

The Barbados Crime Survey 2002 Crime in Barbados in 2001

Executive Summary

The Main findings of the Barbados Crime Survey 2002 are:

- The best estimate of the number of crimes in 2001 against all individuals and households is 31,182.
- 56% of all crimes were reported to the police, ranging from 96% of vehicle thefts to 35% of personal theft and vehicle vandalism.
- There is a strong relationship between the perceived seriousness of an offence and the likelihood of reporting it to the police.
- The proportion of crimes reported to the police which are recorded by them varies considerably depending on the crime reported.

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Burglary

- 4.2% of households were burgled in 2001,
 - almost 20% of these households were burgled twice or more.
- Total value of property stolen in burglaries was approximately \$8 million,
 - only \$275,000 was recovered.
- Cash and jewelry were the items most likely to be stolen in burglaries.
- Very expensive houses are much more likely to be burgled than inexpensive houses, the least likely to be burgled were those with a household size of 7 or more.
- 78% of burglaries were reported to the police and the victims in 59% of these households were satisfied by the police response.

- Being burgled increased the victim's fear of crime generally.
- 2.1% of households had an attempted burglary

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Vehicle Crime

- Only 0.6% of vehicle-owing households had a vehicle stolen.
- Almost three quarters of stolen vehicles were recovered.
- Vehicle theft had the highest reporting rate of all crimes.
- 6.2% of vehicle-owing households had something stolen from their vehicle.
- Most vehicle theft and theft from vehicles took place from the owners home.
- People living in disordered areas were much more likely to have their vehicle vandalised or something stolen from it than average.
- 6% of bicycle-owing households had a bicycle theft.

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Robbery

- Only 0.8% of people were victims of robbery.
- 47% of robberies were carried out by 2 or more people.
- 42% of victims knew the robber either by name or by sight.
- In over half of robberies the offender had a weapon.
- Risk of robbery rises significantly if you live in a disordered area or have been living in the area less than a year.
- People of European origin are very unlikely to be a robbery victim (c.f.burglary).

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Sex offences

- Sex offences are rare (or women were very unwilling to admit such an offence to our interviewers).
- 60% of sex offence victims knew the offender by name.
- Satisfaction with police response to sex offences was very low – only 16% of victims were satisfied.
- 85% of victims who were dissatisfied thought the police were not interested.
- The greater the age the lower the risk of sexual assault.

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Assaults

- 3.4% of men and 3.0% of women were victims of assaults and threats.
- Women are likely to be assaulted either in the home or near the home.
- Men are likely to be assaulted near the home or in the neighbourhood.
- 70% of women and just over 50% of men knew the offender by name.
- Women were much more likely than men to be assaulted by a partner or ex partner.
- In assaults where force was used 53% of the men and 62% of the women suffered a physical injury.
- Women who had been physically assaulted had a poor view of police response to the offence.
- Young people are much more likely to be victims of assaults and threats than older people.
- Being assaulted or threatened increases fear of crime significantly.

Background

This is the second report based on the Barbados Crime Survey (BarCS) to be published. The BarCS is a survey of approximately 8000 people, aged 16 and over, chosen at random across Barbados. It was carried out with the objective of finding out how many of them were victims of crime in 2001. The purpose of the survey is to:

- estimate the true level of crime against households in Barbados,
- find out what the effects of crime was on victims,
- find out whether victims reported these crimes to the police and if not why not,
- discover whether victims were satisfied with their treatment by the police,
- discover what actions they take to prevent crime,
- find out how safe people feel in their neighbourhood and their home,
- find out what people think of sentences handed down by the courts,
- discover what the public knows about crime and justice,
- find out who is most at risk of being a victim of crime,
- show how resources can be targeted most effectively to reduce crime.

Details of the sample and the methods used to carry out the survey are to be found in Appendix 1. The interviewing was carried out over 6 weeks from the middle of January 2002 to ensure the best possible recall of events in 2001. A copy of the questionnaire used is found in Appendix 2.

The traditional way of analysing crime and crime trends in all countries has been to use the numbers of crimes recorded by the police. This is fairly easy to do but it has several disadvantages:

- many crimes are not reported to the police,
- some crimes reported to the police are not recorded by them,
- police forces in different countries record and count crime in different ways,
- reporting rates to the police for different crimes change over time.

These problems mean that police recorded crime figures can never give a true record of the number of crimes; that apparent changes in crime rates may be produced by changes in reporting and recording rates; and that it is impossible to make meaningful international comparisons except, possibly, for homicide (and there are even problems in this area).

So, in order to measure crime at all accurately and to be able to make meaningful international comparisons an alternative way of counting crime has been devised. It is the crime survey.

This method also has some limitations;

- The results are subject to the normal problems of sampling error
- The crimes described are crimes which happen to people. The BarCS does not deal with retail crime, commercial crime, fraud, drug crimes and other victimless crimes.

However the results of crime surveys for household crimes are more dependable than those from police recorded crime figures and we are proud that Barbados has joined the 34 countries which carry out comparable crime surveys.

The crimes covered are:

Household crime:

- burglary
- attempted burglary
- vehicle theft
- theft from vehicles
- vandalism of vehicles
- bicycle theft
- motorcycle theft
- vandalism of the house.

Personal crime:

- robbery
- theft from the person
- assault and threats
- sexual assaults
- consumer fraud
- bribery/corruption.

We have already published a report which compares crime in Barbados with crime in 34 industrialised and developing countries. This report looks in detail at crime in Barbados.

Overall Crime

The total sample interviewed was 7962. This is 92% of the 8654 households in the original sample

For these reports this figure has been weighted up to show what would have been the results if we had interviewed the whole population. Thus we estimate the total number of crimes against households and persons in 2001 and can compare the results from the survey with police figures.

In fact, because we interviewed nearly 8000 people we can only produce an estimate of the total numbers – but because 8000 is a large sample we can be confident we know what the real numbers of crimes will have been within a fairly narrow range.

We will illustrate what we mean. 1229 of the people we interviewed in the 7962 households said that the household or they personally had been victimised at least once in 2001. That means 15.4% of households in the sample experienced at least one crime. Given the population of Barbados we know from statistical tables that with a sample of 8000 there is a 90% probability that for the whole population the real percentage will have been plus or minus 0.7% or from 14.7% to 16.1%.

This means that the actual number of households in Barbados victimised at least once was between 14.7% and 16.1% of 83503 (the total number of households in Barbados). That is between 12,274 and 13,444. If our figure of 15.4% were totally accurate that would mean 12,859 households had been victimised and 70,664 had not been.

As we have said in the first BarCS report this is a high figure but it is still one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

Thus we estimate the number of households victimised (i.e. there was a crime against the household, such as burglary, or there was a crime against one of the people in the house, such as assault) was 12,859, plus or minus 585. But the total number of crimes was more than that. Some households experienced the same crime more than once (e.g. their house was burgled more than once in the year) and some houses experienced more than one type of crime (e.g. some households experienced a burglary and one or more of the residents was also the victim of a robbery). When we take these into consideration we arrive at a total number of crimes of 31,182.

This is made up as in the table below.

Offences in Barbados 2001

Household Offences	Best estimate of Total Number	Rate per 10,000 households
Burglary	4545	544
Attempted burglary	2036	243
Theft of vehicle	254	30
Theft from vehicle	2822	338
Criminal damage (vandalism) of a vehicle	1448	173
Theft of motor-cycle	19	2
Theft of bicycle	1452	174
Criminal damage (vandalism) of a house	860	105
Personal Offences		Rate per 10,000 persons aged 16 and over
Personal theft	6462	315
Robbery	1721	84
Assaults and threats	9751	476
Sexual offences	826	77 (females only)
TOTAL	31,182	

It is sometimes difficult to know just what figures like this mean. However, if we assume that all people and households are equally at risk then this would mean you could expect that:

your house would be burgled once every 18 years,
your vehicle would be stolen once every 333 years,
something would be stolen from your vehicle once every 30
years,
you would have something stolen from you once every 32
years,
you would be robbed once every 120 years,
and you would be assaulted or threatened once every 21
years.

We will show later that not everyone is equally at risk but these numbers give some idea of how relatively rare different sorts of crime are.

How do these figures compare with police recorded crime figures

We cannot compare this estimate of crime in 2001 with police figures because:

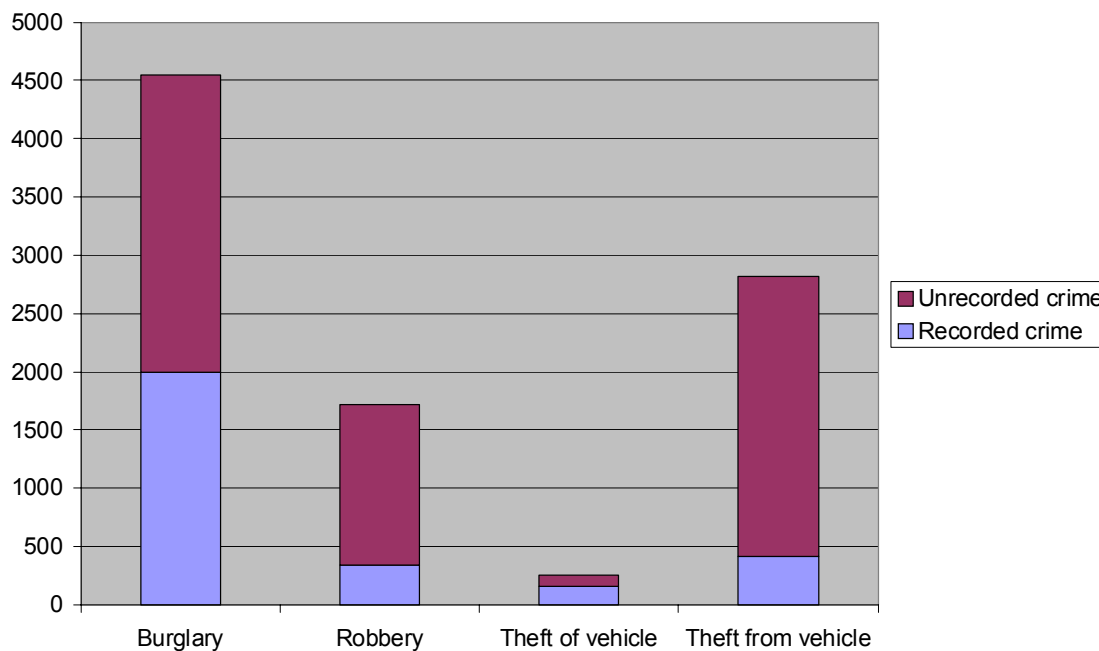
- ◆ the police collect information on crimes that cannot be included in the crime survey (such as fraud and drug offences),
- ◆ many offences are not reported by the victim to the police,
- ◆ the police do not record as a crime every incident reported to them by the public because they require evidence that a crime has indeed been committed before recording it,
- ◆ some of the categories used in the BarCS do not correspond with the legal definitions used by the police (for example the

police do not use a category “attempted burglary”. Events described this way in the survey are often defined as “loitering” by the Royal Barbados Police Force).

However for some individual crimes (burglary, robbery, car theft and theft from a motor vehicle) we can compare the BarCS results with police figures. This is because we used the same definitions of the crime when interviewing victims as the police use.

The Chart below shows for those offences the total number of crimes found by the BarCS and within that the proportion recorded by the police.

Levels of recorded and unrecorded crime 2001

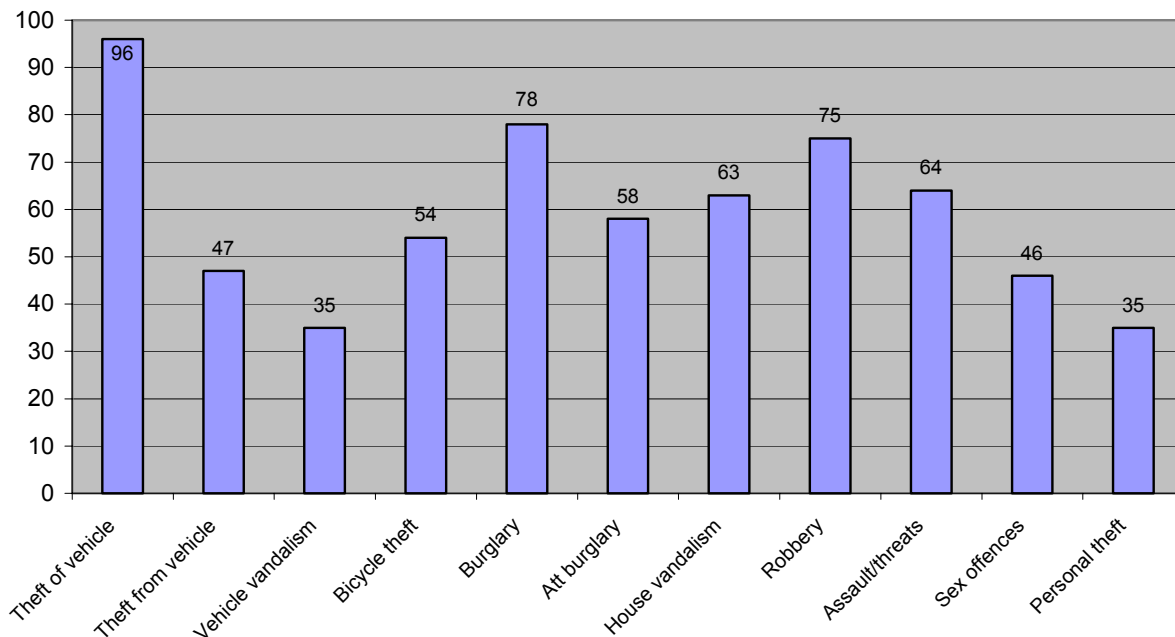


The chart suggests that 44% of burglaries, 20% of robberies, 63% of car thefts and 15% of thefts from vehicles are recorded by the police.

Reporting to the police

One of the main reasons the police do not record a crime is that it is not reported to them. We asked victims of crime whether they, or someone else, had reported the crime to the police. 56% of the victims of crime said their crime had been reported to the police. However, as can be seen from the chart below there were significant differences in the proportions of different crimes reported to the police.

Proportion of crimes reported to the police



The offence with the highest reporting rate was theft of a vehicle (96%). The lowest rates (35%) were for personal theft and vehicle vandalism (damage).

We do know some of the reasons why some victims did or did not report their crime to the police. For two of the household offences (burglary and theft from a vehicle) and three of the personal crimes (robbery, assault/threats and sex offences) we asked questions about details of the crime including why or why not the crime was reported.

The table below shows the reasons that victims who did report the crime to the police gave for reporting it (they could give more than answer).

Reason for reporting crime to police	Victims of household crime	Victims of personal crime
To recover property	48	8
For insurance claim	6	1
Because crime should be reported	54	35
To catch the offender	42	42
To stop it happening again	40	60
To get help	15	25
To get compensation	9	1
Other	1	6

As can be seen victims of household crime were most likely to say it was because crime should be reported, then to recover their property, then to catch the offender and, fourth, to stop it happening again.

Victims of personal crime however first said it was to stop it happening again, then to catch the offender, third, because crime should be reported and fourth to get help.

It is clear that different forms of victimisation produce different incentives for reporting crime.

Not as many reasons were given for not reporting to the police. Whereas on average two reasons were given for reporting crime those not reporting the crime to the police, on average gave one and a quarter reasons.

Below we show the reasons given by victims of household and personal crime for not reporting crime.

Reason for NOT reporting crime to police	Victims of household crime	Victims of personal crime
Not serious enough	41	41
Police could do nothing	25	9
Solved it myself or through my family	7	23
Inappropriate for the police	12	12
Police would not do anything	14	8
Dislike police	2	6
Had no insurance	1	0
Fear of reprisals	3	9
Other	20	17

The most common reason was that the crime was not serious enough. 41% of both the victims of house crime and personal crime gave this answer. For household crime the next most common reason was because they believed the police could do nothing and the next reason (given by one in six) was that the police would do nothing.

For victims of personal crime the second most common reason given was that either they or their family had dealt with the matter and the third most common reason was that it was 'inappropriate' for the police.

The reason for the variations in reporting rates for different crimes has a great deal to do with the perceived seriousness of the offence. The BarCS asked victims how serious the crime was for them. As can be seen from the table below there is a very strong relationship between the perceived seriousness and proportion reported to the police.

Offence	% reported to police	% thinking crime very serious
Theft of vehicle	96	61
Burglary	78	67
Robbery	75	48
Assault/Threat	64	62
House vandalism	63	60
Attempted burglary	58	50
Bicycle theft	54	49
Theft from vehicle	47	34
Sex offences	46	46
Personal theft	35	35
Vehicle vandalism	35	25

The correlation between these two variables is 0.8 – indicating a close relationship. As can be seen from the table however vehicle theft has the highest reporting rate even though it was not seen as the most serious crime. This could be because insurance companies insist of victims informing the police.

Crimes recorded by the police

The fact that many crimes were not reported to the police explains some of the shortfall between crimes committed and crimes recorded – but it does not explain it all. It appears that some crimes reported to the police are not recorded.

We cannot examine police recording practices for all the BarCS crimes as they are not all defined in exactly the same way

as the police (e.g. “attempted burglary” is not a legal category recognized by the police). The analysis of this area is therefore confined to three crimes which are defined in the same way – burglary (not including attempts), theft of vehicles and theft from vehicles. As was seen from Chart 1 there were large differences between crimes reported to the BarCS and crimes recorded by the police. Reporting practice explains some of the difference – but not all.

	Burglary	Theft of vehicle	Theft from vehicle
Crimes reported to BarCS	4545	254	2822
Crimes reported to police	3512	244	1326
Crimes recorded by police	1993	160	412
Proportion of crimes reported which was recorded by police	58%	66%	31%

These figures have to be treated with some caution because there are several possible sources of error.

- sampling error in estimating the number of offences (although for burglary, for example, using the lowest estimate would only bring the number of burglaries down to 4018 and increase the proportion recorded to 64%),
- sampling error in estimating the proportion of offences reported to the police; and
- non-sampling error if respondents had told the interviewers that the crime had been reported when in fact it had not (although in another smaller crime survey the proportion of people saying they had reported a burglary was the same as in the full BarCS).

Nevertheless the figures do consistently indicate a gap between offences reported to the police and offences recorded. Research in other countries has suggested that possible reasons in those countries for this shortfall are:

- the police may not always have regarded as crime those incidents thought to be crimes by the respondents to the BarCS,
- the police might have thought the victim was in some way to blame,
- the police may have doubted the credibility of the report,
- the police may have subsequently 'no-crimed' the incident i.e. decided not enough proof existed to say a crime had taken place,

- the police might have put the incident in a different category from the victim,
- some incidents might have been seen to be trivial and not worth the paper work,
- some incidents might not have been recorded if they thought the victim was unlikely to give evidence,
- the police might have been too much under pressure to go to take a statement.

However whatever the reasons for the shortfall there is clearly an area here which needs further investigation (although it must be pointed out that this is not just a problem area in Barbados. In the United Kingdom the British Crime Survey finds similar shortfalls).

We will now look at individual crimes in more detail.

SECTION 2

Household Crime

The BarCS asked Barbadians about their experience of burglary, attempted burglary, theft of motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of bicycle, theft of motorbike and vehicle vandalism. For two of these crimes –

burglary and theft from motor vehicle – we asked detailed questions about the crime and the effect of it on the victim; for all the crimes we related victimisation to basic demographic and economic data.

Burglary

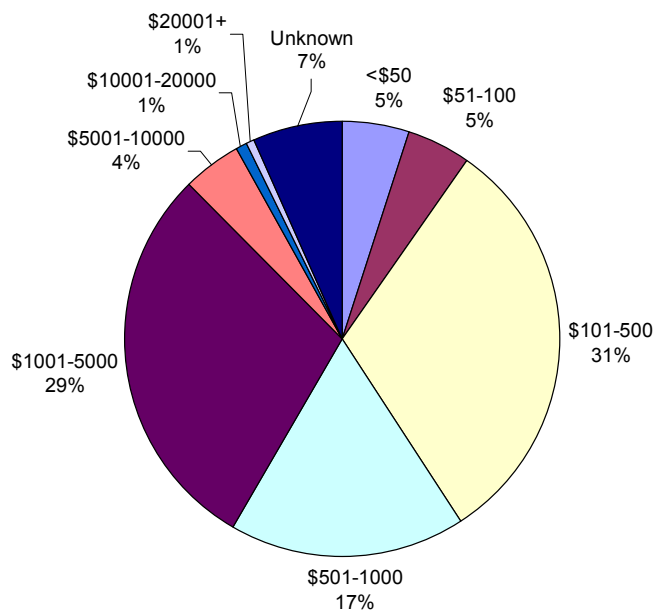
Our best estimate of the number of households burgled, i.e. someone actually got into the house without permission, in 2001 is 3535. This is 4.2% of all households.

81% of these houses were burgled once and 19% were burgled twice or more. We estimate that 57 homes were burgled 4 times or more. This resulted in a total of 4545 burglaries and means that the 19% of the households which were burgled more than once experienced 37% of burglaries.

79,968 homes were not burgled.

What gets stolen?

Burglary: Value of Property stolen

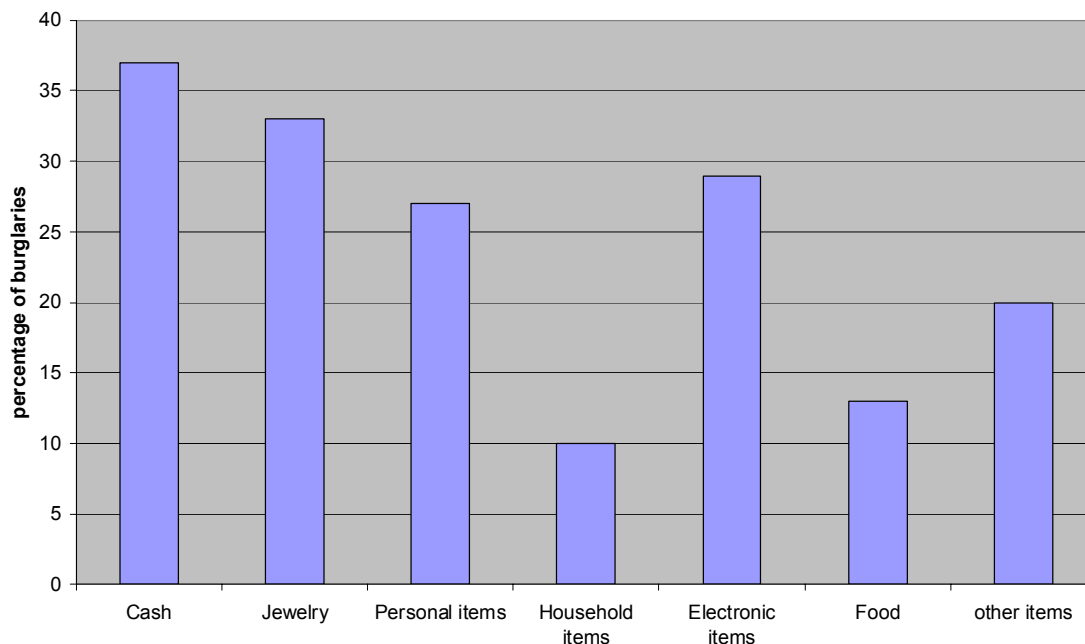


- In 92% of burglaries something was stolen.
- The total value of property stolen in burglaries in 2001 was approximately \$8,000,000.
- Property valued at approximately \$275,000 was recovered, i.e. approximately 5% of property stolen was recovered.
- The average (mean) value of property stolen in a burglary was \$1,874.
- However, in 58% of burglaries the value of property stolen was less than \$1,000. This suggests that the mean value is pushed up by a small number of burglaries in which a very large amount was stolen.

- Only 10% of households were insured against burglary and in only two-thirds of these households was a claim made. In most of the claims the full value of the property was not recovered.
- In 35% of the burglaries damage was done to the house.
- The mean value of damage done in those houses was \$650. However in 78% of the houses damaged the value was less than \$500.

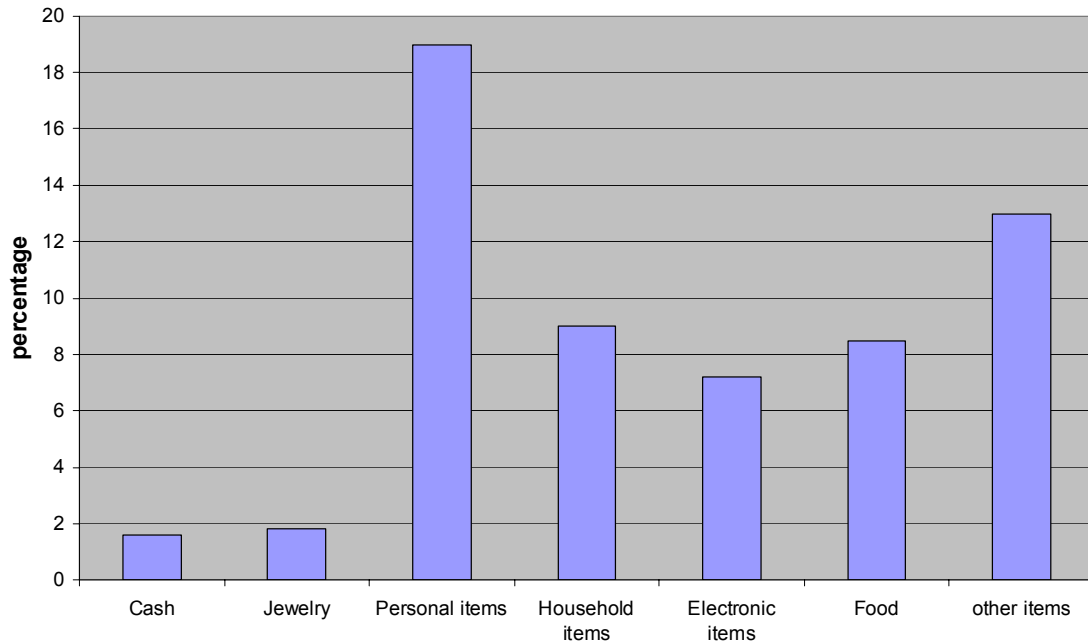
The last point is very important as it strongly suggests that a majority of burglaries did not involve breaking into the house (which would have resulted in damage) but were opportunistic and involved walking through unlocked doors or climbing through unlocked windows.

Items stolen in burglaries



- The chart above shows that cash was stolen in 37% of burglaries.
- Jewelry was stolen in 33% of burglaries and electronic items in 30%.
- Personal items were stolen in 27% of burglaries and food in 13%.

Proportion of items recovered



- Very small proportions of money or jewelry were recovered after a burglary.
- The items most likely to be recovered were “personal” (19% recovered).
- Only 7.2% of electronic items were recovered.

Who gets burgled?

Not all homes are at an equal risk if burglary. This is a common finding from all crime surveys. In the BarCS we examined the relationship between a number of factors and the chance of being burgled.

The factors examined were:

Type of neighbourhood (income).

Evidence of disorder round the house (e.g. graffiti, litter, broken windows, burnt out cars, rowdiness etc.)

Type of dwelling (house, flat etc).

Income level of household.

Size of household.

Ethnic group of the respondent.

Length of time living in the area.

Judgment by respondent on neighbourliness of the area.

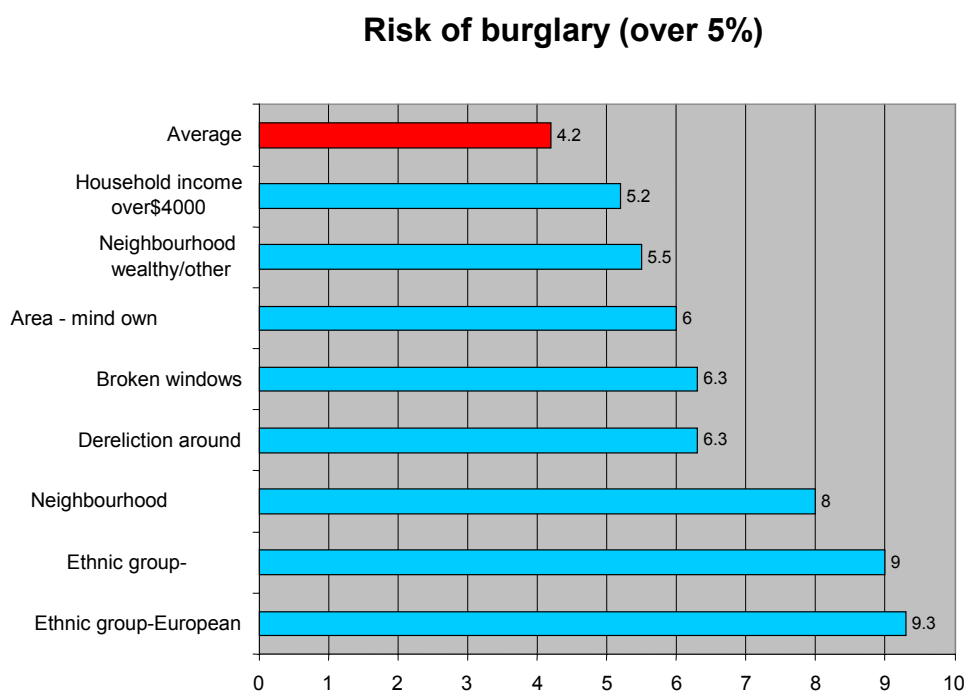
Whether the location was urban or rural.

Number of times the respondent went out recreationally.

For example we asked the respondent what was the approximate monthly income of the household. We divided the answers into six groups – below \$500, \$500 - \$2,000, \$2001 - \$4,000, over \$4,000, “not known” and “did not wish to say”. We then looked at the burglary rates of households falling into each of these groups to see to what extent they varied from the average for the whole of Barbados of 4.2%

The results are shown below for those groups which were significantly more or less likely to be burgled than the average. In the diagrams we have shown those groups whose chance of being burgled was either above 5% or below 3.5%. It is very interesting how few groups differed from the average – in other words the chance of being burgled is very similar whoever you are and wherever you live.

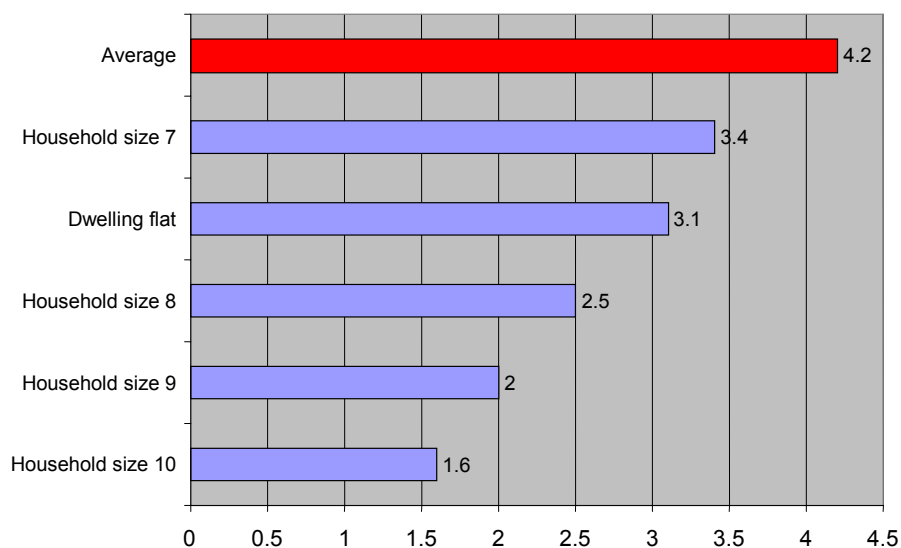
The exceptions are shown below.



- The groups most likely to be burgled are those whose ethnic group is either Indian or European (they are more than twice as likely to be burgled as average).
- People who live in wealthy areas are next most likely to be burgled.

- People who live in areas with obvious signs of disorder are 50% more likely than average to be burgled.
- People who live in areas where they believe people keep to themselves have a somewhat higher than average likelihood of burglary.
- Households with more than \$4,000 a month income are also somewhat more likely than average to be burglary victims.

Risk of burglary less than 3.5%



This section identified those groups, which are less likely than average to be burgled. As can be seen there are very few such groups.

- If the household size is 7 or more it is less likely to be burgled.
- People who live in a flat or apartment are less likely than average to be burgled.

These results are quite different from results in the United Kingdom. There the people who are most likely to be burgled are those who live in the poorest areas – not the most well off – and there are more groups which are further from the average than in Barbados.

One of the reasons the poor are most likely to be victims in the United Kingdom is that housing areas are much more homogeneous in the United Kingdom and most burglars will not travel more than 2 miles to find a victim. This means that burglars living in poor areas are likely to burgle poor areas. In Barbados housing is much more mixed and 2 miles will take you from the poorest areas (where most burglars live) to the richest areas with ease. This means that wealthy people in Barbados are more likely to be burgled (as common sense would suggest) than in the United Kingdom or North America.

The fact that people living in disordered areas have a high rate is, however, consistent with experience in other countries. In a famous article called “Broken Windows” George Kelling, an American sociologist, showed that people living in disordered areas were more likely to be victims of crime than people with similar ethnic and economic backgrounds who did not live in disordered areas. For reasons which are not fully understood, the fact that litter, graffiti and noise abound in an area seems to signal to burglars that this is an area for their crime. Kelling, indeed, has demonstrated that by getting rid of litter, graffiti and noise you can reduce crime rates. It may be that in attractive areas people take pride of the neighbourhood and use informal social control to minimise criminal acts.

Barbados could almost certainly reduce crime by reducing signs of disorder.

The groups least likely to be burgled are those living in very large households. This should not be surprising. In very large households there is a good chance that someone will be at home at any time. This undoubtedly is a deterrence to burglars – most of whom are opportunists.

Reporting to the Police

- 78% of the respondents said that the burglary at their home had been reported to the police.
 - 55% of those who did report it said they had reported it because it should be reported.
 - 54% said it was to get the offender caught.
 - 51% said it was to get their property back.
 - 44% said it was to stop it happening again.
- Of the 22% who did not report the offence to the police.
 - 30% said it was because it was not serious enough.
 - 30% said it was because the police could do nothing.
 - 20% said it was because the police would do nothing or because they disliked the police.

Satisfaction with the Police

It should be noted here (and at similar points in other sections) that the findings below give only perceptions of police performance, that without data on actual performance it is not possible to say whether the perceptions were justified and it is hoped to have actual data for comparative purposes on some concrete performance measures, such as response time, by the next round of the BarCS.

- 59% of the people who reported the crime to the police said they were satisfied by the police response.
- Of the 41% who were not satisfied:
 - 49% said the police did not do enough.
 - 36% said the police did not keep them informed.
 - 32% said the police were slow to arrive.
 - 22% said the police were not interested.
 - 22% said the police did not recover their property.
 - 18% said the police did not catch the offender.
 - 13% said the police did not treat them correctly.

Fear of Crime

Being burgled clearly affects the way people see crime and it affects their level of fear.

- 66% of people who have been burgled think that it is likely they will be burgled in the next year. This compares with 38% of those who have not.
- 39% of people who have been burgled feel unsafe walking in their area after dark compared with 26% of those who have not.
- 20% of victims feel unsafe at home at night compared with 9% of non-victims.
- 58% of burglary victims think the police do a good job controlling crime compared with 76% of non-victims.
- However being burgled does not appear to affect a person's willingness to go out at night. 51% of victims and 45% of non-victims went out at least once a week.

Attempted Burglary

The BarCS also obtained information on attempted burglaries. These are incidents where the respondents had evidence that someone had tried to get into their house but had failed. Our best estimate of the number of houses where burglary was attempted is 1786 – that is 2.1% of all houses. 92% of the houses had one attempt and 8% had two or more. The total number of attempted burglaries was therefore 2036.

58% of the respondents said that the attempted burglaries were reported to the police. 50% of victims thought it was a very serious crime, 27% thought it was somewhat serious and 23% thought it was not serious.

Who are the victims?

- The type of neighbourhood was the factor which showed the greatest variation in rates of attempted burglary,
 - wealthy areas (5.4%) and mixed wealthy and poor areas (6.8%) were most at risk.
 - poor areas (1.7%) had the lowest rate).(poor houses probably have a low rate of attempted burglary because they are more at risk of a successful burglary because of their lack of security).
- Areas of disorder had higher than average rates. Areas with broken windows/doors etc had a rate of 3.3% and noisy areas a rate of 4.3%.
- The income level of the household had some effect but it was not great (1.5% for those under \$500 and 2.9% for those over \$4,000 month).

Vandalism of the house

House vandalism is very rare in Barbados. We estimate that 671 houses were vandalised in 2001 (that is 0.8% of houses). The total number of incidents was 860.

However when it did happen it was seen as a serious crime. 75% of the incidents were seen as serious or very serious and 65% were reported to the police.

People living in rural areas were half as likely as people living in urban areas to have their homes vandalised.

Vehicle Crime

Theft of vehicle

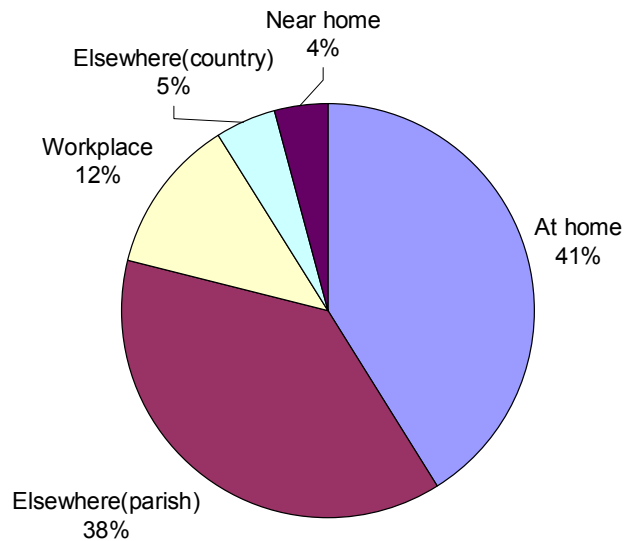
Vehicle theft in Barbados is a relatively rare event.

Our best estimate for the number of stolen vehicles in 2001 is 254. No household reported that a vehicle had been stolen more than once.

We estimated the number of households which owned a vehicle was 40,142 therefore the rate of theft of vehicle from vehicle –owning households is 0.6% (half the rate of England and Wales).

Location

Location of vehicle thefts



As can be seen from the chart:

- most vehicles were stolen from home or near to home (45%),
- 38% were stolen from somewhere else in the parish,
- 12% were stolen from work.

In the great majority of cases (71%) the vehicle was recovered.

Vehicle theft had the highest reporting rate to the police of all crimes. 96% of such thefts were reported.

Vehicle theft was also seen as one of the most serious crimes by victims with only 16% saying it was not serious.

Risk of car theft

There were very few factors which had a relationship with vehicle theft – i.e. the risk was very small for everyone, everywhere.

However two factors stand out:

- no one living in a wealthy area or a wealthy/poor mixed area had their vehicle stolen,
- people living in areas with broken windows or litter and strewn garbage had rates double the national average.

Theft from a vehicle

Although theft of a vehicle is rare in Barbados, theft from a vehicle is more common. However, it is still low in relation to rates in other countries (see BarCS report 1).

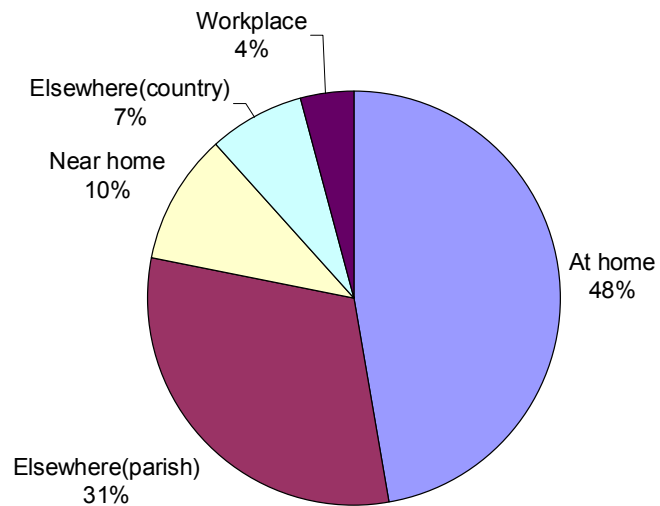
Our best estimate of the number of households which suffered a theft from a vehicle is 2443 or 6.2% of those households which owned a vehicle. 12% of households which were victimised were victimised more than once so that the total number of thefts from vehicles was 2822.

Theft from a vehicle was not seen as a very serious crime. Indeed 36% of victims said it was not serious (compared with 16% of those whose vehicle had been stolen).

Related to this is the finding that less than half of such thefts were reported to the police (47%).

Location

Theft from vehicles;location



Theft from a vehicle was more likely to take place at or near home (58%) than theft of a vehicle (45%). Theft from a vehicle was rare at a person's workplace (4%).

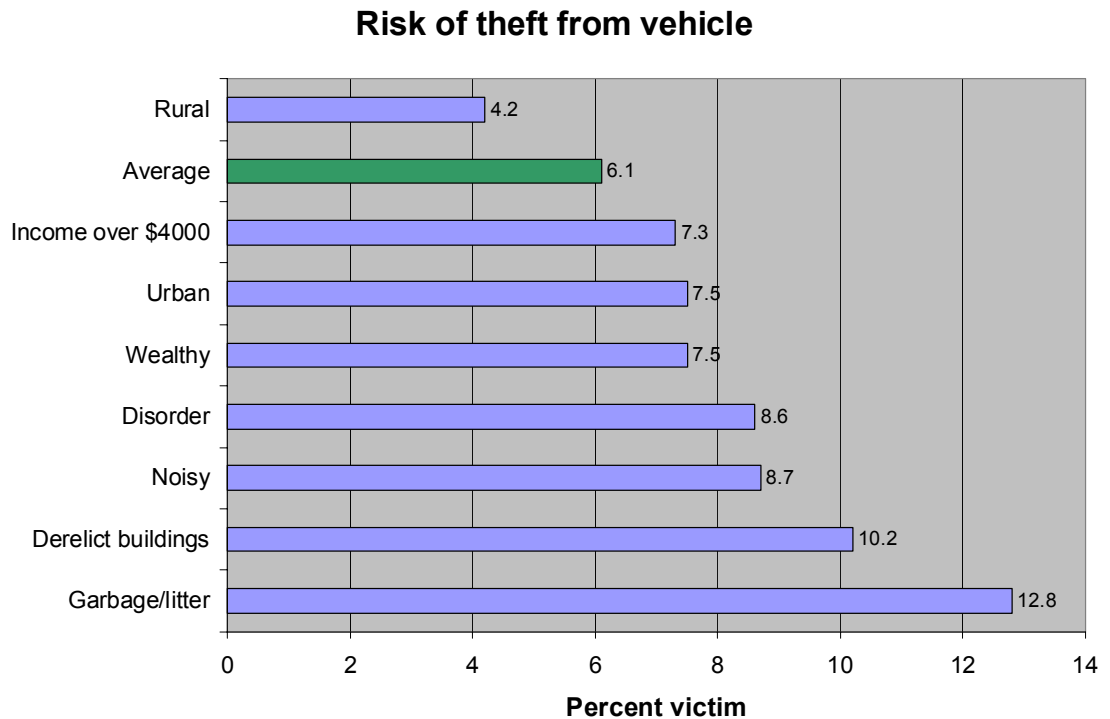
Reporting to the police

- 47% of thefts from vehicles were reported to the police
 - 52% of those who did report the crime to the police said it was because they ought to
 - 41% said it was to recover property
 - 38% said it was to catch the offender
 - 32% said it was to stop it happening again.
- Of the 53% who did not report the crime to the police
 - 47% said it was not serious enough
 - 23% said it was because the police could do nothing
 - 13% said it was because the police would do nothing.

Satisfaction with the police

- 57% of the people who reported the crime to the police said they were satisfied with the way the police handled the case (compared with 59% of those who reported a burglary).
- Of the 43% who were not satisfied:
 - 50% said the police did not do enough
 - 30% said the police did not keep them informed
 - 28% said the police did not recover their property
 - 26% said the police were not interested
 - 23% said the police did not find the offender
 - 20% said they were not treated politely
 - 18% said they were slow to arrive.

Who are the victims?



- Only one group has significantly lower than average risk of theft from vehicle – vehicle owners living in a rural area.
- Vehicle owners living in an urban area, a wealthy area or where the household income is \$4,000 a month or more, are at a somewhat higher risk.
- The highest risk is found in areas of disorder – 12.8% if there is garbage and litter around, 10.2% if there are derelict buildings and 8.7% if it is noisy or rowdy.

Damage to a vehicle

Vehicle vandalism is comparatively rare in Barbados (see Report 1 for international comparisons). We estimate that 1289 households had a vehicle damaged (other than in a car accident) and that the total incidents of vehicle vandalism were 1448.

This means that 3.2% of vehicle-owning households were vandalism victims.

As with other vehicle crime most of the incidents were near or at home (53%) or elsewhere in the parish (24%).

Vehicle vandalism had one of the lowest reporting rates to the police of all crimes. Only one third (35%) of incidents were reported.

In addition this was a crime which was not seen as particularly serious – 44% of victims saying the crime was not serious for their family.

Risk of vehicle vandalism

The pattern of risk of vehicle vandalism is not like the pattern for other offences.

- People living in disordered areas are less at risk than average (2.5% versus 3.1%).
- People living in wealthy areas are less at risk than average (2.2%).
- But people living in mixed poor and wealthy areas are at much greater risk (11.5%).

- People living in rural areas are at lower risk (2.1%).
- Households where the income is over \$4,000 per month are at higher risk (5.9%).

Theft of motorcycle

This is a very rare crime indeed. Only 1.5% of households have a motorcycle and only 1.7% of them had a motorcycle stolen.

Our best estimate, therefore, of the number of households victimised is 20. And because no one had a motorbike stolen more than once the total number of incidents was 20.

All of these incidents were reported to the police and all the incidents were seen as serious or very serious.

All the thefts were from the victims' homes.

Theft of bicycles

26% of households own at least one bicycle. 1285 households said that a bicycle had been stolen – this is a rate of 5.9% of bicycle-owning households.

Because of multiple victimisations a total of 1452 bicycles were stolen in 2001.

A majority of bicycle thefts were from the home or near to it (63%). Only 1% of such thefts were from work.

54% of bicycle thefts were reported to police and over 70% of the incidents were seen as serious or very serious for the family.

Risk of bicycle theft

The factors which seem to be associated with a relatively high level of bicycle theft are:

- urban areas (8.2%)
- income below \$500 a month (9.2%)
- living in a wealthy neighbourhood (13.1%)
- living in a middle/wealthy neighbourhood (11.4%).

One factor seems to be associated with a significantly lowered risk of bicycle theft.

- living in a rural area (3.9%).

SECTION 3

Personal Crime

The BarCS also asked the interviewees about their own experience of personal crime during 2001. These are crimes which do not directly relate to the household (like burglary) but relate to the respondent personally. They include robbery, assault and threats, theft from the person and sexual assaults. In order to estimate the total number of people aged 16 and over who had been the victim of a personal crime the number of people in the household was used to weight up the number of respondents and then this figure was weighted up by the number of households. This means that we can make generalizations about all Barbadians 16 and over from the 7962 people we interviewed – although we must again remind readers that all these estimates are subject to statistical “error”.

We will illustrate the problem again.

Of the sample of 7962, 262 people were assaulted or threatened. This is 3.2%. The possible error on this is 0.3% i.e. there is a 90% chance that the true figure lies between 2.9% and 3.5% or between 230 and 278. This means that our estimate of a total of 6535 victims of assault/threat could be either 614 too high or 614 too low. For our analysis we will assume that 6535 was the correct figure but readers should not think that because we have used a precise figure we know exactly how many people were assaulted.

For robbery, assault/threats and sex offences we asked detailed questions about the effect of the crime on the victim.

Robbery

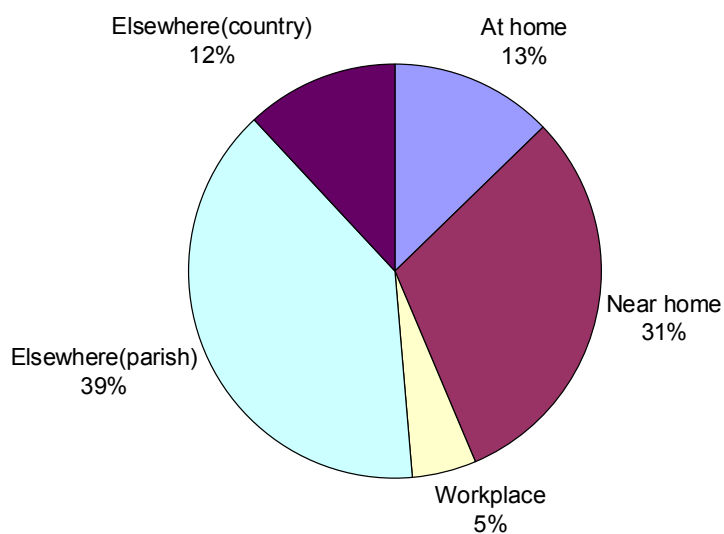
Robbery is theft from the person using force or the threat of force.

Our best estimate of the number of people who were robbed in Barbados in 2001 is 1561. This is 0.8% of all people aged 16 and over. In other words robbery is a very rare crime.

90% of these people were robbed once and, 10% of them were robbed twice. This means that there were a total of 1721 robberies in 2001.

Location.

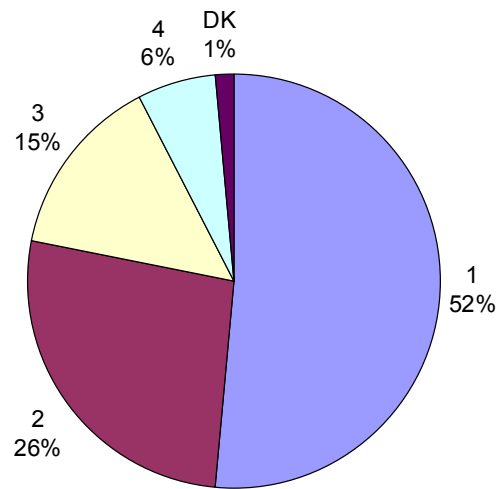
Location of Robberies



The most common place to be robbed (39%) was in the parish of residence but not near home. Near home was the next most likely (31%) and at home the next most common (13%). [This last finding must be treated with caution as it is quite possible that as far as the law is concerned these people were victims of aggravated burglary rather than robbery. This is because an offence involving theft and violence committed inside the house is burglary. Strictly speaking we should probably reduce the number of robberies in our overall estimate and increase the number of burglaries but as we do not know all the details of the offence and exactly where it was committed (in the garden?) we shall call these events 'robberies'].

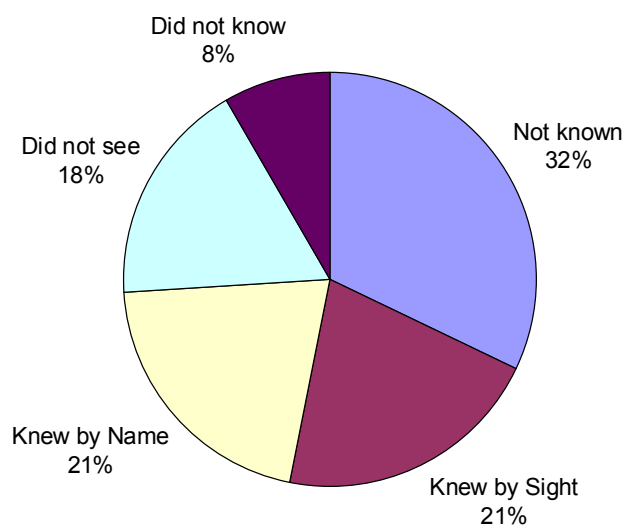
The robbery

Number of Robbers



- Just over half of robberies were carried out by one person.
- 21% of robberies were carried out by 3 or more persons.

Knowledge of Robber



- 26% of victims either did not see or did not know whether they knew the robber.
- However 21% knew the robber by name and another 21% knew the robber by sight.
- One third of victims did not know the offender.
- In 87% of robberies something was stolen.

Weapons

- In 54% of robberies the victim saw that the robber had a weapon.
- In 35% of robberies the victim believed that the robber did not have a weapon.
- 33% of robbers who were seen to have a weapon had a knife.

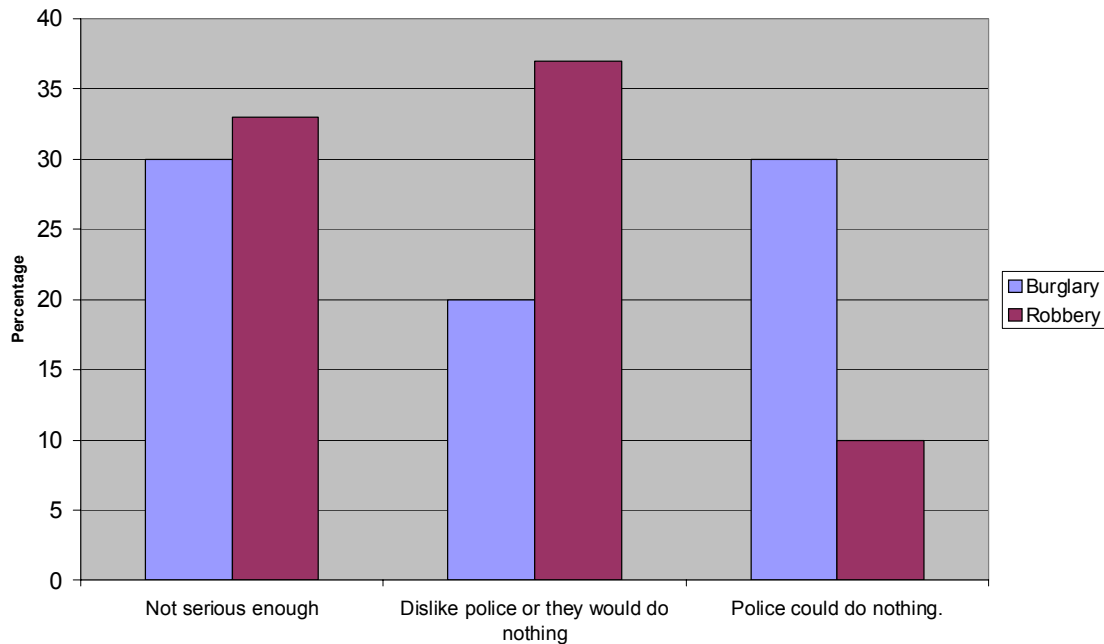
- 51% of armed robbers had a gun.
- 82% of guns used were handguns.
- 5% of armed robbers had a cutlass.

Reporting to the police

- 75% of robbery victims said that the offence was reported to the police either by themselves (94%) or someone else (6%).
 - the main reason given (by 55% of those who reported) was to catch the offender,
 - the next most common reason (46%) was because they thought it was the right thing to do,
 - the third most common reason (41%) was to recover their property,
 - 28% of victims said it was to stop it happening again.
- Of the 25% of victims who did not report the robbery to the police
 - 33% said it was because it was not serious enough,
 - 37% said it as because they disliked the police or the police would not do anything,
 - 10% said it was because the police could do nothing.

The reasons for not reporting to the police given by robbery victims are not the same as those given by burglary victims.

Reasons for not reporting crime to the police



As can be seen from the chart:

- virtually the same proportion of burglary and robbery victims said they did not report the crime because it was not serious enough.
- 30% of burglary victims but only 10% of robbery victims said it as because the police could do nothing.
- 37% of robbery victims said it was because they disliked the police or they would do nothing compared with only 20% of the burglary victims.

This suggests that the robbery victims differ from the burglary victims in some important ways – and indeed in the next section we will see that this is true.

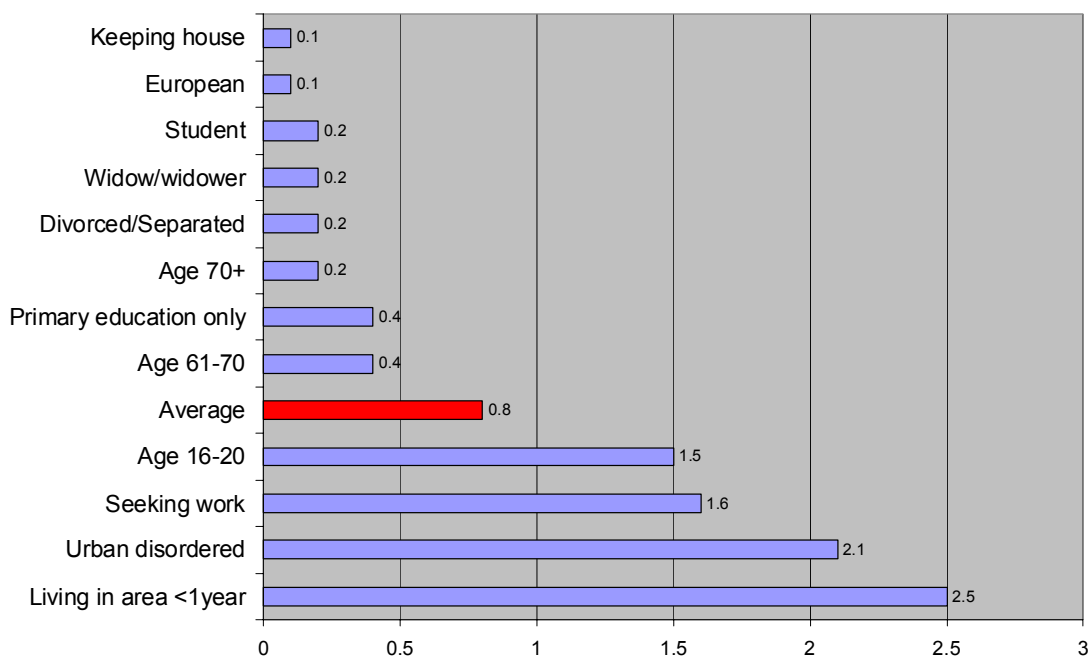
Satisfaction with the police

- 60% of the people who reported the crime to the police were satisfied with the treatment they received.
- Of the 40% who were not satisfied:
 - 59% said the police did not do enough,
 - 45% said the police did not keep them properly informed,
 - 43% said the police were slow to arrive,
 - 25% said the police were not interested,
 - 19% said that their property was not recovered and 19% said the police did not catch the offender,
 - only 5% said the police did not treat them correctly.

Risk of robbery

Because the robbery rate is so low (0.8%) it is difficult to differentiate between groups with higher and lower risks of being robbed. However if we look at those groups with a 1.5% robbery rate or higher, and those with a 0.4% rate or lower, we do see some interesting results.

Risk of Robbery



- Age is an important factor. People 16-20 have a relatively high risk of robbery and people 60 or over a low risk.
- Although it does not meet the criteria for the chart males are nearly twice as likely as females to be robbed (1.0% versus 0.6%).
- People of European heritage or who are keeping house have a very low risk of robbery.
- People who live in an urban disordered area are over twice as likely to be robbed as those who do not.
- People who have been living in their house for less than a year are three times more likely to be robbed than average.

[The profile of a robbery victim – young, male, living in a disordered urban area and transient, may well explain why they have a more negative view of the police from burglary victims, who tend to be better off, older and white].

Fear of Crime

Being a victim of robbery does seem to affect the person's fear of crime.

- 64% of robbery victims felt safe or very safe walking in their area at night compared with 75% of those who had not been robbed.
- 84% of robbery victims felt safe at home at night but rather more of non-victims (90%) felt safe.

However this somewhat increased level of fear does not seem to affect behaviour significantly. 40% of robbery victims went out at least once a week for recreation as did 47% of non-victims.

Sex Offences

Questions related directly to sex offences were asked of females only. Sexual assault of men was covered by the more general question on assault. The question asked was:

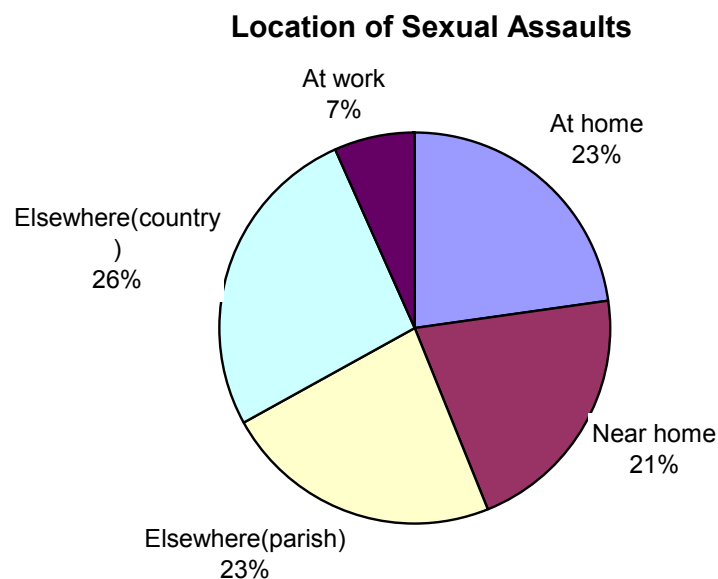
“This is a rather personal question. People sometimes grab, touch or assault others for sexual reasons, in a really offensive way. This can happen either at home or elsewhere, for instance in a bar or rum shop, the street, at school, on public transport, in cinemas, on the beach or at work. In 2001 did anyone do this to you? Please take your time to think about it”.

We have reproduced the question in full so that readers know what type of behaviour the question was trying to elicit.

Very few women answered “yes” to the question. In fact of the 4350 women who were interviewed only 28 said they had been sexually assaulted. The error round this figure is therefore large and the results must be seen in this light. However, we have written up what results we have because even with very small numbers many of the results are consistent with results found in other countries and they could well reflect the real situation.

Keeping this caveat in mind, our best estimate of the number of women 16 and over who were sexually assaulted was 674 or 0.7% of the group. 90% of these women were assaulted once and 10% twice or more. Therefore the estimate of the total number of incidents is 826.

Location

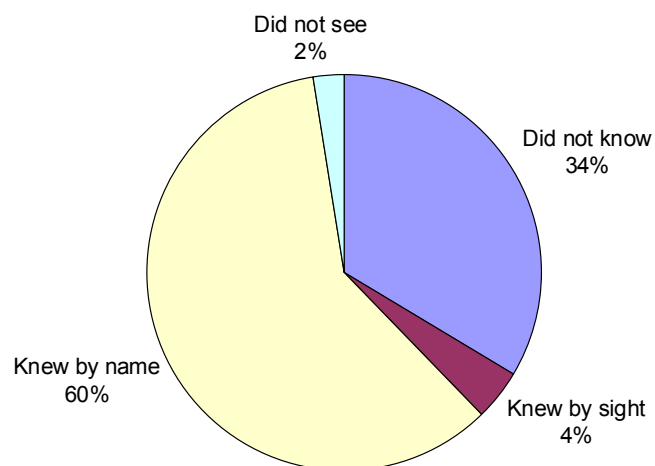


- As can be seen from the chart almost a quarter of sexual assaults took place in the home.
- A further one in five were near the home.
- Just over a quarter of the offences were outside the parish – a greater proportion than for other offences.

Circumstances of the offence

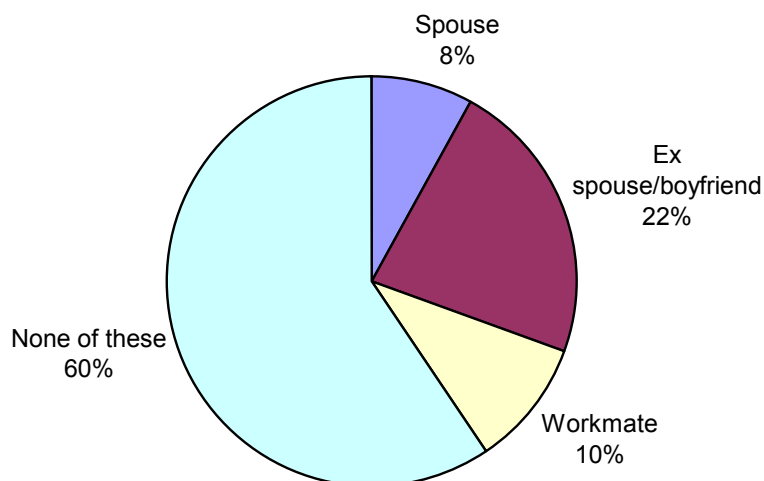
- 90% of offences were carried out by one offender.

Knowledge of Offender: Sex Offences



- An extraordinary proportion of victims (60%) knew the offender by name and a further 4% knew him by sight. This demonstrates once again the effect of living in a place where many people know each other.
- This proportion of victims knowing the offender by name is much higher than in the United Kingdom or Canada for example and partly explains the relatively high reporting rate (see BarCS Report 1).

Relationship with recognised offenders



- 22% of the known offenders were ex-spouses or boyfriends, 8% were current spouses and 10% were workmates.
- 11% of the offenders had a gun and 9% had a knife.
- 46% of the victims saw the offence as very serious (this compares with 67% of burglary victims and 61% of people whose car was stolen).
- 26% of the victims said the offence was not serious and 21% of the victims did not think the incident was a crime.
- 21% of the victims described the incident as a rape or attempted rape and 62% described it as indecent assault. The rest described it as “offensive behaviour”.

Reporting to the police

- 46% of the sexual offences were reported to the police. This may seem low but by international standards is very high (see BarCS Report #1).
 - _ the main reason given for reporting to the police (by 73% of victims) was to stop it happening again,
 - 37% because they thought such crime should be reported,
 - 28% wanted the offender caught,
 - 29% said they reported it to get help.
- 60% of victims who knew the offender reported the crime to the police compared with 23% of those who did not.
 - This is very important as it helps to explain the high overall reporting rate. Reporting was clearly related to knowing the offender and because a high proportion of Barbadian victims knew the offender the overall rate was high.
- Of the 54% of victims who did not report the offence to the police
 - 37% said it was because either they or their family had dealt with the matter,
 - 34% said it was because the offence was not serious enough,
 - 7% said it was because the police would do nothing.

The very high proportion saying it was because they or their family had dealt with the matter is quite a different from other crimes.

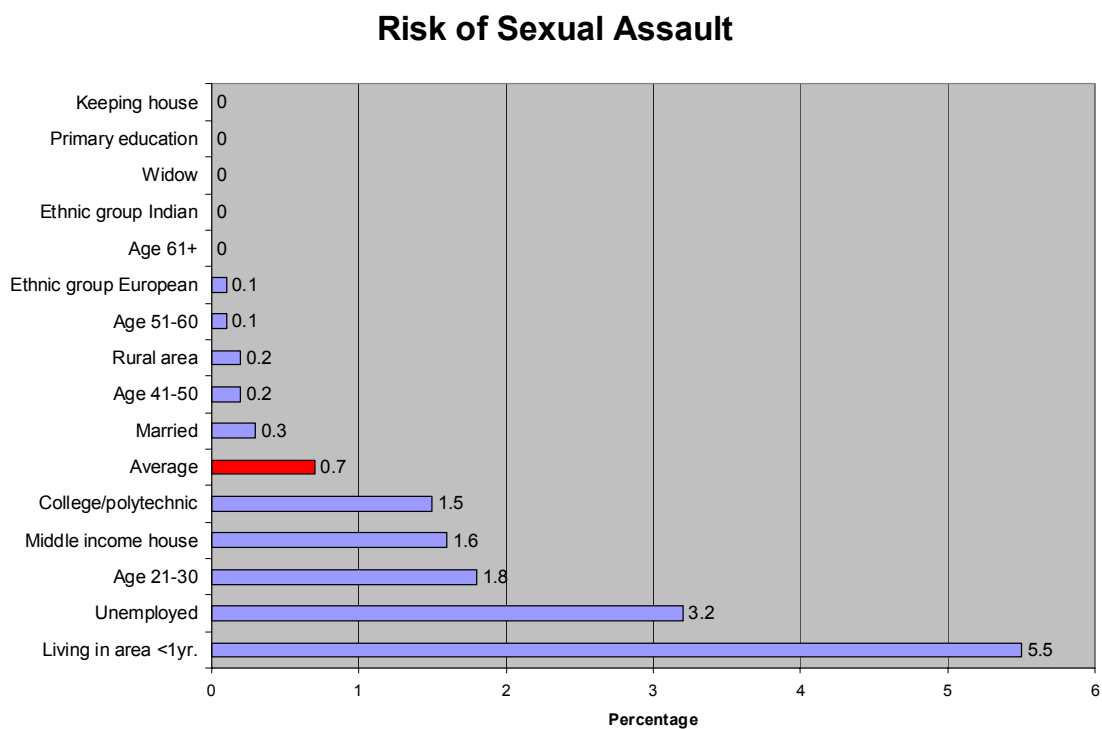
Satisfaction with the police

- 16% of victims who reported the offence to the police were satisfied with the police response. This is a very low rate.

- Of the 84% who were not satisfied with the way the police dealt with the matter
 - 85% said the police did not do enough,
 - 85% said the police were not interested,
 - 51% said the police did not treat them properly,
 - 25% said the police did not keep them informed,
 - 12% said that the police did not catch the offender.

Clearly the police need to examine their treatment of sexual assault victims.

Risk of sexual assault



Because the risk of sexual assault is low it is difficult to differentiate between the riskiness of different groups. However we have shown those groups with a very low risk (0.3% or less) and those with a relatively high risk (1.5% or higher).

- It is very clear that age is the factor which discriminates most.
 - Women who are in their 20s have a high risk,
 - Women over 40 have a low risk,
 - No women over 60 reported being sexually assaulted.
- Women from Indian or European races have a very low risk.
- Women living in rural areas have a very low risk (0.2%).
- Married women in general and women keeping house, in particular have a low risk.
- Women with by far and away the highest risk are those under 40 who have been living in their area for less than a year.
- Unemployed women have a relatively high risk.

It is therefore possible to give a profile of women with the highest risk of sexual assault. They are young, unemployed, urban and have lived in their area for less than a year.

Fear of Crime

Sexual assault clearly affects the life of victims more than victims of other crimes. Whereas we have shown that victims of other crimes are likely to be somewhat more fearful when out in the street at night or when at home alone the differences are not very great.

However with sex assault victims it is their fear of being alone at home which is increased most.

- 21% of sexual assault victims feel very unsafe when home alone after dark compared with only 3% of non-victims.
- 66% of victims feel safe at home alone compared with 86% of non-victims.
- Sexual assault victims do feel more unsafe out on the street at night (21% feel very unsafe compared with 11% of non-victims) but the difference is not so marked as with fear at home.
- Sexual assault victims go out at night a little more than non-victims. 42.3% go out at least once a week compared with 38.1% of non-victims.
 - This small difference does not however explain their greater vulnerability,
 - Nor does it suggest that being a victim keeps them inside.

The number of sexual assault victims may be small but our analysis has shown it does affect their lives.

- They become much more disaffected from the police,
- They are more likely to be seriously frightened when home alone.

There is clearly a great deal of work to be done in this area by criminal justice agencies.

Theft from the Person

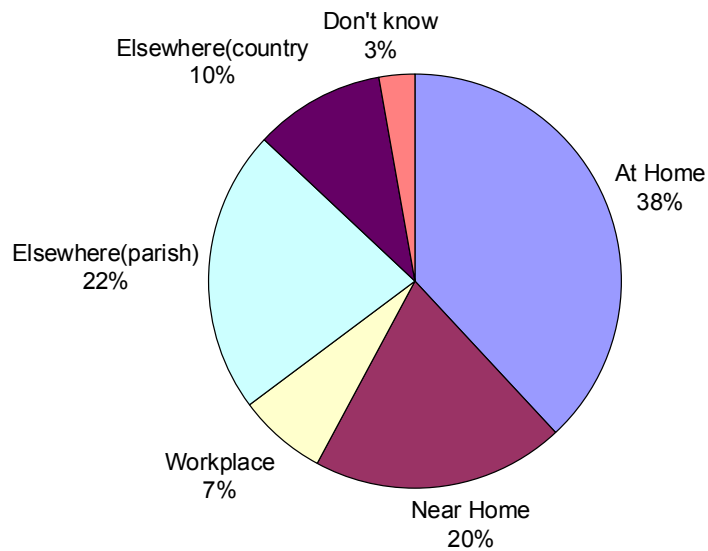
Theft from the person involves theft of personal belongings which does not involve violence or the threat of violence. It includes pick pocketing, theft at work, theft of valuables from the beach and theft from your house by someone who has been allowed in the house.

Our best estimate of the number of people who had something stolen from them is 5188 or 2.5% of people aged 16 or over.

85% of the people had something stolen from them once and 15% twice or more. This means that the total number of thefts from the person was 6462.

Location

Location; Theft from the Person



As can be seen from the diagram over a third of personal theft was from the victim's home and a further 20% went from near home. 22% of the thefts were elsewhere in the home parish.

The Theft

- 34% of the victims were carrying the article that was stolen – most of them were pick pocketings.
- 35% of the victims thought the offence was very serious and 30% thought it was not serious.

This relatively low proportion of victims thinking that the offence was serious was reflected in the reporting rate to the police.

- 65% of personal thefts were not reported to the police. This reporting rate of 35% rate was the lowest of all the crimes we studied.

Risk of personal theft

- There was no significant difference between the rates of personal theft from males or females.
- There were no differences in victimization rate by ethnic group, except that people of Indian origin were somewhat more likely to be victims than average (4.4% compared with 2.5%).
- People living in rural areas were somewhat less likely than people living in urban areas to be a victim of personal theft (1.9% versus 3.2%).
- There were no significant differences by age group.
 - This is one of the few crimes that the elderly are as likely as to be a victim as young people.
- People who had been living in the area for less than a year were much more likely to be victims (6.5%) than those who have lived there longer.
- Victim rates by marital status do not show significant differences – except that widows or widowers are somewhat less likely than average to be victims (1.1%).
- People with University education are somewhat more likely to be victims (4.4%).
- Students are somewhat more likely than average to be victims (4.3%).

- Level of household income does not differentiate although people living in a wealthy area are somewhat more likely than average to be victims (4.8%).

In general we can say that the only factor which increases risk significantly is living in an area for less than a year, although the rate for urban dwellers is somewhat higher than for those living in rural areas. Thus personal theft affects virtually everyone to the same extent.

Fear of Crime

Being a victim of personal theft does not seem to raise a person's fear of crime.

- The proportion of victims of personal theft feeling unsafe out after dark was not significantly different from non-victims.
- The proportion of victims feeling safe at home alone after dark was exactly the same as the proportion of non-victims (90%).
- There were no significant differences in the number of times victims or non-victims went out recreationally at night.

Assaults and Threats

The analysis of assaults and threats is the most complex in the BarCS. This is because the question asked sought information on both assaults when force was actually used and on threats to assault. Furthermore the experience of men and women is quite different. We saw in the previous section the experience of personal theft is similar for men and women and young and old. This is not so for assaults and threats. As we shall see men are more often assaulted by strangers or male friends away from the home. Women are more likely to be assaulted by people they know, in or near the home. Many of the analyses, therefore, have involved breaking the group of victims up by gender and whether force was used. But we start with overall figures.

The question asked was:

“In 2001 were you personally attacked or threatened by someone in a way that really frightened you either at home or elsewhere, such as in a bar or rum shop, in the street, at school, on public transport, on the beach, or at your workplace?”

Our best estimate is that 6535 people were assaulted or threatened – that is 3.2% of people aged 16 or over. For men the rate was 3.4% and for women it was 3.0%.

77% of these people were victims once and 22% were victims twice or more (including 6% who were victims five or more times). This means that the total number of assaults and serious threats was 9751.

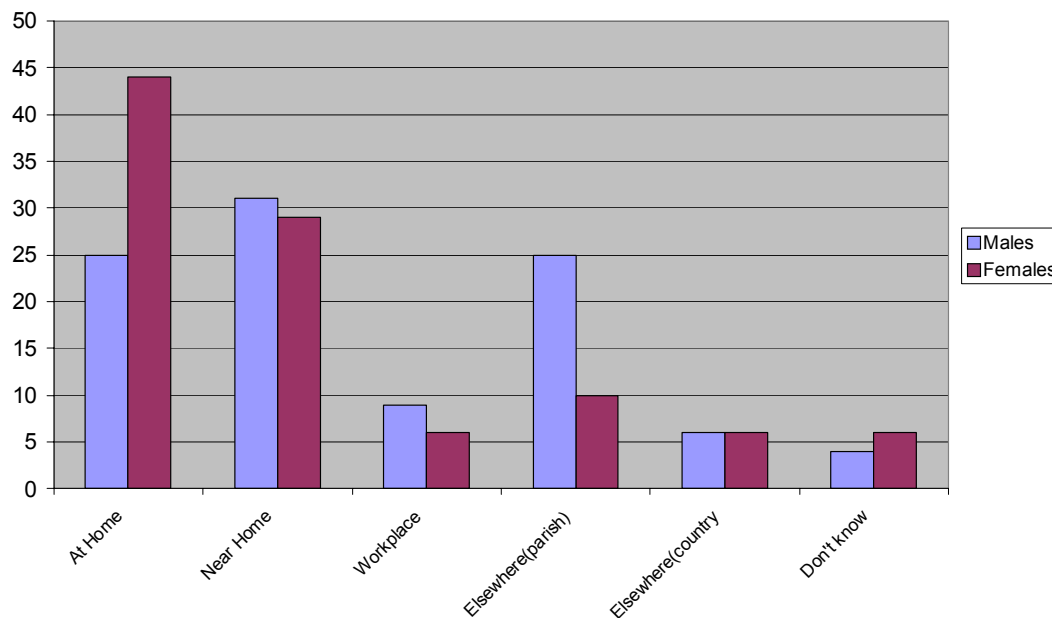
On the last occasion in 2001 when a person was assaulted or threatened 27% were actually assaulted (1764 people) and 73% (4770 people) were threatened only. If this proportion held for all the incidents of assault/threat then there would have been a total of 2633 assaults and 7118 threats. This would mean that the proportion of Barbadians who were actually assaulted was 0.9% and the proportion which was threatened with violence was 2.3%.

The Offence

Location

Overall 34% of assault/threats were in the home, 30% near the home, 8% at the workplace, 17% elsewhere in the parish, 6% elsewhere in the country and 5% did not know.

Location of Assault/Threat

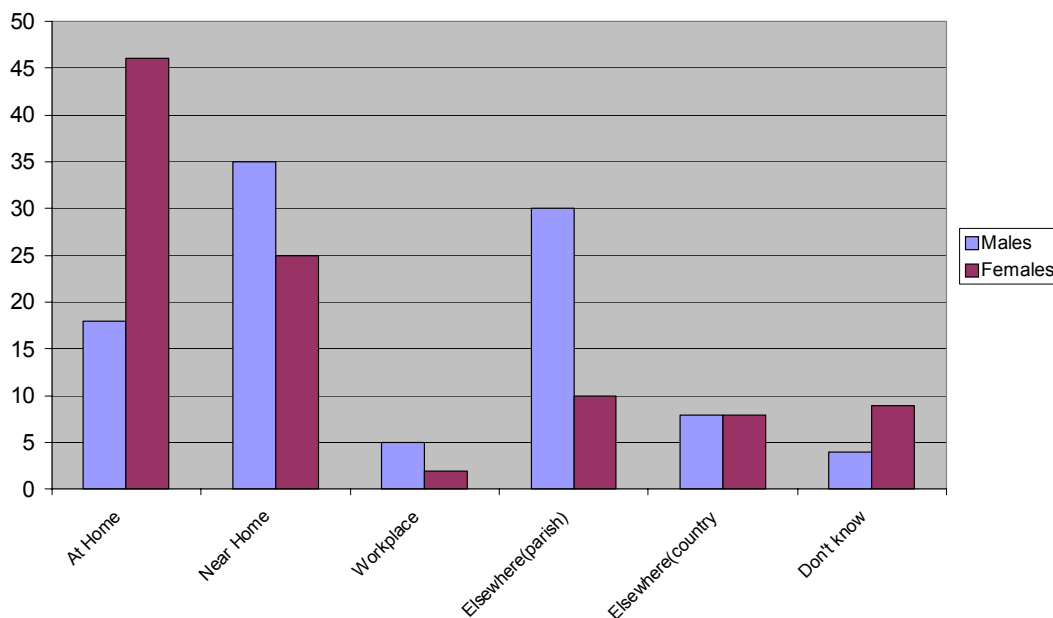


The chart above, however, shows that the overall figures hide big differences between the location of the violence for men and women.

Almost 45% of women are victims in the home compared with 25% of the men, while 25% of the men are victims elsewhere in the parish compared with 10% of the women.

When we examine the location by whether force was actually used the differences are even larger and as we will see below this is very much related to the identity of the offenders.

Location of Assaults with Force



As the chart above shows for women the danger place is clearly the home where 46% of all violent assaults take place. Men are quite often threatened there – but are much less likely to have force used against them (only 17% of violent incidents) of actual violence. Men are most at risk near home or elsewhere in the parish. (It is interesting to note that very little actual force is used at the workplace).

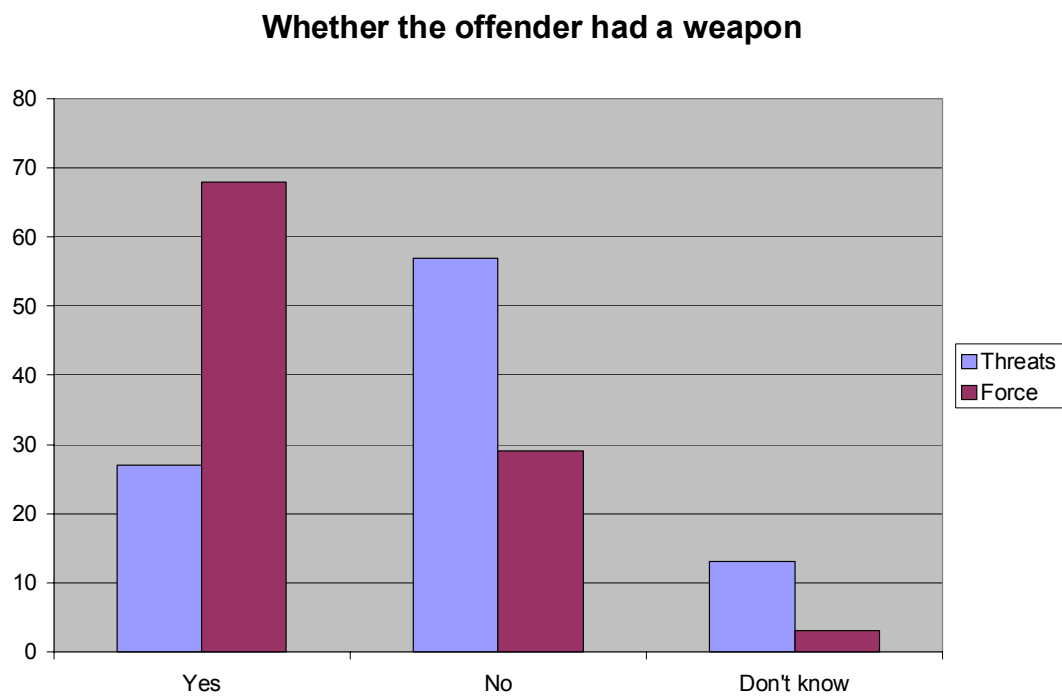
Number of Offenders

Overall 74% of assault/threats were committed by 1 offender, 11% by 2 and 14% by 3. But once again these figures hide important differences between men and women. 81% of the women assaulted were assaulted by one person compared with 67% of the men while 20% of men were victims of 3 or more offenders compared with 10% of the women.

Use of a weapon

Overall 39% of the victims said the offender had a weapon. 50% said they did not and 10% did not know.

However here the major difference was not by gender (40% of men and 38% of the women said the offender had a weapon) but by the actual use of force.



It is clear offenders who actually used force were much more likely to have a weapon than those who only threatened. 68% of those who used force had a weapon compared with only 27% who threatened. This raises a very important question. Do people carry weapons with the intention of using force or is force used because people have a weapon?

Presumably it is a mixture of the two but if it is predominately the latter, we can expect to see more actual violence if more people have a weapon. At the current time 73% of potentially violent situations do not end up with force being used but in those which do end in violence 70% of the offenders have a weapon. In those which do not end in violence (a substantial majority) only 27% had a weapon.

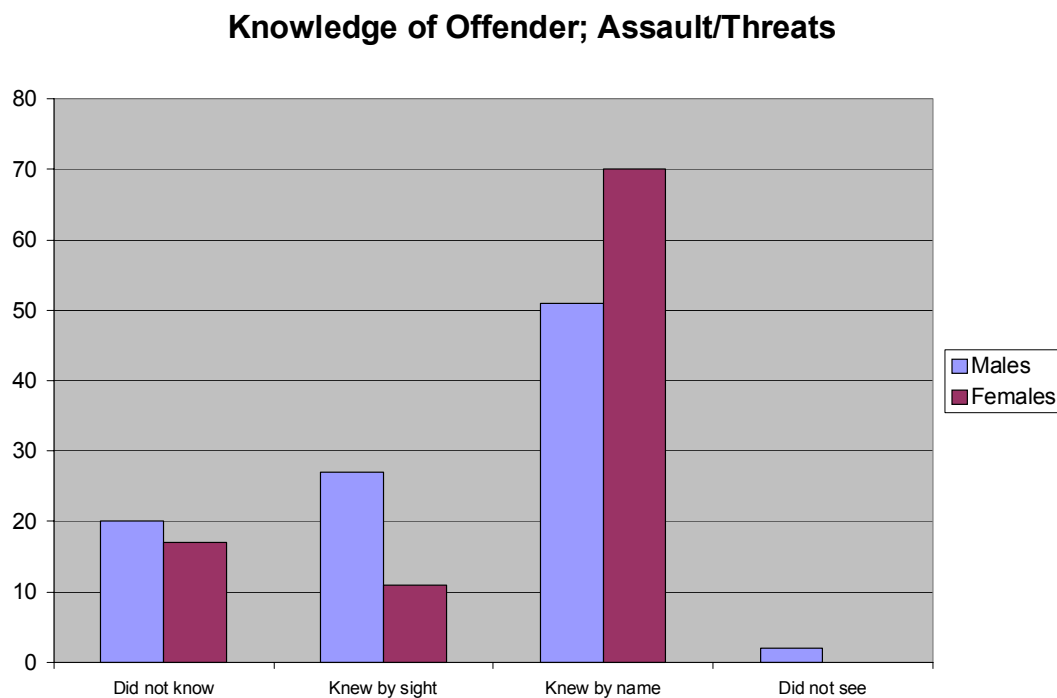
Given that most violent crime is opportunistic not planned it seems reasonable to suppose that in many, and possibly in most cases the presence of a weapon has produced violence. The relatively low proportion of violent situations which end in violence in Barbados (see Report 1) may be the result of a relatively low number of people carrying a weapon.

Knowledge of the offender

In violent crime the offenders and victims are often known to each other. The BarCS shows that this holds true in Barbados.

Overall in assaults and threats only 18% of victims did not either recognize or know by name the offender. 19% knew the offender by sight and 61% knew the offender by name. 2% did not see the offender.

However once again the overall figures hide interesting information.



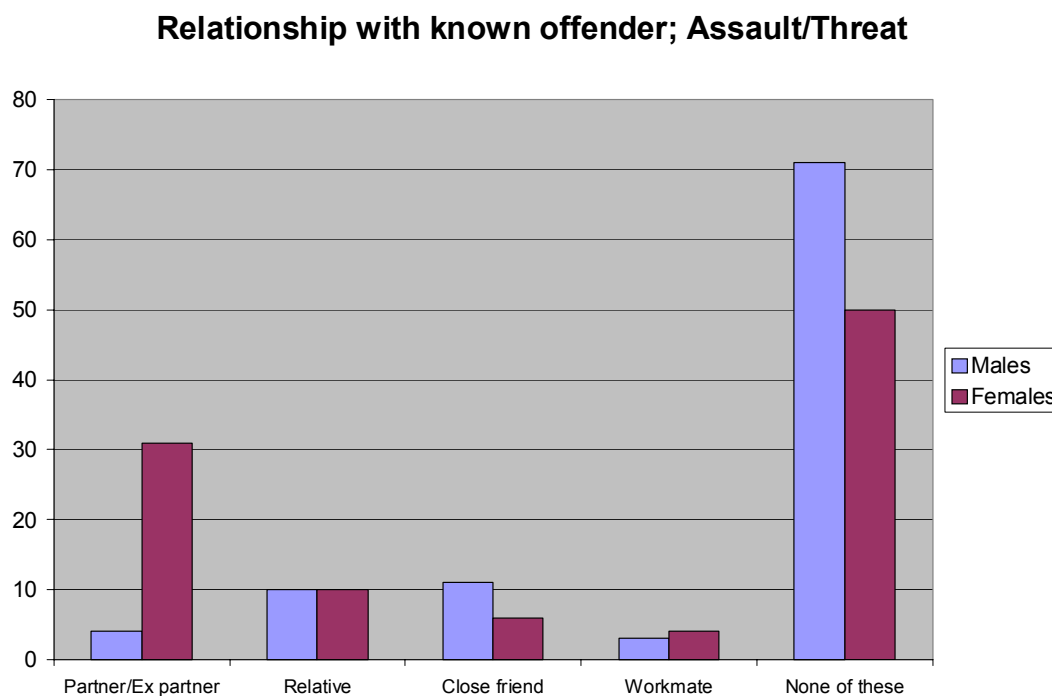
The chart shows that in all assaults and threats roughly the same proportion of men and women did not know the offender.

However women were significantly more likely to know them by name. Whereas 51% of the men knew the offender by name 70% of the women did. This, of course, is consistent with our earlier finding that women were more likely than men to be assaulted in their home.

When force was used the proportion of offenders known to the men rose to 58% but for women it only rose 2% to 72%.

Relationship with offenders known by name

We asked victims what, if any, was their relationship with those offenders they knew by name. As we would now expect we got significantly different answers from males and females.

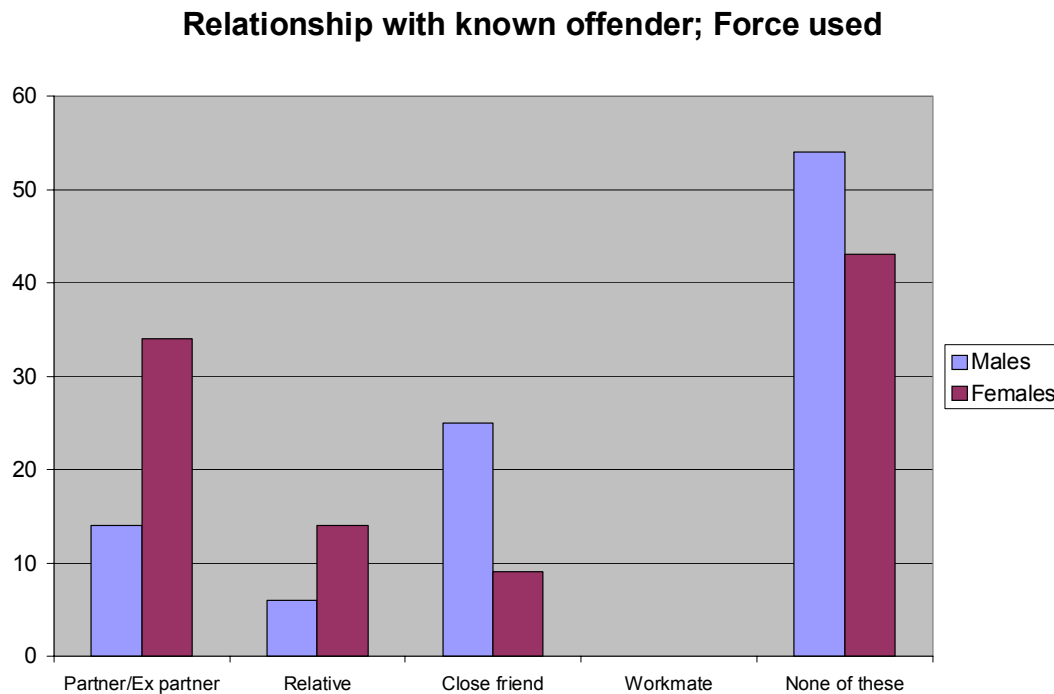


As can be seen known offenders for women are more likely to be partners or ex-partners (husbands, boyfriends, etc.) than for men.

31% of known offenders for women were partners or ex-partners but only 4% were for men. There were not great differences for the other categories of relatives and friends. For 71% of the men who knew the offender by name that

offender was not a relative or close friend. The equivalent figure for women was 50%.

The picture is somewhat different from those cases where force was used.



The proportion of known offenders who were close friends or relatives went up. For women 57% of the known offenders who used force were friends or relations and for men it was 46%.

The most notable differences were that the partners or ex-partners of men were more likely to be involved as were their close friends. 34% of the known offenders of the women were partners or ex-partners.

We are not surprised by these results as similar results have been noted in other countries but the Barbadian survey underlines the fact that women are much more likely to be assaulted by people they know – in particular their partners or ex-partners and that for women home is the most dangerous place.

Effect of the incident on the victim

Violent incidents can end up with injuries, both physical and emotional for the victims. We asked about injuries in the survey.

- Overall 17% of the victims of assault/threats said that they had suffered physical injuries in the crime, 33% said they had suffered psychological injury and 50% said they had not suffered injuries.
- Of those people who had suffered injuries (physical or emotional) 35% said they had visited a doctor as a result.
- 22% of the males and 52% of the females who had been victims of threats said they had suffered only psychological injuries.

- In those assaults where force was used 53% of the men and 62% of the women said they had suffered physical injury and 17% of the men and 28% of the women said they had suffered emotional damage.
- 12% of the men and 13% of the women who had been threatened only visited a doctor.
- In incidents where force was used, 67% of men and 57% of women visited a doctor.

This last finding is interesting. More women than men said they had been physically injured but 10% fewer visited a doctor. It could be that the women's injuries were less serious and it could be that women have a higher tolerance for pain but we feel it is more likely that women, being more likely to be victims of domestic abuse, were less likely to visit the doctor out of the fear that their spouses/ex spouse might get into trouble.

Seriousness of the incident

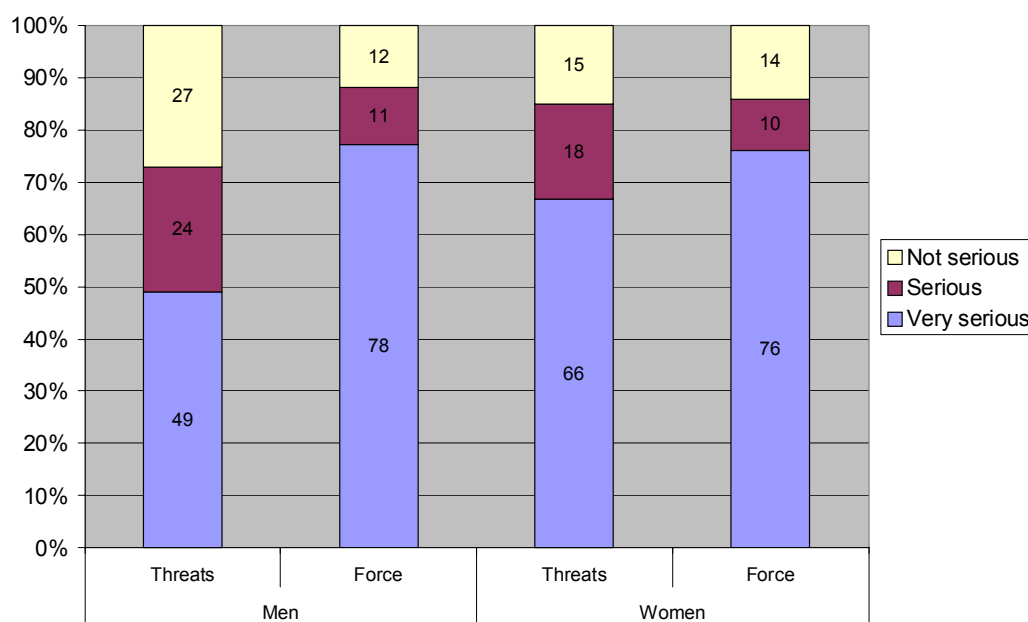
Overall 62% of victims of assaults or threats saw the incident as very serious, 19% saw it as "somewhat serious" and 19% saw it as not serious.

However there were major differences of perception depending on whether force was used.

If threats only were used then 57% of the victims saw it as very serious and 21% as not serious. If force was used then 76% thought it very serious and 13% not serious.

There were also interesting differences between the views of men and women.

Perceived seriousness of threats and force by gender



As can be seen from the chart men saw threats as less serious than women (49% very serious as against 66%) but there were no difference about feelings about force. Over three quarters of both men and women saw it as very serious.

Was it a crime?

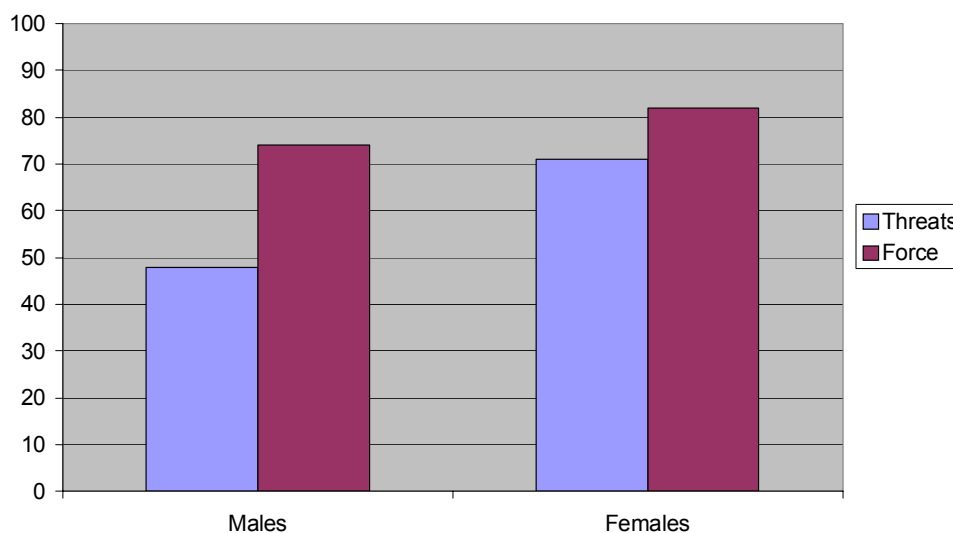
We also asked victims if they thought the incident was a crime. 39% of the men thought that a threat was not a crime as distinct from 23% of the women. If force was used 20% of the male victims still thought the incident was not a crime. However only 6% of the women thought that force was not a crime.

Clearly there are gender-based differences here. In those parts of society where old-fashioned 'maleness' is seen to be a positive value male on male violence is less likely to be seen as a crime than other forms of crime.

Reporting to the police

64% of assaults and threats were reported to the police. Once again this hides differences. Assaults where force was used were much more likely to be reported to the police (78% reported) than those where there were threats only (59% reported). But there was a gender difference as well.

Proportion of Assaults/Threats reported to the police

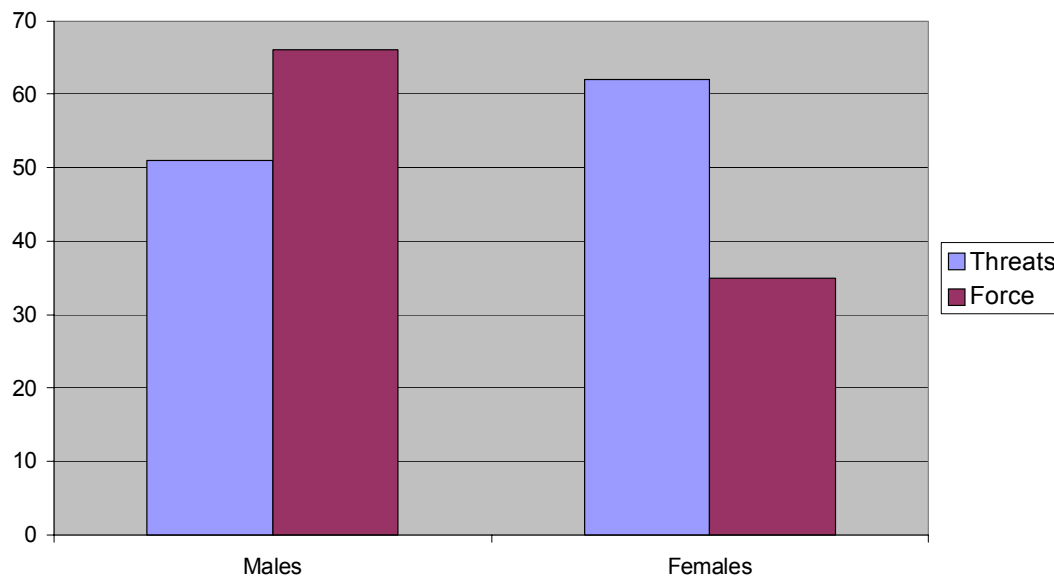


As can be seen from the chart above women were more likely to report any assault or threat than men (74% versus 55%) but they were almost as likely to report a threat as an assault where force was used (71% of threats and 82% of incidents where force was used). Men, however, differentiated more between the two. They reported 48% of threats and 74% of incidents where force was used. Given, as we have shown earlier, that male victims were less likely to see the incident as a crime than women, it is not surprising that they are less likely to report it to the police.

Satisfaction with the police response

Overall 54% of people who reported the assault/threat to the police were satisfied with the handling of the case. Men were slightly more likely to be satisfied than the women who reported (57% versus 52%) but when we looked at level of satisfaction by assault and threat we got very different results depending on whether the victim was male or female.

Proportion of assault/threat victims satisfied with police response

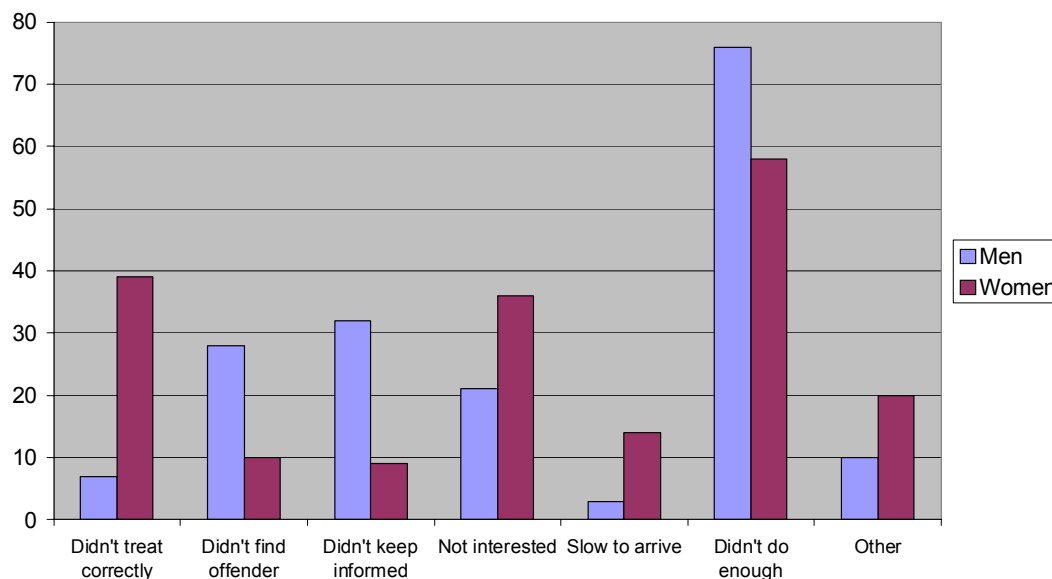


If men were only threatened then 51% were satisfied with the response but if force had been used then 66% were satisfied.

For women it was the other way around. If they were only threatened 62% were satisfied with the police response but if force had been used then only 35% were satisfied.

For the people who were not satisfied with the police response the reasons were somewhat different depending on their gender.

Reasons for dissatisfaction with the police by gender; Assaults/Threats



Easily the most common answer was that the police did not do enough generally (although men gave this response rather more than women) but the next most common response by women (39%) – that the police did not treat them correctly – was rarely given by men.

Men on the other hand were significantly more likely to say it was because the police did not find the offender or did not keep them informed. Women were somewhat more likely to say the police were “not interested” or were slow to arrive, although this last reason was not given often by either men or women.

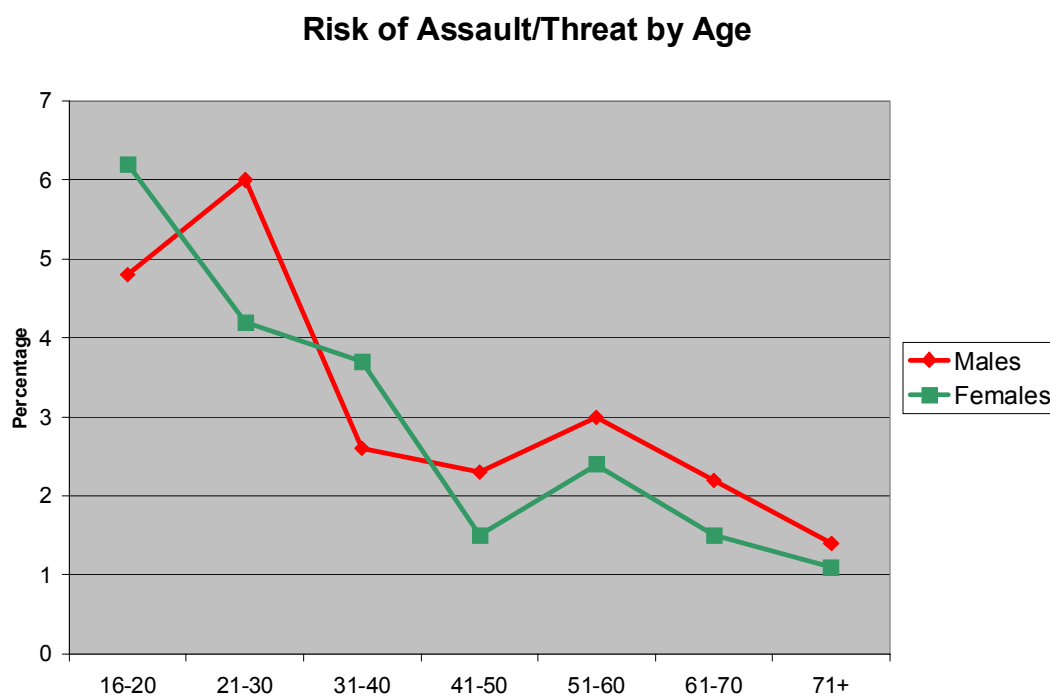
Overall it appears that women victims of assaults and threats were dissatisfied by the police response because of police attitudes while men were dissatisfied by police ineffectiveness.

Risk of assaults and threats

The risk of being threatened and actually assaulted is considered together. The number of people who were physically assaulted is too low for dependable risk variables to be distinguished separately.

Overall 3.2% of Barbadians were assaulted or threatened in 2001. We will look particularly carefully at those sub groups of the population in which less than 2.0% or more than 4.5% were assaulted. We will call these groups ‘low’ and ‘high’ risk.

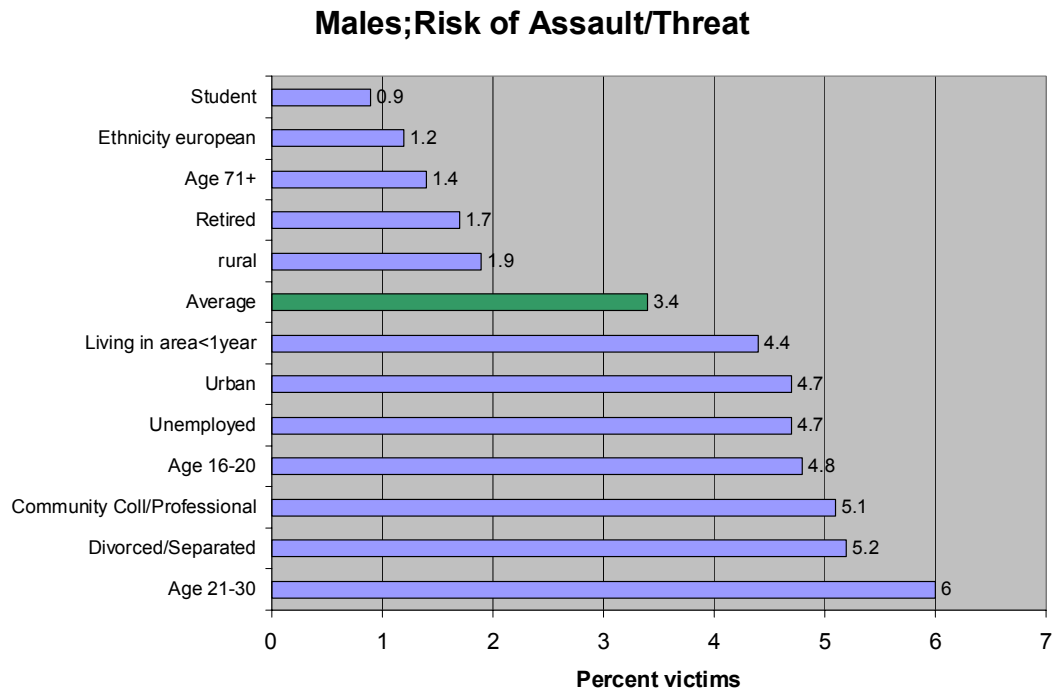
- As we have seen there was no significant difference in the proportion of men and women assaulted. But the bulk of this report has shown that it is largely a different type of event depending on your gender.
- Age however discriminates risk of threat and assault very significantly.



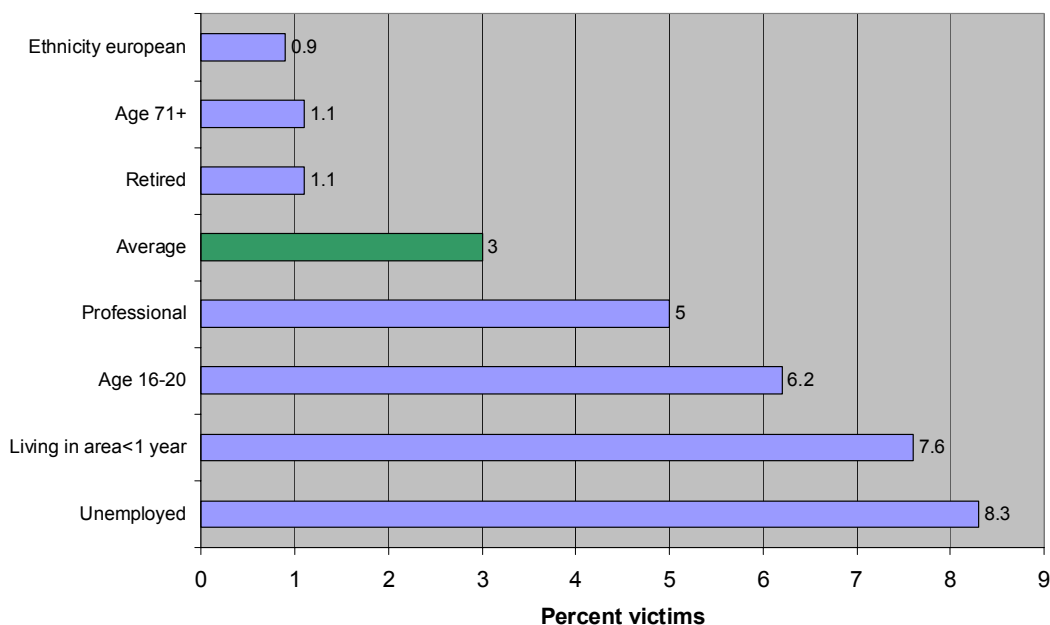
There is a very clear ‘age effect’. The older you are (over 30) the less likely you are to be a victim of violence (there is a small rise in our data for 51-60 year olds, but this could be a sampling result).

- the group with the highest risk is young women 16-20,
- the next most at risk group is men 21-30,
- the least at risk group is women over 70.

The charts below show the groups with significantly above and below average risk.



Females; Risk of Assault/Threat



- People of European descent are less likely to be victims than other ethnic groups (males 1.2%, females 0.9%).
- Unemployed people are much more likely to be assaulted/threatened than average (men 4.7%, women 8.3%).
- Students and retired people are much less likely.
- Divorced or separated men have a high assault/threat rate (5.2%).
- Both males and females with professional qualifications are at risk (5.0%).
- In general people living at their address for less than 5 years are more at risk – particularly women who have lived in the area less than a year (7.6%).
- Males who live in urban areas are more at risk (4.7%) but men who live in rural areas have a low risk (1.9%).
- For women there is not such a great difference but, if anything, women in rural areas are more at risk.

- The number of times people go out of the house for recreation does not appear to affect their risk. This is very interesting because the British Crime Survey and American surveys have shown a very close relationship between numbers of times spent out per month and risk of violence (the more times out the higher the risk). This could indicate that violence in Barbados is domestic and personal whereas in the United Kingdom it is more likely to be stranger-based random thuggishness.

Fear of Crime

Being a victim of an assault or a threat of violence clearly affects the victim's level of fear of crime.

5.4% of males who have not been victims of violence feel “a bit” or “very” unsafe at home alone after dark. However 15.9% of men who had been threatened with violence and 33.2% of men who had been victims of actual violence felt unsafe at home.

13.5% of women who have not been victims of violence felt “a bit” or “very” unsafe at home compared with 27.3% of women who had been threatened and 25.3% of women who had been victims of actual violence.

Levels of fear of walking in the area alone after dark are, as to be expected, higher than fear at home. And again being a victim of violence raised fear levels significantly.

16% of men who were not victims felt a bit or very unsafe out at night alone compared with 25.4% of those threatened with violence and 47.3% of those against whom force had been used.

Women who were not victims of violence have a high level of fear with 32.5% feeling unsafe in their neighbourhood if they were out alone after dark. But being a victim of violence raised this level even higher. 49% of women who had been threatened and 52.3% who had been a victim of actual violence felt unsafe.

The level of fear in both men and women who had been victims of violence is clearly affecting their lives significantly. Many had suffered physical and emotional trauma as a direct consequence of the offence and added fear is being piled on top. Such people need help to get over their trauma and the justice system must work to reduce the number of such victimizations catching more offenders, treating domestic violence as a serious offence (not just a “domestic”) and showing compassion and concern for the victims – whether men or women.

References

The International Crime Victim Survey (ICVS) was the model for this survey. The most recent publication is:

John van Kesteren, Pat Mayhew, Paul Niewbeerta, *Criminal Victimization in Seventeen Industrialised Countries*, The Hague, The Ministry of Justice, 2000.

The approach to the work was heavily influenced by the British Crime Survey. A recent publication related to the BCS is:

John Simmons and colleagues, *Crime in England and Wales 2001/2002*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/02, Home Office, London July 2002.

There have been a very large number of publications related to the British Crime Survey since it started in 1982. Reference to them can be found on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Department web site at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm.

Appendix 1

Sampling Design.

The survey design employs a two Stage Stratified Sampling technique, with the Primary Sampling Unit being the Enumeration District (ED) 1 and the Secondary Sampling Unit or the Unit of Inquiry being the Household for the Household crime estimates and the individual for the personal crime estimates.

Sampling Frame.

A sampling frame for any national survey of Barbados is governed by the fact that the island for census purposes is geographically divided into 538 Enumeration Districts (ED) encompassing all eleven (11) national parishes.

The Barbados Statistical Service was able to provide a current and comprehensive listing of every household in the country, showing its size (number of persons living there), its address, and the ED to which it is assigned. This list represented the frame from which the sample to be selected was chosen.

For the purposes of the survey each parish was determined to represent a stratum. The parish is a clearly defined national, historical, and geographical demarcation with significant social, economic and political interest that made them the logical criteria for stratification.

This basic framework provided the ideal sampling frame for the selection of EDs and Households/Persons. The frame is largely free of duplications, inaccuracies and omissions, and there are maps available to identify the EDs and households. It is also current, thereby providing the necessary data for sound selection and estimation.

Sampling methodology

For international comparison purposes, and in order to ensure a sampling error of 5% or less, a sample size of approximately 8,000 households was selected. It was determined that this would comprise approximately 60 households from 150 EDs (equaling 9,000 households) in order allow for the approximate 10% non-response expected.

¹ A small geographic area with a well mapped boundary comprising of on average one hundred and fifty households.

A proportionate number of EDs were chosen from each parish/stratum depending on its relative size (the number of EDs it contained). The specific EDs to be included from each stratum were selected using a Probability Proportionate to Size (PPS) methodology such that the EDs with a greater number of households stood a greater chance of being selected.

Once the specific EDs were selected, a circular systematic methodology was used to select the particular households from each ED. This method identified an initial randomly selected household then using on the sampling interval² calculated, the remaining households in that ED were chosen.

Once a specific household had been selected, the one adult (person aged 16 or over) with the next birthday from the date of first contact by the interviewer was selected for interview.

A table (Table I.) showing the sampling frame including the number of EDs, number of households and individuals initially selected, and those which chose to respond to the survey is shown below.

Another table showing greater detail of the sampling design and frame are shown at annex I.

Table I.

Stratum No.	<u>Parish/Stratum</u>	Total Number of EDs in Parish	Number of EDs selected from Each Parish	Number of Households/Persons selected for Interview	Number of Households/Persons responding to interview
1	St. Michael	187	51	3,019	2,715
2	Christ Church	105	29	1,749	1,503
3	St. George	34	9	546	498
4	St. Philip	47	13	780	692
5	St. John	18	5	326	294
6	St. James	54	15	866	673

² The Sampling interval is determined by dividing the total number of households in the ED by the number of households to be selected.

7	St. Thomas	25	6	373	328
8	St. Joseph	13	5	296	265
9	St. Andrew	11	5	311	272
10	St. Peter	22	6	352	327
11	St. Lucy	22	6	370	344
	Total	538	150	8,988	7,911

Based on the 2000 population and Housing Census

Weighting

Design weights

Each ED included in the survey has its own design weight, i.e. there are 150 different design weights for the BarCS. The design weight (DW_{ED}) of an ED is defined as the inverse of the probability of selection of that ED from the parish/stratum it belongs, i.e.

$$DW_{ED} = 1/(\text{probability of selection of the ED})$$

Each household in the survey also carries its own design weight (DW_{HH}). That weight is calculated again as the inverse of the probability of its selection from within the ED, multiplied by the design weight for the ED from which it is selected, i.e.

$$DW_{HH} = 1/(\text{probability of selection of the HH}) * DW_{ED}$$

Adjustment for complete non-response

A case of complete non-response for which an adjustment of the BarCS weights needs to be made, refers to cases which during the interviewing phase were recorded by the Field Investigator as one of the following six circumstances, "household no longer exist", "nobody at home", "vacant", "refusal", and "Other" including incomplete.

An incomplete as a case of non-response refers to a situation where the responding units provided information, which was so incomplete that the case must be treated as a complete non-response rather than partial non-response.

Identification of blanks (listing errors)

The above deductions of non-response do not apply to cases, which turned out to be errors in the listing report. These were the result of duplications in names of households, or same individuals under different names, as well listed households which simply never existed. For purposes of weighting/estimation, however, all such units concerned were regarded as sort of blanks. Blanks are listings which represent units which were non-existing or out-of-scope at the time of listing. The blanks are to be disregarded in the computation of non-response adjustment weights since only units that belong to the study population can contribute to non-response. These "households" were eliminated from the non-responding units and treated as never having appeared on the list.

Calculation of non-response adjustment weights

It was concluded that non-response adjustment of the design weights should be made at the level of each individual sample ED. A non-response adjustment weight (NRW_{EE}) is to be derived as follows:

NRW_{EE} = total number of households correctly listed in ED divided by the number of responding households.

Total Household/Individual weights

The total weight (W_{HH}) for each household in a given ED is obtained as the product of the design weight (DW_{HH}) and the non-response adjustment weight (NRW_{EE}) for that ED, i.e.:

$$W_{HH} = DW_{HH} \times NRW_{EE}$$

The total weight for each individual (W_{pp}) in a given ED is then obtained as the product of the total weight for each household (W_{HH}) multiplied by the weight of selection of the individual from within the household (i.e. 1/probability of selection of the individual from within the household). The probability of selection of an individual from within a household is determined to be a simple fraction of one divided by the number of adults in that household. Therefore W_{pp} is determined as:

$$W_{pp} = W_{HH} \times (1/\text{probability of selection of the individual})$$

Adjustments for national Census estimates

The household estimates were finally adjusted through multiplication by a fraction that aligned them to the updated census estimates for the number of households in each parish.

The Individual weights were also adjusted through multiplication by the respective fractions that brought them in line with the gender, age and population size by parish.

