

## Experience of Crime

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>General details</b> | British Crime Survey and local surveys                |
| <b>Area output</b>     | Depends on the number of responses to the survey      |
| <b>Time period</b>     | BCS reports annually, occasional local surveys        |
| <b>Source</b>          | Home Office (BCS) KMC for local surveys               |
| <b>Provider</b>        | Home Office and KMC                                   |
| <b>Comments</b>        | May be problems with data consistency between surveys |

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Police statistics provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes, and are an important indicator of police workload. However, many crimes are never reported to the police. A more reliable estimate of the experience of crime among the general population is obtained from the British Crime Survey (BCS). The BCS has been undertaken annually since 2001/2 and reports on information from 40,000 interviews with British residents aged 16 years and over.

1.2 Whilst the BCS information is reliable at the national level, it cannot provide reliable information for Kirklees. However, two surveys were undertaken in 2001 in Kirklees which asked about experience of crime. The CLICK Survey (Current Living in Calderdale and Kirklees) asked primarily about the health of the adult population but include some questions on crime. This survey obtained over 6,000 responses from Kirklees residents and provided reasonably reliable information at Area Committee and ward level. Another survey (The Kirklees Crime and Disorder Consultation) of about 1,900 residents was undertaken in October 2001 on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership to help with the development of the Community Safety Strategy.

### 2 National and Regional Figures

2.1 For the year 2003/4, the BCS estimated that 11.7 million crimes were experienced by residents in England and Wales. (This is more than twice as many crimes as those recorded by the police.) This represents a fall of 5% on the figures from the year before.

2.2 The proportion of crimes, that are reported to the police, varies according to the category of the crime. For example, 95% of vehicle thefts are reported to the police and 78% of burglaries where there was a loss, whereas less than a third of attempted vehicle thefts, common assaults and acts of vandalism are reported.

2.3 In the 9 British Crime Surveys since 1981, the number of incidents of crimes reported rose steadily to a peak in the 1995 survey of 19.3 million and since then has fallen, equally steadily, back to the current level.

**Table 1: Trends in BCS reported crimes 1999 to 2003/4 (thousands)**

| Crime                 | 1999   | 2001/2 | 2002/3 | 2003/4 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Vandalism             | 2,861  | 2,600  | 2,530  | 2,465  |
| Burglary              | 1,290  | 967    | 972    | 943    |
| All vehicle thefts    | 3,009  | 2,491  | 2,361  | 2,121  |
| Theft from the person | 636    | 603    | 689    | 622    |
| Common assault        | 2,322  | 1,722  | 1,699  | 1,654  |
| Wounding              | 650    | 648    | 708    | 655    |
| Robbery               | 406    | 356    | 302    | 283    |
| All crimes            | 15,009 | 12,601 | 12,319 | 11,716 |

2.4 Despite both the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime data showing falls in crime, 65% of respondents to the 2003-4 BCS thought crime had risen in the previous year, of whom 31% thought it had risen a lot.

2.5 BCS and recorded crime statistics present contrasting trends in violent crime. Whilst the BCS shows a large fall of 36% since a peak in 1995, violent crimes recorded by the police have risen. This can largely be explained by changes in the method of recording violent crime and by the increase in rates of reporting violent crime to the police.

### 3 Kirklees Figures

3.1 From the CLICK Survey, which was undertaken in early 2001, over 1100 respondents reported that they had been a victim of a crime within the previous 12 months.

**Table 2: Number of CLICK respondents who experienced crime within the last year**

| Area Committees | Yes  | Total responses |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| North Kirklees  | 478  | 2598            |
| South Kirklees  | 638  | 3672            |
| <b>Kirklees</b> | 1116 | 6270            |

3.2 This represents about 18% of all survey respondents from Kirklees, with a slightly higher proportion from North Kirklees than South Kirklees.

**Table 3: Percentage of CLICK respondents who experienced crime within the last year**

| Area Committees | Missing | Yes  | No   |
|-----------------|---------|------|------|
| North Kirklees  | 3.8     | 18.4 | 77.8 |
| South Kirklees  | 3.2     | 17.4 | 79.4 |
| <b>Kirklees</b> | 3.4     | 17.8 | 78.8 |

3.3 Whilst the numbers of respondents who experienced crime are small (and therefore less reliable) when broken down to 2004 ward boundaries, Table 4 shows that there is clearly a much greater risk of experiencing crime for residents of Dewsbury West and Greenhead wards than for residents of Kirkburton and Denby Dale wards.

**Table 4: Percentage of CLICK respondents who experienced crime within the last year by 2004 ward**

| Wards                       | Missing | Yes         | No   | Number |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|------|--------|
| Dewsbury West               | 4.5     | <b>24.9</b> | 70.6 | 55     |
| Greenhead                   | 4.4     | <b>23.2</b> | 72.3 | 63     |
| Heckmondwike                | 6.4     | <b>22.6</b> | 70.9 | 60     |
| Golcar                      | 2.4     | <b>21.8</b> | 75.8 | 63     |
| Crosland Moor and Netherton | 4.2     | <b>21.8</b> | 74.0 | 57     |
| Batley West                 | 3.9     | <b>20.5</b> | 75.6 | 53     |
| Mirfield                    | 3.7     | <b>20.2</b> | 76.1 | 66     |
| Cleckheaton                 | 3.0     | <b>19.6</b> | 77.4 | 52     |
| Almondbury                  | 2.8     | <b>19.1</b> | 78.0 | 54     |
| Newsome                     | 2.3     | <b>18.3</b> | 79.4 | 48     |
| Lindley                     | 3.0     | <b>18.0</b> | 79.0 | 55     |
| Holme Valley North          | 2.0     | <b>17.1</b> | 80.9 | 51     |
| Dalton                      | 3.6     | <b>16.9</b> | 79.4 | 42     |
| Ashbrow                     | 3.3     | <b>16.5</b> | 80.1 | 45     |
| Holme Valley South          | 2.8     | <b>16.2</b> | 81.0 | 52     |
| Dewsbury East               | 4.1     | <b>15.6</b> | 80.4 | 42     |
| Birstall and Birkenshaw     | 5.0     | <b>15.5</b> | 79.5 | 40     |
| Colne Valley                | 3.0     | <b>15.4</b> | 81.6 | 46     |
| Dewsbury South              | 2.7     | <b>15.3</b> | 82.0 | 34     |
| Batley East                 | 1.6     | <b>15.2</b> | 83.2 | 37     |
| Liversedge and Gomersal     | 2.6     | <b>14.6</b> | 82.8 | 39     |
| Denby Dale                  | 4.2     | <b>12.7</b> | 83.0 | 39     |
| Kirkburton                  | 3.5     | <b>9.0</b>  | 87.5 | 23     |
| <b>Kirklees</b>             | 3.4     | <b>17.8</b> | 78.8 | 1116   |

Missing = respondents who did not answer "yes" or "no".

3.4 With a greater risk experienced by residents of the Huddersfield Area Committee areas.

**Table 5: Percentage of CLICK respondents who experienced crime within the last year by Area Committee**

| Area Committees    | Missing | Yes  | No   |
|--------------------|---------|------|------|
| Huddersfield North | 3.5     | 19.2 | 77.2 |
| Huddersfield South | 3.2     | 19.1 | 77.7 |
| Spennings          | 4.0     | 18.9 | 77.1 |
| Dewsbury           | 3.8     | 18.4 | 77.8 |
| The Valleys        | 2.6     | 17.5 | 79.9 |
| Batley             | 3.6     | 17.1 | 79.3 |
| Agbrigg            | 3.8     | 14.4 | 81.8 |
| <b>Kirklees</b>    | 3.4     | 17.8 | 78.8 |

3.5 Table 6 gives the relative rates of experience of crime by crime category and Area Committee boundary. These are indicative figures only as the actual numbers for some of these crimes are small, for example the total number of incidences of domestic violence in Kirklees reported by CLICK respondents was 15. The table suggests that respondents from Agbrigg experienced a third less car crime than those in Huddersfield North and that the Valleys experienced 40% fewer burglaries.

**Table 6: CLICK respondent's experience of crime per 1000 responses by Area Committee**

| Area committees    | Burglary | Assault | Racial harassment | Robbery with violence | Domestic violence | Vandalism | Car crime | Shed/garage burglary | Robbery without violence | Other |
|--------------------|----------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Agbrigg            | 41.6     | 9.0     | 2.2               | 2.2                   | 1.1               | 28.1      | 60.7      | 10.1                 | 4.5                      | 3.4   |
| Batley             | 38.2     | 2.6     | 6.6               | 3.9                   | 0.0               | 31.6      | 85.5      | 17.1                 | 3.9                      | 11.8  |
| Dewsbury           | 39.3     | 8.4     | 8.4               | 8.4                   | 4.2               | 51.9      | 70.1      | 22.4                 | 4.2                      | 4.2   |
| Huddersfield North | 47.2     | 5.9     | 7.1               | 13.0                  | 1.2               | 37.7      | 90.8      | 9.4                  | 9.4                      | 4.7   |
| Huddersfield South | 41.7     | 5.7     | 3.8               | 11.4                  | 5.7               | 38.0      | 85.4      | 17.1                 | 10.4                     | 6.6   |
| Spenningsdale      | 51.4     | 5.0     | 3.8               | 5.0                   | 2.5               | 47.6      | 72.7      | 10.0                 | 7.5                      | 3.8   |
| The Valleys        | 33.1     | 6.6     | 1.7               | 10.8                  | 1.7               | 26.5      | 82.8      | 14.1                 | 8.3                      | 10.8  |
| <b>Kirklees</b>    | 41.3     | 6.2     | 4.5               | 8.1                   | 2.4               | 36.4      | 78.8      | 14.2                 | 7.2                      | 6.7   |

3.6 A crude comparison with the BCS figures suggests that the Kirklees rate of experiencing burglary of about 4% (from CLICK in 2001) is higher than the national figure of 3.4% from the 2001-2 BCS.

3.7 An even cruder comparison with the BCS figures suggests the Kirklees rate of experiencing car crime at about 9.5% of car-owning households compared with the national figure of 11.3% from the 2001-2 BCS.

(Note: The estimates above are crude because the categorisation of crimes and methods of obtaining information from respondents were different in the CLICK survey and the BCS.)

3.8 Figures from the Kirklees Crime and Disorder Consultation put the Kirklees rates for car crime and burglary a little higher than the CLICK survey, about 13.8% of respondents experiencing theft of or from a vehicle and about 4.8% experiencing a house burglary.

3.9 The available data do not allow a comparison of violent crime experienced in Kirklees with that experienced nationally. The CLICK survey recorded 39 assaults, 51 cases of robbery with violence, 28 cases of racial harassment and 15 cases of domestic violence among the 6,270 respondents within the previous year.

**Table 7: CLICK respondents reporting of a crime within the last year to the police by Area Committee.**

| Area Committees    | Yes  | No   |
|--------------------|------|------|
| Agbrigg            | 79.5 | 20.5 |
| Batley             | 81.6 | 18.4 |
| Dewsbury           | 74.6 | 25.4 |
| Huddersfield North | 80.0 | 20.0 |
| Huddersfield South | 83.2 | 16.8 |
| Spenningsdale      | 76.4 | 23.6 |
| The Valleys        | 74.3 | 25.7 |
| <b>Kirklees</b>    | 78.5 | 21.5 |

3.10 Responses from the CLICK survey, indicate that about 1 in 5 crimes experienced by Kirklees residents are not reported to the police. The BCS survey suggests that the national figure is around 1 in 2 crimes. Possibly the personal interview technique of the BCS identified

more crimes than the postal survey technique of CLICK. Batley Area Committee respondents were more inclined to report crime to the police than the Valleys respondents, although this may be more because of the nature of the crime (see 2.2) than the place of residence of the respondent.

3.11 Police recorded data do not fully capture the experience of crime by local residents. This can only be obtained from a representative survey in which there is consistent wording of questions about experience (and fear) of crime and a consistent definition of types of crime that respondents understand and ideally that can be cross-referenced back to police recorded crime categories.

3.12 The CLICK survey has been repeated, this time as CLIK2 in early 2005, and therefore data will soon be available to compare with some of the tables above.

#### 4 Links and further information

Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

Crime in England and Wales 2003/2004

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb1004.pdf>

Crime in England and Wales 2003/2004; Quarterly Update to December 2004

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb0705.pdf>

Outputs from British Crime Surveys

<http://www.crimestatistics.org.uk/output/Page109.asp>

Kirklees Crime and Disorder Audit 2004

Available from Kirklees Community Safety Unit

#### 5 Indicator archive

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Date of the original document  | June 2005  |
| Author                         | Steve Jones: KMC CDU                                 |
| Details of consultation        | Chris Walsh, Kirklees Community Safety,<br>June 2005 |
| Document update date           |  |
| Update author                  |  |
| Details of update consultation |  |