

**CRIME AND
VICTIMISATION IN
WALES: RESULTS
FROM THE BRITISH
CRIME SURVEY
2001/02**

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Foreword

The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides an important complement to police recorded crime statistics. The survey enables estimates to be made of the extent of crime independent of changes in public reporting and police recording practice, and also significantly contributes to our understanding of the impact of crime by collecting information relating to a broad range of crime related issues.

For the first time, analysis of the survey has been carried out at the Wales level, and provides an important source of information about crime and disorder for both policy-makers and practitioners alike. This report will set a precedent and baseline for future reports as subsequent sweeps of the survey will be analysed at a Wales level, and will become a regular source of monitoring the public's experience of crime and the Criminal Justice System in Wales.

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Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Contents	iii
Summary	vi
Introduction	vi
Levels of crime in Wales.....	vi
Variations in risk of victimisation.....	vii
Incidents.....	vii
Multiple victimisation.....	vii
Reporting of offences in Wales	viii
Contact with the police.....	viii
Satisfaction with, complaints against and confidence in the police	ix
Concern about crime: worry, perceptions and impact of fear	x
Causes of crime and police priorities	xi
Drug use in Wales	xii
Anti-social behaviour and disorder	xii
Chapter 1. Introduction	1
Aims and objectives.....	1
Structure of this report.....	2
Strengths and weaknesses	3
Methodology and analyses	4
Terminology	5
Chapter 2. Levels of crime in Wales	6
Levels of crime	6
Variations between urban and rural Wales	7
Who is more at risk of crime?	9
Personal crime	10
Household crimes, excluding autocrimes	11
Autocrime	12

Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI 120 'level of crime')	14
Incidence and multiple victimisation	14
Multiple victimisation	16
Appendix Tables A2	19
Chapter 3 Reporting of offences in Wales	24
Reporting incidents to the police	24
Reasons given for not reporting	25
Appendix Tables A3	26
Chapter 4 Contact with the police	28
Public-initiated contact in Wales	28
Police-initiated contact in Wales	29
Variations in contact	30
Who has what sort of contact in Wales?	31
Appendix Tables A4	32
Chapter 5 Satisfaction with, complaints against, and confidence in the police and criminal justice agencies	34
Police 'annoyance'	34
Respect for the police	36
Confidence in the police – a comparative approach	37
The police and other criminal justice agencies	37
Police performance in Wales	38
Appendix Tables A5	41
Chapter 6 Concern about crime	44
Levels of worry	45
Worry about crime by force area (BVPI 121 'fear of crime')	46
Likelihood of victimisation - public perceptions	47
Likelihood of experiencing crime – perceptions by force area	48
Beliefs about changes in crime rates	49
Concern about personal safety	50

Concern about personal safety and crime in urban and rural Wales	51
Appendix Tables A6.....	53
Chapter 7 Causes of crime and police priorities	56
Causes of crime	56
Police priorities and tasks	58
Appendix Tables A7.....	62
Chapter 8 Drug use in Wales	67
Prevalence of use	67
Area and demographic factors	68
Appendix Table A8	70
Chapter 9 Social and Physical and Disorder	72
Problems of local disorder	73
High local disorder	74
Respondent perceptions of high local disorder (BVPI 122 'Feelings of public safety')	74
Respondents' perceptions compared with interviewer observations.....	74
Respondent perceptions of types of disorder in 2001/02	75
Impact of disorder on quality of life	77
Insulting, pestering and intimidating behaviour	79
Appendix Tables A9.....	80
Appendix 1: Glossary of terms.....	86
References	100

Summary

Introduction

- This report is based upon the analysis of data relating to Wales from the bi-national (England & Wales) British Crime Survey. In 2001/02, a total of 2,596 interviews were carried out in Wales for the main sample.
- The survey aims to find out about adult individuals' and households' experience of victimisation over the previous year. Questions are included on other areas of interest to the Home Office, such as fear of crime, contact with the police and drug use. The BCS data are now used in some indicators for monitoring performance of police and criminal justice.
- The survey excludes crimes which adult individuals have not experienced, such as homicide, crimes against business, victimless crimes, or personal crimes against anyone aged under 16 years or not living in a private household.
- In the report, Wales is compared with non-metropolitan police force areas of England and with metropolitan police force areas (these are Metropolitan Police Service, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria). Within Wales, we compare the four non-metropolitan police force areas of North Wales, Dyfed Powys, South Wales and Gwent.

Levels of crime in Wales

- Broadly speaking, levels of crime in Wales were similar to those in the non-metropolitan police force areas of England and significantly lower than in the metropolitan areas.
- The Best Value Performance Indicator for 'level of crime' (BVPI 120) shows that the four Welsh police force areas compared favourably with the English areas.

- As elsewhere, within Wales the highest prevalence of victimisation was found in urban areas, across all types of crime measured by the BCS.
- Just under one in five Welsh households (19%) had experienced some form of property crime and about one in sixteen Welsh adults (6%) had experienced some form of personal crime over the previous 12 months.
- The most common types of victimisation concerned motor vehicles. One in ten vehicle-owning households had had a vehicle, or something from the vehicle, stolen and one in seventeen had had their vehicle vandalised.

Variations in risk of victimisation

- Young adult males, single adults and regular visitors to pubs and clubs were more likely than other groups to become victims of personal crimes.
- Lone parent households, households in areas with high or medium physical disorder or in 'striving' areas in the ACORN classification, and households headed by a young adult, were more likely to become victims of property crimes (excluding vehicle crime).
- Households headed by a young adult, and those in areas with high physical disorder experienced higher levels of vehicle-related crime.

Incidents

- Thefts of and from vehicles (including cycles) accounted for 24% of incidents of crime, violent offences made up a similar proportion (24%) and vandalism accounted for just over a fifth (21%) of incidents recalled by respondents in Wales.

Multiple victimisation

- One in ten victims (10%) had experienced four or more crimes, and between them accounted for nearly one in three incidents of crime (29%) recalled in the survey by the Welsh respondents.

- Young adults, males, single adults and adults who were frequent visitors to pubs or clubs (over 9 times per month) experienced more multiple victimisation than other groups through personal crime.
- Lone parent families and respondents living in areas of high physical disorder experienced more multiple victimisation of their households than other groups.

Reporting of offences in Wales

- Overall, Welsh respondents had reported 42 per cent of offences to the police, which is almost the same as the percentage for non-metropolitan England.
- In Wales, only one-third (33%) of personal offences but nearly one-half (47%) were reported.
- By police force area, the lowest rate of reporting was by respondents in North Wales (36%) and the highest was by respondents in Gwent (53%).
- At a general level, the proportions of Welsh respondents, giving reasons for non-reporting relating to the incident (55%) or to the police (47%), were similar to those in England. However, within these categories, respondents in Wales were less likely to write incidents off as trivial than respondents in England, and more likely to believe that the police would not be interested in the offence.

Contact with the police

- Nearly one-third (31%) of adults in Wales had sought contact with the police. Levels of public-initiated contact were similar in rural and urban Wales, and were almost the same as those in England.
- The most common reasons for public-initiated contact were to report a crime (13%) or to pass on information (8%) such as reporting a missing person or letting the police know if their house was empty. Respondents

in Wales were less likely than those in non-metropolitan England to have reported a traffic accident or to have asked the police for information.

- Nearly one in five Welsh respondents (19%) had been contacted by the police: about half of these contacts were in the context of vehicle stops.
- Male respondents (17%) were more likely than females (5%) to have had police-initiated contact. Middle-aged respondents were more likely than other age groups to have initiated contact themselves (42%).

Satisfaction with, complaints against and confidence in the police

- One in five respondents in Wales had been really annoyed by police behaviour during the previous five years. Over one-third of these respondents (35%) cited a rude or unfriendly manner as the reason for such annoyance and a third (33%) blamed unreasonable or unfair behaviour.
- A small proportion (6%) of respondents in Wales had made, or attempted to make, a complaint against the police.
- Seventy per cent of respondents in Wales said that they themselves view the police with respect. Only 20 per cent thought that the public in general view the police with respect. This pattern is repeated in English areas.
- Respondents in Wales rated police favourably in comparison with the ratings for other criminal justice bodies (prisons, judges, magistrates, Crown Prosecution Service, juvenile courts, probation). Almost half (49%) felt that police were doing an excellent or good job; proportions of excellent or good ratings for the other criminal justice bodies ranged from 30% to 16%.
- A larger proportion of residents of every police force area in Wales rated their local police favourably than rated the police in general favourably.

Concern about crime: worry, perceptions and impact of fear

- On the basis of proportions of respondents who said they were 'very worried', adults in Wales showed slightly and consistently less concern about crimes than in England.
- The highest proportions of respondents who said they were 'very worried' about a range of crimes, said so with respect to unauthorised card use (21%) or theft of a car (21%).
- On the Best Value Performance Indicator for 'fear of crime' (BVPI 121), South Wales had very high levels of 'fear' about car crime and violent crime, and Dyfed Powys had very low levels of 'fear' about burglary within Wales.
- Taking respondents who were either 'very' or 'fairly' worried, lower proportions in Dyfed Powys were concerned about most crimes (except unauthorised card use), and more of those living in South Wales were 'very' or 'fairly' worried (especially about burglary, mugging and theft of a car) when compared to the Wales average.
- Few respondents (less than 5% for any type of crime) thought that a crime was 'very likely' to happen to them. Autocrime was the crime thought most likely by the highest proportion of respondents.
- Respondents in Dyfed Powys were least likely to expect to be robbed or mugged or burgled; those in North Wales were most likely to expect to be burgled; and those in South Wales were most likely to expect to have their vehicle stolen.
- About one half (52%) of Welsh respondents thought that crime had gone up locally in the two years prior to the interview: a higher proportion (68%) thought it had gone up 'nationally'. This pattern is similar to that in England.
- Residents of South Wales police force area were most likely to believe that crime had gone down locally (20%) and those in Dyfed Powys most likely to think that local crime had not changed (47%).

- Fear of going out alone at night affected about one in seven (15%) of rural respondents, and almost double this proportion (29%) of respondents living in urban Wales.
- All indicators of worry about crime show lower levels of concern in rural areas of Wales.

Causes of crime and police priorities

- Four-fifths (80%) of respondents in Wales – more than in England – thought that drugs and alcohol are among the main causes of crime in Britain. Nearly three-quarters (71%) thought that a lack of discipline, and over half (54%) that poverty or unemployment, was a main cause.
- Unlike respondents in the rest of Wales, more of those in Gwent thought that lack of discipline was a cause of crime (71%) than thought so of drugs and alcohol (67%). Poverty and unemployment were more likely to be believed to be causes of crime in South Wales (62%), and were least likely to thought so in North Wales (44%).
- Prompted with a range of possible police priorities, the highest percentage of respondents in Wales chose addressing drug use and dealing (66%, reflecting the perceived role of drugs as a cause of crime), followed by burglary (58%) and joy-riding (45%).
- Relatively small percentages of respondents in Wales thought that racist attacks or abuse (3%) or domestic violence (8%) should be priorities. Muggings were much less likely to be thought a priority in Wales (16%) than in England.
- In Wales, as bi-nationally, more respondents thought the most important police task to be responding to emergency calls (41%). Other tasks thought most important were detecting and arresting offenders (by 28% of respondents) and patrolling on foot (20%).

Drug use in Wales

- The BCS includes questions about drug use in a self-completion module. This is a sensitive issue and admission to use of a drug may vary unpredictably. (In Wales, an alternative survey is the Welsh Adult Substance Misuse Survey or WASMS.)
- Respondents in Wales indicated lower levels of any drug use (8%) than those in England (11% in non-metropolitan areas; 13% in metropolitan areas).
- The most commonly used drug was cannabis (7% admitting its use in the previous year).
- Patterns of drug use differ by individual characteristics and lifestyle. Male respondents and frequent visitors to pubs and clubs were more likely to admit to using any drug.
- The highest overall drug use was among respondents aged 20-24 years, but older respondents aged 25-34 were more likely to admit to using ecstasy or cocaine.

Anti-social behaviour and disorder

- Perceptions of local disorder are used to measure of 'feelings of public safety' (Best Value Performance Indicator BVPI 122). About one-fifth (19%) of respondents in Wales perceived local disorder to be high. This percentage is similar to the bi-national average of 20 per cent.
- Respondents living in urban Wales or South Wales, those living in social rented housing, and younger adults (16-29) were more likely to perceive local disorder to be high.
- Respondents living in rural Wales, or in Dyfed Powys or Gwent, or in 'thriving' areas in the ACORN classification, owner occupiers, and those aged 60 or older, were less likely than others to perceive local disorder as high.

- Of respondents who considered that any of a range of local disorders problematic, nearly a quarter (24%: 15% in rural and 28% in urban areas) thought that teenagers hanging around the streets was the 'biggest local problem', with another fifth (20%) selecting drug use and dealing, and 16 per cent litter - 15% in urban, rising to 22% in rural areas where litter was the most common biggest problem.
- Most interviewer ratings of physical disorder (67%) agreed with respondent perceptions of low local disorder. However, only 15% of interviewer ratings agreed with respondent perceptions of high local disorder.
- One in twenty respondents (5%) believed that disorder had a 'great' impact on their quality of life: among social renters, this proportion rose to 8 per cent.
- Thirteen per cent of respondents in Wales had experienced some form of pestering, insulting or intimidating behaviour. Responses did not vary with area characteristics. A greater proportion of people with higher qualifications and of those in work had experienced such behaviour. Older people and economically inactive respondents were less likely to have had such experiences.

Chapter 1. Introduction

Aims and objectives

The British Crime Survey (BCS) of England and Wales provides measures of adults' experiences of crimes against themselves or their households. The BCS has been conducted since 1982; since 1994 it has been carried out by means of Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). Originally irregular and then a bi-annual survey, since 2001 it has moved to an annual cycle with an increased target sample size of 40,000 interviews each year. The increased sample size means that in the 2001/02 sweep 2,596 individuals were interviewed in Wales, allowing a degree of meaningful analysis to be carried out both at a national level and within Wales, for example by police force areas.

The main purposes of the BCS are to:

- provide a measure of crime that is alternative and complementary to police-recorded crime;
- provide information on adult risks of experiencing crime;
- develop a picture of the nature and distribution of crime
- investigate crime-related issues, such as reporting behaviour, fear of crime, and satisfaction with the police and other criminal justice agencies.

The BCS data are now also used in indicators of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for monitoring the performance of police authorities and confidence in the criminal justice system (Simmons et al 2002, Whitehead and Taylor 2003).

The purpose of this report is to utilise the BCS to provide a *broad overview* of crime and crime-related issues in Wales, comparing Wales to other areas of the United Kingdom and comparing areas and population groups within Wales.

The remainder of this introductory section will outline the structure of the report and look at methodological issues, focusing on the strengths of the

BCS and offering a few warnings on specific weaknesses of the survey and gaps in its coverage.

Structure of this report

Each chapter of the report addresses a broad area of crime and crime-related issues in Wales through an analysis of the 2001/02 BCS data:

- Chapter 2 explores overall levels of crime experienced by adults and the prevalence of different kinds of offence in Wales. Indicators of 'level of crime' (BVPI 120) are included in this chapter.
- Chapter 3 examines reporting behaviour of adults in Wales, looking at reporting rates for different offences and in different parts of the country, and the reasons given for not reporting offences to the police.
- Chapter 4 looks at contacts between the adult public and the police in Wales: what proportion of adults either made contact with the police or were contacted by them, and the reasons for contact.
- Chapter 5 describes public perceptions of the police and other criminal justice agencies in Wales. We consider several indicators: levels of annoyance with, and complaints against the police; respect for the police; and perceptions of performance of the various criminal justice agencies. Perceived levels of performance form one basis for measuring 'public confidence' in the criminal justice system.
- Chapter 6 addresses concerns about crime among adults in Wales, exploring levels of worry with respect to a range of offences, expectation of victimisation and impressions of crime levels locally and nationally. Indicators of 'fear of crime' (BVPI 121) are included in this chapter.
- Chapter 7 reports on what Welsh adults see as the main causes of crime in Britain and examines what they view as being the key priorities and tasks of the police.
- Chapter 8 offers a brief description of BCS self-reported drug usage in Wales.
- Chapter 9 explores adult feelings of safety in Wales, through their perceptions and experiences of types of anti-social behaviour and disorder.

Indicators of 'feelings of public safety' (BVPI 122) are included in this chapter.

Strengths and weaknesses

The strength of the BCS lies in the fact that it provides an alternative and complementary source of information on crime to police-recorded crime statistics. A serious drawback to using police statistics is that not all crimes are reported to the police, and, even if reported, not all are recorded by the police.¹ Another strength is that the BCS provides evidence on other crime-related issues that police statistics do not cover, for example fear of crime.

This report utilises data collected in one year of BCS interviews only. It gives a 'snapshot' of crime and crime-related issues in Wales. An analysis of trends in Wales will be included in our future reports, beginning with the one based on the 2002/03 data.

There are some important limits to BCS. Importantly, the BCS survey does not cover all crimes. By its very nature (interviewing individuals about their own and their household's experience of crimes) the BCS excludes certain crimes. Crimes not covered by the survey include:

- Homicide
- Crimes against businesses
- 'Victimless' or consensual crimes (e.g. drug possession)
- Personal crimes against anyone aged under 16
- Personal crimes against persons not living in private households (e.g. people in residential homes).

The full BCS sample of 40,000 has an ethnic minority booster of around 3,000 interviews. This report was prepared without the booster, so no analysis could be carried out on how ethnic minority groups in Wales experience crime, or on how such groups perceive crime and crime-related issues.

¹ Taking BCS crimes comparable with police-recorded, Simmons et al (2002) estimate that 42% were reported to the police, and of these 60% were recorded by the police.

In addition, we have not analysed the experience of members of some other groups (in particular, the unemployed and people residing in 'rising' areas in the ACORN classification) because the base numbers were very small in Wales.

Methodology and analyses

Throughout this report comparisons are made between Wales and types of areas of England. The geographical areas are:²

- **Wales:** defined by the borders of the country and made up of four non-metropolitan police force areas; North Wales, Dyfed Powys, Gwent and South Wales.
- **Metropolitan force areas:** all lying within England, and taken to be the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.
- **Non-metropolitan England:** the remaining police forces in England. This group makes a useful comparator for Wales which itself includes no metropolitan force area.

Within Wales, we compare and contrast both geographical areas (e.g. urban against rural Wales; the four Welsh police force areas) and socio-demographic factors (e.g. area classifications like ACORN, groups based upon individual or household characteristics). Only those groups for which there were adequate base numbers of interviews (the 'raw' unweighted number) are reported.

Each chapter has an appendix, which includes supplementary tables with technical information like the 'raw' unweighted numbers and the results of statistical testing. All analysis has been carried out on weighted data, which is an adjustment to correct for imbalances introduced by sampling.

² Scotland was examined as another potential comparator: the most recent data available come from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey (Scottish Executive CRU, 2002), and the issue is complicated by different crime categories (e.g. burglary and housebreaking).

Presentation of results of statistical testing

Findings have been tested for significant differences at the five per cent and one per cent levels. Where significant results are found, they are indicated with a single asterisk (*) at the five per cent level and a double asterisk (**) at the one per cent level. Significance tests were carried out in two ways. First, when comparing Wales with Metropolitan force areas and non-Metropolitan England, we have tested for a significant difference between Wales and each other area. Secondly, when examining a number of groups or areas within Wales, we tested for a significant difference between each group and all others. For example, where a finding for the respondents living in Gwent police force area is indicated as significant, it is significantly different from the corresponding finding for the total populations of North Wales, Dyfed Powys and South Wales police force areas. Where there are only two mutually exclusive groups, obviously this amounts to testing against each other (e.g. urban and rural; male and female; manual and non-manual).

Terminology

We have used categories of crime and other terms that may have specific meanings in relation to the BCS. A glossary of these forms Appendix 1.

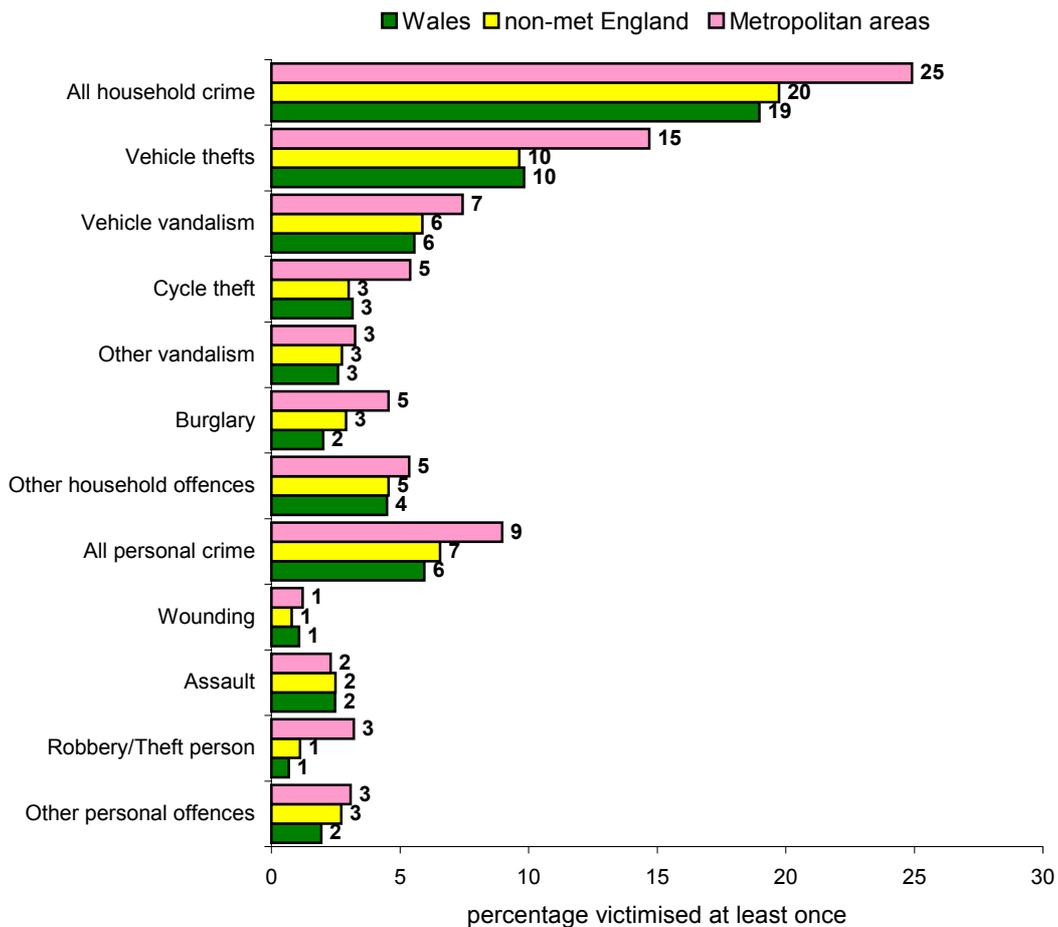
Chapter 2. Levels of crime in Wales

This chapter explores levels of BCS-measured crime experienced by Welsh respondents in the period covered by the BCS 2001/02. We first compare the Welsh sample’s victimisation rates with those of respondents in England. We then examine the Welsh experiences of crime, including risk factors associated with victimisation in Wales and the issue of multiple victimisation.

Levels of crime

Figure 2.1, based on Table A2.1, shows prevalence rates (the percentage in the BCS sample who were victims of an offence) for selected crimes in Wales compared with non-metropolitan England and metropolitan forces areas.

Figure 2.1 Prevalence rates of selected crimes in England and Wales: 2001/02 BCS



Note: Vehicle crimes and bicycle thefts are based on owners only.

Overall, the prevalence rates in 2001/02 in Wales were marginally lower – not significantly so – than those in non-metropolitan England, both for property (19% of respondents in Wales, 20% in non-metropolitan England) and personal crimes (6% and 7% respectively). The only type of offence which had a significantly different prevalence rate is burglary (2% and 3% respectively). Both Wales and non-metropolitan England had significantly lower prevalence rates than the metropolitan force areas: this was most marked for vehicle thefts (10% in Wales and 15% in metropolitan areas), burglary (2% and 5% respectively) and robbery (1% and 3% respectively).

Although the rate in Wales was on the low side, the pattern of prevalence was similar in the three types of area. The highest prevalence was for autocrime: in Wales one in ten vehicle-owning households experienced at least one theft of or from a motor vehicle (10%), and a smaller proportion had had their vehicle vandalised (6%).

Key 'street crimes' covered by the BCS were relatively rare in Wales,³ with under one in a hundred respondents having been victim of robbery or theft from the person.

Variations between urban and rural Wales

Figures 2.2 and 2.3, based on Tables A2.2 and A2.3, show the prevalence of several forms of victimisation among respondents living in urban and rural Wales. From Figure 2.2, we see that prevalence of personal crimes is higher among respondents living in urban areas. There are two limits on interpreting these results. First, victims do not always live where an offence occurred: BCS takes the location from the respondent and does not explore whether the crime took place in an urban or rural context. Also, the very small number of

³ Under the Street Crime Initiative run in ten English force areas 'street crime' includes robbery and snatch thefts (both covered by the BCS), and possession of a firearm in a public place which is not covered.

respondents experiencing robbery and theft from the person allows us only to emphasise their relative rarity throughout Wales.

Figure 2.2 Prevalence rates of personal crime against adults in Wales: 2001/02 BCS

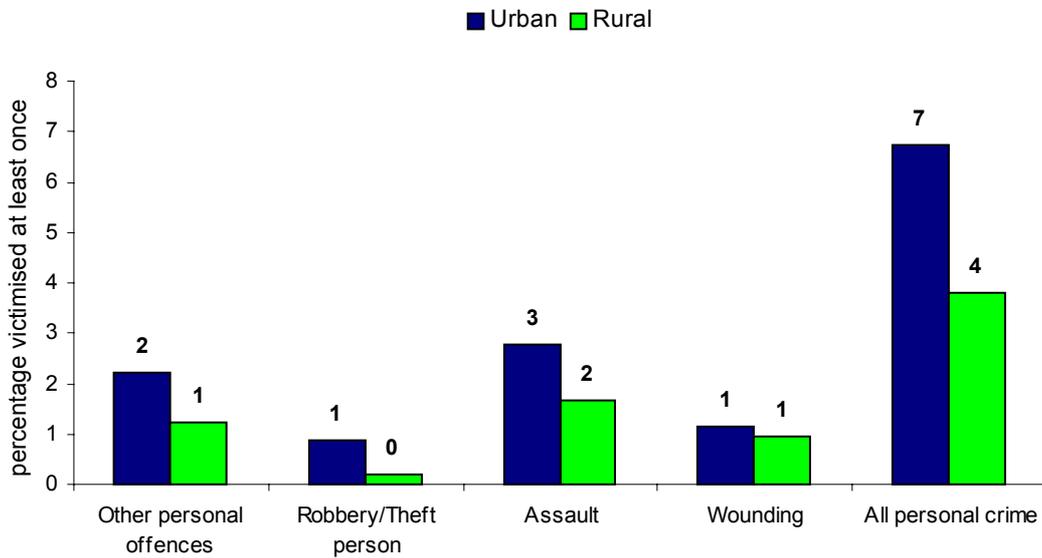
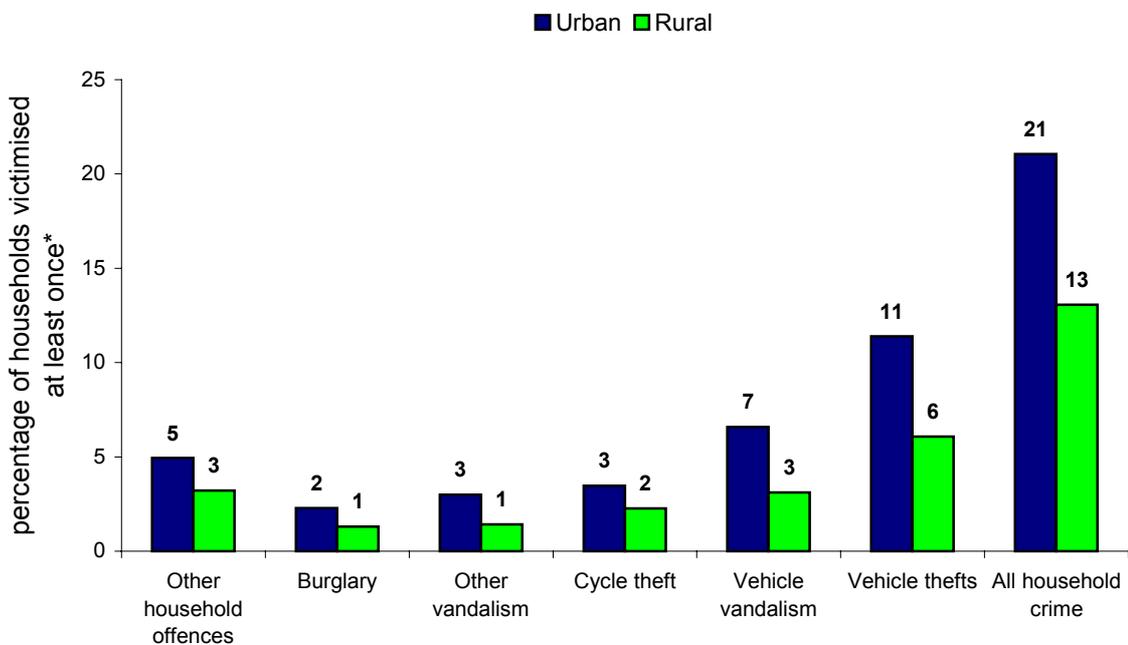


Figure 2.3 Prevalence rates of household crimes in Wales: 2001/02 BCS



Note: Vehicle crimes and bicycle thefts are based on owners only.

People in urban households were also more likely than those in rural households to experience a household crime: just over one in five respondents in urban Wales experienced household victimisation, while in rural areas this falls to around one in eight.

As shown in the appendix Tables A2.2 and A2.3, the apparently higher risks of victimisation for those living in urban areas was supported by statistical significance only for only the totals and autocrime (including theft to or from a vehicle and vandalism).

Nevertheless, we should note that the findings that crime in Wales was more common in urban areas than rural is consistent with those of numerous other studies and surveys, including a recent bi-national analysis carried out by Aust and Simmons (2002) based on the British Crime Survey 2000.⁴

Who is more at risk of crime?

We know from other BCS analyses that the risk of victimisation varies considerably by location and characteristics of the household or individual victim (Aye Maung, 2001): burglary, violent crime and vehicle-related thefts have been examined for different risk rates. For the purpose of this report, three offence groups will be examined:

- **personal crimes** (including assaults and woundings, robbery, theft from the person and theft of personal property, and sexual crimes);
- **household crimes** (excluding vehicle crime, see below); and
- **autocrime** (thefts of and from motor vehicles, including attempts, and criminal damage to motor vehicles).

In this section, we will identify, where numbers of respondents allow, characteristics of households, individuals or residential area in Wales among which there were elevated or reduced victimisation for these crimes. Some

⁴ Bi-national refers to England and Wales, national refers to Wales only.

characteristics associated with these risks will overlap with each other e.g. a lone parent family is more likely to fall into the category where the household reference person (BCS terminology for 'head' or HRP) is separated.⁵

Personal crime (Wales average prevalence rate: 6%)

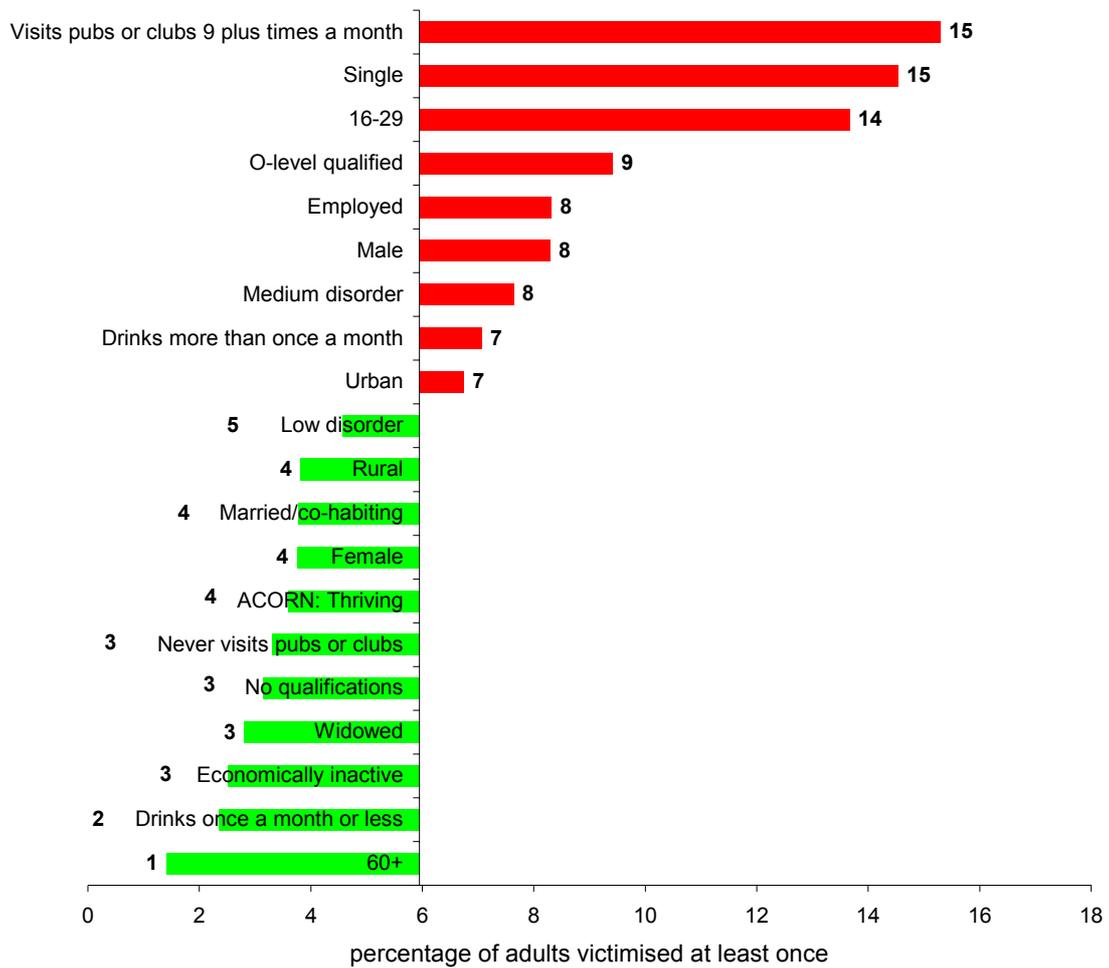
Figure 2.4 shows group or area characteristics associated with above- and below-average risks of personal victimisation among respondents in Wales. Only those categories with significant differences to the remainder of the Welsh population are displayed (for a full breakdown, see Table A2.4). The highest prevalence rates, of 14% among younger (aged 16 to 29) respondents and 15% among single respondents, were more than twice the national average of 6%. At the other extreme, the lowest prevalence rate of just 1% was among older respondents (aged 60 and over).⁶

Social factors appear to play an important role in risk of, or protection against, personal victimisation, and often overlap with individual characteristics. Around one in seven (15%) of respondents who frequently visited pubs and clubs had experienced a personal offence: this contrasts with the small percentages victimised among those who either who never visited pubs and clubs (3%) or who drink alcohol less than once a month (2%).

⁵ We do not report on multi-variate analysis of the data here.

⁶ There are a number of categories in Figure 2.4 with a high level of overlap. For example, females, who also show a lower prevalence rate than males are more likely to fall into other low risk categories: 47.1% don't visit pubs or clubs compared to 30.7% of males; 48.2% are economically inactive (35.1% of males); and 42.9% have no qualifications (34.2% of males).

Figure 2.4 Prevalence of personal crime in Wales: highs and lows (2001/02 BCS)



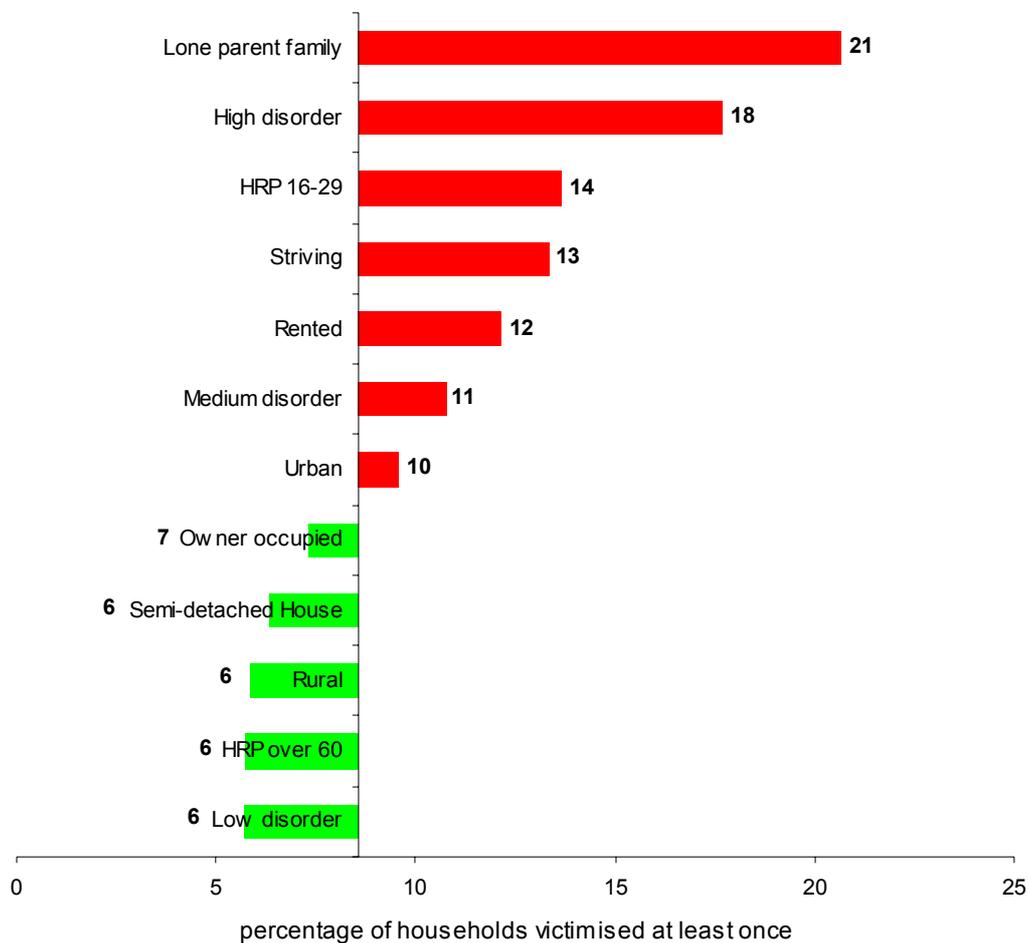
Household crimes, excluding autocrimes (Wales prevalence rate 9%)

Figure 2.5 shows groups that experienced significantly above and below-average risk of household, but not vehicular, crimes (a full breakdown of prevalence by group is given in Table A2.5). Household crimes include burglaries from dwellings, garages and outhouses, thefts from outside the home (excluding milk bottles), other thefts from the home (for example by a person present in the home with the owner’s informed consent), and acts of criminal damage against the home.

The highest risks of household victimisation were among lone parent families (21%) and among respondents living in areas of high physical disorder as

assessed by the interviewer (18%). There were considerable overlaps (30 to 40%) of lone parenthood in Wales with residence in areas also characterised by elevated risk of victimisation, that is areas of high or medium physical disorder and 'striving' areas within the ACORN classification. Area characteristics associated with higher prevalence of victimisation have large overlaps. Over half of households in areas of high physical disorder were in areas categorised as 'striving' within the ACORN classification scheme.

Figure 2.5 Prevalence of household (excluding vehicle) crime in Wales: highs and lows (2001/02 BCS)

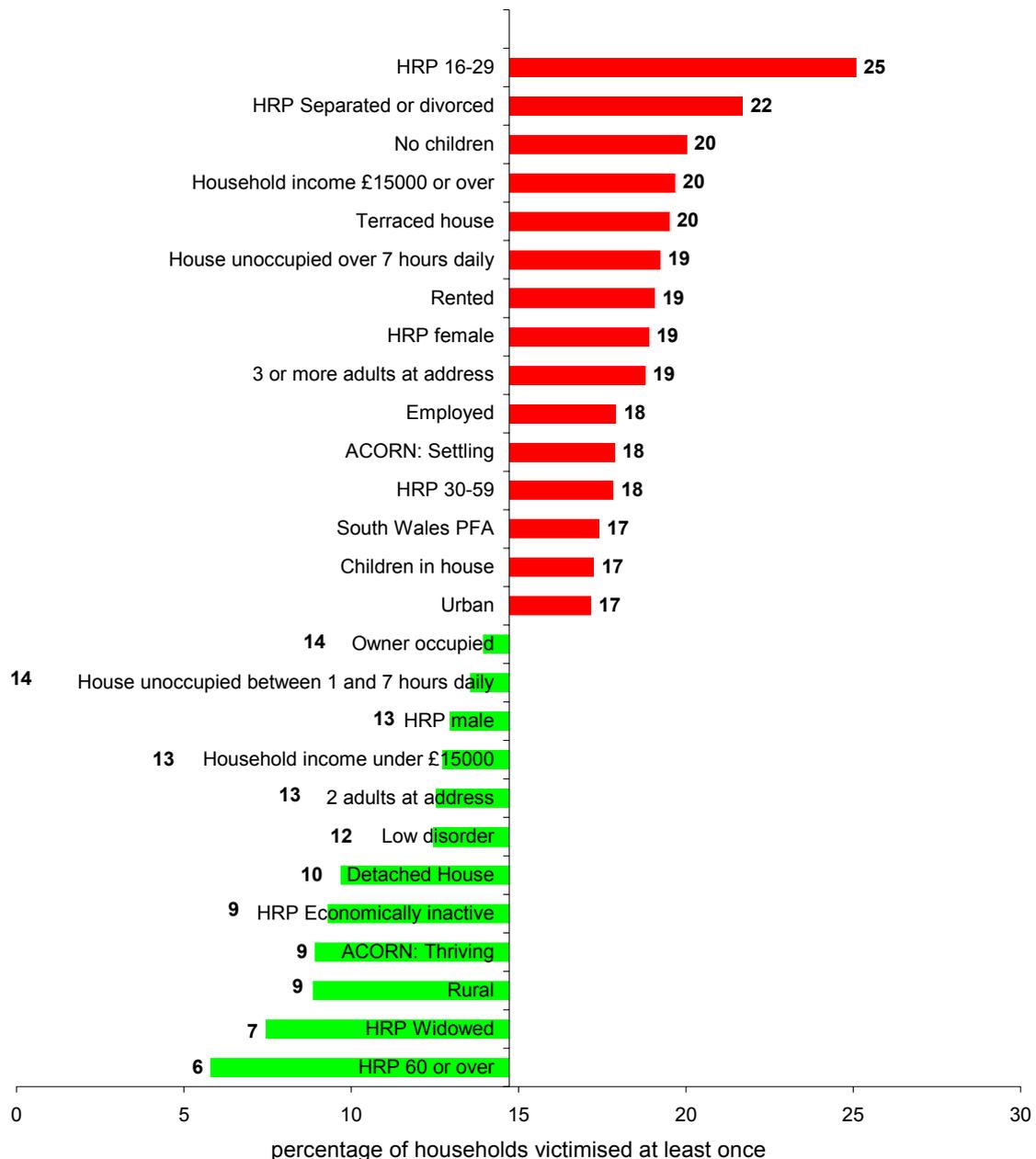


Autocrime (Wales average prevalence 15%)

Figure 2.6 shows the groups which experienced significantly above- or below-average risk of vehicular crimes, including theft of, or from, the vehicle and vandalism of the vehicle (a full breakdown is given in Table A2.6).

The vehicle-owning group which experienced highest risks was households headed by someone aged under 30 (25%), much higher than the national average of 15%. Interestingly, autocrime was the only one of our three categories in which a police force area had an elevated (or reduced) risk: South Wales being significantly higher (17%). Some groups of households at high risk may also be characterised by multiple vehicle ownership.

Figure 2.6 Prevalence of vehicle crime in Wales: highs and lows (2001/02 BCS)



By contrast, households with three overlapping characteristics experienced lower than average risk of victimisation: those where the head (HRP) was older (6%), was widowed (7%) or was economically inactive (9%). Respondents in rural areas, in 'thriving' areas (characterised as 'affluent home-owning areas, suburban and rural, including commuters and older people'), and in detached houses experienced prevalence much lower than the national average.

Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI 120 'level of crime')

The indicator for level of crime (BVPI 120) is made up of two components:

- The estimated risk of an adult being a victim once or more in the previous 12 months of a personal crime (excluding sexual offences)
- The estimated risk of a household being a victim once or more in the previous 12 months of a household crime.

As we have seen, none of the four police force areas (North Wales, Dyfed Powys, South Wales and Gwent) differed significantly at the 5% level except for the elevated autocrime (a part of household crime within the BVPI). With this exception, we note that (Table A2.1) the indicators for BVPI 120 compared favourably with police force areas in England.

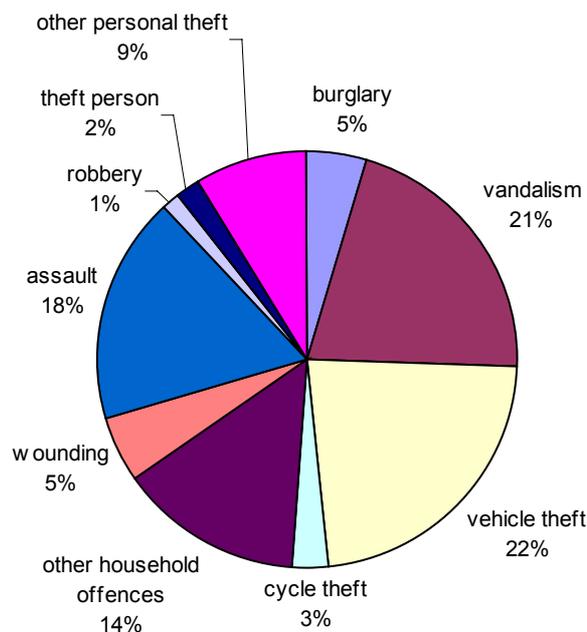
Incidence and multiple victimisation

So far, risks have been discussed in terms of prevalence, that is to say that we have examined the proportion of victims in the population. We now turn to *incidence* rates, or the number of offences per adult or household. Were each victim to experience only one incident, then incidence and prevalence rates would be identical. In fact, individuals may be the victim of more than one crime, of the same offence in distinct circumstances on several

occasions.⁷ The impact of crime on these *multiple victims* is explored below, after an examination of the incidence of all crimes recalled in the BCS.

Figure 2.7 breaks down offences measured by the BCS in Wales into ten offence categories.⁸ Thefts of and from vehicles including cycles accounted for nearly a quarter of all BCS-measured crime in Wales (24%). Violent offences – assaults, woundings and robberies – made up a similar proportion (24%) and vandalism accounts for just over one fifth (21%). Only one in twenty offences recalled by respondents in Wales was a burglary (5%), less than the bi-national 8 per cent (Simmons et al, 2002).

Figure 2.7 Incidents of crime in Wales: 2001/02 BCS



An alternative categorisation of offences allows us to compare the incidence of:

⁷ Victims may experience the same offence as part of a series (e.g. domestic violence), which is a separate issue of serial victimisation and not multiple victimisation.

⁸ Sexual offences (rape, attempted rape and indecent assault) have not been included in the analysis.

- acquisitive crimes in which the theft of property is the object of the offence,
- criminal damage (vandalism against homes and vehicles), and
- crimes of personal violence where the violence is not an instrument to obtain property (assaults and woundings).

The majority of crime in Wales is acquisitive, accounting for over eleven in every twenty offences (56%).

Table 2.1 Nature of incidents of crime in Wales: BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)

Nature of incident:	Percentage of all incidents:
Acquisitive crimes	56
Criminal damage	21
All assaults	23

Multiple victimisation

A BCS respondent may have been victim of more than one incident of the same crime or victim of several different offences during the 12 month recall period. Table 2.2 quantifies the extent of both these forms of multiple victimisation for all BCS incidents in Wales.

Table 2.2 Multiple victimisation: percentage of victims accounting for percentage of incidents

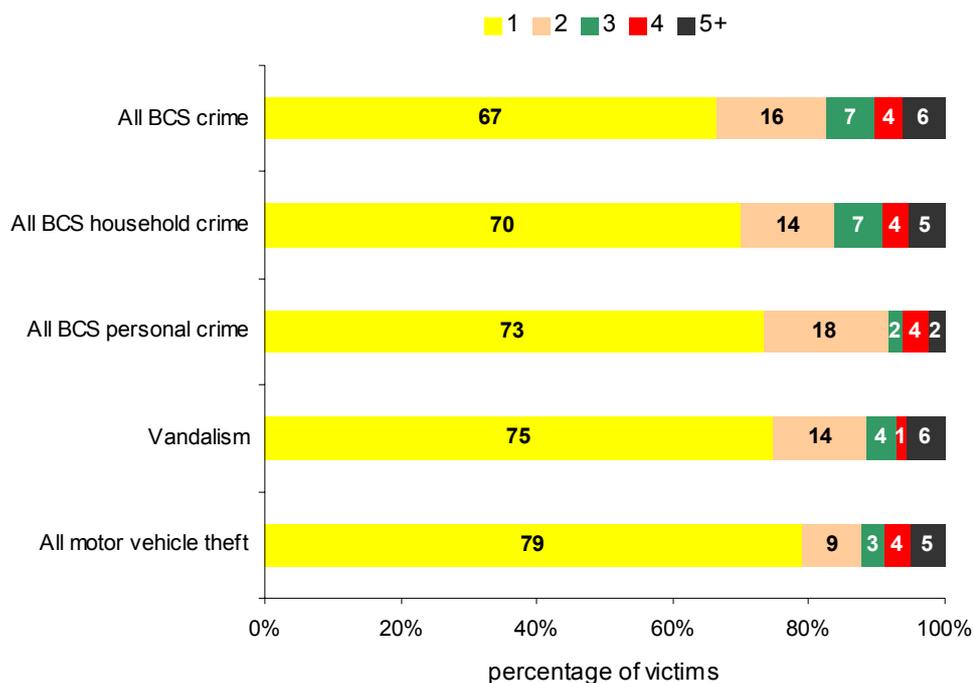
	BCS 2001/02					
	All BCS crimes		All household crimes		All personal crimes	
Number of incidents	% of all victims	% of all BCS crimes	% of all household victims	% of all household crimes	% of all personal victims	% of all personal crimes
1	67	40	70	43	73	51
2	16	19	14	17	18	25
3	7	12	7	13	2	4
4	4	10	4	10	4	11
5+	6	19	5	17	2	8
All incidents	100	100	100	100	100	100

Totals do not always add up to 100 because of rounding.

The table shows that a relatively small number of victims experience a disproportionately large share of total crime. Although two-thirds of victims experienced one incident against themselves or their household, six per cent had been victimised on five or more occasions and experienced nearly one-fifth of all incidents in Wales. Nearly one-third (29%) of all incidents were accounted for by just 10% of respondents in Wales.

Multiple victimisation is far from uniform across various offence types. Figure 2.8 below explores the frequency of victimisation for limited crime categories, where the number of respondents made this possible. This suggests that multiple victimisation is less frequent for personal offences or vehicle theft than for household crime.

Figure 2.8 Number of incidents experienced by victims of selected crime in Wales: 2001/02 BCS



We can also break down those respondents in Wales recalling household victimisation on more than one occasion by the characteristics of the household (Table A2.7). Overall, five per cent fell victim to a household offence on at least two separate occasions within the recall period. Higher proportions of respondents whose households had experienced multiple

victimisation were lone parent families (15%) - three times the average for Wales – or were those in which the head (HRP) was employed (6%), were without children in the household unit (9%), were in terraced properties (8%) and in ACORN 'striving' and 'council' areas (8% in each). By contrast, lower proportions of respondents whose households experienced multiple victimisation lived in semi-detached properties (4%), in owner-occupied homes (4%), in 'aspiring' areas in the ACORN classification (3%), had a household head aged over 60 (2%) or had a head who was economically inactive (4%).

Appendix Tables A2.

Table A2.1 Prevalence rates of selected crimes in England and Wales

	BCS 2001/02			
	Wales	Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces
	%	%	Sig	% Sig
All household crime	19	20		25 **
Vehicle thefts (V)	10	10		15 **
Vehicle vandalism (V)	6	6		7 *
Cycle theft (C)	3	3		5 *
Other vandalism	3	3		3
Burglary	2	3	*	5 **
Other household offences	4	5		5
All personal crime	6	7		9 **
Wounding	1	1		1
Assault	2	2		2
Robbery/Theft person	1	1		3 **
Other personal offences	2	3		3 *
<i>Unweighted N</i>				
<i>All</i>	2,591	21,146		8,983
<i>(V) Vehicle owners only</i>	2,007	16,893		6,122
<i>(C) Cycle owners only</i>	957	9,646		2,898

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A2.2 Prevalence rates of personal crimes in urban and rural Wales

	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)		
	Urban	Rural	Sig
	%	%	
All personal crime	7	4	*
Wounding	1	1	
Assault	3	2	
Robbery/Theft person	1	<1	
Other personal offences	2	1	
<i>Unweighted N</i>			
	1,808	783	

Table A2.3 Prevalence rates of household crimes in urban and rural Wales

	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)		
	Urban	Rural	Sig
	%	%	
All household crime	21	13	**
Vehicle thefts (V)	11	6	**
Vehicle vandalism (V)	7	3	*
Cycle theft (C)	3	2	
Other vandalism	3	1	
Burglary	2	1	
Other household offences	5	3	
<i>Unweighted N</i>			
<i>All</i>	1,808	783	
<i>(V) Vehicle owners only</i>	1,321	686	
<i>(C) Cycle owners only</i>	661	296	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A2.4 proportion of adults falling victim to at least one personal crime by personal and area characteristic in Wales

	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)		
	%	Unweighted N	Sig
Sex			
Male	8	1,164	**
Female	4	1,427	**
Age			
16-29	14	362	**
30-59	6	1,265	
60 plus	1	964	**
Marital status			
Married or cohabiting	4	1,444	**
Single	15	457	**
Widowed	3	366	*
Separated or divorced	7	323	
Qualifications			
Higher	7	789	
O-level/equivalent	9	626	**
None	3	1,034	**
Employment			
Employed	8	1,266	**
Economically inactive	3	1,226	**
Class			
Non-manual	6	1,237	
Manual	6	1,098	
Social activity			
Never visits pubs/clubs	3	1,152	**
Visits pubs/clubs 1-8 times a month	7	1,260	
Visits pubs/clubs 9 plus times a month	15	179	**
Drinks once a month or less	7	1,270	**
Drinks more than once a month	2	648	**
Area type			
Urban	7	1,808	*
Rural	4	783	*
Police force area			
Dyfed Powys	6	570	
North Wales	5	598	
Gwent	5	700	
South Wales	7	723	
ACORN			
Thriving	4	624	*
Expanding	8	149	
Settling	6	757	
Aspiring	7	545	
Striving	6	476	
Level of physical disorder			
Low	5	1,388	*
Medium	8	1,040	*
High	7	160	
TOTAL WALES	6		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A2.6 proportion of vehicle-owning households falling victim to at least one vehicle crime by household and area characteristic in Wales

		BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)					
	%	<i>Unweighted</i>	Sig		%	<i>N</i>	Sig
		<i>N</i>					
Sex				Property type			
HRP male	13	1,407	*	Detached House	10	670	**
HRP female	19	600	*	Semi-detached House	15	616	
HRP age				Terraced house	20	611	**
16-29	25	165	**	Other house type	16	108	
30-59	18	1,186	**	Hours home unoccupied daily			
60 and over	6	656	**	Less than 1	13	121	
HRP marital status				Between 1 and 7	14	1,073	*
Married or cohabiting	14	1,417		Over 7	19	512	*
Single	18	213		Area type			
Widow	7	167	*	Urban	17	1,321	**
Separated or divorced	22	210	*	Rural	9	686	**
HRP Employment status				Police force area			
Employed	18	1,239	**	Dyfed Powys	13	467	
Economically inactive	9	710	**	North Wales	12	476	
				Gwent	14	521	
HRP Social class				South Wales	17	543	*
Non-manual	16	1,008		ACORN			
Manual	14	882		Thriving	9	545	**
Household income				Expanding	10	139	
Under £15000	13	512	*	Settling	18	611	*
£15000 or over	20	840	*	Aspiring	15	388	
Total adults at address				Striving	18	299	
1	16	480		Level of physical disorder			
2	13	1,160	*	Low	12	1,162	*
3 or more	19	367	*	Medium	17	751	
Household structure							
Children	17	742	*				
No children	20	517	**				
HRP over 60	6	656	**				
Home ownership							
Owner occupied	14	1,642	*				
Rented	19	355	*				
TOTAL WALES					15		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A2.7 households victimised twice or more in Wales (Household crime only)

BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)			
	%	Unweighted N	Sig
HRP sex			
Male	5	1,645	
Female	6	946	
HRP Employment status			
Employed	6	1,358	*
Economically inactive	4	1,146	*
Household income			
Under £15,000	5	894	
£15,000 and over	7	882	
Class			
Non manual	5	1,170	
Manual	5	1,200	
Household structure			
Children	5	873	
No children	9	556	**
Lone parent family	15	155	**
HRP over 60	2	1,007	**
Number of adults in house			
1	4	890	
2	5	1,315	
3 or more	6	386	
Home ownership			
Owner occupier	5	1,892	*
Renter	7	685	
Type of accommodation			
Detached house	4	722	
Semi-detached house	4	795	*
Terraced house	8	840	**
Other	5	231	
Hours house is unoccupied in day			
Less than one hour	6	193	
1 to 7 hours	5	1,397	
7 hours or more	7	576	
Area type			
Urban	6	1,808	
Rural	4	783	
ACORN			
Thriving	4	624	
Expanding	5	149	
Settling	5	757	
Aspiring	3	545	*
Striving	8	476	*
ACORN (council):			
Council area	8	517	*
Non-council area	5	2,069	*
ALL WALES	5		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

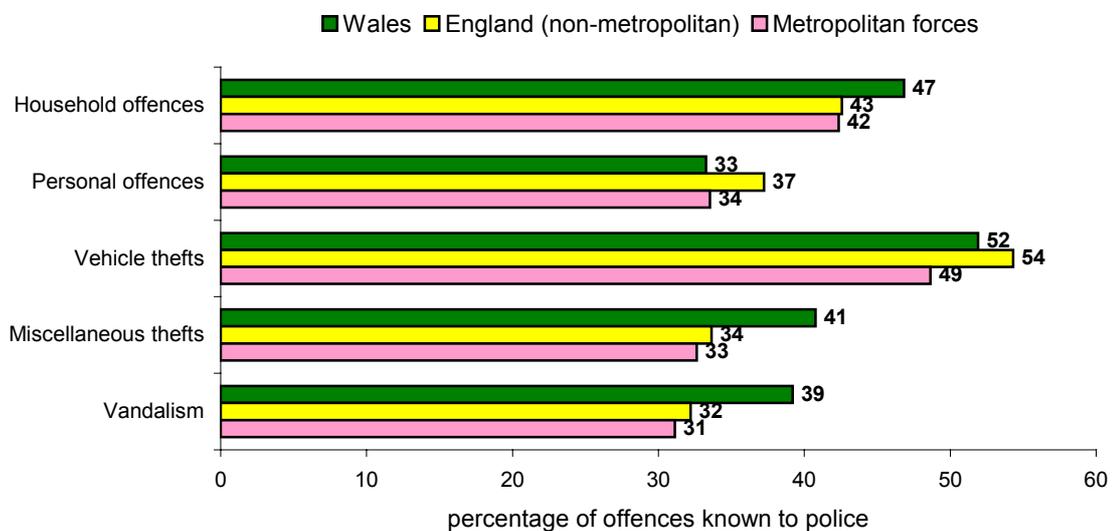
Chapter 3 Reporting of offences in Wales

In this chapter, we first examine reporting behaviour in Wales through a comparison with non-metropolitan England and metropolitan force areas. We then take a more detailed look at reporting behaviours within Wales, in terms of the respondent's home police force area and the type of area they live in. Finally, respondents' reasons for not reporting incidents to the police will be explored.

Reporting incidents to the police

Figure 3.1, based on Table A3.1, shows the proportion of offences reported to the police in Wales compared to non-metropolitan England and metropolitan areas. No significant differences emerged between Wales and the two English areas in any offence category.

Figure 3.1 Proportion of offences reported to police: 2001/02 BCS

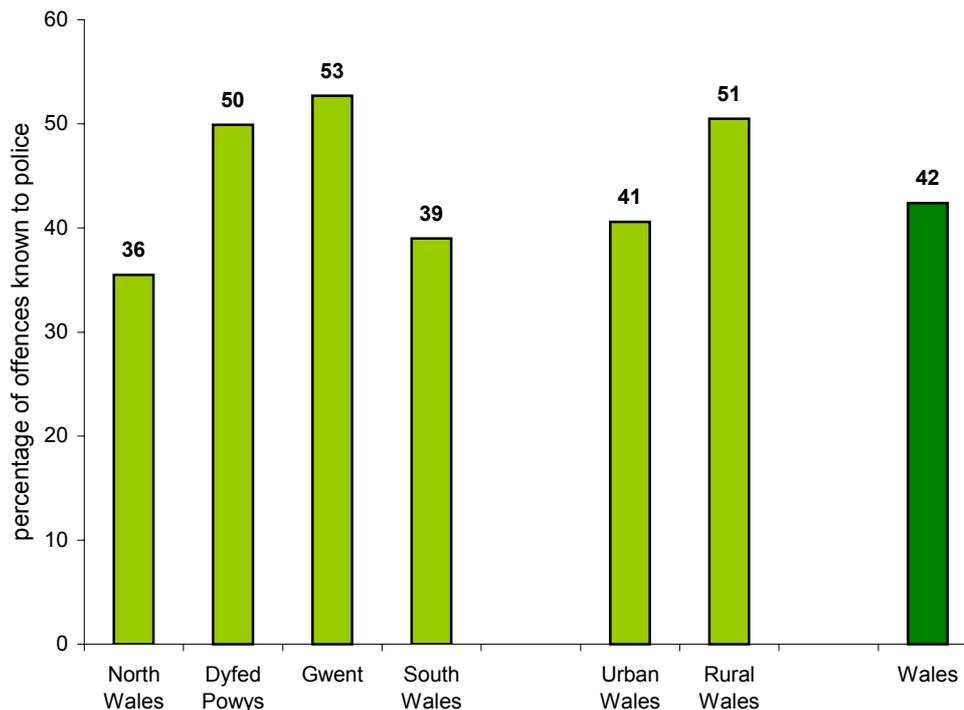


It can be seen that, within Wales, the proportion of offences that were reported varies with the type of offence: respondents recalled that they reported only one third of personal offences (33%) to the police while nearly half of household offences (47%) were brought to police attention.

Figure 3.2 shows that reporting behaviours do not generally vary by police force area and type of area of Wales (see also Table A3.2). The only area

difference of importance was that respondents living in Gwent reported 53 per cent of offences to the police, significantly higher than the Welsh rate of 42%. To some extent variations in reporting may reflect the mix of crimes experienced in different areas. Although rural reporting appears higher than urban, this difference is not significant.

Figure 3.2 Proportion of offences reported to police by police force area and area type: 2001/02 BCS



Reasons given for not reporting

We now consider the reasons given by respondents for not reporting offences (see Table A3.3). Welsh respondents gave some different emphases to the English. Fewer Welsh respondents described the offence in question as too trivial to report to the police, and in comparison to metropolitan areas a larger proportion noted that the incident had been personal and had been dealt with privately. More Welsh respondents believed that the police would not be interested in the offence than in either area of England.

Appendix Tables A3

Table A3.1 Offences known to the police

	Percentages and numbers		BCS 2001/02					
	Wales		Non Metropolitan England			Metropolitan forces		
	Indicator	<i>N</i>	Indicator	<i>N</i>	Sig	Indicator	<i>N</i>	Sig
	%		%			%		
Household offences	47	587	43	5,538		42	2,935	
Personal offences	33	142	37	1,505		34	881	
Vehicle thefts	52	211	54	1,769		49	1,010	
Miscellaneous thefts	41	161	34	1,558		33	761	
Vandalism	39	171	32	1,766		31	807	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

	Percentage of all offences known to the police		BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)	
	Indicator	<i>N</i>		Sig
	%			
Police force area				
North Wales	36	158		
Dyfed Powys	50	123		
Gwent	53	202		*
South Wales	39	246		
Area type				
Urban Wales	41	567		
Rural Wales	51	162		
Wales	42	729		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A3.2 Reasons for not reporting offences to the police in England and Wales

Percentages	BCS 2001/02				
	All offences				
	Wales	Non-metropolitan England	Sig	Metropolitan forces	Sig
	Indicator %	Indicator %		Indicator %	
Incident related	55	59		55	
Trivial/no loss	21	31	**	34	**
Private/personal/dealt with self	33	28		20	**
Fear of reprisals	2	3		4	
Police related	47	44		48	
Police could have done nothing	26	30		34	*
Police would not have been interested	30	22	**	21	**
Previous bad experience of police/court	<1	1		1	
Dislike/fear of police	<1	<1		<1	
Other reasons	10	13		13	
Inconvenient to report	5	5		5	
Reported to other authorities	2	6	*	5	
Other	3	2		3	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	412	<i>4,254</i>		<i>2,354</i>	
	Household offences				
	Wales	Non-metropolitan England	Sig	Metropolitan forces	Sig
	Indicator %	Indicator %		Indicator %	
Incident related	46	52		51	
Trivial/no loss	27	36	*	37	*
Private/personal/dealt with self	20	16		14	*
Fear of reprisals	0	2		2	
Police related	60	56		56	
Police could have done nothing	32	38		40	*
Police would not have been interested	36	28	*	27	*
Previous bad experience of police/court	<1	1		1	
Dislike/fear of police	1	<1	*	<1	
Other reasons	10	9		9	
Inconvenient to report	7	6		5	
Reported to other authorities	1	1		2	
Other	2	2		1	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	294	<i>2,931</i>		<i>1,579</i>	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Chapter 4 Contact with the police

This chapter looks at the BCS evidence about contacts between police and the adult population of Wales, whether initiated by members of the public or by the police themselves. The nature and levels of contact during the recall period,⁹ in general and then among urban and rural populations, will be examined. Finally, we give a demographic profile of those in contact with the police and outline factors associated with differential contact.

Public-initiated contact in Wales

Figure 4.1 is a comparison of self-initiated contact with the police by BCS respondents living in Wales with those living in metropolitan and non-metropolitan England. Just over three in ten Welsh respondents had contacted police in the recall period, almost the same proportion as in metropolitan and non-metropolitan England (31% and 32% respectively)¹⁰.

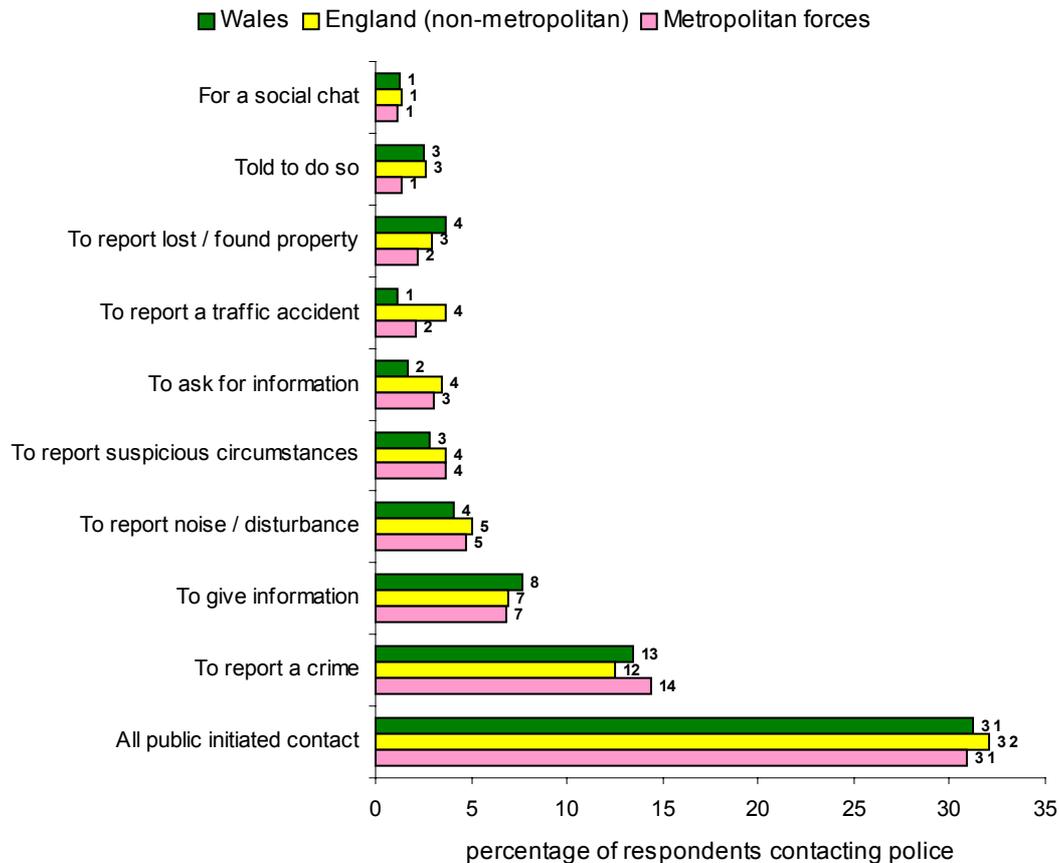
The most common reason that respondents gave for getting in touch with the police was to report a crime, with 13% of Welsh respondents stating this was the reason. A further 8% of respondents in Wales approached the police to pass on information, for example informing the police of a missing person, or letting police know that their home was being left empty. Other reasons were in order to report a number of *non-crime* incidents such as noises and disturbances (4%), suspicious circumstances (3%) or traffic accidents (1%).

Respondents living in Wales were significantly less likely than those living in non-metropolitan England to report a traffic accident or to ask for information (see Table A4.1).

⁹ The 2001/02 BCS asked respondents about police contact in the last thirteen to fourteen months, giving a recall period of around twelve to fifteen months, allowing for 'telescoping'.

¹⁰ These figures include a small number of people who responded to a prior request for contact from the police (Wales - 3%, metropolitan England - 1%, non-metropolitan England - 3%).

Figure 4.1 Reasons for public initiated contact with the police: 2001/02 BCS

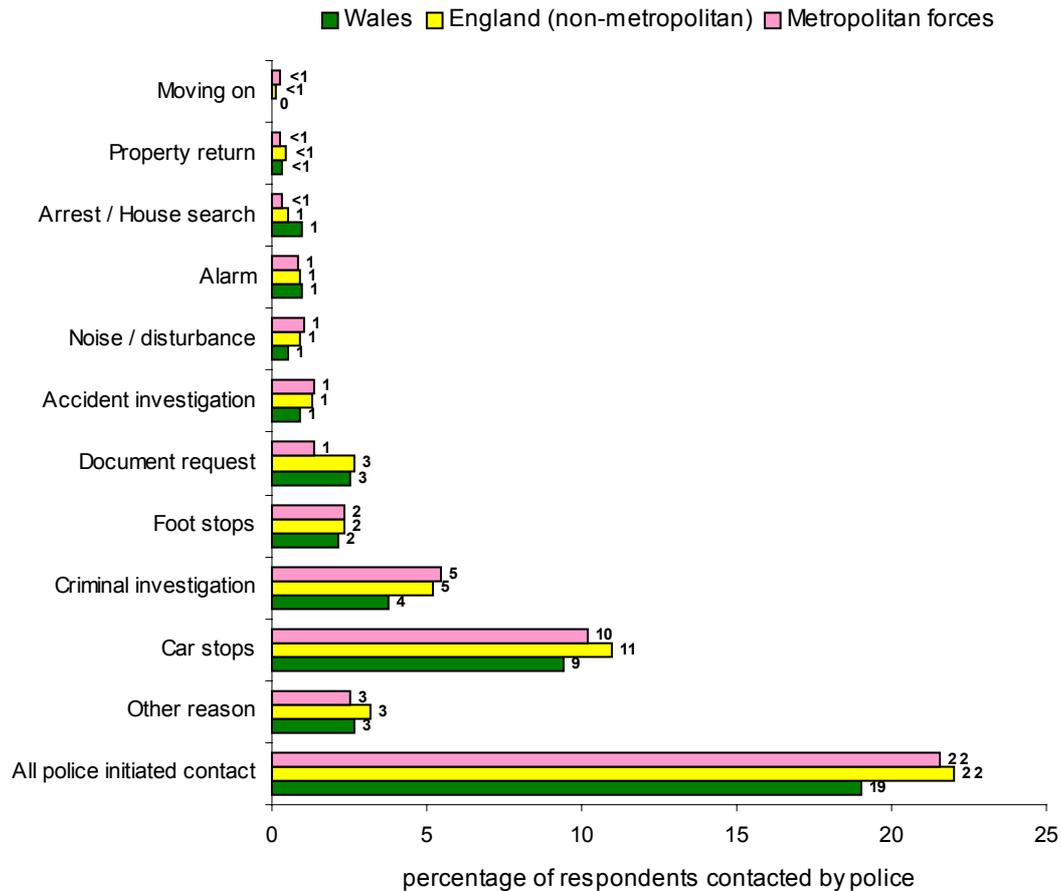


Police-initiated contact in Wales

Contact by the police was recalled by about one-fifth (19%) of respondents in Wales, slightly less than the 22% in metropolitan and non-metropolitan England.

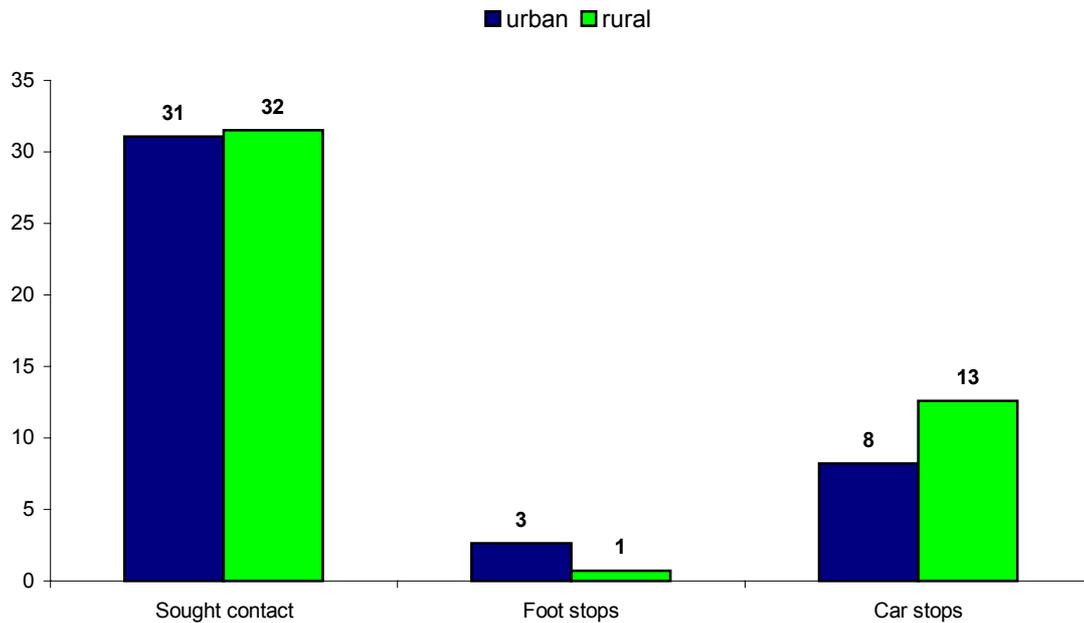
Figure 4.2, based upon Table A4.2, shows the levels of, and breakdown of reasons for, police-initiated contact. The patterns in England and Wales are broadly similar, with respondents most likely to be stopped in a vehicle, or approached with a request for information relating to a specific crime. Foot-stops accounted for contact with just over two percent of respondents in all areas.

Figure 4.2 Reasons for police initiated contact with the public: 2001/02 BCS



Variations in contact

There are slight, but not significant, differences between respondents’ recall of the types of contact in urban and rural Wales. These are based on where a respondent lives as opposed to where contact takes place. For example a town or city dweller may be stopped while driving in a rural area, or a rural dweller may be stopped on foot during a night out in an urban area. Figure 4.3 (based on Table A4.3) demonstrates the similarity of experiences among urban and rural dwellers.

Figure 4.3 Contacts between police and public in Wales by area: 2001/02 BCS

Who has what sort of contact in Wales?

We now turn to the demographic profile of those respondents in Wales coming in to contact with the police either as subjects to stops (vehicle or foot stops) and as initiators of the contact themselves.

As shown in appendix Table A4.4, age, sex and qualifications affected who was involved. The middle-aged were the group most likely to have initiated contact with the police. Men were more likely than women to initiate contact with, or be stopped by, the police. It was very rare for the elderly to have been stopped by the police within the last year. In fact, the elderly were least likely to have had any contact with the police in the last year.

Appendix Tables A4

Table A4.1 Public initiated contacts with the police England and Wales

	BCS 2001/02		
	Wales %	Non-metropolitan England % sig	Metropolitan forces % sig
To report a crime	13	12	14
To give information	8	7	7
To report lost / found property	4	3	2
To report noise / disturbance	4	5	5
Told to do so	3	3	1
To report suspicious circumstances	3	4	4
To ask for information	2	4 *	3
For a social chat	1	1	1
To report a traffic accident	1	4 *	2
All public initiated contact	31	32	31
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>638</i>	<i>5,194</i>	<i>2,280</i>

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A4.2 Police initiated contacts with the public England and Wales

	BCS 2001/02		
	Wales %	Non-metropolitan England % sig	Metropolitan forces % sig
Car stops	9	11	10
Criminal investigation	4	5	5
Foot stops	2	2	2
Document request	3	3	1
Accident investigation	1	1	1
Noise / disturbance	1	1	1
Alarm	1	1	1
Arrest / House search	1	1	<1
Property return	<1	<1	<1
Moving on	0	<1	<1
Other reason	3	3	3
All police initiated contact	19	22	22
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>638</i>	<i>5,195</i>	<i>2,282</i>

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

**Table A4.3 Contacts between police and public in urban and rural Wales
BCS 2001/02 (Wales
only)**

	Urban	Rural	Sig
	%	%	
All sought contact	31	32	
Foot stops	3	1	
Vehicle stops	8	13	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	447	191	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A4.4 Public initiated contact with police and police stops in Wales

	BCS 2001/02 Wales only)				
	Public-initiated		All stops		<i>Unweighted N</i>
	%	sig	%	sig	
Age					
30-59	42	**	12		308
60+	19	**	1	**	252
Sex					
Male	37	*	17	**	291
Female	25	*	5	**	347
Qualifications					
None	27		6	**	273
O-Level/apprenticeship	32		19	*	156
Higher	33		14		172
Class					
Non-manual	36		11		297
Manual	28		13		295
Total Wales	31		12		638

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Chapter 5 Satisfaction with, complaints against, and confidence in the police and criminal justice agencies

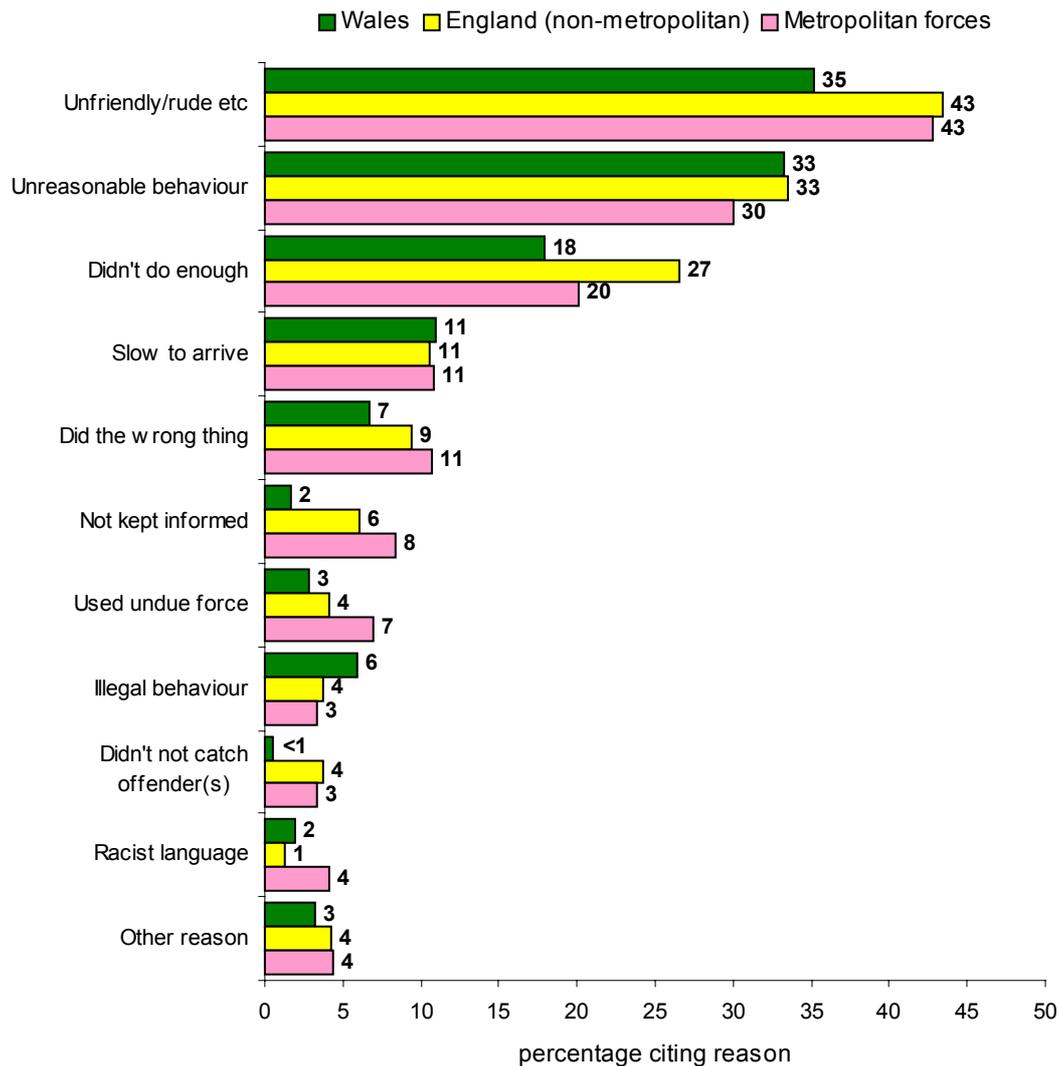
This chapter examines how respondents assessed the contacts they have had with the police. The BCS survey asks a range of questions concerning the effectiveness, timeliness, fairness and politeness with which the police act. First we consider the proportion of adults who have experienced 'annoyance' regarding police behaviour in the past five years, and the reasons underlying such feelings. We then compare respondents' perceptions of the police with their perceptions of other key criminal justice agencies. Finally, the focus will return solely to the police, and to variations in perceptions of the police among different groups of people and areas of Wales.

Police 'annoyance'

Respondents were asked if they had, in the past five years, been 'really annoyed' by police behaviour (whether this behaviour was directed towards themselves or to other people that they knew). One in five respondents in Wales (a similar proportion to that in both non-metropolitan and metropolitan England) had been really annoyed by the police in the previous five years. In two-thirds of these cases in Wales, the annoyance related to an incident in which the respondent had been personally involved, the remaining third involving another person only.

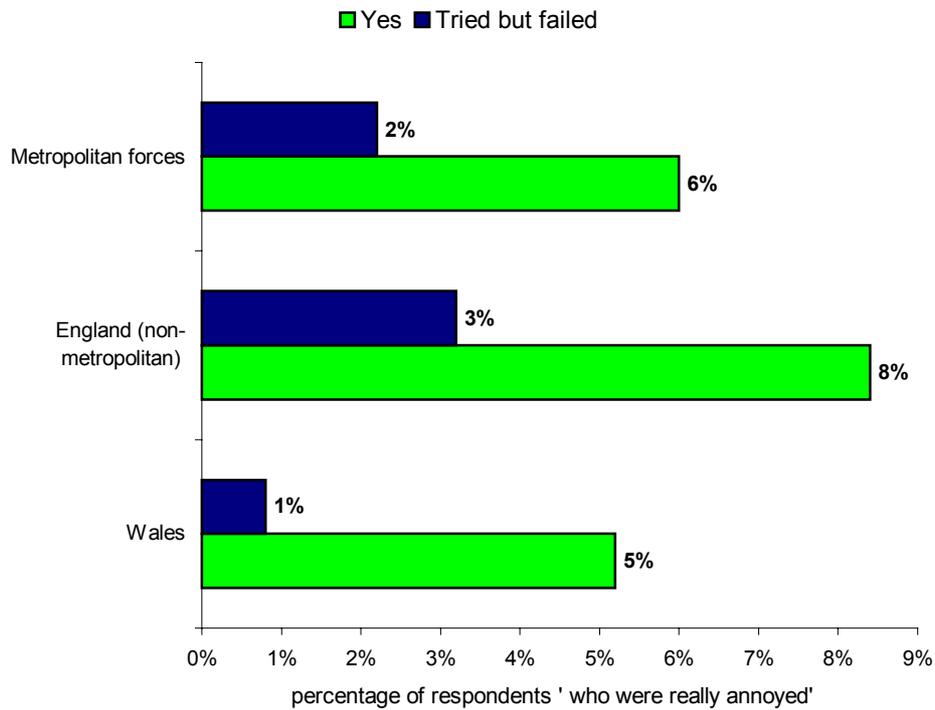
Figure 5.1, based on Table A5.1, breaks down the reasons cited for this dissatisfaction. As in England, the main reason for dissatisfaction in Wales concerned the general way in which the police behaved (e.g. in a rude or unfriendly manner) rather than the content of their behaviour, such as racism or illegality. The largest individual cause concerned police unfriendliness or rudeness (35% in Wales; 43% in non-metropolitan and metropolitan England). Unreasonable behaviour on the part of the police had upset around a third of respondents (33% in Wales and non-metropolitan England; 30% in metropolitan force areas).

Figure 5.1 Reasons for public annoyance with the police: 2001/02 BCS



Of all those who said that they had been really annoyed with police behaviour, only a small percentage had made, or attempted to make, a complaint. In Wales, only 6% of those experiencing annoyance claimed to have been motivated to register a complaint. Figure 5.2 shows the actual complaints and unsuccessful attempts. The numbers of complainants in the Welsh sample was small, and any differences from the English responses are not significant (Table A5.2).

Figure 5.2 Proportion of 'Really annoyed' respondents who registered a complaint against police: 2001/02 BCS



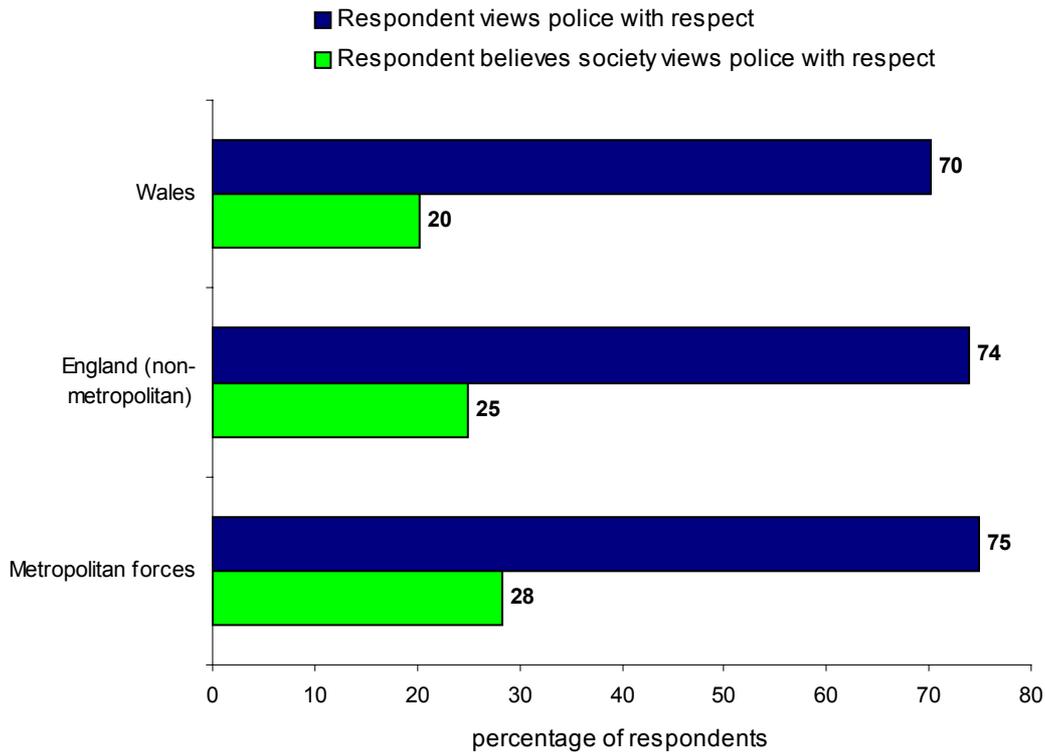
Respect for the police

Figure 5.3, based on Table A5.3, shows the replies to the question of whether respondents viewed the police with respect or not. Seven in ten respondents in Wales stated that they viewed the police with respect, which was not significantly different from the proportions in England (75% in metropolitan force areas and 74% in non-metropolitan England).

Interestingly, about half of BCS respondents who themselves viewed the police with respect, did not think that the general public hold this view. In Wales, only 20% of respondents felt that the police were generally viewed with respect. This discordance is usual in England too.¹¹

¹¹ In metropolitan force areas 28% of respondents believe the police are viewed with respect by the general public, in non-metropolitan England 25% hold such a view.

Figure 5.3 Public respect for police: 2001/02 BCS



Confidence in the police – a comparative approach

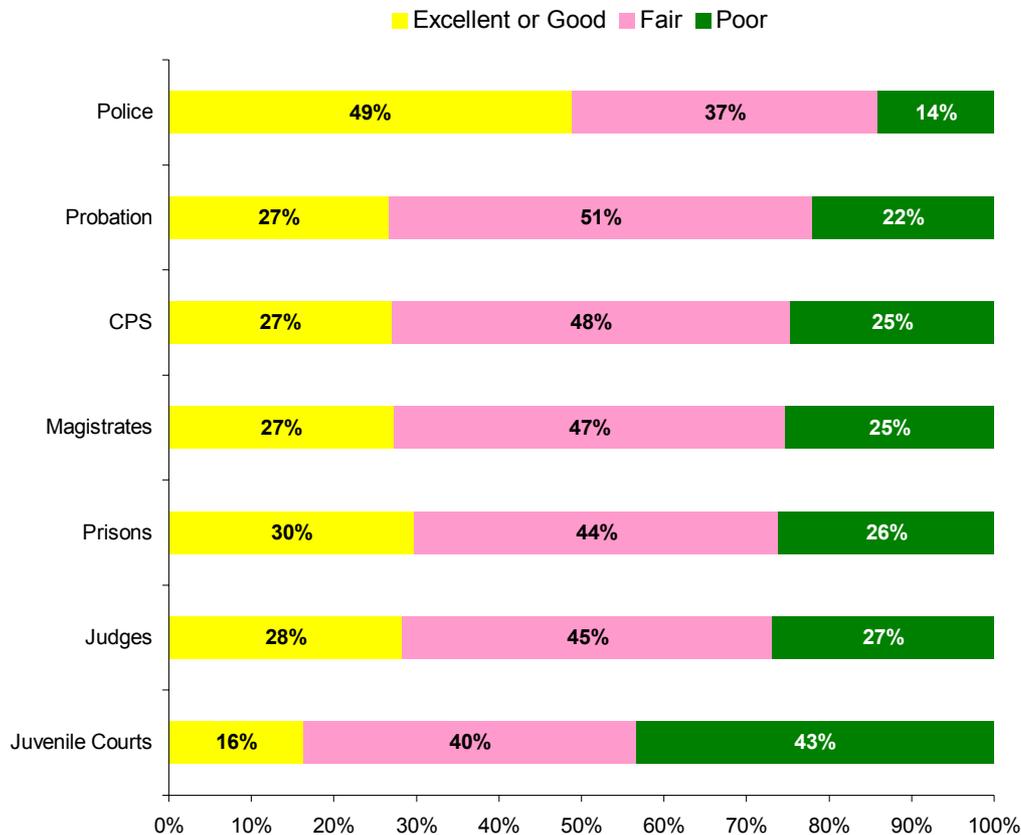
The BCS asks a number of questions concerning the respondents’ perceptions of how well the police function. This allows a comparison to be made of perceptions of the police with other criminal justice agencies. We can also look at how perceptions differ by police force area or by type of area in Wales.

The police and other criminal justice agencies.

Figure 5.4 shows how respondents rated various criminal justice bodies. Of those asked, almost half (49%) felt that the police were doing an excellent or good job (close to the 48% of respondents living in metropolitan and 47% in non-metropolitan England). This compares favourably with perceptions of other criminal justice bodies: prisons, judges, magistrates, the Crown Prosecution Service and probation receiving excellent or good ratings ranging from 30% down to 27%. Juvenile courts have the lowest level of public

confidence, achieving ratings of good or excellent from only 16% of respondents living in Wales.

Figure 5.4 Perceptions of criminal justice agencies' performance: 2001/02 BCS (Wales)



The ratings now form a basis for monitoring confidence in the criminal justice system.

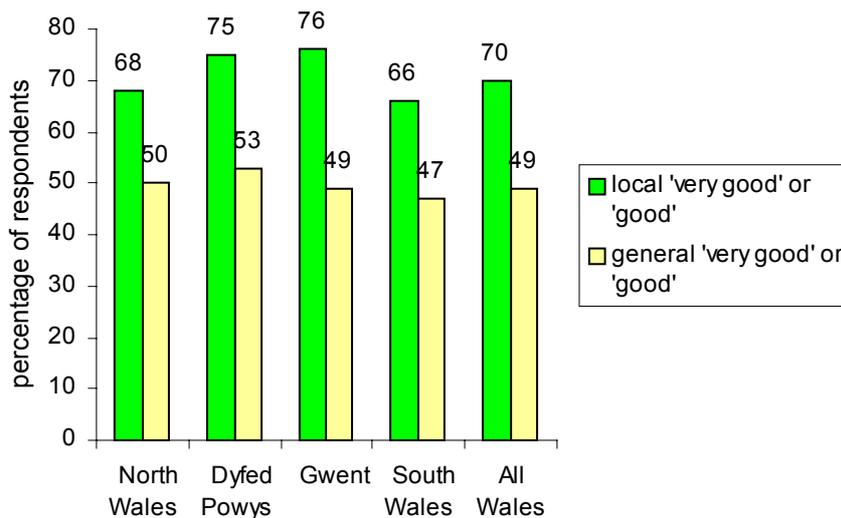
Police performance in Wales

Figure 5.5 shows respondents' perception of police performance, locally and in general, in each of the four police force areas and for all Wales. Two separate questions were asked of respondents in relation to how they rated police performance. First, *all* respondents¹² were asked to rate police performance in general either as 'excellent', 'good', 'fair', 'poor' or 'very poor' (see also Figure 5.4).

¹² Except where the respondent or someone in their household was a police officer.

Secondly, a subset of respondents were asked if they thought the police *in their own area* were doing a good job or a poor job, and were then prompted to qualify this judgement with a 'very' or a 'fairly'.

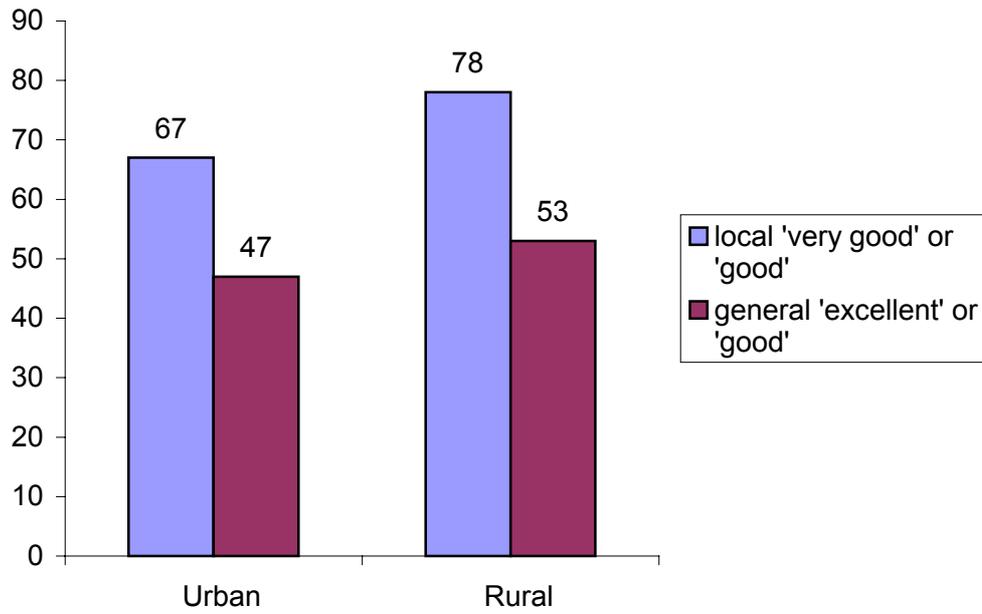
Figure 5.5 Perceptions of local and national police performance as 'very good' or 'good' by police force area in Wales: 2001/02 BCS



It is a consistent finding that a larger proportion of respondents rated local police performance favourably than rated *general* police performance so.

Figure 5.6 demonstrates that respondents living in rural Wales gave both local and national police performance a positive rating more frequently than their urban counterparts (78% for local, 67% for general by rural dwellers; only 67% and 47% by urban dwellers). With respect to the police *nationally*, forty three per cent of younger respondents (aged 16 to 29) believed that they were doing an excellent or good job, by contrast with the 53% of those aged 60 and over; a smaller proportion of men than women with such opinions was also significant (45% and 53% respectively).

Figure 5.6 Perceptions of local and national police performance as 'very good' or 'good' among urban and rural area of Wales: 2001/02 BCS



Appendix Tables A5

Table A5.1 Reasons for annoyance with the police England and Wales

BCS 2001/02

	Wales	Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan force areas	
	%	%	sig	%	sig
Unfriendly/rude etc.	35	43		43	
Unreasonable behaviour	33	33		30	
Didn't do enough	18	27		20	
Slow to arrive	11	11		11	
Did the wrong thing	7	9		11	
Not kept informed	2	6		8	
Used undue force	3	4		7	
Illegal behaviour	6	4		3	
Didn't not catch offender(s)	0	4		3	
Racist language	2	1		4	
Other reason	3	4		4	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>838</i>		<i>416</i>	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A5.2 Annoyed respondents complaining against the police in England and Wales

BCS 2001/02

	Wales	Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	%	%	sig	%	sig
Yes	5	8		6	
Tried but failed	1	3		2	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>838</i>		<i>416</i>	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A5.3 Public respect for police in England and Wales

		BCS 2001/02							
		<i>Wales</i>		Non-metropolitan England			Metropolitan forces		
		%	<i>Unweigh ted N</i>	%	<i>Unweigh ted N</i>	Sig	%	<i>Unweigh ted N</i>	Sig
		%		%			%		
Respondent	views police	70	<i>314</i>	74	<i>2,573</i>		75	<i>1,161</i>	
	with respect								
Respondent	believes society	20	<i>304</i>	25	<i>2,542</i>		28	<i>1,135</i>	*
	views police with respect								

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A5.4 Public perception of police performance locally and nationally in Wales

Percentages	BCS 2001/02 Wales					
	Police in local area do a 'very' or 'fairly' good job			Police do an 'excellent' or 'good' job		
	Indicator %	N	Sig	Indicator %	N	Sig
Sex						
Male	68	274		45	1,158	**
Female	72	313		53	1,414	**
Age group						
16-29	60	71		43	363	*
30-59	73	294		48	1,258	
60+	71	222		53	951	*
Qualifications						
None	67	249		48	1,025	
O-level/apprenticeship	66	144		52	625	
Higher	78	159	*	47	784	
Class						
Non-manual	76	271	*	50	1,228	
Manual	64	274	*	46	1,092	
Knows police officer by name						
Yes	73	256		46	272	
No	67	331		45	365	
Area type						
Urban	67	415	*	47	1,791	*
Rural	78	172	*	53	775	*
Council area (ACORN)	68	110		46	516	
Non-council area (ACORN)	70	476		50	2,051	
Police Force Area						
North Wales	68	135		50	594	
Dyfed Powys	75	120		53	562	
Gwent	76	173		49	697	
South Wales	66	159		47	719	
All Wales	70			49		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Chapter 6 Concern about crime

The BCS survey asks all respondents questions that explore their concerns about crime, regardless of whether they have themselves been victims or not. Fear of crime relates not only to direct or indirect experiences of crime, but also to perceptions of crime which may be mediated by a host of factors including the impact of print and broadcast news and film and television drama (Reiner, 2002; Sparks, 1992).

Worry about crime is neither unusual nor necessarily irrational. Indeed, it may be precisely those forms of behaviour that are considered *anxiety provoking* that are most likely to be criminalised (Hough, 1995). While fear or concern is not itself a problem, Hough goes on to argue that it may contribute to 'spirals of decline in high-crime areas' and can become an indirect cause of crime in itself. Others have argued that an escalated level of anxiety about crime can lead towards a willingness to accept authoritarianism and repressive measures in the hope that these will bring increased security (Signorelli, cited in Reiner, 2002). Therefore, it is important to monitor fear of crime, and where necessary, adopt strategies to tackle it.

This chapter explores the following aspects of concern about crime:

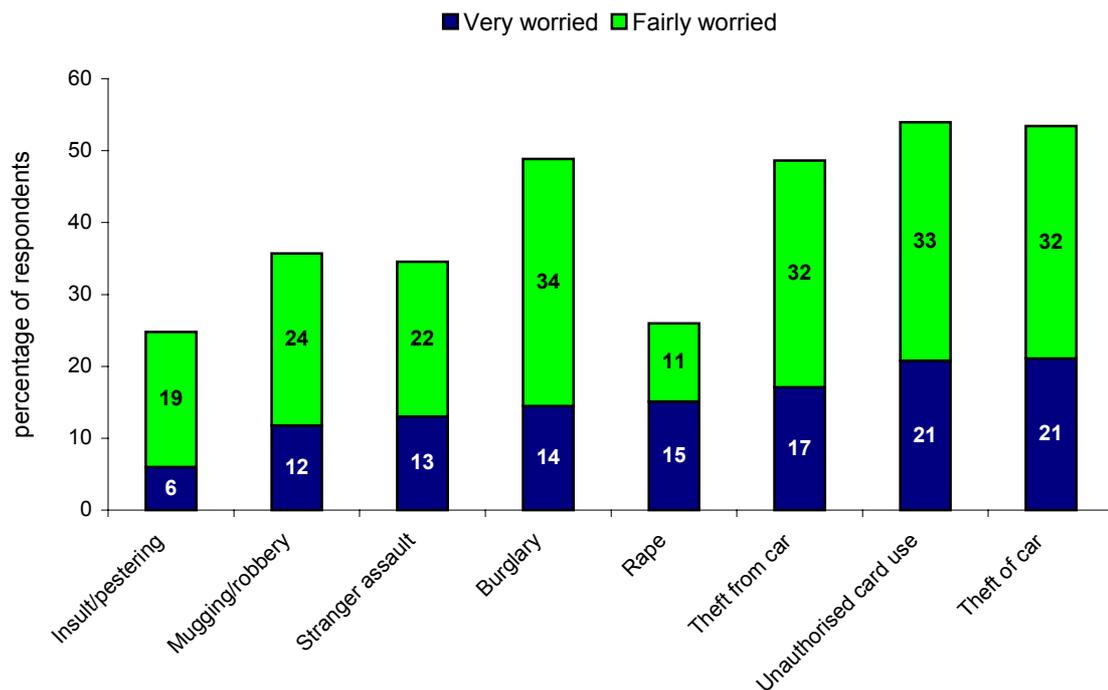
- how much respondents worried about different types of crime;
- how likely respondents felt they were to fall victim to different types of crime;
- whether respondents thought that crime had gone up or down in their own area and bi-nationally; and
- the impact of 'fear of crime' on how safe respondents felt and behaved.

We take into account a number of factors that may play a role in people's perceptions of, and worry about, crime, such as the type of area they live in, or their household or individual characteristics.

Levels of worry

BCS respondents were asked how worried they were about a range of crimes: their responses are shown in Figure 6.1. High percentages of all respondents in Wales said they were 'very' or 'fairly' worried about vehicle crimes, including theft of (53%) and from a vehicle (48%), unauthorised card usage (54%) and burglary (48%). Slightly over one in three was very or fairly worried about stranger attacks and mugging or robbery. Rape is a crime about which a higher percentage were 'very' worried than were about burglary or stranger attack, but a smaller percentage were 'fairly' worried. A smaller percentage was very or fairly worried about insults or pestering (which may fall short of a criminal offence) than other crime.

Figure 6.1 Levels of worry for selected crimes: 2001/02 BCS (Wales only)



The percentage of respondents living in Wales who were 'very' worried is consistently a tiny bit below the bi-national average for England and Wales for

every category except for vehicular thefts.¹³ Some comparative data is available from the Scottish Crime Survey 2000 (Scottish Executive CRU, 2002). While Scots showed similar levels of worry over robbery (34%) and burglary (45% using the Scottish category 'housebreaking'), levels of worry over theft from and theft of a car were considerably lower in Scotland (32% and 31% respectively).¹⁴

Worry about crime by force area (BVPI 121 'fear of crime')

Proportions of BCS respondents living in each of the four police force areas usually had higher or lower levels of concern across all the selected offences. Table 6.1 (based on Table A6.1) shows the percentage that was either 'very' or 'fairly' worried by police force area. We have also included, in the appendix, Table A6.2 in order to demonstrate this for the Best Value Performance Indicators of 'fear of crime' (BVPI 121) which are calculated differently from replies to these questions.

Table 6.1 Concern about selected crimes by police force area in Wales: BCS 2001/02

Percentage of respondents who were 'very' or 'fairly' worried

Crime category:	North Wales	Dyfed Powys	South Wales	Gwent	WALES
	%	%	%	%	%
Unauthorised card use	57	56	58	39	54
Theft of car	53	42	58	55	53
Theft from car	49	40	50	53	49
Burglary	53	34	54	45	49
Mugging	39	24	40	31	36
Stranger attack	38	28	37	30	35
Rape	29	22	28	21	26
Insult/pestering	30	21	25	21	25

¹³ Bi-national rates for 'very' worried: 15% about burglary, mugging, stranger assault; 16% rape; 9% insulted/pestered. Vehicular: 17% theft of car; 15% theft from car. See Simmons et al (2002) page 83.

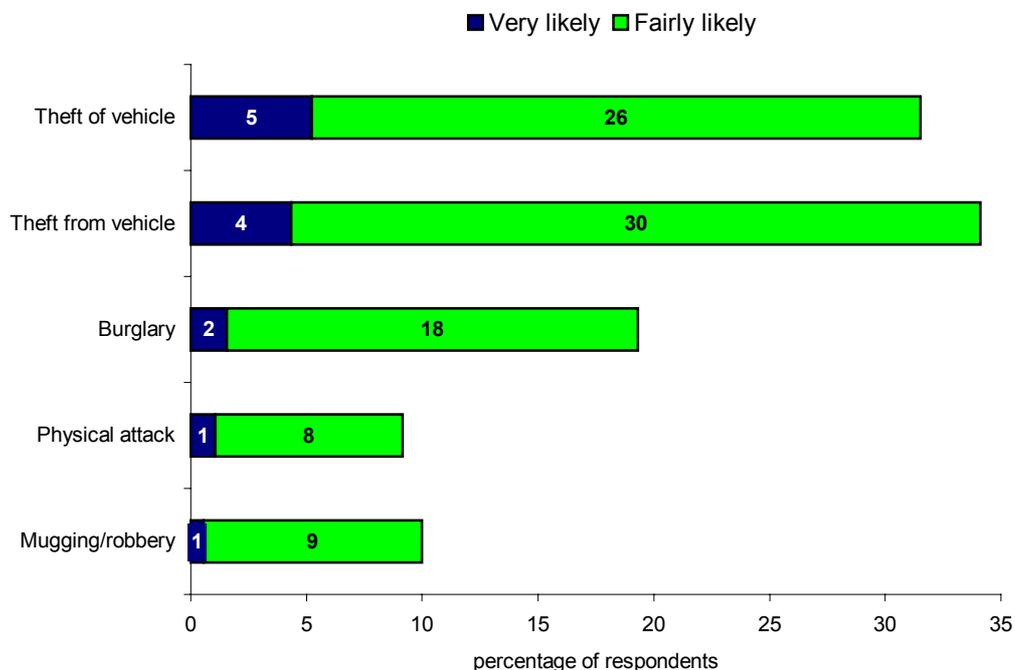
¹⁴ Scottish Crime Survey weighted data, n=5,059. Percentages for all respondents 'very' or 'fairly' worried about specific crimes.

Compared to the national percentages of BCS respondents, Dyfed Powys had a trend towards significantly lower levels of concern about most crimes (including the lowest level of worry for robbery, burglary and theft of a car in Wales), except for unauthorised card use which is slightly above the Wales average. By contrast, South Wales had a trend towards higher levels of concern, significantly higher about theft of vehicles, burglary and mugging. Gwent had a slightly mixed picture, but the only significant differences were the very low levels of concern for unauthorised card use, rape and to an extent robbery. North Wales had levels of concern which were not significantly different from the national average, except for significantly higher (and the highest level of concern) about insulting or pestering behaviour.

Likelihood of victimisation - public perceptions

The BCS asks respondents to assess their likelihood of falling victim to various types of crime over the next year.

Figure 6.2 Perceived likelihood of experiencing selected crimes: 2001/02 BCS



As Figure 6.2 shows, few respondents thought any of these crimes were 'very likely' to happen to them (between 1 and 5%), but around a third of

respondents in Wales thought they were at least 'fairly likely' to have something stolen from their car and almost as many that the vehicle itself would be stolen. About one-fifth thought they were very or fairly likely to be burgled and one-tenth that they would experience a physical attack or mugging. To some extent, these perceptions reflect the relative likelihood of such crimes in Wales: vehicle theft is more common than burglary, which is in turn more common than mugging or robbery (Figure 2.1 on page 6).

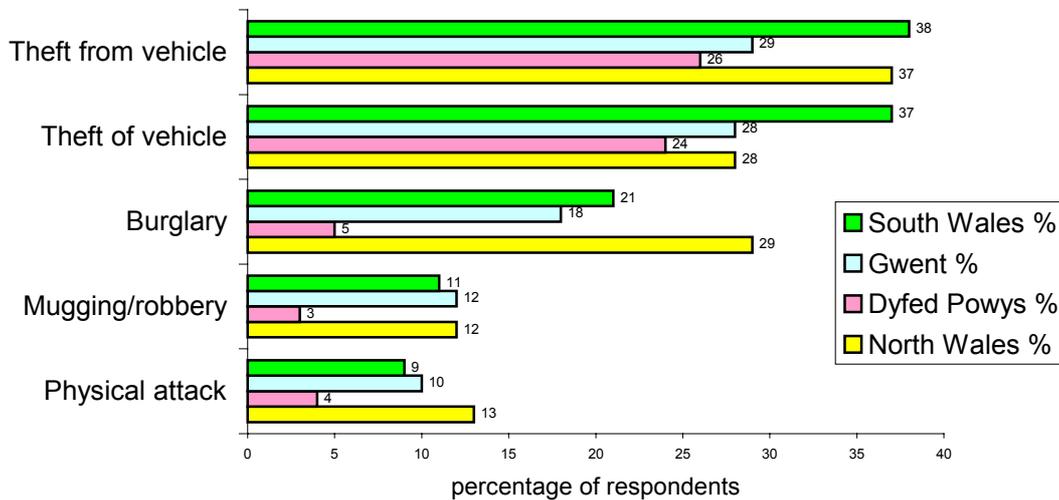
However, these are escalated assessments of likelihood relative to the actual prevalence of crimes in Wales. For example, although one in five respondents felt that they were fairly or very likely to experience a burglary, only one in fifty recalled a burglary in the past 12 months (Chapter 2). Similar gaps between assessments of victimisation in the future and actual prevalence are noted bi-nationally (Simmons et al 2002) and in the Scottish Crime Survey (SCS 2000).¹⁵

Likelihood of experiencing crime – perceptions by force area

Figure 6.3, based on Table A6.4, shows that respondents' views about the likelihood of victimisation followed a similar pattern to their levels of concern in the four Welsh police force areas. Respondents in Dyfed Powys were least likely to expect mugging or robbery (3% compared to 10% nationally) or burglary (5% compared to 19% across Wales). A higher percentage of respondents in North Wales than nationally expected to become a victim of burglary (29%) and a higher proportion in South Wales thought themselves likely to have their vehicle stolen (37%).

¹⁵ In the SCS 2000 around one in fifteen Scots (7%) thought they were very or fairly likely to be a victim of housebreaking over the coming year (compared to 3.2% actually victimised in 1999), while 5% felt they were likely to be a victim of violence (compared to 2.6% victimised in 1999).

Figure 6.3 Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim by police force area in Wales: BCS 2001/02



Beliefs about changes in crime rates

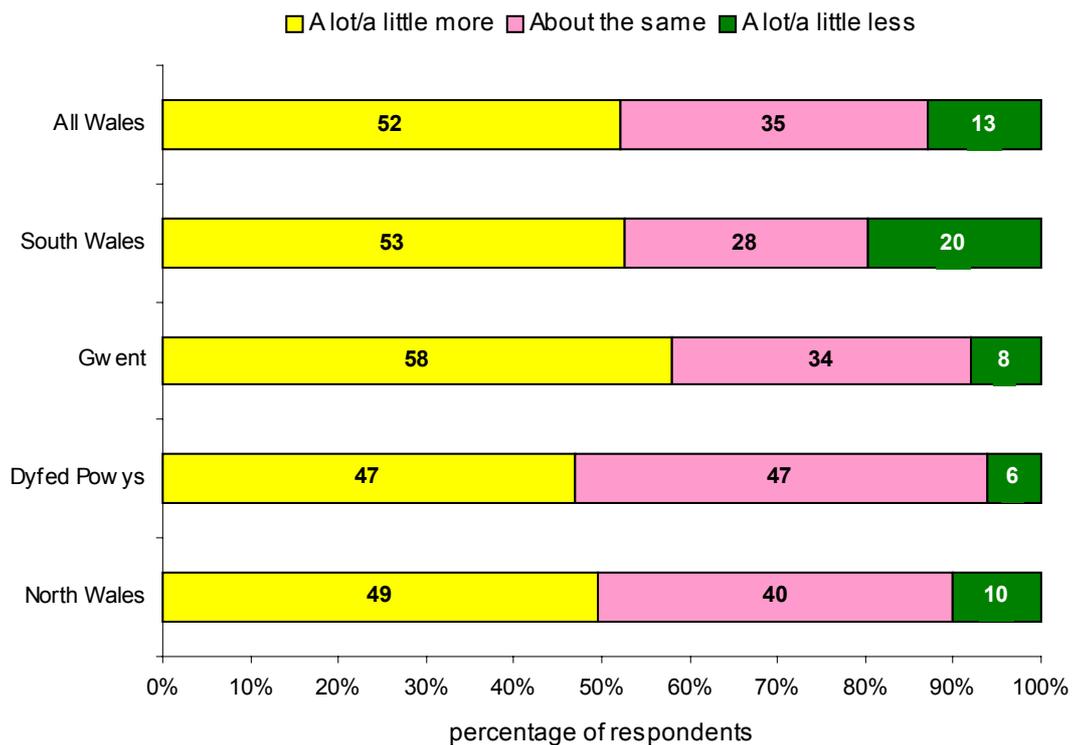
Respondents were asked how much they thought crime had changed over the last two years in their own area (if they had lived there for three or more years), and across the country.¹⁶ Whether in metropolitan force areas, non-metropolitan England or Wales, more respondents were likely to think that crime rates had gone up nationally than in their own area (see Table A6.4).

However, as shown in Figure 6.4, belief about change in crime rates locally does vary within Wales. South Wales police force area had the highest proportion believing that crime had gone down locally, with one in five respondents believing this. Dyfed Powys force area had the highest proportion of respondents who believed crime rates had not changed (47%), but the smallest proportion who believed it had decreased (6%). In spite of

¹⁶ This question is slightly problematic because respondents in Wales could understand 'country as a whole' as referring to Wales only, to England and Wales or to the UK as a whole.

differences in beliefs about local crime across Welsh police force areas, more respondents in all four areas believed crime rates had gone up in the country as a whole than in their own area. This suggests that factors other than direct experience, such as national newspapers and broadcast media are important in mediating public perceptions of crime.

Figure 6.4 Beliefs about the change in the local crime rate by force area: 2001/02 BCS



Concern about personal safety

There are many reasons why people might feel unsafe and BCS reports emphasise that these reasons might have nothing to do with crime (for example, being afraid of the dark, being afraid of a fall). In response to BCS questions about feeling safe, most Welsh respondents said that they felt safe when home alone at night, only 5 per cent stating that they felt ‘very’ or ‘a bit’ unsafe. A higher proportion said that they felt unsafe when walking alone in their area after dark, one in four respondents reporting such feelings.

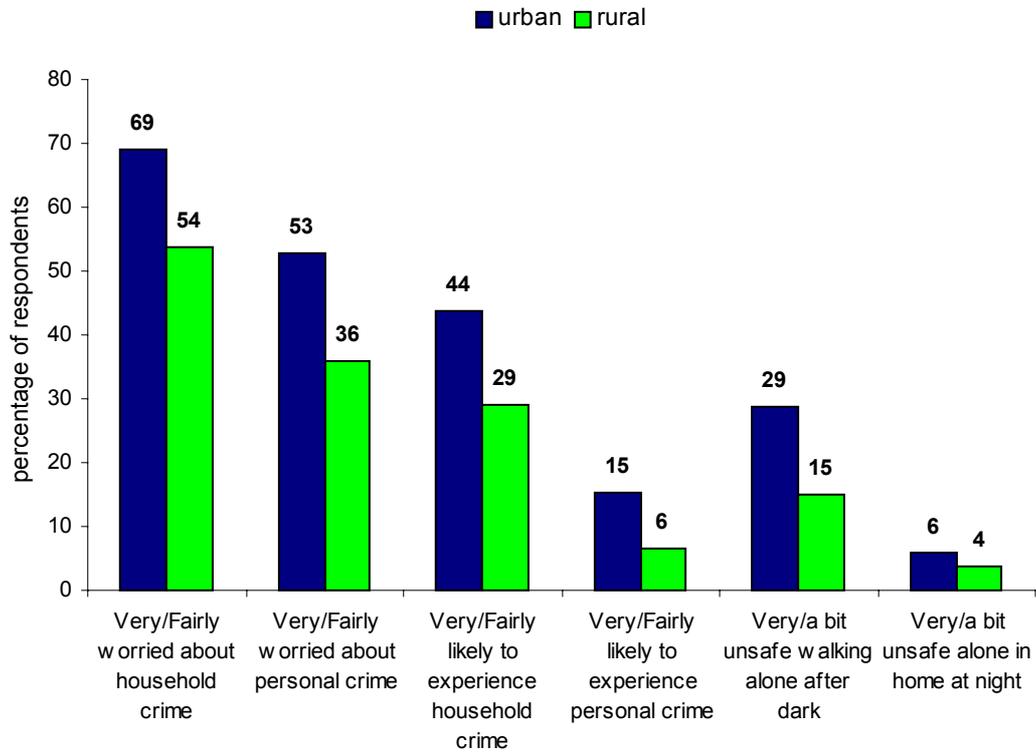
Respondents stating that they went out less than once a month were asked to give a reason why they did not go out more often. On the one hand, a range of reasons was given for not going out: nearly a quarter (23%) said that they had nowhere to go or no reason to go out, 18% did not want to go out and the same percentage used a car if going out, and others said they were either too ill (11%) or too old (8%) to go out. Rural dwellers were more likely to stay in owing to having nowhere to go (27% compared to 21% urban).

On the other hand, fear did play a role in some people's decisions: 18% expressed a general fear of going out alone, 7% said that they did not go out for fear of being attacked or mugged, and very small percentages (less than one per cent) stated that they did not go out for fear of burglary or vandalism. These fears seem to be influenced by where respondents lived. Far fewer rural respondents (11%) expressed a fear of going out alone than urban dwellers (21%), likewise only 3% of respondents living in rural areas as opposed 9% in urban areas stayed in through fear of mugging or other attack.

Concern about personal safety and crime in urban and rural Wales

We have already seen that rural dwellers are less likely than their urban counterparts to limit their social activities through fear of crime. This section looks briefly at further variations between urban and rural Wales in terms of concern over crime. Figure 6.5, based on Table A6.6, shows that urban respondents were more likely to express concern about crime and personal safety across all measures. Over half of respondents in urban and rural areas expressed worry over household crime, although in both areas the perceived likelihood of falling victim to a crime (household or personal) is lower than the level of worry about crime. This suggests that it is not only the prevalence or likelihood of victimisation that contribute to worry about crime and that factors such as the anticipated impact of a crime, regardless of its chances of occurring, play an important role.

Figure 6.5 Measures of worry about crime and personal safety in rural and urban Wales: 2001/02 BCS



Appendix Tables A6

Table A6.1 Worry about selected crimes by police force area in Wales

	Percentages 'very' or 'fairly' worried									BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)					
	North Wales			Dyfed Powys			Gwent			South Wales			All Wales		
	%	<i>N</i>	Sig	%	<i>N</i>	Sig	%	<i>N</i>	Sig	%	<i>N</i>	Sig	%	<i>N</i>	
Insult/pestering	30	591	*	21	569		21	698		25	724		25	2,582	
Rape	29	511		22	507		21	649	*	28	648		26	2,315	
Stranger attack	38	596		28	568	*	30	699		37	722		35	2,585	
Mugging	39	596		24	569	**	31	698	*	40	724	**	36	2,587	
Theft from car	49	470		40	458	**	53	514		50	516		49	1,958	
Burglary	53	597		34	570	**	45	701		54	726	**	49	2,594	
Theft of car	53	473		42	460	**	55	515		58	517	*	53	1,965	
Unauthorised card use	57	143		56	150		39	176	**	58	178		54	647	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%; *N* - unweighted

Table A6.2 Best Value Performance Indicators for 'fear of crime': police forces in Wales 2001/02 BCS (BVPI 121)

<i>Police force area</i>	'Very' worried about burglary	'High level of worry' about car crime	'High level of worry' about violent crime
North Wales	17	21	16
Dyfed Powys	11	*	14
South Wales	15	24	**
Gwent	13	18	**
Wales	15	20	17

'Sig' means significance level: * at 10%, ** at 5%

Source: Simmons et al (2002) Table 7.05

Table A6.3 Perceived likelihood of experiencing selected crimes by police force area in Wales
Percentage saying victimisation 'very' or 'fairly' likely **BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)**

	North Wales			Dyfed Powys			Gwent			South Wales			All Wales	
	Ind %	N	Sig	Ind %	N	Sig	Ind %	N	Sig	Ind %	N	Sig	Ind %	N
Physical attack	13	135		4	147		10	166		9	175		9	623
Mugging/robbery	12	133		3	147	*	12	167		11	175		10	622
Burglary	29	133	*	5	146	*	18	168		21	174		19	621
Theft of vehicle	28	106		24	129		28	117		37	125		32	477
Theft from vehicle	37	105		26	129		29	118		38	127		34	479

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A6.4 Perceptions of local and country-wide crime rate changes in England and Wales

Percentages and numbers	BCS 2001/02					
	Wales		Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	Indicator		Indicator	Sig	Indicator	Sig
	%		%		%	
Local: up a lot/a little	52		48		56	
Local: about the same	35		42	*	34	
Local: down a lot/a little	13		10		10	
Country-wide: up a lot/a little	68		64		66	
Country-wide: about the same	27		31		28	
Country-wide: down a lot/a little	5		6		7	
<i>Unweighted N</i>						
<i>Local question</i>		545		4,365		1,855
<i>Country-wide question</i>		638		5,288		2,212

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A6.5 Perceptions of local rate changes in Wales by police force area
Percentages and Numbers **BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)**

	North Wales		Dyfed Powys		Gwent		South Wales		All Wales
	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind
A lot/a little more	49		47		58		53		52
About the same	40		47	*	34		28	**	35
A lot/a little less	10		6	*	8		20	**	13
<i>Unweighted N</i>	128		124		146		147		545

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A6.6 Worry about crime in Wales by area type

Percentages and numbers **BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)**

	Urban		Rural		Sig
	Indicator	Unweighted N	Indicator	Unweighted N	
	%		%		
Very/Fairly worried about household crime	69	1,811	54	783	**
Very/Fairly worried about personal crime	53	1,810	36	781	**
Very/Fairly likely to experience household crime	44	423	29	200	*
Very/Fairly likely to experience personal crime	15	423	6	201	*
Very/a bit unsafe walking alone after dark	29	1,807	15	780	**
Very/a bit unsafe home alone at night	6	1,812	4	782	*

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Chapter 7 Causes of crime and police priorities

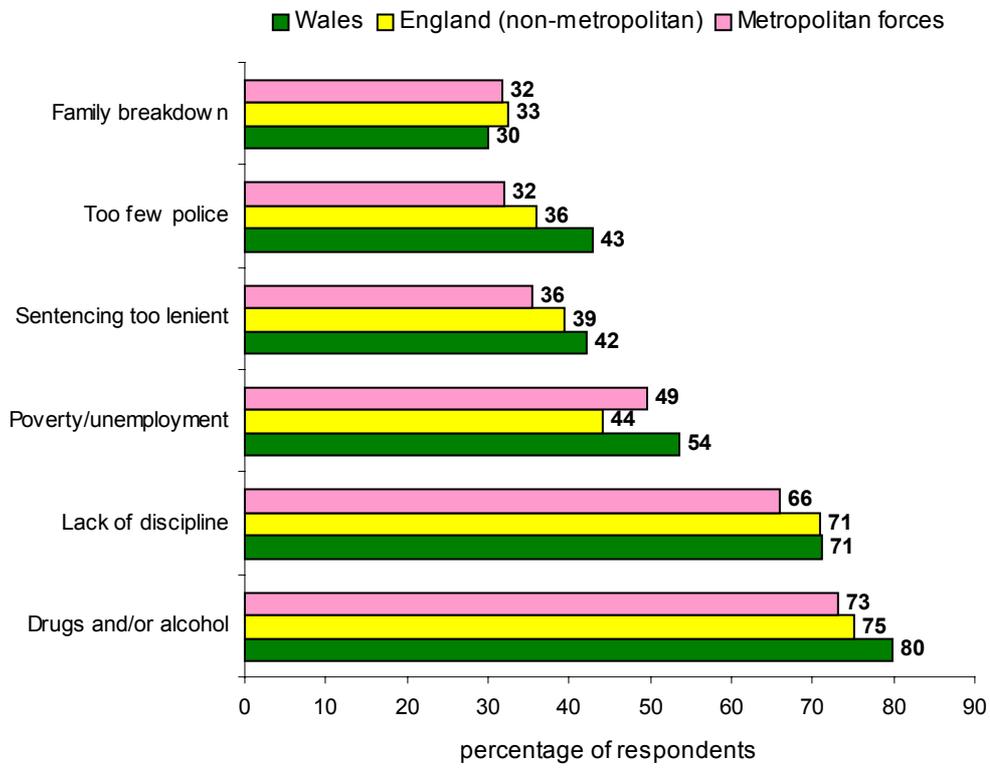
The BCS asks sub-samples of respondents a number of questions which focus on what they see as the main causes of crime in the Britain, and what they believe are the crimes and tasks that the police should prioritise. This chapter examines whether responses in Wales differed from those in non-metropolitan England or metropolitan areas, and differences within Wales, by area and by individual characteristics.

Causes of crime

Figure 7.1 shows what people believe to be the main causes of crime in Britain today. Respondents chose one or more response from a prompt card. Among the Welsh respondents, like their counterparts in England, the highest proportions believed drugs and alcohol to be one of the main causes of crime in Britain (80% of Welsh respondents), followed by a lack of discipline, either in the home or at school (71%), and poverty or unemployment (54%). In Wales, substance misuse was believed to be a main cause by significantly higher percentage than in England, lack of discipline by a similar percentage and poverty by significantly more in Wales and metropolitan areas than in non-metropolitan England (see Table A7.1).

Compared to most societal factors (substance misuse, discipline and poverty or unemployment), factors relating to criminal justice agencies were cited by fewer respondents. In Wales, just over two in five felt that a lack of police officers or lenient sentencing were among the main causes of crime (43% and 42% respectively). However, the lack of police was believed to be a main cause of crime by significantly more of the Welsh respondents than English.

Figure 7.1 Main causes of crime in Britain: BCS 2001/02



We also examined the beliefs about main causes of crime by respondents' area and individual characteristics (see Table A7.2). Surprisingly few significant differences between police forces areas emerged. In terms of the proportions selecting each potential main cause, respondents living in Gwent force area stood out: they were alone in ranking drugs or alcohol (67%) below lack of discipline in schools or at home (71%). Significantly fewer respondents in Gwent thought that family breakdowns (19%), lenient sentencing (33%) or poverty or unemployment (41%) were a main cause of crime. Respondents in other force areas held broadly similar beliefs, despite contrasts in the degree of urbanisation and industrialisation. Exceptions were that more respondents living in Dyfed Powys selected family breakdown as a cause of crime (explained by its rurality because this was found between rural

and urban respondents), and significantly different proportions of respondents living in South Wales (higher at 62%) and North Wales (lower at 44%) chose poverty or unemployment.

Secondly, turning to individual characteristics, age and qualifications were associated with some significant differences. Older respondents (aged 60 and over) were more likely than other respondents to choose too few police (54% compared to the national 43%) and lack of discipline (78% compared to 71% nationally). Fewer believed poverty to be a main cause of crime (42% compared to 54% nationally). The greater proportion of respondents with higher educational qualifications contrasted with the fewer respondents with no qualifications across all the societal issues.

Police priorities and tasks

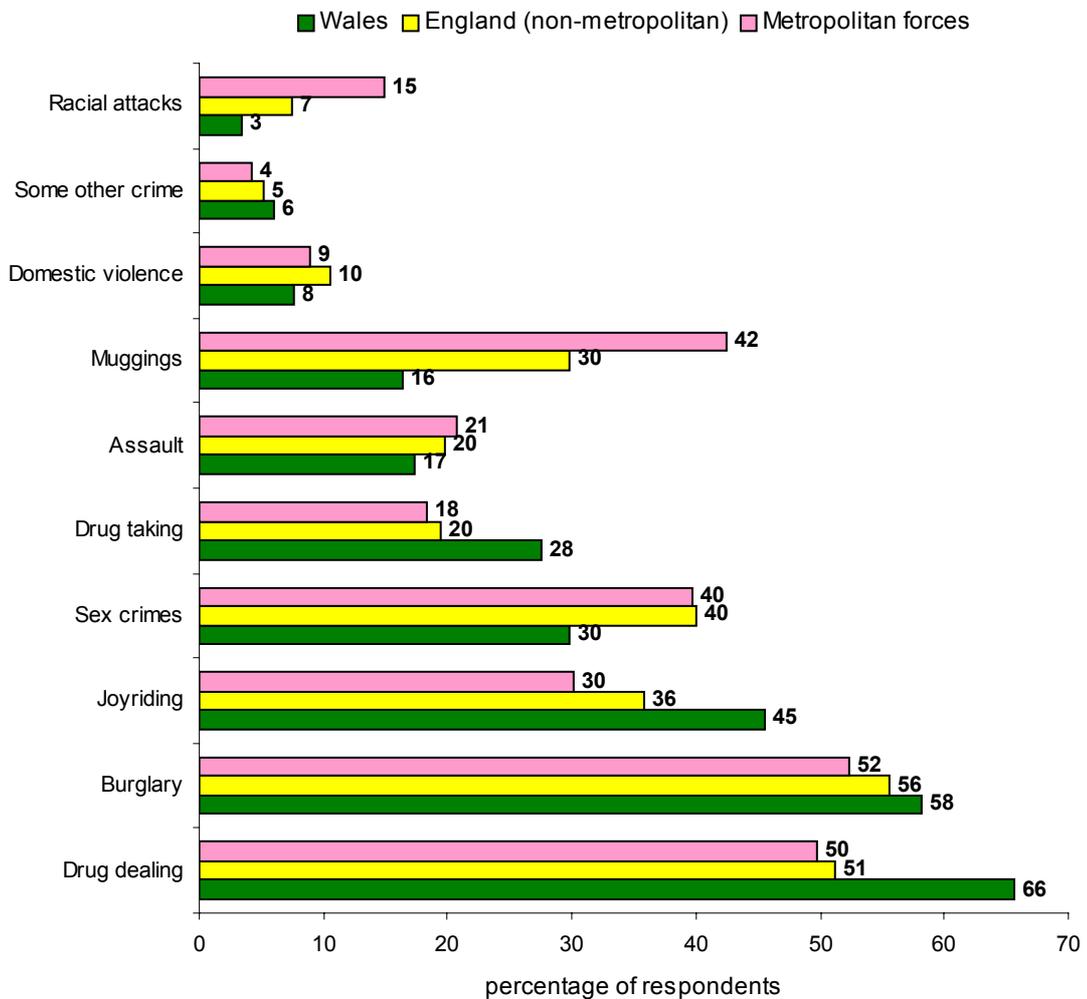
This section examines respondents' views on what the police *should* do, in terms of crimes on which they should focus and the tasks to which they should attach the highest levels of importance. First, we examine the public's responses when asked which of a range of crimes they think police should prioritise, and then look at the relative importance that they attached to a number of policing tasks.

Figure 7.2 compares the degree of agreement among Welsh respondents with views in non-metropolitan England and metropolitan police force areas. The crimes are ordered by the percentage of Welsh respondents' believing that a crime should be a police priority: it is clear that this ranking of priorities differs in England and Wales.

The highest percentage of Welsh respondents agreed that drug dealing should be a police priority, followed by burglary and joy-riding: in England, burglary, then drug dealing and sex crimes were thought by most respondents to be priorities, and in metropolitan areas mugging was widely agreed to be a priority. The lowest percentages show more agreement on ranking, with domestic violence and racial incidents among those crimes least likely to be chosen as priorities in England or Wales.

Turning now to the percentages rather than the order of priorities, we can see from Figure 7.2 and the appendix Table A7.2 that there were marked differences. These were significant for the much higher proportions in Wales believing that drug dealing (66% in Wales, 51% in non-metropolitan and 50% in metropolitan England) and drug taking (28% in Wales, 20% and 18% in England) should be priorities. Again, Welsh respondents (45%) were more likely to believe that joy-riding should be a priority, reinforcing our earlier findings on a greater problem of vehicular crime.

Figure 7.2 What should police prioritise? BCS 2001/02



On the other hand, domestic violence and racist crimes were not only the lowest specific priorities, but also Welsh respondents were much less likely to

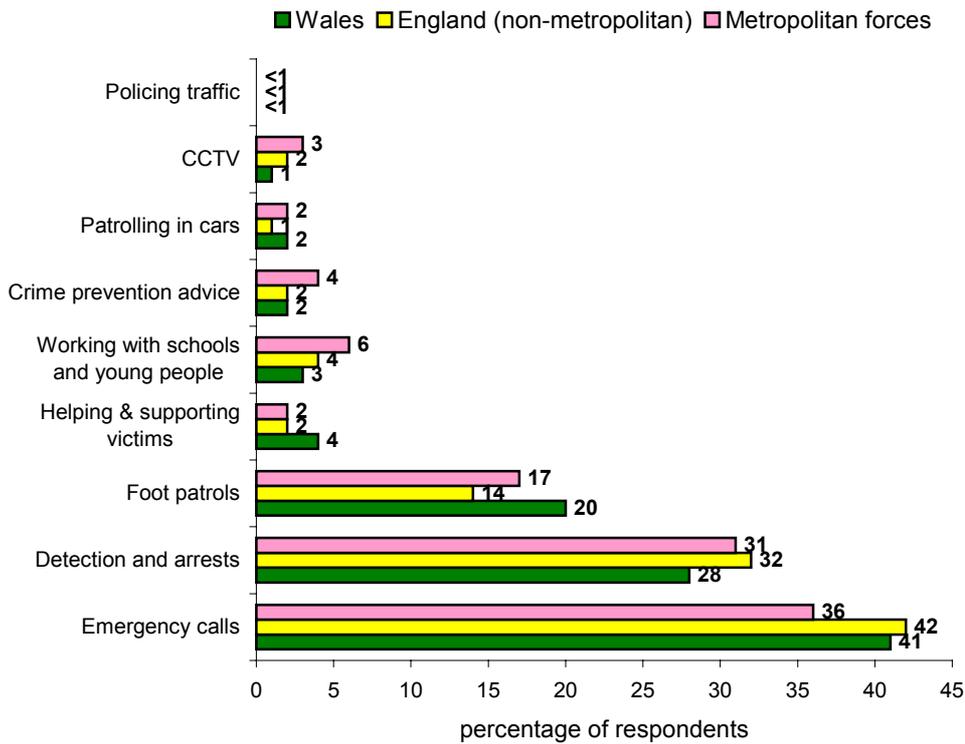
see racist attacks as a priority issue than were the English. According to the 2001 Census, about one in fifty of the Welsh population identifies themselves within a 'non-white' ethnic group¹⁷ (2.1%), compared to around one in eleven in England (9.1%). Street robbery was less likely to be a priority for Welsh respondents (16%) than for others (30% in non-metropolitan and 42% in metropolitan England), as we would expect given lower prevalence rates and concern in Wales (see Chapters 2 and 6).

We also looked at individual characteristics and found limited significant differences within Wales (see Table A7.3). In all almost all groups, highest priority is given to three crimes: drug dealing, burglary and joyriding. Joyriding, and to some extent assault, showed significant differences: sex, age and class all may affect beliefs about what the police should prioritise.

We now consider what respondents thought about the tasks associated with a broader concept of police work including policing traffic, supporting victims and visiting schools. Figure 7.3 underlines that the police are a key 'first response' service: the largest percentage of the adult public in Wales and each English area saw responding to emergency calls as the most important task of the police. Detection of crimes and foot patrols were also seen as important, in a pattern consistent across Wales and England. No other category attracts more than 6% of respondents.

¹⁷ Including those of white and other 'mixed' backgrounds.

Figure 7.3 The most important tasks performed by the police: BCS 2001/02



We also looked at variation by individual characteristics (see Table A7.6). Women were more likely than men to prioritise the role the police play as an emergency response; conversely, men were more likely to see the detection and arrest of offenders as important. Age also affected what respondents felt were the most important police tasks. The middle-aged were more likely to think that the most important task was responding to emergency calls than those aged 60 and above. Non-manual respondents were less likely to believe foot patrols were the most important task, and more likely to believe victim support was important.

Appendix Tables A7

Table A7.1 Public perceptions of the main causes of crime in England and Wales
Percentages and numbers **BCS 2001/02**

	Wales	Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	Indicator	Indicator	Sig	Indicator	Sig
	%	%		%	
Drugs and/or alcohol	80	75	*	73	*
Lack of discipline	71	71		66	*
Poverty/unemployment	54	44	**	49	
Sentencing too lenient	42	39		36	*
Too few police	43	36	*	32	**
Family breakdown	30	33		32	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	645	<i>5,377</i>		<i>2,255</i>	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A7.2 Public perceptions of the main causes of crime in Wales
Percentages

	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)												
	Drugs / alcohol		Lack of discipline		Poverty/ unemployment		Too few police		Sentencing too lenient		Family breakdown		N
	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig			
Police Force													
North Wales	82		69		44	*	41		38		28		154
Dyfed Powys	82		72		62		35		46		41	*	142
Gwent	67	**	71		41	*	45		33	*	19	*	173
South Wales	83		72		62	*	46		47		32		176
Area													
Urban	80		70		54		45		43		27	*	460
Rural	79		74		54		35		39		39	*	185
Sex													
Male	79		68		54		44		42		27		293
Female	81		75		53		42		43		33		352
Age													
16-29	82		61	*	63		37		33		24		100
30-59	81		72		56		40		44		32		323
60+	76		78	*	42	**	54	**	45		30		222
Class													
Non-manual	79		75		58		39		43		32		317
Manual	84		66		51		45		41		29		258
Qualifications													
None	74	*	65	*	46	*	48		44		21	**	246
O-level/equivalent	81		70		55		37		41		29		148
Higher	88	*	78	*	61	*	43		42		40	**	211
All Wales	80		71		54		43		42		30		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A7.3 What should the police prioritise in England and Wales
Percentages and numbers **BCS 2001/02**

	Wales		Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	Indicator		Indicator		Indicator	
		%		Sig		Sig
Burglary	58		56		52	
Drug dealing	66		51	**	50	**
Sex crimes	30		40	*	40	*
Joyriding	45		36	*	30	**
Muggings	16		30	**	42	**
Assault	17		20		21	
Drug taking	28		20	*	18	**
Racial attacks	3		7	*	15	**
Domestic violence	8		10		9	
Some other crime	6		5		4	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	323		<i>2,619</i>		<i>1,117</i>	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A7.3 What should the police prioritise in Wales
Percentages **BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)**

	Drug dealing		Burglary		Joyriding		Sex crimes		Taking drugs	
	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig
	%		%		%		%		%	
Sex										
Male	66		60		38	*	32		29	
Female	65		55		55	*	27		26	
Age										
16-29	71		50		68	*	25		24	
30-59	70		53		34	**	38		28	
60+	58		68	*	49		22		29	
Class										
Non-manual	69		55		39	*	31		29	
Manual	62		62		53	*	30		27	
All Wales	66		58		45		30		28	

	Assault		Muggings		Domestic Violence		Some other crime		Racial attacks		N
	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	Ind	Sig	
	%		%		%		%		%		
Sex											
Male	21		12		9		8		1		159
Female	12		22		5		3		6		164
Age											
16-29	19		7		14		11		1		38
30-59	23	*	16		9		7		2		154
60+	9	*	21		3		3		6		131
Class											
Non-manual	25	*	15		8		6		4		152
Manual	10	*	18		8		5		3		153
All Wales	17		16		8		6		3		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A7.5 Most important tasks performed by police in England and Wales

	Percentages and numbers		BCS 2001/02		
	Wales	Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	Indicator %	Indicator %	Sig	Indicator %	Sig
Emergency calls	41	42		36	
Detection and arrests	28	32		31	
Foot patrols	20	14	*	17	
Working with schools and young people	3	4		6	
Crime prevention advice	2	2		4	
Patrolling in cars	2	1		2	
Helping & supporting victims	4	2		2	
CCTV	1	2		3	
Policing traffic	<1	<1		<1	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	315	2,555		1,145	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A7.6 Most important tasks performed by police in Wales
Percentages

BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)

	Emergency calls		Detection and arrests		Foot patrols		Helping & supporting victims		Working with schools and young people		Crime prevention advice		Car patrols		CCTV		Policing traffic		N
	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	
Sex																			<1
Male	31	*	37	*	23		2		1		2		1		1		0		132
Female	50	*	19	*	17		5		4		3		2		2				183
Age																			0
30-59	50	*	26		17		1	*	3		<1		1		1		<1		154
60+	26	**	29		27		7		4		3		1		3				121
Class																			<1
Non-manual	45		32		11	**	7	*	2		2		0		2		<1		145
Manual	37		24		28	**	1	*	4		3		2		1		0		142
All Wales	41		28		20		4		3		2		2		1				

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Chapter 8 Drug use in Wales

In this chapter we consider what the BCS survey can tell us about use of illicit drugs in Wales. The BCS survey includes a self-completion module for respondents aged 16 to 55 year-olds to answer in confidence a series of questions about their own use of illicit drugs (illegal drugs and illicit use of prescribed drugs). The BCS is an important monitoring instrument for anti-drugs strategy, but it has a recognised potential for under-reporting drug use.

Establishing the prevalence of drug use is problematic.¹⁸ Individuals may be reluctant to admit to having used drugs, especially where the use has been recent or is ongoing. Some groups may be more willing than others to admit to using some illicit drugs, depending on how socially acceptable they perceive such usage to be. Therefore, different *admitted* use may only partially reflect actual patterns of behaviour. The following discussion looks at BCS respondents' admitted drug use in the previous twelve months. Respondents were given the option of saying that they had taken the drug in question, that they hadn't taken it, that they had never heard of it, or that they did not wish to answer.

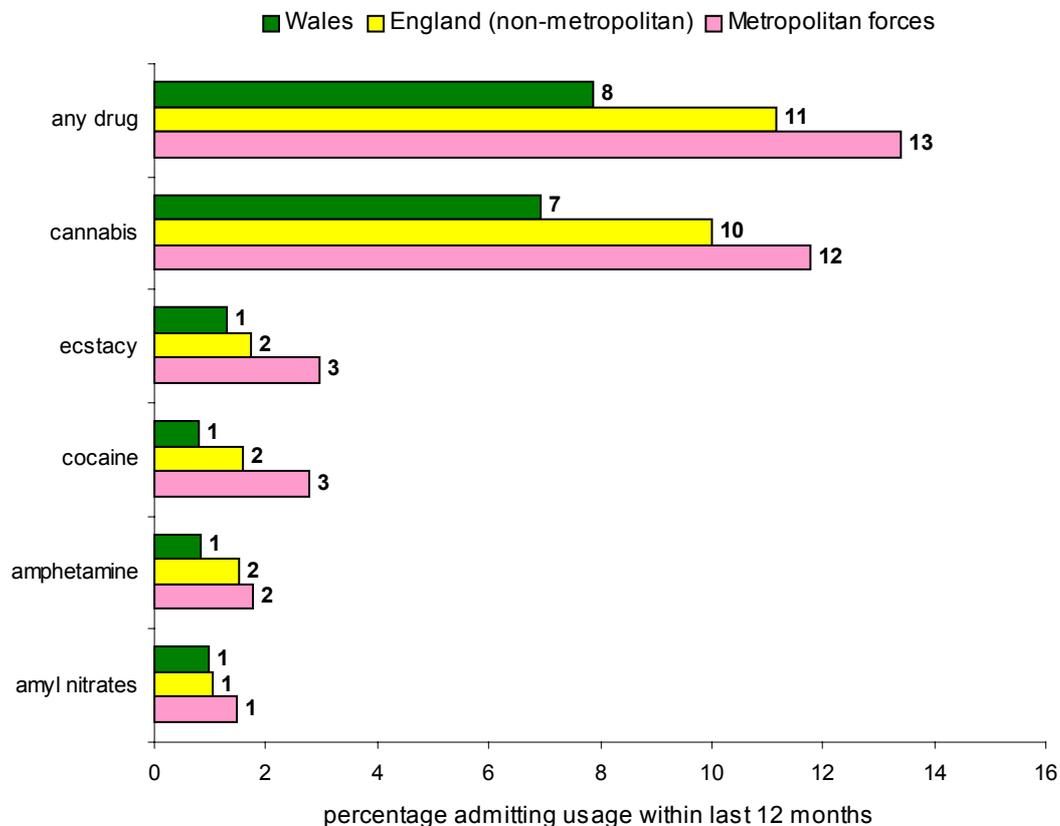
Prevalence of use

Figure 8.1 compares Welsh respondents' admitted drug use in the previous year with that in non-metropolitan England and metropolitan force areas, for the drugs most used bi-nationally.¹⁹ The pattern of prevalence was similar: cannabis was by far the most common illegal drug used, followed by ecstasy and cocaine (including crack cocaine).

¹⁸ In Wales an alternative source of estimates of prevalence is the Welsh Adult Substance Misuse Survey (WASMS). Some populations are not included in BCS, such as young people under 16 years on whom see Youth Lifestyle Surveys.

¹⁹ Any drug used by less than 1% of the population bi-nationally was excluded from analysis: crack cocaine, glue, heroin, LSD, methadone, mushrooms, steroids, tranquillisers and unknown substances.

Figure 8.1 Prevalence of self-report drug use in England and Wales (16 to 55 year olds only): 2001/02 BCS



As we can see from Figure 8.1, prevalence of drug use among Welsh respondents (8%) was generally lower than among respondents living in non-metropolitan England (11%) or metropolitan areas (13%): prevalence of each drug was significantly lower than that found in metropolitan areas for all the drugs except amyl nitrates, and than non-metropolitan England for the most common drug, cannabis, and cocaine. Other analyses of BCS suggest that interpretation could be either that there are genuine differences in patterns of usage, or that willingness to admit to use may reflect more or less relaxed attitudes (Aye Maung, 2001). The relationship between actual, admitted, and general attitudes to drug use is both complex and dynamic.

Area and demographic factors

We now examine if admitted drug use was associated with area or individual characteristics (details are in Table A8.2). Area within Wales was not important: rates in urban and rural Wales were similar, and, although North

Wales appeared to have marginally lower prevalence across all drugs, this was not significant.

Significant differences were found in terms of the sex and age of respondents, in line with other studies (Aye Maung 2001; Ramsay et al 2001). A higher proportion of males admitted to using each drug. One in eight (12%) admitted to using at least one drug in the past year compared to one in twenty five females (4%). The youngest group, those aged 16 to 24, showed the greatest proportion of users of any drug in the past year (17%), and of cannabis (16%). This compares to 2 per cent of those aged between 45 and 54 having used any drug and 1 per cent having used cannabis. Those aged from 25 to 34 included the highest proportion who had used ecstasy (3%), amphetamines (2%) and cocaine (3%) within the previous year.

Admitted drug use also seemed to fit in with drinking alcohol and a general lifestyle pattern (see Richardson and Budd 2003, chapter 4). Those respondents who visited pubs and clubs more than twice a week were the most likely to admit usage (18%) while those who drank once a month or less, or who never visited pubs and clubs, were among the least likely to admit usage (4% and 3% respectively). Cannabis was the most commonly used drug across all groups.

Appendix Table A8

Table A8.1 Prevalence of self-report drug usage in past 12 months in England and Wales

	Percentages and numbers		BCS 2001/02			
	Wales		Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	%		%	sig	%	sig
any drug	8		11	**	13	**
Cannabis	7		10	**	12	**
Ecstasy	1		2		3	*
Cocaine	1		2	*	3	**
Amphetamine	1		2		2	*
amyl nitrates	1		1		1	
<i>Unweighted N</i>		1462		13149		5,560

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A8.2 Prevalence of self-report drug use in the last twelve months in Wales

	any drug		cannabis		ecstasy		amyl nitrates		amph- etamine		cocaine		<i>Unweig hted N</i>
	%	sig	%	sig	%	sig	%	sig	%	sig	%	sig	
	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)												
Police Force													
North Wales	6		6		1		1		1		1		360
Dyfed Powys	9		8		1		1		2		1		260
Gwent	7		6		1		<1		1		<1		431
South Wales	9		7		2		1		<1		1		411
Area													
Urban	8		7		1		1		1		1		1,083
Rural	7		7		1		2		1		1		379
Physical disorder													
Low	8		7		1		1		1		1		736
Medium	8		7		1		1		1		1		614
High	8		7		2		0		2		1		111
Sex													
Male	12	**	11	**	2	*	2	**	1		1	*	652
Female	4	**	3	**	<1	*	<1	**	<1		<1	*	810
Age													
16-24	17	**	16	**	2		2		1		0		180
25-34	11		10		3	**	2		2	*	3	**	358
35-44	6		5		<1	*	<1		1		<1		419
45-54	2	**	1	**	<1		<1		0		0		329
Qualifications													
None	6		5		1		1		1		<1		409
O-level/ equiv	9		7		1		<1		1		<1		441
Higher	9		8		1		2	*	1		2	*	546
Class													
Non-manual	7		6		1		1		1		1		742
Manual	9		7		2		<1		1		1		615
Frequency of drinking per month													
More than once	9	*	7	*	1		1		1		1		784
Once or less	4	*	3	*	1		<1		1		1		290
Frequency of visiting pubs/clubs per month													
Never	3	**	3	**	1		1		1		<1		471
1-8 times/month	9		7		1		1		1		1		876
9+ times/ month	18	**	17	**	4	*	4	*	2		2		115
All Wales	8		7		1		1		1		1		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Chapter 9 Social and Physical and Disorder

The following chapter presents our BCS findings on public perceptions and experience of disorder and insulting, pestering or intimidating behaviour. We draw on comparison between Wales and non-metropolitan and metropolitan police force areas of England, and between areas and groups within Wales itself.

Anti-social behaviour and disorder are terms that are often used interchangeably. Although the terms have become common currency, there are difficulties inherent in defining either term (Budd and Sims, 2001). The Anti-social Behaviour Bill, introduced to Parliament in March 2003, covers a range of behaviour including the operation of premises for illegal drug use or supply, truancy and criminal behaviour by juveniles, the intimidation, harassment, causing of distress or alarm to members of public (by groups of two or more), possession of firearms, noise, graffiti and fly-posting, and unlawful depositing of waste or refuse.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) to be issued in a response to behaviour “in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household [as the person whose behaviour is in question].” A recent study found that such orders were granted in cases involving verbal abuse, harassment (including racial harassment), threats, intimidation, graffiti and criminal damage, assault, noise, public disturbances, arson, criminal behaviour, drunk and disorderly behaviour, shoplifting, trespass and prostitution (Campbell, 2002).

The BCS questionnaire includes questions on two main issues around experiences of social and physical disorder. Respondents are asked about *problems in their local area* (within a 15-minute walk of their home):

- levels of eight forms of social and physical disorder;
- which of these forms of disorder is the largest problem locally; and
- the impact of disorder on their quality of life.

A second set of questions cover the respondent's *own direct experience of insulting, pestering or intimidating behaviour*. They are asked:

- if they have ever been insulted, pestered or intimidated;
- how often this has happened; and
- why they think this happened.

Problems of local disorder

Respondents were asked to consider how much of a problem they considered eight 'disorders' to be in their local area. These are shown in Box 1. For each they were offered a range of choices to indicate how much of a problem it was: 'a very big problem', 'a fairly big problem', 'not a very big problem', or 'not a problem at all'. Answers to five of these questions (numbers 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Box 1) are combined to construct a scale of respondent-perceived disorder. This scale is used to classify respondents as perceiving high, medium and low levels of disorder for the Best Value Performance Indicator of 'feelings of public safety' (BVPI 122).

Box 1 Indicators of disorder covered in BCS 2001/02

1. Noisy Neighbours or loud parties
2. Teenagers hanging around on the streets
3. People sleeping rough on the streets or in other public places
4. Rubbish or litter lying around
5. Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property
6. People being attacked or harassed because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion
7. People using or dealing drugs
8. People being drunk or rowdy in public places

Source: Ellis and Fletcher 2003

The BCS also records levels of physical disorder apparent to interviewers. At each property visited, interviewers record their observation on how commonplace are rubbish, vandalism and housing stock in poor condition in the immediate vicinity. Where the interviewer records two out of three factors as 'very' or 'fairly' common, the respondent is classed as living in an area of high physical disorder.

High local disorder

Respondent perceptions of high local disorder (BVPI 122 'Feelings of public safety')

We first consider the respondents' perception of disorder. In deciding whether any of the eight forms of disorder are a particular problem locally, respondents can make a subjective judgement conditioned by personal factors and experience. Using the summary measure outlined above, about one fifth of respondents perceived local disorder to be 'high' in Wales (19%) almost the same as bi-nationally (20%). This proportion was marginally higher in Wales than in non-metropolitan England (17%), but much lower than in metropolitan force areas (27%).

We examined whether the proportion varied with individual or household characteristics or by the area of Wales (see Table A9.6). Around a third of younger respondents (16 to 29), both male (32%) and female (35%), perceived their local area as suffering from high levels of disorder, in contrast to relatively few of those aged sixty and over (men 14%, women 8%). Almost one-third (31%) of those living in social rented housing perceived local disorder as high as opposed to only 16 per cent in owner occupation. Respondents living in Gwent and Dyfed Powys were less likely to think that their local area had high disorder, significantly less than in other Welsh forces: this partly reflects a difference between urban and rural dwellers because respondents who lived in urban areas (23%) were nearly three times as likely as those living in rural areas (8%) to think local levels of disorder were high.

Respondents' perceptions compared with interviewer observations

We can compare the respondents' views with interviewer-observed physical disorder. Table 9.1 shows the breakdown of respondents' perceptions of local area disorder by the interviewer observations of physical disorder. As has

been found bi-nationally, there was a relatively high level of agreement between respondents and interviewers regarding low levels of disorder, but not about high levels. Where respondents perceived low disorder, interviewers concurred that physical disorder was low in two thirds of the cases (67%); but where a respondent perceived high disorder, interviewers concurred that physical disorder was high in only 15% of cases.

Table 9.1 Perceived disorder by physical disorder in Wales

Percentages	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)		
	Level of physical disorder (interviewer)		
Level of perceived disorder (respondent)	Low	Medium	High
Low	67	31	2
Medium	44	49	8
High	33	52	15

Respondent perceptions of types of disorder in 2001/02

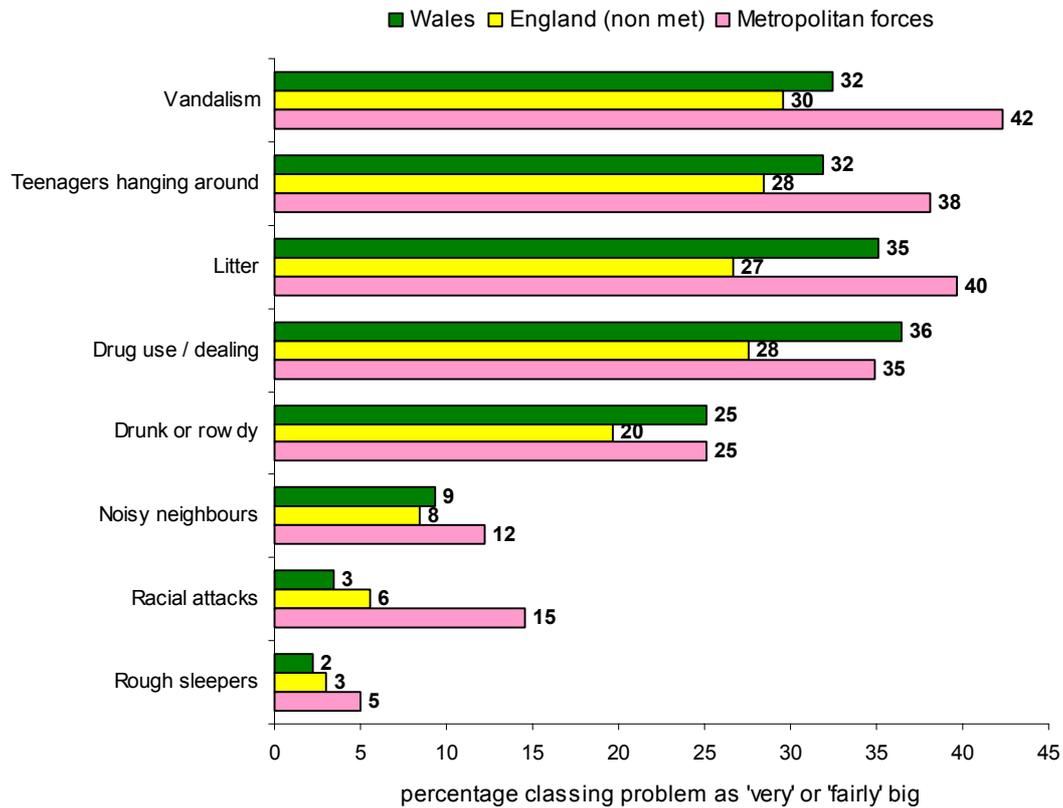
We now turn to the different types of social and physical disorder (Box 1 on page 73). Figure 9.1 shows the percentage of respondents in Wales, non-metropolitan England and metropolitan force areas who thought that each of the eight types of disorder constituted a 'fairly' or 'very' big problem.

In some ways, Wales was similar to both metropolitan and non-metropolitan England. The higher proportions perceiving a local problem to be 'fairly' or 'very' big were for the same types of disorder: vandalism, teenagers hanging around, rubbish and people dealing and using drugs. People sleeping rough was consistently least commonly perceived as problematic. These similarities are consistent with the bi-national picture presented by Ellis and Fletcher (2003) and with findings from the 2000 BCS (Budd and Sims, 2001).

In other ways, Wales was different. Unusually in this report, we find that respondents in Wales were, on balance, closer to the metropolitan dwellers. They were more likely than those in non-metropolitan England to see the types of disorder as locally problematic (significantly more for vandalism, teenagers hanging around, litter, drug-related disorder and drunk and rowdy behaviour). In fact, percentages of Welsh respondents for problematic drug-related (36%) or alcohol-related and rowdy disorder (25%) were as high as in

metropolitan areas. Another difference was that Welsh respondents were less likely to view people being attacked or harassed on the grounds of skin colour or religion as locally problematic.

Figure 9.1 Perception of local disorder problems in England and Wales: BCS 2001/02



Welsh responses by area and demographic characteristics (Table A9.2) show that, on the whole, local disorder was less likely to be perceived as problematic in rural Wales than in the urban areas. The effect of rurality is reflected in the lower proportions perceiving disorder in Dyfed Powys. In general, the disorders were more likely to be seen as problematic locally among younger people, those in social housing, and those in 'striving' areas in the ACORN classification.

Those who thought local disorder was problematic in at least one of the eight categories were asked what was the biggest problem in their area (Table A9.3). The highest proportion (24%) perceived teenagers hanging around on the street to be the biggest local disorder problem. The second largest

proportion was the 20 per cent who felt that drug dealing and drug use were the biggest problem. In England, more people were likely to cite vandalism or litter as the biggest problem.

Within Wales, area characteristics emerged as important in terms of what respondents think the biggest local disorder problem to be (Tables A9.4 and A9.5) Nearly a quarter of rural respondents (24%), compared to only eleven per cent in urban areas, failed to pick out any problem as the biggest. The largest percentage of rural respondents who did select (22%), felt that litter was the biggest problem, but only 15 per cent of urban respondents felt the same. In urban Wales, more respondents felt that teenagers hanging around was the biggest problem (28%), than among those in rural areas (15%).

In line with the dominant urban or rural nature of the police force areas, differences emerged between South Wales, with the highest proportion of population believing teenagers hanging around to be the biggest problem (28%), and Dyfed Powys, where the highest proportion could not select one problem as biggest (24%). Respondents from North Wales were the most likely to suggest drug use and dealing (28 %), in contrast to Gwent (13%).

Impact of disorder on quality of life

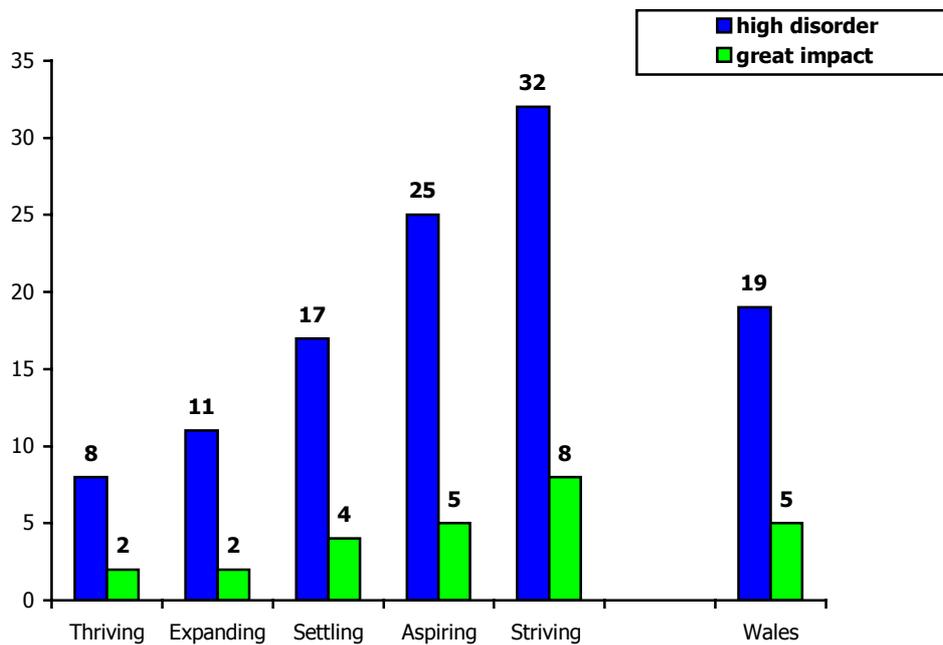
After being asked about the range of disorder issues in their local area, respondents were asked to consider the impact that disorder had on their quality of life. They were prompted to assess the impact using a ten-point scale, from which three categories of 'no or minimal effect', 'moderate effect' and 'great effect'. Percentages of responses in Wales were close to the bi-national averages (see Table A9.7). Respondents in Wales were more likely to believe that disorder had a moderate or great impact on their life (29%) than those in non-metropolitan England (25%), but less likely than in the metropolitan forces (39%).

Beliefs about the impact of disorder affected groups of respondents and areas differentially within Wales (see Table A9.8). Those whose quality of life was affected moderately or greatly were more likely to live in 'striving' areas

characterised by low income households (37%). By contrast, only 16 per cent in the more prosperous 'thriving' areas felt such an impact. Such differences can also be seen in terms of tenure, where nearly four in ten of those in social housing perceived local disorder to have a moderate or great impact on the quality of their life. Only 16 per cent of respondents living in rural areas were so affected compared to 34 per cent in urban areas of Wales. In terms of age and sex, over a third of women aged between 30 and 59 felt the impact of disorder to be moderate or great (36%), while less than one-fifth of those aged 60 and above felt the same (18%).

Figure 9.2, based on Table A9.9, shows the two percentages, of respondents who perceived local 'high' disorder and those who felt it had a 'great' impact on their quality of life, by the ACORN area classifications in Wales.

Figure 9.2 Percentages of perceived 'high' disorder and 'great' impact on quality of life in Wales by ACORN category: BCS 2001/02



Nearly a third of respondents in 'striving' areas - council estates and low-income areas - perceived disorder as high (32%), compared to one in thirteen in 'thriving' affluent suburbs and rural areas (8%) and one in ten in 'expanding' affluent family areas (11%). As may be expected, 'striving' areas

also show the largest numbers of respondents feeling a great impact of disorder on their lives (8%).

We next consider the impact of disorder on respondents' quality of life by what they perceive to be the biggest problem in their local area (see Table A9.10). Of the most commonly cited 'biggest' problems, respondents who selected teenagers hanging around were significantly more likely than others to believe that disorder impacted on their lives. By contrast, significantly fewer (23%) of those who felt that litter was the biggest problem, or could not choose (1%), thought that disorder had much impact.

Insulting, pestering and intimidating behaviour

The 2001/02 BCS asked further: 'including anything you have already talked about [in the last year], have you been insulted, pestered or intimidated in any way by anybody who is not a member of your household?' Again, as with perceptions of disorder, whether someone believes they have been insulted, pestered or intimidated is down to a subjective judgement on the part of a respondent. In Wales, around one in eight people (13%) said that they had experienced such behaviour, a finding similar to that in non-metropolitan England (also 13%) but significantly different from that in the metropolitan force areas where one in six had been insulted, pestered or intimidated in the last year (17%) (see Table A9.11).

Individual characteristic affected respondents' experience of such behaviour (see Table A9.12). The elderly were least likely to be pestered, insulted or intimidated (5%) while those aged 16 to 29 were most likely (25%). A higher proportion of those in employment (17%) had experienced insulting or intimidating behaviour compared to the economically inactive (9%), and more of those with higher level qualifications (21%) compared to those with none (8%). In saying this, it should be remembered that there is a certain amount of overlap between the groups (for example, the economically inactive and the elderly) in the Welsh sample. Area characteristics were not important.

Appendix Tables A9

Table A9.1 Perception of disorder as problematic in England and Wales

Percentages and numbers	BCS 2001/02									
	Wales		Non-metropolitan England			Metropolitan forces				
	Indicato r	N	Indicator	N	Sig	Indicator	N	Sig		
	%		%			%				
Vandalism	32	2,593	30	21,142	*	42	8,981	**		
Teenagers hanging around	32	2,592	28	21,143	**	38	8,994	**		
Litter	35	2,594	27	21,166	**	40	9,005	**		
Drug use / dealing	36	2,446	28	20,012	**	35	8,237			
Drunk or rowdy behaviour	25	2,578	20	21,025	**	25	8,909			
Noisy neighbours	9	2,594	8	21,169		12	9,005	**		
Racial attacks	3	2,579	6	20,918	**	15	8,761	**		
Rough sleepers	2	2,589	3	21,115		5	8,970	**		

Table A9.2 Perception of disorder as problematic in England and Wales

Percentages	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)																
	Drugs		Litter		Vandals		Teens		Drunks		Neighbour		Racism		Rough sleepers		N
	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	Ind %	Sig	
Police Force																	
North Wales	42	*	37		38	*	32		26		9		3		2		598
Dyfed Powys	31	*	19	**	15	**	19	**	21		6	*	3		2		570
Gwent	26	**	35		30		33		26		10		3		2		700
South Wales	39		40	**	37	**	36	**	26		11		4		2		726
Area																	
Urban	42	**	40	**	39	**	38	**	28		11	**	4		2		1,812
Rural	23	**	22	**	15	**	16	**	16		5	**	2		2		782
ACORN																	
Thriving	22	**	20	**	15	**	17	**	16	**	5	**	1	*	1	*	623
Expanding	25	*	27		26		32		19		2	*	1		0		149
Settling	36		33		33		28	*	24		8		3		2		759
Aspiring	46	**	42	**	38	*	38	*	30		9		4		3		546
Striving	50	**	50	**	48	**	49	**	34	**	18	**	6	**	3		477
Sex																	
Male	35		34		33		33		26		8		3		2		1,165
Female	38		36		32		31		25		10		4		2		1,429
Age																	
16-24	51	**	39		49	**	40	*	49	**	11		8	**	3		194
25-64	39	**	36		33		34	*	26		10	*	4		2		1,645
65+	21	**	29	**	21	**	23	**	10	**	5	**	1	**	2		755
Qualifications																	
None	33	*	36		30		32		20	**	9		3		3		1,035
O-level / equivalent	45	**	37		38	*	33		31	**	10		4		2		626
Higher	33	*	31	*	31		32		26		9		3		2		791
Class																	
Non-manual	35		34		30	*	31		26		9		3		2		1,238
Manual	39		38		36	*	34		25		9		3		2		1,098
Tenure																	
Owners	34	**	34	*	30	**	30	*	24		8	**	2	**	2		1,892
Social rented sector	48	**	45	**	44	**	41	**	29		16	**	4		3		490
Private rented sector	40		30		34		31		31		11		13	**	3		198
All Wales	36		35		32		32		25		9		3		2		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A9.3 Perception of largest disorder problem in England and Wales

BCS 2001/02

Percentages and numbers	and					
	Wales		Non-metropolitan England		Metropolitan forces	
	Indicator	Indicator	Sig	Indicator	Sig	
	Indicator	%		%		
Teenagers hanging around	24	27		28	**	
Vandalism	11	17	**	19	**	
Litter	16	15		16		
Drug dealing / use	20	15	**	14	**	
Drunk/ Rowdy	8	8		5	**	
Noisy Neighbours	5	5		6		
Racial attacks / harassment	<1	1		3	**	
Can't choose	14	11	**	8	**	
<i>Unweighted N</i>	2,164	<i>16,813</i>		<i>7,857</i>		

Table A9.4 Perception of largest disorder problem in urban and rural Wales

Percentages and numbers	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)			
	Urban		Rural	
	Indicator	Indicator	Indicator	Sig
	%	%	%	
Teenagers hanging around	28	15	15	**
Drug dealing / use	21	17	17	
Litter	15	22	22	**
Vandalism	12	9	9	
Drunk/ Rowdy	7	10	10	
Noisy Neighbours	5	3	3	
Can't choose	11	24	24	**
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>1,587</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>577</i>	

Table A9.5 Perception of largest disorder problem in Wales by police force area

Percentages	BCS 2001/02											
	North Wales			Dyfed Powys			Gwent			South Wales		
	Indicator	Sig		Indicator	Sig		Indicator	Sig		Indicator	Sig	
	%		%	%		%		%		%		
Teenagers hanging around	22		14	**	27		28	*		28	*	
Drug dealing / use	28	**	23		13	**	19			19		
Litter	15		17		24	**	14			14		
Vandalism	15	*	8	*	11		11			11		
Drunk/ Rowdy	6		12		10		6			6		
Noisy Neighbours	4		4		5		6			6		
Can't choose	10	*	24	**	11	*	15			15		
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>480</i>		<i>442</i>		<i>612</i>		<i>630</i>			<i>630</i>		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A9.6 Perception of high disorder in Wales

Percentages and numbers				BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)		
High perceived disorder				High perceived disorder		
Indicator	N	Sig		Indicator	N	Sig
Police Force Area				Age and Sex		
North Wales	22	547		Male 16-29	32	145 **
Dyfed Powys	12	555	**	Male 30-59	16	566
Gwent	15	647	*	Male 60+	14	396 *
South Wales	22	671	*	Female 16-29	35	206 **
Area type				Female 30-59	20	632
Urban	23	1,667	**	Female 60+	8	475 **
Rural	8	743	**	Employment status		
ACORN Category				Working	20	1,210
Thriving	8	591	**	Economically inactive	19	1,116
Expanding	11	144	*	Qualifications		
Settling	17	711		None	18	944
Aspiring	25	506	**	O-level / equivalent	22	595
Striving	32	433	**	Higher	20	748
Tenure type				Social class		
Owners	16	1,785	**	Non-manual	18	1,160
Social rented sector	31	438	**	Manual	20	1,018
Private rented sector	22	185		Wales		
Household income				19		
Under £15,000	23	828				
£15,000 and over	17	847				

Table A9.7 Perception of impact of disorder on quality of life in England and Wales

Percentages	BCS 2001/02				
	Wales	England (non-metropolitan)		Metropolitan forces	
	Indicator	Indicator	Sig	Indicator	Sig
Impact of disorder on quality of life	%	%		%	
None / minimal	71	75	**	61	**
Moderate	25	21	**	30	**
Great	5	4		9	**
<i>Unweighted N</i>	1,933	<i>15,631</i>		<i>6,815</i>	

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A9.8 Perception of impact of disorder on quality of life in Wales

Percentages				BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)			
	Disorder has moderate or great impact on life			Indicator	Disorder has moderate or great impact on life		
	Indicator	N	Sig		Indicator	N	Sig
Police force							
North Wales	32	434		Qualifications	28	775	
Dyfed Powys	16	427	**	None	30	474	
Gwent	32	544		O-level/equivalent	29	574	
South Wales	32	528		Higher			
Area				Class			
Urban	34	1,365	**	Non-manual	26	927	*
Rural	16	568	**	Manual	34	818	*
Physical disorder				Tenure			
Low	21	995	**	Owners	28	1,387	*
Medium	37	806	**	Social rented sector	38	376	**
High	48	129	**	Private rented sector	25	156	
ACORN				Employment			
Thriving	16	449	**	Working	29	961	
Expanding	23	107		Economically inactive	29	893	
Settling	30	531					
Aspiring	34	427					
Striving	37	385	**				
Sex and age							
Male 16-29	34	111					
Male 30-59	27	447					
Male 60 plus	28	333					
Female 16-29	34	169					
Female 30-59	36	500	**				
Female 60 plus	18	373	**				
				Wales	29		

Table A9.9 Perceived disorder and impact of disorder by ACORN in Wales

Percentages	BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)					
	High Disorder			Great impact		
	Indicator	N	Sig	Indicator	N	Sig
Thriving	8	591	**	2	449	*
Expanding	11	144	*	2	107	
Settling	17	711		4	531	
Aspiring	25	506	**	5	427	
Striving	32	433	**	8	385	*
Wales	19			5		

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A9.10 Moderate and great impact of disorder by largest local disorder problem in Wales

Percentages and numbers	BCS 2001/02 Wales only		
	Impact of disorder on quality of life moderate or great		
	Indicator	<i>N</i>	Sig
largest problem locally	%		
Teenagers hanging around	43	411	*
Vandalism and graffiti	43	173	
People being drunk or rowdy in public	42	116	
People using or dealing drugs	41	291	
Rubbish or litter lying around	23	272	**
Couldn't choose	1	155	**

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A9.11 Respondents insulted, pestered or intimidated in England and Wales

Percentages and Numbers	BCS 2001/02		
	Insulted, pestered or intimidated		
	Indicator	<i>N</i>	Sig
Wales	13	647	-
England (non-metropolitan)	13	5,201	
Metropolitan forces	17	2,172	*

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1%

Table A9.12 Respondents insulted, pestered or intimidated in and Wales

Percentages and numbers				BCS 2001/02 (Wales only)				
	Insulted, pestered or intimidated				Insulted, pestered or intimidated			
	Indicato	r	N		Sig	Indicato	r	N
		%				%		
Police Force Area				Age				
North Wales	14	139		30-59	14	309		
Dyfed Powys	15	149		60 and above	5	247	**	
Gwent	12	176		Qualifications				
South Wales	13	183		None	8	264	*	
Area				O-level equivalent	14	161		
Urban	14	439		Higher	21	190	*	
Rural	10	208		Class				
Physical disorder				Non-manual	15	305		
Low	11	345		Manual	13	275		
Med	14	263		Tenure				
ACORN				Owners	12	474		
Thriving	8	169		Social rented sector	20	118		
Settling	14	183		Employment				
Aspiring	17	126		Working	17	307	*	
Striving	14	116		Economically inactive	9	313	*	
Sex				Wales	13			
Male	13	293						
Female	13	354						

'Sig' means significance level: * at 5%, ** at 1

Appendix 1: Glossary of terms

ACORN - ('A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods') used in the British Crime Survey (BCS), which classifies households according to the demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN was developed by CACI Ltd., through the use of cluster analysis of variables from the 1991 Census. ACORN is most useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. Although there are a total of 54 ACORN types, a six-group breakdown has been used in this report (the six groups are constructed from the 54 types). (Further information about ACORN is available from CACI Ltd., CACI House, Kensington Village, Avonmore Road, London W14 8TS.)

All assaults – grouping including all crimes covered in the **common assault** and **wounding** offence categories.

Attempted burglary - Burglary where there is clear evidence that the offender made a physical attempt to gain entry to a building but was unsuccessful. Attempted burglary figures are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection.

Attempted vehicle theft - See **vehicle crime**.

Bicycle theft - Thefts of pedal cycles. This does not include every bicycle theft, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary where other items are stolen) and are therefore classified as such by the police and in the BCS. The BCS covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any other member of the household.

Bi-national – relating to England and Wales, as opposed to **national**, which in the context of the report refers to Wales only.

Burglary - An offence of burglary is recorded by the police if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, rape, grievous bodily harm or unlawful damage. Figures on recorded crime are provided separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and

those which occur in commercial or other properties. In making comparisons with police recorded crime, **burglary with no loss** is used in the BCS comparisons as a proxy for attempted burglary, though there will be some instances with no loss where entry has been gained. Attempted burglaries figures are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. The BCS covers domestic burglary only, but it is possible to differentiate between attempted burglaries and burglaries with entry. Burglary does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g. impersonating a meter reader). Burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be there at the time of the offence (see **theft in a dwelling**). The dwelling is a house, flat or any connected outhouse or garage. Common areas (e.g. hallways) are also included if usually secure. See also: **attempted burglary, burglary-no loss, burglary with entry, burglary with loss, domestic burglary** and **theft in a dwelling**.

Burglary-no loss - Police recorded crime figures do not distinguish between burglary with entry and attempted burglary, only between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss. Burglary-no loss includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. This is used when comparing the BCS and recorded crime figures. Attempted burglaries figures are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. With effect from 1 April 2002, value of property stolen will not be collected via the police recorded crime collection so no BCS comparisons on value of property stolen will be possible.

Burglary with entry - This term is used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss - This term is used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered and something was stolen.

Car jacking – the theft of a car where force or the threat of force is used as an instrument to carry out the theft.

Common assault - In the BCS, an assault (or attempted assault) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but the incident did not result in an injury, or the injury was negligible (e.g. a black eye). This definition is the same as that used for police recorded crime between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 2002. BCS does not measure assaults against those aged under 16 years old and those not living in private households, this being a caveat on all personal crimes. Assault on a constable is a separate category within recorded crimes, however such incidences are not treated separately for the BCS and would fall within the BCS common assault category. The BCS, by its nature, cannot include homicide.

Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) - The mode of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI, whereby the interviewer enters responses to the questionnaire into a laptop computer. The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and instructions for navigating through the questionnaire.

Confidence interval - A term used in the BCS, also referred to as margin of error. The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie. Surveys produce statistics, which are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. A 95 per cent confidence interval is the range within which one would expect the true value to lie in one out of every 20 times solely due to chance variation; a 90 per cent confidence interval relates to a one in 10 chance of the true value lying outside the range. Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between BCS sweeps. If a change is outside a range set by a 95 per cent confidence interval then one judges the change to be 'statistically significant at the five per cent level'; if a change is outside a 90 per cent confidence interval it is 'statistically significant at the 10 per cent level'. In this bulletin a 10 per cent significance level has been applied. See also the definition of **statistical significance**.

Council areas – Defined in the BCS as those areas falling into Acorn types 33, 40 to 43 and 45 to 51 (CACI Ltd.). See also: **ACORN**.

Criminal damage - Criminal damage results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Combined figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage. In the BCS, criminal damage is referred to as vandalism. As for burglary the BCS only includes private households. See also: **vandalism** and **vehicle vandalism**.

Domestic burglary - The BCS only covers domestic burglary, and police recorded crime covers both commercial and domestic burglary.

Domestic violence - A component of the BCS **violence typology**. It includes all violent incidents, excluding mugging, which involve partners, ex-partners, household members or other relatives. A computerised self-completion module was included in the 1996 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999) and a similar module was included in the 2001 BCS questionnaire (results are in preparation). See also: **acquaintance violence, mugging** and **stranger violence**. Figures on recorded crime do not identify offences of domestic violence since it is not a legal category. Such offences would be recorded in accordance with any injuries sustained i.e. common assault.

Household crimes - For household offences reported in the BCS, all members of the household can be regarded as victims, so the respondent answers on behalf of the whole household. The offence categories concerned are: bicycle theft; burglary; theft in a dwelling; other household theft; thefts of and from vehicles; and vandalism to household property and vehicles.

Household reference person (HRP) – the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or who is otherwise

responsible for the accommodation. In households with a *sole* householder that person is the HRP. In households with *joint* householders the person with the *highest income* is taken as the HRP. If both householders have exactly the same income, the *older* is taken as the HRP.

Household structure - A grouping of households in the BCS is on the basis of size, age of head of household, and number of children. Households are divided into those where the head of household is aged over 60, and those where the head of household is aged 16 to 59. The latter group is subdivided into the following categories:

- one adult aged less than 60, and one or more children (under 16). Note this does not necessarily denote a lone *parent* family, as the adult may be related to the child in a sibling or grandparent relationship;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16);
- more than one adult with no children (under 16).

Incidence rates - The number of crimes experienced per household or adult in the BCS. See also **prevalence rates**.

2001/02 interview sample - This is the sample on which latest BCS results are based. It consists of all respondents interviewed by the BCS in the 2001/02 financial year who were asked to recall their experience of crime in the previous 12 months.

Metropolitan forces - For recorded crime purposes, the Metropolitan police force areas are taken to be the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria.

Mugging - A popular, rather than a legal term, comprising robbery, attempted robbery, and snatch theft from the person. The BCS does not cover muggings against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. Police recorded crime does not separately record the small category of snatch theft, this being part of the police recorded crime category of theft from the person.

National – for the purposes of this report, national takes Wales as its unit of reference. Data relating to England and Wales will be referred to as **bi-national**.

Non-commercial vehicle-related thefts - The BCS only covers vehicle-related thefts against private households. Police recorded crime does not separately identify whether a theft is a non-commercial vehicle-related theft, but estimates of the proportion of these are provided by the police in order to enable comparisons between BCS and recorded crime figures.

ONS harmonised variables - The Office for National Statistics has constructed core variables and variable categories which are becoming widely used in Government Surveys (including the BCS) to provide comparable measures. The harmonised variables used in this publication are:

Age breakdown (short) - 16 to 24; 25 to 44; 45 to 64; 65 to 74; 75+.

Employment status:

- Economically inactive – includes respondents of working age (16 to 64 for men and 16 to 59 for women) who are retired; going to school or college full time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.
- Employed – includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed – actively seeking work, or waiting to take up work.

GOR – Government Office Regions: North East; North West (Merseyside has now been merged into the North West region); Yorkshire and Humberside; East Midlands; West Midlands; Eastern; London; South East; South West and Wales.

Household accommodation type:

- House or bungalow - detached, semi-detached, terraced.

- Flat or maisonette - purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.

Living arrangements:

- Persons living as a couple - married, cohabiting (includes same-sex couples).
- Persons not living as a couple - single, separated, divorced and widowed.

Tenure:

- Owners - households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social rented sector tenants - households renting from a council, housing association or other social rented sector.
- Rented privately – households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

Other household theft - A BCS category of household offences covering thefts and attempted thefts from domestic garages, outhouses, sheds, etc. not directly linked to the dwelling, as well as thefts from both inside and outside a dwelling (excluding thefts of milk bottles from the doorstep). In principle, it could be in the comparable subset, but the number of offences is small and therefore changes over time are unreliable.

Other theft of personal property - A BCS offence category referring to theft of personal property away from the home (e.g. handbags from offices), where there was no direct contact between the offender and victim. Only the respondent can be the victim of this crime category.

Personal crimes - For personal offences, the respondent reports only on his/her experience to the BCS. This applies to the following offence categories: assault; sexual offences; robbery; theft from the person; and other personal theft. Information is also collected on threats, though not

reported in this publication as few meet the criteria of an offence. The BCS does not cover personal crimes against those aged under 16 or not living in private households.

Physical disorder - Two measures are used in the BCS. The first is based on the interviewer's perception of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property, (b) rubbish and litter, and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. The interviewer had to make their own assessment as to whether each of these problems was very or fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common was scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale was then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranged from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The second measure is based on the respondent's perception of local problems is also used.

Prevalence rates - Prevalence rates show the percentage of the BCS sample who were victim of an offence once or more during the year. Unlike BCS **incidence rates** they only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the recall period, but not of the number of times victimised.

Recall period - This is the time over which BCS respondents are asked to report offences they had experienced. Other information about victims and their experiences is usually derived from incidents occurring during the full recall period. Under the new arrangements for continuous sampling the BCS is moving to a recall period relating to the previous 12 months (**Type B interviews**). All those in the **2001/02 interview sample** had **Type B interviews**. For the results for 2000 reported in Kershaw *et al.* (2001), that related to **Type A interviews**, the recall period was between 1 January 2000 and the date of the interview. Most of the Type A interviews took place between January and April 2001.

Recorded crime - Police recorded crime is those crimes which are recorded by the police and which are notified to the Home Office. All indictable and triable-either-way offences are included together with certain closely

associated summary offences. Attempts are also included. A full list is included in Appendix 3 of the annual command paper 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales'.

Repeat victimisation - In the BCS, the recurrence of the same crime against those who have already been victimised once in the year.

Robbery - An incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. Recorded crime offences are distinguished between robbery of personal property and business property. Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. If the use or threat of force is not there, an offence of theft from the person is recorded (this would be classified in the BCS as **snatch theft**, which together with **robbery** comprises the BCS **mugging** category). The BCS excludes robberies against those not living in private households and those aged under 16. If a BCS respondent is assaulted or threatened in the course of a robbery of a business this would be coded as robbery or attempted robbery. A robbery would also be recorded if the BCS respondent was also a victim of theft in the course of the robbery or if the business is the respondent's business and they are a sole trader.

Rural areas - Defined in the BCS as those areas falling into Acorn types 1 to 9 and 27 (CACI Ltd.). See also: **ACORN**.

Sampling error - A sample, as used in the BCS, is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn. As such, the sample may produce estimates which differ from the figures which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of the error depends on the sample size, the size of the estimate, and the design of the survey. The error is also taken into account in tests of **statistical significance**. Sampling error is to be distinguished from confidence interval (or margin of error).

Sexual offences - There are 14 separate offences included in the recorded crime sexual offences group including the offences of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault. Due to the small number of these picked up by the BCS, results are too unreliable to report. The 1994 BCS, however, included a computerised self-completion component on sexual victimisation to improve estimates (Percy and Mayhew, 1997). Woundings with a sexual nature are included in **wounding**.

Snatch theft - Incidents reported to the BCS where an offender snatches property away from the victim and the victim was clearly aware of the incident as it happened. The BCS does not cover snatch theft against those aged under 16 or not living in private households. Snatch theft is included within the recorded crime category of theft from the person and is not separately identifiable in police recorded crime figures.

Statistical significance - Because the BCS estimates are subject to **sampling error**, changes in estimates between sweeps of the survey may occur by chance. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which changes are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In this publication tests at the five per cent and one per cent significance levels have been applied (the levels at which there is a one in 20 or one in 100 chance of incorrectly identifying a difference solely due to chance variation).

Street crime – Robbery, snatch thefts, car jacking and possession of a firearm in a public place. The subject of a government initiative launched by the Home Secretary in March 2002.

Telescoping – respondents remembering an incident but placing it wrongly in time by thinking it happened earlier than it actually did (backwards telescoping) or later than it actually did (forward telescoping) which could potentially lead to the inclusion of non-relevant incidents or non-inclusion of relevant incidents in the **recall period**. The shift to a reference period of the previous twelve months as opposed to the period from the start of the previous calendar year has arguably blurred the edges of the reference period. To address this issue a 'life event calendar' was used with

respondents in the **Type B interview** sample to assist respondents in placing incidents in time.

Theft from the person - Theft (including attempts) of a purse, wallet, cash etc. directly from the person of the victim, but *without* physical force or the threat of it. One BCS component of theft from the person is **snatch theft** which is added to **robbery** to create a category of **mugging**. The other is **stealth theft**. Theft from the person exists as a separate police recorded crime category.

Theft in a dwelling - This BCS classification includes thefts committed *inside* a home by someone who is entitled to be there at the time of the offence (e.g. party guests, workmen, etc.). They are included in **other household thefts**.

Type A and Type B interviews - Close to half the BCS interviews conducted in the first six months of 2001 were Type A interviews and the remainder were Type B. **Type A** interviews used the **old BCS methodology** and the traditional **recall period**, while Type B were part of the new continuous sampling design. For **Type B** interviews the new recall period relates to the previous 12 months and respondents are further assisted in determining the date of any incident by the use of a calendar. Of the results reported here 74.5% (24,464) are based on **Type B** interviews and 25.5% (8,360) on **Type A** interviews that took place during the 2001/02 financial year (see **2001/02 interview sample**).

Urban areas - All **ACORN** types used in the BCS, including inner-city areas, which are not classified as **rural**.

Vandalism - In the BCS this is intentional and malicious damage to household property and equates to the recorded crime category of criminal damage. Vandalism shown in the BCS ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g. letting down car tyres) are not included. Where criminal damage occurs in combination with burglary, robbery or violent offences, these take precedence in offence coding. The BCS produces estimates both for vandalism to the home and other property and against

vehicles. Vandalism to the home and other property involves intentional or malicious damage to, for example, doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs etc. It also includes incidents involving arson. See **vehicle vandalism** for details of what this covers.

Vehicles - In the BCS these cover cars, vans, motorcycles, scooters, mopeds etc. either owned or regularly used by anyone in the household, including company cars. Vehicles used solely for business purposes such as lorries or work vans, however, are excluded. See also **vehicle crime**.

Vehicle crime - Recorded vehicle crimes include offences of theft of or from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking (AVT), vehicle interference and tampering and criminal damage to a vehicle. **Theft of a vehicle** includes offences of theft of a vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking. Attempted thefts of a vehicle are collected by the police as a supplementary data collection. **Theft from a vehicle** includes attempts if there is evidence of intent to commit theft from a vehicle. If such evidence does not exist then an offence of vehicle interference or tampering is recorded. Offences of **vehicle interference and tampering** and **criminal damage to a vehicle** are also included. The government has set a five-year **vehicle crime target** for reducing recorded vehicle crime by 30 per cent. For this target, only offences of theft of and from a vehicle are included (together with AVT and attempts). The BCS focuses on a category called **vehicle related thefts** that covers three categories: (i) theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered), (ii) theft from motor vehicles (i.e. theft of parts, accessories and contents) and (iii) attempts. No distinction is made between attempted thefts *of* and attempted thefts *from* motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender's intention. If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft *of* a motor vehicle. The BCS only covers vehicle-related thefts against private households. Police recorded crime does not separately identify whether a theft is a **non-commercial vehicle-related**

theft but estimates of the proportion of these are provided by the police in order to enable comparisons between BCS and police recorded crime figures.

Vehicle interference and tampering - This includes recorded crime offences where there is evidence of intent to commit either theft of or from a vehicle or taking without consent (TWOC), but there is either (i) no evidence of intent to commit one of these three offences specifically, or (ii) there is evidence of intent to commit TWOC (TWOC is a summary offence but under the provisions of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence). BCS cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the BCS it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

Vehicle vandalism - Includes in the BCS any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle such as scratching a coin down the side of a car, or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and therefore included in vandalism to other property. The BCS only covers vehicle vandalism against private households. Recorded crime includes all vehicle vandalism under the offence classification of criminal damage to a motor vehicle.

Violent crime - The combination of offences recorded in the violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery offence groups for recorded crime. As for other personal crimes, the BCS does not cover violent crime against those aged under 16 or against those not living in private households. The coverage of BCS violence consists of **common assault, wounding, robbery** and **snatch theft**. This is a generally more restricted category than violence as measured by police recorded crime, but does include the category of snatch theft that would not be included in the police figures.

Weighted data - Raw data from the BCS are adjusted in various ways at the data processing stage to correct for imbalances introduced in sampling and by the design of the interview.

Wounding - There are two types of wounding classifications used for recorded crime. The more serious are those offences committed with intent to do grievous bodily harm and are classified as 'wounding or other act endangering life'. Those of assault occasioning actual bodily harm are classified in the other 'wounding' category. The definition in the BCS is similar, wounding is a category of comparable violence that includes serious 'wounding' involving intentionally inflicted severe injuries, and 'other wounding', involving less serious injury or severe injuries inflicted unintentionally.

Adapted from Simmons and colleagues (2002) and Bolling et al (2002).

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