

Fear of Crime

General details	British Crime Survey and local surveys
Area output	Mostly Kirklees but some data available for wards and Area Committees
Time period	BCS reports annually, occasional local surveys
Source	Home Office (BCS) KMC for local surveys
Provider	Home Office and KMC
Comments	May be problems with data consistency between surveys

1 Introduction

1.1 The impact of crime reaches far beyond the victims of crimes. The fear of crime is acknowledged to be rational response to crime risk factors and something that can reduce the quality of life of those with higher levels of fear.

1.2 The fear of crime can be quantified by surveying a representative sample of the population and the evidence examined below comes from the British Crime Survey (for national figures) and local surveys undertaken in Kirklees.

1.3 The British Crime Survey (BCS) has been undertaken annually since 2001/2 (with occasional surveys starting in 1981) and reports on information from 40,000 interviews with British residents aged 16 years and over.

1.4 The local surveys which have provided information are:

- User Satisfaction Performance Indicator (USPI) survey 2003; 3,300 responses from a representative sample of residents, using methodology and questions directed by the ODPM.
- The CLICK Survey (Current Living in Calderdale and Kirklees) which asked primarily about the health of the adult population but included some questions on crime. This survey obtained over 6,000 responses from Kirklees residents and provides reasonably reliable information at Area Committee and ward level.
- The Kirklees Crime and Disorder Consultation (KCDC), a postal survey of about 1,900 residents which was undertaken in October 2001 on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership to help with the development of the Community Safety Strategy.

1.5 Whilst efforts are made to ensure that local surveys obtain accurate information, prominent local or national events may focus attention temporarily on crime and increase the fear of crime above normal levels.

1.6 Fear of crime is higher in certain groups of the population: these include women, older people and minority ethnic groups, together with groups who are statistically more likely to experience crime such as people who earn low incomes, those living in rented accommodation and previous victims of crime.

2 National and Regional Figures

2.1 Information from the British Crime Survey is considered to be very robust since the sample is very large (40,000), the methodology is sound (face-to-face interviews) and proven (11 surveys since 1981) and attitudes expressed are unlikely to be distorted by one-off events (interviews are held over the course of a year).

2.2 The fear of crime, as measured by the BCS has fallen steadily since 1998 in line with the reduction in the number of crimes recorded by the police and the number of crimes experienced by respondents to the BCS.

2.3 Table 1 below shows that the proportion of respondents who were very worried about burglary has fallen to 13%, those very worried about car crime to 15% and those very worried about violent crime to 16%.

Table 1: Fear of crime from the BCS 1998 to 2004, percentage very worried about:

	1998	2000	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4
Burglary	19	19	15	15	13
Car crime	22	21	17	17	15
Violent crime	25	24	22	21	16

2.4 The BCS also asks respondents whether they think levels of crime are rising. In the 2003-4 BCS, 65% of respondents thought crime had increased in the country as a whole which was down on the figure from the previous survey of 73%. The figures of those who thought crime levels had increased locally were lower, at 48% for 2003-4 and 54% for the previous year. Crime levels as measured by police records and BCS interviews actually fell during that period.

3 Kirklees Figures

3.1 The BCS is able to track trends in the fear of crime because it uses the same questions and methodology for its now annual surveys. In surveys of Kirklees residents different questions were asked to find out about fear of crime so it is difficult to establish trends or comparisons with national figures.

3.2 In the Kirklees Crime and Disorder Consultation (KCDC), which took place in 2001, respondents were asked how worried they were that a particular crime might happen to them. The figures for the proportion of respondents who were very worried are twice and three times as high as the equivalent figures from the BCS, for example the BCS reported 15% very worried about burglary and the Kirklees survey reported 51%.

Table 2: Respondents from the KCDC asked “How worried are you that this crime might happen to you in the future?”

	Not at all worried		Worried		Very worried	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Vandalism	212	14	614	42	634	43
Criminal damage	261	17	708	47	534	36
Theft from your vehicle	216	15	564	40	632	45
Violence in a public place	301	21	642	46	455	32
Burglary from your shed	297	24	513	42	421	34
Theft of your vehicle	226	16	588	42	588	42
Burglary from your house	171	11	590	38	780	51
Misuse of alcohol	389	35	472	43	245	22
Racial incidents	432	35	505	41	289	24
Burglary from your garage	305	25	480	40	411	34
Sale of drugs or alcohol	334	29	455	39	367	32
Misuse of 'soft' drugs (e.g. Cannabis)	405	38	397	21	255	24
Violence by a stranger	379	28	627	46	358	26
Robbery	249	17	646	44	575	39
Misuse of 'hard' drugs (e.g. Heroin)	381	35	395	36	319	17
Domestic violence	425	51	292	35	115	14
Violence by an acquaintance	503	49	379	37	145	14
Homophobic incident	412	48	343	40	102	12
Rape	385	35	444	40	281	25

3.3 The information in Table 3 suggests that the numbers in Table 2 are higher than expected. Despite 78% of respondents saying they are worried or very worried about violence in a public place, about 90% also said that they feel safe during the day in the nearest town centre or the local neighbourhood and 56% said they feel safe in the town centre in the evening.

Table 3: Respondents from the KCDC asked “How safe do you feel in your nearest town centre?”

	Not at all safe		Safe		Very safe	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
During the day	161	10	511	32	944	58
During the evening	596	44	532	39	238	17
In your neighbourhood	191	12	654	41	759	47

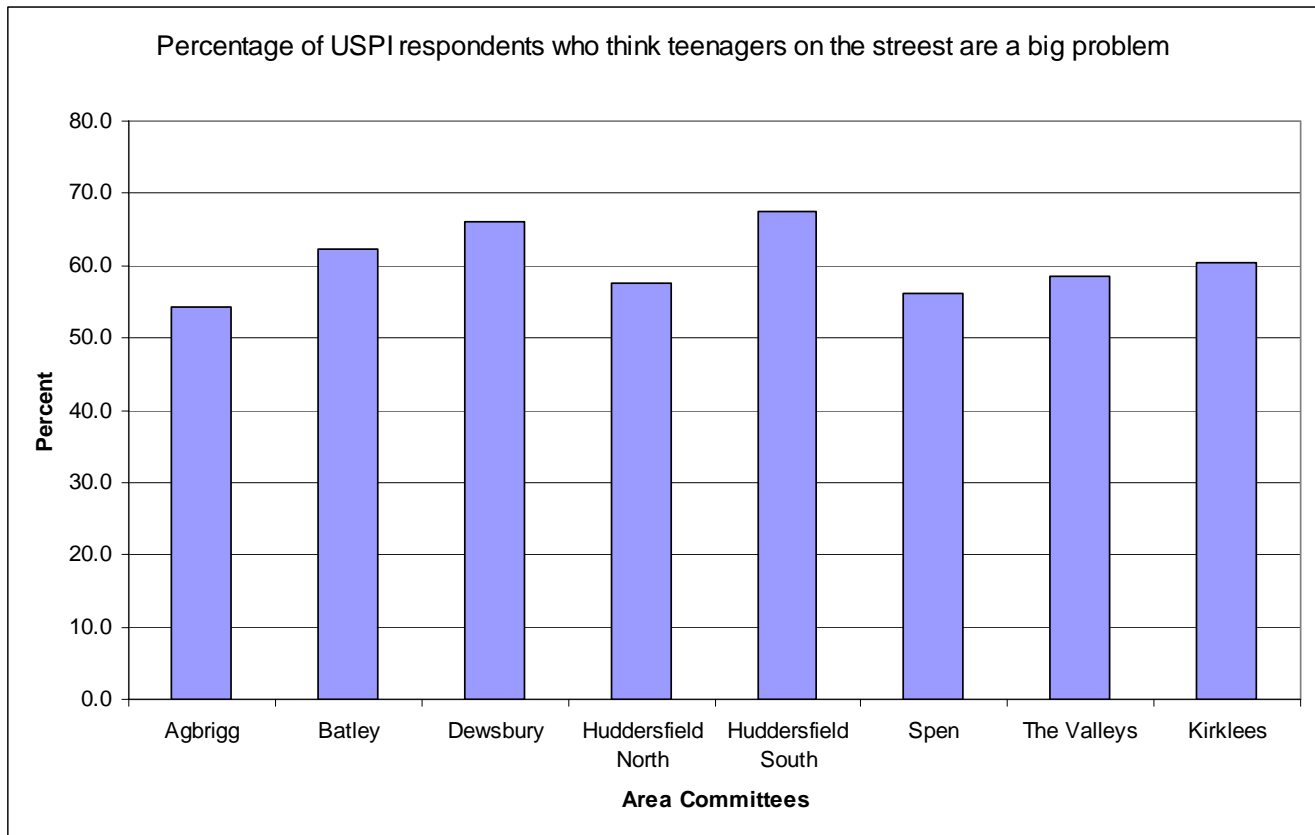
3.4 The KCDC also looked at fear of disorder incidents and Table 4 lists types of behaviour and the proportions of respondents who are worried about them. Again the figures look high with more people worried about litter (in Table 4) than about violence by a stranger (in Table 2).

Table 4: Respondents from the KCDC asked “How worried are you that this behaviour might happen to you in the future?”

	Not at all worried		Worried		Very worried	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Young people congregating in groups	246	17	504	36	655	47
Litter	303	22	549	40	535	39
Noise nuisance	412	31	519	39	402	30
Graffiti	382	31	503	41	353	28
Uncontrolled pets	420	36	459	39	302	26
Abandoned vehicles	473	40	471	40	232	20
Verbal abuse	456	37	493	40	267	22
Neighbour disputes	536	48	404	36	174	16
Aggressive begging	454	43	398	38	207	19
Harassment	511	41	501	40	231	19
Arson	511	46	427	38	174	16
Prostitution	493	52	324	34	122	13

3.5 It is probable that the method and the construction of the KCDC has inflated respondents fear of crime and this highlights the need for a consistent and methodologically sound way of collecting fear of crime in the future.

Figure 1: Teenagers as a problem by Area Committee



3.6 Young people congregating in groups are a major source of concern, as shown by Table 4. Relative perceptions of the problem by ward are shown by Table 5 using information from the User Satisfaction Performance Indicator Survey which was undertaken in 2003. Fewest respondents thought teenagers were a problem in the rural wards of Kirburton and Denby Dale. The highest (combined very/fairly big problem) figures were for Almondbury, Mirfield and Dewsbury East, and highest “very big problem” figures were in Dewsbury West and Dalton. The Area Committee with the highest figure was Huddersfield South.

Table 5: USPI perceptions of what is a problem in your area: Teenagers

	Very big problem	Fairly big problem	Big problem	Not a very big problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know
Wards						
Almondbury	31.9	40.4	72.3	18.1	6.0	1.2
Ashbrow	28.1	31.3	59.4	24.2	13.3	1.6
Batley East	35.2	26.9	62.0	19.4	13.9	0.9
Batley West	33.8	32.3	66.2	18.0	9.8	2.3
Birstall and Birkenshaw	29.3	29.9	59.2	27.4	7.6	2.5
Cleckheaton	20.1	35.4	55.6	31.3	9.7	2.1
Colne Valley	23.3	32.1	55.3	28.9	7.5	3.8
Crosland Moor and Netherton	30.5	31.9	62.4	22.0	9.9	2.8
Dalton	39.9	29.4	69.3	16.3	5.9	5.9
Denby Dale	10.5	37.5	48.0	34.2	11.2	3.3
Dewsbury East	33.3	36.7	70.1	18.4	7.5	0.7
Dewsbury South	28.2	33.3	61.5	20.5	12.8	1.7
Dewsbury West	37.1	28.4	65.5	22.4	7.8	1.7
Golcar	26.5	32.7	59.2	32.0	5.4	3.4
Greenhead	22.1	29.5	51.7	26.2	16.8	2.7
Heckmondwike	22.8	29.1	52.0	28.3	12.6	2.4
Holme Valley North	32.5	36.9	69.4	15.0	10.6	1.9
Holme Valley South	19.7	31.7	51.4	30.6	13.7	2.2
Kirkburton	13.6	27.1	40.7	35.7	18.6	2.1
Lindley	25.4	36.1	61.5	26.0	8.9	2.4
Liversedge and Gomersal	30.1	30.8	60.8	25.2	9.8	2.8
Mirfield	31.3	39.2	70.5	18.2	6.3	1.7
Newsome	28.2	35.9	64.1	19.7	12.0	1.7
Area Committees						
Agbrigg	19.2	35.0	54.3	28.6	11.5	2.4
Batley	32.4	29.9	62.3	22.1	10.1	2.0
Dewsbury	32.9	33.2	66.1	20.3	9.2	1.3
Huddersfield North	25.1	32.5	57.6	25.6	12.8	2.2
Huddersfield South	32.9	34.5	67.4	18.9	8.1	2.9
Spennings	24.4	31.9	56.3	28.3	10.6	2.4
The Valleys	25.3	33.3	58.6	24.7	9.6	2.8
Kirklees	27.3	27.3	60.4	24.4	10.2	2.4

3.7 Despite the reality of falling crime levels as measured both by crimes recorded by the police (with the exception of some violent crimes) and by the experience of crime reported in the British Crime Survey, the majority of residents of Kirklees think that crime levels have increased over the last three years. Of the other issues also measured in the USPI survey, from which this information is derived, only traffic congestion was deemed to have got worse by a larger proportion of the Kirklees population. Table 6 shows that this view was uniformly held throughout the district.

Table 6: USPI perceptions of the levels of crime over the last three years

Area Committees	No answer	Better	Stayed the same	Worse	Don't know
Agbrigg	4.7	1.5	22.9	59.8	11.1
Batley	3.3	3.8	24.4	59.8	8.8
Dewsbury	5.3	3.2	23.7	62.9	5.0
Huddersfield North	4.0	3.1	20.6	59.0	13.2
Huddersfield South	4.5	2.4	20.3	62.6	10.2
Spennings	4.8	1.2	18.8	63.5	11.6
The Valleys	4.2	1.5	24.0	57.3	12.9
Kirklees	4.4	2.3	22.1	60.5	10.7

3.8 The CLICK survey asked questions about a range of health and quality of life issues. The responses to the questions about fear of certain crimes are much closer to the BCS figures for the comparable year than those from the KDCDC, at least for being afraid “all of the time”.

Table 7:CLICK Survey responses: Afraid of the following crimes, Kirklees

	All of the time	Some of the time	All or some of the time
House burglary	18.3	56.6	74.9
Assault	5.3	33	38.3
Racial harassment	2	8.5	10.5
Robbery with violence	7.4	38.2	45.6
Vandalism	12.4	49.4	61.8
Car crime	16.2	50.5	66.7
Offered illegal drugs	3.2	9.5	12.7
Any crime	12.1	52	64.1

3.9 The CLICK survey obtained responses from over 6,000 Kirklees residents and it has been possible to break down the respondents by ward and Area Committee. While the figures are not particularly robust at ward level, they indicate where fear of crime might be most prevalent.

3.10 For example, Dewsbury West ward has levels of fear of crime, for all the listed crime categories that are well above the Kirklees average as does Ashbrow. In Kirkburton and Holme Valley South, fear of all crimes is particularly low. Residents of Batley West are particularly afraid of car crime and those of Batley East are particularly afraid of house burglary. Kirkburton and Holme Valley residents generally are least afraid of these crimes.

Table 8: CLICK survey, Afraid all the time of the following crimes by ward and Area Committee

Wards	House burglary	Assault	Racial Harassment	Robbery with violence	Vandalism	Car crime	Offered illegal drugs	Any crime
Almondbury	15.6	3.5	1.4	6.0	10.6	15.2	1.1	11.3
Ashbrow	26.1	8.8	4.4	14.3	16.5	18.8	4.0	15.4
Batley East	26.6	7.0	6.1	10.2	15.6	20.5	5.3	17.6
Batley West	23.3	5.4	2.7	7.4	20.9	24.8	3.9	14.3
Birstall and Birkenshaw	20.2	4.3	0.8	6.6	11.6	16.7	3.5	9.3
Cleckheaton	24.5	6.0	2.3	9.4	14.0	18.9	4.9	17.0
Colne Valley	12.4	3.7	0.7	6.7	11.0	15.1	5.0	9.4
Crosland Moor and Netherton	20.6	5.7	3.8	9.9	13.7	16.0	5.0	14.9
Dalton	22.2	7.3	2.0	10.5	16.5	18.5	4.0	16.5
Denby Dale	13.1	2.6	1.0	3.6	8.8	14.4	1.0	7.5
Dewsbury East	18.5	6.3	1.1	7.8	10.4	13.3	3.7	13.7
Dewsbury South	18.9	5.0	1.4	5.4	15.8	13.5	4.1	11.7
Dewsbury West	27.6	12.2	7.2	12.2	19.5	22.2	10.0	22.2
Golcar	17.3	6.2	0.7	6.2	13.1	16.3	1.0	13.8
Greenhead	20.7	6.6	4.8	10.0	12.9	18.5	2.6	12.2
Heckmondwike	17.0	5.7	2.6	6.8	12.8	17.7	3.4	14.0
Holme Valley North	16.4	6.4	0.0	9.0	14.0	14.7	3.3	12.4
Holme Valley South	8.1	2.2	0.0	3.1	5.3	10.0	1.2	5.6
Kirkburton	5.9	0.8	0.8	1.6	3.5	7.8	0.0	2.7
Lindley	18.7	4.6	1.0	8.5	9.5	15.7	1.3	7.2
Liversedge and Gomersal	18.3	3.0	0.7	4.9	9.0	10.8	1.5	9.7
Mirfield	17.1	3.4	0.9	3.7	10.4	15.3	2.4	10.4
Newsome	18.7	8.8	3.1	10.3	15.3	20.2	4.6	16.0
Kirklees	18.3	5.3	2.0	7.4	12.4	16.2	3.2	12.1
Area Committees	House burglary	Assault	Racial Harassment	Robbery with violence	Vandalism	Car crime	Offered illegal drugs	Any crime
Agbrigg	12.5	2.4	0.9	3.0	7.9	12.8	1.2	7.2
Batley	23.3	5.5	3.2	8.0	16.1	20.7	4.2	13.7
Dewsbury	21.5	7.7	3.1	8.4	14.9	16.1	5.8	15.7
Huddersfield North	21.7	6.6	3.3	10.8	12.9	17.6	2.6	11.4
Huddersfield South	19.2	6.3	2.6	9.1	13.9	17.5	3.6	14.6
Spennings	19.9	4.9	1.9	7.0	11.9	15.8	3.3	13.5
The Valleys	13.4	4.6	0.3	6.2	10.8	13.9	2.6	10.2
Kirklees	18.3	5.3	2.0	7.4	12.4	16.2	3.2	12.2

3.11 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

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