

Crime and justice

- The British Crime Survey (BCS) showed that there were 10.9 million crimes committed against adults living in private households in England and Wales in 2004/05. (Figure 9.1)
- Vehicle-related theft was the most prevalent type of crime in the 2004/05 BCS with 1.9 million offences, 17 per cent of all offences in England and Wales. (Page 130)
- The total value of all card fraud in the UK in 2004 was £504.8 million, an increase of 20 per cent from 2003. (Page 133)
- Benefit fraud was nearly three and a half times as high in 2004 as it was in 1999, and was the second most commonly committed fraud offence in England and Wales after obtaining property by deception. (Table 9.7)
- Men in England and Wales were almost twice as likely as women to be a victim of violent crime (5 per cent compared with 3 per cent) with young men aged 16 to 24 most at risk in 2004/05. (Page 135)
- In 2004, 6 per cent of all 17 year old boys in England and Wales were found guilty of indictable offences, by far the highest rate for any age group, and five times the corresponding rate for girls. (Figure 9.12)
- Between 1993 and 2004 the average prison population in England and Wales rose by 67 per cent, to 75,000 – on 30 September 2005 it was 77,300. (Figure 9.21)

Many people will be affected by crime in the course of their lives. It can affect people's lives directly through loss and suffering, or indirectly, such as through the need for increased security measures. The fear of crime can have a restrictive effect on people's behaviour. Dealing with crime and its associated problems is an ever-present concern for society and the Government.

Crime levels

The 2004/05 British Crime Survey (BCS) (see Measures of crime box) estimated that 10.9 million crimes were committed against adults living in private households in England and Wales, a 7 per cent decrease on the previous year and 8.5 million fewer crimes than the peak in 1995 (Figure 9.1). The number of BCS crimes rose steadily through the 1980s and into the 1990s before falling progressively back to the levels of the early 1980s. As well as a decrease in overall BCS crime in the last year, there was also a 6 per cent fall in the number of crimes recorded by the police over this period.

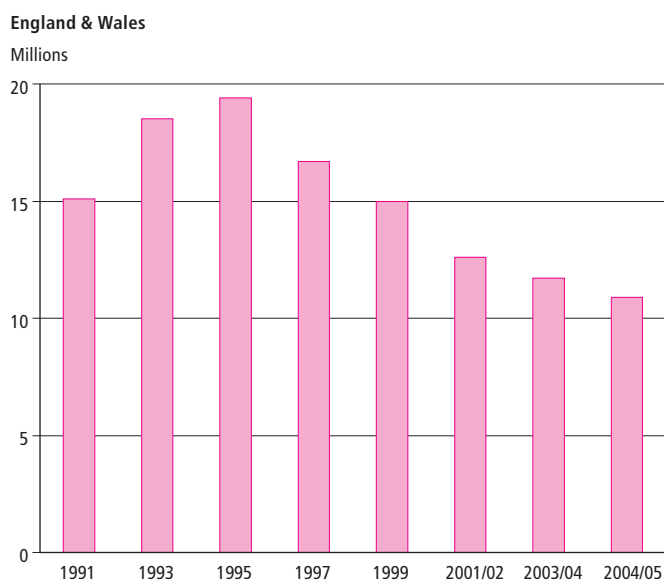
The 2003/04 Northern Ireland Crime Survey estimated that 300,000 offences were committed against adults living in private households in Northern Ireland, the same number as in the 2001 Survey.

Estimates from the Scottish Crime Survey suggest that over 1 million crimes were committed against individuals and households in Scotland in 2002, an increase of 30 per cent since 1999.

In 2004/05, 55 per cent of BCS offences involved some type of theft. Vehicle-related theft was the most prevalent type of crime accounting for 17 per cent of all offences. There were 1.9 million vehicle-related thefts in 2004/05. Between 1995 and 2004/05 vehicle-related theft fell by 57 per cent. The second most common BCS offence group was vandalism. Vandalism accounted for 24 per cent of all crime in 2004/05 and fell by 24 per cent from 3.4 million in 1995 to 2.6 million in 2004/05. Violent incidents were the third most common type of BCS crime, accounting for 22 per cent of all crime in 2004/05. Between 1995 and 2004/05 the number of violent offences fell by 43 per cent, from 4.3 million to 2.4 million.

Most BCS crimes (58 per cent) are not reported to the police (Table 9.2). Victims may not report a crime for a number of reasons, such as thinking the crime was too trivial, there was no loss, they believed the police would or could not do much about it, or that it was a private matter. The proportion of crimes reported to the police varied considerably according to the type of offence. Of the comparable crimes (see Appendix, Part 9: Comparing the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime) burglary was the most likely crime to be reported in

Figure 9.1
British Crime Survey offences



Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

Measures of crime

There are two main measures of the extent of crime in the United Kingdom: surveys of the public, and the recording of crimes by the police. The British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews adult members of households in England and Wales. The BCS, and similar surveys in Scotland and Northern Ireland, are thought to give a better measure of many types of crime than police recorded crime statistics. These surveys are able to find out about the large number of offences that are not reported to the police. They also give a more reliable picture of trends, as they are not affected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or by variations in police recording practice (see Appendix, Part 9: Types of offences in England and Wales).

Recorded crime data collected by the police are a by-product of the administrative procedure of completing a record for crimes that they investigate. A new National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced in England and Wales in April 2002 with the aim of taking a more victim-centred approach and providing consistency between forces (see Appendix, Part 9: National Crime Recording Standard).

Police recorded crime and BCS measured crime have different coverage. Unlike crime data recorded by the police, the BCS is restricted to crimes against adults (aged 16 or over) living in private households and their property, and does not include some types of crime (for example, fraud, murder and victimless crimes such as drug use where there is not a direct victim).

Table 9.2

Crimes¹ committed within the last 12 months: by outcome, 2004/05

England & Wales	Percentages	
	BCS crimes reported to the police	BCS crimes recorded by the police
Burglary	61	47
Comparable property crime ²	48	38
Vehicle thefts	49	43
Violence ³	45	30
Theft from the person	32	20
Vandalism	32	24
All comparable crime	42	32

1 BCS crimes that are comparable with those recorded in police statistics.

2 Comprises all acquisitive crime: all burglary, vehicle thefts, bicycle theft and theft from the person.

3 Does not include snatch theft.

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

2004/05 (61 per cent). Although around half of all vehicle-related thefts were reported (49 per cent), this rose to 95 per cent when the crime involved the actual theft of a vehicle. This could be because a formal record of such incidents is generally needed for insurance purposes.

Not all crimes that are reported to the police are recorded by them. The police recorded 32 per cent of all comparable BCS crimes in 2004/05. Police recording rates vary according to the type of offence, ranging from 47 per cent of burglaries to 20 per cent of theft from the person. Although the National Crime Recording Standard (see Appendix, Part 9: National Crime Recording Standard) has introduced a more victim-based approach to recording, the police are not required to record incidents and they may choose not to record a crime. They may consider that the incident is too minor or that there is insufficient evidence. Alternatively, the victim may not want the police to proceed.

The number of crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales decreased by 6 per cent between 2003/04 and 2004/05, to 5.6 million. Three quarters of these offences were property crimes. Theft and handling stolen goods comprised 36 per cent of all recorded crime, this includes thefts of, or from, vehicles, which comprised 13 per cent of all recorded crime. Criminal damage, burglary and fraud and forgery are the other property offences (Table 9.3).

In Scotland the term 'crime' is reserved for the more serious offences (roughly equivalent to 'indictable' and 'triable-either-way' offences in England and Wales), while less serious crimes

Table 9.3

Crimes recorded by the police: by type of offence,¹ 2004/05

	Percentages		
	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Theft and handling stolen goods	36	34	26
Theft of vehicles	4	4	4
Theft from vehicles	9	6	5
Criminal damage	21	29	27
Violence against the person	19	4	25
Burglary	12	8	11
Fraud and forgery	5	5	4
Drugs offences	3	10	2
Robbery	2	1	1
Sexual offences	1	1	1
Other offences ²	1	8	2
All notifiable offences (=100%) (thousands)	5,563	438	118

1 See Appendix, Part 9: Types of offences in England and Wales, and in Northern Ireland, and Offences and crimes.

2 Northern Ireland includes 'offences against the state'. Scotland excludes 'offending while on bail'.

Source: Home Office; Scottish Executive; Police Service of Northern Ireland

are called 'offences' (see Appendix, Part 9: Types of offences in England and Wales, and Offences and crimes). Crime in Scotland increased by 8 per cent between 2003 and 2004/05, when a total of 438,000 crimes were recorded by the police (Table 9.3). Theft and handling stolen goods comprised 34 per cent of recorded crime in Scotland, criminal damage 29 per cent, and drug offences 10 per cent. The rise in crime in Scotland recorded by the police can be ascribed to the introduction of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) implemented in April 2004. The introduction of the SCRS had no impact on the figures for the more serious crimes such as serious assault, sexual assault, robbery or housebreaking. However it did increase the number of minor crimes recorded by the police (including vandalism, minor thefts, petty assault, breach of the peace). The introduction of the NCRS in England and Wales in April 2002 had similarly resulted in an increase in certain crime categories.

The definitions used in Northern Ireland are broadly comparable with those used in England and Wales. Crime recorded by the police in Northern Ireland decreased by 8 per cent from 2003/04 to 2004/05 to 118,000 incidents. Criminal damage comprised over a quarter of recorded crime in Northern Ireland and violence against the person accounted for a similar proportion. These crimes made up a greater proportion of all crime in Northern Ireland than in England and Wales. Theft and handling stolen goods comprised 26 per cent of recorded crime in

Northern Ireland, a smaller proportion of all crime than in England and Wales (Table 9.3).

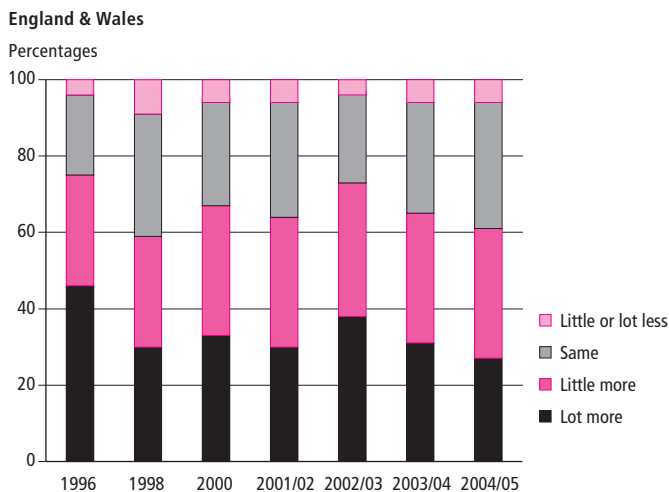
Perceptions on whether crime is rising or falling play a part in determining how concerned people are about crime. In 2004/05, two thirds of people interviewed in England and Wales said they believed that across the whole country the level of crime had risen a 'lot' or a 'little' over the last two years compared with one in twenty who believed crime rates were falling (Figure 9.4).

In 2002/03, when asked about their local area, more than half (54 per cent) thought local crime had increased in the previous two years. Eight out of ten people interviewed in the Northern Ireland Crime Survey in 2003/04 (80 per cent) believed that crime in Northern Ireland had risen over the two previous years, while 7 per cent believed the crime rates were falling.

Perceptions of crime vary by demographic and socio-economic characteristics. How people feel about the Criminal Justice System and their general feelings of safety also have an effect. In England and Wales older people were more likely than younger people, and women were more likely than men, to believe that crime rates had risen. In 2002/03 unskilled workers were more than twice as likely as professionals to think there was a lot more crime than two years ago. People who had confidence in the Criminal Justice System bringing offenders to justice were more likely to believe that the crime level had declined than those who were not confident. People who reported feeling unsafe about walking alone after dark and those who were worried about being a victim of burglary, violence or, car crime or being at home alone, were more likely to believe there had been an increase in crime, both locally and nationally.

Figure 9.4

Perceptions about the change in the national crime rate¹



¹ Respondents were asked whether they thought the level of crime in the country as a whole had changed over the two previous years.

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

Offences

In line with the overall decline in offences, domestic burglary has fallen steadily since 1995 (Table 9.5). In 2004/05 there were 756,000 attempted burglaries in England and Wales; 469,000 of these involved entry into the house. Burglaries were more likely to result in no loss than in anything being taken and in general this was consistent over time. In 2004/05, 57 per cent of burglaries resulted in nothing being taken. The 2004/05 BCS estimated that 61 per cent of domestic burglaries were reported to the police, and of these three quarters were recorded. Burglaries were more likely to have been reported where there was a loss.

The risk of becoming a victim of burglary varied by the characteristics of the household. Households with no home security measures in place were much more likely to be victims of burglary; 15 per cent of these households were victims of one or more burglaries in 2004/05 compared with 1 per cent of households with security measures such as burglar alarms, security lights or window bars. Households with a reference person aged 16 to 24 were more likely to have experienced burglary (7 per cent) than those where the reference person was older (2 per cent of households where the household reference person was aged 45 to 64 were victims). Single parent families were at a high risk of burglary compared with other family types, as were households with a low income compared with households with a higher income. Households in council estates were at a higher risk of burglary than those in other areas and those in rented accommodation were at a higher risk than homeowners. The risk of burglary was also higher for those who had moved recently (within a year) than

Table 9.5

Trends in domestic burglary:¹ by type

England & Wales	Burglary				All burglary
	With entry	No entry	With loss	No loss	
1981	474	276	373	376	749
1991	869	511	712	668	1,380
1995	998	772	791	979	1,770
1997	852	768	651	970	1,621
1999	767	523	551	739	1,290
2001/02	552	416	396	573	969
2002/03	561	412	407	566	973
2003/04	533	410	417	526	943
2004/05	469	287	327	429	756

¹ Burglary with no entry and with entry add up to all burglary. Burglary with no loss and with loss also add up to all burglary.

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

Table 9.6
Vehicle crime: by type

England & Wales				Thousands
	Theft from vehicles	Theft of vehicles	Attempted theft of and from	All vehicle crime
1991	2,424	522	899	3,845
1995	2,544	510	1,297	4,350
1997	2,200	378	933	3,511
1999	1,849	336	825	3,009
2001/02	1,496	316	683	2,494
2002/03	1,425	278	662	2,365
2003/04	1,337	241	543	2,121
2004/05	1,210	214	462	1,886

Source: *British Crime Survey, Home Office*

for those who had lived at the address for a longer period of time.

The BCS definition of vehicle-related theft comprises theft, or attempted theft, of or from a vehicle. Theft from a vehicle is the most common type of vehicle-related theft and accounted for 64 per cent of vehicle crime in 2004/05 (Table 9.6). Recent years have seen a decrease in all categories of vehicle-related theft. Attempted thefts had the greatest decrease in the vehicle-related theft categories. They fell by 64 per cent between 1995 and 2004/05.

In 2004/05 most vehicle-related thefts occurred in areas around the home (67 per cent) with 41 per cent of all vehicle-related theft occurring on the street outside the home. Overall, 19 per cent of all vehicle thefts occurred in a car park. Households in areas with high levels of vandalism, graffiti, rubbish and litter, and where homes were in poor condition were more likely to have

been victims of vehicle-related thefts, as were those living in urban areas in comparison with rural areas and those living in council estates. People living in flats or terraced housing were at a higher risk of vehicle theft. This could be because they are more likely to park their cars on the street rather than in private areas.

The 2004/05 BCS estimated that there were 2.4 million violent incidents against adults in England and Wales, a fall of 11 per cent from 2003/04. However, the police recorded 1.2 million violent crimes, an increase of 7 per cent from 2003/04. This increase may be partly because of changes in recording and the more proactive policing of violence problems. Of these recorded violent incidents, 20 per cent were common assaults and 18 per cent were harassment, both of which involved no physical injury to the victim. Less serious woundings accounted for 41 per cent of recorded violent crime and included minor injuries such as bruising or black eyes. Provisional statistics show that the number of recorded firearm offences increased by 6 per cent in the last year to 10,979 in 2004/05 and the number of homicides increased by 1 per cent to 859 incidents.

In 2004/05, 280,000 fraud and forgery offences were recorded by the police in 2004/05, a decrease of 12 per cent from 2003/04. Of these, under half (43 per cent) were cheque and credit card frauds, a 7 per cent decrease from 2003/04. The Association for Payment and Clearing Services (APACS), the UK payments association, puts the total value of all card fraud at £504.8 million in 2004, an increase of 20 per cent from 2003.

Although data collected by APACS suggest the value of fraud is rising, the number of defendants found guilty of fraud-related offences has fallen over the past five years. A total of 14,800 defendants were found guilty of indictable fraud offences in England and Wales in 2004, a fall of 17 per cent compared with the peak in 1999 (Table 9.7). Obtaining property by deception was

Table 9.7
Defendants found guilty of indictable fraud offences

England & Wales							Numbers
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Obtaining property by deception	11,440	11,480	10,540	9,440	9,350	8,460	7,520
Dishonest representation for obtaining benefit	240	710	1,350	1,950	1,990	1,840	2,460
Making off without payment	1,250	1,440	1,410	1,320	1,300	1,810	1,690
Obtaining services by deception	980	1,030	880	880	830	800	750
False accounting	1,690	1,620	1,160	870	750	650	730
Conspiracy to defraud	470	420	430	450	410	450	520
Other offences	1,130	1,100	1,100	1,000	940	1,030	1,130
All offences	17,200	17,800	16,870	15,910	15,570	15,040	14,800

Source: *Home Office*

Table 9.8

Persons found guilty of, or cautioned for, drug offences: by type of drug

England & Wales	Thousands												
	1990	1992	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cocaine (excluding crack)	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.9	4.0	4.6	4.2	4.7	5.8	7.0	8.1
Heroin	1.6	1.4	2.7	3.9	5.7	8.2	10.1	10.8	10.7	11.1	10.7	10.5	10.1
LSD	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy type	0.3	1.5	1.8	3.1	3.7	3.7	2.7	3.8	5.9	6.8	6.1	5.5	5.2
Amphetamines	2.3	5.7	7.8	9.6	12.3	12.4	13.2	10.6	5.9	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.8
Cannabis ¹	40.2	41.4	67.2	72.0	69.1	80.9	90.5	81.1	70.2	66.4	78.1	82.1	49.8
All drugs ²	44.9	48.9	82.9	90.6	91.2	107.5	122.4	112.8	99.1	96.5	106.6	110.4	82.8

¹ Cannabis was reclassified on 29 January 2004 from Class B to Class C. Data for 2004 does not include police formal warnings.

² Individual components do not sum to the total because each person may appear in more than one category. The total includes all drugs but not all drug offences.

Source: Home Office

the most common offence, committed by 51 per cent of offenders found guilty of indictable fraud. The number of people found guilty of this offence has fallen by 35 per cent since 1999. Dishonest representation for obtaining benefit was nearly three and a half times higher than it was in 1999, and was the second most commonly committed fraud offence, increasing from 4 per cent of all indictable fraud offences in 1999 to 17 per cent in 2004.

Drug offences can cover a wide range of activities, including unlawful production, supply, import or export and possession of illegal substances. The number of people found guilty of, or cautioned for, drug offences in England and Wales rose from 80,390 in 1994 to a peak of 120,290 in 1998. The number of drug offenders has fluctuated since then, with 83,440 persons being dealt with in 2004. In 2004, 85 per cent of drug offences were for unlawful possession.

The number of people found guilty of, or cautioned for, drug offences varied by type of drug over time (Table 9.8). Most drug offences in 2004 were for cannabis (60 per cent), followed by heroin (12 per cent) and cocaine (10 per cent). In comparison, nine out of ten drug offences involved cannabis in 1990. Cannabis was re-classified from a Class B to Class C drug in January 2004 and this has led to fewer arrests. As such the number of cannabis offences for 2004 should not be directly compared with those for previous years. The number of persons found guilty of, or cautioned for, a drug offence involving cocaine has been increasing, from 860 persons in 1990 to 8,070 persons in 2004. Offences involving heroin increased throughout the 1990s and peaked in 2001 with 11,097 persons being found guilty or cautioned. The number of persons involved in ecstasy-related drug offences increased generally throughout the 1990s but has been decreasing since 2001.

Victims

People's perception of crime is affected by their fear of being a victim of crime. Women are more worried about a range of crimes than men, with the exception of theft of, and from, a car, for which women and men have broadly similar levels of worry (Table 9.9). Women are almost three times as likely as men to be very worried about violent crime (being mugged, physically attacked, insulted, pestered or raped). Though young people were less likely than older people to believe there had been an increase in overall crime levels, a higher proportion of men and women in the youngest age group (16 to 24 years old) reported being worried about vehicle and violent crime compared with those in the older age groups. Most notably, almost a third of women aged 16 to 24 were very worried about violent crime. The percentage of people who reported being worried about crime was lowest among men and women aged 65 and over.

The BCS asks respondents whether worry about crime had affected their quality of life. In 2004/05, 30 per cent said that worrying about crime had a moderate impact on their quality of life and a further 6 per cent said it had a great impact. In Northern Ireland 43 per cent of respondents of the Northern Ireland Crime Survey said that worry about crime had a moderate or great effect on their quality of life.

Fear of crime does not necessarily reflect the likelihood of being a victim of crime. The risk of becoming a victim of crime fell from 40 per cent of the population in 1995 to 24 per cent in 2004/05 – the lowest recorded level since the BCS began in 1981. This fall represents almost 6 million fewer victims.

Although women were more worried than men about being a victim of violence (23 per cent compared with 8 per cent), men

Table 9.9

Worry about crime:¹ by sex and age, 2004/05

England & Wales		Percentages	
	Vehicle crime ²	Burglary	Worry about violence
Men			
16–24	20	8	11
25–44	14	10	8
45–64	12	10	7
65–74	9	10	6
75 and over	7	7	3
All aged 16 and over	13	10	8
Women			
16–24	21	14	32
25–44	14	15	24
45–64	14	15	23
65–74	11	15	18
75 and over	6	11	14
All aged 16 and over	14	14	23

1 Percentages of people who were 'very worried' about selected types of crime.

2 Based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle.

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

were almost twice as likely as women to be a victim of violent crime (5 per cent compared with 3 per cent). Men aged 16 to 24 were most at risk; 15 per cent had experienced a violent crime

according to the 2004/05 BCS, compared with 6 per cent of women in the same age group. Older people were less likely than younger people to be a victim of violent crime; less than 1 per cent of those aged 65 and over reported they had been victims of some sort of violence.

Just over a third (35 per cent) of all incidents of violent crime in the 2004/05 BCS were committed by strangers. A further third (34 per cent) were incidents of violence by acquaintances, and just under a fifth (17 per cent) were incidents of domestic violence. Men were more likely than women to experience violence committed by strangers (45 per cent compared with 19 per cent) and young men aged 16 to 24 were more likely to be victims of violence by strangers than men aged over 24. In contrast, women were more likely to be victims of domestic violence. Of those women who were victims of violent crime in the BCS, 32 per cent of women were victims of domestic violence (308,000) in 2004/05, compared with 6 per cent of men (92,000).

Just under half (46 per cent) of all BCS violent incidents in 2004/05 involved no injury. Of those who were injured, the most common injuries were minor bruising or a black eye (32 per cent of males and 31 per cent of females). These were the most common injuries across the different categories of violent crime, for example victims of violence by strangers were around twice as likely to suffer from minor bruising or a black eye as they were to suffer from severe bruising (Table 9.10).

Table 9.10

Type of injury from violent crime: by sex, 2004/05

England & Wales		Percentages				
	Domestic	Mugging	Stranger	Acquaintance ¹	All violence	
Men						
Minor bruise/black eye	47	24	30	36	32	
Severe bruising	23	14	14	12	14	
Scratches	32	15	10	7	11	
Cuts	18	15	16	18	17	
Broken bones	3	1	3	2	2	
Concussion or loss of consciousness	2	2	4	3	3	
Other	2	2	10	12	9	
Women						
Minor bruise/black eye	38	11	30	34	31	
Severe bruising	27	9	14	19	19	
Scratches	17	7	6	16	13	
Cuts	14	3	7	19	13	
Broken bones	1	1	2	2	2	
Concussion or loss of consciousness	1	0	0	3	1	
Other	4	3	6	7	5	

1 Assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight.

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

Table 9.11

Anti-social behaviour indicators¹

England & Wales	Percentages						
	1992	1996	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
High level of perceived anti-social behaviour ^{2,3}	-	-	-	19	21	16	17
Abandoned or burnt-out cars ³	-	-	14	20	25	15	12
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	8	8	9	10	10	9	9
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	-	-	-	2	23	19	22
People using or dealing drugs	14	21	33	31	32	25	26
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	20	24	32	32	33	27	31
Rubbish or litter lying around	30	26	30	32	33	29	30
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property	26	24	32	34	35	28	28
Total (=100%) ⁴ (thousands)	10.1	8.0	9.7	32.8	36.5	37.9	45.1

1 People saying anti-social behaviour is a 'very/fairly big problem' in their area.

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

3 Question only asked of one-quarter of the sample in 2001/02 and 2002/03.

4 Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent as respondents could give more than one answer.

Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

The number of incidents of violence by strangers and muggings have remained relatively constant since 1995. However there have been large and statistically significant falls in the number of incidents of acquaintance and domestic violence. This has led to a decrease in the proportion of violent crime incidents committed by someone known to the victim.

The *Crime and Disorder Act (1998)* defined anti-social behaviour as 'acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household (as the defendant)'. In the 2004/05 BCS, almost a third of people believed teenagers and young people hanging around on the streets (31 per cent) and rubbish or litter (30 per cent) were anti-social behaviour problems in their area (Table 9.11). A further quarter perceived vandalism and graffiti (28 per cent) and drug use or dealing (26 per cent) were a problem in their area. The proportion of people saying each of these behaviours were a very or fairly big problem in their area generally increased for all the behaviour indicators between 1992 and 2002/03. These proportions fell for most indicators in 2003/04. Between 2003/04 and 2004/05 the percentage of people who perceived people being drunk or rowdy and teenagers hanging around to be a problem increased significantly. The proportion of people who believed drug use or dealing was a problem increased from 14 per cent in 1992 to a peak in 2000 of 33 per cent, and then fell in recent years to 26 per cent in 2004/05. A similar increase was also seen for the proportion who believed teenagers hanging around was a problem reaching a peak in 2002/03 and then falling.

People's perceptions of anti-social behaviour vary by socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics. The proportion perceiving high levels of anti-social behaviour in 2004/05 decreased with age from 22 per cent of those aged 16 to 24, to 5 per cent of people aged 75 and over. There was no real difference between men and women. People from a non-White background were more likely than those from a White background to perceive high levels of anti-social behaviour. A lower proportion of people in the professional and managerial social grades perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour in comparison with those in the other social classes. A higher proportion of people in households with an income of £10,000 or less perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour compared with people in households with an income of £30,000 or more. There was also a difference by housing tenure; 30 per cent of social renters perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour compared with 13 per cent of owner occupiers and 16 per cent of private renters.

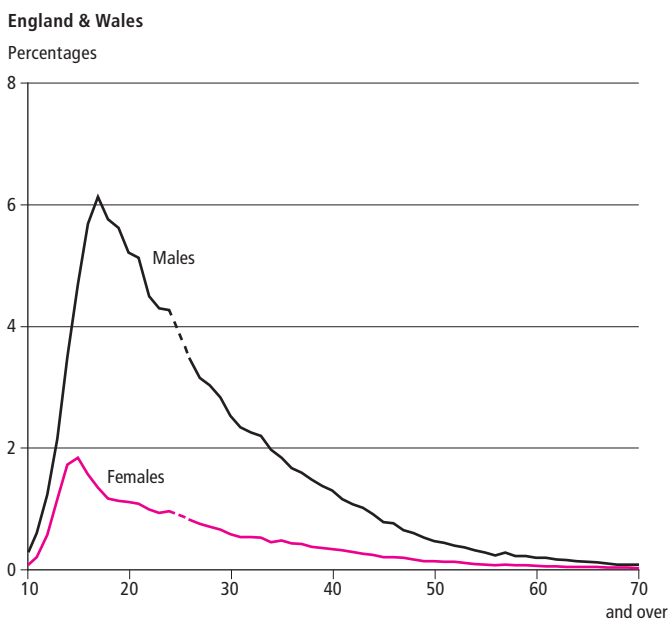
Offenders

In 2004, 1.8 million offenders were found guilty of, or cautioned for, indictable and summary offences in England and Wales, a rise of 4 per cent on the previous year. Most of the offenders were male (80 per cent), of whom around 11 per cent were aged 17 and under.

According to recorded crime figures based on administrative data collected by the police, the number of young offenders as a proportion of the population rises sharply for males between

Figure 9.12

Offenders¹ as a percentage of the population: by sex and age,² 2004



1 People found guilty or cautioned for indictable offences.
 2 Age 25 is plotted as the mid-point between ages 24 and 26, as it is used for offenders who did not give an age.

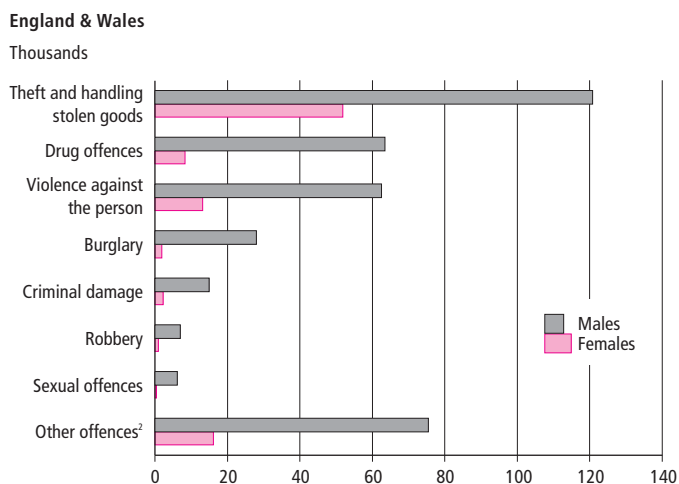
Source: Home Office

the ages of 10 and 17. In 2004 in England and Wales, 6 per cent of all 17 year old males were found guilty of indictable offences, by far the highest rate for any age group, and five times the corresponding rate for females (Figure 9.12). As males and females entered their mid-20s, the proportion of offenders started to decline with age. Less than 1 per cent of males over the age of 43 and females over the age of 21 were found guilty of, or cautioned for, an indictable offence. There were negligible proportions of offenders aged 70 and above.

In 2004, 473,000 people were found guilty of, or cautioned for, an indictable offence in England and Wales, of whom four fifths were males. Theft and handling stolen goods was the most common offence committed by both male and female offenders (Figure 9.13). Although 70 per cent of these offences were committed by males, over half of the female offenders were found guilty of, or cautioned for, theft-related offences compared with almost a third of male offenders. Between 10 and 20 per cent of offenders found guilty of, or cautioned for, all other indictable offences were female, apart from burglary (6 per cent) and sexual offences (2 per cent). Offending patterns of behaviour are often established at an early age. Young people aged 16 to 24 years had the highest offending rates for both males and females in 2003. For men aged 25 to 34, the offending rate for theft was higher than for

Figure 9.13

Offenders found guilty of, or cautioned for, indictable offences:¹ by sex and type of offence, 2004



1 See Appendix, Part 9: Types of offences in England and Wales.
 2 Includes fraud and forgery and indictable motoring offences.

Source: Home Office

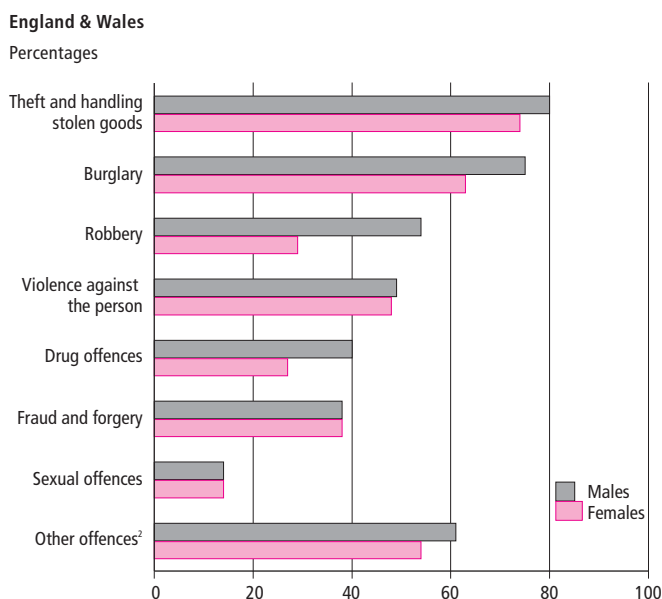
males aged 10 to 15. In contrast females aged 10 to 15 had a higher offending rate than females aged 25 to 34.

A relatively small number of offenders are responsible for a disproportionately high number of offences. Eight in ten men and over seven in ten women previously convicted for theft and handling stolen goods were reconvicted within two years of discharge from prison in England and Wales in 2001 (Figure 9.14 overleaf). Over the same period, a similar proportion of men convicted for burglary were also reconvicted within two years. Around half of men were reconvicted for robbery and violence, and one in seven men were reconvicted for sexual offences. In Northern Ireland, 68 per cent of adults convicted of theft and 64 per cent convicted of burglary were reconvicted within two years of their discharge from custody into the community in 2001 (figures exclude those who received a non-custodial sentence in 2001). One in five people aged 17 and over previously convicted of sexual offences in Northern Ireland were reconvicted within two years of discharge.

In England and Wales reconviction rates for those with a first conviction were much lower than for those with previous convictions. The reconviction rate for people released from prison in 2001 was 17 per cent for first time offenders, 38 per cent for those with one or two previous convictions and 80 per cent for those with 11 or more convictions. For offenders released from prison or starting a community sentence in the first quarter of 2001 the reconviction rate was 19 per cent for offenders with no previous convictions, 39 per cent for those

Figure 9.14

Prisoners reconvicted¹ within two years of discharge in 2001: by original offence



1 Reconvicted of a standard list offence. Standard list offences are all indictable offences and some of the more serious summary offences.
2 Includes criminal damage, motoring offences and other indictable and summary offences.

Source: Home Office

with 1 or 2 previous convictions and 78 per cent for those with 11 or more previous convictions.

The 2003 Crime and Justice Survey showed that around four in ten people aged 10 to 65 in England and Wales had committed at least one core offence (see Appendix, Part 9: Crime and Justice Survey core offences) at some time, with one in ten doing so in the year before the Survey. Young people aged between 10 and 25 committed two thirds of all core offences and four fifths of serious offences.

Police and courts action

Under the National Crime Recording Standard counting rules, a crime is defined as ‘detected’ if a suspect has been identified and interviewed, and there is sufficient evidence to bring a charge. There does not have to be a prosecution; for example, the offender may accept a caution or ask for the crime to be taken into consideration by the court, or the victim may not wish to give evidence.

There were just over 1.4 million detected crimes in England and Wales in 2004/05, an increase of 2 per cent on the previous year. Detections are counted on the basis of crimes, rather than offenders (for example, one robbery is one detection, even if it involved ten offenders). Care must therefore be taken when

Table 9.15

Recorded crimes detected by the police: by type of offence,¹ 2004/05²

Percentages

	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Drug offences	95	97	73
Violence against the person	53	77	53
Sexual offences	34	72	46
Rape (including attempts)	29	69	45
Fraud and forgery	26	80	36
Robbery	20	39	17
Theft and handling stolen goods	16	34	17
Theft of vehicles	15	37	17
Theft from vehicles	8	17	4
Criminal damage	14	21	14
Burglary	13	25	15
Other offences ³	70	95	55
All recorded crime	26	45	28

1 See Appendix, Part 9: Types of offences in England and Wales, and in Northern Ireland, and Offences and crimes.

2 Some offences cleared up/detected may have been initially recorded in an earlier year.

3 The Northern Ireland figure includes ‘offences against the state’.

Source: Home Office; Scottish Executive; Police Service of Northern Ireland

comparing detection rates with conviction data. The average number of detections per officer was just over ten detections per officer per year, and this has remained stable from 2003/04 to 2004/05. Not all officers are involved in the investigation of crime.

In England and Wales the overall detection rate increased from 23 per cent in 2003/04 to 26 per cent in 2004/05. This increase was observed for most offences. The main exception was for sexual offences where the rate fell by 5 percentage points. Detection rates vary according to the type of offence. Drug offences were the most likely type of crime to be detected in 2004/05, and theft from vehicles was the least likely (Table 9.15). The detection rate in Northern Ireland in 2004/05 was 28 per cent. There could be a time lapse between an offence being committed and the police clearing it up.

In Scotland detection rates are known as clear-up rates. The clear-up rates have been increasing steadily over the past quarter of a century, from 30 per cent in 1982 to 45 per cent in 2004/05. Detection rates followed a similar pattern to England and Wales, with drug offences the most likely to be detected. Fraud and forgery also had a high detection rate with eight out of ten offences being detected. Even with the introduction of

Table 9.16

Ethnic¹ composition of stop and searches, 2003/04

England & Wales		Percentages					
	Drugs	Stolen property	Going equipped	Offensive weapons	Firearms	Other reasons	Total
White	69	79	83	67	65	84	74
Black	18	13	10	19	23	5	15
Asian	10	5	4	9	8	4	7
Other	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
Not recorded	2	2	2	2	3	5	2
Total (=100%) (thousands)	322.8	214.4	87.8	59.3	10.6	43.1	738.0

1 Ethnicity of the person stopped and searched as perceived by the police officer concerned.

Source: Home Office

the new crime recording standards in Scotland and England and Wales (see Appendix, Part 9: National Crime Recording Standard), care should be taken when making comparisons between detection rates across countries, because of the different legal systems and crime recording practices.

The *Police and Criminal Evidence Act*, which was implemented in January 1986, gave the police certain powers covering stop and searches of people or vehicles, road checks, detention of people and intimate searches of people. Stop and searches in England and Wales rose from 118,000 in 1987 to a peak of nearly 1.1 million in 1998/99. In 2003/04 stop and searches of people and vehicles had fallen to 734,000. Looking for stolen property was the most common reason for a stop and search in the 1990s. In 2002/03 and 2003/04 looking for drugs became the most common reason.

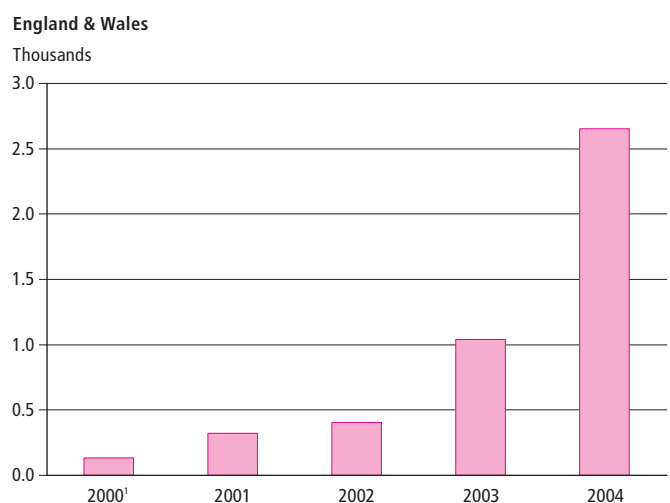
Three quarters of people who were stopped and searched in 2003/04 in England and Wales were White (Table 9.16). The White population made up 91 per cent of the population in the 2001 Census. In 2003/04 the main reason for searching all ethnic groups was drugs, followed by stolen property. Previously White people were more likely to have been searched for stolen property than for drugs. Almost a quarter of people searched for firearms and just under a fifth of people searched for offensive weapons were Black. Overall Black people accounted for 15 per cent of those stopped and searched. In 2001, 2 per cent of the population were Black.

Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) were introduced in England and Wales under the *Crime and Disorder Act 1998* and have been available since April 1999. They are civil orders that impose restrictions on the behaviour of individuals who have behaved in

an anti-social way, to protect communities from often longstanding and highly intimidating activity. They can be made against anyone aged ten and over. The number of ASBOs issued in England and Wales has increased from 135 from the period June to December 2000 to 2,652 in 2004, most notably from 2002 onwards (Figure 9.17). This increase was in line with the introduction of the *Anti-Social Behaviour Act* that came into effect in 2003. As well as strengthening the ASBO and banning spray paint sales to people under the age of 16, the Act gives local councils the power to order the removal of graffiti from private property. It also specifically addresses truancy, false reports of emergency, fireworks, public drunkenness and gang activity.

Figure 9.17

Anti-social behaviour orders issued by all courts



1 Data available from 1 June 2000 only. For the period 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected by police force area on aggregate numbers only.

Source: Home Office

In England and Wales a formal caution may be given by a senior police officer when an offender has admitted his or her guilt, there is sufficient evidence for a conviction, and it is not in the public interest to institute criminal proceedings. Cautions are more severe than a reprimand and details remain on an individual's record. There must be sufficient evidence gathered by the police for the likelihood of a successful prosecution for a caution to be given. In 2004, 156,300 cautions for indictable offences in England and Wales were given, an increase of 5,600 (4 per cent) on 2003. The number of cautions has been rising since 2001 following a fall in the 1990s (Table 9.18). The offence category receiving the highest number of cautions was theft and handling stolen goods. For the first time since the 1980s a higher number of cautions were received for violence against the person than for drug offences. There was a rise of 88 per cent for those cautioned for violence between 2001 and 2004, from 19,500 to 36,600. In comparison, the number of offenders cautioned for drug offences peaked in 2003 before dropping by 29 per cent to 32,600 in 2004.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is the government agency that handles the bulk of prosecutions (charging individuals with committing a crime) in England and Wales. Most cases in the Crown Court are prosecuted by the CPS. The CPS alongside other authorities, including HM Revenue and Customs, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, and the Environment Agency, also prosecute in magistrates' courts. The Crown Court deals with more serious criminal offences that will be tried by judge and jury, appeals from the magistrates' courts,

and convictions in the magistrates' courts that are referred to the Crown Court for sentencing. Imprisonment and fines imposed by the Crown Court are more severe than in the magistrates' court. Magistrates' courts deal with criminal and some civil cases and usually only deal with cases that arise in their own area.

Almost 1.5 million defendant cases were prosecuted in magistrates' courts by the CPS in 2004 (excluding those committed for trial in the Crown Court). The majority of cases at magistrates' courts resulted in a conviction (74 per cent), while 20 per cent of cases were terminated early without trial and 2 per cent resulted in dismissal. The CPS completed 78,000 defendant cases in the Crown Court in 2004, three quarters of which resulted in a conviction.

When an offender has been charged, or summonsed, and then found guilty, the court will impose a sentence. Sentences in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can include immediate custody, a community sentence, a fine or, if the court considers that no punishment is necessary, a discharge. In 2004, 316,900 people were sentenced for indictable offences in England and Wales (Table 9.19). The form of sentence varied according to the type of offence committed. In 2004 a community sentence was the most common type of sentence; almost half of those sentenced for burglary, violence against the person or criminal damage were given a community sentence. Those sentenced for drug offences were the most likely to be fined, with 36 per cent receiving this form of sentence.

Table 9.18
Offenders cautioned for indictable offences:¹ by type of offence

England & Wales	Thousands				
	1981	1991	2001	2003	2004
Theft and handling stolen goods	79.2	108.5	63.5	54.5	61.9
Drug offences	0.3	21.2	39.4	45.7	32.6
Violence against the person	5.6	19.4	19.5	28.8	36.6
Burglary ²	11.2	13.3	6.4	5.6	5.6
Fraud and forgery	1.4	5.6	5.8	5.5	6.0
Criminal damage	2.1	3.8	3.4	3.7	5.5
Sexual offences	2.8	3.3	1.2	1.4	1.6
Robbery	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5
Other offences	1.3	4.1	4.2	5.3	6.0
All offenders cautioned	103.9	179.9	143.9	150.7	156.3

¹ Excludes motoring offences.

² See Appendix, Part 9: Offenders cautioned for burglary.

Source: Home Office

Table 9.19

Offenders sentenced for indictable offences: by type of offence¹ and sentence,² 2004

England & Wales							Percentages
	Discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Fully suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Other	All sentenced (=100%) (thousands)
Theft and handling stolen goods	21	17	38	-	21	3	110.2
Drug offences	18	36	23	1	20	2	39.1
Violence against the person	10	9	46	1	31	3	39.3
Burglary	4	2	48	-	45	1	24.1
Fraud and forgery	17	15	41	2	23	2	18.0
Criminal damage	20	14	48	-	11	7	11.6
Motoring	4	33	33	1	28	1	8.2
Robbery	1	-	31	-	67	1	7.5
Sexual offences	5	4	29	1	59	2	4.8
Other offences	9	39	21	1	19	11	54.0
All indictable offences	15	23	33	1	24	4	316.9

1 See Appendix, Part 9: Types of offences in England and Wales.
 2 See Appendix, Part 9: Sentences and orders.

Source: Home Office

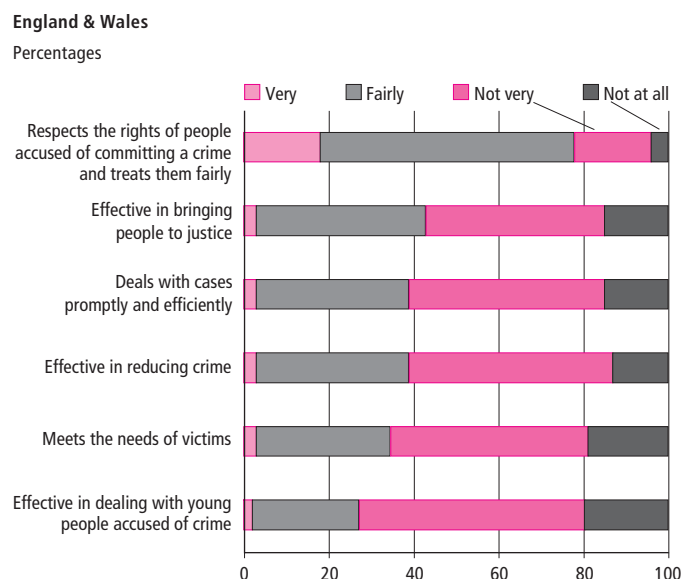
The proportion in the BCS who thought that sentencing was too lenient fell from just over a half in 1996 to just under a third in 2002/03 (32 per cent) but increased to 35 per cent in 2004/05. There was relatively little change in the proportion who thought that sentencing by the courts was about right, at around one in five people.

The BCS respondents were also asked about their confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS). In 2004/05, 78 per cent were confident that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly (Figure 9.20). Two thirds of people were confident that the CJS treats witnesses well. The least amount of confidence was with how effective the CJS was at dealing with young people accused of crime (72 per cent) and meeting the needs of victims (66 per cent). There was an increase in confidence of those who thought that the CJS was very or fairly effective at reducing crime, from 31 per cent in 2002/03 to 39 per cent in 2004/05.

Confidence in the CJS varies by ethnic group. People in the White group were more likely than those in the non-White groups to be confident that the CJS respects the rights of people accused of committing a crime and treats them fairly (White, 78 per cent; Asian, 76 per cent; Mixed, 69 per cent; Black, 67 per cent). In contrast, those in ethnic minority groups were more confident than the White group that the CJS was effective in bringing people to justice, was effective in reducing crime,

deals with cases promptly and efficiently, meets the needs of victims and was effective in dealing with young people. Only 26 per cent of the White group were confident in the way the CJS dealt with young people accused of crime, compared with around 40 per cent of the Asian, Black or Mixed ethnic groups.

Figure 9.20
Confidence in the criminal justice system, 2004/05



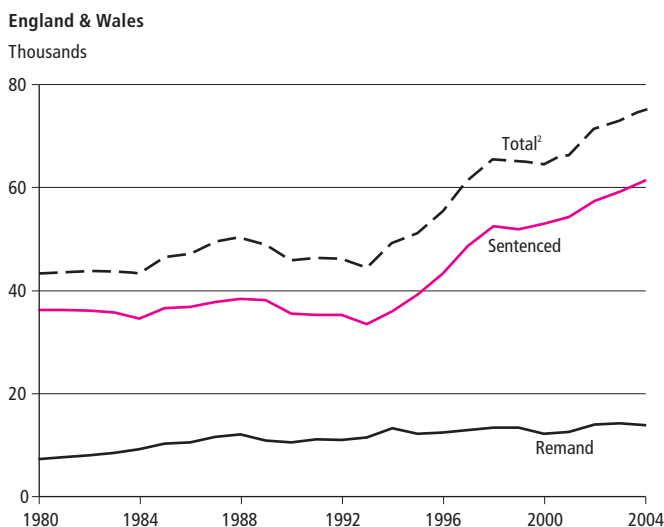
Source: British Crime Survey, Home Office

Prisons and probation

Prison is the usual and eventual destination for offenders given custodial sentences and those who break the terms of their non-custodial sentences. Sentenced prisoners are classified into different risk-level groups for security purposes. Women prisoners are held in separate prisons or in separate accommodation in mixed prisons. Young offenders receiving custodial sentences have traditionally been separated from adult offenders, enabling them to receive additional educational and rehabilitative treatment.

On 30 September 2005 the prison population was 77,307, with a further 251 people in secure training centres, and 249 in local authority children’s homes. The prison population in England and Wales was relatively stable in the 1980s and early 1990s (between 40,000 and 50,000). In the mid-1990s the prison population began to increase rising to nearly 75,000 by 2004, an increase of 67 per cent since 1993 (Figure 9.21). The number of sentenced prisoners increased by 83 per cent, while remand prisoners rose by 21 per cent over the same period. Remand prisoners comprised almost a fifth of the total prison population in 2004. In Scotland the prison population was stable from the mid-1990s until 2000/01 when it increased by 15 per cent from 5,883 to 6,779 in 2004. Northern Ireland’s prison population fell during the 1980s and 1990s to 910 in 2001. One of the reasons for this decrease was the implementation of the *Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998*, arising from the Good Friday Agreement. This Act resulted in 435 prisoners being released between 1998 and 2000. The number of prisoners in Northern Ireland has since increased by 40 per cent to 1,274 in 2004.

Figure 9.21
Average prison¹ population



1 Includes prisoners held in police cells.
2 Includes non-criminal prisoners.

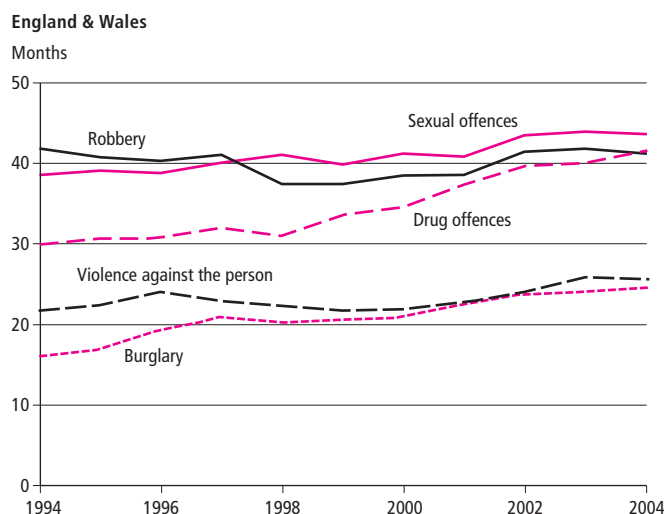
Source: Home Office

The young adult population (aged 18 to 20) in prisons in England and Wales was 8,689 at 30 September 2005, an increase of 2 per cent from September 2004. The population of 15 to 17 year olds increased by 8 per cent from 2,317 in September 2004 to 2,495 at 30 September 2005.

The increased prison population in England and Wales may be a result of the rise in the use of longer prison sentences. Between 1997 and 2003 sentences of four years and over (including life) have increased at a faster rate than shorter sentences of under 12 months. The proportionate increase has been much greater for females than males. The number of female adult prisoners serving sentences of at least four years (including life) rose by 96 per cent from 680 in 1997 to 1,340 in 2003, while the number of male adult prisoners serving this type of sentence increased by 38 per cent from 19,270 in 1997 to 26,530 in 2003. The number of male adult prisoners serving this type of sentence increased by 7 per cent, while the number of female adult prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months increased by 36 per cent.

Average custodial sentence lengths given by the Crown Court have increased from 20.1 months in 1994 to 26.5 months in 2004. The average length of custodial sentences given by the magistrates’ courts have been stable at around three months. This rise is driven by an increase in the duration of sentences for drug offences and burglary (Figure 9.22). Throughout the 1990s the highest sentence lengths at the Crown Court were for sexual offences and robbery. In 2004 the average sentence for drug offences was higher than that for robberies for the first time.

Figure 9.22
Average length of custodial sentence¹ at the Crown Court: by offence group



1 Excludes life sentences.

Source: Crown Court Sentencing Data, Home Office

White males made up 83 per cent of the male prison population of British nationals in England and Wales in 2003. Black males made up the next highest group (12 per cent), followed by Asian and Other (both 3 per cent). The female British prison population follows roughly similar proportions by ethnic group except for Asian females, who make up only 1 per cent of the female prison population.

Eligible prisoners who pass a risk assessment may be released overnight on temporary licence for precisely defined activities that cannot be undertaken in the prison. In 2004, 389,550 licences were issued, 18 per cent more than in 2003. Around 68 per cent of these licences (264,130) were connected with prisoners obtaining additional facilities, such as reparation, training and education and 'working out' schemes, which give prisoners experience of regular employment in the community. Just over 59,380 licences were for local visits, and 13,770 licences were granted for compassionate grounds (including medical visits).

On 31 December 2004, 83,410 people were under Probation Service supervision either before or after being released from prison, 4 per cent more than one year earlier; on this day, the Probation Service was supervising 209,470 people in total. Over 36,000 people started community sentences in England and Wales in the fourth quarter of 2004, while almost 12,000 people breached a community sentence during this period.

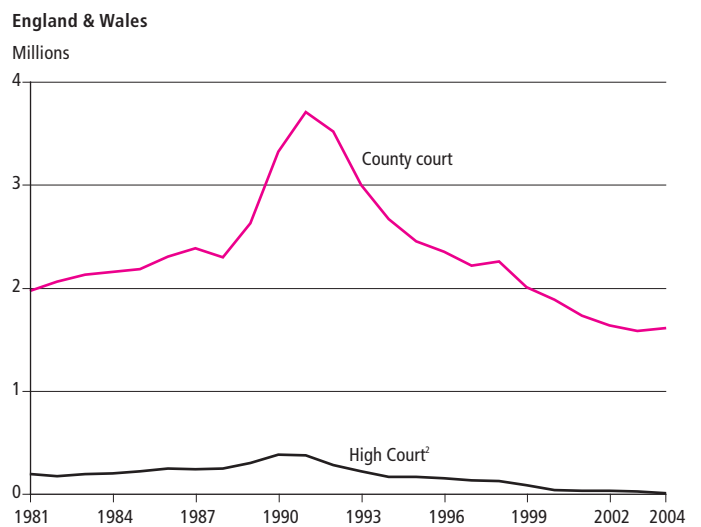
Civil justice

In England and Wales, individuals or a company can bring a case under civil law. The majority of these cases are handled by the county courts and the High Court in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and by the sheriff courts and the Court of Session in Scotland. The High Court and Court of Session deal with the more substantial and complex cases. Civil cases may include breach of contract, claims for debt, negligence and recovery of land. Tribunals deal with smaller cases, such as claims for unfair dismissal and disputes over social security benefits. Most tribunals deal with cases that involve the rights of private citizens against decisions of the State in areas such as social security, income tax and mental health. Some tribunals deal with other disputes, such as employment. In all, there are some 80 tribunals in England and Wales, together dealing with over 1 million cases a year.

Once a writ or summons claim has been issued, many cases are settled without the need for a court hearing. There has been an overall fall in the number of claims issued in county courts in England and Wales of 57 per cent since the 1991 peak to 2003, and this number stabilised in 2004 (Figure 9.23). The increase between 1988 and 2003, from 2.3 million to 3.7 million may be

Figure 9.23

Writs and summonses issued¹



¹ See Appendix, Part 9: Civil courts.

² Queen's Bench Division.

Source: Court Service

explained in part by the increase in lending as a consequence of financial deregulation. Money claims represented 86 per cent of the total in 2003.

In England and Wales the Legal Services Commission operates the Community Legal Service (CLS), which funds civil legal and advice services and civil representation. The type of practical help offered by the CLS includes legal help, help at court, mediation and representation on tribunals. Immigration, housing and welfare benefits make up about two thirds of the (non-family) matters handled by the CLS where legal help is offered.

Civil representation certificates are issued for non-family court proceedings (see Appendix, Part 9: Civil representation certificates). The area where most certificates were issued in 2004/05 was housing, followed by clinical negligence, and immigration and nationality. Almost three quarters of the certificates issued were for full representation. Just under three quarters of cases were made up of clinical negligence when investigative help, rather than full representation, was authorised. In these cases, extensive research is often necessary to establish whether there is a case to answer (Table 9.24 overleaf).

The areas that have seen the most notable increase in the number of certificates issued were housing (from 14 per cent in 1999/2000 to 47 per cent in 2004/05) and clinical negligence (from 8 per cent in 1999/2000 to 22 per cent in 2004/05). There was a large decrease in the number of certificates issued for personal injury, from 60 per cent of all certificates issued to 1 per cent.

Table 9.24

Certificates issued in civil non-family proceedings, 2004/05

England & Wales	Numbers		
	Investigative help	Full representation	Total certificates issued ¹
Housing	445	11,389	11,834
Clinical negligence	4,898	772	5,672
Immigration & nationality	5	1,851	1,856
Public law	136	839	975
Actions against the police ²	342	576	918
Community care	51	569	620
Consumer	133	430	563
Education	166	366	532
Debt	43	396	439
Personal injury	193	85	308
Mental health	15	160	175
Welfare benefits	3	95	98
Employment	6	82	88
Miscellaneous	163	1,145	1,308
Total	6,599	18,755	25,386

1 Includes 32 certificates issued for support funding.

2 Includes actions against the police and other arresting authorities.

Source: Legal Services Commission

Resources

A large share of expenditure on the Criminal Justice System has been traditionally spent on the police force. Full-time equivalent police officer numbers reached record levels, with 142,795 officers in England and Wales on 31 March 2005 (Table 9.25). This included 1,735 officers on secondment to the National Crime Squad, National Criminal Intelligence Service and central services. The Metropolitan Police Service is the largest force; it accounted for 22 per cent of all officers on 31 March 2005. Scotland had just over 16,000 police officers at 31 March 2005, and Northern Ireland had 7,500 police officers at 27 October 2005.

The Government sets employment targets for the recruitment, retention and progression of ethnic minority officers in England and Wales. These are intended to ensure that by 2009, forces will reflect their ethnic minority population. At 31 March 2005 there were 5,017 ethnic minority officers, representing 3.5 per cent of the total. This compares with 3.3 per cent on 31 March 2004 and 2.9 per cent on 31 March 2003. There were 30,162 female police officers in England on the 31 March

Table 9.25

Police officer strength:¹ by rank and sex, 2004/05

England & Wales	Numbers		
	Males	Females	All
ACPO ² ranks	204	23	227
Chief Superintendent	502	40	542
Superintendent	930	99	1,029
Chief Inspector	1,765	203	1,968
Inspector	6,192	746	6,938
Sergeant	17,982	2,704	20,686
Constable	85,057	26,347	111,404
All ranks	112,633	30,162	142,795
Police staff	27,270	44,733	72,003
Police community support officers	3,676	2,538	6,214
Traffic Wardens ³	730	551	1,281
Designated officers	680	453	1,133
Total police strength	144,988	78,438	223,426
Special constabulary ⁴	8,074	3,844	11,918

1 At 31 March 2005. Full-time equivalents. Includes staff on secondment to NCS, NCIS and central services. Includes staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Figures exclude British Transport Police.

2 Police officers who hold the rank of Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable or Assistant Chief Constable, or their equivalent.

3 Excludes local authority traffic wardens.

4 Headcounts.

Source: Home Office

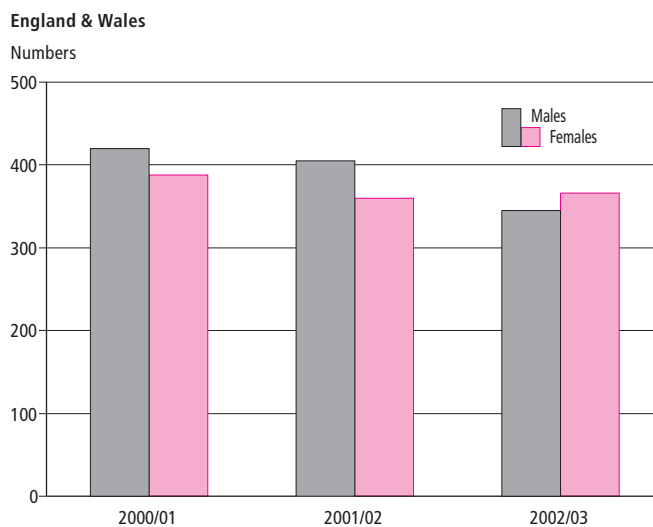
2005, representing 21 per cent of the total. One in ten officers at the rank of chief inspector and above were female compared with almost a quarter at the rank of constable.

In December 2004 there were 14,360 barristers in independent and employed practice in England and Wales, a 3 per cent increase from 2003. Nearly a third (32 per cent) were women compared with just over a quarter (26 per cent) in 1995. In 2004, 49 per cent of students called to the Bar were women. This compares with 32 per cent 20 years earlier. Not everyone called to the Bar practises in England and Wales. Some may be overseas students, others may follow a different career path.

Pupillage is the final stage of the route to qualification at the Bar, in which the pupil gains practical training under the supervision of an experienced barrister. Pupillage is divided into two parts: the non-practising six months during which pupils shadow their approved pupil supervisor and then the practising six months when pupils, with their supervisor's permission, can supply legal services and exercise rights of audience. All

barristers who are called to the Bar on or after 1 January 2002 and who intend to practise as a barrister in independent or employed practice must complete this 12 month pupillage. Pupillage numbers for England and Wales have declined since 2000/01 from 808 to 711 in 2002/03 (Figure 9.26). In 2002/03 pupillage numbers were higher for females than for males for the first time. Ten years ago 855 barristers commenced the first six months pupillage and within the past ten years these figures have fluctuated between a high of 916 and a low of 518.

Figure 9.26
Pupillage:¹ by sex



¹ A pupillage is the final stage of training to be a barrister and usually lasts one year. See Appendix, Part 9: Legal professionals.

Source: The Bar Council

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