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Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15: Findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009

England and Wales (Second Edition)

Bryce Millard and John Flatley (Editor)

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For further information about the BCS, please email bcinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to the Crime Surveys team, Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

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Contents

Page

Contents

List of figures and tables

Chapter 1	Introduction	1
Chapter 2	Levels of child victimisation	7
	2.1 Extent of victimisation	7
	2.2 Risk of victimisation	10
	2.3 Reporting crime to the police.....	12
	2.4 Comparing child estimates with adult estimates.....	13
	2.5 Future plans.....	13
Appendix 1	Reference tables.....	15
Annex 1	Consultation on experimental statistics from the BCS extension to children	25

List of figures and tables

Chapter 1 introduction

Figure 1 Incident scenarios showing how they are counted under different approaches

Chapter 2 Levels of child victimisation

Figure 1 BCS violence categories by classification type for children aged 10 to 15

Figure 2 Comparison of personal crimes against children by approach aged 10 to 15

Table 1 Number of personal crimes against children aged 10 to 15

Table 2 Risk of being a victim of personal crime for children aged 10 to 15

Table 3 Percentage of incidents experienced by 10 to 15 year olds reported to police

Appendix 1 Reference tables

Figure A.01 Number of crimes including confidence intervals for children aged 10 to 15

Figure A.02 Risk of being a victim of personal crime including confidence intervals for children aged 10 to 15

Figure A.03 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of Theft from the person by personal, household and area characteristics

Figure A.04 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of Other theft of personal property by personal, household and area characteristics

Figure A.05 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of All violence by personal, household and area characteristics

Figure A.06 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of Personal crime excluding minor incidents by personal, household and area characteristics

1 Introduction

1.1 EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS CONSULTATION

This report makes available for the first time estimates of victimisation from the extension of the British Crime Survey (BCS) to children aged 10 to 15 years resident in households in England and Wales.

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹, the statistics presented in this report are published as *Experimental Statistics*, that is as new official statistics undergoing evaluation and published to involve users and stakeholders in their development as a means to build in quality at an early stage. As such, the statistics are subject to further refinement and review. Four approaches to classifying crimes experienced by children are outlined with the primary objective of seeking users' views on them via a consultation process that is launched alongside this publication (see Annex 1).

1.2 BACKGROUND

BCS coverage

The BCS is a large nationally representative sample survey of the population resident in households in England and Wales. For the crime types and population it covers, the BCS can provide a better reflection of the extent of crime than police recorded statistics, because it includes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police.

However, the BCS does not cover the population permanently resident in group residences (e.g. care homes or halls of residence) or other institutions (together approximately 2% of the adult population were resident in one or other type of institution at the time of the last Census). Nor does the survey cover crimes against commercial or public sector bodies.

Extending the BCS to children

The survey has not previously included children except as a one-off exercise in 1992 when a separate sample of children aged 12 to 15 (Aye Maung, 1995) were interviewed. This previous exercise did not attempt to replicate the methodology of the adult survey or to combine estimates from the adult and child surveys.

Following recommendations in two related reviews of crime statistics in 2006^{2,3}, the BCS was extended to children aged 10 to 15 from January 2009. The Home Office commissioned methodological advice on the feasibility of extending the survey to both children and those living in group residences (Pickering and Smith, 2008) and subsequently undertook a National Statistics consultation on plans to extend the survey to children⁴.

Following this an extensive period of development and testing work was undertaken during 2008 before live data collection started in January 2009. This work is described in the forthcoming methodological report '*Extending the British Crime Survey to children: a report on the methodological and development*'.

Aims of BCS extension

The primary aim of extending the BCS to children is to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation. It is envisaged that the survey will also provide a rich source of data to assist in understanding the nature and circumstances of crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15.

¹ See UK Statistics Authority (2009).

² See Statistics Commission (2006).

³ See Smith (2006).

⁴ See Consultation on the British Crime Survey extension to cover under 16s Response from the Home Office (2008). London: Home Office. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/consult-bcsu16-response08.pdf>

In addition to questions about experience of crime, the survey also gathers information on a number of crime-related topics such as perceptions and attitudes to the police, anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and personal security. While these topics are not covered in this publication, results of further analyses will be made available in subsequent publications (see section 2.5).

The estimates published in this report are based on children interviewed during the calendar year January to December 2009. Like the existing BCS measure of crime, children were asked about crimes they had experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. Results for adults for the same time period have already been published (Home Office, 2010).

1.2 COUNTING AND CLASSIFYING CRIME

Criminal offences are defined in law and the police in England and Wales are required to apply the National Crime Recording Standard and Home Office counting rules to ensure a consistent approach to recording crime⁵. The BCS approach has been to classify incidents reported by respondents into criminal offences in a way which approximates the way that the police record crime.

Seemingly similar incidents can be classified into different offences depending on the circumstances of the incident. For example, property stolen from someone's person could be classified as an offence of *robbery* if the offender used violence, or the threat of violence, to steal or as *theft from the person* if property was simply taken without the victim being aware (e.g. pick-pocketing). In addition, an attempt to steal would also be classified as an offence even if it were unsuccessful.

Given the specialist knowledge needed to categorise incidents into criminal offences, the BCS does not ask respondents about whether or not they have been victims of specific offences. Instead a series of questions are asked about potentially criminal incidents experienced using non-technical terms. The information collected from respondents is reviewed, outside of the interview, by a team of trained coders who classify incidents to criminal offences using a set of standard rules.

The problems inherent in counting crimes using crime surveys were highlighted in the very first BCS report (Hough and Mayhew, 1983):

“... there are some troublesome conceptual issues: for example, precisely what is it that crime surveys are counting – crimes as defined by criminal law? Or as defined by the police? Or as popularly defined – however that might be? Deciding whether an incident is a crime can be far from straightforward. The dividing line between ‘borrowing’ and theft is a fine one. And when does an assault count as an offence? If a person punches a stranger in the face, this smacks of criminal aggression – unless we are told, for example, that the two are on the rugby pitch, or are schoolchildren.”

As the above quotation highlights, extending the BCS to encompass the experiences of children raises some difficult issues. Part of the transition from childhood to adulthood involves learning standards of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Previous research (Roe and Ashe, 2008) has highlighted that children are frequently involved in low-level incidents which may involve an offence in law (e.g. as one child deliberately pushing over another with an intention to hurt) but not be viewed by participants, or others, as serious enough to amount to crime. Many of such incidents are unlikely to come to the attention of the police or be recorded as crimes.

Other research has also shown that children can also be victims of serious incidents of violence, theft and damage to personal property that are not reported to the police. For example, Finkelhor and Dziuba-Leatherman (1994) conclude that children suffer from extreme types of violence that are traditionally excluded from criminological concern, for example physical attacks by siblings.

⁵ See section 3.5 of Smith and Hoare (2009) for more details.

Classifying incidents reported by children in the context of a relatively short interview is challenging. For example, applying existing legal definitions of offences to those incidents reported by children in response to questions about possibly criminal incidents can result in minor incidents that are normal within the context of childhood behaviour and development being categorised as criminal. Conversely, too narrow a classification could omit incidents which while not being viewed as serious by some people may inflict significant hurt on victims.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

Sampling and weighting for non-response

The BCS sample of children was obtained from within households that participated in the main survey. In each household containing a child in the eligible age range, the interviewer randomly selected one child for interview after completing the main adult interview.

Interviews with a total of 3,661 children aged 10 to 15 were conducted during 2009. Overall 70 per cent of children within households responding to the main BCS participated. The true response rate (taking into account first stage non-response to the main BCS) is in the region of 51 per cent⁶.

Adjustment was made for possible non-response bias through weighting. The strategy used information about the:

- sampled address, such as type of area;
- household and adult respondent collected during the main interview; and
- the age and sex of the selected child (again collected during the main interview).

CHAID (Chi-Square Automatic Interaction Detector) analysis and logistic regression was used to test which variables were most strongly associated with response and to develop a non-response model. Once weighting classes were derived, non-response weights were calculated as the inverse of the probability of response within each class. The child response weights were then multiplied by the weights for the household (i.e. to take into account probability of household selection) to give an overall weight for non-response at the child and household levels. Calibration weights were then generated in the same way as they are for the main survey⁷.

Data collection

After obtaining permission from the sampled child and their parent, child respondents were interviewed, as in the main BCS, using a combination of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (CASI). The latter was used to administer sections of the questionnaire that covered topics respondents might not have been comfortable answering in the presence of an interviewer or parent/guardian. The children's questionnaire took on average 20 minutes to complete.

The children's questionnaire was modelled on the *personal* victimisation module of the adult questionnaire with the intention of being able to classify incidents to offences on a broadly comparable basis. Like the main survey, the children's component excluded crimes termed as victimless (e.g. possession of drugs), sexual offences⁸ or threats (except those involving a weapon). As a survey that asks people about their own personal experience of victimisation, murders were not included. However, a special collection from the police provides reliable data on child homicides (see Smith and Flatley, eds., 2010).

Development and testing work showed it was necessary to adapt the existing questions asked of adults to make them suitable for children. In addition, to reduce respondent burden,

⁶ This probably understates the actual true response rate since it assumes that households with eligible children have the same level of response as for all households. It is likely that such households form a relatively smaller proportion of the non-responding sample than in the responding sample.

⁷ These are described in section 8.2 in (Smith and Hoare, 2009).

⁸ The adult survey collects information about sexual offences in a separate self-completion section which is not currently asked of children under 16.

only limited information was collected for incidents that occurred in school, where the perpetrator was a fellow pupil and no injury resulted. It was not possible to assign a full offence code to such incidents and these appear within 'unspecified' categories in the tables in this bulletin.

Such methodological differences mean that direct comparisons cannot be made between the adult and child data. However, while the questions asked and levels of detail collected differ between the sources there is a common approach to the classification of incidents to offences in law.

It should be noted that questions asked of adults about *household* crimes, such as burglary or vehicle-related crime, were not included in the child survey as these were already captured from the adult interview. As such, the composition of crime covered in the children's survey differs from the existing adult survey and this should be borne in mind when considering the findings.

1.4 OPTIONS FOR CLASSIFYING INCIDENTS

Examination of test data collected during the field trial, that preceded live data collection, showed the pattern of incidents reported by children broadly replicated the results of previous research. Respondents reported a wide variety of incidents of different levels of severity. A number of options were developed for classifying these incidents as crimes as follows:

All in law

Include all incidents reported by children that are in law a crime, that is where the victim perceived intent on part of the perpetrator to inflict hurt or damage or to steal property.

Norms-based

Apply an explicit set of normative rules to exclude relatively minor incidents. These rules were developed from the findings of qualitative research with children that informed the development of the survey (see Box 1).

All in law outside school

Include all incidents reported by children that are in law a crime except those occurring in school. This approach is a rough approximation of the guidance jointly issued by the (then) Department for Children, Schools and Families, Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers in July 2007⁹ which provides that unless the child or the parent/guardian asks for the police to record these crimes (or if the crime is deemed to be more serious) then the matter remains within the schools internal disciplinary processes. This is likely to result in most low-level incidents being dealt with by school authorities and not recorded as crimes by the police.

Victim perceived

Include all incidents in law a crime that are thought by victims themselves to be crimes. This is a wholly subjective measure based on the perceptions of the individual victim.

The different approaches are illustrated below in Figure 1 by way of examples of incidents reported by children.

⁹ This policy acknowledged that police officers attending school premises may become aware of incidents that would amount to a minor crime in law. The guidance allows for an officer not to record a crime provided it is not serious and the school, child and parent/ responsible adult agrees to this; and that it should be dealt with via the school's disciplinary procedure. See Home Office Counting Rules For Recorded Crime, Annex E, April 2009, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html>

Figure 1 Incident scenarios showing how they are counted under different approaches

Example of types of incidents reported by children	All in law	Norms-based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived
At school, a child has their dinner money of 50 pence taken from them by someone who intended to steal the money. The money is returned some time later. The child considers the incident just something that happens and not a crime.	✓	✗	✗	✗
At school, a child has a favourite inexpensive toy taken from them on purpose and it is not returned. The child considers the incident a crime.	✓	✗	✗	✓
In the street, a child is deliberately pushed and shoved but sustains no injuries. The child considers the incident just something that happens and not a crime.	✓	✗	✓	✗
At home, two siblings are playing and one of them deliberately smashes the other's toy. The child who has their toy smashed considers the incident wrong, but not a crime.	✓	✗	✓	✗
At school, two children get into an argument and one hits the other giving them a nose bleed. The injured child considers the incident something that just happens.	✓	✓	✗	✗
At school, a child's trainers are stolen from a school changing room. The child considers the incident a crime.	✓	✓	✗	✓
In the park, a child is punched and kicked by another child and sustains scratches and bruising. The child considers the incident wrong, but not a crime.	✓	✓	✓	✗
At a children's party, a child has a hand-held video game stolen after leaving it unattended. The child considers the incident a crime.	✓	✓	✓	✓
In the high street, a child has their mobile phone stolen from their pocket. The child considers the incident a crime.	✓	✓	✓	✓
1. Example incidents in this table are for illustrative purposes only and do not indicate typical circumstances of incidents reported by children in response to the BCS children's survey.				

Each of these approaches has different strengths and weaknesses and may meet the needs of different users of these statistics. There may be a case for adopting more than one of these measures on the basis that no one measure alone serves the majority of different needs of all of the users of these statistics. The advantages and disadvantages of each of the measures are discussed in Chapter 2 alongside initial estimates using each of the approaches. Views on the approaches and future presentation of estimates of child victimisation are two key areas for which the Home Office is seeking the views of users through a consultation exercise launched at the same time as this publication (see Annex 1).

The option of including incidents reported to the police was discounted because one of the strengths of the BCS is that it includes crimes that have not been reported to, or recorded by,

the police. As section 2.3 of this report shows, reporting rates for all of the four options are relatively low.

Box 1 Summary of the norms-based approach

As part of the development work to extend the BCS to children a programme of qualitative research was undertaken to explore children's understanding and perceptions of crime. A number of factors were identified as important in determining the perceived severity of an incident and whether or not children thought an incident was serious enough to be considered a crime. These included the following factors, information about which was captured on the BCS children's questionnaire:

- victim/perpetrator relationship;
- perceived intention on the part of the perpetrator;
- level of injury inflicted on the victim by the perpetrator;
- value of the items stolen or damaged; and
- use of a weapon with risk of harm to the victim.

On the basis of the results of this qualitative work and a review of the previous research into victimisation amongst children each factor was divided into two subsets. Victim/perpetrator relationships were categorised into perpetrator 'known' and perpetrator 'not known' relationships as a proxy for the closeness of the relationship between the victim and offender. The other factors were divided according to level of severity e.g. low/high level injury, low/high value of items stolen or damaged. Incidents could then be filtered on the basis of these factors.

For those relationships where the perpetrator was defined as 'known' to the victim (e.g. parent, friend), incidents were excluded from the 'norms-based' classification under the following circumstances:

- in the case of violence, where the perpetrator intended to hurt the victim but the level of injury inflicted was defined as low;
- in the case of theft, where the perpetrator intended to steal the personal property of the victim and the value of the item stolen was defined as low;
- in the case of damage, where the perpetrator intended to damage the personal property of the victim and the value of the item damaged was defined as low; and
- where the victim did not feel threatened in an incident where a weapon was used.

For the small number of relationships where the perpetrator was defined as 'not known' to the victim, incidents were excluded from the classification when the intention of the perpetrator was not to steal or damage the property belonging to the victim, hurt the victim or where the victim did not feel threatened in the situation that a weapon was present.

A fuller description of the work to develop a norms-based approach to classifying incidents reported by children can be found in the forthcoming report '*Extending the British Crime Survey to children: a report on the methodological and development*'.

2 Levels of child victimisation

2.1 EXTENT OF VICTIMISATION

The four approaches outlined in the previous chapter produce a wide range of estimates for the amount of crime experienced by children in the previous 12 months (see Table 1):

- all in law – 2,153,000 incidents;
- norms-based – 1,055,000 incidents;
- all in law outside school – 643,000 incidents; and
- victim perceived – 404,000 incidents.

Confidence intervals¹⁰ for these estimates are provided in Appendix Table A.01.

Incidents related to bullying are subsumed within the appropriate offence group headings and are not separately identified. However, as victims were asked whether they thought incidents were related to bullying further analysis will be published in the future (see section 2.5).

The theft from the person offence group represented the lowest number of crimes across all of the four approaches. There were clearer differences between the approaches for other offences categories, particularly violence.

As expected, the 'all in law' category gives the largest estimate since it applies a strictly legal definition of crime and includes incidents where the victim reports intent on the part of the perpetrator to deprive them of property or inflict physical harm. This classification includes a group of low-level incidents which are minor in nature such as aggressive behaviour resulting in no injury (e.g. pushing and shoving), other thefts of low value items (e.g. stationery) and damage to low value belongings (e.g. stationery, snacks). These low-level incidents were not included in the other classifications as only basic information was collected about these types of incidents (see section 1.3). These incidents account for around three-quarters of the difference in estimates between the 'all in law' and 'norms-based' approaches. Amongst these low-level incidents the majority (86%) were incidents of aggressive behaviour (not amounting to assault) of which there were an estimated 671,000.

Many frequently occurring and common transgressions that occur in childhood are included in the 'all in law' approach and this tends to emphasise low-level acts of violence. However, by including all of these types of incidents this approach recognises that minor incidents may still have significant impact upon those who are a victim of them.

Perhaps surprisingly, the 'victim perceived' approach yielded the lowest estimate. While this approach might be seen as victim-focused, it is by nature a subjective measure and the least consistent of the four approaches. As the examples in Figure 1 show (see section 1.4) different children can view apparently similar incidents in different ways. For the 'victim perceived' approach a greater proportion of the total count is comprised of theft offences in comparison with the other classifications where violence comprises the largest proportion of the total counts of crime.

The 'all in law outside school' approach uses the same criteria as the 'all in law' approach except that it excludes incidents occurring in school (see section 1.4). In particular, compared with the 'all in law' approach they suggest particular reductions in theft and minor assault offence groups. This approach is a rough approximation of the reality of most of crime reporting within the school environment as only the more serious incidents will tend to be reported to and recorded by the police. One of the weaknesses of such a crude classification is that even, albeit relatively small in number, serious incidents occurring in school will be excluded. Another obvious weakness of this approach is that it treats incidents differently according to where they take place. For example, a robbery in school would be excluded while one that took place elsewhere would be included.

¹⁰ For more information on the calculation and interpretation of confidence intervals see section 8.1 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2' (Smith and Hoare, 2009).

The 'norms-based' approach attempts to make explicit some of the normative decision-making processes that are brought to bear when judgements are made about what is and is not treated as a crime with respect to children. It is important to highlight that because of the different standards of behaviour and conduct that apply to children their victimisation experiences are frequently evaluated by a system of jurisdiction administered by representatives of the adult world. Making decisions based on normative values and ways of thinking to some extent happens unconsciously and proves difficult to describe explicitly. Box 1 gives a summary of the rules by which relatively minor incidents were excluded from this classification. This approach leads to much lower estimates of violence without injury compared with the 'all in law' approach reflecting the logic of the classification.

Table 1 Number of personal crimes against children aged 10 to 15

England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS				
PERSONAL CRIME	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived
	Estimate ¹	Estimate ¹	Estimate ¹	Estimate ¹
	<i>Number of incidents (000s)</i>			
Theft from the person	81	79	36	35
Snatch theft from person	40	40	18	9
Stealth theft from person	39	39	18	26
Other theft from the person (unspecified) ²	1	-	-	-
Other theft of personal property	260	206	68	121
Other theft of personal property (unspecified) ²	13	-	-	-
All violence³	1,719	769	538	248
Wounding	166	166	83	56
Assault with minor injury	448	355	155	95
Assault without injury	347	168	247	51
Robbery	87	81	54	46
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ²	671	-	-	-
<i>violence with injury</i>	641	548	249	171
<i>violence with no injury</i>	1,077	222	289	77
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ²	93	-	-	-
Personal acquisitive crime ⁴	413	366	158	202
All personal crime	2,153	1,055	643	404
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,661</i>	<i>3,661</i>	<i>3,661</i>	<i>3,661</i>

1. For personal crimes 2008/09 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 3,909,680 children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics, mid-2006 projections for 2008).

2. Only limited information were collected for these types of incidents with the consequence that full offence codes could not be assigned to them (see Section 1.3 of this report).

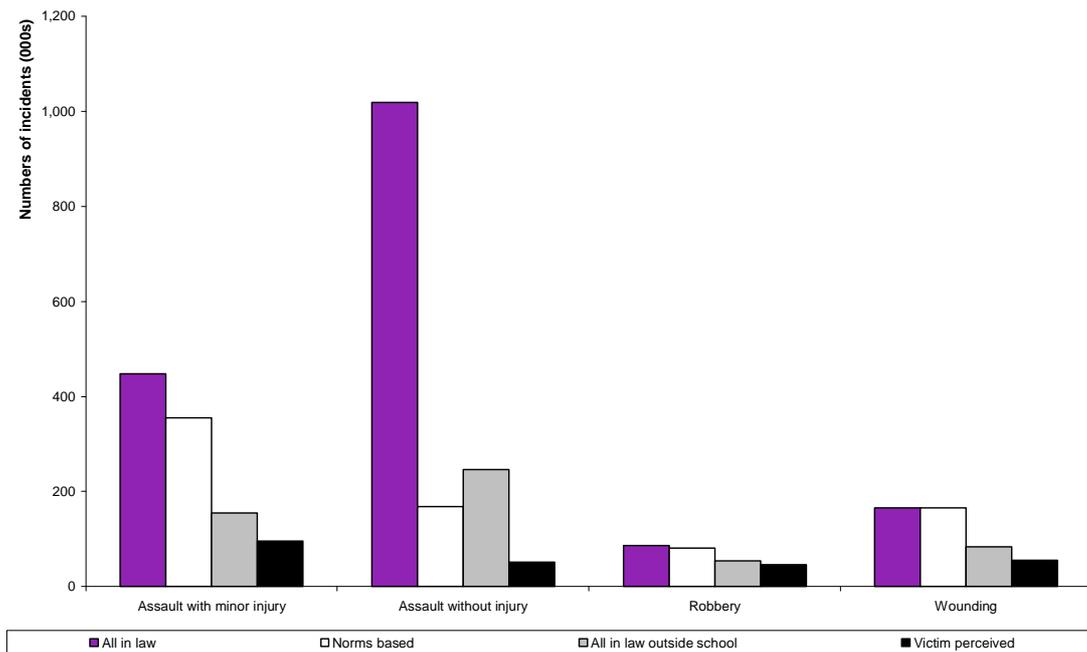
3. This offence group includes the additional category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). All violence has also been broken down into violence with injury and violence without injury which includes the category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). The adult offence group All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault without injury.

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

Across all four approaches, incidents of violence range between 248,000 (victim perceived) and 1.7 million incidents (all in law). This type of incident comprised the largest number of the total personal crime within each approach. However, as with the adult BCS, more serious violence such as wounding makes up a relatively small share of all violent incidents.

Figure 1 shows estimates for the number of violent crimes broken down by offence categories within this group. There is little difference between the 'all in law' and 'norms-based' approaches for estimates of robbery and wounding. The 'all in law' approach produced estimates for assault with minor injury larger than those using the norms-based approach, this is largely because incidents involving low level injuries (e.g. involving anything less than bruising) are not included using this approach.

Figure 1 BCS violence categories by classification type for children aged 10 to 15

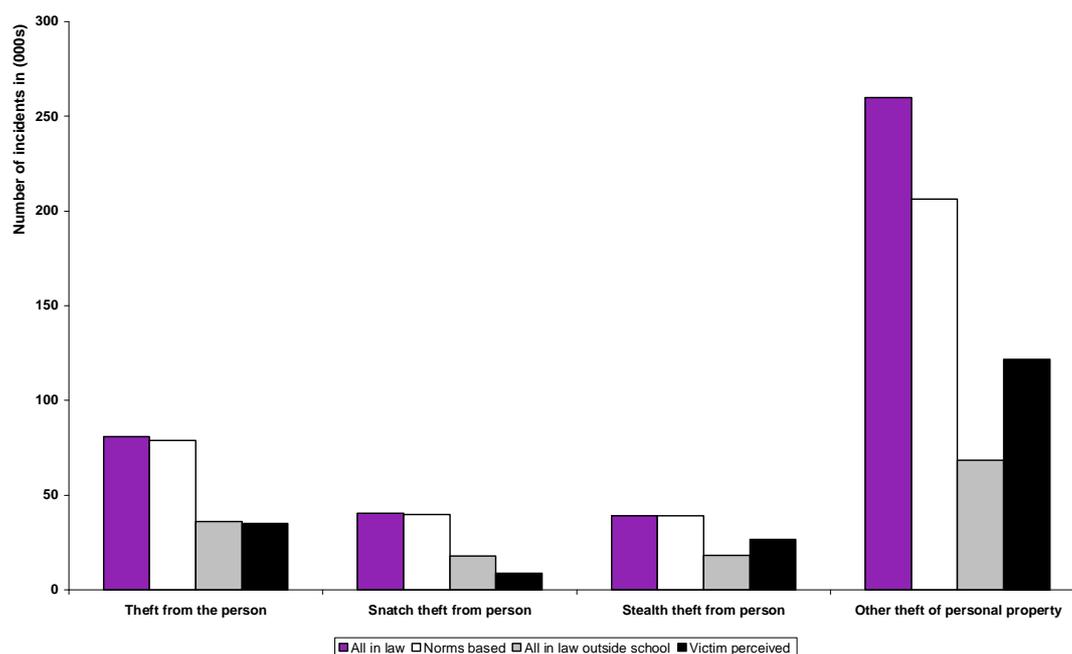


1 'All in law' approach includes low-level incidents which are minor in nature e.g. aggressive behaviour resulting in no injury, other thefts of low value items and damage to low value belongings. See section 2.1, 'Extent of victimisation'.

As expected, the 'all in law outside school' approach has estimates lower than the previous two approaches for all categories except for levels of assault without injury which are higher than for the 'norms-based' approach. Compared with the other three methods, the 'victim perceived' approach has substantially lower estimates for both assaults with minor injury and assaults without injury but differences are less marked for both wounding and robbery.

Figure 2 shows estimates for the number of crimes for the Theft from person and Other theft of personal property offence groups. The 'norms-based' approach produces similar estimates to 'all in law' for all of the theft offence categories. Some of the apparent differences between approaches are not statistically significant (see confidence intervals for estimates in Table A.01). The 'victim perceived' approach has higher estimates of other theft of personal property (i.e. theft of unattended personal belongings) than the 'All in law outside school', reflecting that these offences are more likely to happen at school.

Figure 2 Comparison of personal crimes against children by approach aged 10 to 15



2.2 RISK OF VICTIMISATION

Table 2 shows the prevalence rate – or risk of being a victim in the previous 12 months – for personal crime. The pattern of risk by approach is similar to that for estimates of the number of incidents. The proportion of children classified as victims in the previous 12 months under each of the four approaches was:

- all in law – 24 per cent;
- norms-based – 14 per cent;
- all in law outside school – nine per cent; and
- victim perceived – six per cent.

Confidence intervals¹¹ for these estimates are provided in Appendix Table A.02.

While it is not possible to make direct comparisons with estimates from the main BCS, the proportion of adults who were victims of any personal crime was six per cent for the same interview period (Home Office, 2010).

These findings replicate the results of previous research in showing that children are generally at higher risk of victimisation than adults (see Flatley *et al*, 2009, for evidence on risk of having a mobile phone stolen; and Roe and Ashe, 2008, for differential risk of being a victim of personal crime; Baum, 2005, for evidence from the United States of America).

A number of other surveys have estimated levels of personal victimisation among children. These have given estimates in the range of 30 to 60 per cent. For example:

- the 1992 BCS estimated that 60 per cent of children aged 12 to 15 in England and Wales had been a victim of a selected range of offences in the previous 12 months (Aye Maung, 1995);

¹¹ For more information on the calculation and interpretation of confidence intervals see section 8.1 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: Volume 2' (Smith and Hoare, 2009).

- the 2006 Offending Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS), showed that 30 per cent of 10- to 15-year olds had been victims of either personal theft or of assault in the 12 months prior to interview (Roe and Ashe, 2008); and
- the 2008 MORI Youth Survey (Phillips et al, 2009), found that 51 per cent of young people aged 11 to 16 had been the victim of crime and bullying incidents in the 12 months prior to interview.

All of the above surveys differed in significant ways from the methodology used in the 2009 children's BCS. Both the 1992 BCS and 2008 MORI surveys asked about experience of a wider range of incidents including harassment, threats and bullying, many of which would not fall into the scope of the current approaches. For these reasons it is difficult to make direct comparisons with these findings. The OCJS asked about a different range of offences than the BCS and was asked in the context of a survey primarily about self-reported offending behaviour.

For three of the four approaches presented here, the offence group with the highest risk of victimisation was violence (19.6% had been victims using the 'all in law' approach; 9.5% using the 'norms-based' approach; and 7.5% for 'All in law outside school'). For the 'victim perceived' approach, the highest risk was of personal acquisitive crime (3.7%). Across all four approaches, risk of victimisation was lowest for the theft from the person offence category (around 1%).

Table 2 Risk of being a victim of personal crime for children aged 10 to 15

England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS				
PERSONAL CRIME	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived
	<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more¹</i>			
Theft from the person	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.7
Snatch theft from person	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Stealth theft from person	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.5
Other theft from the person (unspecified) ²	0.0	-	-	-
Other theft of personal property	4.8	4.2	1.6	2.4
Other theft of personal property (unspecified) ²	0.2	-	-	-
All BCS violence³	19.6	9.5	7.5	3.4
Wounding	2.3	2.3	1.3	0.9
Assault with minor injury	5.6	4.3	2.5	1.2
Assault without injury	5.0	2.5	3.4	0.9
Robbery	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.7
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ²	7.9	-	-	-
violence with injury	7.8	6.6	3.7	2.3
violence without injury	13.2	3.4	4.2	1.4
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ²	1.5	-	-	-
Personal acquisitive crime ⁴	7.0	6.5	3.2	3.7
All personal crime	23.8	13.5	9.3	6.0
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,661</i>	<i>3,661</i>	<i>3,661</i>	<i>3,661</i>

1. Risk is defined as the proportion of the population being a victim of any BCS personal crime once or more in the last year (See Section 2 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Volume 2).

2. Only limited information were collected for these types of incidents with the consequence that full offence codes could not be assigned to them (see Section 1.3 of this report).

3. This offence group includes the additional category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). All violence has also been broken down into violence with injury and violence without injury which includes the category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). The adult offence group All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault without injury.

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

A detailed breakdown of risk by personal and background characteristics is presented in Appendix Tables A.03 to A.06. The following factors appear consistently across all four classification methods:

- boys had a higher risk of being victims than girls, particularly for violence and theft from the person;
- in particular, boys aged 13 to 15 had the highest risk of being a victim of theft from the person;
- children living in social-rented housing had a higher risk of being victims of violence than those resident in owned accommodation;
- children with an illness or disability had a higher risk of being a victim of violence, and of personal crime.

These patterns of risk are similar to those found for adults from previous rounds of the BCS.

2.3 REPORTING CRIME TO THE POLICE

Child victims were asked whether the incidents they described were reported to the police¹². Overall for all personal crime, fewer of the incidents classified as crimes by the 'all in law' or 'norms-based' approaches were reported to the police (10.6% and 11.7% respectively) compared with those 'all in law outside school' or 'victim perceived' (18.0% and 22.6% respectively). This was true also for incidents of violence and theft from the person (differences for other personal thefts were less clear). It is not surprising that, in general, the highest level of reporting was found for incidents that the victim perceived to be a crime. Estimates for reporting rates of theft from the person to the police are based on very small numbers and should be treated with caution (Table 3).

Again, while direct comparisons cannot be made with the estimates from adults, as expected all four approaches suggest a lower level of reporting of crimes to the police by children. According to the 2008/09 BCS, 37 per cent of adult victims of personal crime reported the incident to the police (unpublished). This ranged from 42 per cent for offences of violence to 33 per cent for offences of other theft of personal property and 30 per cent for theft from the person (Walker et al, 2009).

Table 3 Percentage of incidents experienced by 10 to 15 year olds reported to police

Percentages	England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS			
	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived
Theft from the person	4.8	4.9	10.2	10.4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	48	47	24	22
Other personal theft	3.5	4.2	7.6	4.7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	196	173	65	104
All BCS violence	12.7	14.3	19.9	32.8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	578	422	321	133
All personal crime	10.6	11.7	18.0	22.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	822	642	410	259

1. Some estimates in this table are based on small base sizes, therefore sampling errors will be large and estimates should be treated with caution

¹² It should be noted that victims of a sub-category of incidents in the 'all in law' approach were not asked whether they reported the incident to the police as they did not proceed to the full set of questions asked of more serious incidents. These account for just over a third of all incidents and have been excluded from this analysis.

2.4 COMPARING CHILD ESTIMATES WITH ADULT ESTIMATES

As outlined above, it is not possible to make direct comparisons between estimates from the child and adult BCS. However, while questions asked of children differed from those of adults, a standard classification of incidents to offences in law has been adopted.

This raises the question about which of the four approaches is closest to that used for the adult BCS. Clearly, the 'victim perceived' approach is the furthest from the existing BCS adult measure. Only a quarter of incidents categorised as offences in the adult BCS are perceived as not amounting to crimes – a much lower proportion than shown here among children (66%). The 'all in law outside school' measure reflects the likely impact of police recording crime rather than how the BCS works.

It could be argued that the 'all in law' approach is closest to the existing adult measure but it should be recognised that it brings into scope a range of incidents that, by their nature, are rarely experienced by adults. This is what the 'norms-based' approach seeks to address by excluding the lower level incidents (mainly violence without injury) that feature more often in the lives of children than adults. However, one might argue that both measures have merit – one in setting the broad parameters of the full range of crimes experienced by children and the other in a narrower measure focused more on harms.

The objective of extending the BCS to children was explicitly to produce better estimates of levels and trends in crime experienced by the population resident in households. As part of the consultation launched at the same time as this publication, Home Office Statistics are seeking users' views on how this should be done (see Annex 1).

Simply adding these to the existing estimates for adults for the same time period¹³ would lead to an increase in overall BCS crime as follows:

- all in law – an extra 2,153,000 incidents (a 22% increase in all BCS crime);
- norms-based – an extra 1,055,000 incidents (a 11% increase);
- all in law outside school – an extra 643,000 incidents (a 6% increase); and
- victim perceived – an extra 404,000 incidents (a 4% increase).

As outlined above, these increases are driven by incidents of violence across all four approaches.

2.5 FUTURE PLANS

The data collected in interviews of children aged 10 to 15 in the year to December 2009 are far more extensive than has been reported in this publication. The analysis presented here is intended to outline and illustrate the methods used to produce the four classifications of crime against children, prior to the launch of a consultation on the relative merits of these approaches.

As such it only scratches the surface of the information that might be obtained. More detailed analyses are planned and may include:

- multivariate analysis to explore the interaction between the different risk factors for victim for victimisation;
- analysis of attitudes and perceptions of children, including attitudes to anti-social behaviour and contact with the police;
- extent and nature of bullying and harassment;
- links between 'risky behaviours' (such as drunkenness and use of cannabis) and victimisation;

¹³ Estimates for adults for the year ending December 2009 were published in April 2010 – see Home Office (2010) Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to December 2009. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/10. London: Home Office.

- nature of relationship between victim and offender; and
- reporting of crimes to the police and others such as parents and teachers.

These are currently being planned and a publication schedule will be announced alongside the response to the consultation exercise in the autumn.

APPENDIX 1 REFERENCE TABLES

Table A.01 Number of crimes including confidence intervals for children aged 10 to 15

England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS											
PERSONAL CRIME	All in law			Norms based			All in law outside school			Victim perceived	
	Estimate ¹	Range ²		Estimate ¹	Range ²		Estimate ¹	Range ²		Estimate ¹	Range ²
<i>Number of incidents (000s)</i>											
Theft from the person	81	51 - 111		79	49 - 108		36	17 - 55		35	16 - 54
Snatch theft from person	40	16 - 65		40	15 - 64		18	2 - 34		9	2 - 16
Stealth theft from person	39	19 - 59		39	19 - 59		18	8 - 28		26	9 - 44
Other theft from the person (unspecified) ³	1	0 - 4		-	- - -		-	- - -		-	- - -
Other theft of personal property	260	207 - 313		206	168 - 245		68	48 - 89		121	93 - 150
Other theft of personal property (unspecified) ³	13	2 - 23		-	- - -		-	- - -		-	- - -
All violence⁴	1,719	1,551 - 1,886		769	656 - 883		538	453 - 624		248	184 - 312
Wounding	166	111 - 220		166	111 - 220		83	48 - 119		56	31 - 81
Assault with minor injury	448	364 - 532		355	277 - 432		155	112 - 197		95	52 - 138
Assault without injury	347	278 - 417		168	119 - 218		247	187 - 306		51	25 - 77
Robbery	87	56 - 117		81	51 - 110		54	32 - 76		46	22 - 69
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ³	671	563 - 780		-	- - -		-	- - -		-	- - -
violence with injury	641	537 - 746		548	448 - 647		249	191 - 308		171	115 - 227
violence without injury	1,077	944 - 1,210		222	168 - 276		289	227 - 351		77	47 - 107
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ³	93	60 - 126		-	- - -		-	- - -		-	- - -
Personal acquisitive crime ⁵	413	347 - 480		366	309 - 423		158	123 - 194		202	161 - 243
All personal crime	2,153	1,952 - 2,353		1,055	924 - 1,185		643	550 - 735		404	328 - 481
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,661</i>			<i>3,661</i>			<i>3,661</i>			<i>3,661</i>	

1. For personal crimes 2008/09 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 3,909,680 children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics, mid-2006 projections for 2008).

2. The range given for these estimates is based on a 95 per cent confidence interval (see Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Volume 2).

3. Only limited information were collected for these types of incidents with the consequence that full offence codes could not be assigned to them (see Section 1.3 of this report).

4. This offence group includes the additional category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). All violence has also been broken down into violence with injury and violence without injury which includes the category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). The adult offence group All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault without injury.

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

Table A.02 Risk of being a victim of personal crime including confidence intervals for children aged 10 to 15

England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS

PERSONAL CRIME	All in law		Norms based			All in law outside school			Victim perceived		
	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹	Estimate	Range ¹			
	<i>Percentage risk of being a victim once or more²</i>										
Theft from the person	1.3	0.9 - 1.7	1.2	0.8 - 1.6	0.7	0.4 - 1.0	0.7	0.4 - 1.0			
Snatch theft from person	0.5	0.3 - 0.8	0.5	0.2 - 0.7	0.3	0.1 - 0.5	0.2	0.0 - 0.4			
Stealth theft from person	0.8	0.5 - 1.1	0.8	0.5 - 1.1	0.4	0.2 - 0.7	0.5	0.2 - 0.7			
Other theft from the person (unspecified) ³	0.0	0.0 - 0.1	-	- -	-	- -	-	- -			
Other theft of personal property	4.8	4.0 - 5.6	4.2	3.5 - 4.9	1.6	1.2 - 2.1	2.4	1.9 - 3.0			
Other theft of personal property (unspecified) ³	0.2	0.0 - 0.3	-	- -	-	- -	-	- -			
All violence⁴	19.6	18.1 - 21.1	9.5	8.4 - 10.6	7.5	6.5 - 8.5	3.4	2.8 - 4.1			
Wounding	2.3	1.7 - 2.9	2.3	1.7 - 2.9	1.3	0.9 - 1.8	0.9	0.6 - 1.3			
Assault with minor injury	5.6	4.8 - 6.5	4.3	3.6 - 5.1	2.5	1.9 - 3.0	1.2	0.8 - 1.6			
Assault without injury	5.0	4.2 - 5.8	2.5	1.9 - 3.0	3.4	2.7 - 4.1	0.9	0.6 - 1.2			
Robbery	1.4	0.9 - 1.8	1.3	0.9 - 1.7	1.0	0.6 - 1.3	0.7	0.4 - 1.0			
Aggressive behaviour (unspecified) ³	7.9	6.9 - 8.9	-	- -	-	- -	-	- -			
violence with injury	7.8	6.8 - 8.8	6.6	5.7 - 7.5	3.7	3.0 - 4.4	2.3	1.7 - 2.8			
violence without injury	13.2	12.0 - 14.5	3.4	2.8 - 4.1	4.2	3.4 - 4.9	1.4	1.0 - 1.9			
Damage to personal property (unspecified) ³	1.5	1.1 - 2.0	-	- -	-	- -	-	- -			
Personal acquisitive crime ⁵	7.0	6.1 - 8.0	6.5	5.6 - 7.4	3.2	2.5 - 3.8	3.7	3.0 - 4.4			
All personal crime	23.8	22.2 - 25.3	13.5	12.3 - 14.8	9.3	8.2 - 10.4	6.0	5.2 - 6.9			
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,661</i>		<i>3,661</i>		<i>3,661</i>		<i>3,661</i>				

1. The range given for these estimates is based on a 95 per cent confidence interval (see Section 8 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Volume 2).

2. Risk is defined as the proportion of the population being a victim of any BCS personal crime once or more in the last year (See Section 2 of Crime in England and Wales 2008/09, Volume 2).

3. Only limited information were collected for these types of incidents with the consequence that full offence codes could not be assigned to them (see Section 1.3 of this report).

4. This offence group includes the additional category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). All violence has also been broken down into violence with injury and violence without injury which includes the category Aggressive behaviour (unspecified). The adult offence group All BCS violence includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault without injury.

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

Table A.03 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of Theft from the person by personal, household and area characteristics

Percentages		England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS			
	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived	Unweighted base
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS					
All	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.7	3,661
Boys	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.1	1,892
10-12	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.3	899
13-15	2.8	2.7	2.0	1.8	993
Girls	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.2	1,769
10-12	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	834
13-15	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.4	935
Age					
10-12	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2	1,733
13-15	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.2	1,928
Ethnic group					
White	1.3	1.3	0.6	0.7	3,212
Non-white	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.7	444
Long-standing illness or disability					
Long-standing illness or disability	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.1	316
No long-standing illness or disability	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.6	3,339
HOUSEHOLD AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS					
Area type					
Urban	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.8	2,700
Rural	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.1	961
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.6	2,476
Social renters	1.6	1.6	1.1	0.6	665
Private renters	1.7	1.7	0.9	1.2	514
Deprivation Index					
20% most deprived output areas	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.2	660
Other output areas	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.5	1,965
20% least deprived output areas	1.8	1.7	1.2	0.8	722
Household reference person's employment status					
In employment	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.8	3,045
Unemployed	1.3	1.3	0.7	0.7	127
Economically inactive	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.2	485

1. See Section 7 of Volume 2, Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 for definitions of personal, household and area characteristics.

Table A.04 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of Other theft of personal property by personal, household and area characteristics

Percentages		England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS			
	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived	Unweighted base
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS					
All	4.8	4.2	1.6	2.4	3,661
Boys	5.2	4.5	1.7	2.5	1,892
10-12	5.1	4.7	1.6	3.0	899
13-15	5.3	4.4	1.8	2.0	993
Girls	4.4	3.9	1.5	2.4	1,769
10-12	4.0	3.3	1.0	1.6	834
13-15	4.8	4.4	2.1	3.0	935
Age					
10-12	4.6	4.0	1.3	2.3	1,733
13-15	5.1	4.4	1.9	2.5	1,928
Ethnic group					
White	5.1	4.5	1.7	2.6	3,212
Non-white	3.0	2.5	1.2	1.3	444
Long-standing illness or disability					
Long-standing illness or disability	6.0	5.0	2.3	2.2	316
No long-standing illness or disability	4.7	4.1	1.5	2.4	3,339
HOUSEHOLD AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS					
Area type					
Urban	5.0	4.4	1.8	2.6	2,700
Rural	4.1	3.6	1.0	1.7	961
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	5.1	4.3	1.4	2.6	2,476
Social renters	4.7	4.3	2.4	2.0	665
Private renters	3.9	3.7	1.6	2.3	514
Deprivation Index					
20% most deprived output areas	4.1	3.5	2.8	1.5	660
Other output areas	4.6	4.1	1.4	2.3	1,965
20% least deprived output areas	6.3	5.3	1.1	3.4	722
Household reference person employment status					
In employment	5.0	4.4	1.7	2.4	3,045
Unemployed	3.7	2.9	1.3	2.6	127
Economically inactive	4.1	3.5	1.3	2.3	485

1. See Section 7 of Volume 2, Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 for definitions of personal, household and area characteristics.

Table A.05 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of All violence by personal, household and area characteristics

Percentages		England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS			
	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived	Unweighted base
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS					
All	19.6	9.5	7.5	3.4	3,661
Boys	24.2	13.2	9.9	4.7	1,892
10-12	26.0	14.1	9.6	3.8	899
13-15	22.5	12.4	10.1	5.6	993
Girls	14.8	5.6	5.0	2.1	1,769
10-12	15.6	5.6	4.2	1.7	834
13-15	14.1	5.6	5.7	2.4	935
Age					
10-12	20.9	9.9	6.9	2.8	1,733
13-15	18.5	9.1	8.0	4.1	1,928
Ethnic group					
White	20.2	9.8	7.6	3.5	3,212
Non-white	16.6	7.5	6.8	3.1	444
Long-standing illness or disability					
Long-standing illness or disability	25.8	14.6	12.3	7.1	316
No long-standing illness or disability	19.0	9.0	7.0	3.1	3,339
HOUSEHOLD AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS					
Area type					
Urban	19.7	9.4	8.0	4.0	2,700
Rural	19.4	9.7	5.5	1.5	961
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	17.4	8.5	6.0	2.6	2,476
Social renters	25.6	12.4	11.6	6.0	665
Private renters	21.1	9.6	8.1	3.6	514
Deprivation Index					
20% most deprived output areas	23.2	10.2	10.5	5.6	660
Other output areas	19.1	9.4	7.4	3.2	1,965
20% least deprived output areas	16.6	8.3	4.5	2.0	722
Household reference person's employment status					
In employment	18.4	8.8	6.4	2.8	3,045
Unemployed	23.6	12.5	7.5	3.6	127
Economically inactive	24.3	11.9	12.7	7.0	485

1. See Section 7 of Volume 2, Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 for definitions of personal, household and area characteristics.

Table A.06 Proportion of children aged 10 to 15 who were victims of Personal crime excluding minor incidents by personal, household and area characteristics

Percentages		England and Wales, January to December 2009 BCS			
	All in law	Norms based	All in law outside school	Victim perceived	<i>Unweighted base</i>
PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS					
All	17.2	13.5	9.3	6.0	3,661
Boys	21.9	17.8	11.9	7.6	1,892
10-12	23.1	18.1	10.8	6.6	899
13-15	20.8	17.5	12.9	8.6	993
Girls	12.4	9.1	6.5	4.3	1,769
10-12	12.3	8.4	5.0	3.0	834
13-15	12.4	9.7	8.0	5.6	935
Age					
10-12	17.8	13.3	8.0	4.8	1,733
13-15	16.8	13.8	10.5	7.2	1,928
Ethnic group					
White	18.1	14.1	9.4	6.3	3,212
Non-white	12.9	10.5	8.7	4.6	444
Long-standing illness or disability					
Long-standing illness or disability	23.3	19.2	14.4	9.9	316
No long-standing illness or disability	16.7	13.0	8.8	5.7	3,339
HOUSEHOLD AND AREA CHARACTERISTICS					
Area type					
Urban	17.4	13.7	10.0	6.8	2,700
Rural	16.8	13.1	6.7	3.2	961
Tenure					
Owner occupiers	16.1	12.9	7.6	5.4	2,476
Social renters	21.6	16.0	14.2	8.0	665
Private renters	16.0	12.9	9.8	6.2	514
Deprivation Index					
20% most deprived output areas	20.4	14.7	13.8	7.9	660
Other output areas	15.8	12.8	8.7	5.5	1,965
20% least deprived output areas	17.6	14.3	6.3	5.7	722
Household reference person's employment status					
In employment	16.7	13.2	8.3	5.5	3,045
Unemployed	18.8	16.1	9.5	6.9	127
Economically inactive	19.6	14.4	14.1	8.4	485

1. See Section 7 of Volume 2, Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 for definitions of personal, household and area characteristics.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Copies of other Home Office publications are available from the Research Development and Statistics internet pages: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>

For further information about Home Office crime statistics and crime statistics publications, please e-mail <mailto:crimestats.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk> or write to Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

For further information about the British Crime Survey or about any publications relating to the British Crime Survey please e-mail: bcsinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to Crime Surveys Programme, Home Office Statistics, 5th Floor, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)

MISSION STATEMENT

RDS staff are part of the Home Office. They work closely with front-line staff and policy makers. The HO Chief Scientific Advisor, who is also Director of RDS, oversees professional development for RDS teams, quality assurance and strategic R & D issues.

The Home Office's purpose is to work together to protect the public. This is the guiding principle for Home Office policies to counter terrorism, cut crime, provide effective policing, secure our borders and protect personal identity.

Part of the remit of RDS staff is to provide Home Office National Statistics. These statistics inform Parliament and members of the public about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore -

Research Development and Statistics in the Home Office improves policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.

ANNEX 1: CONSULTATION ON EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS FROM THE BCS EXTENSION TO CHILDREN

Alongside the publication of these experimental statistics from the extension of the BCS to children, the Home Office is also launching a 12-week consultation about the statistics published in this bulletin.

The Home Office is seeking any comments and views from users of these statistics including response to the following specific issues:

Choice of approach used to produce estimate/s of victimisation for children

Estimates for the total count of crime experiences by those aged 10 to 15 have been published in this report using four different approaches to counting crime.

1. Which, if any, of the approaches to counting crimes should be used in the future to produce estimates of victimisation among children?
2. Which, if any, of the approaches to counting crimes should become the preferred measure of victimisation amongst children?
3. Is there a case for making regular use of more than one method of counting?

Combining BCS adult and child estimates

Because the BCS sample has been extended to include children aged 10 to 15 there is now the possibility to combine estimates from the adult and child BCS surveys.

4. Can the BCS estimates for children legitimately be combined with those from the adult BCS?
5. How should the BCS estimates for children be combined with those for adults?
6. Should the calendar reporting period for the BCS children's survey be changed to match the financial year reporting period used for the adult BCS?

Estimates for juveniles

While the BCS extension to children covers those aged 10 to 15 the adult BCS survey covers those aged 16 and over. It is possible that some users of BCS estimates may have a need for figures for juveniles, i.e. those aged under 18.

7. Should estimates from the children's survey for those aged 10 to 15 be combined with those aged 16 and 17 from the adult survey to produce estimates of victimisation for juveniles ?
8. Should those aged 16 and 17 in the adult survey be given the same questionnaire as those aged 10 to 15 who respond to the children's survey? If so, should the lower age boundary of the adult survey then be changed to 18, and the current BCS questionnaire be given only to respondents who are 18 years of age and older?

How and when should estimates be published from the children's BCS

With the routine collection of data from children on an annual basis the Home Office now has a number of options for the publication of BCS estimates from children.

9. How should the BCS estimates be incorporated with adult estimates? e.g. In the publication Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 Volume 1, estimates from children could appear as additional rows within Table 2.01 with totals for adults, children and adults and children.

Publication of additional estimates from the BCS extension to children

The BCS children's survey not only provides a rich source of data about the experiences and perceptions of children and crime but also includes information on a limited number of other topics related to children including anti-social behaviour, gangs, drinking behaviour, drug taking and bullying.

10. How and when should estimates based on the additional information be published e.g. as separate supplementary publications focusing on specific issues and topics, or incorporated into the annual volume Crime in England and Wales?

Responses to this consultation should be sent to the address below (by post or e-mail) by 26 August 2010. Individual responses will be published unless respondents request anonymity. These will be published together with a statement setting out our future dissemination strategy in Autumn 2010.

Crime Surveys Team

Home Office Statistics

5th Floor Peel

2 Marsham Street

London SW1P 4DF

BCSinfo.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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ERRATA

Page 5, Section 1, Figure 1 - footnote has been added to explain that the examples used in the publication were not typical and were for illustrative purposes only.

Page 9, Section 2, Figure 1 - footnote has been added to explain that the figure for the 'All in law' approach includes low-level incidents.

Amendments to this publication of experimental statistics have only been made after the end of the National Statistics Consultation period which was launched with the publication in June 2010 (see Annex 1).

Amended 5th October 2010