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Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to June 2008

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Main points

- British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews in the year to June 2008 showed a decrease in the risk of being a victim of crime compared with the year to June 2007 (23% as against 24%). The risk of being a victim remains at a historically low level.
- The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by 6 per cent for the period April to June 2008 compared with the same quarter a year earlier.
- BCS interviews showed levels of violent crime to be stable compared with the year to June 2007. Recorded violence against the person for April to July 2008 fell by seven per cent compared with the same period in 2007.
- BCS interviews to June 2008 indicated domestic burglary and vandalism remained stable and vehicle-related thefts fell by 12 per cent compared with the year to June 2007.
- Recorded crime showed a two per cent fall in domestic burglary for April to June 2008 and ten per cent falls in offences against vehicles and criminal damage.
- Recorded drug offences for April to June 2008 increased by 8 per cent compared with the same period in 2007.
- There was a 22 per cent fall in firearm offences in April to June 2008, compared to the same period in 2007. Most serious violent offences involving a knife were unchanged over the same period.
- BCS interviews showed no change in the overall levels of perceived anti-social behaviour.
- Four of the BCS measures of confidence in the criminal justice system increased in the 12 months to June 2008, compared with the previous year, while three remained stable.

This update presents the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime. Both data sets represent the most up-to-date information, but they cover different time periods. The BCS results are from interviews conducted in the period July 2007 to June 2008; police recorded crime refers to the April to June 2008 quarter.

Levels of crime

Overall crime against adults living in private households has fallen by six per cent based on BCS interviews in the year to June 2008¹ (Table 1). The overall level of crime recorded by the police in April to June 2008 decreased by six per cent compared with the same quarter in 2007 (Figure 2).

BCS household crime showed a statistically significant decrease of five per cent but the apparent six per cent decrease in personal crime was not statistically significant².

The BCS showed a statistically significant decrease in the risk of being a victim of crime, from 24 per cent in the year to June 2007 to 23 per cent in the year to June 2008. The risk of being a victim of crime remains at a historically low level.

BCS interviews for the year to June 2008 showed levels of violent crime³ to be stable compared with the year to June 2007; the apparent ten per cent decrease was not statistically significant. The BCS showed violence with injury decreased by 14 per cent over this period but the apparent 5 per cent decrease in violence with no injury was not statistically significant.

The level of violence against the person⁴ recorded by the police showed a seven per cent fall in April to June 2008. Two changes have been made which have affected the count of most serious violence against the person offences. Following the introduction of Public Service Agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 23, grievous bodily harm without intent has been moved from 'Other violence against the person – with injury' to the 'Most serious violence against the person' offence category but trend data is not yet available.

There was also a clarification in the counting rules covering offences of grievous bodily harm with intent. The clarification is around the circumstances that may indicate intent, and when it is appropriate to record a crime as attempted GBH with intent. Information received from police forces indicates that this clarification accounts for at least two-thirds of the 26 per cent increase in GBH with intent. GBH with intent accounts for 92 per cent of 'Most serious violence against the person'. Further details are given in the text box on page 7.

Recorded robbery figures showed a 16 per cent fall in April to June 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007, while there was a one per cent rise in recorded sexual offences over the same period. The number of robberies and sexual offences identified by the BCS are too small to provide reliable estimates of trends.

¹ Although the decrease in personal crimes is not statistically significant at the 5% level the overall picture indicates a decrease in all BCS crime.

² See note entitled 'What do we mean by statistical significance?' on page 10.

³ BCS violence no longer includes snatch theft. See footnote 4 in Table 1 for more information.

⁴ This definition does not cover sexual offences or robbery.

Provisional figures show that there was a 22 per cent fall in firearm offences in April to June 2008, compared to the same period in 2007. Firearms offences accounted for 0.2 per cent of all recorded crime. Knife crime offences in the most serious violent offences category were virtually unchanged over the same period though these figures are affected by recording changes (see supplementary note reference below). The offence coverage for knife crime has been extended from April 2008 to cover all the main violent and sexual offences, but comparable figures for April to June 2007 are not available.

A further analysis of recent trends in firearm and knife crime appears in a supplementary note on the Home Office website.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1408supp.pdf>

BCS burglary remained stable based on interviews to June 2008 compared with the previous year; the apparent two per cent decrease was not statistically significant. Police recorded crime figures showed a decrease of two per cent in recorded domestic burglaries in April to June 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007.

Based on the BCS interviews to June 2008, vandalism remained stable and the apparent six per cent decrease was not statistically significant. Vehicle-related thefts fell by 12 per cent compared with the previous year. Police recorded criminal damage showed a ten per cent fall in April to June 2008 compared with the same period a year earlier. There was also a ten per cent fall in recorded offences against vehicles⁵ in April to June 2008 compared with the same period in 2007.

Drug offences recorded by the police rose by eight per cent in April to June 2008 compared with the same quarter in the previous year. This increase is lower than for each of the last four quarters of 14, 21, 22 and 14 per cent respectively. These rises have coincided with the increase in police use of powers to issue cannabis warnings.

Fraud and forgery offences recorded by the police showed an 11 per cent rise in April to June 2008 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. This followed several decreases because of changes in the way cheque and plastic card fraud are recorded (see footnote 8 in Table 2). The main reason for those changes was to reduce the considerable bureaucracy that had surrounded the recording of fraud. Figures supplied by the Financial Industry are now used in the annual crime statistics publications to provide a better indication of the scale of plastic card fraud (see Kershaw et al. (2008) for more information).

⁵ Theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and interfering with a vehicle.

Table 1: Number of crimes and risk of being a victim based on BCS interviews in the year to June 2008 compared with the previous year

| | Interviews in July 2006 to June 2007 | Interviews in July 2007 to June 2008 | % change ⁽¹⁾ | BCS Statistically significant change ⁽²⁾ |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Number of crimes (000s)</i> | | | | |
| All household crime | 6,984 | 6,603 | -5 | ** |
| Vandalism | 2,939 | 2,771 | -6 | |
| Domestic burglary | 740 | 726 | -2 | |
| Vehicle-related theft | 1,675 | 1,480 | -12 | ** |
| All household acquisitive ⁽³⁾ | 4,045 | 3,832 | -5 | ** |
| All personal crime | 4,038 | 3,803 | -6 | |
| Theft from the person | 543 | 634 | 17 | |
| BCS violence ⁽⁴⁾ | 2,387 | 2,160 | -10 | |
| <i>With injury</i> | 1,233 | 1,063 | -14 | ** |
| <i>With no injury</i> | 1,154 | 1,097 | -5 | |
| All personal acquisitive ⁽⁵⁾ | 1,947 | 1,955 | 0 | |
| All BCS crime | 11,022 | 10,406 | -6 | N/A |
| <i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more⁽⁶⁾</i> | | | | |
| All household crime | 18.6 | 17.5 | | ** |
| Vandalism | 7.8 | 7.6 | | |
| Domestic burglary | 2.5 | 2.4 | | |
| Vehicle-related theft ⁽⁷⁾ | 5.7 | 5.0 | | ** |
| All personal crime | 6.5 | 6.1 | | |
| Theft from the person | 1.2 | 1.3 | | |
| BCS violence ⁽⁴⁾ | 3.5 | 3.2 | | |
| <i>With injury</i> | 1.9 | 1.7 | | |
| <i>With no injury</i> | 1.8 | 1.7 | | |
| All BCS crime | 24.0 | 22.7 | | ** |

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

2. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS crime. See Notes.

3. All household acquisitive comprises: burglary, vehicle theft, bike theft and other household theft.

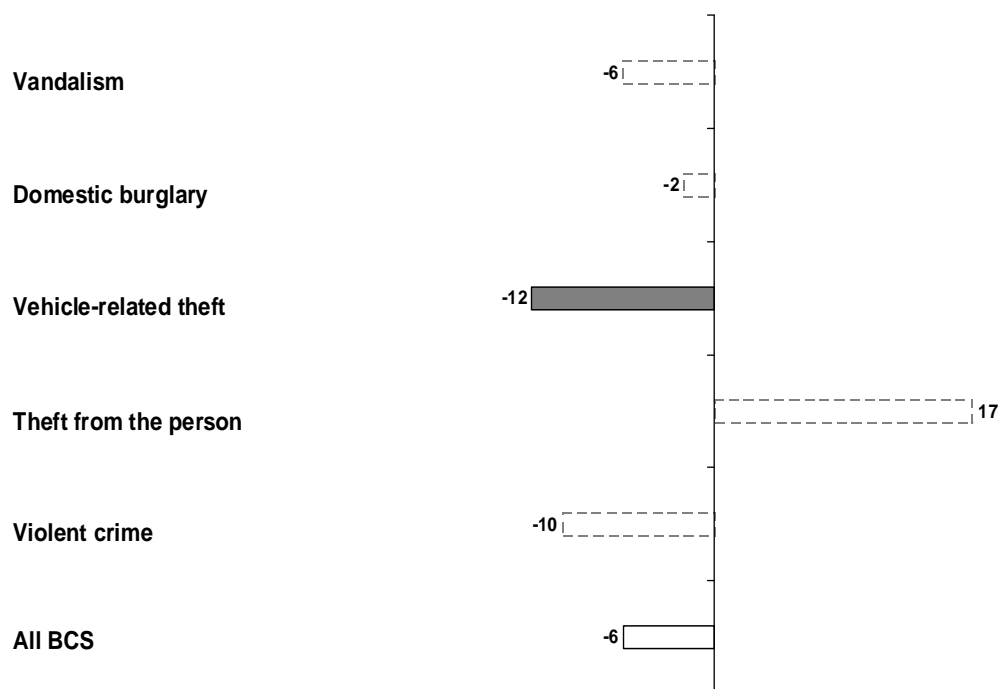
4. All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury categories.

5. All personal acquisitive comprises: robbery, theft from the person and other thefts of personal property.

6. A discrepancy may appear between trends in incidence rates (total numbers of offences) and prevalence rates (the proportion of the population victimised once or more) due to repeat victimisation.

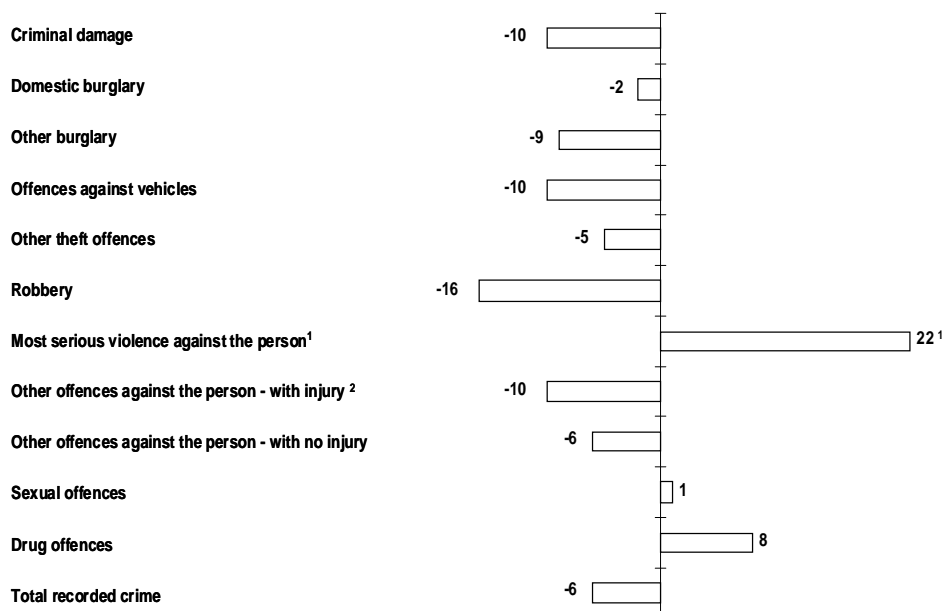
7. Risk for 'All vehicle-related thefts' is based only on households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle. It includes thefts of vehicles, thefts from vehicles and attempts of and from vehicles.

Figure 1: Percentage change in BCS crime based on interviews in the 12 months to June 2008, compared with the previous 12 months



Survey changes which are statistically significant at the 5% level (two tail tests) are indicated by a fully shaded bar. Other apparent changes, denoted by dotted lines, are not statistically significant at the 5% level. Statistical significance cannot be calculated for the change in all BCS crime.

Figure 2: Percentage change in numbers of recorded crimes, April to June 2008 compared with the same quarter a year earlier



1. The 'Most serious violence against the person' figure presented here excludes GBH without intent as this was not separately recorded in police recorded crime until April 2008, having been previously included in 'Other offences against the person'. The increase in 'Most serious violence against the person' is mostly due to a clarification in the counting rules for GBH with intent. See also footnote 10 in Table 2 and text box on page 7.

2. Includes GBH without intent.

Table 2 Number of recorded crimes and percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year

| Offence group | Number of crimes recorded by the police (thousands) ^{(1), 2} | | | | | Percentage change compared with the same quarter in the previous year ⁽³⁾ | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--|
| | Apr-Jun 2007 | Jul-Sep 2007 | Oct-Dec 2007 | Jan-Mar 2008 | Apr-Jun 2008 | Jul-Sep 2007 | Oct-Dec 2007 | Jan-Mar 2008 | Apr-Jun 2008 | |
| Violence against the person | 255.3 | 252.9 | 231.0 | 222.0 | 237.4 | -8 | -10 | -6 | -7 | |
| Most serious violence (MSV) against the person ^{(4) (9) (10)} | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9.2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| MSV excluding GBH without intent ^{(6) (10)} | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 5.5 ⁽¹⁰⁾ | -15 | -13 | -4 | 22 ⁽¹⁰⁾ | |
| Other violence against the person (OVAP) - with injury ^{(5) (9) (10)} | .. | .. | .. | .. | 101.3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| OVAP including GBH without intent ^{(9) (10)} | 116.3 | 114.8 | 104.4 | 99.9 | 105.0 | -11 | -11 | -8 | -10 | |
| Other violence against the person - with no injury ⁽⁶⁾ | 134.4 | 133.5 | 122.6 | 118.2 | 126.8 | -6 | -9 | -4 | -6 | |
| Sexual offences | 14.1 | 14.4 | 12.1 | 13.0 | 14.3 | -9 | -9 | 2 | 1 | |
| Robbery | 23.2 | 20.0 | 21.0 | 20.5 | 19.3 | -17 | -21 | -19 | -16 | |
| Domestic burglary | 66.9 | 66.9 | 72.5 | 74.4 | 63.3 | -8 | -5 | 1 | -2 | |
| Other burglary | 81.1 | 72.9 | 72.6 | 76.4 | 73.7 | -8 | -11 | -9 | -9 | |
| Offences against vehicles ⁽⁷⁾ | 170.1 | 163.6 | 159.3 | 163.5 | 152.4 | -12 | -19 | -14 | -10 | |
| Other theft offences | 302.1 | 288.0 | 271.7 | 259.3 | 287.5 | -6 | -8 | -7 | -5 | |
| Fraud and forgery ⁽⁸⁾ | 40.1 | 37.8 | 36.8 | 40.7 | 44.5 | -29 | -24 | -8 | 11 | |
| Criminal damage | 271.1 | 250.0 | 256.7 | 258.6 | 243.4 | -11 | -17 | -12 | -10 | |
| Total property crime | 931.3 | 879.2 | 869.5 | 872.9 | 866.8 | -10 | -14 | -9 | -7 | |
| Drug offences | 55.6 | 56.3 | 58.7 | 58.4 | 59.9 | 22 | 21 | 14 | 8 | |
| Other miscellaneous offences | 18.1 | 18.0 | 16.3 | 17.0 | 18.8 | -8 | -10 | 0 | 4 | |
| Total recorded crime - all offences | 1,298 | 1,241 | 1,209 | 1,204 | 1,217 | -9 | -12 | -8 | -6 | |
| of which: Firearms offences ⁽¹¹⁾ | 2.6 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 14 | -5 | -9 | -22 | |
| Knife crime - violent and sexual offences ⁽¹²⁾ | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8.6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| of which: Knife crime - serious violent offences ⁽¹³⁾ | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 5.4 | .. | .. | .. | 0 | |

1. Police recorded crime statistics based on data from all 44 forces in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police).
2. The figures given in the table are the latest available. They may therefore differ slightly from figures published in previous bulletins.
3. Comparisons are made with the same quarter in the preceding year in order to take seasonality into account. Comparisons with the previous quarter are not shown.
4. Most serious violence against the person includes homicide, attempted murder, intentional destruction of a viable unborn child, causing death by dangerous driving/careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, more serious wounding or other act endangering life (including grievous bodily harm with intent), grievous bodily harm without intent and causing death by aggravated vehicle taking.
5. Other violence against the person - with injury comprises less serious wounding offences.
6. Other violence against the person - without injury includes threat or conspiracy to murder, harassment, possession of weapons, other offences against children and assault without injury (formerly common assault where there is no injury).
7. Includes aggravated vehicle taking, theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.
8. The Fraud Act 2006 commenced on 15 January 2007 altering the definition and coverage of fraud and forgery offences. At that time, the counting of cheque and plastic card fraud changed to a 'per account' basis rather than a 'per transaction' basis. From 1 April 2007, account holders who suspect fraud on their account report the matter to their financial institution who will, in most circumstances, then determine whether to report the crime to the police.
9. PSA Delivery Agreement 23 includes GBH without intent which was not collected as a separate category prior to 1 April 2008 (it was included in 'Other violence against the person - with injury'). From 1 April 2008, figures are presented under both the new and old definition for 'Most serious violence against the person' and 'Other violence against the person with injury'.
10. Figures and percentages in the last quarter have been affected following clarification to the counting rules in April 2008 around the circumstances that may indicate intent and also when it is appropriate to record a crime as attempted GBH with intent (see text box on page 7).
11. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons.
12. Collection extended in April 2008 to include threats to kill, actual bodily harm, rape and sexual assault (in addition to the offences listed in footnote 13 below).
13. Includes serious violent offences of attempted murder, grievous bodily harm and robbery involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Figures collected from April 2007 only. These figures have been influenced by a clarification of the counting rules and new guidance and are not fully comparable (see text box on page 7).
.. Not available.

Effect of the clarification in the counting rules governing GBH with intent

When developing plans for monitoring the new Public Service Agreement (PSA) Delivery Agreement 23 (which focuses on serious crime) it was important to determine with forces whether additional guidance was required to ensure consistency in recording.

In connection with this an agreed clarification in crime counting rules was issued in April 2008 (based on legal definitions). A minority of police forces then reported that their recording of GBH with intent had increased. The clarification set out that where there is *clear* evidence of intent to commit GBH, then a GBH with intent offence should be recorded irrespective of the degree of injury sustained (i.e. to include offences where the evidence of intent to commit GBH is clear but the resulting injury is not GBH – see example now in counting rules below). This had the effect of some offences now being classified as GBH with intent which would, in some forces, have been previously classified in the much larger groupings of other violence against the person with and without injury.

To gain a better understanding of the extent of this effect, forces with above average increases in GBH with intent were asked to submit estimates of the effect of the clarification as a special exercise. A total of 13 forces were able to provide information in time for this statistical bulletin. These forces overall had seen an almost doubling of recorded GBH with intent compared to a year ago, which in itself accounted for about two-thirds of the overall national reported year on year increase of 26%. These forces' estimates of the effect of the clarification indicated that on their old interpretation of counting rules they would only have seen a 5% year on year increase in GBH with intent. *Taking these estimates, together with figures from other forces, indicates that at least two-thirds of the national increase in GBH with intent can be accounted for by the effects of forces implementing the correct coding of offences following the clarification of the counting rules issued in April 2008.* In addition, a number of forces were unable to provide any specific estimate of the effect of the clarification, but also indicated that the clarification had increased their recording of GBH with intent.

This effect was also apparent for the GBH with intent using a knife or sharp instrument, although this was less pronounced. *Taking these estimates, together with figures from other forces, indicates that around a third of the national increase can be accounted for by the effects of this clarification in these thirteen areas.* However, as before, a number of forces unable to provide any specific estimate also indicated that the clarification increased their recording of GBH with intent. A further point to note is that for the knife/sharp instrument collection the scope of GBH with intent offences was widened slightly from April to include certain offences, such as poisoning, choking and causing explosions that are very unlikely to involve knife use.

Example of 'GBH with intent where resulting injury is not GBH'. The example below is taken from the Home Office 'Counting Rules for Recorded Crime: Instructions for police forces', issued in April 2008.

A woman in a nightclub appears to provoke another woman she knows by pouring a drink over her head. She then picks up a bottle, and deliberately strikes it on the table and again deliberately strikes her with the broken bottle in the face. The victim suffered a cut to the bridge of her nose and a nose bleed.

(One crime (class 5A) (intent to use broken bottle – attempt GBH)

Public perceptions

A new set of questions was included in the BCS from October 2007 relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local agencies to tackle the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area. BCS interviews in the nine months to June 2008 showed that 45 per cent of people agreed that the police and local agencies were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area, 25 per cent disagreed and 30 per cent had no opinion (table not shown).

The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area did an excellent or good job remained at 52 per cent in the 12 months to June 2008, the same figure as in the 12 months to June 2007 (table not shown).

The proportion of people who perceived a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area in the year ending June 2008 remained stable. Of the seven indicators that make up the composite measure two showed a statistically significant decrease since the previous year: abandoned or burnt-out cars (from 8% to 7%) and teenagers hanging around on the streets (32% to 31%) (Table 3).

Table 3: Anti-social behaviour indicators

| <i>Percentage saying very/fairly big problem in their area</i> | BCS | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Interviews in July 2006 to June 2007 | Interviews in July 2007 to June 2008 | Statistically significant change ⁽¹⁾ |
| High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ⁽²⁾ | 17 | 17 | |
| Abandoned or burnt-out cars | 8 | 7 | **↓ |
| Noisy neighbours or loud parties | 11 | 10 | |
| People being drunk or rowdy in public places | 25 | 26 | |
| People using or dealing drugs | 27 | 27 | |
| Teenagers hanging around on the streets | 32 | 31 | **↓ |
| Rubbish or litter lying around | 31 | 31 | |
| Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property | 28 | 27 | |

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes for an explanation of statistical significance.

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

BCS interviews during the 12 months to June 2008 showed a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about violent crime (16% to 15%). The proportion of adults with a high level of worry about burglary also showed a decrease (see footnote 3). The apparent one percentage point decrease in the proportion of adults with a high level of worry about car crime was not statistically significant (Table 4).

Table 4: Fear of crime

| <i>Percentage very worried</i> | BCS | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Interviews in July 2006 to June 2007 | Interviews in July 2007 to June 2008 | Statistically significant change ⁽¹⁾ |
| High level of worry about ⁽²⁾ : | | | |
| Burglary | 12 | 12 | **↓ ⁽³⁾ |
| Car crime | 13 | 12 | |
| Violent crime | 16 | 15 | **↓ |

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes for an explanation of statistical significance.
2. See Kershaw *et al.* (2008) for more information on the definitions of the fear of crime indicators.
3. The rounded figures for high level of worry about burglary mask a change from 12.3% to 11.6%, which is statistically significant at the 5% level.

In October 2007 the BCS introduced a new set of questions relating to the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS. Based on nine months data from October 2007 to June 2008, 37 per cent of people were confident that the CJS as a whole is effective and 57 per cent thought that the CJS as a whole is fair (table not shown).

Based on existing measures, BCS interviews in the year ending June 2008 showed that public confidence in the criminal justice system (CJS) showed statistically significant increases in four of the seven different aspects of the CJS: being effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice, dealing with cases promptly and efficiently, being effective in reducing crime and meeting the needs of victims of crime (compared with the year ending June 2008) (Table 5). Other apparent changes were not statistically significant.

Table 5: Public confidence in the criminal justice system

| <i>Percentage very/fairly confident</i> | BCS | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Interviews in July 2006 to June 2007 | Interviews in July 2007 to June 2008 | Statistically significant change ⁽¹⁾ |
| Respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly | 79 | 80 | |
| Effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice | 42 | 44 | **↑ |
| Deals with cases promptly and efficiently | 40 | 43 | **↑ |
| Effective at reducing crime | 36 | 38 | **↑ |
| Meets the needs of victims of crime | 34 | 36 | **↑ |
| Dealing with young people accused of crime | 24 | 25 | |
| Treats people who come forward as witnesses well | 68 | 68 | |

1. Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by a double asterisk. See Notes for an explanation of statistical significance.
2. Witness and victim satisfaction with the CJS is measured by the Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES). Early findings from WAVES can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/witness-victim-experience-survey.htm>

Notes

The latest British Crime Survey (BCS) figures are based on interviews with adults aged 16 or over living in private households in England and Wales conducted between July 2007 and June 2008 (BCS year ending June 2008) and incidents experienced by survey respondents in the 12 months prior to their interview. Averaging over the moving reference period generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures for the 12 months up to the end of December 2007, about six months behind the latest recorded crime figures reported here. BCS results for the year ending June 2008 are compared with the results from the interviews in the year ending June 2007.

The BCS fieldwork was carried out by BMRB Social Research. In the year ending June 2008 the BCS had a nationally representative sample of 46,983 adults with a response rate of 76 per cent.⁶ Further information about the BCS and access to recent publications can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html>.

What do we mean by statistical significance?

BCS estimates are based on a representative sample of the population of approximately 47,000 respondents aged 16 or over each year. Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of this difference depends on the sample size, the size and variability of the estimate and the design of the survey.

Because of this difference (known as sampling error), changes in estimates between sweeps of the survey may occur by chance. In other words, the difference may be simply due to which adults were randomly selected for interview. We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests. Survey results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level, according to these tests, are identified by asterisks in the tables. Only results that are statistically significant at the five per cent level are commented on within this bulletin.

Recorded crime figures relate to crime recorded by the police in England and Wales in the quarterly period. Unlike the BCS, it does not include crimes that have not been reported to the police, and does not include those that the police decide not to record but does cover crimes against those aged under 16 and businesses.

BCS and recorded crime figures used in this bulletin should be treated as provisional and are subject to revision in future Quarterly Updates.

References

Kershaw, C., Nicholas, S. and Walker, A (Eds.) (2008) *Crime in England and Wales 2007/08*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/08. London: Home Office.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf>

⁶ Based on BCS interviews achieved during the year ending March 2008. The response rate for the year ending June 2008 cannot be calculated as finalised response figures are not yet available.

Bulletin production

This bulletin has been produced according to the guidance for National Statistics by staff in the Home Office Statistics Group of Research Development and Statistics.

Further information

Copies of other Home Office publications are available from the RDS Internet pages:

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

For further information about the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime statistics, please e-mail crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

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Errata

Page 8, paragraph 1 – the proportions of people disagreeing or having no opinion about whether the police and local agencies were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area were the wrong way round and this has now been corrected.