

The use of ACORN classifications and the Index of Deprivation in British Crime Survey analysis

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Outline

- Differences in crime and perceptions across local areas from BCS data
- ACORN and the BCS
- IMD and the BCS

The British Crime Survey

- Public experience of victimisation
 - Alternative to recorded crime – ‘dark figure’
- Specific focus on victimisation – household and personal crimes
- From 2001, annual rolling survey of approx 46,000 aged 16+ in England and Wales
 - Soon to include under 16 in sample

Geographic variations in crime and perceptions

- Patterns of crime and perceptions identified across various geographic units
 - Government Office Region – latterly PFA
 - Rural/urban areas
 - Level of disorder
 - ACORN
 - IMD areas

Government Office Region

Table 6b: BCS victimisation by English region and Wales, 2007/08

English Region and Wales	Risk of household	Risk of personal	Rate of burglary	vehicle-related theft	Rate of violent crime
<i>Compared with England and Wales</i>					
North East	Higher	-	-	-	-
North West	Higher	-	-	-	-
Yorkshire and the Humber	Higher	-	-	-	-
East Midlands	-	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-
England	Lower	-	Lower	Lower	Lower
London	-	Higher	-	Higher	-
South East	-	-	-	-	-
South West	Lower	Lower	-	Lower	-
Wales	Lower	Lower	-	Lower	-

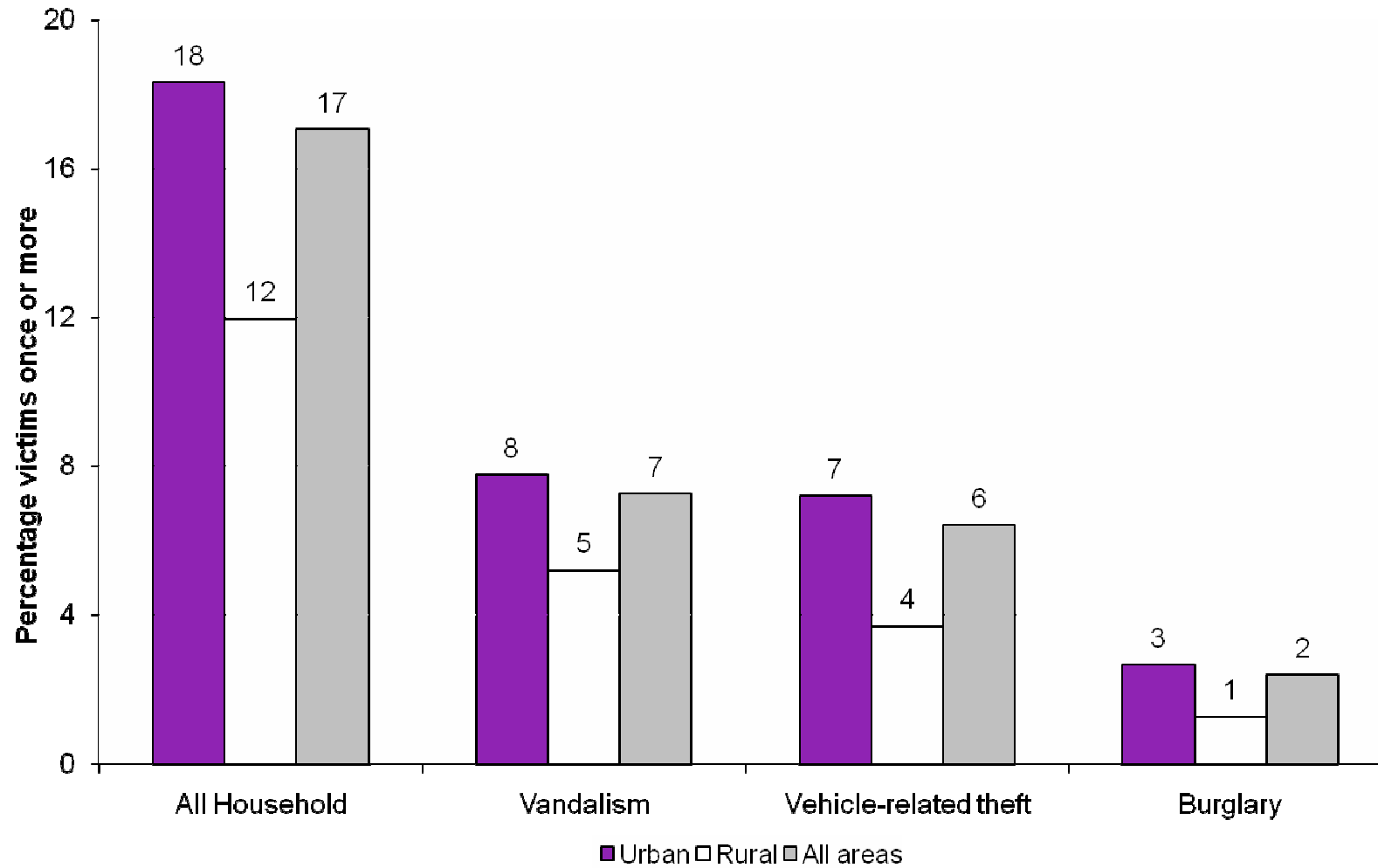
Government Office Region

Worry

6.02 Worry about crime by English region and Wales 2007/08

English Region and Wales	Worry about burglary (%)	Worry about car crime (%)	Worry about violent crime (%)
North East	10	12	25
North West and the Humber	13*	14*	17*
East Midlands	11	12	12*
West Midlands	13*	14*	16
East of England	14*	15*	19*
London	9*	9*	13*
South East	17*	16*	22*
South West	9*	10*	13*
Wales	7*	8*	8*
<i>England and Wales</i>	10	12	12*
	12	12	15

Rural/urban areas



Level of Disorder

Crime by level of disorder, 2007/08

Level of disorder	Violence (%)	Burglary (%)	Vehicle theft (%)	Vandalism (%)
High	5.1	5.1	10.5	9.4
Not high	3.1	2.2	6.2	7.3

Perceptions by level of disorder, 2007/08

Level of disorder	ASB (%)	Worry about burglary (%)	Worry about car crime (%)	Worry about violent crime (%)
High	41	21	21	23
Not high	15	11	12	14

ACORN and the BCS

- Alternative picture offered by ACORN (CACI Ltd)
 - Census and other sources
 - The social environment in which houses are located
- Further detail on area types that are prone to crime and fear
- Broad enough groupings to ensure sufficient samples in each
 - Particularly important when sample size much smaller

ACORN in detail

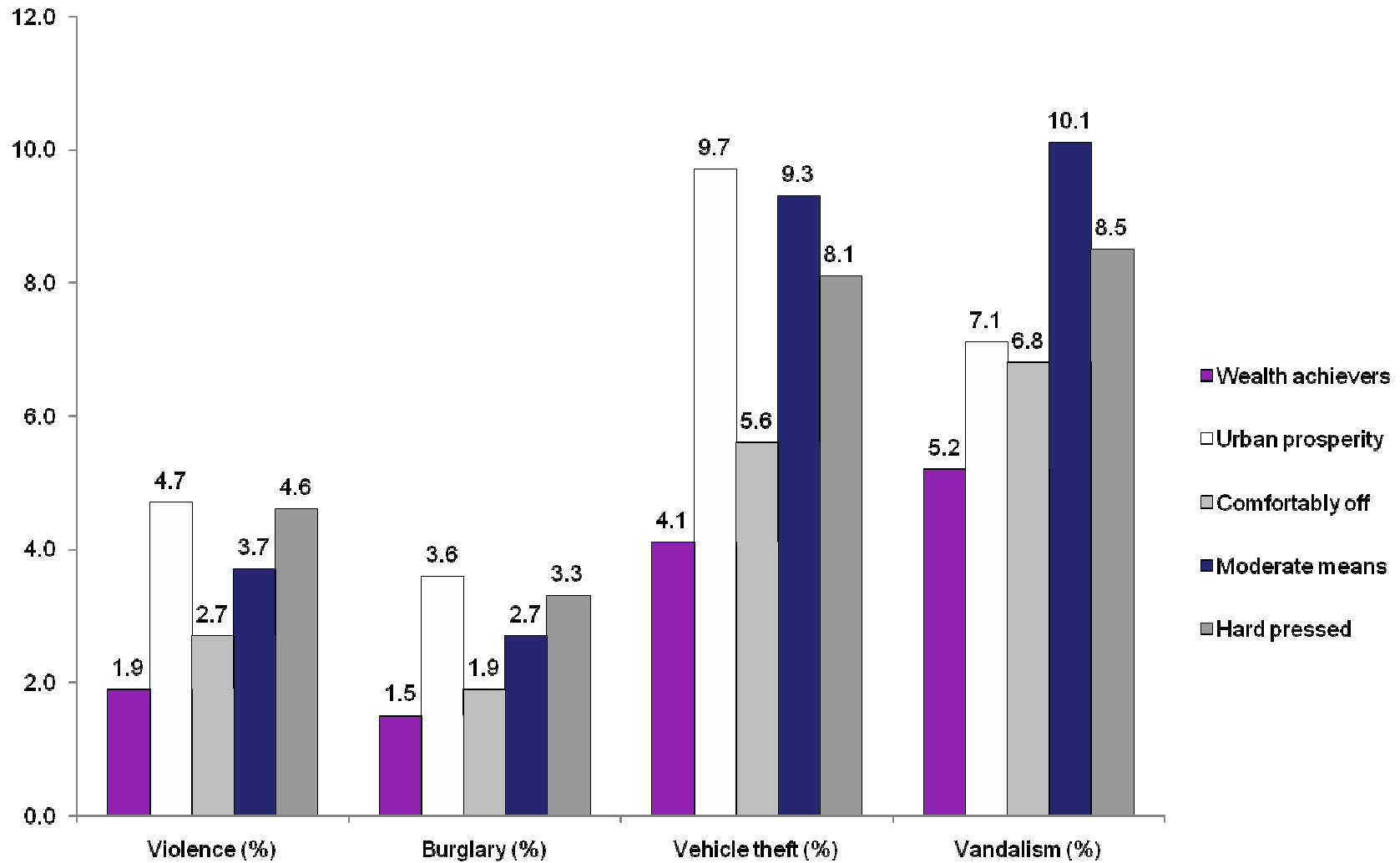
- **Wealthy achievers** – wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families
- **Urban prosperity** – prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas
- **Comfortably off** – young couples, secure families, older couples living in the suburbs and pensioners
- **Moderate means** – Asian communities, post-industrial families and skilled manual workers
- **Hard pressed** – low income families, residents in council areas, people living in high rise and inner city estates

ACORN and crime

Crime by ACORN, 2007/08

ACORN group	Violence (%)	Burglary (%)	Vehicle theft (%)	Vandalism (%)
Wealth				
achievers	1.9	1.5	4.1	5.2
Urban				
prosperity	4.7	3.6	9.7	7.1
Comfortably off	2.7	1.9	5.6	6.8
Moderate				
means	3.7	2.7	9.3	10.1
Hard pressed	4.6	3.3	8.1	8.5

ACORN and crime

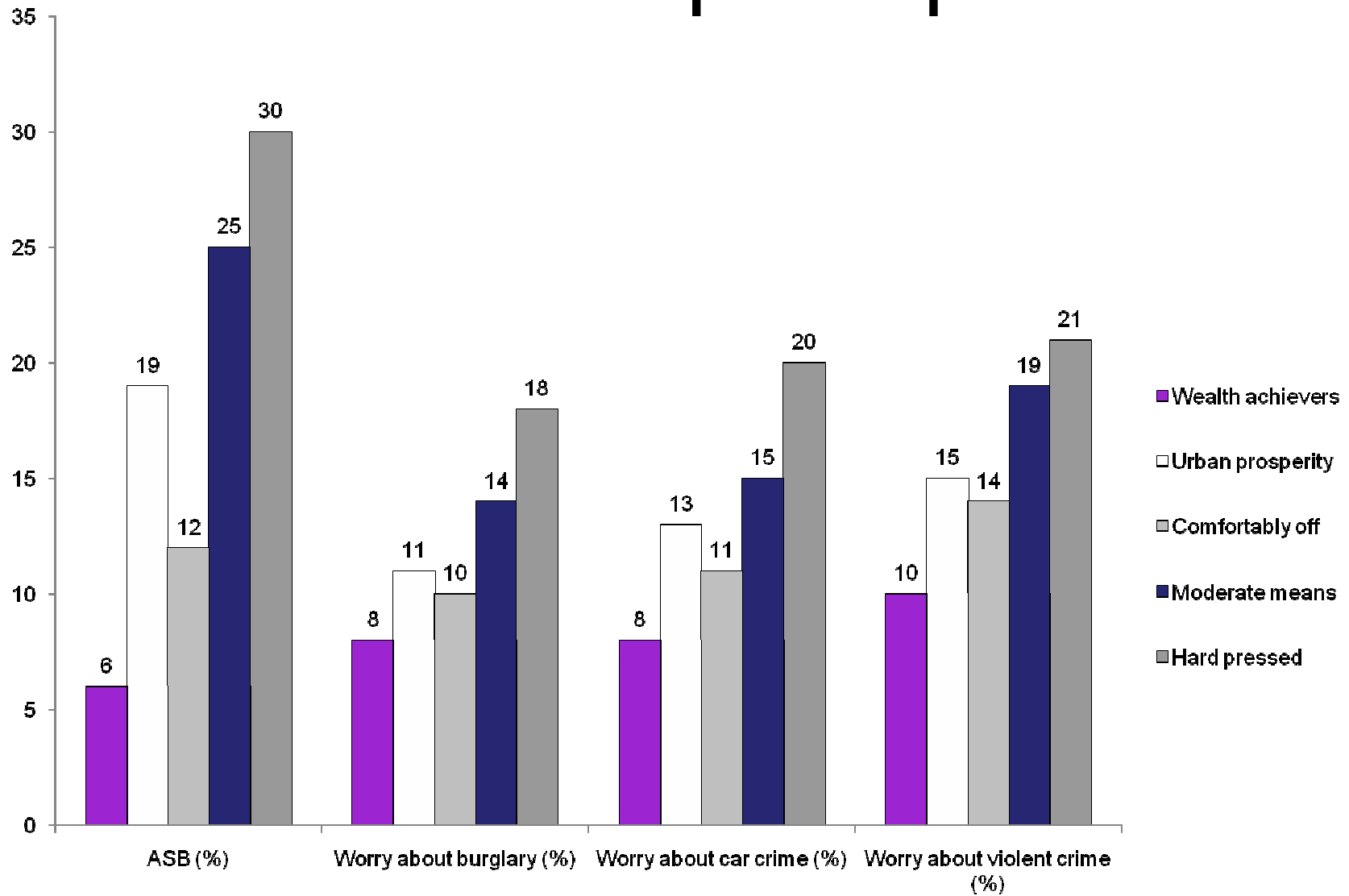


ACORN and perceptions

Perceptions by ACORN, 2007/08

ACORN group	ASB (%)	Worry		
		Worry about burglary (%)	about car crime (%)	Worry about violent crime (%)
Wealth				
achievers	6	8	8	10
Urban				
prosperity	19	11	13	15
Comfortably off				
Moderate	12	10	11	14
means	25	14	15	19
Hard pressed				
	30	18	20	21

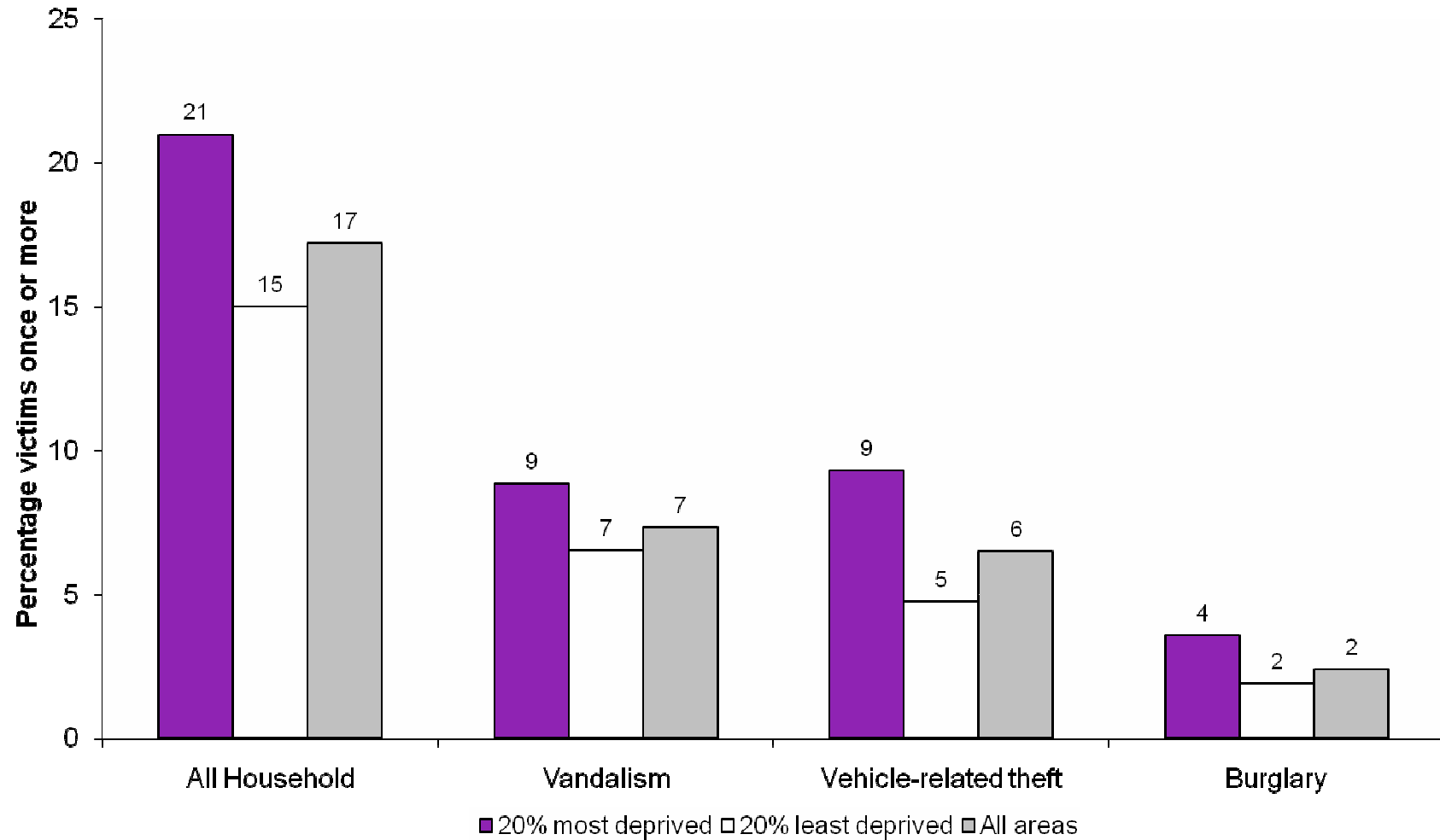
ACORN and perceptions



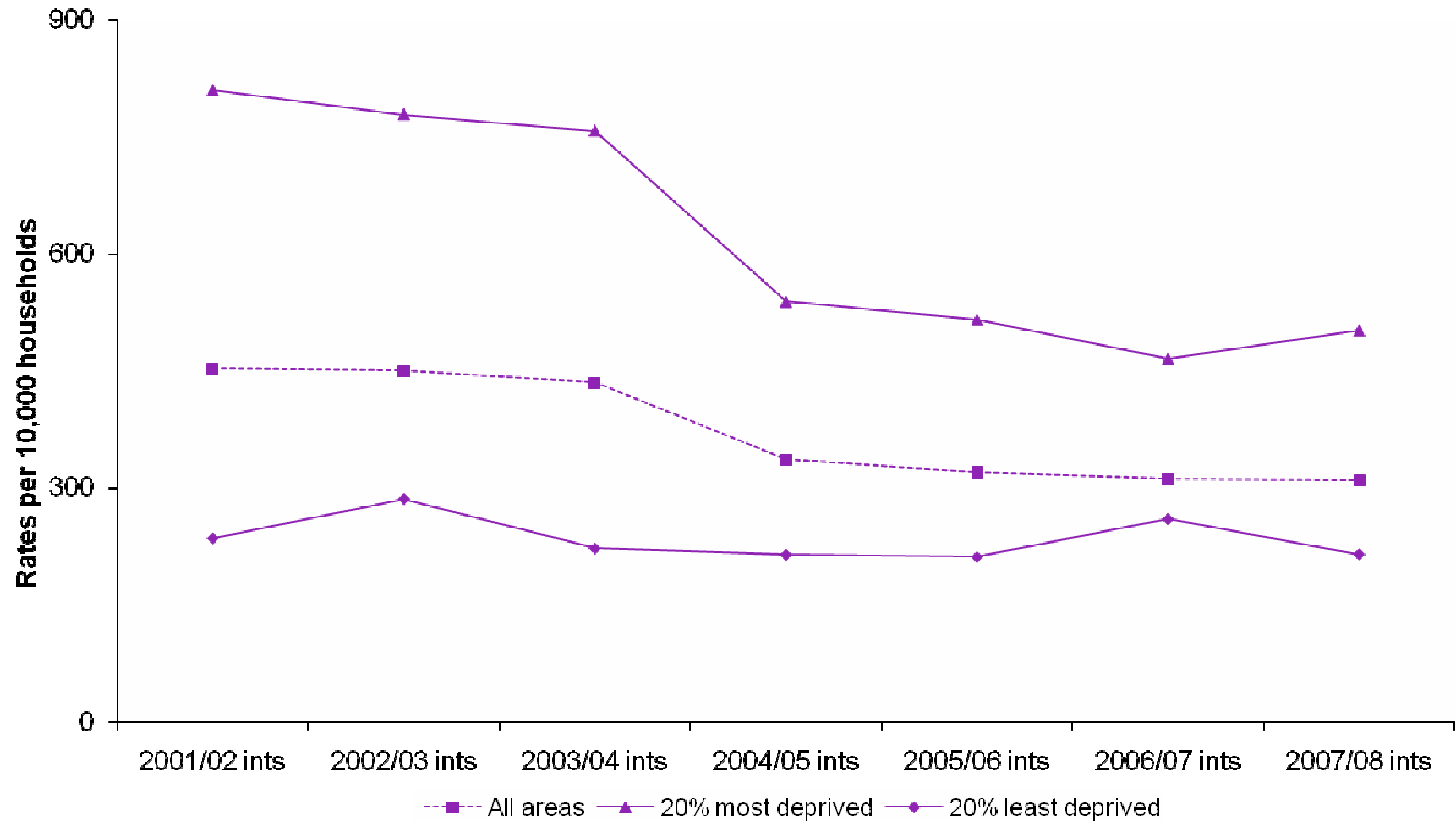
IMD and the BCS

- Variations also reported based on indices of deprivation
- 7 domains combined to form general index
 - Income, employment, health, education, skills, housing, environment, crime
 - BCS uses employment
- Trends over time in IMD areas
 - Identify 20% most and least deprived LSOA
 - Link to BCS sample since 2001

Variations in crime by level of deprivation



Rate of burglary by level of deprivation (2001-2007)



Summary

- Clear geographic variations regularly identified with the BCS
- ACORN used to provide additional detail
- Identifies similar pattern of variations
- IMD also identifies distinctions in levels of crime between most and least deprived

- Kershaw, C., Nicholas, S., and Walker, A. (2008) 'Crime in England and Wales 2007/08. Findings from the British Crime Survey and Police Recorded Crime'. Home Office
- Rural/urban – <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>
- ACORN - <http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn/>
- IMD - <http://www.communities.gov.uk>