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BUILDING A SAFE, JUST
AND TOLERANT SOCIETY

Alcohol-related assault: findings from the British Crime Survey

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Executive summary

The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides a unique opportunity to examine the extent and nature of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales. This report presents findings from the 1996, 1998 and 2000 sweeps of the BCS. It provides an overview of the extent of alcohol-related violence between 1995 and 1999. It then identifies factors associated with a heightened risk of being the victim of an alcohol-related assault perpetrated by a stranger or an acquaintance, and the nature of such incidents.

Extent of alcohol-related violence

- The 2000 BCS estimates that there were around 1.2 million incidents of alcohol-related violence in 1999 (defined as assaults, robbery and snatch thefts in which the victim considered the perpetrator to be 'under the influence' of alcohol).
- Just over a third of incidents were between strangers and a further third between acquaintances. A quarter were domestic assaults between partners, relatives or household members. Only five per cent were muggings (robbery and snatch thefts).
- Despite perceptions that the level of alcohol-related violence increased during the 1990s, the BCS suggests that the rate of alcohol-related violence actually fell between 1995 and 1999. The overall rate fell significantly (by 21%) between 1995 and 1997, remaining stable between 1997 and 1999. This pattern is consistent with the overall trend in violence over the period.

Who is at risk?

- Although the number of incidents of alcohol-related violence is of concern, only a very small proportion (2%) of adults in England and Wales were victims of such an incident in 1999.
- Unsurprisingly, some groups are more at risk of alcohol-related violence than others. Focusing only on alcohol-related assaults between strangers and between acquaintances, the following factors were consistently associated with a heightened risk:
 - > Being male aged 16 to 29
 - > Being single
 - > Being unemployed
 - > Visiting a pub frequently
 - > Visiting a night club frequently
 - > High level of alcohol consumption.
- These factors are largely accounted for by exposure to risk. People who most regularly expose themselves to social situations where they are in contact with a large number of people who have consumed relatively large amounts of alcohol are more likely to become victims of an alcohol-related assault.
- Although alcohol consumption increased significantly among young women during the 1990s (Walker *et al.*, 2001), it is of note that men have far higher rates of victimisation and are also almost invariably the perpetrators of alcohol-related assault.

Nature of alcohol-related assaults between strangers and between acquaintances

- The BCS confirms that the many alcohol-related assaults between strangers and between acquaintances happen in the context of the night-time economy. Around a half of the alcohol-related assaults took place in or around pubs, clubs or discos, with 70 per cent of these on weekend evenings. Most of the remaining incidents occurred in other public places, including around entertainment venues and on transport facilities.

- Incidents were by no means trivial. More than half of incidents resulted in some form of injury. In a fifth of incidents, the perpetrator had a weapon which they threatened to use, most often a glass or drinking bottle.
- The majority of incidents of alcohol-related violence between strangers and between acquaintances did not come to the attention of the police (61% and 63%).

Conclusions

- The Government is committed to tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder. This study has sought to map the nature of the problem at a national level to help inform the development of initiatives. The findings also provide a basis against which Crime and Disorder Partnerships can compare the problems in their locality.
- The 2000 BCS estimates that there are a large number of incidents of alcohol-related assault each year. Many of these occur between young people, particularly young men, within the context of the night-time economy. Undoubtedly, young people will continue to seek enjoyment from going to pubs and clubs and drinking alcohol. Given this, the types of policy that are likely to be most effective are those that target the aspects of the environment that appear to be conducive to violence.
- In terms of how local Crime and Disorder Partnerships can tackle the problem of alcohol-related assault, an important first hurdle is to collect evidence on the extent and nature of the problem. The BCS indicates that alcohol-related assault is poorly reported to the police. For this reason, it may be advisable to supplement these data with data from other sources to build up a fully comprehensive picture of local alcohol-related crime problems. (See Tierney and Hobbs, 2003 or Finney and Simmonds, 2003 for further advice on auditing local alcohol-related crime problems). Only through careful analysis of the available data will it be possible to devise creative and effective measures to tackle the problem.
- Incidents that occur in the night-time economy present the most visible form of alcohol-related assault. However, it should also be noted that almost a half of incidents of domestic assault involve perpetrators under the influence of alcohol. This is a factor that needs to be considered in tackling the problem of domestic violence.

Chapter 1 Introduction

This report presents findings from the British Crime Survey (BCS) in relation to alcohol-related violence.

The BCS, a large, nationally representative household survey, measures the extent and nature of criminal victimisation in England and Wales. The survey was conducted on an ad hoc basis between 1982 and 2000, before being launched as a continuous, annual survey in 2001.¹ This report focuses on the findings from the 1996, 1998 and 2000 surveys.²

The survey provides the most comprehensive and reliable findings to date on the extent and nature of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales. The large, nationally representative sample and the question continuity between sweeps present a unique opportunity to examine trends in alcohol-related violence at the national level. The survey also has a sufficiently large sample size (by combining several sweeps of the survey) to examine the nature of alcohol-related violence. However, as violence is a relatively rare event, it is not possible to examine local patterns in alcohol-related violence through the BCS. Moreover, the methodological limitations in survey based data should be acknowledged (see Kershaw et al., 2000 for a fuller discussion).

Alcohol-related violence

The Home Office developed an Alcohol Action Plan, Tackling alcohol-related crime, disorder and nuisance' in 2000. The plan identified objectives and priorities for taking forward the programme of work to address the problem of alcohol-related crime and disorder. The three key objectives are to:

- reduce the problems arising from under-age drinking
- reduce public drunkenness, and associated criminal and disorderly behaviour
- prevent alcohol-related violence.

The plan sets out the key actions that are being taken to address these objectives.³

This study provides information on the extent and nature of alcohol-related violence. The findings provide an evidence base that should be considered in developing policies to address the problem. In the future, the BCS will be used to monitor progress, at a national level, in reducing the incidence of alcohol-related violence.⁴

Defining alcohol-related violence

Although the term alcohol-related violence has been widely used in both political and research arenas, there is no single agreed definition and the use of the term is seen by some as contentious because of its lack of specificity. The relationship between alcohol and crime is complex. There is strong evidence of an association between alcohol and offending behaviour, but it is difficult to identify the nature and extent of this association. See for example, Collins (1992), Pernanen (1991) and Plant et al. (2002).

This report does not discuss in detail the debates concerning the relationship between alcohol and crime. Rather it takes a pragmatic approach, defining alcohol-related violence on the basis of the data available from the British Crime Survey and reporting on the extent and nature of alcohol-related violence as measured by the survey.

¹ The surveys conducted in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000 were based on the same design allowing trends in the extent and nature of victimisation to be monitored. In 2001 the BCS was re-designed.

² Sample sizes: 1996 BCS – 16,348; 1998 BCS – 14,947; 2000 BCS – 19,411.

³ A copy of the Action Plan can be found on the Home Office website (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/pcrg/aap0700.htm>).

⁴ Two cross-departmental targets have been set to reduce (i) the incident rate of alcohol-related violence (ii) the percentage of people considering drunken and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their locality by 2005/06. The baseline is the 2001/2002 BCS. Results will be available in due course.

The BCS definition of alcohol-related violence

The British Crime Survey can provide various potential definitions of alcohol-related violence, depending on what offences are included in the definition of 'violence' and what definition is used to signify an incident is 'alcohol-related'.

Violence

The British Crime Survey measures physical assaults (common assault and wounding) and mugging (robbery and snatch thefts).⁵ In addition, the BCS classifies assaults into a three-fold typology based on the relationship between the victim and the assailant: stranger assault, acquaintance assault and domestic assault.⁶

Alcohol-related

The BCS provides two measures that could indicate whether or not an incident is alcohol-related. The first is based on the victim's perception as to whether the offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offence. The second is based on the location of the incident, with incidents occurring in or around pubs or clubs being classified as alcohol-related.

Offender under the influence of alcohol

Victims of violent incidents who were able to say anything at all about the offender were asked 'As far as you know, at the time it happened, was the person/were any of the people who did it under the influence of drink?'.⁷ Incidents where the victim responded positively are classified as alcohol-related. However, it should be remembered that this definition is based on (a) the victim's interpretation of the question and (b) their perception of the status of the offender(s). Some victims may consider 'under the influence' to imply a certain level of intoxication or that the offender's behaviour was influenced by the consumption of alcohol, while others may consider that any sign that alcohol had been consumed is sufficient to say the offender was 'under the influence'. Similarly, while some victims will know with certainty whether the offender has consumed alcohol, many are likely to make a judgement based on various indicators, such as the offender's demeanour or behaviour or the location of the incident, which are not conclusive evidence of the presence or absence of alcohol. Moreover, victims may themselves be 'under the influence' which will affect their ability to judge the status of others.

The 2000 BCS estimated that in 40 per cent of violent incidents the victim considered the offender to be under the influence of alcohol (Table 1.1). This varied across the different types of violence, ranging from 53 per cent for stranger assaults to 17 per cent for muggings. It should be noted that, with the exception of domestic assault, around one in ten victims felt unable to say whether or not the offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. The results of previous BCS sweeps are given in Table A1.1.

Table 1:1 *Proportion of violent incidents where offender 'under the influence' of alcohol (2000 BCS)*

	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging	All violence
	%	%	%	%	%
Victim said...					
..offender was under the influence of alcohol	44	36	53	17	40
..offender not under the influence of alcohol	55	54	34	68	50
..did not know if offender under the influence of alcohol	2	10	13	15	9
<i>Base N</i>	229	390	308	125	1,052

Notes: 1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

⁵ The BCS asks respondents if they have experienced various types of incident. If so, they are then asked detailed questions about the incident. The information collected enables coders to assign a legal offence code to the incident reported.

⁶ Domestic incidents are those between spouses, partners, boy/girlfriends, household members and relatives. Stranger incidents are those in which the victim did not know the offender in any way prior to the incident. Acquaintance incidents involve those between people who know each other in some way, whether by sight, casually or very well, excluding domestic incidents.

⁷ This question has been asked since the 1996 sweep of the survey.

Offences occurring in or around a pub or club

The BCS collects relatively detailed information about where incidents occur. The options include inside a pub, bar, or club and in a car park or street outside a pub, bar or club.⁸ While it is likely that in many of the incidents that occur in or around these premises the perpetrator and/or victim have been consuming alcohol, this will not necessarily be the case in all incidents. Moreover, incidents that occur in streets near licensed premises may not necessarily be associated in any way with the premises. Table 1.2 shows the percentage of violent incidents occurring in or around licensed premises in the 2000 BCS. Table A1.2 presents the results since the 1992 BCS. In each survey around one-fifth of violent incidents had taken place in or around pubs, bars and clubs.

Table 1:2 Location of violent incidents (2000 BCS)

Percentages	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging	All violence
In or around a pub, bar, or club	5	22	34	4	19
Inside	4	14	17	1	11
Car park outside	0	<0.5	2	0	1
Street outside	1	8	14	3	8
Base N	230	389	318	129	1,066

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Definitions used in this report

There is of course some overlap between the two measures outlined above. Overall, 80 per cent of violent incidents in or around pubs, bars and clubs involved offenders judged to be under the influence of alcohol, while 38 per cent of 'under the influence' violent incidents had taken place in or around pubs, bars or clubs.⁹ Table 1.3 below indicates the profile of violent incidents in the 2000 BCS. Around four in ten incidents were alcohol-related in some way.

Table 1:3 Proportion of violent incidents that are alcohol-related (2000 BCS)

Percentages	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging	All violence
Offender under the influence & in/around a pub, or club	5	18	26	3	15
Offender under the influence but not in/around a pub or club	39	18	27	14	25
In/around pub or club but offender not under the influence	0	2	4	1	2
Not alcohol-related	55	51	30	67	48
Base N	229	390	308	125	1,052

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.
2. The percentages do not sum to 100. In the remaining incidents the victim was unable to decide if the offender was 'under the influence'.

The 'under the influence' definition is adopted in the majority of analyses presented in the remainder of this report. This definition focuses more directly on alcohol consumption, whereas the location-based definition may include incidents that were in no way related to alcohol.

This report focuses almost exclusively on assaults between acquaintances and between strangers, though the overall trend in alcohol-related violence is presented in the following chapter. Incidents of a domestic nature are not examined in detail because of the particular difficulties in measuring such incidents in a face-to-face interview¹⁰, while incidents of mugging

⁸ The full list of premises referred to in the questions was pub, bar, night club, working men's club, dance hall and disco.

⁹ To some extent, victims of incidents around pubs or clubs may assume their assailant is under the influence of alcohol without any other form of evidence.

¹⁰ Victims of domestic violence may be reluctant to reveal their experiences to interviewers. The BCS included self-completion modules covering domestic violence in 1996 and 2001. The 1996 results indicated a higher level of admittance to the self-completion module than in the face-to-face interview (Mirrlees-Black, 1999).

are not examined because the motivation in these incidents is primarily that of theft. See Box 1 for definitions.

Box 1 Definitions

Alcohol-related violence: assaults (domestic, acquaintance and stranger) and muggings in which the victim judged (at least one of) the offender(s) to be 'under the influence' of alcohol.

Alcohol-related acquaintance assault: assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders at least by sight (excluding partners, ex-partners, household members and other relatives) and judged (at least one of) the offender(s) to be 'under the influence' of alcohol.

Alcohol-related stranger assault: assaults in which the victim did not know any of the offenders and judged (at least one of) the offender(s) to be 'under the influence' of alcohol.

Structure of the report

- **Chapter 2** reports on the extent of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales during the 1990s, and in particular trends in stranger and acquaintance assault.
- **Chapter 3** identifies how the risk of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault varies for different groups of adults and identifies those factors that are associated with victimisation.
- **Chapter 4** examines the nature of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assaults, including when and where they occur, the profile of offenders, how incidents come to arise and the types of violence used.
- **Chapter 5** discusses the physical and emotional impact on victims and the extent to which such incidents are reported to the police.
- **Chapter 6** concludes with a discussion of the main findings that are relevant to informing policy.

Chapter 2 Extent and trends

This chapter provides a national level picture of the extent of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales during the 1990s. Incidents of alcohol-related violence are those in which the victim considered that the offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. The chapter first presents findings on the estimated number of incidents of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales in 1999. It then examines the trend in alcohol-related violence and in particular, stranger and acquaintance assault during the 1990s. Results on the number of incidents occurring in or around pubs, bars or clubs are also presented.

The incidence of alcohol-related violence in 1999

The BCS counts the number of incidents of alcohol-related violence experienced by those interviewed. This count is converted into an incident rate (i.e., the number of incidents experienced per respondent) and is multiplied by the estimated adult population in England and Wales to provide an estimate of the total number of incidents of alcohol-related violence.

The 2000 BCS estimated that there were 297 incidents of alcohol-related violence (comprising stranger, acquaintance and domestic assaults and mugging) per 10,000 adults in 1999, giving a total estimate of 1,246,000 incidents (1,180,000 assaults and 66,000 muggings). These estimates are subject to sampling error that is the true figure may differ to the estimate. Table 2.1 indicates the range of estimates within which there is a 90 per cent chance that the true figure lies. For example, there is a 90 per cent chance that the true number of incidents of alcohol-related violence lies between 1,080,000 and 1,412,000. Although the estimate range is relatively wide, we can conclude that it is very likely that there were at least one million incidents of alcohol-related violence in 1999. Table 2.1 also provides estimates for the three-fold assault typology. Overall, just over a third of incidents of alcohol-related violence took place between strangers, a further third occurred between acquaintances, a quarter were domestic assaults and five per cent were muggings.

Table 2:1 Estimated number of incidents of alcohol-related violence in 1999

Alcohol related	Best estimate	Lowest estimate	Highest estimate
Stranger assault	450,000	359,000	541,000
Acquaintance assault	410,000	326,000	495,000
Domestic assault	320,000	219,000	421,000
Mugging	66,000	34,000	98,000
All violence	1,246,000	1,080,000	1,412,000

Notes:

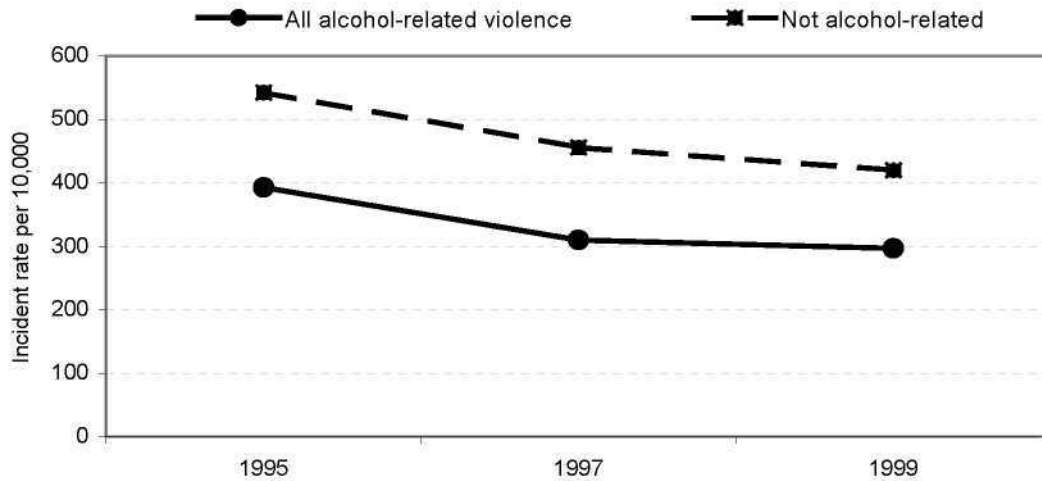
1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.
2. Definition of alcohol-related - incidents in which victim considered offender to be under the influence of alcohol.
3. Figures rounded to nearest thousand.

In terms of violence that takes place in or around pubs, bars and clubs, the 2000 BCS gave a 'best' estimate of 623,000 incidents. Again there is a confidence interval surrounding the estimates. Table A2.1 presents the full results.

Trends in the incidence of alcohol-related violence

The BCS has asked victims of violent crime whether the offender was 'under the influence of alcohol' since the 1996 sweep, which measured crime in 1995. Between 1995 and 1997 the overall incident rate of alcohol-related violence fell significantly by 21 per cent (Table A2.2). Between 1997 and 1999 the incident rate remained relatively stable, the fall of four per cent not being statistically significant. The trend in alcohol-related violence mirrors that for violent incidents in which the offender was not considered to be under the influence of alcohol (see Figure 2.1).

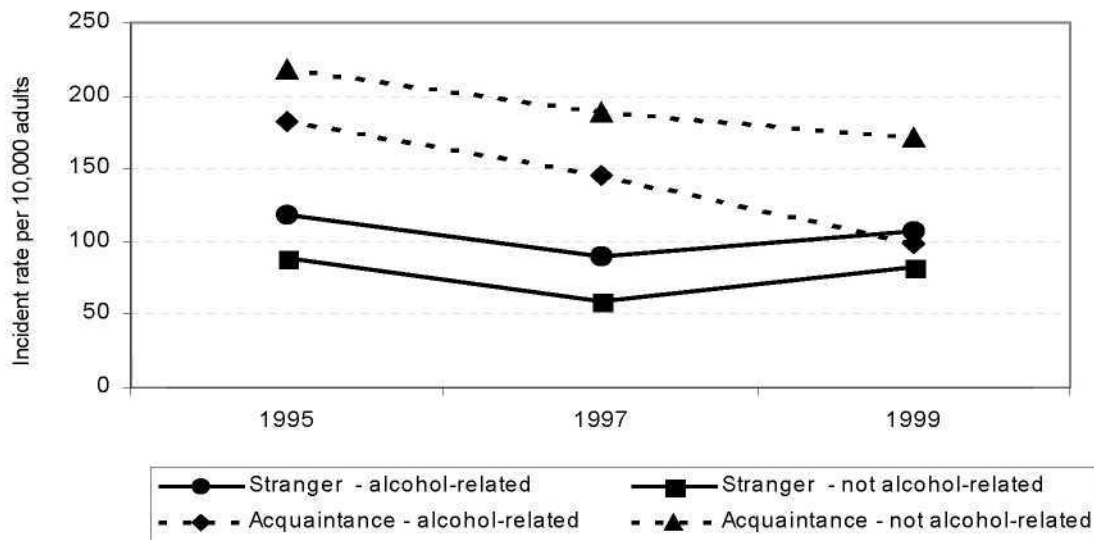
Figure 1 Trend in the incident rate of alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related violence, 1995 to 1999 (1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS)



Trends in the incidence of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault

Turning to the acquaintance and stranger assaults specifically, the incident rate of acquaintance assault fell significantly between 1995 and 1999 (by 46%), while for stranger assault there was a large, though non-significant, fall between 1995 and 1997, followed by a large, non-significant increase between 1997 and 1999.¹¹ Over the period, the trend in alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault is similar to the trend in assaults where the offender was not considered to be under the influence of alcohol (Figure 2.2, Table A2.2).

Figure 2 Trend in alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assaults, 1995 to 1999 (1996, 1998 and 2000 BCS)



¹¹ Violent crime is relatively rare. As such, survey based estimates are subject to relatively high sampling variability. The high level of sampling variability means that only very large changes in the incident rate are likely to be detected as being statistically significant.

The prevalence of alcohol-related violence

The previous section discussed the *incident rate* and estimated *total number of incidents* in England and Wales. It is also possible to estimate the *prevalence rate* (the percentage of adults who had been a victim of alcohol-related violence in a given year) and the *total number of victims*. The total number of victims will always be lower than the number of incidents because an individual may be victimised more than once in a year.

Overall, less than two per cent of adults had been victim of an alcohol-related violent incident in 1999. While the risk of being a victim of violence is relatively low, this still results in an estimated total of 795,000 victims in 1999. Table 2.2 shows the figures for each type of violence and the range of estimates in which we can be 90 per cent confident the true figure lies.

Table 2:2 Estimated number of victims of alcohol-related violence in 1999

Alcohol-related	Best estimate	Lowest estimate	Highest estimate
Stranger assault	333,000	279,000	387,000
Acquaintance assault	305,000	253,000	356,000
Domestic assault	135,000	101,000	169,000
Mugging	49,000	28,000	70,000
All violence	795,000	712,000	878,000

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.
2. Definition of alcohol-related - incidents in which victim considered offender to be under the influence of alcohol.
3. Figures rounded to nearest thousand.

Table A2.3 in Appendix A presents the estimated number of victims of violent incidents taking place in or around pubs, bars and clubs. Overall the BCS estimates 464,000 victims in 1999.

Chapter 3 The risks of alcohol-related assault

The previous chapter discussed the extent of alcohol-related assault at a national level and trends over time. However, national estimates mask the fact that the risk of being the victim of alcohol-related assault varies considerably across different types of individual. Previous research has consistently shown that the likelihood of being a victim of violent crime in general is associated with socio-demographic, lifestyle and area factors (for example, Kershaw *et al.* 2000; Martinson, 2001). The same is equally true for alcohol-related assault.

Risk factors

This chapter examines which socio-demographic, lifestyle and area characteristics are associated with an increased risk of being a victim of stranger and acquaintance alcohol-related assault. The analysis is based on the 2000 BCS and thus refers to risks of victimisation in 1999.

Various socio-demographic, lifestyle and area characteristics were examined to identify which factors increased the risk of being a victim of stranger and acquaintance alcohol-related assault. To explore the differences in risk across groups, analysis was undertaken to produce the incident rate per 10,000 adults with each specific characteristic examined.

This section discusses the characteristics that were significantly associated with an increased risk of victimisation. Tables A3.1 to A3.5 in Appendix A present the full results.

Gender

Overall, the incident rate of stranger and acquaintance assault was significantly higher among men than women. There were an estimated 188 incidents of alcohol-related stranger assault and 130 incidents of acquaintance assault per 10,000 men in 1999. The respective figures for women were 32 per 10,000 and 68 per 10,000. Interestingly, among men the rate of stranger assault exceeds acquaintance violence, while the reverse holds for women.

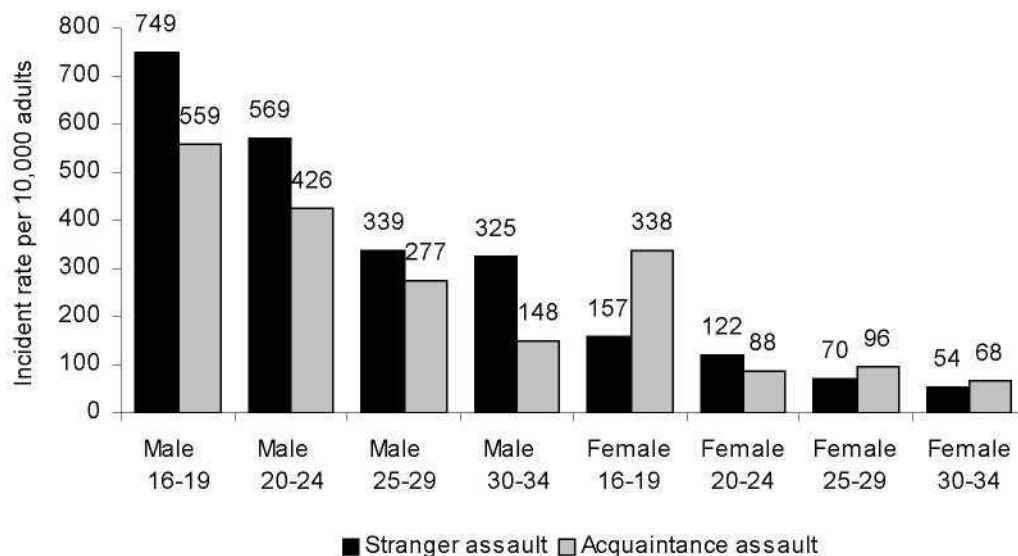
Age

Age was strongly related to the rate of victimisation. Overall, rates were highest among 16 to 19-year-olds with around 440 incidents of both stranger and acquaintance alcohol-related assault per 10,000 adults. Rates gradually declined with age, though rates were above the national average in all age groups below 35 (Table A3.1). The pattern of falling victimisation rates with age held in general for men and women.

For each age group examined men had far higher rates of alcohol-related stranger assault than their female counterparts. For example, there were an estimated 749 alcohol-related stranger assaults per 10,000 males aged 16 to 19 - a figure almost five times the incident rate among females aged 16 to 19 (157 incidents per 10,000). The rate of acquaintance assault was also higher among men than women across the age groups (with the exception of 40-44-year-olds), though the differences were generally less marked.

Overall then, rates of victimisation were high among young men between the ages of 16 and 34, particularly among the youngest age groups, and young women aged 16 to 19 (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3 Incident rates of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault in 1999, by age and sex



Family status

Rates of alcohol-related victimisation were highest among adults who were single, followed by those who were cohabiting with a partner. Rates were also higher among those who did not live with children under the age of 16 (Table A3.2).

Among men, those who were single and not living with children had the highest rates of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault. However, among women the pattern was more complex. While single women had by far the highest rates of alcohol-related stranger assault, for acquaintance assault victimisation rates were highest for those who were separated or divorced.

Employment status

Adults who were classified as unemployed had far higher rates of alcohol-related assault than those who were in employment/self-employed or economically inactive (Table A3.2). Among the unemployed, the incident rate of stranger assault was 353 in 1999, while the rate of acquaintance assault was 349. The respective figures for those in employment were 135 and 94. This pattern held for both men and women.

Drinking patterns

The 2000 BCS asked relatively limited questions about drinking patterns.¹² However, the survey did cover frequency of drinking in the last year and the number of units consumed on a typical day, as well as frequency of visiting pubs and night clubs. The results clearly show, not surprisingly, that personal drinking patterns, are strongly associated with the risk of becoming a victim of alcohol-related assault (Table A3.3).

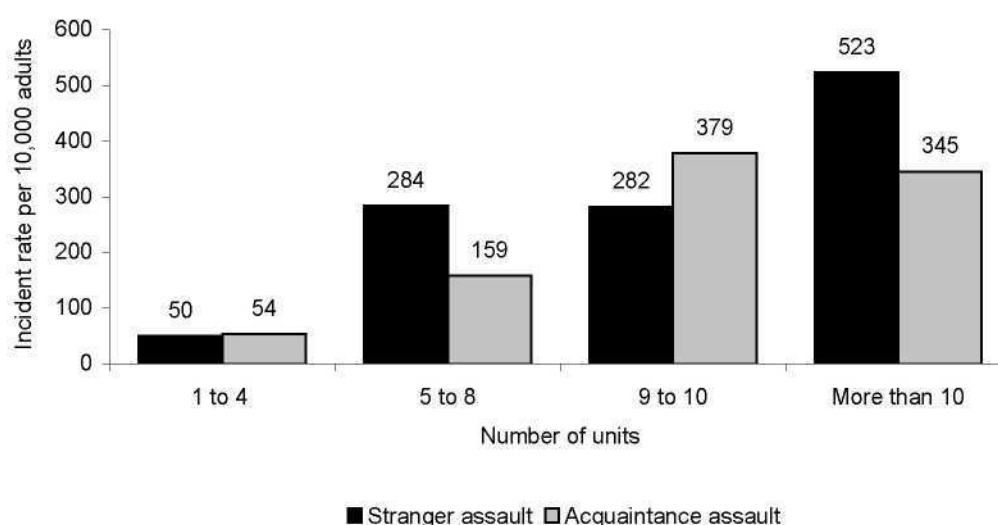
In terms of frequency of drinking in the previous year, those who said they had drunk on average on three or four days a week had the highest rates of victimisation in 1999 (172 incidents of alcohol-related stranger assault and 145 incidents of alcohol-related acquaintance assault per 10,000). The figures for those who drank alcohol less than once a month were 71 and 51, respectively.

¹² The 2002/03 BCS includes more detailed questions. The results from the 2002/03 BCS on alcohol-related crime will be available in due course.

Interestingly, those who drank most frequently (nearly every day) had below average rates of victimisation. It may be that many in this group, although frequent drinkers, drink moderate amounts per day in their own home, and do not therefore place themselves in situations where violent incidents are likely to arise.

The usual number of units of alcohol consumed was far more strongly associated with victimisation rates than frequency of drinking *per se*, with rates generally increasing with the number of units consumed.¹³ Among those who consumed between one and four units on a typical drinking day the rate of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault was around 50 incidents per 10,000. Among those who drank in excess often units on a typical drinking day the incident rate of stranger assault was 523 and of acquaintance assault 345.

Figure 4 Incident rates of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault in 1999, by unit consumption



Adults who had frequently visited pubs/wine bars and night clubs during the evening in the month prior to interview had far higher rates of victimisation than those who had visited less often. Among those who said they had been to a pub or wine bar nine or more times, the incident rates of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault per 10,000 adults were about three times higher than estimated for those who visited a pub or bar between four and eight times. Similarly, those who had visited a night club more than three times in the previous month had incident rates about three times higher than those who had been to a night club between one and three times.

The precise relationship between drinking patterns and risks of victimisation did differ slightly between men and women, but overall the same factors were generally related to the high risk (Box 3.1).

¹³ The BCS question is 'On the days when you do drink alcohol, on average how many units of alcohol do you have in a day? (What we mean by a unit of alcohol is ½ pint of beer, a glass of wine or a single measure of spirit or liqueur).' Clearly this will not provide an accurate measure of an individual's alcohol consumption but it is sufficient to broadly categorise people into groups.

Box 3.1

Drinking behaviours most associated with high risk of alcohol-related violence

Highest victimisation rates	Men - stranger assault	Women - stranger assault	Men - acquaintance assault	Women - acquaintance assault
Frequency of consumption	3-4 days a week	1-2 days a week	3-4 days a week	3-4 days a week
Units consumed typical drinking day	More than 10	More than 10	9-10 units	More than 10 units
Visits to pub/bar in last month	More than 8 times	More than 8 times	More than 8 times	More than 8 times
Visits to night club in last month	More than 3 times	More than 3 times	More than 3 times	More than 3 times

Socio-economic characteristics of household

The BCS collects several details relating to the socio-economic status of the households in which respondents reside including annual household income, tenure type and accommodation type.

Those residing in privately rented property had higher victimisation rates of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault than those living in owner occupied or social housing. The results were inconsistent on income and accommodation type, with those with high incomes and living in terraced housing having the highest rate of alcohol-related stranger assault and those on low incomes and living in flats having the highest rate of alcohol-related acquaintance assault (Table A3.4).

Area characteristics

The BCS includes various area identifiers relating to the area in which the respondent resides. While incidents of victimisation may not necessarily take place in the area in which the victim lives, it is still possible to broadly examine the association between area type (inner-city, urban or rural) and victimisation rates. The findings show that the incident rate of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault is lowest among those living rural areas (around 50 incidents per 10,000). Rates of alcohol-related stranger assault are highest among those in inner-city areas (133), closely followed by those in urban areas (121). Conversely, rates of acquaintance assault are higher in urban areas (122) than in inner-city areas (73), (Table A3.5).

Summary

The results presented above show the association between rates of alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assault and various personal, household and area characteristics. Each is discussed in turn. By way of summarising the main findings Table 3.1 lists, in descending order, those characteristics associated with a victimisation incident rate more than double the national average rate. Being a young male; single; unemployed; frequently visiting night clubs or pubs; and high levels of alcohol consumption were characteristics strongly associated with high rates of both stranger and acquaintance alcohol-related assault.

Table 3:1 Characteristics associated with an increased risk of alcohol-related assault (incident rates per 10,000)

Stranger alcohol-related assault		Acquaintance alcohol-related assault	
Visited night club more than 3 times in last month	115	Male aged 16 to 19	559
Male aged 16 to 19	749	Visited night club more than 3 times in last month	508
Male aged 20 to 24	569	Male aged 20 to 24	426
Drinks more than 10 units on typical drinking day	523	Drinks 9 to 10 units on typical drinking day	379
Visited pub 9 or more times in last month	395	Visited pub 9 or more times in last month	360
Unemployed	353	Unemployed	349
Male aged 25 to 29	339	Drinks more than 10 units on typical drinking day	345
Male aged 30 to 34	325	Woman aged 16 to 19	338
Single	286	Male aged 25 to 29	277
Drinks 5 to 8 units on typical drinking day	284	Single	248
Drinks 9 to 10 units on typical drinking day	282	Cohabiting	224
Visited night club 1 to 3 times in last month	262		
Lives in privately rented accommodation	252		
<i>National average (England and Wales)</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>National average (England and Wales)</i>	<i>98</i>

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Chapter 4 The nature of alcohol-related assault

This chapter provides an overview of the nature of alcohol-related assaults that occur between acquaintances and between strangers. It examines when and where incidents occur, the characteristics of offenders, and how incidents develop. Where relevant, comparisons are made with incidents in which the offender was not considered to be 'under the influence of alcohol'. Tables A4.1 to A4.6 in Appendix A provide the figures for alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related incidents.

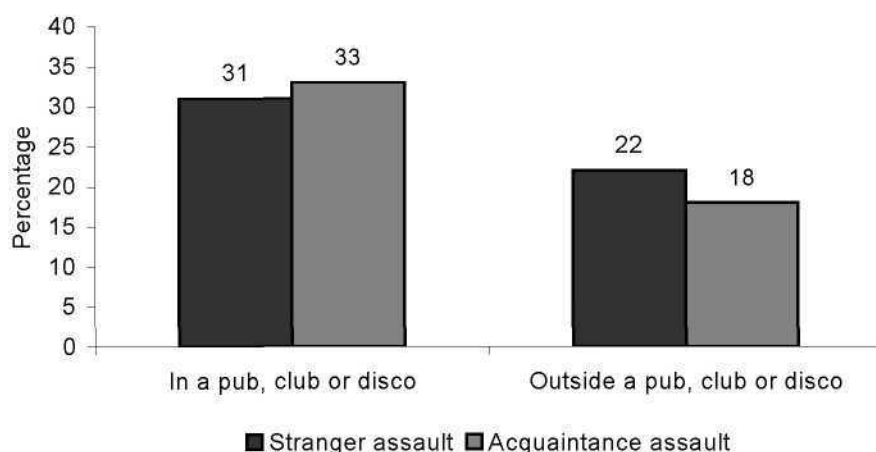
Unless otherwise stated, the results are based on the combined 1998 and 2000 sweeps of the BCS to improve the reliability of the results.¹⁴ In addition to the statistical findings from the survey, verbatim quotes from victims are used to contextualise the findings.¹⁵

As a nationally representative survey, the BCS figures presented here provide an overview of the nature of alcohol-related assault at a national level. Due to the relatively small number of incidents measured by the survey it is not possible to produce robust data at the local level. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships need to utilise local data to examine the nature of alcohol-related violence within their area and develop appropriate interventions (see Tierney and Hobbs, 2003 for guidance on the collection of local data).

Location and time of incidents

Around one-half of alcohol-related assaults occurred in or around a pub, club or disco, with a third of incidents taking place inside these venues and around a fifth taking place in the venue car park or streets close by (Figure 4.1). The majority of the remaining incidents took place in other public places, including other places of public entertainment, sports facilities, and in or around public transport facilities. However, just over a tenth occurred in or near the victim's place of work and for acquaintance incidents a further tenth took place in or around the victim's home. A far higher proportion of non-alcohol-related incidents happened at or near the victim's workplace. See Table A4.1 for the full results.

Figure 5 The location of incidents of alcohol-related assault

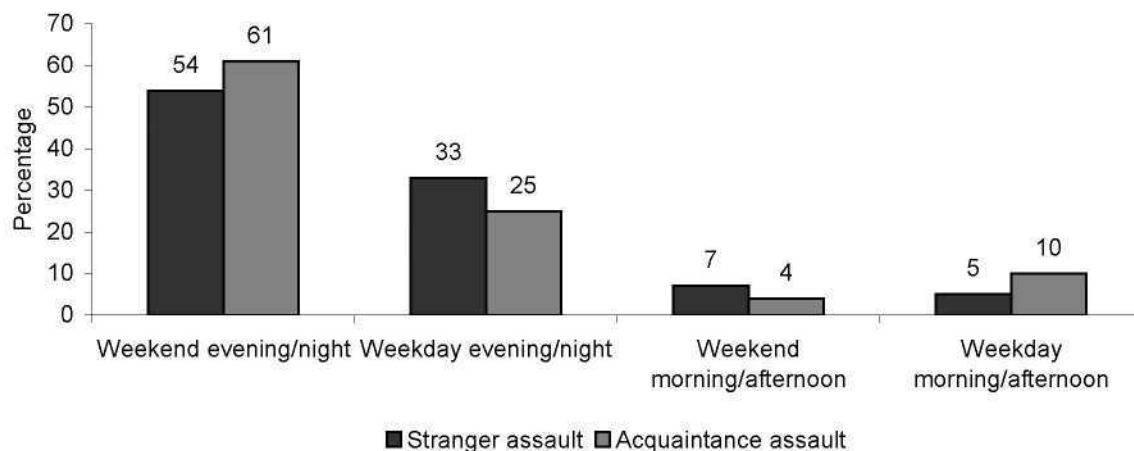


¹⁴ Combining sweeps increases the number of incidents for analysis. Results are based on the full BCS recall period from January 1 of the year preceding the survey to the date of interview. The results based on combined sweeps therefore refer to incidents during 1997 and 1999 and those at the beginning of 1998 and 2000.

¹⁵ To give more insight into the types of incidents experienced by victims, the BCS asks all victims to briefly describe in their own words what happened in the incident. The responses to the open-ended question are recorded by interviewers. The quotes presented in this report have been selected to illustrate specific points and the breadth of incidents that fall within the definition of alcohol-related assault.

The majority of alcohol-related assaults occurred on weekend evenings or nights. Fifty-four per cent of incidents between strangers took place on weekend evenings or nights, as did 61 per cent of incidents between acquaintances (Figure 4.2, Table A4.2). The majority of the remaining assaults took place on a weekday evening or night (33% of stranger incidents and 25% of acquaintance incidents). Examining alcohol-related incidents that took place in or around a pub, club or disco, the concentration of incidents on weekend evenings was even more marked: around 70 per cent took place then.

Figure 6 When incidents of alcohol-related assaults occur



Incidents of alcohol-related assault between strangers and between acquaintances do not only take place in and around pubs, clubs or discos or exclusively occur on weekend evenings, but many do so and the concentration of incidents across time and place offers opportunities for a targeted policing response. Local data needs to be utilised to identify the hot-spots where such incidents occur. For example, anecdotal evidence suggests that problems often arise near taxi ranks or fast-food outlets when a large number of people are competing for limited services following a night out drinking.

The verbatim victim descriptions collected by the BCS provide an indication as to the types of situation in which incidents arise. For example, the descriptions below relate to incidents occurring as the night out comes to an end and people start making their way home.

'It was an argument over a taxi in town late at night. I think it was a misunderstanding as to who was first in the queue. I couldn't understand what he was saying and he pushed me a couple of times.'

'I was shoved in an Indian takeaway. A man was chatting to a friend and making comments. Then he made a quacking noise and I asked him if he had a problem. He became abusive and shoved me.'

'I refused to give a ride to a man outside a night club. This man then started to hit me through the open window.'

Offender characteristics

The BCS asks victims of crime whether or not they are able to provide any information about the offender(s), and if so they are asked a series of questions about the characteristics of the offender(s). Full results are presented in Table A4.3.

Number of offenders

Almost a half of alcohol-related assaults between strangers involved more than one offender, as did 38 per cent of incidents between acquaintances. For both stranger and acquaintance incidents, around a fifth involved four or more offenders. Alcohol-related incidents were significantly more likely to involve multiple offenders than other incidents.

Sex of offenders

The vast majority of alcohol-related assaults involved male offenders only. This was more marked for incidents between strangers. Ninety per cent of stranger incidents were perpetrated by men, five per cent by women and five per cent by a mixed sex group. For assault between acquaintances the respective figures are 80 per cent, 12 per cent and eight per cent. Incidents where the offender was 'under the influence of alcohol' were more likely to be perpetrated by men than other incidents.

Age of offenders

The BCS collects relatively limited information on the age of perpetrators, with only four age groups recorded (under school age, school age, 16 to 24 and 25 and over). However, the results do show that the majority (60%) of alcohol-related stranger incidents were perpetrated by those aged 16 to 24. In contrast, the majority (55%) of alcohol-related acquaintance incidents were perpetrated by someone aged 25 or older.

Relationship with victim

In all stranger incidents, by definition the victim did not know the perpetrator in any way. However, acquaintance incidents can include a range of relationships, from the victim knowing the offender by sight through to them being a close friend.¹⁶

In just over four in ten incidents of alcohol-related assault between acquaintances, the victim only knew the perpetrator by sight, while in 29 per cent of incidents the victim knew the offender casually to speak to and in a further 29 per cent the perpetrator was well known. Just over a third of incidents were perpetrated by someone the victim considered to be a friend and in a further fifth the perpetrator was a work colleague or customer/client met through work (Table A4.4). The descriptions below show some of the types of incident that happen between strangers and between acquaintances:

I was out with some friends having a drink when someone got pushed and I caught them. Then they turned round and punched me on the forehead.'

(stranger incident)

I was in a night club dancing when I accidentally bumped into another male also dancing. We were both pretty drunk and he hit me on the side of my head with his fist. He must have had a ring on as my head was cut.'

(stranger incident)

'It was outside a night club. A friend who was drunk accused me of something I never did and grabbed me by the collar with both hands and pushed me up against a wall.'

(acquaintance incident)

¹⁶ By definition, any incidents involving partners or relatives are classified as domestic violence and do not come under the definition of 'acquaintance' violence.

7 was with a couple of my mates and a lad that I knew quite well decided to have a fight with me. He ran up to me from behind and punched me in the face with a ring on and cut my nose.'

(acquaintance incident)

'An argument with a friend in a pub and the friend saw fit to attack me with his hands and head. This was about 11 pm at night and we were both probably under the influence of alcohol.'

(acquaintance incident)

How incidents develop

The incident descriptions presented above provide some indication of the types of incident that seem to trigger aggression in those under the influence of alcohol. However, it should be borne in mind that these are the perceptions of the victim; the victim may not wish to reveal the extent of their involvement in the development of the incident and the offender's motivations may well differ to those attributed to them by the victim.

In some incidents, the victim does not appear to have any idea why they in particular were assaulted by the offender(s) and attributes the incident to the person just being 'drunk'.

'My son and I were going home and this bloke who was drunk out of his skull just attacked us.'

In other incidents, the victim indicates that they have had some form of contact with the offender(s) prior to the incident and that this led to the assault. The initial contacts often involved accidentally bumping into each other, arguments arising during a conversation and perceived aggressive or threatening behaviour by the other person.

7 was in a pub. I bumped into this man who was drunk. He punched me in the face. It caused a bruise to my face. I didn't know this man.'

7 was in a bar and I was attacked by three men. I sat on a chair and then one man said it was for his friend and then all three hit me in the face. I was unconscious and taken to hospital.'

7 was in the city centre and a guy accused me of looking at his girlfriend. I don't think I really was and I tried to back out of it but he hit me. I didn't hit him back.'

7 was in a club and a drunk guy asked me to dance. I said no and he got violent and pushed me to the floor and hit me. I was bruised.'

In other incidents, the victim appears to have tried to intervene in an incident already taking place, and been assaulted as a result.

7 was on a train and two men started to fight. I tried to reason with them and I was knocked in the struggle and hit my head on a post.'

There were also incidents where the victim was brought into contact with the perpetrator in the course of their work. For example, staff in licensed premises ejecting customers or intervening in incidents; Accident and Emergency and ambulance staff assisting those injured in incidents and police officers and private security staff defusing situations or arresting perpetrators.

7 was treating a 17- year-old girl in the back of the ambulance. She woke up and hit me and kicked me and tried to get out of the ambulance, which was travelling at 40 miles per hour.'

7 was assaulted at my work - a public house. Customers were drunk and I was trying to throw them out.'

7 am a doorman and it is just part of the job. It happens nearly every other week on a regular basis. People threaten us all the time.'

In the 1998 BCS, victims of incidents were directly asked if they felt that anyone else apart from the perpetrator was responsible in any way for what had happened. Four-fifths of victims felt only the perpetrator was responsible (Table A4.5). Just over one in ten said that they themselves felt partially responsible for what had happened, though they did not necessarily feel they had provoked the incident. Only three per cent of victims of stranger assault and nine per cent of victims of acquaintance assault felt that they had provoked the offender. Most of the descriptions indicate that, even in cases where there had been prior interaction, the victim did not directly provoke the incident. However, there were also cases where a general fight seems to have occurred and it was not clear how the incident started, and in a small number of cases the 'victim' appears to have made the first physical contact in an incident.

'Someone went to hit me in the pub but I got him first. I hit him and bundled him out of the door. He was drunk.'

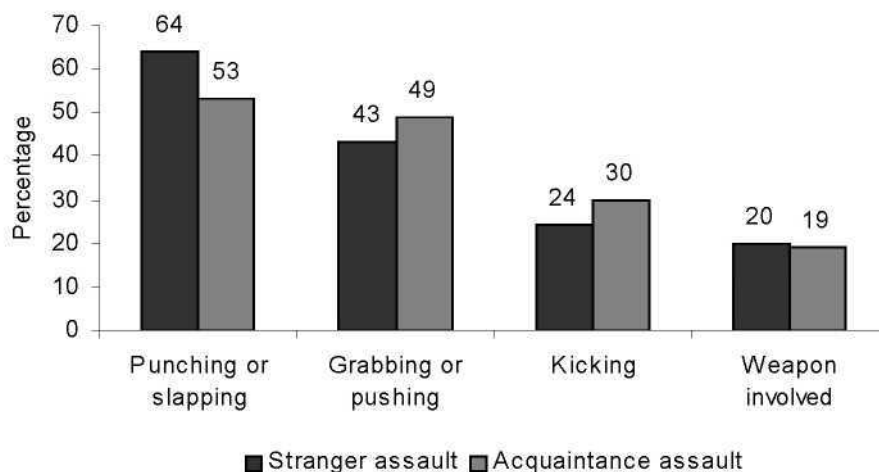
'It was a drunken fight in the town park. There were three of them and only two of us.'

Type of force used in incidents

The most common type of force used in alcohol-related assaults was punching or slapping. Two-thirds of stranger incidents involved punching or slapping, as did just over a half of acquaintance incidents. Grabbing and pushing was also relatively common, followed by kicking (Table A4.6).

In a fifth of incidents the perpetrator had a weapon which they threatened to use, most commonly a drinking glass or a bottle. One in ten incidents involved the threatened use of a drinking bottle or glass. However, no incidents were reported where the victim was actually hit with a weapon. Examining those incidents that actually took place inside (or outside) a pub or bar, 15 per cent of incidents between strangers and 11 per cent of incidents between acquaintances involved the threatened use of a bottle or glass.

Figure 7 Type of force used in incidents of alcohol-related assault



In terms of legal assault codes, three-quarters of incidents of alcohol-related assault were classified as common assaults (i.e., incidents in which the victim was not injured or only received a negligible injury, such as minor bruising). Twenty-two per cent of stranger incidents were classified as woundings, as were 24 per cent of acquaintance incidents.

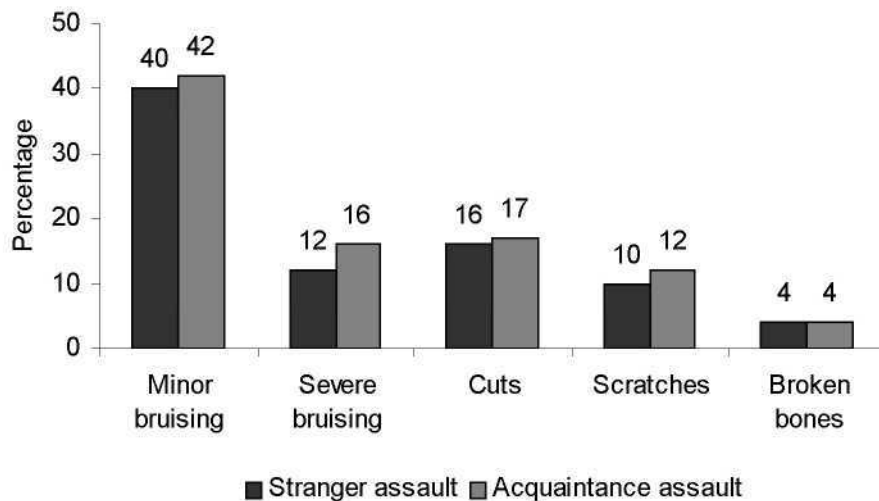
Chapter 5 The impact of alcohol-related assault

This chapter provides further information on incidents of alcohol-related assault between acquaintances and between strangers. It examines the physical and emotional impact of incidents on victims and the involvement of the police in incidents. As in the previous chapter, the results are based on the combined 1998 and 2000 sweeps of the BCS, unless otherwise stated. Tables A5.1 to A5.4 in Appendix A provide the full results.

Physical consequences

Sixty per cent of alcohol-related assaults between acquaintances and 54 per cent of incidents between strangers resulted in some form of injury. These results are not significantly different to non-alcohol-related incidents. The most common injury, by far, was minor bruising, experienced by two-fifths of victims. Other forms of injury were less common (Table A5.1, Figure 5.1). However, alcohol-related incidents were significantly more likely to result in cuts and broken bones than non-alcohol-related incidents.

Figure 8 Types of injury received in incidents of alcohol-related assault



Medical attention

Respondents were asked if they sought attention from a doctor regardless of whether or not they were injured (victims may seek advice from a doctor about their emotional state following an incident).

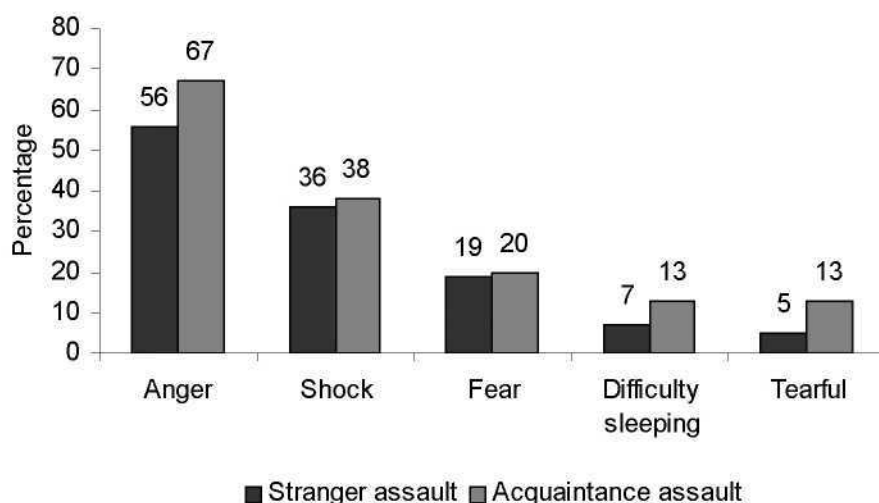
One in six alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assaults resulted in the victim seeking some form of medical attention from a doctor. This underestimates the true burden of alcohol-related violence on health services as victims may well also receive medical care from a range of other trained personnel including paramedics or nurses.

Emotional consequences

Around three-quarters of victims of alcohol-related assault said that they had been emotionally affected by their experience. Victims of an assault by an acquaintance were more severely affected than those assaulted by a stranger. Victims were 'very much' or 'quite a lot' affected in 37 per cent of acquaintance incidents, compared with 26 per cent of stranger incidents (Table A5.2). The level of emotional impact was similar for assaults between acquaintances regardless of whether or not the perpetrator was 'under the influence' of alcohol. However, victims of alcohol-related assault by a stranger were less likely to be 'very much' or 'quite a lot' affected than victims of assault by a stranger where alcohol was not a factor.

The most common reaction, by far, was anger, followed by shock and feeling fearful (Figure 5.2). Other types of reaction were relatively rare, though more than a tenth assaulted by an acquaintance admitted difficulty sleeping and being tearful.

Figure 9 Emotional reactions in incidents of alcohol-related assault



Seriousness of alcohol-related assault

The BCS includes several questions that directly or indirectly assess victims' perceptions of the seriousness of the incident they experienced.

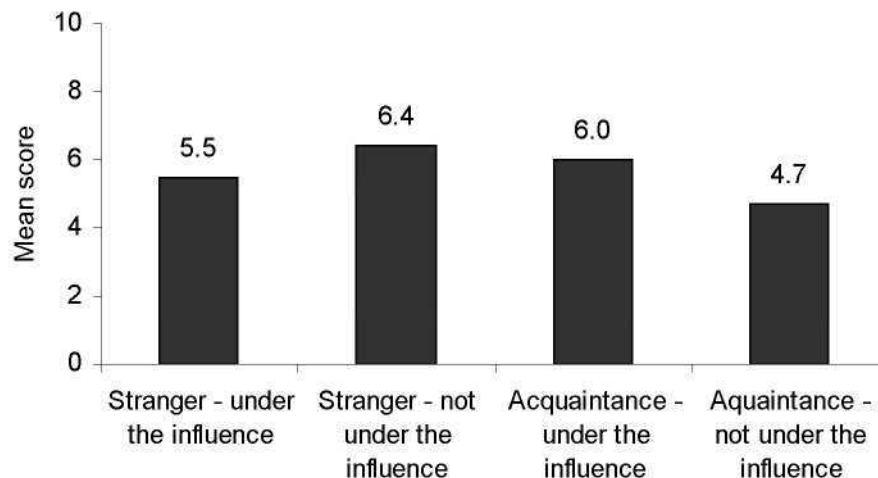
The most direct question asks victims to rate what happened to them on a seriousness scale ranging from 0 to 20.¹⁷ Around two-thirds of those assaulted by a stranger or acquaintance who was under the influence of alcohol considered their experience to fall within the lowest third of the seriousness scale, with around one in ten placing their experience in the top third of the scale. The mean score for incidents involving strangers was 5.5 and for acquaintances 6.0. Interestingly, incidents perpetrated by a stranger not under the influence of alcohol were considered more serious than those where the stranger was under the influence, while the reverse pattern held for acquaintance incidents (Figure 5.3).

The pattern is similar when considering victims' perceptions as to whether the incident they experienced was 'a crime', 'wrong but not a crime' or 'just something that happens'. Those assaulted by a stranger under the influence of alcohol were less likely to consider the assault a crime, than those assaulted by a stranger who was not under the influence, while acquaintance incidents were more likely to be considered a crime if the perpetrator had been drinking (Table

¹⁷ Victims are told that 0 represents a very minor offence, such as stealing milk bottles, while 20 represents murder.

A5.3). Overall, around a half of victims of both alcohol-related stranger and acquaintance assaults considered themselves to have been a victim of a crime. However, a relatively large minority, around a third, viewed the assault as 'just something that happens'.

Figure 10 Seriousness of incidents of alcohol-related assault



Reporting to the police

Almost four in ten incidents of alcohol-related assault came to the attention of the police, usually through the victim or another person reporting the incident, though in some cases the police were simply at the scene when the incident occurred (Table A5.4). Alcohol-related assaults between strangers were as likely to come to the attention of the police as non-alcohol-related stranger assaults. However, assaults between acquaintances involving alcohol were more likely to come to the attention of the police than other acquaintance assaults. This may, in part, be because alcohol-related incidents are more likely to occur in public.

The most common reasons why alcohol-related assaults were not reported were because they were considered to be too trivial or because the matter was dealt with without the need for the police to become involved. The perceived inability or unwillingness of the police to do anything about such incidents was also cited. For acquaintance incidents, in particular, victims often considered the matter to be personal and did not involve the police on this basis.

The fact that the majority of incidents of alcohol-related assault do not come to the attention of the police should be borne in mind when considering the utility of police data to monitor incidents of alcohol-related assault and to identify incident hotspots.

Given the limited sample size, it is difficult to identify whether the police become aware of the most serious incidents or not. However, incidents resulting in some form of injury were more likely to be reported to the police than those where no injury occurred. Forty-five per cent of alcohol-related stranger assaults resulting in injury were reported to the police, compared with 31 per cent of incidents that did not result in injury. The figures for alcohol-related acquaintance assault are 39 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively.

Chapter 6 Conclusion

The Government is committed to tackling the many forms of alcohol-related crime and disorder, including assault. This is taking the form of many strands of work across Government, not least the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy being co-ordinated by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. This will bring together all aspects of alcohol-related harm whether it is to the individual, their family or the community more widely. The contribution of alcohol to violence and disorder is also being considered within Government initiatives to tackle changes to the licensing laws, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and violence more broadly. The findings reported here will help feed into the evidence base on which to build these policies and initiatives.

This report presents findings from the 1996, 1998 and 2000 sweeps of the British Crime Survey and discusses the extent and nature of alcohol-related violence in England and Wales. The results show that whilst alcohol-related violence is relatively rare, with only two per cent of adults being a victim in 1999, it is a large problem in absolute terms, with 1.2 million incidents in 1999.

Although the report particularly focuses on assaults that take place between strangers and between acquaintances (estimated to be 860,000), it should be remembered that almost a half of incidents of domestic assault involve perpetrators under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol then is also a factor that needs to be considered in tackling the problem of domestic violence.

This study maps the nature of the problem at a national level to help inform the development of initiatives. The findings also provide a basis against which Crime and Disorder Partnerships can compare the problems in their locality. However, the study does not provide evidence as to the effectiveness of various measures.

In terms of how local Crime and Disorder Partnerships can tackle the problem of alcohol-related assault, an important first hurdle is to collect evidence on the extent and nature of the problem. The BCS indicates that alcohol-related assault is poorly reported to the police. For this reason, it may be advisable to supplement these data with data from other sources to build up a fully comprehensive picture of local alcohol-related crime problems. (See Tierney and Hobbs, 2003 or Finney and Simmonds, 2003 for further advice on auditing local alcohol-related crime problems). Only through careful analysis of all the available data will it be possible to devise creative and effective measures to tackle the problem.

Although there are instances of innovative local schemes to address the problem of alcohol-related violence, as yet very few have collected data to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures. The Tackling Alcohol-Related Street Crime initiative in Cardiff is one example where attempts have been made to evaluate the scheme. For a full account of the evaluation see Maguire *et al.* (2003).

It is strongly recommended that Crime and Disorder Partnerships that identify alcohol-related crime and disorder as a priority in their locality take steps adequately to measure the problem and consider how they can evaluate the impact of their initiatives.

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Appendix A Additional tables

Table A1.1 *Proportion of violence incidents that were alcohol-related*

	Under the influence of alcohol			Not under the influence of alcohol			Unable to say		
	1996	1998	2000	1996	1998	2000	1996	1998	2000
Domestic	32	33	44	67	59	55	1	8	2
Acquaintance	45	44	36	50	52	54	5	4	10
Stranger	55	57	53	37	31	34	8	12	13
Mugging	17	15	17	66	50	68	17	35	15
All violence	41	41	40	53	49	50	6	10	9

Notes:

1. Source: 1996, 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey.

Table A1.2 *Location of violent incidents*

Percentages in or around a pub, bar or club	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Domestic	*	8	2	3	5
Acquaintance	*	26	22	24	22
Stranger	*	32	32	39	34
Mugging	*	4	6	4	4
All violence	19	19	18	20	19

Notes:

1. Source: 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey.
2. * - the base numbers are too small to present results by violence typology in 1992.

Table A2.1 *Estimated number of violent incidents in or around pubs, bars or clubs in 1999*

Violence in/around pubs, bars & clubs	Best estimate	Lowest estimate	Highest estimate
Stranger assault	290,000	224,000	356,000
Acquaintance assault	272,000	201,000	344,000
Domestic assault	40,000	7,000	73,000
Muggings	16,000	4,000	28,000
All violence	623,000	518,000	728,000

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey

Table A2.2 *Trend in incident rate of alcohol-related violence: 1995-1999*

	Incident rates per 10,000 adults			Percentage changes		
	1995	1997	1999	1995-1997	1997-1999	1995-1999
All violence: under the influence	393	310	297	-21**	-4	-24**
Stranger assault	118	90	107	-24	+20	-9
Acquaintance assault	182	145	98	-20	-33**	-46**
All violence: not under the influence²	543	456	420	-16*	-8	-23**
Stranger assault	89	59	83	-34**	+41*	-7
Acquaintance assault	218	188	171	-14	-9	-22

Notes:

1. Source: 1996, 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey.
2. Includes incidents where the respondent could not say if assailant under the influence.
3. * indicates change is significant at the 10% significance level; ** at the 5% significance level.

Table A2.3 *Estimated number of victims of violence in/around pubs, bars and clubs, in 1999*

Alcohol-related	Best estimate	Lowest estimate	Highest estimate
Stranger assault	235,000	190,000	281,000
Acquaintance assault	198,000	156,000	239,000
Domestic assault	21,000	7,000	34,000
Mugging	16,000	4,000	28,000
All violence	464,000	400,000	527,000

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey
2. Figures rounded to nearest thousand

Table A3.1 *Incident rate of alcohol-related assault in 1999, by age and sex (2000 BCS)*

Incident rate per 10,000 adults	Stranger assault	Acquaintance assault
Men	188	130
16-19	749	559
20-24	569	426
25-29	339	277
30-34	325	148
35-39	101	64
40-44	94	61
45 or older	66	46
Women	32	68
16-19	157	338
20-24	122	88
25-29	70	96
30-34	54	68
35-39	15	56
40-44	20	68
45 or older	5	35
All adults	107	98
16-19	439	443
20-24	348	258
25-29	199	182
30-34	185	107
35-39	54	59
40-44	54	65
45 or older	35	40

Notes: 1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Table A3.2 *Incident rate of alcohol-related assault in 1999, by personal characteristics (2000 BCS)*

Incident rate per 10,000 adults	Stranger assault	Acquaintance assault
Marital status		
Married	68	30
Cohabiting	125	224
Single	286	248
Separated/divorced	37	186
Children <16 in household		
Yes	83	88
No	116	101
Employment status		
In employment	135	94
Unemployed	353	349
Economically inactive	50	85
All adults	107	98

Notes: 1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Table A3.3 *Incident rate of alcohol-related assault in 1999, by lifestyle (2000 BCS)*

Incident rate per 10,000 adults	Stranger assault	Acquaintance assault
Number of times visited a pub/wine bar in evening during the last month		
None	31	51
Between one and three times	116	83
Between four and eight times	138	106
Nine or more times	395	360
Number of times visited a night club in evening in the last month		
None	60	73
Between one and three times	262	153
More than three times	775	508
Frequency of drinking alcohol in the last year		
Almost every day	88	96
Three or four days a week	172	145
One or two days a week	151	90
At least once a month	75	101
Less often	71	51
Never	30	90
Number of units consumed on typical drinking day (based on drinkers)		
One to four units	50	54
Five to eight units	284	159
Nine or ten units	282	379
More than ten units	523	345
All adults	107	98

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Table A3.4 *Incident rate of alcohol-related assault in 1999, by household characteristics (2000 BCS)*

Incident rate per 10,000 adults	Stranger violence	Acquaintance violence
Annual household income		
Less than £5,000	102	168
£5,000 less than £10,000	79	105
£10,000 less than £20,000	92	66
£20,000 less than £30,000	92	76
£30,000 or more	164	83
Tenure type		
Owner occupier	90	71
Council/Housing Association	65	137
Rented privately	252	174
Accommodation type		
Detached house	55	39
Semi-detached house	87	115
Terraced house	185	118
Flat	73	131
All adults	107	98

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Table A3.5 Incident rate of alcohol-related violence in 1999, by area characteristics (2000 BCS)

Incident rate per 10,000 adults	Stranger assault	Acquaintance assault
Area type		
Inner city	133	73
Urban area	121	122
Rural area	58	51
All adults	107	98

Notes:

1. Source: 2000 British Crime Survey.

Table A4.1 Where incidents of alcohol-related violence occurred (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
In or around the home	3	12	3	18
In or around workplace	11	11	23	42
On or near transport facilities	3	<0.5	11	1
In or near sports facilities	5	1	4	3
In or around a pub, club or disco	53	51	13	4
In or around other place of public entertainment	6	2	3	1
Other public place	18	20	37	28
Base N	291	337	184	352

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.
 2. Excludes don't knows.

Table A4.2 When incidents of alcohol-related assault occurred (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Weekday morning/afternoon³	5	10	39	57
Weekday morning	2	3	13	24
Weekday afternoon	4	5	26	27
Weekday evening/night⁴	33	25	30	24
Weekday evening	25	20	26	20
Weekday night	8	5	4	4
Weekend morning/afternoon³	7	4	14	14
Weekend morning	1	0	3	2
Weekend afternoon	6	3	10	11
Weekend evening/night⁴	54	61	17	5
Weekend evening	32	46	9	4
Weekend night	21	15	7	1
Base N	290	337	182	345

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.
 2. Weekend is from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Monday.
 3. Includes incidents where respondent was not sure if it was morning or afternoon (6am to noon or noon to 6pm).
 4. Includes incidents where respondent was not sure if it was evening or night (6pm to midnight or midnight to 6am).

Table A4.3 Offenders of alcohol-related assault (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Number of offenders				
One	51	62	64	75
Two	17	9	12	8
Three	12	7	10	5
Four or more	21	22	15	12
Sex of offenders				
Male	90	80	82	65
Female	5	12	14	27
Mixed	5	8	3	8
Age of offenders				
School age	5	5	10	22
16-24	60	48	42	29
25 or older	38	55	54	51
Base N	291	337	184	352

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

Table A4.4 Victim/offender relationship in alcohol-related violence (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Well known	na	29	Na	57
To speak to	na	29	Na	22
Know by sight only	na	42	Na	21
Work colleague	na	6	na	11
Client	na	16	na	34
Friend	na	37	na	25
Neighbour	na	8	na	8
Local child	na	5	na	10
Other	na	29	na	12
Base N	na	337	Na	352

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

Table A4.5 Victim responsibility in alcohol-related assault (1998 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Was anyone else apart from the offender responsible for what happened				
no-one else responsible	81	80	81	78
victim responsible	12	16	12	13
another person responsible	7	4	7	9
Was the offender provoked..				
No one provoked offender	92	88	91	92
Victim provoked offender	3	9	6	6
Another person provoked offender	5	3	3	2
Base N	135	166	80	164

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 British Crime Survey.

Table A4.6 Force used in incidents of alcohol-related assault (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Type of force used				
Grabbed/pushed	43	49	46	37
Punched/slapped	64	53	49	56
Kicked	24	30	25	32
Sexual violence	1	1	1	<0.5
Other force	12	10	23	15
Base N	278	330	177	340
Any weapon	20	19	17	19
Drinking glass or bottle	10	10	5	<0.5
Knife	3	3	4	4
Stabbing implement	1	<0.5	1	2
Stick, club or hitting implement	3	8	5	8
Gun	0	1	<0.5	<0.5
Other	3	1	5	4
Base N	291	337	184	352

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

Table A5.1 Injuries in incidents of alcohol-related assault (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Any injury	54	60	48	51
Minor bruising	40	42	32	34
Severe bruising	12	16	5	12
Scratches	10	12	12	12
Cuts	16	17	6	11
Broken bones	4	4	0	1
Other injury	6	4	3	5
Base N	291	337	184	352
Required medical attention	15	16	7	14
Base N	286	337	180	350

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

Table A5.2 *Emotional reactions in incidents of alcohol-related assault (1998/2000 BCS)*

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Any emotional reaction	75	81	84	79
Angry	56	67	58	59
Shocked	36	38	45	44
Fearful	19	20	23	24
Difficulty sleeping	7	13	8	16
Crying/tearful	5	13	5	17
Other reaction	4	5	6	6
How much affected				
Not at all	25	19	16	22
Just a little	50	44	43	40
Quite a lot	13	17	26	20
Very much	13	20	15	19
Base N	291	337	183	352

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

Table A5.3 *Seriousness of alcohol-related assault (1998/2000 BCS)*

Percentages	Alcohol-related assault		Not alcohol-related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Was it ...				
a crime	50	46	55	35
wrong, but not a crime	19	18	16	24
just something that happens	30	35	29	41
Seriousness score				
0 to 6	71	65	59	76
7 to 13	21	24	32	19
14 to 20	8	10	10	5
Mean score	5.5	6.0	6.4	4.7
Base N	291	337	182	348

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

Table A5.4 Reporting incidents of alcohol-related assault to the police (1998/2000 BCS)

Percentages	Alcohol related assault		Not alcohol related assault	
	Stranger	Acquaintance	Stranger	Acquaintance
Reported to the police	39	37	39	28
Reported by victim	10	12	14	15
Reported by household member	2	3	2	2
Reported by other person	10	13	11	9
Police were there at time	13	6	13	1
Police found out another way	3	2	0	1
Base N	289	334	184	352
Main reasons did not report				
Too trivial /not worth reporting	42	29	31	27
Dealt with the matter myself	23	28	21	29
Police could have done nothing	14	14	26	10
Police would not have been interested	14	11	19	11
Private, personal matter	7	20	8	17
Reported to other authorities	5	6	17	23
Base N	181	207	105	240

Notes:

1. Source: 1998 and 2000 British Crime Survey. Sweeps combined to improve the reliability of results.

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