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## **Young People and Crime: Findings from the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey**

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# Acknowledgements

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# Summary

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This report presents the first findings from the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS). It focuses on levels and trends in youth offending, anti-social behaviour and victimisation among young people aged from 10 to 25 living in the general household population in England and Wales. The survey does not cover young people living in institutions, including prisons, or the homeless, and thus omits some high offending groups.

## ***Extent of offending – Chapter 2***

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the extent of offending in those crimes covered by the survey and the proportion of young people who have committed these offences in the last 12 months. In addition, it examines levels of serious and frequent offending, identifies the proportion of crime accounted for by frequent offenders, and the proportion of young people who in the last 12 months have committed other offences covered in the survey, e.g. carried weapons (knives or guns), handling stolen goods and racially/religiously motivated assaults.

- Three-quarters (75%) of young people had not offended in the last 12 months. Of the 25 per cent that committed at least one of the offences in the last 12 months, many had offended only occasionally or committed relatively trivial offences. The proportion of young people committing an offence remained stable across all three waves of the survey. This pattern held for frequent and serious offenders.
- The most commonly reported offence categories were assault (committed by 16%) and other thefts (11%). Criminal damage, drug selling offences and vehicle-related thefts were less common and burglary and robbery were relatively rare at one per cent or less.
- Males were more likely to have offended in the last 12 months than females (30% compared to 21% respectively). For males the prevalence of offending peaked among 16- to 19-year-olds, whilst for females the prevalence peaked earlier at age 14 to 15.
- Seven per cent of all young people were classified as frequent offenders, i.e. they had committed an offence six or more times in the last 12 months. This group was responsible for the vast majority (83%) of all offences measured in the survey.
- Thirteen per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds had committed at least one of the serious offences measured. The majority (71%) of serious offenders had committed an assault resulting in injury and no other serious offence. One per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds had frequently committed serious offences (i.e. committed serious offences six or more times in the last 12 months) and were classified as frequent serious offenders.
- The proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds who said they had physically attacked someone because of their skin colour, race or religion (racially/religiously motivated assault) in the last 12 months was relatively low, at less than one per cent. The level of racially/religiously motivated assaults has remained stable between the 2004 and 2005 waves of the survey.
- Overall, four per cent of young people had carried a knife in the last 12 months. Males were significantly more likely than females to have carried a knife (5% versus 2%). Of the



four per cent that had carried a knife, over eight in ten (85%) said the reason for doing so was for protection and nine per cent said it was in case they got into a fight.

- One-fifth (20%) of 12- to 25-year-olds had handled (bought or sold) stolen goods in the last 12 months. Seven per cent had sold stolen goods and 19 per cent had bought stolen goods. The levels of handling stolen goods for 12- to 25-year-olds have remained stable between 2004 and 2005. This pattern held for both selling and buying stolen goods.

### ***Characteristics of offenders – Chapter 3***

Risk factors associated with offending (including serious and frequent offenders) for different age groups are presented in this chapter. In addition it examines the overlaps of committing offences and anti-social behaviour; offending and drug use; and offending and personal victimisation.

- For 10- to 15-year-olds the particular attributes that were independently statistically associated and showed the strongest association with committing an offence were: committing anti-social behaviour; being a victim of personal crime; being drunk once a month or more; having friends/siblings in trouble with the police; and taking drugs. Similar factors were found for serious and frequent offending.
- For 16- to 25-year-olds the particular attributes that were independently statistically associated and showed the strongest association with committing an offence were: being a victim of personal crime; committing anti-social behaviour; taking drugs; having friends/siblings in trouble with the police; and being more likely to agree criminal acts are OK. Again for frequent and serious offending, similar factors were found to be strongly associated.

### ***Contact with the criminal justice system – Chapter 4***

This chapter focuses on the extent to which offenders and offences are dealt with by the police and the courts.

It is well established that the proportion of offences that result in a criminal justice sanction is low. Some offences may never become known to anyone and of those that are known about not all are reported to the police. Furthermore, many offences that are known to the police do not result in the offender being detected.

- In the last 12 months, four per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds had been arrested, two per cent had been to court accused of committing a criminal offence and one per cent had been given a community/custodial sentence or fine. The general levels of contact with the criminal justice system were similar between the survey waves (there were no significant changes).
- Young people who committed an offence in the last 12 months were significantly more likely than those who had not offended in the last 12 months to have been arrested, taken to court or have been given a fine, community or custodial sentence. Just under one in ten (8%) of those who said they had offended in the last 12 months reported that they had been arrested in the same period, while one in twenty offenders (5%) had been to court.
- Thirteen per cent of young people who had offended in the last year said the police had spoken to them about at least one of the offences they had committed in the last 12

months, although not necessarily arrested them. Three per cent said they had appeared in court or were due to appear in court, and two per cent had been convicted of an offence.

- Violent offences were the offences most likely to result in the respondent having contact with the police.

### ***Anti-social and other problem behaviours – Chapter 5***

Levels of anti-social behaviour and other problem behaviours are presented including associated risk factors. Anti-social behaviour as measured by the OCJS covers: being noisy or rude in a public place so that people complained or the individual got into trouble with the police; behaving in a way that resulted in a neighbour complaining; graffiti in a public place; threatening or being rude to someone because of their race or religion.

- Over three quarters (77%) of young people had not committed at least one of the four anti-social behaviours in the last 12 months. Of the 23 per cent who had committed anti-social behaviour, most had only done so once or twice.
- The proportions of young people committing each of the four anti-social behaviours, and the proportion committing at least one, were stable across the three waves of the survey. This was true for both males and females and for both 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds.
- Similar to offending, males were significantly more likely than females to have committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months; 10- to 17-year-olds were more likely than 18- to 25-year-olds to have committed anti-social behaviour.
- For both age groups (10- to 15-year-olds and 16- to 25-year-olds) the factors that were independently strongly associated with committing anti-social behaviour were: committing an offence; having friends/siblings in trouble with the police; and taking any drug. For 10- to 15-year-olds, perceiving their parents to have poor parenting skills was also strongly associated, while for 16- to 25-year-olds, being highly impulsive was strongly associated. These results are similar to those found for offending.

### ***Personal victimisation – Chapter 6***

The extent and nature of personal victimisation among young people is presented in this chapter together with the associated risk factors. Crimes included in the definition of personal victimisation are robbery, theft from the person, other personal thefts, assault with injury and assault without injury.

- Just over a quarter (27%) of young people had been the victim of personal crime in the last 12 months. The most common forms of victimisation were assault without injury (11%) and other personal thefts (9%). Overall levels of victimisation remained stable across the three waves of the survey.
- 10- to 15-year-olds were more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to have been victims of personal crime in the last 12 months. However the majority of incidents against 10- to 15-year-olds happened at school, perpetrated by pupils or friends and seen by the victims as 'something that happens' and 'wrong but not a crime'. The most common forms of

victimisation for both age groups (10- to 15-year-olds and 16- to 25-year-olds) were assault without injury (11%) and other personal thefts (9%).

- For 10- to 15-year-olds the factors most strongly independently associated with being a victim of personal crime were: committing an offence, being male and identifying one or more disorder problem in their area. For 16- to 25-year-olds committing an offence, having a negative attitude towards their local area and not trusting the police were the most strongly associated factors.

***Table numbering***

Smaller tables are included within the body of the text in chapters (e.g. Tables 2a, 2b). Larger tables are found at the end of chapters (e.g. Tables 2.1, 2.2) or in Appendices (e.g. Tables A.1, A.2).

# 1 Introduction

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This report presents the first findings from the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS). It focuses on levels and trends in youth offending, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and victimisation among young people aged from 10 to 25 living in the general household population in England and Wales. Comparisons are made, where relevant, with the results from the 2004 and 2003 waves of OCJS.

## AIMS OF THE SURVEY

Self-report offending surveys, such as the OCJS, are primarily designed to provide a better measure of the extent and nature of offending than can be obtained through official records.

Data from the criminal justice agencies only provide a partial measure of offending because many offenders (and offences) are never formally processed. Moreover, most official data sources do not allow examination of the criminal careers of individual offenders. Two exceptions to this are the Home Office's Offenders Index and the Police National Computer, both of which allow access to criminal conviction histories.<sup>1</sup>

Self report offending surveys ask people directly about their offending. Such surveys therefore include offenders and offences that are not dealt with by the criminal justice system and also enable patterns of offending and the factors associated with different forms of offending behaviour to be examined. However there are some limitations and key methodological issues that need to be considered in interpreting the findings presented in this report. These are described in Box 1.1 below.

## THE OFFENDING, CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY DESIGN

The 2005 OCJS sample comprised respondents who had previously been interviewed<sup>2</sup> in 2003, 2004 or both and a fresh sample of 10- to 25-year-olds. Eighty-four per cent of those first interviewed in 2003 and 82 per cent from those first interviewed in 2004 were interviewed in 2005 giving a total 'panel' sample of 4,421 people (4,164 were aged from 10 to 25 at the time of the 2005 interview). A total of 816 new respondents aged from 10 to 25 (70% response rate) were added to give an overall sample size of 4,980 aged from 10 to 25. Appendix B provides further information on the design of the survey.

The results presented in this report have been weighted to be nationally representative. Trends over time are based on the fresh sample data only to ensure direct comparability with previous waves of the survey.

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<sup>1</sup> The Offenders Index holds information on those individuals convicted of standard list offences since 1963. It is an established system for obtaining data on criminal histories but holds very little socio-demographic information. With the co-operation of the Police Information Technology Organisation, access to a wider range of data on criminal histories and offenders is available through the Home Office Police National Computer. Further details are available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offenderindex1.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Panel respondents were interviewed, where possible, in the same month as their previous interview. If this was not possible, for example because they were unavailable, they were interviewed in subsequent months.

### **Box 1.1 Key methodological issues**

The OCJS was designed to take on board lessons from previous self-report offending surveys and incorporates some innovative techniques to improve the quality of the data collected. However, it is subject to the following design and methodological issues which should be considered when interpreting the findings:

**Sampling error** – based on a sample of the general household population aged from 10 to 25, estimates are subject to sampling error. This means that results obtained may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population of 10- to 25-year-olds had been interviewed. Statistical theory enables the calculation of the degree of error. Throughout this report differences between groups are statistically significant at the five per cent level (i.e. the level at which there is a one in twenty chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance) unless otherwise specified.

**Non-response bias** – despite the high response rate (83% for the panel sample; 70% for the fresh), it may be that non-respondents differ in key respects to those who took part. For example, those with particularly chaotic lifestyles might be difficult to contact and more likely to refuse.

**Accuracy of responses** – the survey is designed to provide information that is as accurate as possible, e.g. by using self-completion (CASI) for more sensitive questions, and audio-CASI to assist those with literacy problems. However the accuracy of information obtained through all surveys depends on respondents' ability to understand questions, their ability to recall events accurately, and their willingness to provide complete honest and accurate responses. These factors may vary across different groups. Respondents were asked at the end of the interview how honest they had been when asked about offending and drug use; 98 per cent said they answered all or most offending questions honestly.

**Exclusions from the sample** – people in institutions (including prisons), or who are homeless are not covered in the OCJS sample. The results therefore relate to the general household population aged from 10 to 25 only. As such, and because of the limited sample size, there will be relatively few 'serious' offenders included in the sample.

**Offence coverage** – the survey does not cover all offences. In particular very serious offences including homicide and sexual offences are omitted. The main focus of the OCJS was on the 20 core offences, and the wording of these questions was carefully considered to reflect legal definitions in simple, understandable language which was suitable for a survey including respondents aged as young as ten.

## 2 Extent of offending

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This chapter examines the extent and trends of offending among young people in the general household population aged from 10 to 25. The focus is on the 20 core offences that are covered in most detail in the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey. Information about other offences which are included in the survey but in less detail, i.e. handling stolen goods, carrying weapons and racially/religiously motivated assault, are also presented in this chapter.

The 20 core offences are grouped into the following offence categories:

### Property related offences

- **Burglary:** domestic burglary; commercial burglary.
- **Vehicle-related thefts:** theft of a vehicle; theft of parts off outside of a vehicle; theft of items inside a vehicle; attempted theft of a vehicle; attempted theft from a vehicle.
- **Other thefts:** theft from place of work; theft from school; theft from shop; theft from the person; miscellaneous thefts.
- **Criminal damage:** damage to a vehicle; damage to other property.

### Violent offences

- **Robbery:** robbery of an individual; robbery of a business.
- **Assault:** assault resulting in injury; non-injury assault.

### Drug selling

- **Selling drugs:** selling Class A drugs; selling other drugs.

Although the core offences all pertain to legal offences, some of the incidents reported to interviewers, while technically illegal, will be relatively minor transgressions (e.g. a low value theft from the workplace or a child stealing a small item from school).<sup>3</sup> It is less likely that such incidents will come to police attention and those which do may not result in a formal sanction.

Where the term 'offender' is used throughout this report, it refers to young people who have committed at least one of the 20 core offences.

In order to distinguish between young people who occasionally transgress and those who may have more problematic patterns of offending, this chapter also identifies frequent offenders and those committing more serious offences.

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<sup>3</sup> There is value in collecting information about lower level offending or offending which is less likely to be detected by the police. Exploring the full range of offending behaviour can throw light on what differentiates serious and frequent offenders.

**Frequent offenders** - those young people who committed six or more offences, including the less serious, in the last 12 months.<sup>4</sup>

**Serious offences** include the following<sup>5</sup>:

theft of a vehicle

burglary

robbery

theft from the person

assault resulting in injury

selling Class A drugs

**Frequent serious offenders** – those young people who had committed a serious offence at least six times in the last 12 months.

## **EXTENT OF OFFENDING IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS**

Respondents were asked about offending in the 12 months prior to interview (interviews took place between January and October 2005).<sup>6</sup>

- A quarter (25%) of young people aged from 10 to 25 said they had committed at least one core offence in the last 12 months.
- The most commonly reported offence categories were assault (committed by 16%) and other thefts (11%). Criminal damage, drug selling offences and vehicle-related thefts were less common (4%, 4% and 2% respectively). Only one per cent or less had committed burglary or robbery in the last 12 months (Figure 2.1).
- Table 2.1 gives more detailed figures for the individual offence types. Within the other theft category, thefts from the workplace and from school were most common (4% and 5% respectively). The selling of non-Class A drugs was more common than the selling of Class A drugs (3% and 1% respectively).

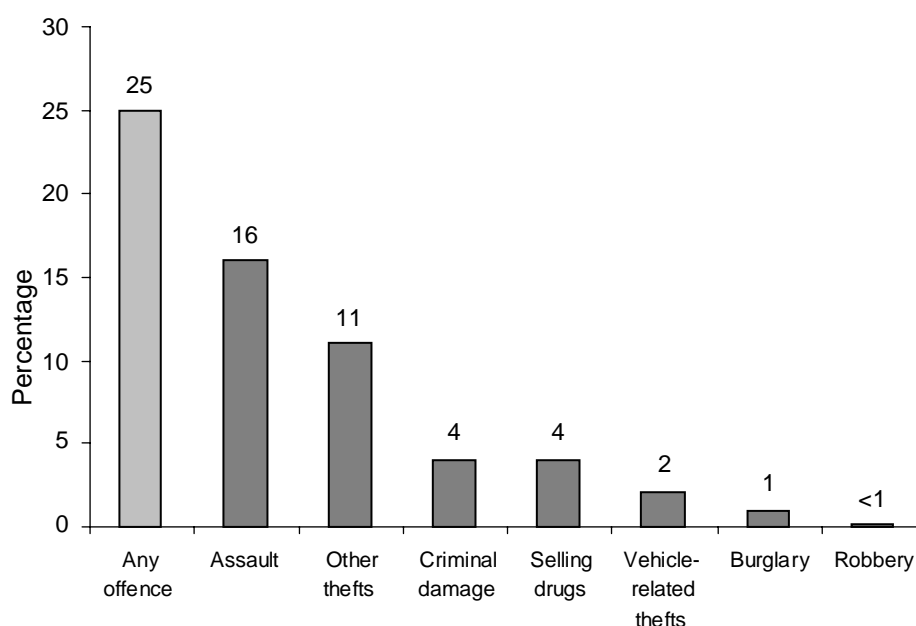
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<sup>4</sup> The decision to use six or more offences to define frequent offenders was based on the need to have a cut-off that differentiated offenders while also ensuring there were a sufficient number of frequent offenders for subsequent analysis.

<sup>5</sup> These were defined as serious based on the general nature of the offence compared with other offence types covered in the survey. Some distinctions are relatively straightforward (e.g., assault resulting in injury being more serious than assaults with no injury), while others are more a matter of judgement (e.g. thefts involving confrontation with a person or deliberately gaining entry to a property being more serious than thefts of items from public places).

<sup>6</sup> The majority (81%) of interviews took place between January and April 2005; therefore, for most respondents the offending reference period ranges from January 2004 to April 2005.

**Figure 2.1 Proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds committing an offence in last 12 months, 2005 OCJS**

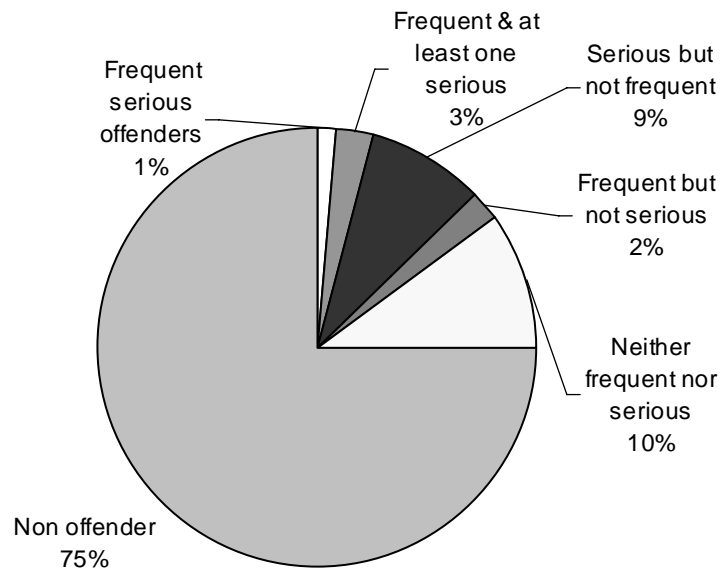


- Among the quarter of young people who had committed a core offence in the last 12 months, half (51%) reported committing a **serious offence** (assault with injury, theft from a person, theft of a vehicle, burglary, selling Class A drugs or robbery). This equates to 13 per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds.
- The majority (71%) of serious offenders had committed an assault resulting in injury and no other serious offence. The types of injury included in these assaults varied from minor bruising and scratches to more serious injuries.
- Totalling up offending for all offence types shows that many young people who had committed an offence had offended on only a few occasions. Almost a third (31%) of young people who reported offending said they had only committed one offence in the last 12 months; and a further 28 per cent had committed two or three offences. However, almost a third (31%) of offenders (equating to 7% of all 10- to 25-year-olds) reported committing six or more offences in the last 12 months and were classified as **frequent offenders** (Table 2.2).
- Within offence types, repeat offending was particularly common for the selling of drugs. Among the four per cent of young people who said they had sold drugs in the last 12 months, 82 per cent had done so more than once, with 41 per cent reporting doing so six or more times. Frequent offending was also relatively common for thefts from work, shop theft and assault without injury (of those who had committed these offences, 17%, 16% and 15% respectively had done so six or more times in the last 12 months) (Table 2.2).
- There is some overlap between these groups of **serious** and **frequent** offenders. Three per cent of young people had committed at least one but less than six serious offences and offended six or more times, including less serious offences. One per cent had frequently committed serious offences (i.e. committed serious offences six or more times in the last 12 months) and were classified as **frequent serious offenders**. Nine per cent had committed a serious offence but had offended less than six times, while two per cent



had offended more than six times but had only committed less serious offences. A further ten per cent had only committed less serious offences and committed these less than six times. The large majority (75%) had not offended at all (Figure 2.2).

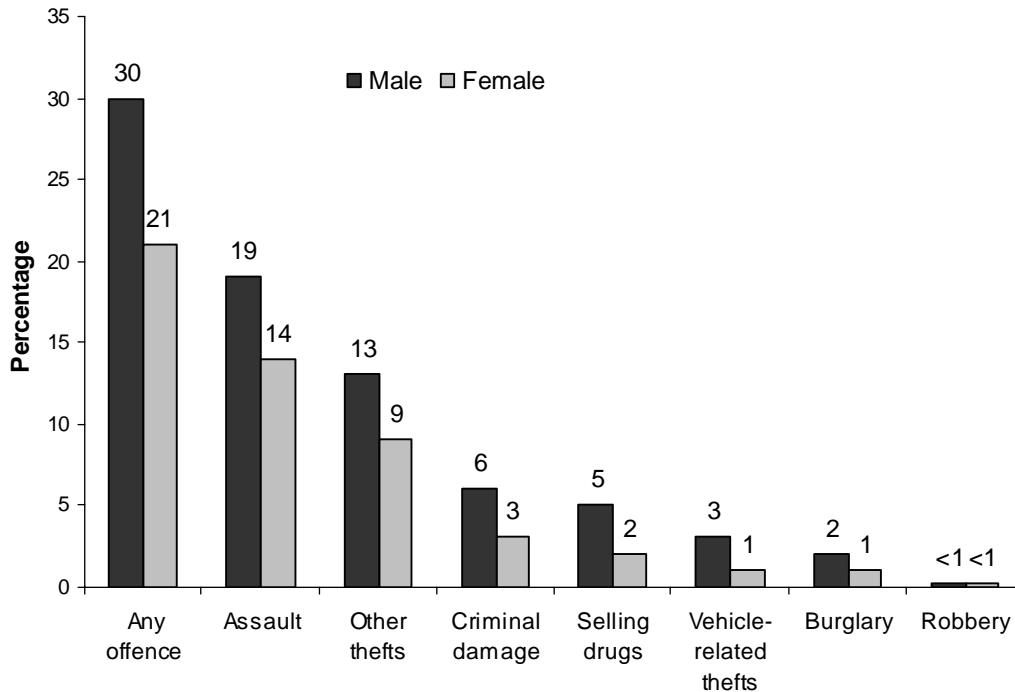
**Figure 2.2 Offending status of young people aged from 10 to 25, 2005 OCJS**



## Offending in last 12 months, by sex and age patterns

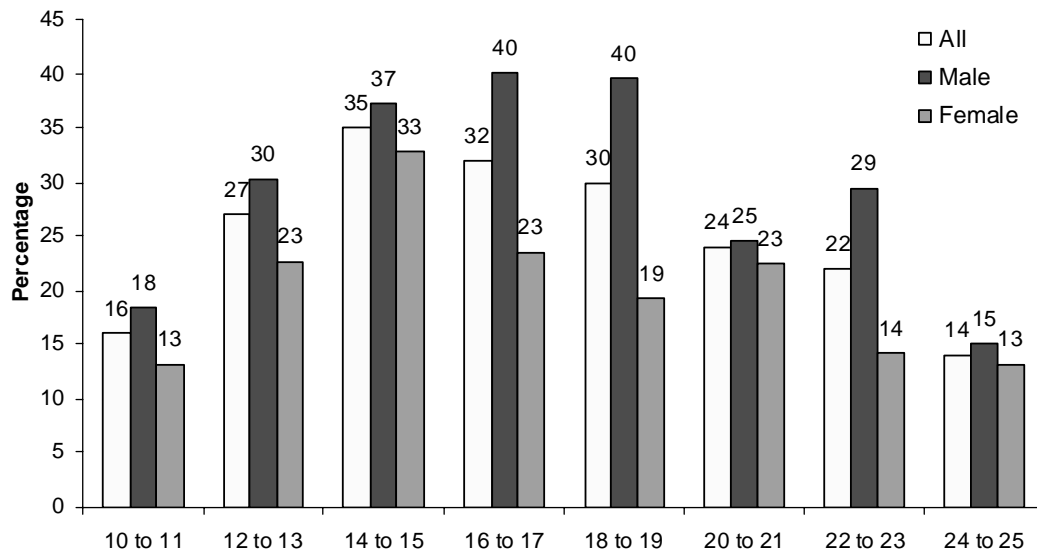
- Males were more likely to have offended in the last 12 months than females. Nearly a third (30%) of males had committed at least one of the core offences, compared with a fifth (21%) of females. This pattern held across almost all offence categories (with the exception of robbery), with males being significantly more likely to have committed each offence type than females (Table 2.1; Figure 2.3).

**Figure 2.3 Proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds committing offence in last 12 months, by sex, 2005 OCJS**



- Overall, 14 per cent of males aged from 10 to 25 said they had committed a serious offence; nine per cent were classified as frequent offenders and two per cent as frequent serious offenders. These figures were significantly lower for females (11%, 4% and 1% respectively) (Table 2a).
- Male offenders were also more likely to report offending frequently. A third (33%) of male offenders said they had offended six or more times in the last 12 months compared with 24 per cent of female offenders. The apparent difference between males and females in the proportions of offenders classified as serious offenders (50% compared with 54%) was not statistically significant (Table 2.3).
- For males the prevalence of offending peaked among 16- to 19-year-olds. Forty per cent in this age group had reported committing one or more of the core offences (significantly higher than among males aged under 14 and those aged 20 or more). Levels of serious offending peaked among males aged from 18 to 19 (22%), whilst levels of frequent offending were more spread out across the different age groups (Figure 2.4).
- Female offending peaked earlier than male offending, at age 14 to 15. A third (33%) of females in this age group had offended, a significantly higher proportion than in other age groups (Figure 2.4).

**Figure 2.4 Proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds committing an offence in last 12 months, by age, 2005 OCJS**



- The higher offending rates for males compared with females held for most age groups. Similarly, in most age groups males were more likely than females to have committed a serious offence (although the only differences that were statistically significant were for 16- to 17-year-olds and for 18- to 19-year-olds, due to sample size limitations). A similar pattern was also seen for frequent offending (Table 2a).
- Among both 10- to 17- year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds, males were significantly more likely to have offended than females for most offence categories (Table 2.4).

**Table 2a Proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds offending in the last 12 months, by age and sex**

						2005 OCJS
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Offender</i>	<i>Serious offender</i>	<i>Frequent offender</i>	<i>Serious and frequent offender</i>	<i>Frequent serious offender</i>	<i>Unweighted base</i>
<b>Males</b>	<b>*30</b>	<b>*14</b>	<b>*9</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>2,274</b>
10 to 11	18	7	3	3	1	115
12 to 13	*30	16	6	5	2	446
14 to 15	37	19	12	9	3	456
16 to 17	*40	*18	*13	*9	*4	381
18 to 19	*40	*22	*12	*10	2	309
20 to 21	25	9	6	3	1	230
22 to 23	*29	11	*12	4	1	176
24 to 25	15	10	*5	3	1	161
<b>10 to 17</b>	<b>*32</b>	<b>*15</b>	<b>*9</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>1,398</b>
<b>18 to 25</b>	<b>*28</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>*9</b>	<b>*5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>876</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,367</b>
10 to 11	13	9	3	2	1	90
12 to 13	23	12	4	3	1	376
14 to 15	33	16	8	6	2	423
16 to 17	23	10	4	3	<1	409
18 to 19	19	10	3	2	2	357
20 to 21	23	14	8	4	2	217
22 to 23	14	9	4	2	0	240
24 to 25	13	6	<1	<1	0	255
<b>10 to 17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>18 to 25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,069</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,641</b>

Notes:

1. Unweighted base varies slightly for each 'definition' due to different levels of 'don't know' responses.
2. \* indicates the figure for males is significantly higher than for females in the same age group.

## Estimated number of offenders

By applying the OCJS estimates of the prevalence of offending to population figures for England and Wales<sup>7</sup> it is possible to estimate the number of young offenders in the general household population. As these estimates are based on a sample of the population of interest, they are subject to sampling error – that is the sample estimate may differ from figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. Tables 2b and 2c present the results with the 95 per cent confidence intervals – i.e. there is a one in twenty chance that the true population figure is outside this range.

- It is estimated that 2.8 million (95% CI 2.6m to 2.9m) young people aged between 10 and 25 in the general household population had committed at least one of the core offences in the last 12 months; 1.8 million young people had committed a violent offence (over half of

<sup>7</sup> The estimated population aged from 10 to 25 in 2005 is 11,041,500 (Office for National Statistics mid-year 2005 population estimates).

which involved assault without injury); 1.5 million a property offence and 0.4 million a drug selling offence (Table 2b). Included in this are 0.5 million frequent *and* serious (i.e. committed at least one serious offence and offended six or more times, including less serious offences). Within this latter group 0.2 million were frequent serious offenders – committing a serious offence six or more times in the last 12 months (Table 2b).

**Table 2b Estimated number of young offenders (aged from 10 to 25) in England and Wales**

<i>Number</i>	2005 OCJS		
	Estimated number of offenders ( <i>in millions</i> )		
	Mid	Lowest	Highest
<b>All last year offenders</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Violent offender	1.8	1.7	1.9
Property offender	1.5	1.3	1.6
Drug dealing offender	0.4	0.3	0.5
Serious offender, not frequent	0.7	0.6	0.8
Frequent offender, not serious	0.3	0.2	0.3
Frequent and serious	0.5	0.4	0.5
Frequent serious offender	0.2	0.1	0.2

Notes:

1. 95 per cent confidence intervals presented. Uses Office for National Statistics mid-year 2005 population estimates.

- An estimated 1.6 million 10- to 17-year-olds and 1.2 million 18- to 25-year-olds had committed an offence in the last 12 months in England and Wales. It is also estimated that 1.7 million males and 1.1 million females had committed an offence. Table 2c gives the full results including 95 per cent confidence intervals.

**Table 2c Estimated number of young offenders (aged from 10 to 25) in England and Wales by age and sex**

<i>Age and Sex</i>	2005 OCJS		
	Estimated number of offenders ( <i>in millions</i> )		
	Mid	Lowest	Highest
10 to 17	1.6	1.4	1.7
18 to 25	1.2	1.1	1.3
Males	1.7	1.5	1.8
Females	1.1	1.0	1.2
<b>All last year offenders</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>

Notes:

1. 95 per cent confidence intervals presented. Uses Office for National Statistics mid-year 2005 population estimates.

## CONCENTRATION OF OFFENDING

- Previous studies have shown that offending is highly concentrated in the general household population with a small proportion of people being responsible for the majority of offences committed (Flood-Page *et al.*, 2000; Budd *et al.*, 2005). This pattern was also found in the 2005 OCJS data.
- Table 2d shows that 10- to 25-year-olds who had committed six or more offences (7% of the population and 30% of offenders in this age group) were responsible for the vast majority of all offences measured by the survey. Just over eight in ten (83%) offences measured were committed by this group. Frequent offenders also accounted for 82 per cent of all serious offences measured.

**Table 2d Proportion of sample, offenders, and offences accounted for by frequent offenders**

Number of offences committed in last 12 months	2005 OCJS			
	% of all offenders	% of all offences	% serious offenders	% serious offences
One offence	31	4	22	4
Two to five offences	39	13	38	14
Six or more offences (frequent offender)	30 <sup>1</sup>	83	40	82
	100	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,097	10,282	521	2,763

Notes:

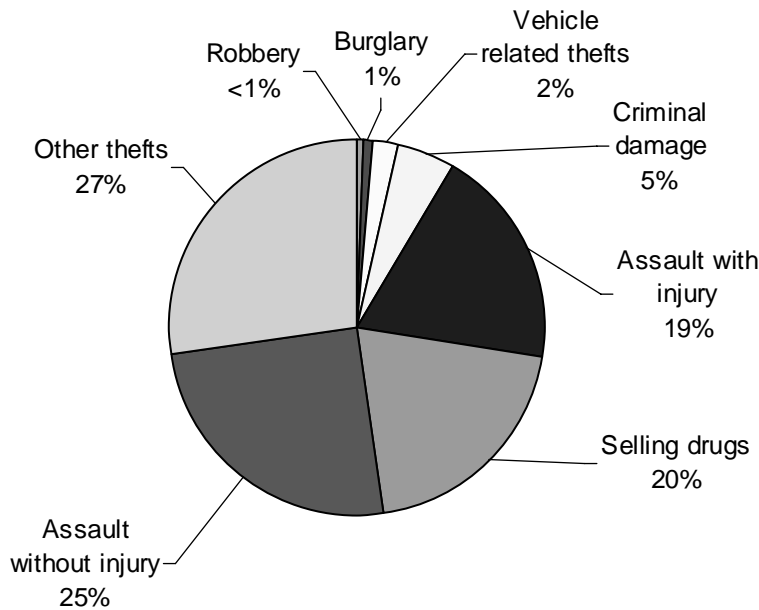
1. Respondents who had offended but the number of offences was unknown have been excluded.
2. Frequent offender – committed six or more offences in the last 12 months.
3. The total number of offences committed is the sum of how many times offenders had committed each individual offence in the last 12 months, excluding those who did not know the number of times.

## PROFILE OF OFFENCES

This section focuses on the volume of offences reported, examining the profile of offences measured by the survey.

- Overall, 45 per cent of incidents reported to the OCJS were violent offences, 36 per cent were property and 20 per cent were drug selling offences (due to rounding, the figures do not add up to 100%). Assaults accounted for 44 per cent of all offences reported by 10- to 25-year-olds (non-injury assaults accounting for 25% and assaults resulting in injury accounting for 19% of all offences). Other thefts accounted for 27 per cent of all offences (thefts from work and school being the most common) and drug selling accounted for a fifth of all offences (selling non-Class A drugs being most common at 16% of all offences) (Figure 2.5).

**Figure 2.5 Profile of offences measured by the survey, 2005 OCJS**



### **Profile, by sex and age patterns**

Table 2e presents the offending profile for males and females aged from 10 to 17 and from 18 to 25 respectively. The main patterns are shown below.

- Violent offences accounted for a large proportion of offending by both 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds (48% and 40% respectively). The higher figure for 10- to 17-year-olds was due to a higher proportion of no injury assaults (respectively 28% and 21%).
- Among both male and female offenders aged from 10 to 17, violent offences accounted for about half of the total number of offences. Property offences accounted for a higher proportion of female than male offences; the differences were mainly due to other theft offences. Drug selling accounted for a higher proportion of male than female offences, mostly the sale of non Class A drugs (e.g. cannabis).
- Differences in offending profiles were also found when comparing 18- to 25-year-old males and females. Whilst property offences accounted for a higher proportion of female offences (47% compared with 33% for males), violent offences accounted for a higher proportion of male offences (44% compared with 28% for females). The overall proportion of drug selling offences was similar for male and female offenders, but selling Class A drugs accounted for a higher proportion of female offences (10% compared with 3% for males). However it should be noted that overall there were twice as many male drug sellers as female.
- Just over a quarter of offences among males and females aged from 10 to 17 were classified as serious offences (27% and 29% respectively). The equivalent figures for those aged from 18 to 25 were 25 per cent for males and 28 per cent for females.

**Table 2e Profile of offences measured in the last 12 months, by age and sex**

	2005 OCJS					
	Males		Females		All	
	10 to 17	18 to 25	10 to 17	18 to 25	10 to 17	18 to 25
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Property offences</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>
Burglary	2	<1	1	5	1	2
Vehicle related thefts	3	1	4	1	3	1
Other thefts	20	27	32	39	24	31
Criminal damage	6	4	6	2	6	3
<b>Violent offences</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40</b>
Robbery	1	-	1	-	1	-
Assault with injury	20	22	19	12	19	19
Assault no injury	27	23	30	16	28	21
<b>Selling drugs</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>
Selling Class A drugs	3	3	<1	10	2	5
Selling other drugs	18	20	7	15	15	18
<i>All offences</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Unweighted base<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>4,785</i>	<i>2,234</i>	<i>2,412</i>	<i>851</i>	<i>7,197</i>	<i>3,085</i>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Serious offences	27	25	29	28	28	26

Notes:

1. Based on total number of offences.

## TRENDS OVER TIME: 2003 TO 2005 OCJS

- The 2005 results on levels of offending were compared with those from previous waves of the survey. For comparative purposes the 2004 and 2005 results are based on 'fresh' sample respondents only.<sup>8</sup>
- The proportion of young people who reported committing an offence remained stable across all three waves of the survey at 22 per cent. This pattern held for all seven offence categories (Table 2f).
- Similarly the proportion who reported committing an offence remained stable for both males and females and for 10-to 17-year-olds and 18-to 25-year-olds (Table 2f and 2.5).
- The proportion of young people who were serious offenders, or frequent offenders also remained at the same level in all three waves (Table 2f and 2.5).
- These results are broadly consistent with those from the British Crime Survey which showed that the risk of victimisation had remained relatively stable over a similar period (25.7% in 2003/04; 23.5% in 2005/06: *Crime in England and Wales 2005/06*, HOSB July 2006, 12/06).

<sup>8</sup> The OCJS trend data are based on fresh sample only to ensure direct comparability to 2003. There are two reasons for this. 1) Panel cases in the 2004 and 2005 OCJS were not asked some questions where the information was available from their responses in 2003 (e.g. offending in lifetime). 2) Panel cases may be influenced in how they respond given their participation in the previous year.



**Table 2f Trends in offending in last 12 months (10- to 25-year-olds), by sex**

2003, 2004 and 2005 OCJS

<i>Per cent</i>	Male			Female			All		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
<b>Any 'core' offence</b>	27	29	27	16	16	16	22	22	22
<b>Any property offence</b>	14	15	13	8	9	9	11	12	11
Burglary	1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1
Vehicle-related thefts	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	2
Other thefts	11	12	10	7	8	8	9	10	9
Criminal damage	4	4	4	1	2	1	3	3	3
<b>Any violent offence</b>	18	18	18	10	9	9	14	14	14
Robbery	<1	<1	-	<1	-	-	<1	<1	-
Assault	18	18	18	10	9	9	14	14	13
<b>Any drug offence</b>	4	5	5	1	2	1	3	3	3
<b>Serious or frequent offender</b>									
Serious offender	13	13	13	7	6	7	10	9	10
Frequent offender	9	10	8	4	3	3	6	7	6
Frequent and serious offender	6	5	6	2	2	2	4	4	4
Frequent serious offender	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,155</i>	<i>848</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>2,121</i>	<i>847</i>	<i>376</i>	<i>4,276</i>	<i>1,695</i>	<i>717</i>

Notes:

1. Source: 2003, 2004 & 2005 Offending Crime and Justice Survey. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25 fresh sample only.
2. Unweighted base given is for the 'serious and frequent' definition.

## OTHER OFFENCES

In addition to asking respondents whether they had committed any of the twenty core offences covered in the survey, the OCJS also asked respondents about other activities that are classified as offences, these were:

- bought anything that they knew or thought had been stolen
- sold anything that they knew had been stolen
- physically attacked someone because of their skin colour, race or religion
- carried a knife or gun with them for their own protection, for use in crimes or in case they got into a fight.

## Handling stolen goods

Respondents aged from 12 to 25 were asked whether they had sold or bought stolen goods in the last 12 months.

- One-fifth (20%) of 12- to 25-year-olds had handled (bought or sold) stolen goods in the last 12 months. Seven per cent had sold stolen goods and 19 per cent had bought stolen goods.

- Similar to the pattern for offenders (those who committed any of the 20 core offences in the last 12 months), males were more likely than females to have handled stolen goods in the last 12 months (24% compared to 16%) (Table 2.6).
- Offenders, frequent offenders and serious offenders were significantly more likely than non-offenders to have handled stolen goods in the same time period (35%, 42% and 40% compared to 15%) (Table 2.6).
- The proportion of 12- to 25-year-olds who had handled stolen goods remained stable between the 2004 and 2005 waves of the survey. This pattern held for both selling and buying stolen goods. This was also true for 18- to 25-year-olds when compared with the 2003 OCJS.

### **Racially or religiously motivated assaults<sup>9</sup>**

- The proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds who said they had physically attacked someone because of their skin colour, race or religious in the last 12 months (racially/religiously motivated assault) was relatively low, at less than one per cent. This was the same proportion as found in the 2004 wave of the survey.

### **Carrying weapons**

- Overall four per cent of young people had carried a knife in the last 12 months. Less than one per cent reported having carried a gun in the same time period. For both knife and gun carrying the peak age was 16 to 17 (7% and 1% respectively) (Table 2.7).
- Males were significantly more likely than females to have carried a knife (5% versus 2%). There were no differences between 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds.

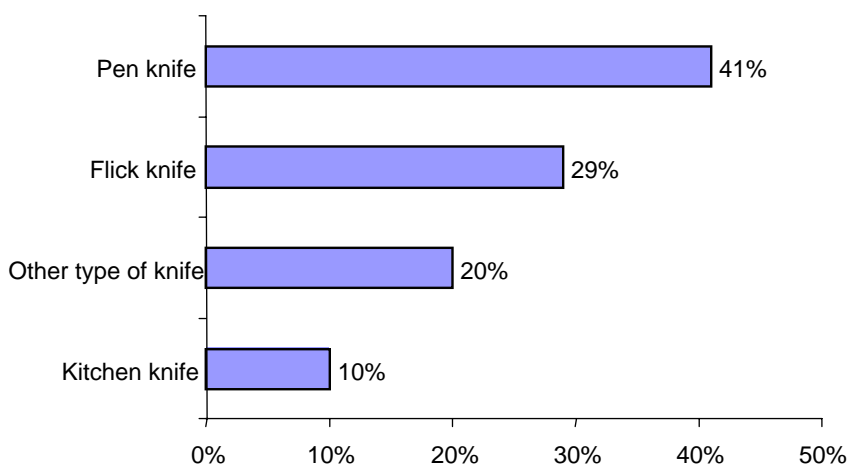
Carrying a knife may not be linked to any criminal intent. The 2005 OCJS asked, for the first time, more details about carrying knives. These included the usual type of knife they carried, the main reason for carrying knives, whether it has been used to threaten someone and whether it has been used to injure someone.

- Of the four per cent that carried a knife, four in ten (41%) had carried a pen knife, 29 per cent had carried a flick knife and one in ten (10%) had carried a kitchen knife (Figure 2.6). These findings reflect similar results in the 2004 Youth Survey (Mori, 2004), which found that of those who had carried a knife or gun most had carried a pen knife.

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<sup>9</sup> In 2004 racially/religiously motivated attacks and abuse were asked about separately for the first time. In 2003 one question asked whether respondents had "attacked, threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race or religion". See chapter 5 for findings on racially/religiously motivated abuse.

**Figure 2.6 Type of knife carried by 10- to 25-year-olds in the last 12 months among those carrying knives, 2005 OCJS**



- Over eight in ten (85%) of those who said they had carried a knife in the last 12 months said the main reason for doing so was for protection; nine per cent said it was in case they got into a fight and six per cent mentioned another reason (Table 2.8).
- Less than one in ten (7%) of those who had carried a knife in the last 12 months had used it to threaten someone. Two per cent had used the knife to injure someone. Due to small base numbers it is not possible to break these results down further by age and sex (Table 2.8).
- Overall the proportion of young people carrying a knife in the 2005 wave had decreased from the 2004 wave (4%) to the 2005 wave (3%). This was true for both males and those aged from 18 to 25 years (7% to 4% for males, and from 5% to 2% for 18- to 25-year-olds).
- There was no difference in the (very small) proportion of young people who had carried a gun between the 2004 and 2005 waves of the survey.

Table 2.1 Offending in last 12 months (10- to 25-year-olds), by age and sex

2005 OCJS

Percentage					All
	10 to 17	18 to 25	Male	Female	
<b>Any 'core' offence</b>	<b>*28</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>*30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Any property offence</b>	<b>*16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Any violence</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Any drug selling</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Serious offender <sup>3</sup>	*14	11	*14	11	13
Frequent Offender <sup>4</sup>	7	6	*9	4	7
<b>Any property offence</b>	<b>*16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Domestic burglary <sup>+</sup>	*1	<1	1	<1	<1
Commercial burglary <sup>+</sup>	*1	<1	*1	<1	1
<b>Vehicle-related thefts</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Theft of a motor vehicle <sup>+</sup>	1	<1	1	<1	1
Attempted theft of a motor vehicle	*1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Theft from a vehicle (outside)	1	1	*2	1	1
Theft from a vehicle (inside)	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Attempted theft from a vehicle	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
<b>Other thefts</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>
Theft from person <sup>+</sup>	*1	<1	*1	<1	<1
Theft from work	*2	7	*5	3	4
Theft from school	*9	2	6	5	5
Theft from shop	*4	2	3	3	3
Miscellaneous theft	*2	1	2	2	2
<b>Criminal damage</b>	<b>*5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Damage to a motor vehicle	2	1	*2	1	2
Other damage	*4	2	*4	2	3
<b>Any violent offence</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>*&lt;1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>
Personal robbery <sup>+</sup>	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Commercial robbery <sup>+</sup>	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
<b>Assault</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
Assault with injury <sup>+</sup>	*12	10	*12	9	11
Assault – no injury	*13	9	*13	9	11
<b>Any drug selling offence</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Sold Class A drugs <sup>+</sup>	*<1	2	1	1	1
Sold other drugs	*2	4	*5	2	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,843</i>	<i>2,001</i>	<i>2,394</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>4,844</i>

Notes:

- \* indicates a significant difference between 10- to 17-year olds and 18 to 25-year olds and between males and females
- + indicates a serious offence.
- Serious offenders:- those committing: theft of a vehicle; burglary; robbery; theft from the person; assault resulting in injury; selling Class A drugs.
- Frequent offenders are those committing six or more offences, of any type, in the last 12 months.

**Table 2.2 Frequency of offending in last year among those who had committed each offence<sup>1</sup>**

								2005 OCJS
Percentage		Once	Twice	Three times	Four times	Five times	Six or more time	<i>Unweighted base</i>
<b>Vehicle-related thefts</b>	%	<b>51</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Other thefts</b>	%	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>534</b>
Theft from work	%	39	18	16	1	9	17	164
Theft from school	%	42	26	12	4	7	8	312
Theft from shop	%	51	13	8	8	3	16	146
Miscellaneous thefts	%	53	23	7	4	3	11	87
<b>Criminal damage</b>	%	<b>55</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>222</b>
Vehicle damage	%	66	15	11	2	1	5	91
Other damage	%	53	21	9	7	2	8	177
<b>Assault</b>	%	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>775</b>
Assault – with injury	%	53	19	11	3	4	10	515
Assault – no injury	%	49	20	7	3	6	15	550
<b>Drug selling</b>	%	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>All offences</b>	%	<b>31</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,097</b>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25 who reported committing each offence.

**Table 2.3 Proportion of last 12 months offenders<sup>1</sup> defined as serious/frequent**

							2005 OCJS
Percentage	% of last year offenders defined as...					<i>Unweighted base</i>	
	...serious offenders <sup>2</sup>	...frequent offenders <sup>3</sup>	...serious and frequent offenders <sup>4</sup>	...frequent serious offenders <sup>5</sup>	....diverse offenders		
<b>Age</b>							
10 to 13	56	24	17	6	3	221	
14 to 15	52	32	25	7	7	270	
16 to 17	45	29	20	6	5	222	
18 to 19	54	29	23	7	6	162	
20 to 21	48	32	15	6	3	97	
22 to 25	50	33	14	2	4	125	
10 to 17	51	28	21	7	5	713	
18 to 25	51	32	17	5	5	384	
<b>Males</b>							
	<b>50</b>	<b>*33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>661</b>	
10 to 17	50	31	22	8	6	423	
18 to 25	49	36	19	5	6	238	
<b>Females</b>							
	<b>54</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>436</b>	
10 to 17	52	24	18	4	3	290	
18 to 25	55	25	15	5	3	146	
<b>All</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,097</b>	

Notes:

2. Serious offences include: theft of a vehicle; burglary; robbery; theft from the person; assault resulting in injury; selling Class A drugs.
3. Frequent offenders are those committing six or more offences, of any type, in the last 12 months.
4. Serious and frequent offenders are those committing at least one serious offence and committing six or more offences of any type.
5. Frequent serious offenders are those committing a serious offence on at least six occasions in the last 12 months.
6. Diverse offenders are those committing offences in between four and seven categories.
7. \* indicates the figure for males is significantly higher than for females.

Table 2.4 Prevalence of offending in the last 12 months, by age and sex

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Burglary	Vehicle-related thefts	Other thefts	Criminal damage	Robbery	Assault	Selling drugs	Any core offence	Unweighted base
<b>Males</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>*3</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>*19</b>	<b>*5</b>	<b>*30</b>	<b>2,394</b>
10 to 11	-	-	4	1	-	14	-	18	121
12 to 13	2	4*	13	6	-	23	2	30*	474
14 to 15	4	3	20	10	1	26	3	37	489
16 to 17	*4	*5	20	8	1	*21	*8	*40	399
18 to 19	1	*5	14	*9	-	*26	*11	*40	334
20 to 21	<1	<1	9	*6	-	15	5	30	234
22 to 23	1	2	*17	3	-	*14	8	*30	179
24 to 25	<1	-	6	1	-	11	4	15	164
<b>10 to 17</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>*3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*6</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>*21</b>	<b>*3</b>	<b>*32</b>	<b>1,483</b>
<b>18 to 25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>*11</b>	<b>*5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>*17</b>	<b>*7</b>	<b>*28</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,450</b>
10 to 11	-	-	4	-	-	11	-	13	91
12 to 13	1	1	11	5	<1	18	<1	23	393
14 to 15	2	2	15	7	1	23	2	33	453
16 to 17	1	1	14	4	<1	13	2	24	423
18 to 19	1	2	9	3	<1	13	3	19	362
20 to 21	1	1	7	1	-	16	4	21	225
22 to 23	-	2	6	<1	-	7	4	14	246
24 to 25	-	-	4	<1	-	7	2	13	257
<b>10 to 17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,360</b>
<b>18 to 25</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,090</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4,844</b>
10 to 11	-	-	4	<1	-	13	-	16	212
12 to 13	1	2	12	5	<1	20	1	27	867
14 to 15	3	3	18	8	1	24	3	35	942
16 to 17	2	3	17	6	<1	17	5	32	822
18 to 19	1	3	11	6	<1	20	7	30	696
20 to 21	1	1	8	3	-	15	4	24	459
22 to 23	<1	2	11	2	-	10	6	22	425
24 to 25	<1	-	5	1	-	9	3	14	421
<b>10 to 17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2,843</b>
<b>18 to 25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2,001</b>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. Unweighted base given is for any offence.
3. \* indicates the figure for males is significantly higher than for females in the same age group.

**Table 2.5 Trends in offending in last 12 months, by age group**

**2003, 2004, 2005 OCJS**

Percentage	10 to 17s			18 to 25s			All		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
<b>Any 'core' offence</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Any property offence</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
Burglary	<1	1	1	<1	-	-	<1	<1	1
Vehicle-related thefts	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
Other thefts	10	13	11	8	7	7	9	10	9
Criminal damage	4	5	4	2	1	2	3	3	3
<b>Any violent offence</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
Robbery	<1	<1	-	-	-	-	<1	<1	-
Assault	18	19	18	9	9	9	14	14	13
<b>Any drug selling offence</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Serious offender	13	13	12	7	6	8	10	9	10
Frequent offender	7	8	6	5	6	5	6	7	6
Frequent and serious offender	5	6	4	3	2	3	4	4	4
Frequent serious offender	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,569</i>	<i>1,053</i>	<i>465</i>	<i>1,805</i>	<i>642</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>4,374</i>	<i>1,695</i>	<i>757</i>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25. 2004 and 2005 results based on fresh sample only.
2. \* indicates significant difference between surveys.

**Table 2.6 Proportion of young people buying/selling stolen goods in the last 12 months  
2005 OCJS**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Buying</b>	<b>Selling</b>	<b>Buying or selling</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>
<b>Age</b>				
12 to 13	11	5	12	877
14 to 15	20	9	21	934
16 to 17	23	10	23	818
18 to 19	26	11	27	700
20 to 21	20	6	20	457
21 to 23	19	4	19	423
24 to 25	16	7	18	420
12 to 17	18	8	18	2,629
18 to 25	20	7	21	2,000
<b>Males</b>				
	<b>*23</b>	<b>*9</b>	<b>*24</b>	<b>2,260</b>
12 to 17	22	11	23	1,345
18 to 25	24	8	24	915
<b>Females</b>				
	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,369</b>
12 to 17	14	5	14	1,284
18 to 25	17	6	17	1,085
Non offender	14	6	15	3,309
Offender	*34	*12	*35	1,215
Frequent offender	*41	*16	*42	297
Serious offender	*38	*13	*39	597
<b>All</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4,629</b>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged 12 to 15.
2. \* indicates significant differences between males and females, and between offenders and non-offenders.



**Table 2.7 Proportion of young people carrying weapons in last 12 months**  
2005 OCJS

Percentage	Carried a knife	Carried a gun	Unweighted base
<b>Age</b>			
10 to 11	1	<1	225
12 to 13	3	<1	894
14 to 15	6	<1	966
16 to 17	7	1	841
18 to 19	3	<1	710
20 to 21	4	0	464
21 to 23	3	0	432
24 to 25	1	0	427
10 to 17	4	<1	2,926
18 to 25	3	<1	2,034
<b>Males</b>			
	<b>5</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>2,456</b>
10 to 17	6	1	1,523
18 to 25	4	<1	933
<b>Females</b>			
	<b>2</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>2,504</b>
10 to 17	2	<1	1,403
18 to 25	1	0	1,101
<b>All</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>4,960</b>

**Table 2.8 Details of knives carried in last 12 months**  
2005 OCJS

Percentage	
<b>How often carried a knife</b>	
Once or twice	50
Three or four times	23
Between 5 and 10 times	11
10 times or more	16
	100
<b>Type of knife carried</b>	
Pen knife	41
Flick knife	29
Kitchen knife	10
Other type of knife	20
	100
<b>Main reason for carrying knife</b>	
Protection	85
In case got into fight	9
Another reason	6
	100
<b>Used knife to threaten someone</b>	
Yes	7
No	93
	100
<b>Used knife to injure someone</b>	
Yes	2
No	98
	100
<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>187</b>

Notes:

1. Based on 10- to 25-year-olds who carried a knife in the last 12 months

## 3 Characteristics of offending

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Previous research has identified that certain groups of the population are more likely to offend (Budd *et al* 2005). This chapter examines the extent of offending among groups of young people with different characteristics, and attempts to identify young people who may be 'at risk' of offending. It also covers overlaps between delinquent behaviour (anti-social behaviour) and offending, drug use and offending and also victimisation and offending.

### RISK OF OFFENDING

Three types of offender are examined in the risk factor analysis – those who have committed any of the twenty core offences, those who have committed a serious offence and those classified as frequent offenders. Respondents aged from 10 to 15 and from 16 to 25 are considered separately as many of the questions relating to social, lifestyle and behavioural factors were specific to only one of these age groups (for definition of factors examined see Appendix C).

Initial bivariate analysis of the data examined the level of offending across groups with particular attributes. The results for 10- to 15-year-olds and 16- to 25-year-olds are presented in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 and show offending differed across nearly all the attributes examined for any offence, frequent and serious offending. For example offending is higher among males, those who have taken drugs, committed anti-social behaviour, been suspended or expelled, with parents perceived to have poor parenting skills (Table 3.1 and Table 3.2). However, this analysis is limited as it does not show whether one attribute by itself is connected with offending, or whether there are other confounding factors. Multivariate analysis enables identification of those factors which, independent of the effects of others, provide the highest association with offending (see note on logistic regression in Appendix B).

The socio-demographic and lifestyle variables which showed statistically significant association with offending (Table 3.1 and 3.2) were entered into the multivariate models. A forward stepwise technique was used to identify characteristics which were independently statistically associated with a higher likelihood of offending for 10- to 15-year-olds and for 16- to 25-year-olds.

#### Risk factors for 10- to 15-year-olds

- Table 3a presents the factors independently associated with committing an offence in the last 12 months for 10- to 15-year-olds. Tables 3.3 and 3.4 show the results for serious and for frequent offending.
- The factors showing the strongest associations<sup>10</sup> with committing any offence, for 10- to 15-year-olds were: committing anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months; being a victim of personal crime; being drunk once a month or more in the last 12 months; having friends/siblings who were in trouble with the police; and taking any drug.

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<sup>10</sup> The variables which have the strongest association are those where there is at least a one per cent increase in the proportion of variance explained by the model when the variable is added to the model.

- A similar set of results was found for both frequent and serious offending among 10- to 15-year-olds, with the strongest associations being: committing anti-social behaviour; being a victim of personal crime; and taking any drug. Having parents in trouble with the police was also strongly associated with serious offending. For frequent offending how well 10- to 15-year-olds got on with their parents/guardians, having friends/siblings who were in trouble with the police, being more likely to agree criminal acts are OK and being drunk once a month or more in the last 12 months were also strongly associated.

**Table 3a Factors associated with offending for 10- to 15-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	2.9
Victim of personal crime	Not been victim of personal crime	3.4
Have been drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	Have been drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	2.3
Friends/siblings have been in trouble with the police	Friends/siblings have never been in trouble with the police	1.6
Taken drugs in the last 12 months	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	2.4
Having been suspended or expelled from school	Never been suspended or expelled from school	2.1
Parents have been in trouble with the police	Parents have never been in trouble with the police	1.3
More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	1.8
Spends little or no time with parents/guardians	Spends some to all of time with parents/guardians	1.2

Notes:

1. Factors that did not appear in the model: age, sex, perceived disorder problems in area, how much there is to do in the area, trust in police, whether brought up by natural parents, parents' attitude towards delinquent activities, perception of parenting skills, how well get on with parents, truanted, perception of school, participates in after school groups, attitude towards schooling, housing tenure.

2. Odds ratio with values above one indicate to higher odds of offending and those with values below one relate to lower odds in relation to the reference category.

**Risk factors for 16- to 25-year-olds**

- Table 3b presents the factors independently associated with committing an offence in the last 12 months for 16- to 25-year-olds. Tables 3.5 and 3.6 show the results for serious and frequent offending.
- For 16- to 25-year-olds the factors showing the strongest associations were: being a victim of personal crime in the last 12 months; committing anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months; taking any drug in the last 12 months; having friends/siblings who were in trouble with the police; and being more likely to agree criminal acts are OK.
- The strongly associated factors that were the same for serious and frequent offending among 16- to 25-year-olds were: being a victim of personal crime in last 12 months; committing anti-social behaviour in last 12 months; and taking any drugs in the last 12 months.

- However there were factors that were separately associated with either serious or frequent offending. For serious offending, ever been expelled or suspended, being highly impulsive and getting on badly with at least one parent were also strongly associated. Whereas for frequent offending, being more likely to agree criminal acts are OK, having friends/siblings who were in trouble with police and being male were strongly associated.

**Table 3b Factors associated with offending for 16- to 25-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Victim of personal crime	Not been victim of personal crime	3.7
Committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	2.6
Friends/siblings have been in trouble with the police	Friends/siblings have never been in trouble with the police	1.7
More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	2.5
Taken any drug in last 12 months	Not taken drug in last 12 months	2.2
Male	Female	1.5
Highly impulsive	Not impulsive	1.7
Ever been expelled or suspended	Not been expelled or suspended	1.5
Age 16 to 19	Aged 20 to 25	1.4
Have been drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	Have been drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	1.4
Parents have been in trouble with police	Parents have never been in trouble with police	1.4

Notes:

1. Factors that did not appear in the model are: perceived problems in area; trust in the police; whether brought up by natural parents; how well household managing on income; and general perception of overall health.

## PROBLEM BEHAVIOURS AND OFFENDING

The results from the multivariate analysis found that both committing anti-social behaviour and drug use were associated with offending for both age groups. This section examines the overlaps between these types of activities in the last 12 months.

### Anti-social behaviour and offending

- Around half (53%) of those who committed one of the four anti-social behaviours<sup>11</sup> had also committed a core offence in the last 12 months. This compares with 17 per cent of those who had not committed any anti-social behaviour. This pattern held for frequent and serious offending, with 18 per cent of those who committed anti-social behaviour being classified as a frequent offender and 30 per cent classified as a serious offender. The equivalent figures for those who did not commit anti-social behaviour were four per cent and seven per cent respectively.

<sup>11</sup> The anti-social behaviour as measured by the OCJS cover: being noisy or rude in a public place so that people complained or the individual got into trouble with the police; behaving in a way that resulted in a neighbour complaining; graffiti in a public place; threatening or being rude to someone because of their race or religion.

- Overall 64 per cent of 10- to 25-year-olds had not committed a core offence or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months. 10- to 15-year-olds were significantly more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to have been involved in anti-social behaviour and/or offending in the last 12 months (39% versus 34%) (Table 3c).

**Table 3c Profile of young people’s involvement in anti-social behaviour or offending in the last 12 months, by age groups**

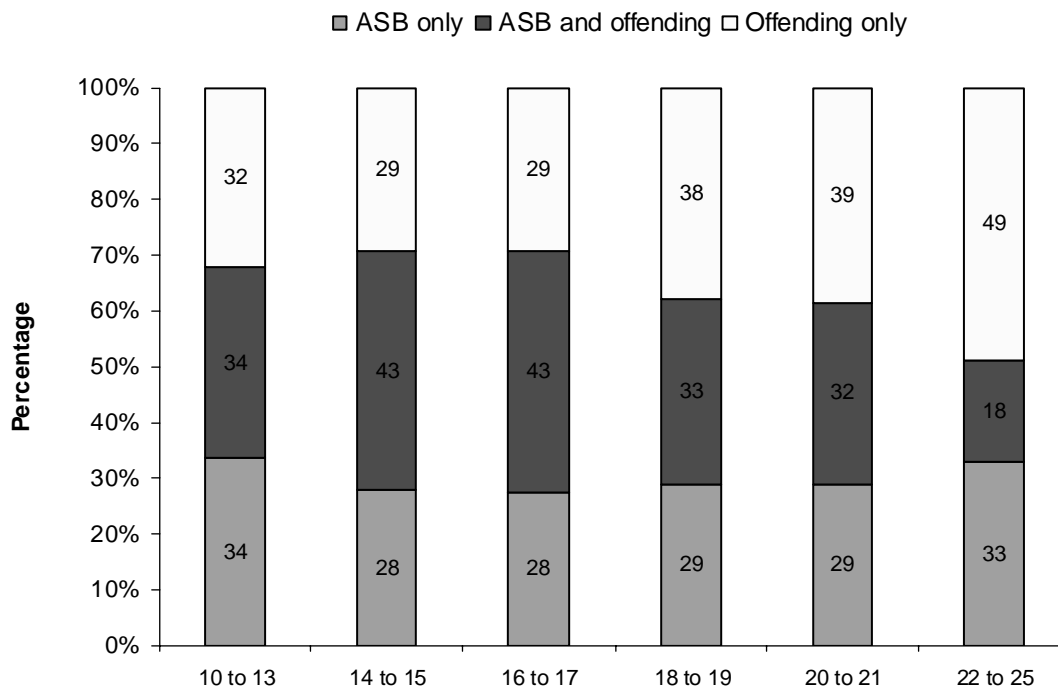
2005 OCJS			
Percentage	10 to 15	16 to 25	All 10 to 25
	%	%	%
Neither ASB nor offender in last year	61	*66	64
ASB only in last year	12	10	11
Offender only in last year	12	13	13
ASB and offender in last year	15	*11	12
Total	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	1,955	2,783	4,738

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the two age groups.

- Among those who had either committed a core offence or one of the four anti-social behaviours in the last 12 months, the relative proportions were different for different age groups (Figure 3.1). The proportion committing both anti-social behaviour and offending peaked for 14- to 17-year-olds (43%) and was lowest (18%) for 22- to 25-year-olds. Correspondingly the proportion offending but not committing anti-social behaviour was highest at nearly half (49%) for 22- to 25-year-olds.

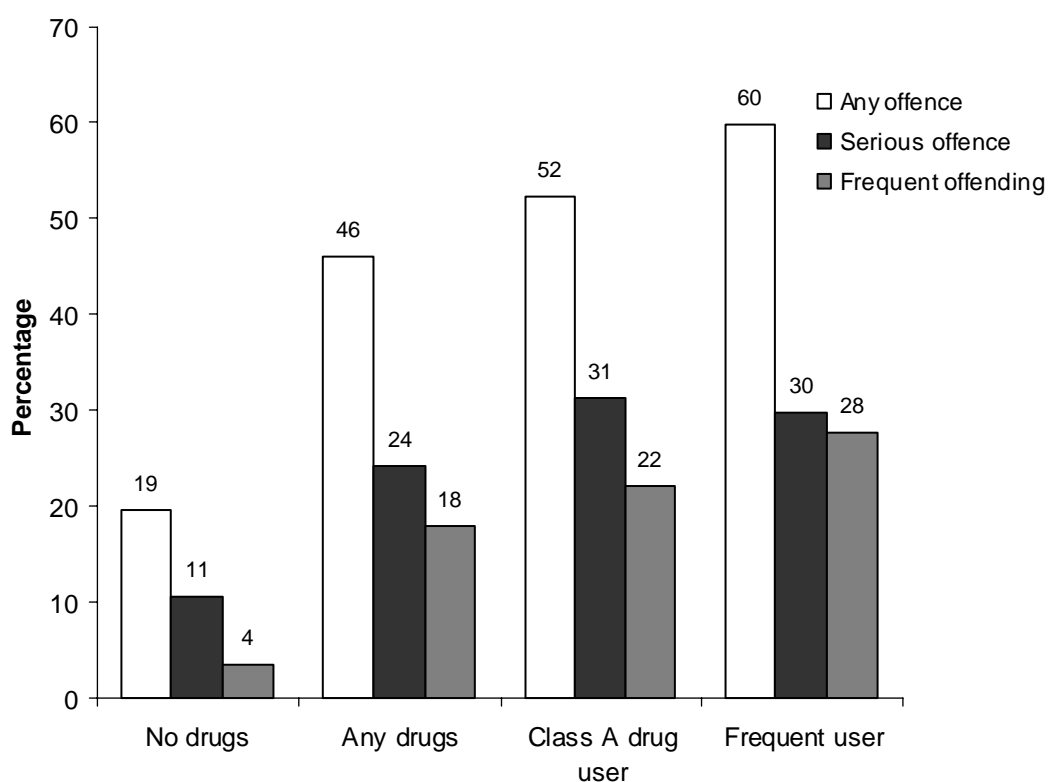
**Figure 3.1 Profile of offending and anti-social behaviour among those who have committed either in the last 12 months, by age, 2005 OCJS**



## Offending and drug use

- Young people who took drugs in the last 12 months were significantly more likely (than those who did not) to have committed an offence. This was true for both serious and frequent offending (Figure 3.2).
- Just under half (46%) of those who had taken any drug in the last 12 months had committed an offence in the same time period compared with 19 per cent who had not taken any drug.

**Figure 3.2 Proportion of young people (aged from 10 to 25) committing an offence in the last 12 months, by drug status, 2005 OCJS**



- The same pattern of offending by drug status was evident for 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds. Most (62%) drug users aged from 10 to 17 had committed an offence in the last 12 months, compared with a quarter (23%) of those who had not taken drugs. The equivalent figures for 18- to 25-year-olds were 40 per cent and 15 per cent respectively (Table 3.7).

## OFFENDING AND VICTIMISATION

- Just over half (52%) of those who committed a core offence in the last 12 months had also been a victim, compared with 23 per cent of non-offenders.

- Overall, in the last 12 months 10- to 15-year-olds were significantly more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to have been involved in crime whether as a victim of personal crime and/or as an offender (43% compared to 36% respectively) (Table 3d).
- The younger age group (10- to 15-year-olds) were significantly more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to have been either victims only of personal crime (16% versus 13%) or a victim and offender in the last 12 months (15% compared to 12%). However, there was no difference between the age groups for being only an offender (12% for both age groups) (Table 3d).

**Table 3d Profile of young people's involvement in crime, victim or offender in the last 12 months, by age groups**

<i>Percentage</i>	2005 OCJS		
	10 to 15	16 to 25	All 10 to 25
	%	%	%
Neither victim nor offender in last year	57	*63	61
Victim only in last year	16	*13	14
Offender only in last year	12	12	12
Victim and offender in last year	15	*12	13
Total	100	100	100
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,021	2,823	4,884

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the two age groups.

**Table 3.1 Offending committed in last 12 months by 10- to 15-year-olds, by socio-demographic and lifestyle variables**

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Offender %	Unweighted base	Frequent offender %	Unweighted base	2005 OCJS	
						Serious offender %	Unweighted base
<b>Demographics</b>							
Sex	Female	24	937	5	889	13	949
	Male	*30	1,084	8	1,017	14	1,094
Age	10 to 11	16	212	3	205	8	218
	12 to 13	*27	867	5	822	*14	872
	14 to 15	*35	942	*10	879	*18	953
<b>Lifestyle and behaviour</b>							
Being drunk	Drunk less than once a month in last year	24	1,826	5	1,744	12	1,842
	Drunk once a month or more in last year	*72	135	*32	113	*43	135
Drug use	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	23	1,818	4	1,739	11	1,843
	Taken drugs in last 12 months	*70	173	*36	147	*49	170
Victim of personal crime	Not victim of any personal crime	18	1,397	3	1,344	7	1,421
	Victim of personal crime	*47	624	*13	562	*28	622
Attitude to certain criminal acts	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	25	1,827	5	1,731	12	1,852
	More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	*47	191	*18	174	*26	189
Whether committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	No	16	1,390	3	1,354	6	1,412
	Yes	*55	565	*18	496	*33	561
<b>Area factors</b>							
Disorder problems in the area	No problems	15	412	4	401	7	416
	One to three problems	*28	1,321	6	1,242	*12	1,338
	Four or more problems	*38	288	*11	263	*23	289
Whether trust the police	Trust police	24	1,633	5	1,551	11	1,656
	Do not trust police	*44	350	*15	318	*27	350
Overall indicator of deprivation	3 least deprived areas	27	584	6	554	12	600
	4 medium deprived areas	27	721	7	671	15	720
	3 most deprived areas	29	568	6	536	16	574
ACORN grouping	Wealthy achievers	23	526	4	501	10	539
	Urban prosperity	26	150	5	144	16	152
	Comfortably off	27	533	8	500	13	536
	Moderate means	28	289	8	266	15	288
	Hard-pressed	*31	508	7	481	16	514
How much to do in the area	Quite a lot	22	775	5	739	11	789
	Not very much or nothing	*30	1,244	8	1,165	*16	1,252
Attitude towards local area	Good attitude	22	475	4	455	9	478
	Indifferent attitude	*27	1,166	6	1,093	*14	1,186
	Negative attitude	*35	302	*10	285	*21	301
<b>Economic factors</b>							
Housing tenure	Owners	25	1,489	6	1,402	12	1,508
	Renters	*33	529	7	502	*19	532
Whether receive free school meals	No	26	1,674	7	1,584	13	1,695
	Yes	*34	302	6	281	*19	303
<b>Family factors</b>							
Whether get on with parents	Get on with parent(s)	26	1,929	6	1,833	13	1,953
	Get on badly with at least one parent	*56	76	*31	62	*35	74
Young person's perception of parents	Good parenting skills	25	1,411	6	1,352	12	1,425
	Poor parenting skills	*38	117	13	105	*26	117
Whether friends/siblings been in trouble with the police in the last 12 months	No friends or siblings in trouble with police in last year	20	1,375	4	1,319	10	1,384
	Friends and/or siblings in trouble with police in last year	*47	491	*15	448	*24	498



**Table 3.1 cont.**

<b>Socio-demographic variable</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Offender %</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>Frequent offender %</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>Serious offender %</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>
Who brings up	Both natural parents	23	1,248	5	1,177	11	1,260
	One natural parent alone or with step parent or other	*34	773	*8	729	*18	783
Whether parents ever been in trouble with the police	No	23	1,620	5	1,547	11	1,638
	Yes	*52	183	*23	168	*33	184
How much do you care about what your parents/guardians think	A lot	22	1,484	5	1,426	11	1,499
	A little or not at all	*40	501	*12	448	*22	507
Parents/guardians know who your friends are	Parents know all of friends	19	771	3	743	11	782
	Parents only know some of friends	*32	1,214	*9	1,133	16	1,226
Young peoples perception of parents attitudes to delinquent behaviours	Parents perceived to have less relaxed attitude	25	1,774	5	1,694	12	1,790
	Parents perceived to have more relaxed attitude	*48	109	*24	96	*29	113
Free time spent with parents	Some to all of time	24	1,704	5	1,426	12	1,727
	Little or no time	*46	293	*12	406	*23	291
<b>School factors</b>							
Whether ever truanted	No	21	1,500	5	1,722	11	1,519
	Yes	*48	358	*25	164	*27	360
Whether been suspended or expelled	Never	25	1,859	5	1,762	12	1,881
	Have been suspended or expelled	*55	157	*22	136	*35	157
Perception of school	Good perception	26	1,436	6	1,379	12	1,452
	Bad perception	*38	297	*13	269	*24	296
Attitude to schooling	Very important	24	1,390	5	1,329	11	1,408
	Fairly to not very or not at all important	*34	630	*9	576	*19	634
Whether participate in after school clubs	Participates in after school groups	26	1,376	6	1,307	12	1,389
	Does not participate in after school groups	30	627	9	583	*19	636

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the categories, where more than two categories are present the first one listed is the reference category and all other categories are compared to the reference category.

**Table 3.2 Offending committed in last 12 months by 16- to 25-year-olds, by socio-demographic and life style factors**

2005 OCJS

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Offender %	Unweighted base	Frequent offender %	Unweighted base	Serious offender %	Unweighted base
<b>Demographics</b>							
Sex	Female	19	1,513	4	1,478	10	1,524
	Male	*30	1,310	*10	1,257	*14	1,325
Age	16 to 17	32	822	8	790	14	828
	18 to 19	30	696	8	666	16	704
	20 to 21	*24	459	7	447	11	461
	22 to 23	*22	425	8	416	*10	429
	24 to 25	*14	421	*3	416	*8	427
<b>Lifestyle and behaviour</b>							
Being drunk	Drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	18	1,709	5	1,659	9	1,722
	Drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	*34	1,072	*10	1,037	*17	1,082
Drug use	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	17	1,989	3	1,950	8	2,007
	Taken drugs in last 12 months	*43	806	*16	759	*22	813
Victim of personal crime	Not victim of any personal crime	16	2,142	4	2,103	7	2,165
	Victim of personal crime	*48	681	*15	632	*27	684
Attitude to certain criminal acts	More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	*47	276	*21	253	*22	276
	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	22	2,547	5	2,482	11	2,573
Whether committed antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months	No	17	2,163	4	2,125	7	2,176
	Yes	*51	620	*18	571	*29	629
Whether visits the pub	Frequent, visits once a week or more	*29	1,110	*8	1,073	13	1,115
	Less frequent, less than twice a month	22	1,334	*6	1,293	11	1,351
	Never	18	360	3	351	11	364
Whether visits the club	Frequent, visits once a week or more	*33	448	*8	428	*18	449
	Less frequent, less than twice a month	*24	1,691	*7	1,640	11	1,710
	Never	19	667	4	650	10	673
Whether impulsive	Not impulsive	21	2,083	6	2,035	9	2,099
	Highly impulsive	*47	215	*19	198	*30	218
Perception of overall health	Very good or good	23	2,409	6	2,340	11	2,432
	Fair to poor	*32	395	*10	378	*19	398
<b>Area Factors</b>							
Disorder problems in the local area	No problems	21	518	4	506	9	524
	One or more problems	*25	2,305	*7	2,229	*12	2,325
Whether trust the police	Trust police	23	1,981	6	1,932	10	2,000
	Do not trust police	*28	771	9	735	*17	776
Overall indicator of deprivation	Least deprived areas	*21	835	5	805	11	840
	Medium deprived areas	26	996	7	974	12	1,009
	Most deprived areas	27	768	10	742	13	774

Table 3.2 cont.

2005 OCJS

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Offender %	Unweighted base	Frequent offender %	Unweighted base	Serious offender %	Unweighted base
ACORN grouping	Wealthy achievers	26	691	8	665	11	701
	Urban prosperity	25	205	7	200	11	205
	Comfortably off	25	752	6	737	12	763
	Moderate means	20	412	6	403	10	417
	Hard-pressed	25	734	6	701	14	734
Attitudes towards their local area	Good attitude towards local area	22	377	4	367	13	380
	Indifferent attitude	24	1,887	7	1,830	11	1,908
	Negative attitude towards local area	26	477	7	459	14	478
<b>Economic</b>							
Housing tenure	Owners	25	1,908	7	1,852	12	1,932
	Renters	24	909	6	877	12	910
How well household managing on income	Well	24	1,768	7	1,716	11	1,787
	Getting by	24	916	7	887	12	920
	Getting into difficulties	*36	109	7	103	*21	111
<b>Family and friends</b>							
Whether get on with parents	Get on with parent(s)	23	1,812	6	1,754	11	1,828
	Get on badly with at least one parent	26	897	8	873	12	905
Whether friends/siblings been in trouble with the police in the last year	No friends or siblings in trouble with police in last year	19	2,091	4	2,052	9	2,105
	Friends and/or siblings in trouble with police in last year	*41	644	*15	602	*21	653
Who brings up	Both natural parents	22	1,649	7	1,614	10	1,672
	One natural parent alone or with step parent or other	*28	731	6	698	*15	732
Whether parents ever been in trouble with the police	Yes	*34	312	10	295	*18	318
	No	23	2,313	6	2,252	10	2,333
<b>School factors</b>							
Whether been suspended or expelled	Never	22	2,410	6	2,349	10	2,435
	Have been suspended or expelled	*40	354	*14	328	*26	354

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the categories, where more than two categories are present the first one listed is the reference category and all other categories are compared to the reference category.

**Table 3.3 Factors associated with serious offending in last 12 months for 10- to 15-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	3.3
Victim of personal crime	Not been victim of personal crime	3.7
Taken drugs in the last 12 months	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	3.3
Parents have been in trouble with the police	Parents have never been in trouble with the police	1.5
Have ever been suspended or expelled	Never been suspended or expelled	1.9
Have been drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	Have been drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	1.6
Schooling thought to be fairly, not very or not at all important	Schooling thought to be very important	1.4
More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	1.6

Notes:

1. Factors that did not appear in the model: Sex, age group, perceived problems in area, how much there is to do in the area, trust in police, whether brought up by natural parents, parents attitude towards delinquent activities, perception of parenting skills, how well get on with parents, how much time spent with parents, care about what your parents/guardians think, truanted, perception of school, attitude towards schooling and housing tenure.

**Table 3.4 Factors associated with frequent offending in last 12 months for 10- to 15-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Taken drugs in the last 12 months	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	4.1
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	2.6
Victim of personal crime	Not been victim of personal crime	3.1
Friends/siblings have been in trouble with the police	Friends/siblings have not been trouble with the police	2.1
Get on badly with at least one parent	Get on with parent(s)	3.7
More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	2.5
Have been drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	Have been drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	1.4
Have ever been suspended or expelled	Never been suspended or expelled	1.8

Notes:

1. Factors that did not appear in the model: age group, perceived problems in area, trust in police, whether brought up by natural parents, perception of parenting skills, how much time spent with parents, care about what your parents/guardians think, truanted, perception of school, participates in after school groups, attitude towards schooling, housing tenure.

**Table 3.5 Factors associated with serious offending in last 12 months for 16- to 25-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Victim of personal crime	Not been victim of personal crime	3.8
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	2.9
Taken any drug in last 12 months	Not taken drug in last 12 months	2.0
Highly impulsive	Not impulsive	2.4
Ever been expelled or suspended	Not been expelled or suspended	1.9
Get on badly with at least one parent	Gets on well with at least one parent	1.1
Male	Female	1.4
Parents been in trouble with police	Parents have not been in trouble with police	1.4

Notes:

1. Factors that did not appear in model: age group, been drunk once a month or more, perceived problems in area, trust in police, whether brought up by natural parents and general perception of overall health.

**Table 3.6 Factors associated with frequent offending in last 12 months for 16- to 25-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Taken any drug in last 12 months	Not taken drug in last 12 months	4.1
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	2.2
More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	3.7
Friends/siblings have been in trouble with the police	Friends/siblings have not been trouble with the police	2.4
Victim of personal crime	Not been victim of personal crime	2.5
Male	Female	2.3
Highly impulsive	Not impulsive	2.1
Parents been in trouble with police	Parents have not been in trouble with police	1.4
Age (16 to 23)	Age 24 to 25	1.9

Notes:

1. Factors that did not appear in model: been drunk once a month or more, perceived problems in area, trust in police, whether brought up by natural parents, how well got on with parents, whether ever been expelled or suspended and general perception of overall health.

**Table 3.7 Proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds committed offending in last 12 month, by drug status**

<i>Percentage</i>	2005 OCJS					
	No drugs	Any drugs	Non-Class A drugs	Class A drugs	Not frequent user	Frequent user
<b>All</b>						
Non offender	81	*54	58	*48	78	*40
Offender	19	*46	42	*52	22	*60
Serious offender	9	*24	20	*31	11	*30
Frequent offender	4	*18	15	22	5	*28
<b>10- to 17-year- olds</b>						
Non offender	77	*38	42	*26	74	*31
Offender	23	*62	58	*74	26	*69
Serious offender	11	*33	31	40	12	*37
Frequent offender	4	*25	23	35	6	*33
<b>18- to 25-year-olds</b>						
Non offender	85	*60	66	*52	82	*44
Offender	15	*40	34	*48	18	*56
Serious offender	7	*21	14	*30	9	*27
Frequent offender	3	*15	12	*20	4	*25
<i>Unweighted base</i>						
<b>All</b>	3,680	896	611	285	4,232	345
<b>10 to 17</b>	2,309	347	284	63	2,522	135
<b>18 to 25</b>	1,371	549	327	222	1,710	210

Notes:

- \* indicates a significant difference between no drugs and any drugs, Class A and non-Class A drugs, frequent and non-frequent users, within age groups.

## 4 Contact with the criminal justice system

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This chapter examines the extent to which offenders and offences are dealt with by the police and courts. It is based on respondents' self-reported levels of contact with the criminal justice system, both in relation to contact arising from any criminal or suspected criminal offence and contact resulting from the 20 specific core offences measured by the survey (see chapter 2 for offences covered). Box 4.1 outlines the key issues that should be considered in interpreting the results presented in this chapter.

### Box 4.1 Issues of interpretation

In interpreting the results presented in this section, the following should be considered:

- It is well established that the proportion of offences that result in a criminal justice sanction is low. Some offences may never become known to anyone and of those that are known about not all are reported to the police.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, many offences that are known to the police do not result in the offender being detected.<sup>13</sup>
- Different types of offence are more or less likely to result in a formal sanction depending on whether anyone becomes aware of the incident, whether the incident is reported to the police and how easy it is to identify the perpetrator. Thus the contact offenders have with the criminal justice system will be influenced by the types of offence they commit.
- Self-report offending surveys such as the OCJS count many offences that would not be expected to result in criminal justice sanctions. Moreover, some relatively minor offences do not necessarily warrant a formal criminal justice intervention. For example, parents or schools may apply other sanctions to reprimand a young person.
- The OCJS will to some degree under estimate the extent to which offences result in contact with the criminal justice system. This is because the focus is on offending and contact in the 12 months prior to interview. Due to the time lapse between offending and the detection and processing of cases, some incidents may result in contact at a later date after interview. Also, those already in custody were not included in the sample.

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<sup>12</sup> The 2005/06 BCS estimated that for the crimes it covers that are comparable with police recorded data only 42% per cent were reported to the police and of these 70 per cent are recorded as crimes by the police. The most common reasons for not reporting an offence to the police were that it was too trivial, there was no loss, or the victim believed the police could/would not do anything about it (Walker *et al.*, 2006).

<sup>13</sup> In 2005/06 24 per cent of crimes recorded by the police resulted in a 'sanction' detection (offender being charged or summoned, cautioned, having an offence taken into consideration or receiving a fixed penalty notice or a formal warning for cannabis possession) (Walker *et al.*, 2006).

## GENERAL CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

All respondents, irrespective of whether they had offended or not, were asked about various types of contact with the criminal justice system **in the last 12 months** including whether they had been:

- arrested by the police;
- taken to court charged with a criminal offence;
- fined by a court;
- given a community sentence by a court;
- given a custodial sentence by a court;

and whether they had **ever** been given:

- a caution, reprimand or final warning by the police.
- The 2005 OCJS showed that four per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds had been arrested in the last 12 months; two per cent had been to court accused of committing a criminal offence and one per cent had been given a community/custodial sentence or fine.<sup>14</sup>
- The group reporting the highest level of contact with the criminal justice system in the last 12 months were males aged from 18 to 25, of whom five per cent had been arrested, three per cent said they had been taken to court and two per cent had been given a fine, community or custodial sentence (Table 4a).

**Table 4a Level of contact with the criminal justice system in last 12 months, by age and sex**

Percentage	2005 OCJS						
	Males		Females		All		All
	10 to 17	18 to 25	10 to 17	18 to 25	10 to 17	18 to 25	
Arrested	5	5	2	2	4	4	4
Taken to court	2	3	1	1	1	2	2
Given a fine	1	2	<1	1	1	1	1
Given a community sentence	1	<1	<1	<1	1	<1	<1
Given a custodial sentence	1	0	0	0	<1	0	<1
Given fine, community or custodial sentence	1	2	<1	1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,524</i>	<i>932</i>	<i>1,402</i>	<i>1,101</i>	<i>2,926</i>	<i>2,033</i>	<i>4,959</i>

- The 2005 OCJS asked respondents whether they had **ever** been given a caution, reprimand or final warning by the police. Overall 10 per cent of 10- to 25-year-olds had been cautioned, reprimanded or received a final warning in their lifetime (Table 4b). As might be expected the older age group (18- to 25-year-olds) were significantly more likely than those aged from 10 to 17 to have ever received a caution, reprimand or final warning (13% versus 8%).

<sup>14</sup> It is difficult to compare these self-report measures of contact with the criminal justice system with criminal justice statistics because the OCJS uses relatively broad offence types whereas legal offences are more finely differentiated. However, a comparison of the 2003 OCJS figures with those generated from the Offenders Index suggested that the OCJS figures were broadly in line with expectations, although there was an indication that some respondents may have forgotten or otherwise failed to report contact to the survey.



## Offenders contact with the criminal justice system

- Young people who reported committing at least one of the 20 core offences were significantly more likely than those who had not offended in the last 12 months to have been arrested, taken to court or have been given a fine, community or custodial sentence. Just under one in ten (8%) of those who said they had offended in the last 12 months reported that they had been arrested in the same period, while one in twenty offenders (5%) had been to court. The comparable figures for non-offenders were two per cent and one per cent (Table 4b).
- Just over one in ten (11%) serious offenders said they had been arrested in the last 12 months, eight per cent had been to court and four per cent had received one of the three sentence types (Table 4b).
- Among frequent offenders (those who reported committing six or more core offences in the last 12 months), twelve per cent had been arrested, eight per cent had been to court and four per cent had received one of the three types of sentence covered. Frequent offenders were significantly more likely to have been arrested or to have been to court than other offenders<sup>15</sup> (12% compared with 6%; and 8% compared with 2% respectively).
- All three categories of offenders were significantly more likely to have ever been cautioned than non-offenders (Table 4b).

**Table 4b Level of contact with the criminal justice system for 10- to 25-year-olds, by offender status**

Percentage	Offender status					All
	Non offender	Offender	Serious	Frequent	Other	
Ever given a caution, reprimand or final warning by the police <sup>14</sup>	8	19	22	28	14	10
Arrested in last year	2	8	11	12	6	4
Taken to court in last year	1	5	8	8	2	2
Given a fine in last year	1	2	3	4	<1	1
Given a community sentence in last year	<1	1	2	3	<1	<1
Given a custodial sentence in last year	<1	1	1	2	-	<1
Given fine, community/custodial sentence in last year	1	2	4	4	<1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	3,542	1,284	623	308	475	4,959

Notes:

1. Asked if ever received, not asked if received in the last year.

- Among the quarter of young people who reported committing a core offence in the last 12 months, nine per cent of 18- to 25-year-olds had been arrested compared with eight per cent of 10- to 17-year-olds (differences not significant). However, the older serious offenders were significantly more likely to have been taken to court; 11 per cent of 18- to 25-year-olds compared with five per cent of 10- to 17-year-olds (Table 4c).

<sup>15</sup> Other offenders refers to those who have offended in the last year but were neither frequent offenders nor serious offenders.

**Table 4c Level of contact with the criminal justice system in last 12 months, by offender status and age**

Percentage	2005 OCJS					
	Offender		Serious offender		Frequent offender	
	10 to 17	18 to 25	10 to 17	18 to 25	10 to 17	18 to 25
Arrested	8	9	10	13	15	9
Taken to court	3	6	5	*11	8	8
Given fine, community or custodial sentence	2	3	3	5	6	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>848</i>	<i>436</i>	<i>409</i>	<i>214</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>117</i>

Notes:

1. \* indicates the figure for 18- to 25-year-olds is significantly higher than the equivalent figure for 10 to 17 year-olds.
2. Unweighted base is based on the figure for 'arrest'. Unweighted bases for other categories are slightly higher.

- People who had been arrested in the last 12 months (4% all young people) were responsible for 13 per cent of offences measured in the survey.

### Offence specific contact with the criminal justice system

In addition to estimating general contact with the criminal justice system, it is also possible to identify the proportion of offenders who had contact with the criminal justice system in relation to the 20 core offences asked about in the survey. Respondents were asked, for each of the offence types committed, whether the police had spoken to them about the incident(s), whether this led to a court appearance and, if so, whether or not they were found guilty<sup>16</sup>.

- Thirteen per cent of young people who had offended in the last year said the police had spoken to them about at least one of the offences they had committed in the last 12 months, although not necessarily arrested them.<sup>17</sup> Three per cent said they had appeared in court or were due to appear in court, and two per cent had been convicted of an offence (Table 4.1).
- Violent offences were the offences most likely to result in the respondent having contact with the police at 13 per cent of offenders (Table 4.1).

It is also possible to estimate the proportion of *offences*, which resulted in contact with the police and were proceeded against.

- The proportion of *offences* resulting in contact was somewhat lower than the proportion of *offenders* dealt with; six per cent resulted in the offender being spoken to by the police (not necessarily arrested); one per cent had led to a court appearance (Table 4.2).
- Violent offences were the offence type most likely to result in police contact (occurring for 10% of such offences), followed by criminal damage (7%) and vehicle related theft including attempts (6%) (Table 4.2).

<sup>16</sup> Those who had committed an offence on more than one occasion in the last year were asked exactly how many of these incidents resulted in police contact, a court appearance (either already held or known to be happening in the future) and a finding of guilt.

<sup>17</sup> The questions relating to 'core' offences asked whether the police had 'talked to' the respondent about the incident(s). It is therefore consistent that the extent of police contact on this measure is, higher than the arrest figure of eight per cent discussed earlier.

**Table 4.1 Proportion of offenders aged from 10 to 25 in contact with the criminal justice system regarding their offence in last 12 months, by type of offence**

2005 OCJS				
Percentage	% where police spoke to offender	% resulting in court appearance	% resulting in a conviction	<i>Unweighted base</i>
<b>Any property offence</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>721</b>
<b>Vehicle-related thefts (including attempts)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Other thefts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>587</b>
Theft from work	1	<1	<1	170
Theft from school	4	2	<1	326
Theft from shop	10	1	1	159
Other theft	9	1	1	98
<b>Criminal damage</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>239</b>
Damage to a motor vehicle	4	1	-	96
Other damage	10	2	1	189
<b>Any violent offence</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>864</b>
Assault with injury	12	2	2	549
Assault – no injury	9	1	1	580
<b>Drug selling offences</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>All offenders</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,300</b>

**Table 4.2 Proportion of offences committed by 10- to 25-year-olds resulting in contact with the criminal justice system in the last 12 months, by type of offence**

2005 OCJS				
Percentage	% where police spoke to offender	% resulting in court appearance	% resulting in a conviction	<i>Unweighted base</i>
<b>Any property offence</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>1,148</b>
<b>Vehicle-related thefts (including attempts)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Other thefts</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>716</b>
Theft from work	<1	-	-	161
Theft from school	3	1	<1	304
Theft from shop	4	<1	<1	143
Other theft	6	1	1	84
<b>Criminal damage</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>261</b>
Damage to a motor vehicle	3	-	-	88
Other damage	9	1	<1	173
<b>Any violent offence</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>1,069</b>
Assault with injury	10	1	1	514
Assault – no injury	10	<1	<1	549
<b>Drug selling offences</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>All offences</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>2,385</b>

# 5 Anti-social and other problem behaviours

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The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act 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'. However people have different expectations and levels of tolerance and what one person may find offensive or distressing, another person might view as innocuous, and whilst some anti-social behaviours are legally defined offences, others are not. Therefore trying to measure anti-social behaviour is challenging.

This chapter describes the extent and trends of four anti-social behaviours committed by young people aged from 10 to 25. Factors associated with committing these anti-social behaviours are also covered.

Anti-social behaviour as measured by the OCJS covers:

- being noisy or rude in a public place so that people complained or the individual got into trouble with the police
- behaving in a way that resulted in a neighbour complaining
- graffiti in a public place (spray paint or written on a building)
- threatening or being rude to someone because of their race or religion (racially/religious motivated abuse)

This is by no means a comprehensive list of behaviours and there are some overlaps with offences (e.g. graffiti and racially/religiously aggravated abuse are criminal acts) as is also true for other problem behaviours covered in the survey. These are **not** included in the overall OCJS measure of the prevalence of committing anti-social behaviour and are discussed separately in this chapter. They include:

- fare evasion
- truanting
- joyriding
- driving whilst thought to be over the limit
- fined or found guilty for speeding
- driven without vehicle insurance or a valid driving licence

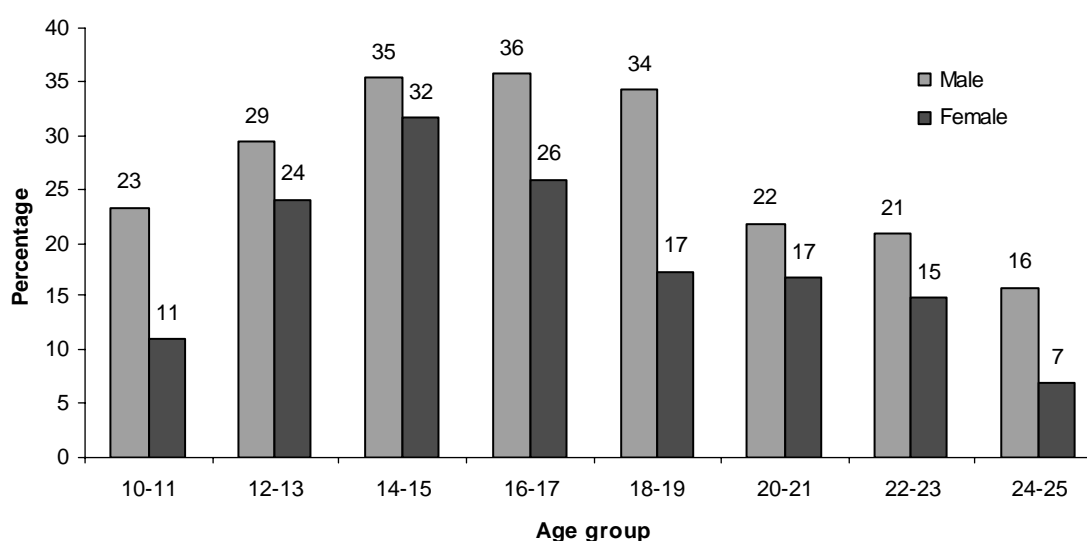
## EXTENT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Just under a quarter (23%) of young people aged from 10 to 25 had committed at least one of the four anti-social behaviours measured in the OCJS in the last 12 months. This represents an estimated 2.6 million young people in England and Wales (95% confidence interval – from 2.4m to 2.8m).
- Being noisy or rude in public (15%) and behaving in a way that caused a neighbour complaint (12%) were the most common anti-social behaviours committed. Graffiti and racial/religious motivated abuse were relatively rare (3% and 2% respectively). This pattern was also found in the 2004 OCJS (Budd *et al.*, 2005) (Table 5.1).

## Sex and age patterns for ASB

- Twenty seven per cent of males had committed at least one anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months, a significantly higher proportion than females (20%). This was true for each of the four anti-social behaviours with the exception of graffiti where similar levels were found for males and females at three per cent each (Table 5.1).
- 10- to 17-year-olds were significantly more likely than 18- to 25-year-olds to have committed any anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months. They were also significantly more likely to have committed each of the four anti-social behaviours with the exception of racially/religiously motivated abuse where there was no difference between the two age groups.
- The proportion of young people committing anti-social behaviour was 20 per cent for those aged 10 to 11, and was highest for those in early adolescence, peaking among 14- to 15-year-olds at 34 per cent. It was lower for older age groups. This pattern is consistent with the results from the 2004 OCJS wave.
- Being noisy or rude in public and committing graffiti also peaked in the mid teenage years (14- to 15-year-olds). However behaviour causing a neighbour complaint and racially/religiously motivated abuse peaked among slightly older age groups (16- to 17-year-olds and 16- to 19-year-olds respectively) (Table 5.1).
- The proportion of females committing at least one of the anti-social behaviours was highest at around a third for those aged from 14 to 15, and was somewhat lower for older age groups. By contrast for males the proportion was over a third for those aged from 14 to 19. For each age group a higher proportion of males committed anti-social behaviour than females although small base sizes mean these differences were not statistically significant (Figure 5.1).

**Figure 5.1 Proportion of young people committing anti-social behaviour, by age and sex, 2005 OCJS**



- Those committing graffiti were on average slightly younger than those who had committed other forms of anti-social behaviour (mean and median age of 15). Other forms of anti-social behaviour had a mean age ranging from 16 to 17 (Table 5a).

**Table 5a Mean age of those who committed each of the four anti-social behaviours in the last 12 months**

Age in years	Mean age	Median age	<i>Unweighted base</i>
Noisy/rude	16	16	800
Neighbour complaint	17	17	567
Graffiti	15	15	221
Racial/religious abuse	17	17	83
<b>Any ASB</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,226</b>

Notes

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25 who committed each anti-social behaviour.
2. The 'any ASB' measure includes noisy/rude, neighbour complaint, graffiti and racially/religious abuse.

### How often committed each individual anti-social behaviour

Respondents were asked how often they had committed each of the anti-social behaviours in the last 12 months based on the following categories: once or twice, three or four times, five to ten times or more often.

- The majority of those who committed anti-social behaviour did so once or twice in the last 12 months, ranging from 56 per cent for racial/religious abuse to 69 per cent for neighbour complaint (Table 5b).
- Committing anti-social behaviour more than ten times was relatively rare, ranging from four per cent each for being noisy/rude in a public place and for behaviour causing a neighbour to complain to seven per cent for committing graffiti. However those committing racially/religiously motivated abuse were significantly more likely to have committed it more than ten times (16%), although this equates to less than one per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds (Table 5b). This pattern was similar to that found in the 2004 OCJS.

**Table 5b Frequency of committing the four anti-social behaviours in last 12 months (of those committing ASB)**

Proportion committing ASB	2005 OCJS			
	Noisy/ rude	Neighbour complaint	Graffiti	Racial/religious abuse
	%	%	%	%
Once or twice	63	69	59	56
3 or 4 times	21	23	23	18
Between 5 and 10 times	12	4	11	10
More than 10 times	4	4	7	16
Overall prevalence <sup>2</sup>	15	12	3	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>778</i>	<i>554</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>79</i>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25 committing each ASB.
2. Based on all respondents aged from 10 to 25.

## RISK FACTORS

Similar to offending, the extent of anti-social behaviour differs among groups of young people. Respondents aged from 10 to 15 and from 16 to 25 are considered separately in this analysis as many of the questions relating to social, lifestyle and behavioural factors were different for the two age groups.

### Risk factors for 10- to 15-year-olds

- Initial bi-variate analysis found that for those aged from 10 to 15 the level of anti-social behaviour differed across nearly all attributes examined. For example, being male, aged from 14 to 15, committing an offence in the last 12 months, being drunk once a month or more in the last 12 months, being a victim of personal crime in the last 12 months, and getting on badly with at least one parent were all associated with committing anti-social behaviour (Table 5.2).
- Multivariate analysis, as used in Chapter 3, enables identification of those factors which, independent of the effects of others, show the highest association with committing anti-social behaviour. The particular attributes that were found to be independently statistically associated with a higher likelihood of committing anti-social behaviour for 10-to 15-year-olds are shown in Table 5c and are similar to those associated with offending for the same age group.
- The factors that were most strongly associated<sup>18</sup> with committing anti-social behaviour for 10- to 15-year-olds were: committing an offence in the last 12 months; having friends/siblings in trouble with the police; taking any drug; and perceiving parents to have poor parenting skills.

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<sup>18</sup> The variables which have the strongest association are those where there is at least a one per cent increase in the percentage of variance explained by the model when the variable is added to the model.

**Table 5c Factors associated with committing anti-social behaviour for 10- to 15-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Committed an offence in last 12 months	Not committed an offence in last 12 months	3.1
Friends/siblings have been in trouble with the police	Friends/siblings have not been trouble with the police	2.3
Taken drugs in the last 12 months	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	3.4
Parents perceived to have poor parenting skills	Parents perceived to have good parenting skills	2.9
Do not trust police	Trust police	1.6
One or more disorder problems in area	No disorder problems in area	1.7
Victim of personal crime in last 12 months	Not having been victim of personal crime	1.5
Care a little or not at all about what your parents/guardians think	Care a lot about what parents/guardians think	1.5
Brought up by one natural parent alone or with step parent or other	Brought up by both natural parents	1.5
Ever been expelled or suspended from school	Never been expelled or suspended from school	1.7
More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	1.5

Notes:

1: Factors that did not appear in the model: age group, sex, ACORN classifications, parents attitude towards delinquent activities, truanted in last 12 months, perception of parenting skills, parents ever been in trouble with the police, how much time spent with the parents, been expelled/suspended, how well get on with parents/guardians, perception of school, participates in after school groups, how well get on with parents, housing tenure, attitude towards schooling and overall perception of health.

2: Odds ratio with values above one indicate higher odds of committing anti-social behaviour and those with values below one relate to lower odds in relation to the reference category.

### **Risk factors for 16- to 25-year-olds**

- The results of the bi-variate analysis for 16- to 25-year-olds found the following factors associated with a greater likelihood of reporting committing anti-social behaviour: being male, being aged from 16 to 17, visiting pubs and clubs frequently, being highly impulsive, taking any drugs in last 12 months, committing an offence in the last 12 months, being a victim of personal crime, one or more disorder problems in the local area, not trusting the police, the household getting into difficulties with income and being brought up by only one natural parent (Table 5.3).
- The results from the multivariate analysis found particular factors independently statistically associated with a higher likelihood of committing anti-social behaviour for 16- to 25-year-olds (Table 5d) which were similar to those associated with offending for this age group.
- The factors that were most strongly associated<sup>19</sup> with committing anti-social behaviour for 16- to 25-year-olds were: committing any offence in the last 12 months; friends/siblings having been in trouble with the police; being highly impulsive; and taking any drugs in last 12 months.

<sup>19</sup> The variables which have the strongest association are those where there is at least a one per cent increase in the percentage of variance explained by the model when the variable is added to the model.



**Table 5d Factors associated with committing anti-social behaviour for 16- to 25-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Committed any offence in the last 12 months	Not committed an offence in last 12 months	2.6
Friends/siblings have been in trouble with the police	Friends/siblings have not been trouble with the police	2.2
Highly impulsive	Not impulsive	3.2
Taken drugs in the last 12 months	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	1.8
Household having difficulties managing income	Household managing well or getting by on income	2.7
Visits pub once a week or more	Never visited pub or visits pub less than twice a month	1.5
Aged from 16 to 19	Aged from 20 to 25	1.2
Victim of personal crime in last 12 months	Not been victim of personal crime in last 12 months	1.4
Brought up by one natural parent alone or with step parent or other	Brought up by both natural parents	1.4
Male	Female	1.3

Notes:

1: Factors that did not appear in the model: attitude to certain criminal acts, perceived problems in local area, trust in the police, ever been expelled or suspended, parents ever been in trouble with the police and general health.

## TRENDS OVER TIME: 2003 TO 2005 OCJS

The previous waves of the OCJS (2003 and 2004) also asked about various forms of anti-social and other problem behaviours. The following are directly comparable between the 2003, 2004 and 2005 waves: being noisy or rude in public; acting in a way to cause a neighbour to complain; and graffiti.

- The proportion of young people committing each of the four anti-social behaviours and the proportion committing at least one showed no significant change across the three waves of the survey. This was true for both males and females and for both 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds (Table 5.4 and Table 5.5).

## OTHER PROBLEM BEHAVIOURS

The OCJS also measures a variety of other problem behaviours which are **not** included in the overall OCJS measure of the prevalence of young people committing anti-social behaviour. They are as follows:

- fare evasion
- truanting
- joyriding
- driving whilst thought to be over the limit
- fined or found guilty for speeding
- driven without vehicle insurance or a valid driving licence

- Just over a fifth (22%) of young people reported that they had committed fare evasion (avoided paying the correct fare when travelling on public transport) in the last 12 months (Table 5.6). Half (52%) of this group evaded fares once or twice, just under a quarter (23%) had done so three or four times and over one in ten (14%) had evaded fares more than ten times in the last 12 months, the latter group representing three per cent of all 10- to 25-year-olds.
- The proportion of those who reported committing fare evasion was highest amongst 16- to 17- year-olds at 40 per cent, followed by 34 per cent of 18- to 19-year-olds. This may reflect the greater use of public transport in this age group and 'adult' fares applying to those aged 16 and over (Table 5.6).
- Overall nine per cent of 10- to 16-year-olds had truanted in the last 12 months. Truancy was higher for older age groups, ranging from less than one per cent of 10- to 11-year-olds to 18 per cent of 16-year-olds. There were no differences between males and females. However, those who had offended in the last 12 months were significantly more likely than non-offenders to have truanted (18% compared with 6%). Truancy rates were even higher for serious offenders (22%) and for frequent offenders (31%) (Table 5.6).
- Joyriding in the last 12 months was relatively rare at one per cent. Across the different age groups the proportions did not exceed two per cent.
- Seven per cent of **all** 16- to 25-year-olds had driven without vehicle insurance or a valid driving licence in the last 12 months. Four per cent had been fined or found guilty of speeding and 10 per cent had driven when they thought that at the time they could be over the legal limit for alcohol in the last 12 months.
- Male drivers were more likely than female drivers to have committed driving offences. Amongst those fined or found guilty for speeding in last 12 months no difference was found between males and females.
- Of those who had driven in the last 12 months, those who had offended in the same period were significantly more likely (25%) than non-offenders (7%) to have driven without insurance, or to have driven whilst they thought they were over the alcohol limit (28% and 13% respectively). This pattern held for serious and frequent offenders (Table 5.7).

**Table 5.1 Prevalence of anti-social and other problem behaviours in the last 12 months, by age and sex**

						2005 OCJS
Percentage	Anti-social behaviour					<i>Unweighted base</i>
	Any ASB <sup>2</sup>	Noisy/rude	Neighbour complaint	Graffiti	Racial/religious abuse	
<b>All</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,855</b>
Male	*27	*18	*13	3	2	2,400
Female	20	13	10	3	1	2,455
10 to 11	20	13	12	2	2	216
12 to 13	27	17	12	6	1	865
14 to 15	34	26	14	10	2	941
16 to 17	31	22	15	5	3	822
18 to 19	26	17	12	2	3	701
20 to 21	20	11	12	1	1	460
22 to 23	18	10	10	<1	1	424
24 to 25	9	4	5	<1	1	426
10 to 17	*29	*20	*13	*6	2	2,844
18 to 25	19	11	10	1	1	2,011

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. The 'any ASB' measure includes noisy/rude, neighbour complaint, graffiti and racial/religious abuse.
3. \* indicates significant differences between males and females, and between 10- to 17-year-olds and 18- to 25-year-olds.

**Table 5.2 Proportion of 10- to 15-year-olds committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months, by socio demographic and lifestyle variables**

		2005 OCJS	
Socio-demographic variable	Category	Committed ASB in last 12 months %	Unweighted base
<b>Demographics</b>			
Sex	Female	25	939
	Male	*30	1,083
Age	10 to 11	20	216
	12 to 13	27	865
	14 to 15	*34	941
<b>Lifestyle and behaviour</b>			
Being drunk	Drunk less than once a month in last year	25	1,825
	Drunk once a month or more in last year	*65	134
Drug use	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	24	1,824
	Taken drugs in last 12 months	*71	166
Victim of personal crime	Not victim of any personal crime	21	1,399
	Victim of personal crime	*43	623
Attitude to certain criminal acts	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	26	1,828
	More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	*46	191
Whether committed an offence in last 12 months	Did not commit an offence	17	1,369
	Committed an offence	*55	586
<b>Area factors</b>			
Disorder problems in the area	No problems	14	412
	One to three problems	*27	1,327
	Four or more problems	*49	283
Whether trust the police	Trust police	24	1,644
	Do not trust police	*50	345
Overall indicator of deprivation	3 least deprived areas	21	592
	4 medium deprived areas	*29	722
	3 most deprived areas	*32	560
ACORN grouping	Wealthy achievers	19	531
	Urban prosperity	*32	150
	Comfortably off	*25	536
	Moderate means	*32	286
	Hard-pressed	*34	504
How much to do in the area	Quite a lot	21	789
	Not very much or nothing	32	1,231
Attitude towards local area	Good attitude	22	481
	Indifferent attitude	*28	1,164
	Negative attitude	*36	300
<b>Economic factors</b>			
Housing tenure	Owners	24	1,489
	Renters	*37	530
Whether receive free school meals	No	27	1,676
	Yes	31	303
<b>Family factors</b>			
Whether get on with parents	Get on with parent(s)	26	1,937
	Get on badly with at least one parent	*62	71
Young person's perception of parents	Good parenting skills	24	1,406
	Poor parenting skills	*56	117
Whether friends/siblings been in trouble with the police in the last year	No friends or siblings in trouble with police in last year	19	1,375
	Friends and/or siblings in trouble with police in last year	*54	490
Who brings up	Both natural parents	19	1,375
	One natural parent alone or with step-parent or other	*54	490
Whether parents ever been in trouble with the police	No	24	1,617
	Yes	*55	189

Table 5.2 cont.

Socio-demographic variable	Category	2005 OCJS	
		Committed ASB in last 12 months %	Unweighted base
How much do you care about what your parents/guardians think	A lot	23	1,486
	A little or not at all	*42	500
Parents/guardians know who your friends are	Parents know all of friends	21	777
	Parents only know some of friends	*32	1,211
Young peoples perception of parents attitudes to delinquent behaviours	Parents perceived to have less relaxed attitude	25	1,772
	Parents perceived to have more relaxed attitude	*54	113
Free time spent with parents	Some to all of time	24	1,708
	Little or no time	*49	291
<b>School factors</b>			
Whether truanted in last 12 months	No	22	1,508
	Yes	*50	352
Whether been suspended or expelled	Never	25	1,859
	Have been suspended or expelled	*56	157
Perception of school	Good perception	24	1,435
	Bad perception	*48	292
Attitude to schooling	Very important	23	1,398
	Fairly to not very or not at all important	*37	623
Whether participate in after school clubs	Participates in after school groups	25	1,376
	Does not participate in after school groups	*34	629

## Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the categories, where more than two categories are present the first one listed is the reference category and all other categories are compared to the reference category.

**Table 5.3 Proportion of 16- to 25-year-olds committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months, by socio-demographic and lifestyle variables**

Socio-demographic variable	Category	2005 OCJS	
		Committed ASB in last 12 months %	Unweighted base
<b>Demographics</b>			
Sex	Female	17	1,516
	Male	*25	1,317
Age	16 to 17	31	822
	18 to 19	26	701
	20 to 21	*20	460
	22 to 23	*18	424
	24 to 25	*9	426
<b>Lifestyle and behaviour</b>			
Being drunk	Drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	15	1,718
	Drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	*30	1,071
Drug use	Not taken drug in last 12 months	16	2,002
	Taken drug in last 12 months	*35	801
Victim of Crime	Not victim of any personal crime	17	2,156
	Victim of personal crime	*34	677
Attitude to certain criminal acts	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	20	2,559
	More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	*31	274
Whether participates activities	Participates in groups	22	1,491
	Does not participate in groups	21	1,342
Whether committed an offence in last 12 months	Not committed an offence	14	2,105
	Committed an offence	*44	678
Whether visits the pub	Never	21	358
	Less frequent, visits less than twice a month	17	1,349
	Frequent, visits once a week or more	*26	1,107
Whether visits the club	Never	17	670
	Less frequent, visits less than twice a month	*20	1,701
	Frequent, visits once a week or more	*31	446
Whether impulsive	Not impulsive	17	2,094
	Highly impulsive	*50	217
Perception of overall health	Very good to good	20	2,413
	Fair to poor	25	402
<b>Area factors</b>			
Disorder problems in the area	No problems	15	518
	One or more problems	*20	1,602
Whether trust the police	Trust police	20	1,984
	Do not trust police	*26	776
Overall indicator of deprivation	Least deprived areas	24	769
	Medium deprived areas	20	1,005
	Most deprived areas	20	836

Table 5.3 cont.

2005 OCJS

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Committed ASB in last 12 months %	Unweighted base
ACORN grouping	Wealthy achievers	22	693
	Urban prosperity	20	205
	Comfortably off	22	763
	Moderate means	19	410
	Hard-pressed	22	733
	Unclassified	10	18
Attitudes of those aged from 16-25 towards their local area	Good attitude towards local area	20	377
	Indifferent attitude	21	1,900
	Negative attitude towards local area	25	476
<b>Economic</b>			
Housing tenure	Owners	20	1,924
	Renters	25	903
How well household managing on income	Well	20	1,774
	Getting by	21	916
	Getting into difficulties	*37	110
<b>Family and friends</b>			
Whether get on with parents	Get on with parent(s)	20	1,818
	Get on badly with at least one parent	22	901
Whether friends/siblings been in trouble with the police in the last year	No friends or siblings in trouble with police in last year	15	2,091
	Friends and/or siblings in trouble with police in last year	*38	655
Who brings up	Both natural parents	16	2,091
	One natural parent alone or with step parent or other	*39	655
Whether parents ever been in trouble with the police	Yes	*28	316
	No	19	2,325
<b>School factors</b>			
Whether been suspended or expelled	Never	20	2,420
	Have been suspended or expelled	*32	353

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the categories, where more than two categories are present the first one listed is the reference category and all other categories are compared to the reference category.

**Table 5.4 Trends in ASB and other problem behaviours in last 12 months, by sex  
2003, 2004 and 2005 OCJS**

Percentage	Male			Female			All 10 to 25		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
<b>Any ASB</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>
Noisy/rude	19	24	19	12	13	13	15	18	16
Neighbour complained	16	16	17	10	11	14	13	13	15
Graffiti	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4
Racial/religious abuse <sup>2</sup>	NA	2	2	NA	1	1	NA	2	2
<b>Other problem behaviours</b>									
Fare evasion	23	24	28	19	19	21	21	22	24
Joyriding	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,202</i>	<i>896</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>2,182</i>	<i>865</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>4,384</i>	<i>1,761</i>	<i>777</i>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25. 2004 and 2005 OCJS results based on fresh sample only.
2. The 'any ASB' measure includes noisy/rude, neighbour complaint, graffiti and racial/religious abuse. Racially/religiously motivated attacks are included in the 2003 racial/religious abuse question but not in 2004. These figures are therefore not directly comparable though racial/religious attacks are a very small percentage.

**Table 5.5 Trends in ASB and other problem behaviours in last 12 months, by age  
2003, 2004 and 2005 OCJS**

Percentage	10 to 17			18 to 25			All 10 to 25		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
<b>Any ASB</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>
Noisy/rude	19	23	21	11	14	10	15	18	16
Neighbour complained	13	14	17	14	13	14	13	13	15
Graffiti	6	6	5	1	1	2	4	4	4
Racial/religious abuse <sup>2</sup>	NA	2	1	NA	2	2	NA	2	2
<b>Other problem behaviours</b>									
Fare evasion	21	13	23	22	21	25	21	22	24
Joyriding	2	1	1	1	1	<1	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,557</i>	<i>1,093</i>	<i>474</i>	<i>1,827</i>	<i>668</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>4,384</i>	<i>1,761</i>	<i>777</i>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25. 2004 and 2005 OCJS results based on fresh sample only.
2. The 'any ASB' measure includes noisy/rude, neighbour complaint, graffiti and racial/religious abuse. Racially/religiously motivated attacks are included in the 2003 racial/religious abuse question but not in 2004. These figures are therefore not directly comparable though racial/religious attacks are a very small percentage.



**Table 5.6 Prevalence of other problem behaviours in the last 12 months, by age and sex**

<b>2005 OCJS</b>				
<b>Percentage</b>				
	<b>Truanted</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>	<b>Fare evasion</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4,909</b>
Male	8	1283	24	2,425
Female	9	1169	20	2,484
10 to 11	<1	227	9	210
12 to 13	5	891	12	886
14 to 15	15	955	23	953
16 to 17 <sup>1</sup>	18	379	40	836
18 to 19	-	-	34	703
20 to 21	-	-	23	464
22 to 23	-	-	21	429
24 to 25	-	-	12	428
10 to 17	-	-	22	2,885
18 to 25	-	-	23	2,024
Non offender	6	1,656	16	3,504
Offender	18	710	41	1,280
Frequent offender	31	161	40	625
Serious offender	22	355	52	307

Notes:

1. Truancing in the last 12 months is based on those aged from 10 to 16 who have been at school in the last 12 months.

**Table 5.7 Prevalence of driving related problem behaviours in the last 12 months among those who had driven a motor vehicle in the last 12 months, by age and sex**  
**2005 OCJS**

<b>Percentage</b>				
	<b>Driving without valid insurance/licence</b>	<b>Driving whilst thought to be over alcohol limit</b>	<b>Being fined or found guilty of speeding</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>
<b>All (16 – 25) (who have driven in the last 12 months)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,685</b>
Male	*14	*22	8	839
Female	7	11	7	846
16 to 17	17	9	2	340
18 to 19	14	14	4	471
20 to 21	11	16	12	305
22 to 23	11	20	7	280
24 to 25	6	23	9	289
Non offender	7	13	7	1,228
Offender	*25	*28	7	429
Frequent offender	*37	*36	11	118
Serious offender	*29	*31	7	215

Notes:

1. Based on those who had driven a motor vehicle in the last 12 months.

2. The percentages for joyriding were small ranging from two per cent to less than one per cent.

3. \* indicates significant differences between males and females, and between offenders and non-offenders.

## 6 Personal victimisation

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This chapter examines the extent and nature of young people's personal victimisation in the last 12 months. The main focus is on personal crimes among those aged from 10 to 15 as the national victimisation survey in England and Wales, the British Crime Survey, does not provide information on personal victimisation for this age group. This chapter also covers detailed information about incidents victims had experienced, repeat victimisation, factors associated with victimisation and trend information, comparing 2005 OCJS results with those from the previous annual waves (2003 and 2004 OCJS).

The definition of personal victimisation is shown in Box 6.1 and is consistent with the British Crime Survey. Victimisation covered by the OCJS is less detailed than in the BCS, and uses questions adjusted in light of the OCJS feasibility studies to be suitable for asking younger respondents. Additionally the context of the questions is different within the two surveys. Hence, it is not possible to draw direct comparisons between the OCJS and the BCS of measures of victimisation because of the differences in methodology both in terms of design and context.

### Box 6.1: Personal victimisation measured in the OCJS

Personal thefts	Assaults
Robbery <sup>20</sup>	Assault resulting in injury
Theft from the person <sup>21</sup>	Assault without injury
Other personal thefts <sup>22</sup>	

### EXTENT OF PERSONAL VICTIMISATION: PERSONAL THEFTS AND ASSAULTS

- Just over a quarter (27%) of young people aged from 10 to 25 had been a victim of either personal theft or of assault in the last 12 months (Table 6a).
- 10- to 15-year-olds were more likely to have been a victim than 16- to 25-year-olds (31% versus 25%). When looking at age in more detail, the victimisation rate was relatively stable between ages 10 to 21 (ranging between 31% and 27%), and was significantly lower at 21 per cent for ages 22 to 25. The same pattern was found in the 2004 OCJS (Budd *et al* 2005).

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<sup>20</sup> Definition of robbery: when force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. Due to the small number of robbery incidents these are not analysed in details in the nature section.

<sup>21</sup> Definition of theft from the person: thefts (including attempts) of an item directly from the person (e.g. an item that the victim was carrying or wearing). Physical force or threats are not used.

<sup>22</sup> Definition of other personal theft: theft of personal property where there is no direct contact between victim and offender (e.g. sports equipment from changing rooms, money from locker), excluding burglary and vehicle-related thefts.

- The most common forms of victimisation for both age groups (10- to 15-year-olds and 16- to 25-year-olds) were assault without injury (11%) and other personal thefts (9%). Both forms were more common among 10- to 15-year-olds.
- Males were significantly more likely than females to have been a victim of a personal crime in the last 12 months (32% versus 22%) (Table 6.1).
- Males aged from 10 to 15 were more likely than older males (16- to 25-year-olds) to have been a victim at least once in the last 12 months (37% and 29% respectively). However the apparent difference between these two age groups for females was not statistically significant (Table 6.1).

**Table 6a Proportion of young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victims once or more in the last 12 months, by age**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Age groups									10-15	16-25	10-25
	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	20-21	22-23	24-25				
<b>Any personal victimisation<sup>1</sup></b>	31	33	29	27	29	27	23	20		31	*25	27
<b>Any personal theft</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>*11</b>	<b>13</b>
Robbery	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	0		2	2	2
Theft from the person	6	6	5	6	4	4	2	2		6	*4	4
Other personal thefts	10	13	11	8	8	7	7	7		11	*7	9
<b>Any assault</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>*16</b>	<b>18</b>
Assault (no injury)	12	17	14	10	13	11	11	4		14	*10	11
Assault (with injury)	14	10	10	9	11	10	8	9		11	10	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	228	899	973	841	712	465	433	429		2,100	2,880	4,980

Notes:

1. Personal victimisation includes robbery, theft from the person, other personal theft and assault.
2. \* indicates significant differences compared with the 10- to 15-year-old age group.

## Personal thefts

- Thirteen per cent of young people had experienced at least one personal theft (robbery, theft from the person, other personal thefts) in the last 12 months. The most common type of personal thefts was other personal thefts (where there is no direct contact between the victim and offender) at nine per cent.
- 10- to 15-year-olds were more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to have been a victim of any personal theft and more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to have been the victim of other personal theft and of theft from the person (Table 6a).
- The proportion of young people reporting that they had been victims of robbery was relatively small for all ages at three per cent or lower.
- Males were significantly more likely than females to be the victims of robbery (3% compared with 1%) and other personal thefts (10% versus 7%) (Figure 6.1, Table 6.1).

**Figure 6.1 Proportion of young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victims once or more in the last 12 months, by sex, 2005 OCJS**



- In general males aged from 10 to 15 were more likely than those aged from 16 to 25 to have been a victim of all personal theft categories, except for robbery which was rare for both. There were no differences between female 10- to 15-year-olds and females aged from 16 to 25 for personal thefts (Table 6.1).

### Nature of personal theft

The 2005 OCJS collected details about the nature of incidents victims had experienced. There were two sets of questions – one pertaining to personal theft incidents and another covering assault. Victims who had experienced more than one offence type within the two groupings were asked about one offence type only, selected in priority order<sup>23</sup>. In addition, respondents who had experienced the same offence type on more than one occasion in the last 12 months were only asked about the most recent incident. Tables 6.2 to 6.16 present the detailed results.

- The items stolen and the location of the thefts were strongly related to the age of the victim. Incidents against 10- to 15-year-olds were more likely to involve the theft of stationery and sports equipment and to have occurred at school compared with incidents against 16- to 25-year-olds. Those aged between 16 and 25 were more likely than 10- to 15-year-olds to have money, mobile phone and cards (including credit and debit cards) stolen and the most commonly mentioned locations were at a pub/bar/nightclub, in the street and at home (Tables 6.3, 6.9).
- Those aged between 16 and 25 were more likely than 10- to 15-year-olds to say they were upset about the incident (75% versus 49% for theft from the person and 75% versus 59% for other personal thefts) and considered what had happened to them a crime (77%

<sup>23</sup> The priority order for personal theft incidents was robbery, theft from the person and other personal thefts. For assault incidents the priority order was assault with injury and assault without injury. For example, a respondent who had been the victim of a robbery and a theft from the person would only be asked about the robbery incident.

versus 37% for theft from the person and 73% versus 38% for other personal thefts) (Table 6.14).

- The majority of personal theft incidents did come to the attention of someone. For both age groups, incidents were most likely to come to the attention of parents and friends. Similar to 2004, those who may be seen as the 'figure of authority' for the different age groups were more likely to find out about the incident, for example around a third of incidents against 10- to 15-year-olds came to the attention of their teachers, whereas incidents against 16- to 25-year-olds were more likely to come to the attention of the police (Table 6.16).

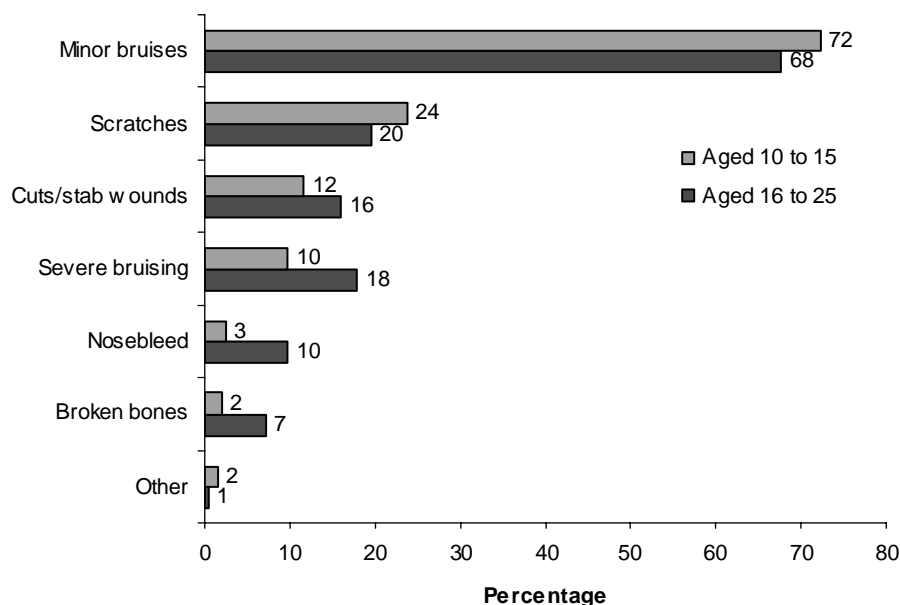
## **Assaults**

- Just under a fifth (18%) of young people had been a victim of some assault in the last 12 months (10% had been the victim of an assault resulting in injury and 11% an assault that did not result in injury) (Table 6a).
- Those aged between 10 and 15 and 16- to 25-year-olds experienced similar levels of assault with injury (11% and 10%). Across the age groups the level of assault with injury fluctuated between fourteen per cent and eight per cent, however there were indications of a reduction in the proportion for older age groups, from age 12-13.
- Those aged between 10 and 15 were significantly more likely than those aged from 16 to 25 to have been victims of assault without injury (14% versus 10%). This reflects higher victimisation levels among 12- to 13-year-olds (17%) and lower levels among 24- to 25-year-olds (4%).
- Males were significantly more likely than females to have been a victim of assault (22% compared to 13%). This pattern held for assault with injury (12% and 9% respectively) and assault without injury (15% and 8% respectively) (Figure 6.1).
- Males aged from 10 to 15 were significantly more likely than males aged from 16 to 25 to have been a victim of assault without injury (18% and 13% respectively). The pattern was similar for females (Table 6.1).

## **Nature of assaults**

- Where injury was caused, assaults against 10- to 15-year-olds were more likely to involve being grabbed, pushed or pulled, or being kicked, than those against 16- to 25-year-olds, which were more likely to involve being punched, slapped or hit, or to involve being hit with a weapon (Table 6.11).
- The injuries sustained in assaults were mainly minor bruising for both age groups (72% for 10- to 15-year-olds and 68% for 16- to 25-year-olds). However, 16- to 25-year-olds were more likely than those aged from 10 to 15 to sustain more serious injuries e.g. broken bones (7% and 2% respectively) and severe bruising (16% and 12% respectively) (Figure 6.2). However, serious injury was extremely rare for respondents in this survey.

**Figure 6.2 Injuries sustained in assaults with injury in the last 12 months, by age group, 2005 OCJS**



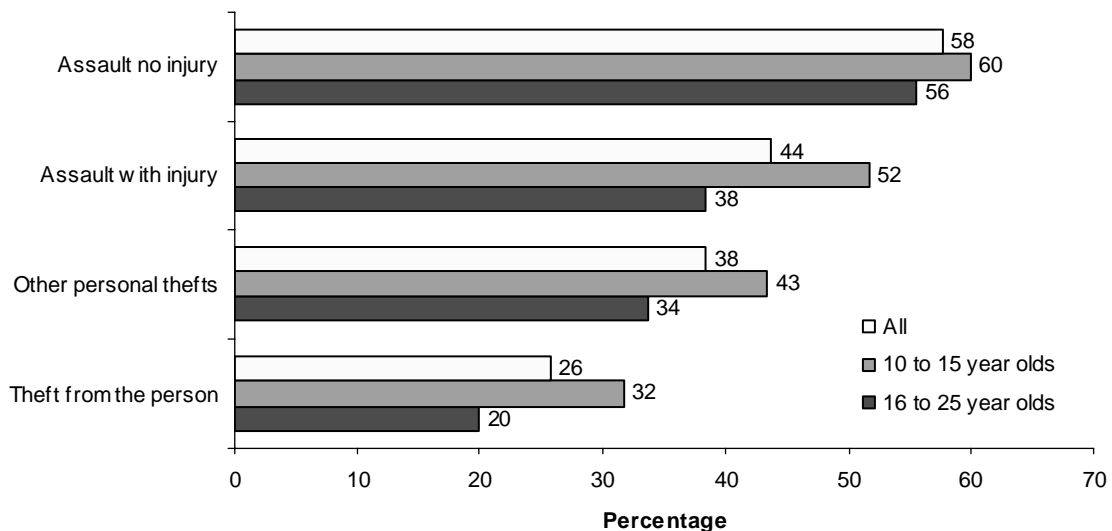
- Similar to the locations of personal theft incidents, assaults against 10- to 15-year-olds were most likely to happen at school, while for assaults against people aged from 16 to 25 years a pub, bar or nightclub or the street were most common locations. Sixty-one per cent of assaults with injury and sixty-eight per cent of assaults without injury against 10- to 15-year-olds took place at school (Table 6.3).
- Assault victims aged from 10 to 15 were more likely than 16- to 25-year-old assault victims to know the perpetrator in some way (93% compared with 56%, respectively, for assault with injury). Perpetrators against 10- to 15-year-olds were mainly pupil(s) (60% for both assault with and without injury) or friends (32% for assault with injury and 34% for assault without injury) and in the same age group – 10- to 15-year-olds (81% for assault with injury and 86% assault without injury) (Table 6.5).
- As with personal thefts a higher proportion of 16- to 25-year-olds than 10- to 15-year-olds said they were upset about the incident and 16- to 25-year-olds were also more likely to say what happened to them was a crime (50% versus 16%, respectively, for assault with injury). For assault with injury 43 per cent of 10- to 15-year-olds considered the incidents to be 'wrong but not a crime' and 41 per cent considered the incident to be 'something that happens'. For assault without injury 10- to 15-year-olds were more likely than 16- to 25-year-olds to say it was 'something that happens' (58% compared with 37%) (Table 6.14).
- Assault incidents against 16- to 25-year-olds were more likely to come to the attention of the police than those against 10- to 15-year-olds. Incidents against 10- to 15-year-olds were most likely to be known to parents, teachers or friends (Table 6.16).

## REPEAT VICTIMISATION

Respondents who had been a victim at least once in the last 12 months, were asked how many times each category of victimisation had happened.

- The highest levels of repeat victimisation were for assault without injury (58% of young people). Robbery and theft from the person had the lowest repeat victimisation levels with around a quarter of victims (22% and 26% respectively) being victimised more than once (Table 6.17).
- Although a higher proportion of victims aged from 10 to 15 had experienced repeat victimisation for each category compared with those aged from 16 to 25, assault with injury was the only category for which the difference was statistically significance (Figure 6.3, Table 6.17).
- There were no differences in the levels of repeat victimisation for males and females (Table 6.18).

**Figure 6.3 Proportion of victims victimised more than once in the last 12 months, by age, 2005 OCJS**



## RISK FACTORS

The following findings are based on analysis similar to that conducted for risks of offending and committing anti-social behaviour. The risk of young people being victims varies according to many social, lifestyle and behavioural factors.

### Risk factors for 10- to 15-year-olds

- Similar to findings for offending and anti-social behaviour the levels of victimisation against 10- to 15-year-olds differed across many of the attributes examined. Attributes relating to higher levels of victimisation included being male, being drunk once a month or more, taking any drugs, having one or more disorder problems in the local area, having an indifferent or negative attitude towards the local area and being brought up by only one natural parent (Table 6.19).

- The factors that were found to be independently statistically associated with a higher likelihood of 10- to 15-year-olds being a victim are shown in Table 6a. The results presented here are similar to those found in the 2003 OCJS (Wood, 2005).
- Those that showed the strongest association were: committing an offence in the last 12 months, being male and having one or more disorder problems in the local area.

**Table 6b Factors associated with personal victimisation against 10- to 15-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Committed an offence in the last 12 months	Not committed an offence in the last 12 months	3.4
Male	Female	2.0
One or more disorder problems in the local area	No disorder problems in the local area	2.1
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	1.4
Household rents accommodation	Household owns accommodation	1.4
Bad perception of school	Good perception of school	1.2
Parents perceived to have poor parenting skills	Parents perceived to have good parenting skills	1.4

**Notes:**

1: Factors that did not appear in the model: age group, attitude to certain criminal acts, ACORN classifications, whether brought up by natural parents, parents attitude towards delinquent activities, truanted, how well get on with parents, attitude towards schooling, been expelled/suspended, how much care what parent think, parents ever been in trouble with the police, friends/siblings ever been in trouble with the police and time spent with parents.

**Risk factors for 16- to 25-year-olds**

- For those aged from 16 to 25, initial bi-variate analysis found that the levels of victimisation varied across many of the attributes examined. For example being male, being drunk once a month or more, taking any drugs in the last 12 months, committing an offence in the last 12 months, committing anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months, having one or more disorder problems in the local area, indifferent or negative attitude towards the local area and being highly impulsive were more likely to be associated with being a victim in the last 12 months than other attributes (Table 6.20).
- The particular attributes that were found to be independently statistically associated with a higher likelihood of 16- to 25-year-olds being a victim of personal crime are shown in Table 6c. For 16- to 25-year-olds the factors that were most strongly associated with being a victim were: committing an offence in the last 12 months, having a negative attitude towards the local area and not trusting the police.



**Table 6c Factors associated with personal victimisation against 16- to 25-year-olds**

		2005 OCJS
Factors showing association <sup>1</sup>	Reference category	Odds ratio
Committed an offence in last 12 months	Not committed an offence in last 12 months	3.7
Negative attitude towards local area	Good or indifferent attitude towards local area	1.7
Do not trust police	Trust police	1.6
Committed anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	1.4
Visits pub more than once a month	Never visits pub or visits less than twice a month	1.3
Male	Female	1.4
Household having difficulties managing on income	Household managing well or getting by on income	1.7
Taken drugs in the last 12 months	Not taken drugs in last 12 months	1.3

Notes:

1: Factors that did not appear in the model: age group, attitude to certain criminal acts, disorder problems in area, whether brought up by natural parents, ever been expelled or suspended, general health, highly impulsive and friends/siblings in trouble with the police.

## TRENDS OVER TIME: 2003 TO 2005 OCJS

The 2005 results were compared with those from the previous waves of the survey (2003 and 2004). For comparative purposes the 2004 and 2005 results are based on fresh sample respondents only<sup>24</sup>.

- Overall the proportion of 10- to 25-year-olds who were victims in the last 12 months remained broadly similar across the three waves and this was true for males and females and both age groups. There were some minor decreases within crime types but no evidence of an overall trend (Table 6.21, 6.22).

<sup>24</sup> The OCJS trend data are based on fresh sample only to ensure direct comparability to 2003. There are two reasons for this. Panel cases in the 2004 and 2005 OCJS were not asked some questions where the information was available from their responses in 2003. Panel cases may be influenced in how they respond given their participation in the previous sweep – the panel effect.

**Table 6.1 Proportion of young people who were victims once or more in the last 12 months, by age and sex**

2005 OCJS

Percentage					Male		Female		All
	10 to 15	16 to 25	Male	Female	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	
<b>Any personal victimisation</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>*25</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>*22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>*29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Any personal theft</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>*11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>*12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>
Robbery	2	2	3	*1	4	2	<1	1	2
Theft from the person	6	*4	4	4	7	*3	4	5	4
Other personal thefts	11	*7	10	*7	14	*8	9	7	9
<b>Any assault</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>*16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>*13</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>*11</b>	<b>18</b>
Assault (no injury)	14	*10	15	*8	18	*13	10	*6	11
Assault (with injury)	11	10	12	*9	12	12	11	*7	10
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>2,880</i>	<i>2,469</i>	<i>2,511</i>	<i>1,123</i>	<i>1,346</i>	<i>977</i>	<i>1,534</i>	<i>4,980</i>

Notes:

1. Based on all respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. \* indicates significant differences within the columns e.g. differences between 10 to 15s and 16 to 25s.

**Table 6.2 Where the incident took place**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Robbery	Theft from the person	Other personal thefts	Assault with injury	Assault without injury
Home	5	3	19	9	8
Someone else's home <sup>2</sup>	2	3	4	5	5
School/college	10	38	35	28	34
Work	-	3	7	5	3
Pub/bar/night club	7	15	9	19	16
Public place <sup>3</sup>	1	6	5	4	3
Shop/shopping centre	6	5	3	2	2
On the street	51	12	7	22	18
Car park	5	-	2	<1	1
Park/other open space	12	6	3	4	5
On public transport	-	4	2	1	2
At station	<1	2	2	1	<1
Other	1	3	3	1	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>388</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. Someone else's home includes home of perpetrator
3. Public place includes restaurant/café, cinema/museum, sports centre and youth club

**Table 6.3 Where the incident took place, by age of victim**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Theft from the person		Other personal thefts		Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
Home	5	1	19	20	3	13	7	8
Someone else's home <sup>2</sup>	-	5	3	5	5	4	3	6
School/college	63	15	62	13	61	5	68	9
Work	-	6	-	13	-	8	-	6
Pub/bar/night club	1	28	-	15	1	32	1	28
Public place <sup>3</sup>	5	7	5	5	2	5	2	3
Shop/shopping centre	3	7	3	4	2	2	-	3
Street	13	12	3	10	17	25	11	24
Car park	-	-	-	2	<1	<1	-	1
Park//other open space	10	2	5	1	6	2	6	5
Public transport	-	7	-	3	1	<1	1	2
At station	-	5	1	3	1	1	1	<1
Other	-	6	-	6	-	1	1	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>183</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>181</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. Someone else's home includes home of perpetrator
3. Public place includes restaurant/café, cinema/museum, sports centre and youth club

**Table 6.4 Details of perpetrator(s)**

Percentage	2005 OCJS		
	Robbery	Assault with injury	Assault without injury
<b>How many perpetrator(s)</b>	%	%	%
One	30	46	48
Two	25	15	18
Three	23	16	12
Four or more	22	22	22
<b>Sex of perpetrator(s)</b>			
Male	89	67	73
Female	5	24	18
Both	7	9	9
<b>Age of perpetrator(s)<sup>2</sup></b>			
Under 10	3	4	1
Between 10 and 15	36	36	43
Between 16 and 25	62	50	48
Between 26 and 45	5	13	10
46 and over	1	1	1
<b>How well known</b>	%	%	%
Knew at least one well	14	46	42
Knew at least one by name	14	16	16
Knew at least one by sight	15	9	8
Not at all	58	29	35
<i>Unweighted base</i>	89	488	391

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.5 Details of perpetrator(s), by age of victim**  
2005 OCJS

Percentage	Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
	%	%	%	%
<b>How many perpetrator(s)</b>				
One	53	42	60	39
Two	19	13	17	19
Three	13	19	9	14
Four or more	15	27	14	28
<b>Sex of perpetrator(s)</b>				
Male	62	70	71	74
Female	31	18	23	14
Both	7	11	6	11
<b>Age of perpetrator(s)<sup>2</sup></b>				
Under 10	9	1	2	1
Between 10 and 15	81	6	86	11
Between 16 and 25	11	76	13	74
Between 26 and 45	1	20	2	17
46 and over	<1	2	-	1
<b>How well known</b>				
Knew at least one well	64	34	62	26
Knew at least one by name	18	15	17	14
Knew at least one by sight	11	7	7	9
Not at all	7	44	14	51
<i>Unweighted base</i>	226	262	208	182

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.6 Relationship between victim and perpetrator(s) where known  
2005 OCJS**

Percentage Perpetrator	2005 OCJS	
	Assault with injury	Assault without injury
Partner of victim	9	3
Sibling	2	4
Parent of victim	2	1
Other relative	1	1
Friend of victim	28	30
Pupil	40	45
Neighbour	3	3
Someone seen around	16	15
Someone at work	3	2
Teacher	<1	<1
Another friend/relative <sup>3</sup>	1	2
Other	4	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	365	286

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months and who knew their perpetrator(s) in some way.
2. More than one response could be given.
3. Another friend/relative includes a friend/relative of another friend/relative

**Table 6.7 Relationship between victim and perpetrator(s) where known,  
by age of victim**

Percentage Perpetrator	2005 OCJS			
	Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
Partner of victim	1	20	<1	7
Sibling	2	2	3	5
Parent of victim	1	3	1	2
Other relative	<1	2	-	3
Friend of victim	32	22	34	24
Pupil	60	17	60	24
Neighbour	4	2	<1	7
Someone seen around	11	22	8	24
Someone at work	-	7	1	4
Teacher	<1	-	1	-
Another friend/relative <sup>3</sup>	<1	2	-	6
Other	1	6	1	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	206	159	179	107

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months and who knew their perpetrator(s) in some way.
2. More than one response could be given.
3. Another friend/relative includes a friend/relative of another friend/relative

**Table 6.8 Items stolen**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	2005 OCJS		
	Robbery	Theft from the person	Other personal thefts
Money	50	34	26
Cards (including debit, credit cards)	7	15	5
Mobile phone	50	34	20
Electrical items	4	3	6
Jewellery	6	4	7
Bicycle	15	1	14
Stationery	3	11	13
Sports equipment	1	6	3
Item of clothing	4	4	8
Bag	3	4	1
Purse/wallet	2	5	1
Other	1	16	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>357</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents where something was stolen in the last 12 months aged from 10 to 25.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.9 Items stolen, by age of victim**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	2005 OCJS			
	Theft from the person		Other personal thefts	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
Money	25	43	24	27
Cards (including debit, credit cards)	-	30	1	9
Mobile phone	24	43	17	23
Electrical items	3	3	3	8
Jewellery	5	3	11	4
Bicycle	1	-	11	17
Stationery	22	-	22	6
Sports equipment	12	-	5	2
Item of clothing	3	6	11	5
Bag	1	8	1	1
Purse/wallet	1	9	-	2
Other	14	17	10	23
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>170</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents where something was stolen in the last 12 months respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.10 Threats and violence used**

Percentage	2005 OCJS		
	Robbery	Assault with injury	Assault without injury
<b>Threats used</b>			
Threat to hurt you	60	37	36
Threat to kill you	9	8	5
Threat to hurt people you knew	4	6	6
Threat to damage something	4	6	1
Rude/swore/called you names	18	23	28
Not specified	21	43	42
<b>Violence used</b>			
Grabbed, pushed or pulled	36	39	35
Punched, slapped or hit	31	63	35
Kicked	7	29	8
Knifed or stabbed	1	3	-
Hit with an object or weapon	3	8	4
Scratched	1	9	2
Not specified	34	10	31
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>385</i>

Notes:

1. Based on respondents aged from 10 to 25 who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.



**Table 6.11 Threats and violence used, by age of victim**

**2005 OCJS**

Percentage	Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
<b>Threats used</b>				
Threat to hurt you	33	39	26	44
Threat to kill you	2	13	1	9
Threat to hurt people you knew	2	8	1	9
Threat to damage something	8	5	2	1
Rude/swore/called you names	23	23	26	30
Other	48	39	53	34
<b>Violence used</b>				
Grabbed, pushed or pulled	43	36	30	39
Punched, slapped or hit	55	68	35	35
Kicked	35	25	12	6
Knifed or stabbed	1	4	-	-
Hit with an object or weapon	4	12	2	5
Scratched	9	9	3	2
Other	15	6	33	29
<i>Unweighted base</i>	225	258	204	181

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against 10- to 25-year-olds who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.12 Injuries sustained**

**2005 OCJS**

Percentage	Assault with injury
Minor bruises	70
Nosebleed	7
Severe bruising	15
Scratches	21
Cuts/stab wounds	14
Broken bones	5
Gunshot	-
Other	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	461

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against young people aged from 10 to 25 who were injured in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.13 How upset were the victims and did they think it was it a crime**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Robbery		Theft from the person		Other personal thefts		Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
<b>How upset</b>	%									
Very/fairly	69		63		68		58		41	
Not very	27		27		25		29		34	
Not at all	5		10		7		13		25	
<b>Was it a crime</b>										
A crime	69		57		57		36		21	
Wrong but not a crime	16		25		27		31		33	
Something that happens	15		18		16		32		46	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	91		198		381		486		390	

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victimised in the last 12 months.

**Table 6.14 How upset were the victims and did they think it was it a crime, by age of victim**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Theft from the person		Other personal thefts		Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
	%							
<b>How upset</b>	%							
Very/fairly	49	75	59	75	49	64	37	43
Not very	35	19	29	22	37	24	29	38
Not at all	15	6	12	3	14	12	34	19
<b>Was it a crime</b>								
A crime	37	77	38	73	16	50	10	30
Wrong but not a crime	41	11	44	13	43	23	32	33
Something that happens	23	13	18	14	41	26	58	37
<i>Unweighted base</i>	103	95	197	183	225	261	208	182

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victimised in the last 12 months.

**Table 6.15 Who the incidents came to the attention of**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Robbery	Theft from the person	Other personal thefts	Assault with injury		Assault without injury
No-one	15	20	23	10		20
Police	28	13	20	24		16
Teacher	8	21	17	18		13
Colleagues	1	6	12	10		9
Partner	8	13	8	14		7
Parents	61	37	46	46		36
Other relatives	18	5	12	12		8
Friends	49	40	44	50		50
Neighbours	3	<1	3	5		1
Other	1	2	6	2		3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>486</i>		<i>388</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.16 Who the incidents came to the attention of, by age of victim**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Theft from the person		Other personal thefts		Assault with injury		Assault without injury	
	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
	No-one	27	14	22	24	12	9	22
Police	4	21	9	30	11	33	3	26
Teacher	34	10	33	5	36	6	28	2
Colleagues	1	11	1	21	<1	16	0	16
Partner	5	19	0	15	4	21	<1	13
Parents	33	40	54	40	55	39	44	31
Other relatives	2	7	8	16	12	13	5	11
Friends	39	40	47	41	44	54	49	50
Neighbours	1	0	3	3	5	4	2	1
Other	1	3	2	8	2	2	2	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>183</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>182</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents against young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victimised in the last 12 months.
2. More than one response could be given.

**Table 6.17 Proportion of victims who were victimised more than once in the last 12 months, by age**

2005 OCJS

Percentage				<i>Unweighted base</i>		
	All	10 to 15	16 to 25	10 to 25	10 to 15	16 to 25
Robbery	22	-	-	92	-	-
Theft from the person	26	32	20	226	115	111
Other personal thefts	38	43	34	437	234	203
Assault (no injury)	58	60	56	589	322	267
Assault (with injury)	44	52	38	490	227	263

Notes:

1. Based on young people aged from 10 to 25 who were victimised in the last 12 months.

**Table 6.18 Proportion of victims that were victimised more than once in the last 12 months, by sex**

2005 OCJS

Percentage			<i>Unweighted base</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Robbery	-	-	-	-
Theft from the person	26	25	119	107
Other personal thefts	39	37	244	193
Assault (no injury)	58	57	395	194
Assault (with injury)	44	44	291	199

Notes:

1. Based on all respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. '-' indicates unweighted base numbers too small.

**Table 6.19 Proportion of 10- to 15-year-olds who had been a victim in last 12 months, by socio-demographic and lifestyle variables**

		<b>2005 OCJS</b>	
<b>Socio-demographic variable</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Victim in last 12 months %</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>
<b>Demographics</b>			
Sex	Female	24	977
	Male	*37	1,123
Age	10 to 11	31	228
	12 to 13	33	899
	14 to 15	29	973
<b>Lifestyle and behaviour</b>			
Being drunk	Drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	30	1,889
	Drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	*43	138
Drug use	Not taken drug in last 12 months	30	1,891
	Taken drug in last 12 months	*46	175
Whether offended in last 12 months	Not committed an offence	22	1,415
	Committed an offence	*54	606
Attitude to certain criminal acts	Less likely to agree criminal acts are OK	30	1,899
	More likely to agree criminal acts are OK	*39	198
Whether anti-social behaviour in the last year	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	24	1,434
	Committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	*48	588
<b>Area factors</b>			
Disorder problems in the area	No problems	16	420
	One to three problems	*31	1,380
	Four or more problems	*51	300
Whether trust the police	Trust police	29	1,704
	Do not trust police	*45	358
Overall indicator of deprivation	3 least deprived areas	29	612
	4 medium deprived areas	30	744
	3 most deprived areas	34	589
ACORN grouping	Wealthy achievers	21	546
	Urban prosperity	*36	157
	Comfortably off	*31	554
	Moderate means	*31	299
	Hard-pressed	*38	529
How much to do in the area	Quite a lot	27	816
	Not very much or nothing	*34	1,282
Attitude towards local area	Good attitude	20	488
	Indifferent attitude	*30	1,221
	Negative attitude	*50	311
<b>Economic factors</b>			
Housing tenure	Owners	27	1,547
	Renters	*41	550
Whether receive free school meals	No	29	1,741
	Yes	*41	312
<b>Family factors</b>			
Whether get on with parents	Get on with parent(s)	31	2,007
	Get on badly with at least one parent	45	76
Young person's perception of parents	Good parenting skills	28	1,453
	Poor parenting skills	*43	118
Whether friends/siblings been in trouble with the police in the last year	No friends or siblings in trouble with police in last year	28	1,420
	Friends and/or siblings in trouble with police in last year	*39	507
Who brings up	Both natural parents	28	1,294
	One natural parent alone or with step-parent or other	*36	806
Whether parents ever been in trouble with the police	No	29	1,679
	Yes	*42	194

**Table 6.19 cont.**

<b>Socio-demographic variable</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Victim in last 12 months %</b>	<b>Unweighted base</b>
How much do you care about what your parents/guardians think	A lot	30	1,536
	A little or not at all	35	524
Parents/guardians know who your friends are	Parents know all of friends	30	799
	Parents only know some of friends	32	1,263
Young peoples' perception of parents' attitudes to delinquent behaviours	Parents perceived to have less relaxed attitude	31	1,836
	Parents perceived to have more relaxed attitude	31	115
Free time spent with parents	Some to all of time	30	1,772
	Little or no time	36	301
<b>School factors</b>			
Whether ever truanted	No	30	1,886
	Yes	*45	187
Whether been suspended or expelled	Never	30	1,932
	Have been suspended or expelled	*48	162
Perception of school	Good perception	28	1,480
	Bad perception	*44	305
Attitude to schooling	Very important	30	1,444
	Fairly to not very or not at all important	33	655
Whether participate in after school clubs	Participates in after school groups	31	1,429
	Does not participate in after school groups	30	653

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the categories, where more than two categories are present the first one listed is the reference category and all other categories are compared to the reference category.

**Table 6.20 Proportion of 16- to 25- year-olds who have been a victim, by socio-demographic and lifestyle variables**

			2005 OCJS	
Socio-demographic variable	Category	Victim in last 12 months %	Unweighted base	
<b>Demographics</b>				
Sex	Female	21	1,534	
	Male	*29	1,346	
Age	16 to 17	27	841	
	18 to 19	29	712	
	20 to 21	27	465	
	22 to 23	23	433	
	24 to 25	*20	429	
<b>Lifestyle and behaviour</b>				
Being drunk	Drunk less than once a month in last 12 months	22	1,740	
	Drunk once a month or more in last 12 months	*30	1,093	
Drug use	Not taken drug in last 12 months	20	2,027	
	Taken drug in last 12 months	*36	822	
Whether committed an offence in last 12 months	No	17	2,129	
	Yes	*50	694	
Attitude to certain criminal acts	Less likely to agree that criminal acts are OK	24	2,596	
	More likely to agree that criminal acts are OK	*36	284	
Whether participates in activities	Does not participate in groups	23	1,365	
	Participates in groups	*27	1,515	
Whether antisocial behaviour in the last year	Not committed anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	21	2,195	
	Committed any anti-social behaviour in last 12 months	*39	638	
Whether visits the pub	Never	23	370	
	Less frequent, visits less than twice month	22	1,367	
	Frequent, visits once a week or more	*29	1,124	
Whether visits the club	Never	20	684	
	Less frequent, visits less than twice month	25	1,725	
	Frequent, visits once a week or more	*35	454	
Whether impulsive	Not impulsive	24	2,117	
	Highly impulsive	*36	222	
<b>Area Factors</b>				
Disorder problems in the area	No problems	18	527	
	One or more problems	*27	2,353	
Whether trust the police	Trusts police	22	2,018	
	Do not trust police	*32	786	
Overall indicator of deprivation	Least deprived areas	25	778	
	Medium deprived areas	27	1,022	
	Most deprived areas	24	851	
ACORN grouping	Wealthy achievers	22	705	
	Urban prosperity	28	209	
	Comfortably off	25	774	
	Moderate means	27	420	
	Hard-pressed	26	743	
Attitudes towards their local area	Good attitude towards local area	21	382	
	Indifferent attitude	23	1,932	
	Negative attitude towards local area	*36	483	

**Table 6.20 cont.**

Socio-demographic variable	Category	Victim in last 12 months %	Unweighted base
<b>Economic</b>			
Housing tenure	Owners	24	1,952
	Renters	27	921
How well household managing on income	Well	24	1,801
	Getting by	25	932
	Getting into difficulties	*47	114
<b>Family and friends</b>			
Whether get on with parents	Get on with parent(s)	27	1,852
	Get on badly with at least one parent	21	912
Whether friends/siblings been in trouble with the police in the last year	No friends or siblings in trouble with police in last year	23	2,120
	Friends and/or siblings in trouble with police in last 12 months	*31	667
Who brings up	Both natural parents	23	1,686
	One natural parent alone or with step parent or other	*29	741
Whether parents ever been in trouble with the police	No	25	2,355
	Yes	30	321
<b>School factors</b>			
Whether been suspended or expelled	Never	24	2,460
	Have been suspended or expelled	*35	360

Notes:

1. \* indicates significant differences between the categories, where more than two categories are present the first one listed is the reference category and all other categories are compared to the reference category.

**Table 6.21 Trends in victimisation for young people aged from 10 to 25 in the last 12 months, by age**

Percentage	2003, 2004 and 2005 OJCS								
	10 to 15			16 to 25			All 10 to 25		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
<b>Any personal victimisation</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Any personal theft</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
Robbery	3	4	2	4	3	3	4	3	3
Theft from the person	8	8	6	8	8	**4	8	8	**5
Other personal thefts	15	16	15	9	10	10	11	12	12
<b>Any assault</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>
Assault (no injury)	15	18	15	12	11	9	13	15	*11
Assault (with injury)	11	13	13	12	12	13	12	13	13
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,035</i>	<i>864</i>	<i>392</i>	<i>2,539</i>	<i>978</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>4,574</i>	<i>1,842</i>	<i>816</i>

Notes:

1. 2004 and 2005 are based on fresh respondents only.
2. \* indicates significant differences against the 2004 OCJS
3. \*\* indicates significant differences against the 2003 and 2004 OCJS



**Table 6.22 Trends in victimisation for young people aged from 10 to 25 in the last 12 months, by sex**

2003, 2004 and 2005 OCJS									
Percentage	Male			Female			All 10 to 25		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
<b>Any personal victimisation</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Any personal theft</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
Robbery	5	5	4	2	2	1	4	3	3
Theft from the person	8	8	**5	8	8	**5	8	8	**5
Other personal thefts	13	13	14	10	12	10	11	12	12
<b>Any assault</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>
Assault (no injury)	17	18	15	9	9	8	13	15	*11
Assault (with injury)	15	16	15	8	9	11	12	13	13
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,306</i>	<i>931</i>	<i>402</i>	<i>2,268</i>	<i>911</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>4,574</i>	<i>1,842</i>	<i>816</i>

Notes:

1. 2004 and 2005 are based on fresh respondents only.
2. \* indicates significant differences against the 2004 OCJS
3. \*\* indicates significant differences against the 2003 and 2004 OCJS

## Appendix A Nature of offending tables

Further details about the offences committed are also covered in the OCJS e.g. where they happened, details about co-offenders and victims and motivation for the offence. These questions covered the 20 core offences. To reduce respondent burden no more than six offence types were followed up. For those respondents who said that they committed more than six offence types in the last 12 months a priority selection scheme was used to select the six offences to ask about. If respondents had committed one offence type on more than one occasion only the last incident of each offence type was asked about.

The following tables present the results from the 2005 OCJS and are based on incidents committed by 10- to 25-year-olds. Where sample sizes allow, a breakdown of the offences are shown. The number of incidents of burglary and robbery were too small to present detailed results but they are included in the overall totals for property offences and violent offences respectively. The patterns found are broadly consistent with those found and described in the 2003 and 2004 OCJS for 10- to 25-year-olds.

**Table A.1 Where and when incidents happened**

Percentage	2005 OCJS						
	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
Happened in local area	53	45	49	71	44	34	40
Morning (6am to noon)	8	9	9	7	5	21	17
Afternoon (noon to 6pm)	37	30	33	28	13	49	41
Evening (6pm-10pm)	20	24	22	41	37	13	20
Night (10pm-6am)	21	30	25	20	36	4	10
Don't know/refused	14	8	11	4	9	14	12
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>801</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>773</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage, and other thefts.

**Table A.2 Type of force used in assaults**

Percentage	2005 OCJS		
	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All assaults
	%	%	%
Grabbed, pushed or pulled	61	53	57
Punched, slapped or hit	46	72	58
Scratched	5	7	6
Kicked	16	31	23
Knifed or stabbed	0	1	1
Threatened with a weapon	0	2	1
Hit with an object or weapon	3	13	8
Other	7	5	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	414	381	795

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by respondents aged from 10 to 25.

**Table A.3 Involvement of co-offenders in incidents**

Percentage	2005 OCJS						
	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Committed on own	80	72	77	47	40	72	64
One other	4	4	4	14	16	9	10
Two others	5	5	5	7	7	9	8
Three others	3	3	3	12	16	5	7
Four others	3	4	3	4	5	1	2
Five others	<1	2	1	14	3	1	3
Six or more	3	10	7	2	13	3	5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	395	373	773	71	130	482	712

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage and other thefts.

**Table A.4 Characteristics of co-offenders, based on incidents involving co-offenders**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
<b>Sex</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Male	78	88	83	64	73	43	54
Female	16	6	11	26	10	42	28
Both	6	6	6	10	17	15	18
<b>Age(s)<sup>3</sup></b>							
Under 10	<1	7	4	2	0	<1	<1
Between 10 and 15	38	26	31	57	56	48	47
Between 16 and 25	56	58	57	51	53	53	54
Between 26 and 45	11	22	17	10	5	9	7
46 and over	0	6	3	0	<1	0	0
<b>Relationship to offender(s)<sup>3</sup></b>							
Partner	6	12	9	14	11	5	7
Sibling	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Relative	0	1	1	0	4	<1	1
Friend	72	55	63	84	85	87	84
Colleague	15	8	11	9	1	12	8
Someone else they knew	10	6	8	12	4	3	4
Stranger	8	10	9	10	2	0	3
<i>Unweighted base</i>	72	73	147	49	94	150	320

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by respondents aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage, and other thefts.
3. More than one answer could be given.

**Table A.5 Characteristics of victims of assault, as reported by offenders**

2005 OCJS

Percentage		Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All assaults
<b>Number of victims</b>	One	79	60	70
	Two	13	20	16
	Three	3	13	8
	Four or more	5	6	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>		364	345	709
<b>Sex of victim</b>	Male	76	70	73
	Female	19	22	20
	Both males and females	5	8	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>		363	344	707
<b>Age of victim<sup>2</sup></b>	Under 10	4	4	4
	Between 10 and 15	43	38	41
	Between 16 and 25	42	49	45
	Between 26 and 45	8	6	7
	Between 46 and 64	3	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>		363	345	708
<b>How well victims known</b>				
	All known well	67	54	61
	All known by name	7	9	8
	All known by sight	7	12	10
	All strangers	17	22	19
	Known to varying degrees (more than one victim)	2	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>		345	364	709
<b>Relationship to offender<sup>4</sup></b>				
	Partner	7	8	7
	Child	0	3	1
	Parent	3	3	3
	Sibling	22	21	22
	Other relative	<1	1	1
	Friend	54	38	47
	Neighbour	1	2	1
	Colleague	5	5	5
	Teacher	<1	<1	<1
	Someone else	12	31	21
<i>Unweighted base</i>		316	277	593

Notes:

1. Based on incidents of offending by 10- to 25-year-olds.
2. Age of youngest victim.
3. Sex and age of victim and how well known based on incidents where respondent knew the number of victims.
4. Relationship to respondent in cases where at least one victim was known in some way before the incident.

**Table A.6 Characteristics of victims of assault, by age and sex of offender**

2005 OCJS

Percentage		Assaults by 10-15s	Assaults by 16-25s	Assaults by males	Assaults by females
<b>Number of victims</b>	One	71	69	66	76
	Two	17	16	17	15
	Three	7	9	8	8
	Four or more	5	6	9	<1
<i>Unweighted base</i>		354	355	430	279
<b>Sex of victim</b>	Male	68	79	93	40
	Female	27	14	4	49
	Both males and females	5	7	4	11
<i>Unweighted base</i>		353	354	429	278
<b>Age of victim<sup>2</sup></b>	Under 10	8	<1	2	8
	Between 10 and 15	79	6	39	45
	Between 16 and 25	12	76	51	36
	Between 26 and 45	1	13	7	9
	Between 46 and 64	<1	5	2	4
<i>Unweighted base</i>		354	354	430	278
<b>How well victims known</b>					
	All known well	72	51	52	77
	All known by name	10	7	8	8
	All known by sight	7	12	12	4
	All strangers	8	29	25	8
	Known to varying degrees (more than one victim)	3	1	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>		354	355	430	279

Notes:

1. Based on incidents by 10- to 25-year-olds.
2. Age of youngest victim.
3. More than one answer could be given.

**Table A.7 Whether the offence was spur of the moment or planned**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Spur of moment	89	84	87	72	89	78	78
Planned	6	10	8	27	6	19	19
Don't know	4	3	4	1	3	3	3
Refused	0	3	2	0	2	<1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	414	381	801	77	149	511	773

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by offenders aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage, and other thefts.

**Table A.8 Motivation for the offence**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
Annoyed/upset by someone	48	51	49	2	12	3	5
Self-defence	23	41	31	0	1	<1	0
Revenge	12	17	14	13	10	2	5
For the fun/buzz	18	10	14	46	13	13	17
Was drunk	9	10	9	19	22	2	7
Bored/nothing else to do	9	8	9	34	41	16	23
Friends encouraged/dare	4	2	3	6	5	5	5
Under influence of drugs	2	1	2	12	<1	<1	2
Wanted what stole	0	<1	<1	25	1	26	22
Needed it/necessity	0	0	0	4	0	24	18
Racially motivated	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Upset/frustrated	<1	1	1	0	0	0	0
It was an accident	<1	0	<1	0	2	1	1
Other reason	6	8	7	3	2	6	5
Don't know	5	1	3	7	10	9	8
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>801</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>511</i>	<i>773</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by offenders aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage, and other thefts.

**Table A.9 Whether the offender had taken alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Drugs only	1	3	3	2	4	2	2
Alcohol only	16	22	18	7	32	6	10
Drugs and alcohol	3	4	3	27	5	1	4
Neither	80	71	75	64	58	92	84
	<i>403</i>	<i>367</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>753</i>

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by offenders aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage, and other thefts.

**Table A.10 Attitudes of offender to the likelihood of being caught and their concerns about the consequences**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Assault without injury	Assault with injury	All violent offences	Vehicle related thefts	Criminal damage	Other thefts	All property offences
<b>How likely get caught</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	10	17	13	3	3	9	7
Fairly likely	9	17	13	10	17	14	14
Fairly unlikely	17	19	18	35	34	24	27
Very unlikely	64	47	56	52	46	54	52
<b>How worried about result</b>							
Very worried	2	6	4	5	3	10	8
Fairly worried	9	10	10	9	6	11	10
Not very worried	22	30	26	42	44	26	32
Not at all worried	67	54	61	44	47	53	51
<b>Likely to commit again</b>							
Very likely	23	26	24	18	5	13	12
Fairly likely	35	39	36	35	21	36	34
Fairly unlikely	30	27	29	33	51	27	31
Very unlikely	13	9	11	14	22	24	23
<i>Unweighted base</i>	401	371	778	71	144	502	751

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by offenders aged from 10 to 25.
2. All violent offences include assault without injury, assault with injury and robbery. All property offences include vehicle-related thefts, burglary, criminal damage, and other thefts.

**Table A.11 Value of items damaged**

2005 OCJS

Percentage	Other criminal damage	All criminal damage
	%	%
Less than £5	54	44
Between £5 and £20	28	24
Between £21 and £50	5	12
Between £51 and £100	9	12
Between £101 and £500	3	6
More than £500	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	90	132

Notes:

1. Based on incidents committed by offenders aged from 10 to 25.
2. Vehicle damage was not included due to small base numbers.



## Appendix B Survey design

The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey is conducted jointly by National Centre for Social Research and BMRB Social Research. Both companies collaborated with Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics in its design. Further details can be found in the Technical Reports for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 survey (Hamlyn *et al.*, 2003; Hamlyn *et al.*, 2005; Phelps *et al.*, 2006).

Further details about the OCJS and published reports can be accessed at: [http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending\\_survey.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html)

### THE SAMPLE

The 2005 OCJS sample consisted of two elements – the panel sample and the fresh sample. The intention was to achieve 5,000 interviews in total. Overall 5,237 interviews were obtained including 4,980 respondents aged from 10 to 25 which were used for the analysis in this report. Details of response rates for the panel and fresh sample are shown in Table B.1.

**Table B.1 Response rates**

	2005 OCJS			
	Panel sample		Fresh sample	
	Number	%	Number	%
Issued addresses	5,324		6,372	
Ineligible (not residential or no-one aged from 10 to 25)	NA	NA	4,776	
Base for response rate	5,324		1,161	
Non-contact	432	8.1%	42	3.6%
Refusal	386	7.3%	216	18.6%
Other unproductive	83	1.6%	26	2.2%
Interview (full)	4,418	83.0%	815	70.2%
Interview (partial)	4	0.1%	2	0.2%
<b>Response rate (%)</b>		<b>83.1%</b>		<b>70.4%</b>

Notes:

1. Calculation of this response rate includes correction for the unknown eligibility cases following recommendations from the Office for National Statistics. The Technical Report has further details.

### Survey content

Similar to the two previous surveys, the 2005 interview was conducted using a laptop computer. Three separate computer-assisted modes were used during the course of the interview – CAPI, Audio-CASI and CASI.

The first part of the interview was conducted face to face with the interviewer reading the questions from the computer screen and inputting the answers (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing, **CAPI**). This approach was adopted for the least sensitive questions at the beginning of the interview and allowed the interviewer to build rapport with the respondent.

The second part of the interview, which included the more sensitive questions, was conducted as a self-completion survey, with the interviewer giving the respondent the laptop to enable him/her to input his/her responses directly (Computer Assisted Self Interviewing, **CASI**). This allowed respondents to report behaviours or attitudes without having to indicate these directly to the interviewer.

The three core modules covering anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour used **Audio-CASI**, whereby in addition to the questions and response codes appearing on the screen respondents could listen to them through headphones. This assisted those with literacy problems to use the CASI facility.

The modules included in the 2005 survey are documented in Table B.2 along with the mode of administration.

**Table B.2 Interview content**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Mode</b>
Household box, socio-demographic information	CAPI
Area and social capital	CAPI
Attitudes to the criminal justice system	CAPI
Victimisation	CAPI
Anti-social behaviour	A-CASI
Fraud and technology crime	A-CASI
Offending – count	A-CASI
Offending – nature	CASI
Drug use	CASI
Alcohol use	CASI
Family, education, and health (including gangs)	CASI

## **WEIGHTING AND DATA ANALYSIS**

Given the complex sample design, a sophisticated weighting system was adopted to ensure that results were representative of the population of 10- to 25-year-olds in England and Wales. Initially separate weights were constructed for the panel and fresh samples respectively. For both samples the first stage was to apply weights for known unequal selection probabilities (relating to the selection of addresses, households and individuals within households) and then for non-response. The panel sample required a further stage of weighting to account for the attrition between the three surveys. The samples were then combined and calibration weighting applied to ensure that the sample distributions on age, sex and Government Office Region matched population distributions.

## **METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Several methodological issues warrant discussion as they bear on how the results presented in this report are interpreted.

### **Sample coverage**

The 2005 OCJS covered young people resident in general households in England and Wales. It excluded those living in communal or institutional establishments (such as custodial institutions, residential homes, hospitals and hostels) and the homeless. A feasibility study commissioned by the Home Office concluded that the inclusion of such establishments would not significantly impact on overall offending and drug use estimates because these groups form such a small proportion of the overall population (the feasibility study report can be accessed at [http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending\\_survey.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html)). It was therefore concluded that a full-scale communal establishment survey was not warranted, and that consideration should instead be given to bespoke surveys with specific groups of interest.

### **Sampling error**

As with any sample survey the results are subject to sampling error – i.e. the results from a sample selected from the population could differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population had been surveyed, or another sample taken. The degree of error depends on the size and design of the sample and the size and variability of the estimate of interest. The OCJS has a relatively large sample but the estimates will still be subject to error. Statistical theory enables the calculation of the degree of error for any estimate.

This report mainly draws on the statistically significant results. Where differences between subgroups are highlighted the differences are statistically significant at the five per cent level (the level at which there is a one in twenty chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance) unless otherwise stated.

### **Non-response bias**

Although the response rate is high for a national survey covering such sensitive topics, it may be that non-respondents differ in some key respects from those who do respond. In addition, for the panel sample a model was constructed to identify characteristics associated with attrition between 2003, 2004 and 2005 and this was used to compute non-response weights.

### **Offence coverage**

The survey does not cover all legal offences. In particular very serious offences including homicide and sexual offences are omitted. The main focus of the OCJS was on 20 core offences, and the wording of questions on these was carefully considered to reflect legal definitions in simple, understandable language (see Box B.2 for list of offences covered). However, it should be recognised that within any of these legal categories the nature of the incident could vary greatly.

The survey also covered some other offences – for example, handling stolen goods which are described in the report but in less detail.

## Box B.2 Core offences

### Vehicle-related thefts

Theft of a vehicle  
Attempted theft of a vehicle  
Theft of parts off outside of vehicle  
Theft of items inside a vehicle  
Attempted theft from vehicle

### Criminal damage

Criminal damage to a vehicle  
Other criminal damage

### Burglary

Burglary of a dwelling  
Burglary of commercial premises

### Robbery

Personal robbery  
Commercial robbery

### Other thefts

Theft from the person  
Theft from place of work  
Theft from school  
Theft from shop  
Other theft

### Assaults

Assaults resulting in injury  
Assaults not resulting in injury

### Selling drugs

Selling Class A drugs  
Selling other drugs

## Note on logistic regression

Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable, which has only two possible outcomes (a binary, or dichotomous, variable), from a set of independent variables. Multivariate techniques allow the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables under consideration is taken into account. The logistic regression method used in this report was the forward stepwise selection.

Regression models based on social survey data may only explain a small part of the variance in the dependent variable, because it is not possible to capture all of the possible relevant information. Where the attribute to be predicted (e.g. offending in the last year) is rare in the population, the model sometimes predicts that no-one will have the attribute. Such models are still useful, however, as they can show the extent to which having one attribute (e.g. being male) appears to increase the chances of having another attribute (e.g. having offended in the last year).

The forward stepwise logistic regression described in this report selects those variables, in order of their strength of prediction, that are statistically associated with the dependent variable independently of the other variables included in the model. This does not imply a causal relationship, and care is needed in selecting variables for inclusion.

# Appendix C      Definitions of risk factors

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## **Lifestyle and behaviour**

### **Committed any anti-social behaviour**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked whether they had been involved in the following:

- been noisy or rude in a public place so that someone complained or you got into trouble;
- has a neighbour complained because they were annoyed by your behaviour or noise in or near your home;
- written things or sprayed paint on a building, fence, train or anywhere else where you shouldn't have; or
- threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race or religion.

A dichotomous variable was created and coded:

- committed any asb in last 12 months;
- not committed any asb in last 12 months.

### **Committed an offence**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked if they had committed one or more of the 20 main core offences asked in the survey.

A dichotomous variable was created and coded:

- committed any offence in last 12 months;
- not committed any offence in last 12 months.

### **Victim of personal crime**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked if they had been a victim of the following in the last 12 months:

- robbery
- theft from the person
- other theft of personal property
- assault resulting in injury
- assault without injury

A dichotomous variable was created and coded:

- victim of personal crime in last 12 months;
- not victim of personal crime in last 12 months.

### **Felt drunk more than once a month**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked how often they had felt drunk in the last year. Analysis coded as:

- felt drunk once a month or less in last year (includes those that never drink alcohol).
- felt drunk more than once a month in last year.

### **Taken any drug in last year**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked whether they had taken different drugs in the last year, covering:

- glues, solvents, gas or aerosols
- amyl nitrites
- cannabis
- amphetamines
- ecstasy

- LSD or magic mushrooms
- cocaine
- crack
- heroin

A dichotomous variable was created and coded as:

- not taken any drug in last 12 months
- taken any drug in last 12 months.

### **Visits pub**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked:

About how often do you usually go to a pub or bar (without your parents/guardians)?

For analysis, recoded into:

- visits pub once a week or more
- visits pub less than once a week
- has never visited a pub.

### **Visits club**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked:

About how often do you usually go to a nightclub?

For analysis, recoded into:

- visits club once a week or more
- visits club less than once a week
- has never visited a club.

### **Highly impulsive**

Respondents aged from 17 to 25 were asked a series of questions exploring their personality traits, many of which focused on impulsive tendencies. These questions were as follows:

“Do you agree or disagree?

- I like taking risks in life
- I often say things without thinking
- I always give in to temptation
- I think carefully about the consequences before making decisions
- I easily lose my patience with people”.

For each variable a score was assigned for the responses with scores of 1 for the most impulsive response and 4 for the least impulsive.

A scoring variable was created and coded as:

- not impulsive (scores of 11 to 20)
- highly impulsive (scores of 5 to 10)

### **Criminal acts perceived to be ok**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked whether or not they thought it was OK to commit criminal acts under various circumstances. They were asked how much do you agree or disagree with the following.

- It is ok to steal something if you are very poor
- It is ok to steal something from somebody rich who can afford to replace it
- It is ok to steal something from a shop that makes a lot of money
- It is ok to sometimes break the law.

For each variable a score was assigned for the responses with scores of 1 for strongly agree and 5 for strongly disagree. A scoring was created and coded as:

- more likely to agree that criminal acts are OK (scores 4 to 13)
- less likely to agree that criminal acts are OK (scores 14 to 20)

### **Perception of overall health**

All respondents were asked how is your health in general nowadays?

- very good
- good
- fair
- poor
- very poor

A dichotomous variable was created and coded as:

- very good or good
- fair to poor.

### **Area factors**

#### **Attitudes towards local area**

Respondents aged from 10 to 15 were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- This area is a friendly place to live.
- You often see strangers in this area.
- If children around here are causing trouble, local people will tell them off.
- This area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- They were also asked how safe they felt walking or playing alone in the area after dark.

Respondents aged from 16 to 25 were additionally asked how much they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:

- I trust most people who live in this area.
- People in this area pull together to improve the area.
- People move in and out of my area a lot.

They were also asked: "Suppose you dropped a purse or wallet in a street near where you live, with your name and address in it. How likely is it that you would get it back with nothing missing?"

For each variable a score was assigned for the responses with scores of 1 for the most positive attitude and 5 for the least positive attitude. A scoring variable was created and coded as:

- Positive attitude towards area (scores 5 to 10 for 10 to 15s; 9 to 18 for 16 to 25s)
- Indifferent attitude towards area (scores 11 to 15 for 10 to 15s; 19 to 29 for 16 to 25s)
- Negative attitude towards area (scores 16 to 25 for 10 to 15s; 30 to 45 for 16 to 25s)

#### **Disorder problems in area**

All respondents were asked if any following things were common in their area:

- noisy neighbours
- teenagers hanging around causing problems
- people sleeping rough on the street or in other public places
- people being harassed in the street (because of their skin colour)
- people using or selling drugs
- people being drunk or rowdy in public

A scoring variable was created and coded as:

- no problems
- one to three problems
- four or more problems.

### **Trust local police**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked how much do you trust the police in your area?

A dichotomous variable was created:

- yes (trusts the police a lot or a fair amount)
- no (trusts the police not very much or not at all).

### **How much to do in area**

All respondents aged from 10 to 16 were asked: "How much do you think there is for you to do in this area?"

- lots of things to do
- quite a lot to do
- not very much to do
- nothing at all to do."

A dichotomous variable was created and coded:

- lots or quite a lot to do
- not very much or nothing to do.

### **Family and friends**

#### **Gets/got on with parents when aged from 10-16**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked how well they got on with their parents.

- between the ages of 10 and 16 how well did you get on with your mother?
- between the ages of 10 and 16 how well did you get on with your father?
- between the ages of 10 and 16 how well did you get on with your parents or guardians?

The new variable was created and recoded as follows:

- gets/got on well with parent(s)
- gets/got on badly with at least one parent.

#### **Friends or siblings been in trouble with the police**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked the following:

"Thinking about your closest friends. About how many of them, if any, have been in trouble with the police in the last 12 months? (Do not include driving fines.)"

"Thinking about your brother/sister. As far as you know, have any of them been in trouble with the police in the last 12 months?"

The new variable was coded as:

- no friends/sibling in trouble with police in last 12 months (for analysis purposes those with no friends and siblings are included in this category)
- friend and/or siblings in trouble with police in last 12 months.

#### ***Manage on income***

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked how well the household is managing on their income?

Responses are:

- well
- getting by
- getting into difficulties.

#### **Time spent with parents**

Respondents aged from 10 to 16 were asked: "How much of your free time – that is when you are not at school - do you spend with your parents or guardians?"

- all of my free time



- most of my free time
- some of my free time
- a little of my free time
- none of my free time

For analysis purposes responses were changed and coded as:

- spends all or most of my free time with parents
- spends some, little or no free time with parents.

### **Parents perceived attitude to certain behaviours**

Respondents aged from 10 to 16 were asked a series of questions on whether their parents would mind (a lot, a little or not at all) if they did certain things, as follows:

- your parent(s) found out you had started a fight with someone
- you had written things or sprayed paint on a building
- you had skipped school without permission
- you had smoked cannabis.

For each question a score was assigned for the responses with scores of 1 for 'parents would mind a lot' through to 3 for 'parents would not mind at all'.

A dichotomous variable was created and coded as follows:

- parents' attitudes not favourable towards delinquent behaviours (scores 4 to 6)
- parents' attitudes favourable towards delinquent behaviours (scores 7 to 12)

### **Perceptions of parents' parenting skills**

Respondents aged from 10 to 16 were asked whether the following statements were true or not:

"My parent(s) usually praise me when I have done well, for example at school or playing sport."

- my parent(s) usually listen to me when I want to talk
- my parent(s) usually treat me fairly when I have done something wrong
- my parent(s) usually want to know where I am when I am not at home
- my parent(s) often argue or fight with each other

For each question a score was assigned for the responses with scores of 2 for poor parenting skills and 1 for good parenting skills.

A variable was created and coded as follows:

- perceive parents having good parenting skills (scores 5 to 6)
- perceive parents having poor parenting skills (scores 7 to 10)

### **Who brings up/brought up respondents**

Respondents aged from 10- to 16-year-olds year were asked who brings them up most of the time and for those aged from 17- to 25-years-old were asked who brought them up between the ages of 10 and 16. The responses were as follows:

- 1 Both natural parents
  - 2 One natural parent only
  - 3 One natural parent and a step parent
  - 4 Other arrangement
- 8 DK  
-9 Refused

For analysis purposes the variable was changed and coded as:

- Both natural parents'
- One natural parent alone or with step parent or other

## **School factors**

### **Perception of teaching skills and discipline**

Respondents aged from 10 to 16 were asked:

- whether they have seen pupils hit teachers
- teachers give praise when due
- school has clear rules
- how easy it is to play truant.

For each question a score was assigned for the responses with scores of 2 for negative perceptions and 1 for positive perceptions.

Scoring variable was created and coded as:

- school perceived to have good teaching skills and discipline (scores 4 to 5)
- school perceived to have poor teaching skills and discipline (scores 6 to 8).

### **Ever been expelled or suspended from school**

All respondents aged from 10 to 25 were asked:

“Have you ever been expelled (permanently excluded) from a school?”

“Have you ever been suspended from school for a limited period of time?”

A dichotomous variable was created:

- never been expelled or suspended from school
- has been expelled or suspended from school.

### **Truanted**

All respondents aged from 10 to 16 and had been in school in the last 12 months were asked

In the last 12 months have you skipped school without the school's permission for at least a whole day?

- no
- yes, once or twice
- yes, 3 or 4 times
- yes, 5 to 10 times
- yes, more than 10 times

A dichotomous variable was created and coded:

- no
- yes

### **School thought not to be important:**

10- to 15-year-olds were asked: How important is doing well at school/college to you?

A dichotomous variable was created:

- school thought to be very or fairly important
- school thought not to be very or not at all important.

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## **RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS (RDS)**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

The Home Office's purpose is to build a safe, just and tolerant society in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced and the protection and security of the public are maintained.

RDS includes staff within the Government Statistical Service (GSS). One of the GSS aims is to inform Parliament and the members of the public about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore:

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