



Home Office

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Statistical News Release

Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2011

The latest National Statistics on crime in England and Wales are released today. They are based on interviews from the British Crime Survey (BCS), and crimes recorded by the police, in the 12 months to September 2011. Each source has different strengths and weaknesses but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone (see Notes to editors).

There was no statistically significant change in BCS crime compared with the year to September 2010. The number of crimes recorded by the police fell by four per cent in the year to September 2011 compared with the previous year.

The estimated number of BCS personal crimes rose by 11 per cent over this period. This follows a fall in the year to September 2010 and this latest estimate is at a similar level to those seen since in the years since 2004/05. There was no statistically significant change in BCS household crimes. There were falls in all the main police recorded crime offence groups except robbery and other theft offences (which both increased by 4%).

Both sources provide some evidence of increases in lower-level theft offences, such as pick-pocketing and theft of unattended property. Police recorded 'other theft' rose by four per cent and within this overall category 'theft from the person' offences were up by eight per cent. Although the apparent rise (of 4%) in BCS 'other household theft' was not statistically significant, there is some evidence of an overall upward trend in this category (see Notes to editors for more information on these offence categories).

There was no statistically significant change in the level of BCS burglaries compared with the previous year. There have been some apparent fluctuations in BCS burglary from year to year, but the underlying trend has been fairly flat since 2004/05. Police recorded crime figures showed a continued fall with a four per cent reduction in domestic burglary between the years ending September 2010 and September 2011.

There was no change in BCS vehicle-related theft (the apparent 7% rise was not statistically significant). Police recorded offences against vehicles fell by eight per cent.

Levels of BCS violent crime showed no statistically significant change compared with the previous year (the apparent 9% rise was not statistically significant). The underlying trend in BCS violent crime has been fairly flat since 2004/05. Police recorded violence against the person fell by eight per cent with falls in both violence with injury and violence without injury (falls of 9% and 7% respectively). However, police recorded robbery rose by four per cent. This was driven by increases in personal robbery (up 5%) rather than business robbery (which was down 6%). Robbery is an offence which is concentrated in a small number of metropolitan areas and the national rise was driven by increases in the Metropolitan and West Midlands police force areas. The number of robberies involving

knives was up by ten per cent compared with the previous year while the number of assaults involving knives was down eight per cent.

Provisional statistics recorded by the police showed a 19 per cent fall in firearms offences.

The most serious sexual offences recorded by the police rose by two per cent compared with the previous year. This may reflect the continued pattern of rises in reporting and recording of such crimes seen since 2009, although the rate of increase appears to be slowing.

Both sources showed falls in vandalism offences. BCS vandalism was down seven per cent and police recorded criminal damage down 11 per cent.

BCS interviews showed that 57 per cent of people agreed that the police and local council were dealing with the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter in the area, up from 52 per cent in the previous year. The proportion of people who thought that the police in their local area did a good or excellent job also rose (from 57% to 61%).

Notes to editors

For the crime types and population groups it covers, the BCS provides a more reliable measure of trends in crime as it has a consistent methodology and is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, recording practice or police activity. The BCS does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime in England and Wales, but to produce estimates of crimes experienced by adults aged 16 and over resident in households. It does not cover all offences, with homicide, fraud and drug offences being notable exclusions.

Police recorded crime figures cover groups (e.g. residents of institutions and tourists) and sectors (e.g. commercial crime) excluded from the BCS sample and have a wider coverage of offences. However, police recorded crime does not cover those crimes that are not reported to or discovered by the police and is influenced by any changes in recording practices. Police recorded crime provides a robust measure of homicide (an offence not covered by the BCS) and is a good measure of well-reported crimes.

The BCS results are based on interviews conducted over a rolling 12 month period. In this bulletin, results are from interviews conducted in the year ending September 2011. Recorded crime figures in this bulletin relate to crimes recorded by the police in the year ending September 2011.

Headline figures in the publication include the month of August 2011 when there were disturbances in a number of urban areas in England. Annex B of the Quarterly Update outlines the impact the recording of these events had on the police recorded crime statistics presented in the publication. Although the disorder events involved a very high level of visible criminality in some localised areas, the overall impact on national recorded crime figures reported in the publication is small.

In the publication, the latest BCS figures are considered in the context of medium-term trends since 2004/05. This period has been chosen for comparison as from this point onwards there has been a general levelling off of BCS crime.

There is some overlap between the police recorded crime category of 'other theft' and BCS 'other household theft'. However, there are important differences in the coverage of

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

'Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2011' is available online via the National Statistics Publication Hub as well as the Science, research and statistics section of the Home Office website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0112/>

Also available today, via the above link, are:

- Figures at police force area level, covering a range of recorded crime offence groups and BCS findings on confidence in the police and local council; and
- Recorded crime figures on a rolling 12 month basis going back to 2002/03 at police force and local authority area level.

Another Home Office statistical bulletin, 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2010/11: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2010/11' is also being released today:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0212/>