS bicycle theft in the year to September 2011 was not statistically significant different from the estimate from the previous year end or any other year since the 12 months ending September 2005 (Figure C4).

Drug offences recorded by the police fell by one per cent in the year ending September 2011 compared with the previous year. These recorded crime statistics are heavily influenced by policing priorities, and may reflect changes in the policing of drug crime more than real changes in its incidence. The BCS is used to monitor trends in drug use and figures are published annually (for more information see, Smith and Flatley, 2011).

Fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police showed a five per cent fall in the year ending September 2011, compared with a year earlier. Fraud offences are known to be substantially under-reported to the police and are not covered in the main BCS crime count. However, supplementary questions from the BCS, together with figures supplied by the financial industry, are now used in the annual crime statistics publication to provide a more comprehensive picture as to the scale and trend of fraudulent transactions (for more information see Chaplin *et al.*, 2011). New questions on other aspects of fraud have been developed and were added to the British Crime Survey from April 2011.⁸

⁷ See Appendix 2 of the [User Guide](#) for full listing.

⁸ Data from these questions will be available in the second half of 2012.

Figure 1 Percentage change in BCS crime based on interviews in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year



Changes in Figure 1 which are statistically significant at the 5% level are indicated by a fully shaded bar. Other apparent changes are not statistically significant at the 5% level. Statistical significance for the change in all BCS crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS figures (a method based on approximation is used). See Section 8 of the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics (Home Office, 2011) for more information on statistical significance.

Figure 2 Percentage change in numbers of recorded crimes in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year

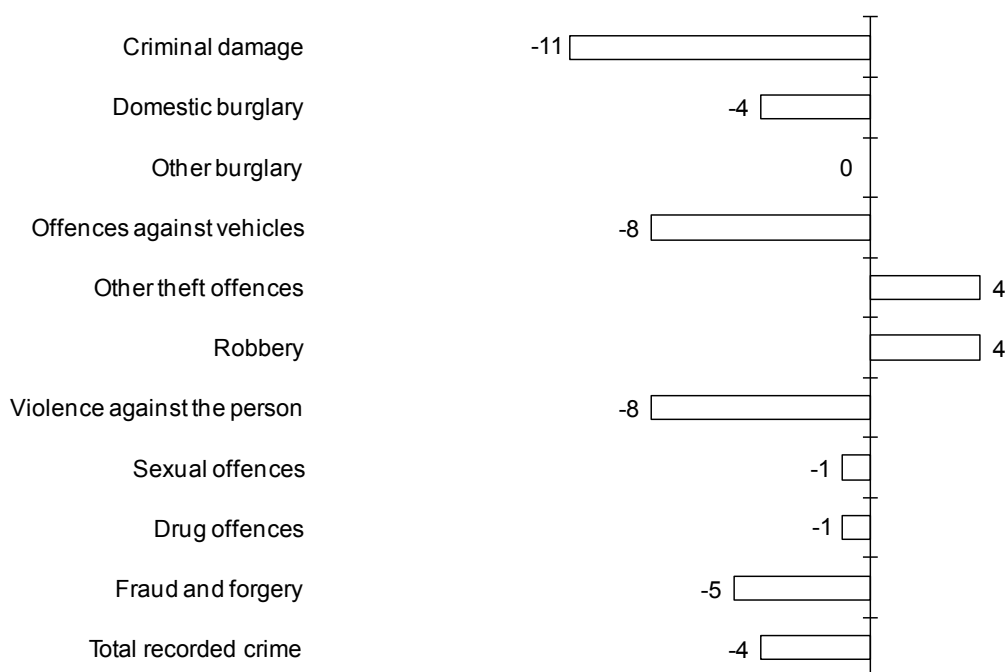


Table 1 Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year

England and Wales, adults aged 16 and over, BCS				
	Interviews from October 2009 to September 2010	Interviews from October 2010 to September 2011	% change between years	Statistically significant change ¹
<i>Number of incidents (000s) and percentage change²</i>				
Vandalism	2,242	2,090	-7	**
Burglary	701	733	5	
Vehicle-related theft	1,145	1,224	7	
Bicycle theft	500	458	-8	
Other household theft	1,234	1,290	4	
Household acquisitive crime	3,581	3,705	3	
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME	5,823	5,795	0	
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>45,063</i>	<i>47,327</i>		
Theft from the person	535	599	12	
Other theft of personal property	967	1,104	14	
All violence	2,023	2,199	9	
<i>with injury</i>	<i>1,057</i>	<i>1,162</i>	<i>10</i>	
<i>without injury</i>	<i>967</i>	<i>1,037</i>	<i>7</i>	
Personal acquisitive crime	1,784	1,940	9	
ALL PERSONAL CRIME	3,525	3,901	11	**
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>45,088</i>	<i>47,350</i>		
ALL BCS CRIME	9,348	9,696	4	
<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more and percentage point change³</i>				
Vandalism	6.3	6.0	-0.3	
Burglary	2.4	2.5	0.1	
Vehicle-related theft ⁴	5.3	5.5	0.2	
Bicycle theft ⁵	4.1	3.6	-0.6	**
Other household theft	4.1	4.3	0.2	
Household acquisitive crime	11.4	11.6	0.3	
ALL HOUSEHOLD CRIME	16.3	16.3	0.1	
<i>Unweighted base - household crime</i>	<i>45,063</i>	<i>47,327</i>		
Theft from the person	1.1	1.2	0.1	
Other theft of personal property	1.9	2.1	0.2	**
All violence	3.0	3.1	0.1	
<i>with injury</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.1</i>	
<i>without injury</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	
Personal acquisitive crime	3.4	3.7	0.3	**
ALL PERSONAL CRIME	5.6	6.1	0.5	**
<i>Unweighted base - personal crime</i>	<i>45,088</i>	<i>47,350</i>		
ALL BCS CRIME	21.4	21.6	0.2	

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. Statistical significance for change in all BCS crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS figures (a method based on approximation is used). See Section 8 of the User Guide for more information on statistical significance.

2. A percentage change of less than 0.5 is shown as 0.

3. A discrepancy may appear between trends in number of crimes and risk of being a victim (the proportion of the population victimised once or more) due to repeat victimisation.

4. Risk for 'Vehicle-related theft' is based only on households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle. It includes theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles and attempted theft of and from vehicles.

5. Risk for bicycle theft is based only on households owning a bicycle.

6. For more information about the crime types included in this table, see Section 5 of the User Guide.

7. Data for October 2009 to September 2010 may differ from previous estimates, owing to the use of revised LFS population estimates.

Table 2 Recorded crimes¹ in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year

Numbers and percentage changes	England and Wales, recorded crime ¹		
	Offence group	12 months to September 2010	12 months to September 2011
Violence against the person offences	849,751	782,267	-8
<i>Violence against the person - with injury²</i>	383,095	349,342	-9
<i>Violence against the person - without injury³</i>	466,656	432,925	-7
Sexual offences	55,125	54,482	-1
<i>Most serious sexual crime</i>	44,701	45,461	2
<i>Other sexual offences</i>	10,424	9,021	-13
Robbery offences	74,626	77,510	4
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	7,879	7,432	-6
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	66,747	70,078	5
Burglary offences	524,470	514,289	-2
<i>Burglary in a dwelling</i>	262,046	250,745	-4
<i>Burglary in a building other than a dwelling</i>	262,424	263,544	0
Offences against vehicles	468,895	431,833	-8
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle</i>	110,083	99,810	-9
<i>Theft from a vehicle</i>	325,739	304,600	-6
<i>Interfering with a motor vehicle</i>	33,073	27,423	-17
Other theft offences ⁴	1,054,134	1,093,605	4
<i>of which:</i>			
<i>Theft from the person</i>	90,092	97,267	8
<i>Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle</i>	109,299	109,848	1
Fraud and forgery offences	150,341	143,124	-5
Criminal damage offences	740,908	660,662	-11
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME	2,938,748	2,843,513	-3
Drug offences	235,166	232,060	-1
Other miscellaneous offences	69,684	63,034	-10
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME - ALL OFFENCES	4,223,100	4,052,866	-4
<i>of which: Firearm offences⁵</i>	7,749	6,285	-19

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).

2. Includes homicide, attempted murder, intentional destruction of viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with and without intent), causing death by aggravated vehicle taking and less serious wounding offences.

3. Includes 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).

4. Other theft includes a range of offences, including shoplifting and abstraction of electricity. The two sub-headings given here are provided for comparison purposes as they correspond to BCS categories.

5. Firearm offences are provisional. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

Based on BCS interviews in the year ending September 2011, the proportion of people with a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour in their local area remained at 14 per cent. Of the seven indicators that make up the composite measure, one showed a statistically significant decrease compared with the previous year: 'teenagers hanging around' (Table 3). The rest showed no statistically significant changes.

Table 3 Anti-social behaviour indicators

Percentages	England and Wales, adults aged 16 and over, BCS		
	Interviews from October 2009 to September 2010	Interviews from October 2010 to September 2011	Statistically significant change ¹
	<i>Percentage</i>		
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ²	14	14	
	<i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i>		
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	4	4	
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	11	11	
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	24	24	
People using or dealing drugs	26	26	
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	26	25	**
Rubbish or litter lying around	28	28	
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	22	21	
<i>Unweighted base</i> ³	<i>42,560</i>	<i>33,622</i>	

1 Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. For more information on statistical significance, see Section 8 of the User Guide.

2. This measure is derived from responses to the seven individual anti-social behaviour strands reported in the table.

3. Unweighted base refers to high level of perceived anti-social behaviour. Bases for each individual strand will be similar. From April 2011, the number of respondents asked questions about their perceptions of ASB has been reduced from a full sample to a half sample.

The BCS measures the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime. Based on the BCS interviews during the 12 months to September 2011, there were no statistically significant changes compared with the previous 12 months (Table 4).

Table 4 Worry about crime

Percentages	England and Wales, adults aged 16 and over, BCS		
	Interviews from October 2009 to September 2010	Interviews from October 2010 to September 2011	Statistically significant change ¹
	<i>Percentage with high level of worry about²:</i>		
Burglary	10	11	
Car crime	10	10	
Violent crime	13	13	
<i>Unweighted base</i> ³	<i>11,282</i>	<i>11,790</i>	

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. For more information on statistical significance, see Section 8 of the User Guide.

2. For more information about the worry about crime measures in this table, see Section 6 of the User Guide.

3 Unweighted base refers to high levels of worry about burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but for car crime they will be slightly lower as these are based only on those residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

BCS interviews in the year to September 2011 showed that 57 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. This was up from 52 per cent in the 12 months to September 2010. All but one public confidence measure included here showed statistically significant increases (Table 5).

The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area were doing a good or excellent job showed an increase from 57 per cent to 61 per cent in the 12 months to September 2011 compared with the same period in the previous year. This continues an upward trend since this question was introduced to the survey in 2005/06 (when 50% of people thought the local police were doing a good or excellent job). For more information on perceptions of police see Scribbins *et al.* (2010). There was a similar percentage point increase in the proportion of people who agreed that the police were dealing with the things that matter to people in the community. The proportions of people agreeing that the Criminal Justice System (CJS) as a whole was effective increased by a smaller, but still statistically significant, amount.

Table 5 Confidence in the police and CJS

Percentages	England and Wales, adults aged 16 and over, BCS		
	Interviews from October 2009 to September 2010	Interviews from October 2010 to September 2011	Statistically significant change ¹
	<i>Percentage agreeing²</i>		
Police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area	52	57	**
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>44,098</i>	<i>46,238</i>	
Police in the local area doing a good or excellent job	57	61	**
Police are dealing with the things that matter to people in the community	57	60	**
<i>Unweighted base³</i>	<i>44,098</i>	<i>46,238</i>	
	<i>Percentage confident⁴</i>		
The CJS as a whole is effective	42	43	**
The CJS as a whole is fair	61	61	
<i>Unweighted base⁵</i>	<i>43,482</i>	<i>34,218</i>	

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. For more information on statistical significance, see Section 8 of the User Guide.

2. Percentage saying they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree'.

3. Unweighted base refers to police doing a good or excellent job. Base for the other measure will be similar.

4. Percentage saying they are 'very confident' or 'fairly confident'.

5. Unweighted base refers to effectiveness of the CJS. Base for the other measure will be similar. From April 2011, the number of respondents asked questions relating to their perceptions of the CJS has been reduced from a full sample to a half sample.

NOTES

The latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures presented in the bulletin are based on interviews with adults aged 16 or over resident in households in England and Wales conducted between October 2010 and September 2011 (BCS year ending September 2011) and incidents experienced by survey respondents in the 12 months prior to their interview. BCS results for the year ending September 2011 are compared with the results from the interviews in the year ending September 2010.

The BCS fieldwork was carried out by TNS-BMRB. In the year ending March 2011, the BCS had a nationally representative sample of 46,754 adults with a response rate of 76 per cent.⁹ The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and to ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. Being based on a sample survey, BCS estimates are subject to a margin of error. Unless stated otherwise, all changes in BCS estimates described in the main text are statistically significant. For more information on statistical significance and confidence intervals for BCS data, see Section 8 of the [User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#) (Home Office, 2011).

The BCS now also covers crimes against children aged 10 to 15 but these are not included in this bulletin. Experimental statistics on the victimisation of children are shown separately for 2009/10 and 2010/11 in the relevant chapters of '[Crime in England and Wales 2010/11](#)' (see Chaplin *et al.*, 2011).

Recorded crime figures relate to crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in the 12 months to September 2011. Unlike the BCS, they do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes 'against the state' i.e. with no immediate victim, for example, possession of drugs.

Police recorded crime figures have been subject to a data reconciliation process with individual forces but remain provisional as forces can revise figures during the financial year. The annual National Statistics on police recorded crime at police force level are published alongside the annual bulletin in July each year after a fuller reconciliation and quality assurance process has been completed by the Home Office Statistics Unit in liaison with individual police forces.

Additional data

This bulletin shows national figures for the 12 months to September 2011. Also available are:

- National recorded crime data for individual quarters.
- Figures at police force area level. These statistics cover a range of recorded crime offence groups and BCS findings on confidence in the police.
- Recorded crime figures on a rolling 12-month basis going back to 2002/03 at police force and local authority area level.

All of the above can be accessed at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0112/>

Police forces also make their own provisional crime data available at street level on a monthly basis via a central portal (www.police.uk). These are not National Statistics and final quality assured figures appearing in National Statistics outputs may differ from these provisional figures.

⁹ Based on BCS interviews achieved during the year ending March 2011. The response rate for the year ending September 2011 cannot be calculated as finalised response figures are not available.

Changes to crime statistics

In January 2011, the Home Secretary announced a Review of Crime Statistics to be undertaken by the National Statistician, Jil Matheson. On 6 June 2011, the National Statistician published her Review, a copy of which is available at:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-reviews/national-statistician-s-review-of-crime-statistics.html>

One of the eight recommendations was that responsibility for the publication of the crime statistics should move to an independent body, the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS will also assume responsibility for the management of the British Crime Survey.

The Government accepted the recommendations of the National Statistician in a Written Ministerial Statement available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/parliamentary-business/written-ministerial-statement/response-review-crime-stats-wms/?view=Standard&pubID=926470>

The transfer of responsibilities to ONS will take effect from 1 April 2012. Announcements regarding the future publication of the crime statistics will be made in due course.

British Crime Survey: change of name

The name of the survey will be changed from 1 April 2012 to better reflect the survey's geographical coverage (England and Wales, rather than Britain). A final decision will be made later in 2012, but current proposals include, but are not limited to: the England and Wales Crime Survey, the National Crime Survey for England and Wales and the National Crime Survey. We welcome the views of users.

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

In the 12 months to September 2011, the police recorded 32,546 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument.¹⁰ Due to a change in recording practice in 2010/11, for consistency over time the knife and sharp instrument offences data reported in the remainder of this section exclude West Midlands Police unless otherwise stated (Table A).¹¹

Overall, there was no percentage change in the level of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument compared with the 12 months to September 2010 (there was an increase of 81 offences compared with the previous year). There were changes in the level of offences for individual offence groups. Robbery offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument increased by ten per cent over the last year, from 13,971 to 15,313. This is greater than the proportional increase for all robbery, which was up four per cent over the same period. In contrast, there were falls in the number of grievous bodily harm (GBH) and actual bodily harm (ABH) offences involving a knife (down 8%, from 13,400 to 12,351) and threats to kill (down 15%, from 1,480 to 1,263).

The relatively low number of homicides, attempted murders, rapes and sexual assaults that involve the use of a knife or sharp instrument means that care should be taken when comparing these figures over time, as large apparent percentage changes can relate to only small year-to-year variations in numbers rather than longer-term trends.

- Provisional data show that there were 200 knife or sharp instrument homicides in the 12 months to September 2011, compared with 202 the previous year.
- There were 198 knife or sharp instrument attempted murders in the 12 months to September 2011 compared with 217 in the 12 months to September 2010.

The proportion of selected violent offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to September 2011 (7%) was one percentage point higher than in the 12 months to September 2010 (6%).

¹⁰ The offences covered in this collection are attempted murder, threats to kill, actual bodily harm, grievous bodily harm, robbery, rape and sexual assaults. Homicide figures are taken from the Homicide Index.

¹¹ West Midlands Police included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns until April 2010 but now exclude these offences in line with other forces. As such, their data are not comparable across this period. See Section 5.1 of the [User Guide](#).

Table A Number and proportion of selected violent and sexual offences involving knives or sharp instruments¹ recorded by the police in the 12 months to September 2011, compared with the previous 12 months

Selected offence type	England and Wales, ² Recorded crime				
	Number of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument ³		% change September 2010 to September 2011	Proportion of selected offences involving a knife or sharp instrument	
	Year ending September 2010	Year ending September 2011		Year ending September 2010	Year ending September 2011
<i>Excluding West Midlands⁴</i>					
Attempted murder	217	198	-9	45	48
Threats to kill	1,480	1,263	-15	15	16
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ⁵	13,400	12,351	-8	4	4
Robbery	13,971	15,313	10	21	22
Rape	221	245	11	1	2
Sexual assault ⁶	85	87	2	0	0
Total selected offences	29,374	29,457	0	6	7
Homicide ⁷	202	200	-1	36	36
Total selected offences including homicide	29,576	29,657	0	6	7
<i>Including West Midlands⁴</i>					
Attempted murder	245	220	-	45	48
Threats to kill	1,543	1,296	-	15	16
Actual bodily harm & grievous bodily harm ⁵	14,662	13,339	-	4	4
Robbery	15,538	17,131	-	21	22
Rape	234	260	-	1	2
Sexual assault ⁶	91	89	-	0	0
Total selected offences	32,313	32,335	-	6	7
Homicide ⁷	223	211	-	37	36
Total selected offences including homicide	32,536	32,546	-	6	7

1. Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Proportions of offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument presented in this table are calculated based on figures submitted in this special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

2. Includes British Transport Police.

3. Three 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 three forces are: Surrey, Sussex and British Transport Police.

4. Data are shown excluding West Midlands as West Midlands included unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns until April 2010 but now exclude these offences in line with other forces (see the [User Guide](#)). As such, their 2010/11 data are not comparable with their data for earlier years.

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

6. Sexual assault includes indecent assault on a male/female and sexual assault on a male/female (all ages).

7. Includes provisional figures for April 2011 to September 2011. Offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 18 October 2011 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Annex B: Crimes recorded by the police during the disorder in August 2011

This annex focuses on the disorder events that occurred in some urban areas of England between Saturday 6 August and Thursday 11 August 2011¹² and the impact the recording of these events had on the police recorded crime statistics presented in this bulletin.

National Statistics for police recorded crime are produced using monthly data returns from every police force in England and Wales. A special data collection exercise was conducted by the Home Office in September 2011 to gather specific information about the disorder events which is not available from the monthly data returns. This included collating details of all crimes recorded from 6 to 11 August period that police forces considered to be related to the public disorder. The report summarising the findings from the special exercise was published on the 24 October 2011 and is available at this link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/overview-disorder-aug2011/>

This annex includes information from both the special exercise and police recorded crime data collected routinely through monthly returns.

CRIME RECORDING

It is important to understand the basis of crime recording to appreciate the impact of the disorder incidents on crime statistics. In line with the victim-focused approach to crime recording set out in the National Crime Recording Standard,¹³ the police record crimes according to the number of specific victims, rather than the number of offenders. For example, if five people burgle a shop, one victim-based crime of burglary would be recorded. Conversely, if one person assaults three people (as part of the same overall incident) then three victim-based crimes of violence would be recorded. An individual burglary of a high-street shop ('looting') that involved a large number of offenders would be classified as a single offence of burglary.

The Home Office Counting Rules also set out a number of state-based offences covering public disorder, for example riot or violent disorder. These state-based offences may be recorded in times of public disorder *in addition* to any victim based offences (such as burglary or assault) that may also have occurred. A single state-based offence is recorded for each discrete instance of public disorder, irrespective of the total number of individuals involved in each event. The definitions of riot and violent disorder are:

Riot

"Where 12 or more persons who are present together use or threaten unlawful violence for a common purpose and the conduct of them (taken together) is such as would cause a person of reasonable firmness present at the scene to fear for his personal safety..."

Violent disorder

"Where three or more persons who are present together use or threaten unlawful violence and the conduct of them (taken together) is such as would cause a person of reasonable firmness present at the scene to fear for his personal safety..."

It is likely that the majority, if not all, instances of large scale public disorder in August 2011 will be recorded as violent disorder. Police investigations into the disorder events are continuing and figures may be revised. At the time of publication, the police forces of England and Wales have notified the Home Office of 184 recorded offences of violent disorder and no riot offences during August 2011. For

¹² Only offences that occurred between 6 August and the morning of 11 August (07:29) are included

¹³ See section 3.2 of the [User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#)

comparison, in August 2010 there were 44 recorded offences of violent disorder and no riots; in August 2009 there were 90 instances of violent disorder and no riots.

In the year to September 2011, there were a total of 4,052,866 crimes recorded by police in England and Wales, of which 344,937 were recorded in August. Through the special data collection exercise, police forces affected by the disorder supplied data on recorded crimes that were related to the disorder. Ten forces experienced more extensive disorder and together recorded a total of 5,112 disorder-related offences over the period 6 to 11 August, equivalent to 1.5 per cent of the total number of crimes recorded for August.¹⁴ These figures show that although the disorder events involved a very high level of visible criminality in some localised areas, the overall impact on national recorded crime figures reported elsewhere in this bulletin is small.

Crimes recorded over the period of the disorder were classed as acquisitive crime (e.g. burglary, robbery, vehicle and other theft offences; 50%), criminal damage (e.g. to buildings, vehicles or arson offences; 36%), violent offences (7%), state-based disorder offences (e.g. violent disorder, harassment and other public order offences; 3%) and other offences (e.g. drug offences, dangerous driving; 4%).

OFFENCES IN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS WHERE HIGH VOLUMES OF DISORDER-RELATED CRIMES WERE RECORDED

Fifteen local authorities were identified as experiencing the highest volumes of disorder-related crimes from the special exercise, representing 71 per cent of the total disorder-related crimes reported by the ten principally affected police force areas.

Table B shows the number of crimes recorded in August 2011 in these fifteen local authorities (based on the regular monthly returns), together with the number and percentage of crimes reported to be directly associated with the disorder (based on the special data collection exercise).

Table B Total crime recorded in local authority areas recording high levels of crime related to the disorder during August 2011

Local authority	Recorded crime		
	Numbers and percentages	Total crimes recorded related to the disorder between 6th-11th August	Percentage of crimes recorded that were related to the disorder between 6th-11th August 2011 (%)
Croydon	3,004	430	14
Manchester	4,863	386	8
Birmingham	7,146	363	5
Southwark	2,901	314	11
Haringey	2,222	303	14
Ealing	2,931	279	10
Lewisham	2,440	213	9
Lambeth	3,084	209	7
Salford	1,798	188	10
Enfield	2,005	182	9
Hackney	2,275	172	8
Greenwich	1,996	156	8
Newham	2,713	152	6
Wandsworth	1,942	150	8
Liverpool	3,764	146	4
England and Wales¹	344,937	5,112	1

1. For recorded crime, this is the total number of crimes in England and Wales. For crimes recorded as part of the special data collection exercise this is the total number of crimes reported for the ten police forces with most extensive disorder.

¹⁴ The ten principally affected police forces were defined as those that recorded 20 or more disorder-related crimes.

The highest number of disorder-related crimes were recorded in the Croydon local authority area and accounted for 14 per cent of the total recorded crimes in August 2011 in this area.

The appendix tables published alongside this Quarterly Update include further details of recorded crime data covering the local authority areas that recorded the highest volumes of disorder-related crimes. For comparison purposes these tables show crimes recorded in the months of July, August and September for the past three years alongside the number of offences specifically identified by the police as being related to the disorder events in August 2011.¹⁵ To provide some context, these are shown as a proportion of offences recorded during the whole of August 2011.

The impact of the disorder-related events on police recorded crime figures varied by local authority area and offence type. For example, in the Croydon area 1,609 acquisitive crime offences were recorded in August 2011 with 20 per cent related to the disorder events. Overall, this is an increase in acquisitive crimes of 17 per cent from August 2010 and an increase of 28 per cent from August 2009. In contrast, in the Manchester local authority area there were 2,620 acquisitive crime offences recorded in August 2011, seven per cent of which were related to the disorder events. Overall, this is down two per cent from August in the previous year and down 12 per cent from August 2009 (Table B1).

All but two of the local authorities where the highest volumes of disorder-related crimes were reported recorded more criminal damage offences in August 2011 compared with August 2010, but nine of the 15 recorded fewer of these compared with August 2009. The proportion of criminal damage offences reported as being related to the disorder events varied by local authority area, ranging from 11 per cent to 34 per cent (Table B2).

Police reported a lower number of violent offences relating to the disorder events compared with acquisitive offences. Police recorded violent offences were lower in August 2011 compared with August 2010 in 11 of the 15 local authority areas that reported high volumes of disorder-related offences. For example, in Salford there was a 22 per cent decrease in the number of violent offences in August 2011 compared with August 2010, despite reporting 48 disorder-related violent offences, the highest of the 15 local authority areas (Table B3).

More state-based disorder offences (e.g. riot, violent disorder, harassment and causing public fear, alarm or distress) were recorded in August 2011 compared with August 2010 in the following local authority areas:

- Croydon, Lambeth, Enfield, Greenwich and Newham.

Fewer such offences were recorded in:

- Manchester, Birmingham, Southwark, Haringey, Ealing, Lewisham, Salford, Hackney, Wandsworth and Liverpool.

The proportion of these state-based offences reported as being directly related to the disorder events ranged from one per cent in Southwark, Hackney and Greenwich to eight per cent in Croydon (Table B5).

¹⁵ Figures taken from 'An overview of recorded crimes and arrests resulting from disorder events in August 2011' <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/overview-disorder-aug2011/>

Annex C: Medium-term trends in BCS crime

This annex provides some supplementary information on the medium-term trends in BCS crimes. All data presented here cover 12 months periods from October to September. The period since 2004 has been chosen, as from this point onwards a general levelling off of BCS crime has been seen (Chaplin *et al.*, 2011), and so this is a relevant starting point to look at medium-term patterns.

The graphs below show the number of crimes for the past seven years for each of the categories of crime shown in Figure 1. Error bars are used to indicate confidence intervals at the 95% level. Where differences between data points are such that the error bars do not overlap, this is evidence of a real change in crime levels that is unlikely to simply be a result of the uncertainty associated with any survey that doesn't cover the entire population. Non-overlapping changes can be said to be statistically significant (for more information on statistical significance and confidence intervals, see Section 8 of the [User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics](#))

The population estimate data used to create these estimates has been recently revised. Although this revised data is used in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 estimates, please note that earlier figures have not been revised, and are those figures that have been published in previous quarterly bulletins.

Figure C1 Vandalism BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

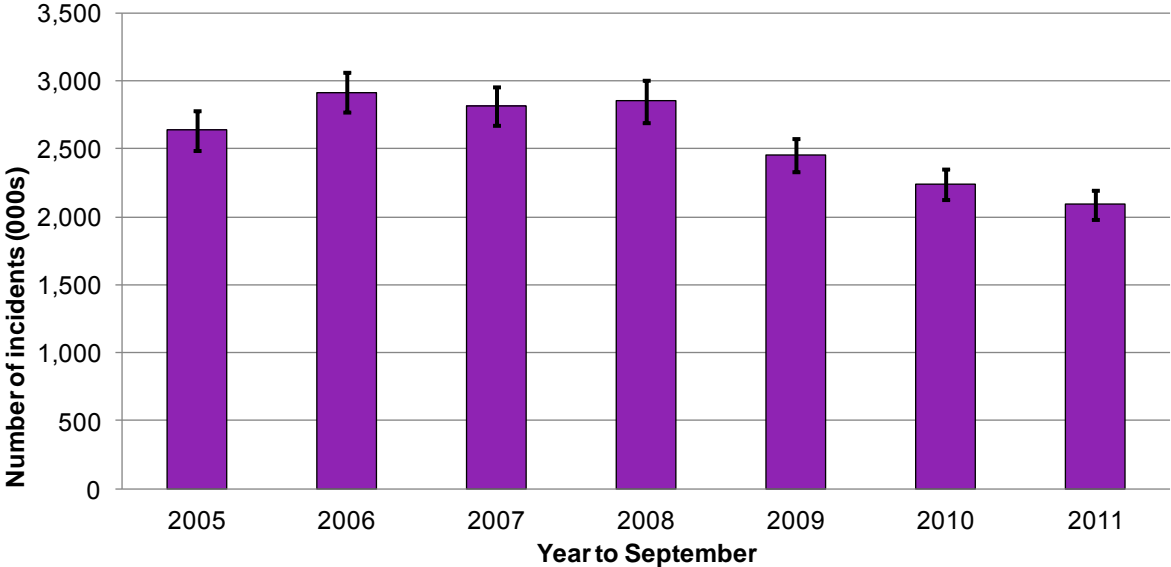


Figure C2 Burglary BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

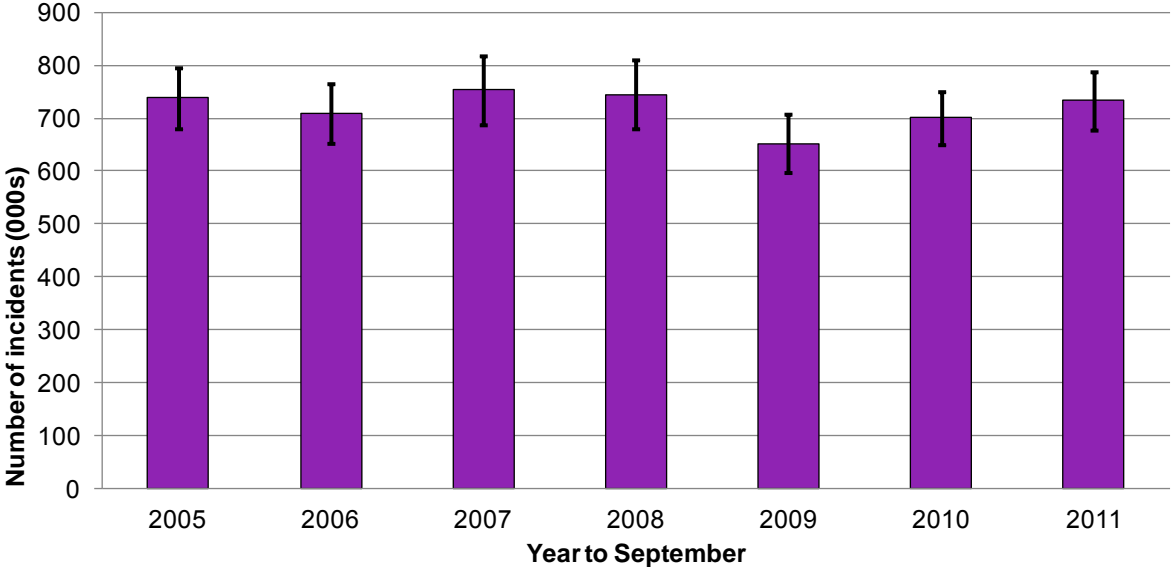


Figure C3 Vehicle-related theft BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

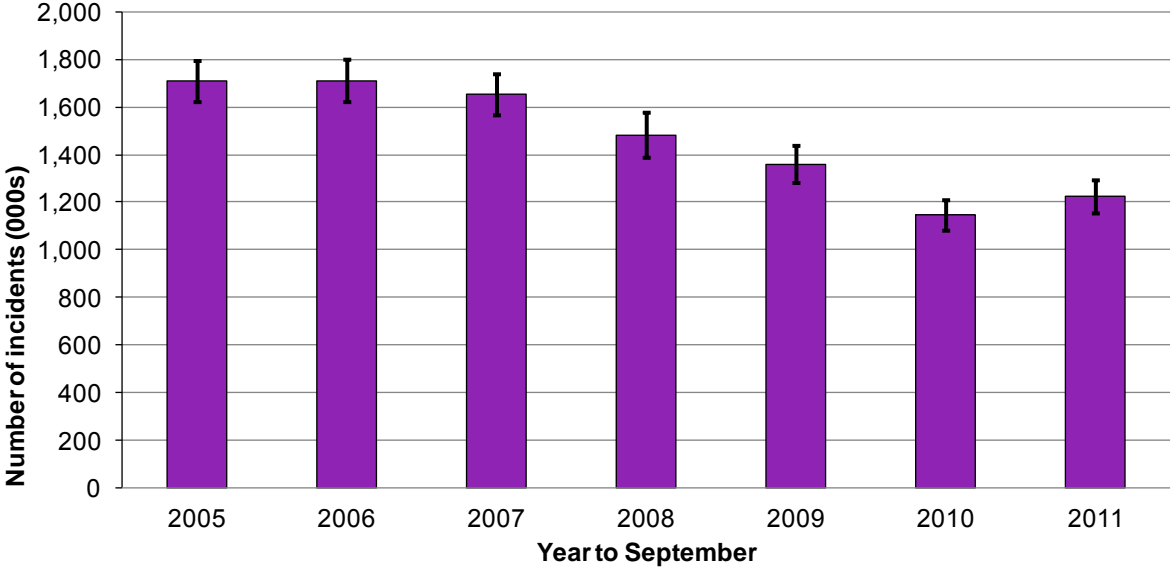


Figure C4 Bicycle theft BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

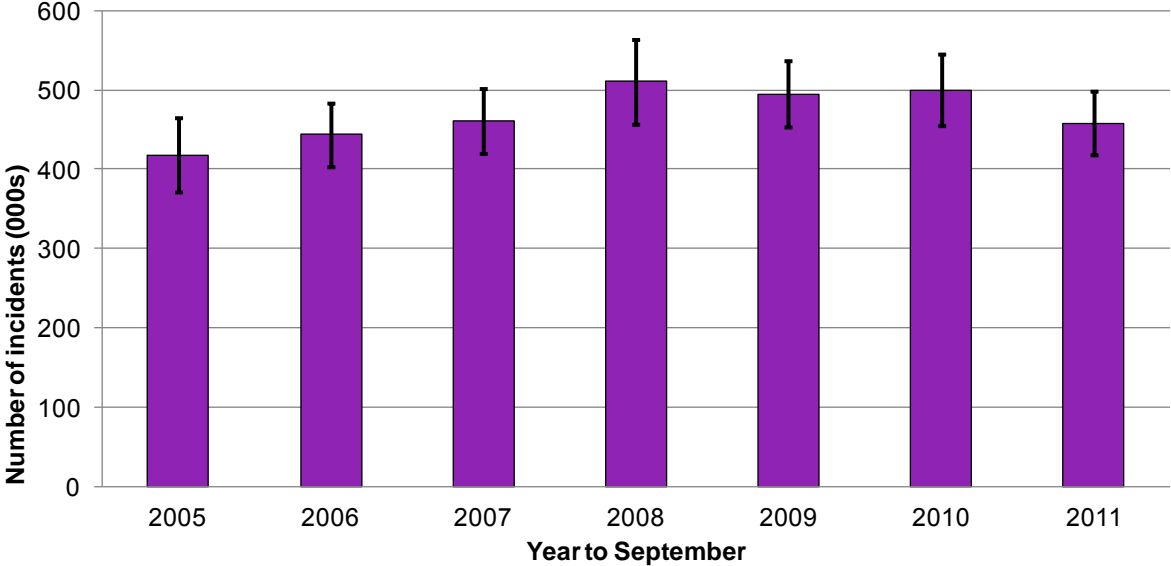


Figure C5 Other household theft BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

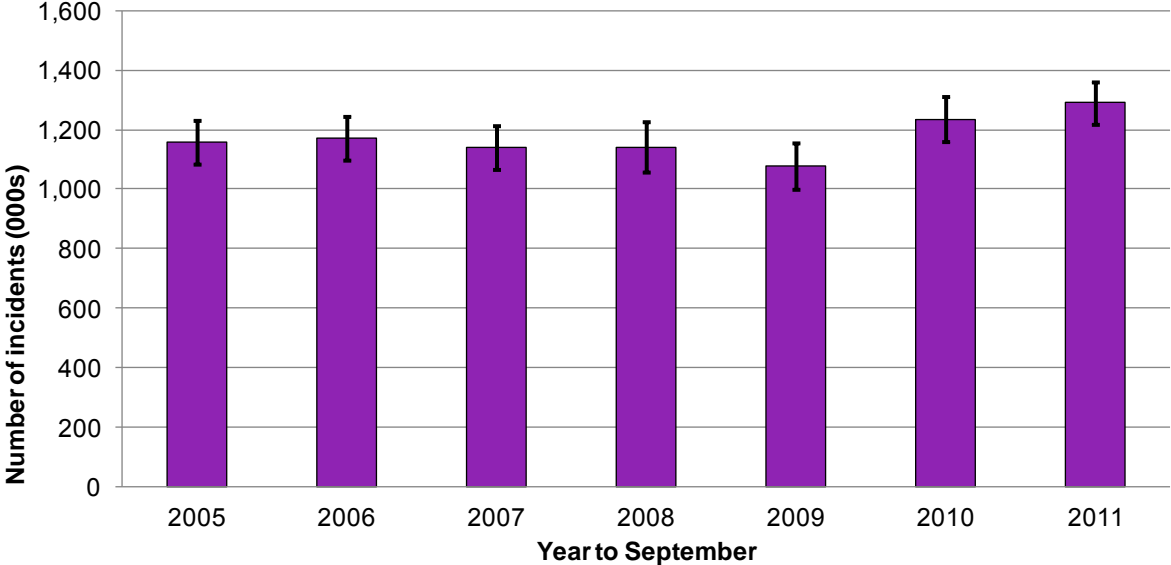


Figure C6 All household BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

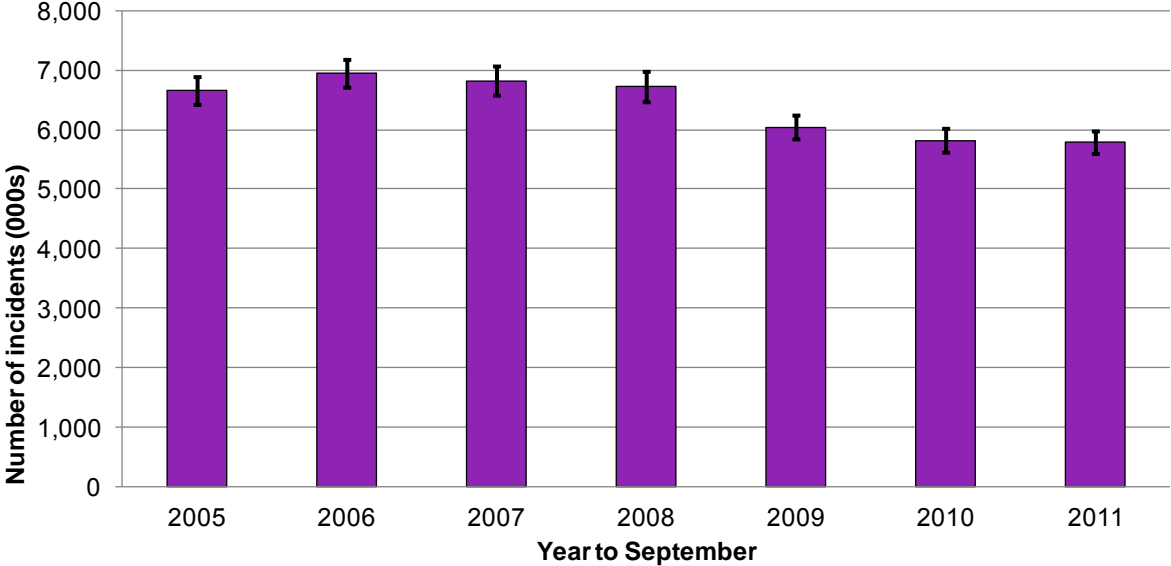


Figure C7 Theft from the person BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

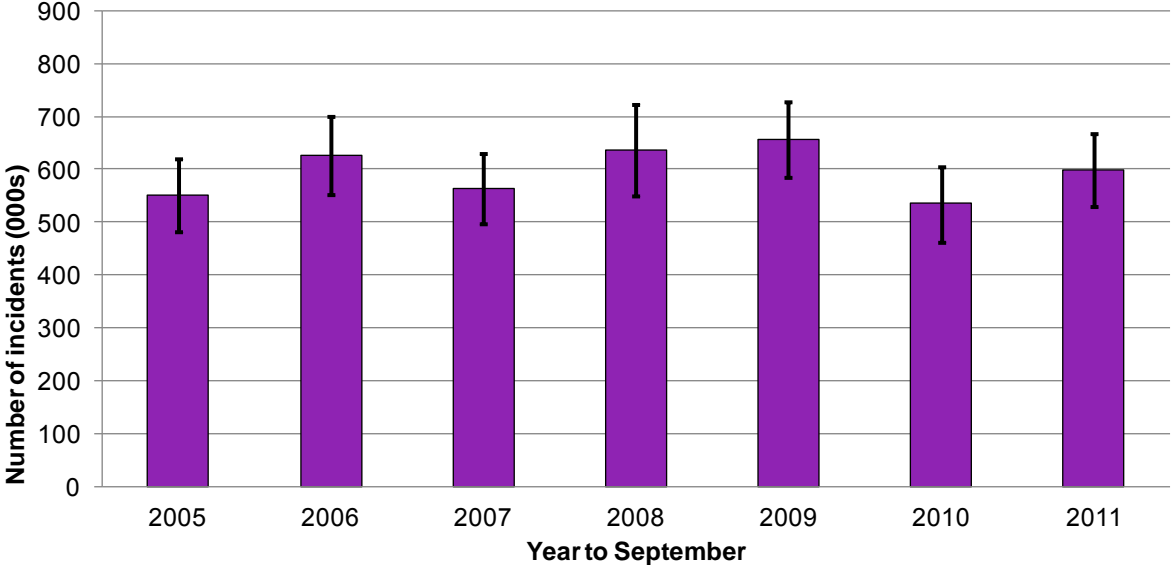


Figure C8 Other theft of personal property BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

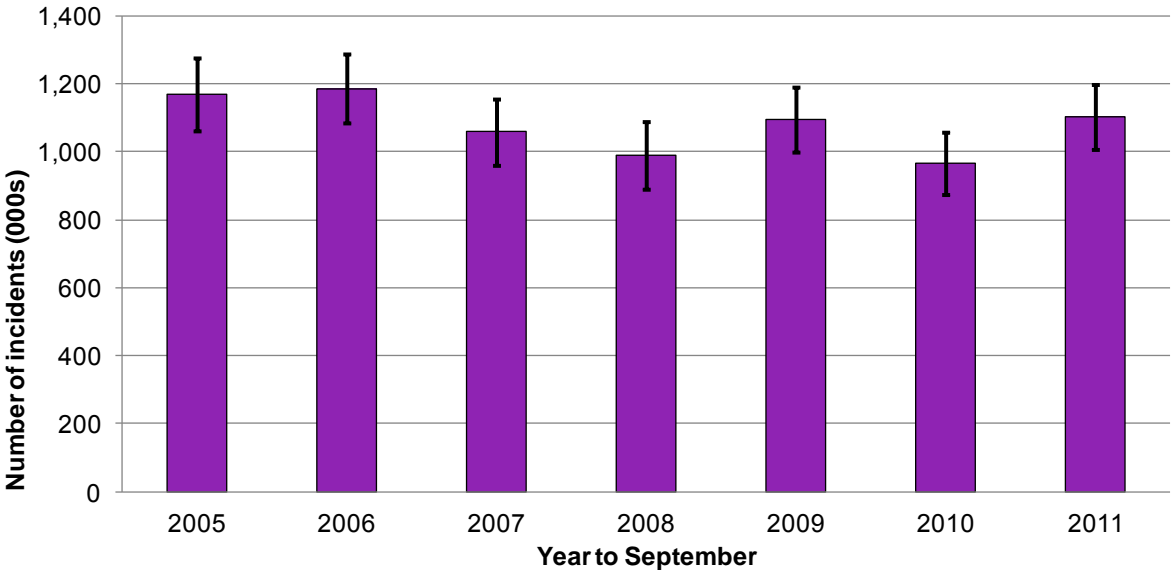


Figure C9 All violence BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011

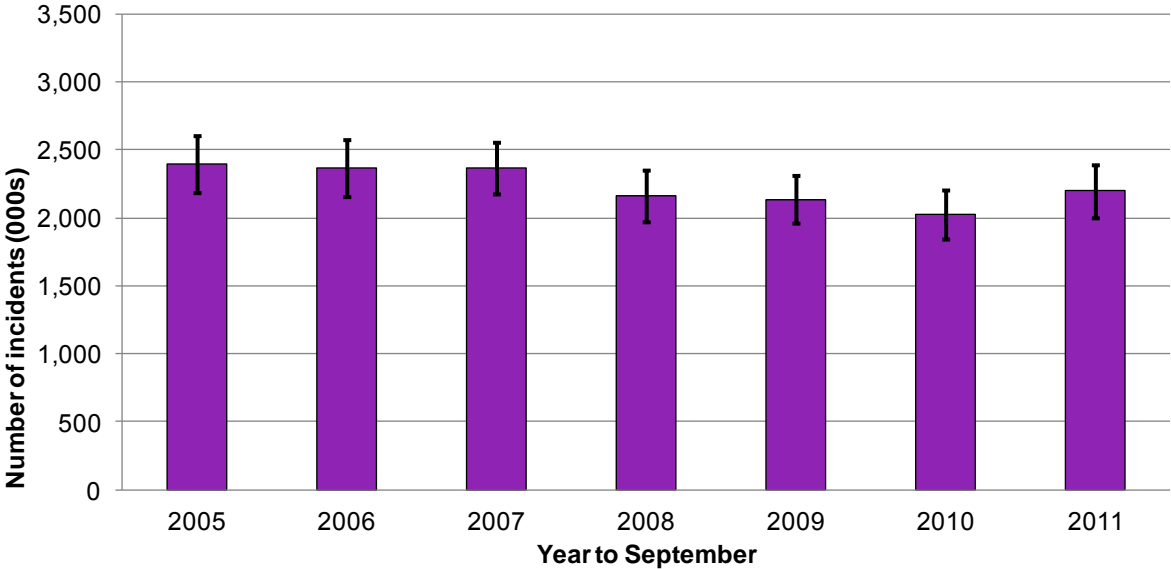
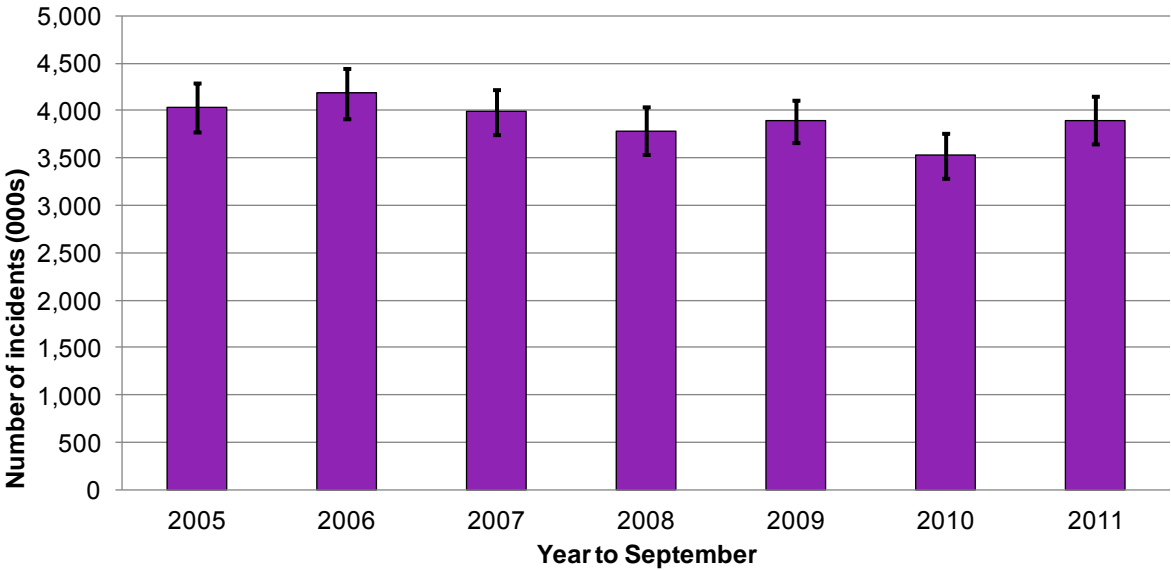


Figure C10 All personal BCS offences, year to September 2005 to 2011



References

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Further information

Copies of other Home Office publications are available from the Home Office Science Internet pages: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/>

This includes the User Guide to Home Office Crime Statistics, a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of the crime statistics:

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

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

For further information about the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime statistics, please email crimestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

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