Home Office

BRITISH CRIME SURVEY USER GUIDE

2008/09

CRIME SURVEYS
HOME OFFICE STATISTICS
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CONTENTS

SECTION 1: Background to the BCS

The BCS is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues such as the police and criminal justice system, and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. Until recently the BCS did not cover crime against children, but, since January 2009, those aged 10 to 15 have been included in the survey. The first results for this age-group will be published in spring 2010. The 2008/09 BCS dataset is only based on adults aged 16 or over.

The survey was first conducted in 1982, with further cycles in 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2001. In 2001, the BCS moved to an annual format with continuous sampling. The first and third surveys were carried out in England, Wales and Scotland (hence 'British' Crime Survey). The BCS now only covers England and Wales as Scotland now has its own survey, as does Northern Ireland.

The key aim of the BCS is to provide robust trends for the crime types it covers; the survey does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime and has notable exclusions. The BCS excludes fraud (see below) and those crimes termed as victimless (e.g. possession of drugs). As a survey that asks people whether they have experienced victimisation, murders cannot be included. The BCS does not cover the population living in group residences (e.g. care homes or halls of residence) or other institutions, nor does it cover crime against commercial or public sector bodies (work is currently underway to scope a possible new survey of business crime).

For the crime types it covers, the BCS provides a better reflection of the true extent of household and personal crime than police recorded statistics because the survey includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police. The primary purpose of the BCS is to provide national level analysis but some high-level analysis is possible at regional level.

The BCS is also a better indicator of long-term trends than police recorded crime because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices. The victimisation methodology and the crime types included in the main count of crime have remained comparable since the survey began in 1981. As a result, the BCS does not capture relatively new crimes, such as plastic card fraud. However, additional questions have been added to the survey to capture such issues.

The booklet 'Measuring crime for 25 years' was published in 2007 and examines how the BCS has changed and what has happened to trends in crime and people's perception over 25 years of the survey (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bcs25.pdf).

SECTION 2: Methodology

SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample is designed to be representative of the population of households in England and Wales and adults aged 16 or over living in those households. As such, it is possible to use the small users' Postcode Address File (PAF) which is widely accepted as the best general population sampling frame in England and Wales[1]. As mentioned earlier, the BCS does not cover the population living in group residences or other institutions, although excluding the minority of the population that lives in such establishments is thought to have little effect on BCS estimates (see Pickering *et al.*, 2007).

The core sample size has increased from around 11,000 in the earlier cycles to 46,286 in the 2008/09 BCS. The BCS has a high response rate (76%) and the survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias and ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population (see Section 3). In addition to this 'core' sample, the survey interviews a 'boost' sample of 2,000 young people aged 16 to 24 through screening at the core addresses (the 'young adult' boost[2]). Since January 2009 the survey also includes children aged 10 to 15, again through screening at sampled addresses, though these are not included on the 2008/09 dataset. The BCS has previously included an ethnic boost sample, although this is no longer used. For more information on changes in the BCS sample over time, see Appendix A.

In 2004/05 the sample was re-designed to achieve 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area (PFA), involving substantial over-sampling in smaller PFAs. As well as stratifying disproportionately by PFA, the sample is stratified by other sociodemographic variables in order to maximise the precision of estimates. The stratifiers used in 2008/09 (as for previous surveys) were population density and the proportion of household reference persons in non-manual occupations. For further details of sample stratification and clustering (see Bolling *et al.,* 2009).

FIELDWORK

At each sampled address the interviewer is required to establish that the address is eligible (ineligible addresses include vacant properties, second homes, non-residential addresses and establishments where people are living in group residences, e.g. care homes or halls of residence). In the rare situations where one PAF address leads to two households, the interview randomly selects which household to approach.

Once the household is determined to be eligible, individuals aged 16 or over in the selected household are listed by alphabetical order of first name and then one is randomly selected for interview. No substitutes are permitted. Any 16 to 24 year olds (in addition to those who have may have responded to the core interview) may then also be randomly selected for interview (for more information see Bolling *at al.*, 2009). Also, from January 2009, a child aged 10 to 15 may be selected to take part – only one child is sampled from each household. In households with just one child aged 10 to 15, the child is sampled at 65 per cent of addresses, and in households with two or more eligible children, one child is randomly selected at all addresses.[3]

The BCS is carried out as a face-to-face interview using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) where interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on laptop computers. The mode

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[1] The small users' PAF has been the sampling frame for the BCS since 1992 – it lists all postal delivery points in England and Wales (almost all households have one delivery point or letterbox).
[2] The 'young adult' boost was included to enable adequate measurement of a government Public Service Agreement target relating to illicit drug use among young people. The boost is no longer being carried out from March 2009.

[3] Data from interviews with 10-15 year olds are not included on the 2008/09 BCS dataset.

of interview changed in the 1994 BCS from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI. CAPI allows plausibility and consistency checks to be incorporated into the survey to improve data quality.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The BCS questionnaire has a complex structure consisting of a core set of modules asked of the whole sample, a set of modules asked only of different sub-samples, and self-completion modules asked of all respondents aged 16 to 59.

Survey development is carried out on an annual basis to reflect emerging policy issues. While the wording of victimisation questions has not changed and these are included every year, the precise set of modules asked in each survey year varies. The 'young adult' questionnaire covers fewer topics than the main questionnaire and the new question set for children aged 10 to 15 was specifically designed for this age range while retaining broad comparability with the adult questionnaire. Within some modules there may be further filtering so that some questions are only asked of smaller-sub samples. Respondents are randomly allocated into one of four sub-samples, A, B, C or D which each represent around a quarter of the overall sample. When a question is only asked of a sub-sample of respondents this is indicated on the questionnaire.

The self-completion modules are at the end of the face-to-face interview and cover topics such as illicit drug use, domestic violence and sexual assault, and handling stolen goods. Respondents can complete these modules on the interviewer's laptop by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) and, when finished, their answers are hidden. The use of self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on illicit behaviour due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey.

Self-completion modules were first included in the 1996 and 2001 BCS to improve estimates of domestic violence (Walby and Allen, 2004) and a similar module has been included since the 2004/05 BCS. The self-completion module on illicit drug use was introduced in 1996 and comparable questions have been asked since then.

REFERENCE PERIOD

Prior to 2001/02, BCS respondents were asked about their crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year but when the BCS changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview. As respondents are now interviewed on a rolling basis over the course of a year, the time period covered by the data is not directly comparable with any calendar year.

Since respondents are interviewed at different times within each month, they are asked about experiences of crime in the current month plus the 12 months prior. However, crimes experienced in the 'interview' month are excluded from the 12-month reference period used for analysis as otherwise those interviewed towards the end of the month would have a longer reference period than those interviewed at the start of the month. Hence for the 2008/09 BCS, with interviews taking place between April 2008 and March 2009, the reference period includes incidents experienced by respondents between April 2007 and February 2009. The centre point of the period for reporting crime is March 2008, the only month to be included in all respondents' reference periods (Figure 1).

Averaging over the moving reference period of the BCS generates estimates that are most closely comparable with annual police recorded crime figures to the end of the September six months earlier. For example, BCS figures from the 2008/09 survey are most closely comparable with police recorded crime statistics for the 12 months to the end of September 2008.

Other questions on the BCS (e.g. attitudes to policing, confidence in the CJS) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes, and thus the data correspond to the year in which the respondent was interviewed (e.g. 1996, 2008/09).

Figure 1: The reference period in one year of BCS interviews (Apr-Mar)

Mid-point for survey estimates

Time period most closely comparable with recorded crime
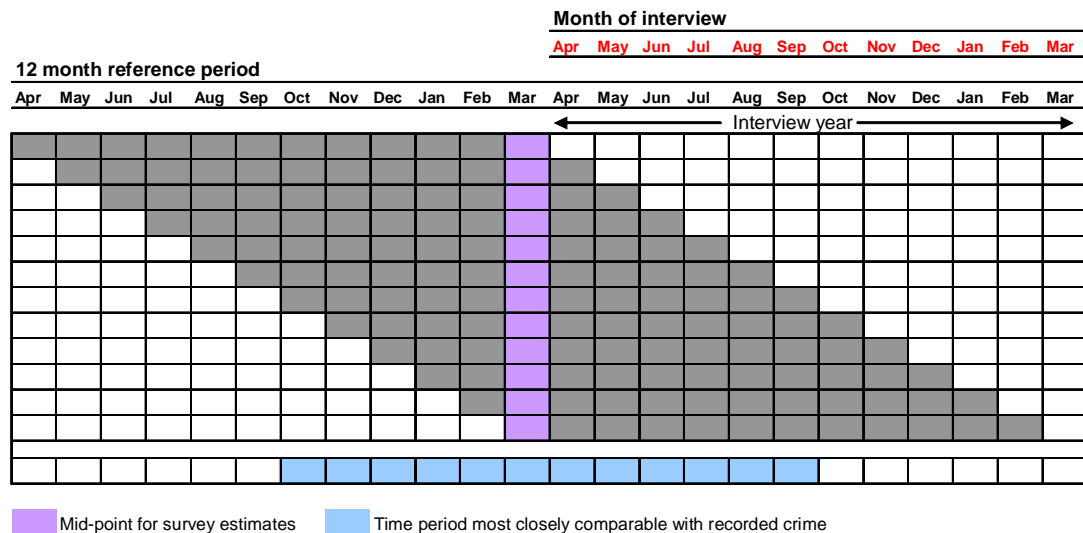
MEASURING VICTIMISATION

The BCS provides estimates of the levels of household and personal crimes experienced by respondents. Household crimes are considered to be all vehicle- and property-related crimes and respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. An example of a household crime would be criminal damage to a car (the owner could be anyone in the household). Personal crimes relate to all crimes against the individual and only relate to the respondents' own personal experience (not that of other people in the household). An example of a personal crime would be an assault.

There are two stages to the questionnaire for measuring experiences of victimisation. First, respondents are asked a series of screener questions on the main part of the questionnaire to assess if they have been a victim of crime. The wording of the screener questions has been kept consistent since the BCS began to ensure comparability across the surveys. Screener questions do not ask respondents if they have been a victim of explicit crime types, but ask about different experiences, such as whether the respondent has had anything stolen in the last 12 months. This design ensures that all incidents of crime within the scope of the BCS, including relatively minor ones, are included.

Following the screener questions, those who have been victimised are asked detailed questions about exactly what happened. Details of experiences of crime are recorded on a victim form (so-called because of the original paper forms asking about victimisation). Since 1996, the BCS has recorded a maximum of six victim forms. The first three victim forms include detailed questions relating to each incident; the last three victim forms are shorter modules, designed to be much quicker to complete to avoid respondent fatigue during the interview. The order in which the victim forms are asked depends on the type of crime – rarer crimes are prioritised in order to collect as much detailed information as possible.

Most incidents reported are one-off, single occurrences, but in a minority of cases, respondents may have been victimised a number of times in succession. In these cases respondents are

asked whether they consider these incidents to be a 'series'; that is "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people". Where incidents are determined to be in a series, the number of incidents is recorded, but with only one victim form being completed based on the most recent incident. BCS estimates only include the first five incidents in this 'series' of victimisations in the count of crime.

The restriction to the first five incidents in a series has been applied since the BCS began in order to ensure that estimates are not affected by a very small number of respondents who report an extremely high number of incidents and which are highly variable between survey years. The inclusion of such victims could undermine the ability to measure trends consistently. This sort of capping is consistent with other surveys of crime and other topics. Prevalence rates are not affected by this procedure (see Bolling *et al.*, 2009 for information on the measurement of series data).

OFFENCE CODING

Based on information collected and processed from the victim forms, specially trained coders determine whether what has been reported constitutes a crime, and if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime. The full list of BCS offence codes is shown in Appendix B; only those designated as 'valid' are included in standard BCS analysis. BCS crime statistics are produced from these data and presented as incidence or prevalence rates, based on incidents or victims (see Section 3).

The final offence code may not correspond to the screener question from which the Victim Form arose: for example, an incident elicited from the burglary screener may turn out to be a case of vandalism. It is also possible that an incident can be double counted on the screener questions – despite careful wording of the questions respondents may report a single incident on two different screener questions. The coding process ensures that incidents are recorded as accurately as possible.

Since 1992 incidents which occurred outside of England and Wales have been given a short victim form and a valid offence code. Prior to 1992, incidents outside of England & Wales were given an invalid offence code.

INCIDENT CLASSIFICATION

Offence codes are included in the victim form dataset alongside each incident. However, before these codes are added to the non-victim form dataset, similar offences are grouped together for the purpose of reporting on the incidence and prevalence rates for different crime types (see Section 3). A list of incident classifications and their corresponding offence codes is included in Appendix C.

SECTION 3: BCS analysis

There are three main types of analysis that can be carried out on BCS data: individual-based analysis, household-based analysis and incident-based analysis. Both individual and household analysis can be used to produce incidence and prevalence rates for different crime types. Each of these types of analysis needs to take into account the appropriate weighting of the data.

INDIVIDUAL-BASED ANALYSIS

Individual-based analysis is carried out when the intention is to make statements about the characteristics, attitudes or experiences of adults in the sample. Analysis of attitudinal questions is individual-based, as is analysis of victims of personal crimes (such as assault). All individual-based analysis should be weighted by **indivwgt** (weighta prior to 1996 survey).

A subset of individual-based analysis can be carried out on those aged 16-24 using the youth dataset. Analysis of the youth dataset should be weighted by **ypcwgt**.

For the first six months of 2008/09 (April – September 2008) the self-completion modules were extended to 60-69 year olds but following evaluation this was discontinued. Although these cases are included on the 2008/09 drug use, drinking behaviour and inter-personal violence datasets, it is recommended that they are filtered out prior to any analysis.

HOUSEHOLD-BASED ANALYSIS

Household based analysis is carried out when the intention is to make statements about the characteristics or experiences of households in the sample. The most common type of household-based analysis is analysis in which statements are made about households who were victims of household crimes. All household-based analysis should be weighted by **hhdwgt** (weightb prior to 1996 survey).

INCIDENT-BASED ANALYSIS

Incident-based analysis is carried out when the intention is to make statements about characteristics of incidents of crime. It can be used to make statements about the timing, location or perceived seriousness of offences. Incident-based analysis is always carried out on the Victim Form dataset (see Section 4). All incident-based analysis should be weighted by **weighti**.

Although since 1992 incidents occurring outside of England and Wales have been given a valid offence code (see Section 2), for incident-based analysis only those incidents which occurred within England and Wales should be retained. This should be done by selecting cases based on responses to the variables '**victarea**' and '**wherhapp**'.

INCIDENCE RATES

Incident rates give the number of crimes experienced per 10,000 households (for household crimes) or per 10,000 adults (for personal crimes). Incidence rates are calculated using either individual or household-based analysis.

To calculate an incident rate, the number of incidents experienced by respondents is aggregated together for each crime type. This is either one incident per victim form (up to six victim forms), or where one of these victim form contains a 'series', it is the number of incidents in the series

(capped at 5). The number of incidents for each respondent is then multiplied by 10,000 and added to the non-victim form. A mean of this number produces the incidence rate for a particular offence type. See Appendix C for an explanation of the variables used to calculate incidence rates.

> **Example – producing rates per 10,000 adults/households**
>
> On a dataset of 50,000 respondents, if 500 respondents have each reported 3 incidents of burglary, the total number of burglaries is 1,500. When this is multiplied by 10,000, the mean value across the whole dataset is 300 (15,000,000/50,000). This means that there are 300 burglaries per 10,000 households.
>
> Similarly, if 500 respondents have each reported 2 incidents of assault, the total number of assaults is 1,000. When this is multiplied by 10,000, the mean value across the whole dataset is 200 (10,000,000/50,000). This means that there are 200 assaults per 10,000 adults.
>
> *Note: Both of these examples use unweighted figures. Analysis should always be weighted appropriately (see below).*

The overall **number of incidents** can be estimated for England and Wales based on the incident rate and using estimates of the populations of households and adults in England and Wales. In 2008/09 population estimates of 23,848,680 households and 44,265,687 adults were used to provide Home Office estimates of the number of incidents.

All incidence rate analysis based on household crimes should be weighted by **hhdwgt** (weightb prior to 1996 survey) and all incidence rate analysis based on personal crimes should be weighted by **indivwgt** (weighta prior to 1996 survey).

PREVALENCE RATES

Prevalence rates give the proportion of the population who were victims of an offence once or more. Prevalence rates are calculated using either individual or household-based analysis.

Unlike incidence rates, prevalence rates only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more during the reference period, not the number of times they were victimised. Respondents and their households are thus designated as victims or non-victims. The proportion who are victims provides the prevalence rate, equivalent to the risk of being a victim of crime. See Appendix C for an explanation of the variables used to calculate prevalence rates.

The overall **number of victims** can also be estimated for England and Wales based on the prevalence rate and using estimates of the population of households and adults in England and Wales. In this case, the proportion of households (in the case of household crimes) or adults (in the case of personal crimes) that were victims should be multiplied by the total number of households or adults in England and Wales to produce an estimate of the number of households or adults who were victims of a specific crime type.

All prevalence rate analysis based on household crimes should be weighted by **hhdwgt** (weightb prior to 1996 survey) and all prevalence rate analysis based on personal crimes should be weighted by **indivwgt** (weighta prior to 1996 survey).

WEIGHTING

Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the BCS sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas; and the selection of multi-household addresses.[4] Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response.

A review of the BCS by survey methodology experts at ONS and the National Centre for Social Research recommended that the calibration weighting method be adopted in the BCS (Lynn and Elliot, 2000). The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different regions and different age by sex subgroups and also households with different age and sex composition. For example, a household containing a man aged 24 living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a man aged 24 living with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age/sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole and also matches the known distribution of the regional population.

The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. They are based on calibrating on population figures provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from ONS. Calibration weights were applied from the 1996 BCS onwards using CALMAR (a SAS-based macro); since 2006/07 the BCS has used g-Calib within a new SPSS-based data processing system (the weights produced by g-Calib are the same as those from CALMAR).

On 14th May 2008, latest and back series of LFS microdata were published, which revised previously published population figures. To allow comparison with 2008/09 figures, BCS estimates from interviews in 2007/08 were revised in Home Office statistical bulletins using the reweighted LFS microdata, and the slightly different calibration weights that these produce.

The effects of calibration weights are generally small for household crime, but are more important for estimates of personal crime, where young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average but also lower response rates to the survey. However, crime trends since the 1996 survey did not change to any great extent with the introduction of calibration weighting.

The individual and household design weights are calibrated to produce the individual weight **indivwgt**, which is used for individual based analysis (attitudinal questions and estimates of personal crime rates) and the household weight **hhdwgt**, which is used for household based analysis (estimates of household crime rates). For incident-based analysis, the weight **weighti** is used. For analysis confined to 16-24 year olds a weight based on 16-24 year olds from the main sample and those in the young adults boost sample should be used (**ypcwgt**).

REPEAT AND MULTIPLE VICTIMISATION

From 2006/07 the BCS datasets contain variables which allow users to examine rates of repeat and multiple victimisation.

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[4] See Bolling *et al.* (2009) for further details about how the weights are constructed to compensate for unequal selection probability.

Multiple victimisation is defined as the experience of being a victim of more than one crime in a year, of the same or different type. This includes those who have been victims of more than one crime of the same type (repeat victimisation) and also those who have been victims of more than one type of crime irrespective of whether it is a household or personal crime. So people who have experienced multiple victimisation include those who have been a victim of more than one personal crime, or have been resident in a household that was a victim of more than one household crime, or have been a victim of both types of crime.

Repeat victimisation (a subset of multiple victimisation) is defined as being a victim of the same type of crime more than once in the last 12 months (e.g. vandalism). Levels of repeat victimisation account for differences between incidence rates and prevalence rates. For instance, high levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in relatively lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rates.

victimisation is the estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim of more than one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of more than one household crime or have been a victim of both types of crime. Estimates of incidents of multiple victimisation are based on the experience of multiple victims.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

BCS estimates are based on a representative sample of the population aged 16 or over each year. Although the BCS is a large sample survey, any sample survey is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn.

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. The number of cases upon which analysis is based is important as it influences the precision (standard error) of the estimates. The Home Office does not generally publish BCS estimates where the unweighted base is less than 50 cases.

Within a sample survey, changes in estimates between survey years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which adults were randomly selected for interview. It is possible to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Analysts should be familiar with how to carry out such tests before conducting analysis on BCS data.

The stratified and semi-clustered design of the survey means that confidence intervals on the BCS are based on complex standard errors (CSEs) around estimates. These are calculated using the SPSS Complex Sample Module (http://www.spss.com). For analysts who do not have access to the SPSS Complex Sample Module, the complex standard error for an estimate can also be estimated using the design effect. The design effect is the ratio of the actual standard error for the complex design to the standard error from a Simple Random Sample of the equivalent size. The Home Office uses a design effect of 1.2 for ad hoc BCS analysis (see Appendix D for a table of design effects from the 2008/09 BCS).

Statistical significance for change in BCS estimates for overall crime cannot be calculated in the same way as for other BCS estimates. This is because there is an extra stage of sampling used in the personal crime rate (selecting the adult respondent for interview) compared with the household crime rate (where the respondent represents the whole household), so technically these are estimates from two different, though obviously highly related, surveys.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) methodology group has provided an approximation method to use to overcome this problem. The approach involves producing population-weighted variances associated with two approximated estimates for overall crime. The first approximation is derived by apportioning household crime equally among adults within the household (in other words, converting households into adults) and second by apportioning personal crimes to all household members (converting adults into households). The variances are calculated in the same way as for the standard household or personal crime rates (i.e. taking into account the complex sample design). An average is then taken of the two estimates of the population-weighted variances. The resulting approximated variance is then used in the calculation of confidence intervals for the estimate of all BCS crime and in the calculation of the sampling error around changes in estimates of all BCS crime to calculate whether such differences are statistically significant.

This method incorporates the effect of any covariance between household and personal crime. By taking an average of the two approximations, it also counteracts any possible effect on the estimates of differing response rates (and therefore calibration rates) by household size.

SECTION 4: BCS data files

The BCS is a large and complex data set which provides a rich source of data for analysis. However it is important that anyone undertaking analysis understands the structure of the data. Listed below are some general points about the data and how Home Office analysts use it.

DATASETS AVAILABLE

From the 2008-09 BCS onwards, under the End-user License, analysts can download the following BCS datasets from the UK Data Archive:

- Core non-victim form
- Youth non-victim form
- Core victim form
- Youth victim form

The two youth datasets contain all 16-24 year olds from the core sample as well as all cases from the youth boost. There is therefore no need to add the core and youth datasets together. Any analysis focussing on those aged 16-24 only can be done using the youth datasets and analysis on all those aged 16 or over can be done using the core datasets.

Data from the self-completion modules and some low-level geographic variables have been removed from these datasets. Analysts who need to access these data for their research can request access under the terms of the Special License through the UK Data Archive. These requests will be sent to the Home Office for approval. The datasets available under the terms of the Special License are:

- Drug use
- Drinking behaviour
- Inter-personal violence and sexual victimisation
- Low-level geographic variables

Each of these datasets contains the addition variables as well as the **rowlabel** variable which can be used to match the data to the core and youth non-victim forms datasets.

VICTIM FORM AND NON-VICTIM FORM

The BCS dataset is made up of two files – the victim form (VF) and the non-victim form (NVF). Each case on the non-victim form refers to an individual respondent, whereas each case on the victim form refers to an individual incident reported by a respondent.

CASE IDENTIFICATION

Each individual respondent has a unique case identifier (rowlabel) consisting of an eight digit number. This identifier is the same on each data file on which information is held about the respondent and allows files to be combined by matching by this variable.

VARIABLE NAMES

BCS variable names can be found in the questionnaire alongside the question to which they refer.

In the 1984, 1988 and 1992 BCS, variable names are the question numbers prefixed by a letter to indicate which part of the questionnaire it refers to. So variables on the Main are prefixed M, those on the Victim Form V, those on the demographic D, and those on the Self-Completion SC. Variables on the 1982 data set have names.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE VARIABLES

Multiple response variables are those questions which permit respondents to choose more than one answer from the list of available options.

From the 2001 BCS onwards, multiple response variables are set up so a set of variables (equal to the full number of possible answers that could be given) hold the responses to the question. The first variable records whether or not the first option was selected; the second records whether or not the second option was selected, and so on. So for example, the variable '**Whemot**' has ten variables, WhemotA to WhemotL. If the respondent answers codes 2 and 4, WhemotB and WhemotD will be coded 1 and the remaining eight variables will be coded 0.

From the 1994 survey up to and including the 2000 survey, multiple response variables were coded differently: in the same way as above the same number of variables as there are possible answers are set up. However, the first variable recorded the first answer given; the second recorded the second answer given, and so on. So in the example above there would be ten variables called whemot00 to whemot09. If a respondent answered codes 2 and 4 in response to this question, whemot00 would hold the code `2' and whemot01 `4'. All the other variables would be system missing.

Prior to the 1994 BCS, multiple response variables are denoted by the 'mr' suffix.

DERIVED VARIABLES

In addition to the questions directly asked of respondents, the BCS data files also include derived variables. There are two sets of derived variables; those produced by the survey contractor (can be found in the 2008/09 BCS Technical Report http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/bcs0809tech1.pdf) and those produced by Home Office analysts. From 2006/07, the derived variables produced by Home Office analysts have been included on the datasets so researchers can replicate the analysis produced in various publications.

DON'T KNOW AND REFUSAL CODES

Respondents are not usually explicitly given the options 'don't know' or 'refusal'. However, for every question respondents may say they do not know or refuse to answer and these are valid responses. The code for refusal is '8' for code frames up to 7 and '98' for code frames up to 97. The code for don't know is '9' for code frames up to 7 and '99' for code frames up to 97.

Prior to the 1994 BCS the reverse holds. '9', '99' and so on denote refusals or question not completed in error; '8', '98' and so on denote don't knows.

In most Home Office analysis refusal codes are excluded. Don't know codes are also usually excluded unless there is interest in these responses, for example in the case of attitudinal questions.

SECTION 5: BCS drugs module

BACKGROUND

Since 1996 the BCS has included a self-completion module of questions on illicit drug use. The use of self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on illicit behaviour due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey. The self-completion module is restricted to those respondents aged 16 to 59 years (the decision to exclude those aged 60 and over was an economy measure, reflecting their very low prevalence rates for the use of prohibited drugs).

Although questions on drug misuse were included in the 1994 BCS, these figures are not considered comparable to those from later rounds of the survey. Comparable figures for drug use were introduced in 1996 and since then there have been few changes made to the questions asked.

LIMITATIONS

As a household survey, the BCS provides an effective measure of the more commonly used drugs for which the majority of users are contained within the household population. However, the BCS does not cover some small groups, potentially important given that they may have relatively high rates of drug use: notable the homeless, and those living in certain institutions such as prisons or student halls of residence. Nor, in practice, will any household survey necessarily reach those problematic drug users whose lives are so busy or chaotic that they are hardly ever at home or are unable to take part in an interview.[5] As a result, the BCS is likely to underestimate the overall use of drugs such as opiates and crack cocaine, and possibly also frequent cocaine powder users, where the majority of users are concentrated within small sub-sections of the population not covered or reached by the survey. However, this is likely to have only a marginal impact on overall estimates of drug use within the household population.

In tracking changes in the level of drug use through the BCS arguably what matters most is that, irrespective of any strengths or weaknesses relating to coverage of the survey, it is a consistent instrument deployed in the same manner for each round of the survey.

MEASURES OF DRUG USE

Questions on whether a respondent has used illicit drugs are asked of three time periods – use of a drug *ever*, use of a drug in the *last year* and use of a drug in the *last month*. 'Use of a drug *ever*' indicates whether a respondent has taken one or more drugs in their lifetime; however, it says little about the patterns of current drug use. Some respondents will have taken these drugs ten or twenty years ago, others in the last month. 'Use in the *last month*' is a good indicator of very recent drug use but it is more subject to variation due to the small number of *last month* users. For these reasons, 'use of drugs in the *last year*' is deemed to be the best indicator available to measure recent drug use.

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[5] The Home Office has published work to provide local estimates of problematic drug users using statistical techniques involving indirect estimation from a number of different data sources (Hay *et al.*, 2006, 2007, 2008).

ANALYSIS OF BCS DRUG USE MODULE

Respondents who refuse to take part in the drug use module are coded as system missing on the dataset. In addition, the survey asks about the use of Semeron, a fictional drug. Cases which include Semeron 'use' should be excluded from any analysis.

Home Office estimates of drug use are based on two population groups – all adults aged 16 to 59 and young people aged 16 to 24. Analysis of drug use among all adults aged 16 to 59 should be weighted by **indivwgt**.

Questions on drug use are also asked of the 'young adult boost' (see Section 2) and these respondents can therefore be included in analysis of drug use among 16-24 year olds to increase the sample size and therefore the reliability of any estimates. Analysis of drug use among those aged 16 to 24 should be done using the youth dataset and weighted by **ypcwgt**.

SECTION 6: Methodological limitations

It must be noted that the figures derived from the BCS are *estimates.* As with any sample survey, the BCS estimates are subject to sampling error and a range of other methodological limitations.

NON-RESPONSE

As in any voluntary survey, the BCS is subject to non-response error. The BCS has managed to maintain a response rate (76%) that is high compared with other similar household surveys. However, non-response has implications for the measurement of crime if non-respondents have different experiences of victimisation to respondents.

The BCS adopted calibration weighting in 2001/02 to account for differing rates of non-response between people of different sex, ages and regions (see Section 3). Re-weighting using calibration weighting was carried out on all survey years back to and including 1996. To account for non-response all BCS analysis should be appropriately weighted.

RECALL

The BCS asks respondents to recall their experiences of crime in the previous 12 months. The BCS crime measure is thus dependent on respondents' ability to accurately remember their experiences in the reference period. The accuracy of BCS estimates could be affected by recall if a respondent simply forgets a relevant incident, reports an incident that occurred outside the reference period as having happened within the reference period or fails to report an incident that occurred within the reference period because they thought it happened outside the reference period.

UNWILLINGNESS TO REPORT

Respondents may be unwilling to disclose victimisation experiences in a face-to-face interview setting. This is more likely to be the case for some crimes such as domestic violence (particularly if the offender is in the room during interview), rape and sexual assault[6]. Self-completion modules are used to collect sensitive information which alleviates this problem to some extent. Home Office estimates of personal crime do not include incidents of sexual assault reported on the victim form due to the unreliability of these reports. Instead, sexual victimisation is reported on using answers to the questions in the self-completion module.

DEFINITIONS OF CRIME

Incidents which are legally offences may not be reported to the survey if the respondent does not view them as such. In an attempt to overcome this problem the BCS screener questions ask whether the respondent has experienced certain types of events. They do not refer to 'crimes', use legal terminology or refer to specific offences. The definitional problem is particularly relevant to minor incidents and some forms of violence. Moreover, different social groups may have different perceptions of what does and does not constitute an incident. Evidence suggests that better-off groups have a lower threshold of tolerance and are therefore more likely to report minor incidents to the survey (Sparks et al., 1977).

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[6] Procedures are used to try to overcome this problem. The question is on a show card and interviewers are instructed that this section of the interview can be postponed if others are present during the interview.

SECTION 7: BCS publications

Throughout the year the Home Office publishes a number of bulletins containing analysis from the British Crime Survey:

- **Crime in England & Wales** - A full statistical bulletin, published in July of each year, with detailed findings, including regional data. This is a pre-announced National Statistics publication. The latest of these reports, which also provides detailed information on police recorded crime figures, was published in July 2009, and can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol1.pdf

    Crime in England & Wales 2008/09 was published as two volumes, with the second containing guidance on the interpretation of BCS figures. This can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf

- **Quarterly Update** - Shorter statistical updates produced on a quarterly basis, focusing specifically on victimisation rates and trends. These are web-only documents, based on BCS and police recorded crime, which cover headline statistics only. Again, a National Statistics publication.

- **Drug Misuse Declared** - A National Statistics annual bulletin covering drug misuse as reported on the BCS. The most recent bulletin for the 2008/09 BCS can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1209.pdf

We publish a regular series of National Statistics supplementary bulletins to accompany the key findings in the main annual report. The supplementary bulletins report on additional analysis not included in the main annual publication with exact content to be agreed each year.

We also publish a regular set of tables throughout the reporting year which are issued alongside the supplementary bulletins. These tables are National Statistics outputs and are available online at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html

The above references are intended only to illustrate the types of reports and findings that are produced from the BCS. For more details on all RDS publications associated with the BCS see http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html

APPENDIX A: Comparing the BCS cycles

	1982	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Survey company	SCPR	NOP	SCPR/ NOP	SCPR	OPCS	SCPR	SCPR	SCPR & ONS	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB	BMRB
Core sample size	10,905	11,030	10,392	10,059	14,520	16,348	14,947	19,411	8,973	32,787	36,450	37,931	45,120	47,796	47,203	46,983	46,286
Response rate	81%	77%	77%	77%	77%	83%	79%	74%	73%	73%	74%	75%	75%	75%	75%	76%	76%
Sampling frame[1]	ER	ER	ER	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF
Ethnic boost sample	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Young adults boost sample	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weights used	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt weighti
CAPI/PAPI	PAPI	PAPI	PAPI	PAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI
No. of victim forms	4	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Self-completion element	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Type of sample	Over sampled in inner city areas							Proportional sample	Over sampled in less populous PFAs (minimum=600)				Over sampled in less populous PFAs (minimum=1000)				

ER - Electoral Register
PAF - Small Users Postcode Address File
PAPI - Paper and Pencil Interviewing
CAPI - Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
OPCS merged with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in 1998 to form the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
SCPR - Social and Community Planning Research has now changed its name to the National Centre for Social Research.
BMRB - British Market Research Bureau

APPENDIX B: BCS Offence Codes

	Category	Code	Description	Valid?
0	**Miscellaneous**	01	Refer to Home Office	
		02	Duplicate victim form	
		96	Invalid Victim Form (e.g. no information/no offence)	
1	**Assault**	11	Serious wounding	✓
		12	Other wounding	✓
		13	Common assault	✓
		14	Other assault outside the survey's coverage	
2	**Attempted assault**	21	Attempted assault	✓
3	**Sexual offences**	31	Rape	✓
		32	Serious wounding with sexual motive	✓
		33	Other wounding with sexual motive	✓
		34	Attempted rape	✓
		35	Indecent assault	✓
		39	Sexual offence outside the survey's coverage	
4	**Personal theft**	41	Robbery	✓
		42	Attempted robbery	✓
		43	Snatch theft from the person	✓
		44	Other theft from the person	✓
		45	Attempted theft from the person	✓
		48	Possibly theft but could have been loss/possibly attempted theft, but not certain	
		49	Other robbery or theft from the person outside the survey's coverage	
5	**Burglary/Theft in a dwelling**	50	Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse	✓
		51	Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)	✓
		52	Burglary in a dwelling (Something taken)	✓
		53	Attempted burglary in a dwelling	✓
		54	Possible attempted burglary (insufficient evidence to be sure)	
		55	Theft in a dwelling	✓
		56	Theft from a meter	✓
		57	Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse – nothing taken	✓
		58	Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse – something taken	✓
		59	Other burglary, attempted burglary, theft in a dwelling, falling outside the survey's coverage	

6	**Theft**	60	Theft of car/van	✓
		61	Theft from car/van	✓
		62	Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped	✓
		63	Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped	✓
		64	Theft of pedal cycle	✓
		65	Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)	✓
		66	Theft of milk bottles from outside dwelling	
		67	Other theft	✓
		68	Possible theft, possible lost property	
		69	Other theft/attempted theft falling outside survey's coverage	
7	**Attempted theft**	71	Attempted theft of/from car/van	✓
		72	Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped	✓
		73	Other attempted theft	✓
8	**Vandalism**	80	Arson	✓
		81	Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)	✓
		82	Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)	✓
		83	Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)	✓
		84	Criminal damage to the home (over £20)	✓
		85	Other criminal damage (£20 or under)	✓
		86	Other criminal damage (over £20)	✓
		87	Possibly criminal/possibly accidental damage/ nuisance with no damage	
		88	Attempted criminal damage (no damage actually achieved)	
		89	Other criminal damage outside survey's coverage	
9	**Threats**	91	Threat to kill/assault made against, but not necessarily to respondent	✓
		92	Sexual threat made against, but not necessarily to respondent	✓
		93	Other threat or intimidation made against, but not necessarily to respondent	✓
		94	Threats against others, made to the respondent	✓
		97	Other threats/intimidation outside survey's coverage	

APPENDIX C: Classification of incidents

Once incidents from the BCS non-victim forms are coded, they are classified into groups of incidents. The list below contains a list of these groupings and the offence codes included in each group.

These groups are used to calculate incidence and prevalence rates from the BCS. The letters in brackets after the group name are the root of the variable name for that group. This is followed by '_i' to give the variable name for the incidence rate for that group and '_p' to give the variable name for the prevalence rate for that group. For example, the name of the variable for vandalism incidence is **vandal_i** and for vandalism prevalence is **vandal_p**. See Section 3 for an explanation of how these variables are used.

HOUSEHOLD CRIMES

Vandalism (vandal)
80 Arson
81 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83 Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84 Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85 Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86 Other criminal damage (over £20)

Motor vehicle vandalism (mv.van)
81 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)

Other vandalism (homeva)
80 Arson
83 Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84 Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85 Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86 Other criminal damage (over £20)

Burglary (burgla)
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Burglary attempts (burgat)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Burglary attempts and no loss (burgno)
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Burglary with entry (burgen)
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)

Burglary with loss (burglo)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)

Theft from a dwelling (theftd)

55 Theft in a dwelling

Theft from motor vehicle (theftf)
61 Theft from car/van
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped

Theft of a motor vehicle (thefto)
60 Theft of car/van
62 Theft of motorbike,motorscooter or moped

Attempted theft of & from vehicle (attmvt)
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle

All vehicle thefts (allmvt)
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 attempted theft of/from motorcycle

All vehicle crime (allmvc)
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
81 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)

Bicycle theft (biketh)
64 Theft of pedal cycle

Other household thefts (othhhc)
50 Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
55 Theft in a dwelling
56 Theft from a meter
57 Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-nothing taken
58 Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-something taken
65 Theft from outside dwelling (excl. theft of milk bottles

Comparable household crime (tohhcl)
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling
60 Theft of car/van,
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64 Theft of pedal cycle
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
80 Arson
81 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)

82 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83 Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84 Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85 Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86 Other criminal damage (over £20)

All household offences (totalh)
50 Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55 Theft in a dwelling
56 Theft from a meter
57 Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-nothing taken
58 Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-something taken
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64 Theft of pedal cycle
65 Theft from outside dwelling (excl. theft of milk bottles)
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van,
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
80 Arson
81 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83 Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84 Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85 Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86 Other criminal damage (over £20)

Acquisitive crimes (acquis)
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64 Theft of pedal cycle
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle

Serious acquisitive crimes (seracq)
41 Robbery
42 Attempted Robbery
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped

Acquisitive crime against household (hhacq)

50 Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55 Theft in a dwelling
56 Theft from a meter
57 Burglary from non-connected garage/outhouse (nothing taken)
58 Burglary from non-connected garage/outhouse (something taken)
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64 Theft of pedal cycle
65 Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped

PERSONAL CRIMES

Sexual offences (sexoff)
31 Rape
34 Attempted rape
35 Indecent assault

Common assault (common)
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault

Wounding (wound)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive

Robbery (robber)
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery

Theft from the person (theftp)
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person

Theft from person & robbery (thfp.r)
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person

Comparable violence (compvi)
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
11 Serious wounding

12 Other wounding
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery

Other thefts of personal property (othpth)
67 other theft
73 other attempted theft

Comparable personal (topthc)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person

All personal including sex offences (totalp)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
31 Rape
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
34 Attempted rape
35 Indecent assault
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person
67 Other theft
73 Other attempted theft

All personal not including sex offences (totper)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person
67 Other theft
73 Other attempted theft

All assault (allass)
11 Serious wounding

12 Other wounding
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive

Robbery and wounding (violen)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery

Threats (threat)
91 Threat to kill/assault made against, but not necessarily to respondent
92 Sexual threat made against, but not necessarily to respondent
93 Other threat or intimidation made against, but not necessarily to respondent
94 Threats against others, made to the respondent

Total BCS crime without sex offences (totalb)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person
50 Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51 Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52 Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53 Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55 Theft in a dwelling
56 Theft from a meter
57 Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-nothing taken
58 Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse-something taken
60 Theft of car/van
61 Theft from car/van
62 Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63 Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64 Theft of pedal cycle
65 Theft from outside dwelling (excl. theft of milk bottles)
67 Other theft
71 Attempted theft of/from car/van
72 Attempted theft of/from motorcycle
73 Other attempted theft
80 Arson
81 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82 Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83 Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84 Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85 Other criminal damage (£20 or under)

86 Other criminal damage (over £20)

All BCS violence (alviol)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person

Mugging (mugg1)
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person

Stealth theft from person (stealt)
44 other theft from the person
45 attempted theft from the person.

Snatch theft from person (snatch)
43 snatch theft from the person

Acquisitive crime against the individual (peracq)
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery
43 Snatch theft from the person
44 Other theft from the person
45 Attempted theft from the person
67 Other theft
73 Other attempted theft

All BCS violence (viols)
11 Serious wounding
12 Other wounding
13 Common assault
21 Attempted assault
32 Serious wounding with sexual motive
33 Other wounding with sexual motive
41 Robbery
42 Attempted robbery

APPENDIX D: 2008/09 BCS design factors

Crime measures	Design Factor
Incidents	
All household offences	1.54
Burglary	1.29
All vehicle thefts (all households)	1.28
All household acquisitive	1.53
Vandalism	1.45
Vehicle vandalism	1.45
Other vandalism	1.27
Bicycle theft	1.46
Other household theft	1.43
All personal (not including sex)	1.54
All BCS violence (no snatch theft)	1.40
with injury (no snatch theft)	1.38
with no injury (no snatch theft)	1.44
All personal acquisitive	1.59
Thefts from the person	1.69
Robbery	1.53
Other thefts of personal property	1.50
Prevalence	
Burglary	1.32
All vehicle thefts (owners)	1.39
All vehicle thefts (all households)	1.39
Vandalism	1.47
All household crime	1.57
Theft from the person	1.65
Violent crime (no snatch theft)	1.59
with injury (no snatch theft)	1.46
with no injury (no snatch theft)	1.55
All personal crime	1.65
All BCS crime	1.80
Fear of crime	
Burglary	1.38
Car crime	1.42
Violent crime	1.45
Disorder	
Perceived level of ASB	2.14
Disorder(1) teenagers hanging around	1.94
Disorder(2) vandalism, graffiti etc	1.95
Disorder(4) people using/dealing drugs	2.19
Disorder(5) people being drunk or rowdy	2.08
Disorder(6) noisy neighbours	1.72
Disorder(7) litter/rubbish	1.99
Disorder(8) abandoned cars	1.75

Confidence in local police

Police in local area doing good or excellent job	1.52
Police in local area can be relied on to be there when needed	1.49
Police in local area would treat you with respect	1.50
Police in local area treat everyone fairly	1.49
Police in local area can be relied on to deal with minor crimes	1.49
Police in local area understand issues that affect the community	1.46
Police in local area are dealing with things that matter in the community	1.52

Confidence in police and local agencies

Police and local council seek peoples views on matters in this area	1.63
Police and local councils are dealing with matters in this area	1.67
Police and local councils keep people informed	1.58

Confidence in the criminal justice system

Confidence in the effectiveness of the criminal justice system	1.47
Confidence in the fairness of the criminal justice system	1.51

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