



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

More misleading Crime Stats

Violence against the person incidents recorded by police topped **one million for the first time this year**, official figures show.

There were 1,035,046 incidents of violence against the person - which does not include sexual offences or robbery - in England and Wales in 2004-05, up eight per cent on last year's 955,800. In 1997, the figure stood at 251,000. Overall there were 1,184,702 violent crimes recorded by police in the year, **up seven per cent**.

But total recorded crime fell six per cent to 5.6 million incidents, including a 20 per cent fall in burglary and a 17 per cent fall in car thefts.

The number of gun crimes recorded by police rose six per cent in the year to just under 11,000, and 73 people were killed by guns in the 12 months, five more than the previous year.

The violence against the person figures showed serious incidents such as homicide, threats to kill and serious wounding rose three per cent. Among less-serious incidents in the same category, those involving injuries leaped 13 per cent, while those involving no injury such as harassment, fell one per cent.

The Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, also published results of the **British Crime Survey** (BCS), based on 45,000 interviews with members of the public, which showed overall crime was down seven per cent and **violence was down 11 per cent**. It estimated there were **10.8 million crimes in the year, but crimes against under-16s and businesses are excluded from the survey**.

A third estimate of crime in England and Wales - published by the Home Office just three weeks ago - said there were 14.7 million crimes committed against children and adults in England and Wales in 2003-04. The BCS figures indicated all personal crime was down 11 per cent, and that there were 2.4 million violent incidents against adults in the year.

Mr Clarke said he was "extremely encouraged" by the "very positive" statistics.

"Although the BCS records an 11 per cent decrease in violent crime, I recognise that this remains an issue of concern for many people and the increase in police recorded violent crime contributes significantly to the fear of crime," he added.

"However, it is important to recognise that half of all recorded violent crime results in no injury and that recording changes introduced in 2002 resulted in the increased recording of violent crimes, particularly for less-serious violent offences."

He added: "The Violent Crime Reduction Bill currently before Parliament will give new powers to police and local authorities to tackle violent criminals and ensure they are effectively punished. The BCS survey found 61 per cent of people thought crime had risen in the previous two years, with 27 per cent believing it had risen "a lot". Antisocial behaviour remained a significant concern for many despite the **Government's high-profile campaigns** to tackle it and **flagship measures such as Asbos**.

One in six people (17 per cent) believed there was a high level of disorder in their area. The proportions of interviewees who thought there were high levels of antisocial behaviour actually increased in four out of seven categories - people being drunk or rowdy, people taking or dealing drugs, teenagers hanging around and littering. Proportions remained stable in two categories - vandalism and noisy neighbours - and fell in one category, abandoned or burned-out cars.

The PPP comments... VIOLENT CRIME Is it up OR is it down??. 'Spinning' makes you dizzy doesn't it Mr CLARKE!. High profile campaigns in the media but not on the streets and in the rural communities... where are ALL our Police Officers!?