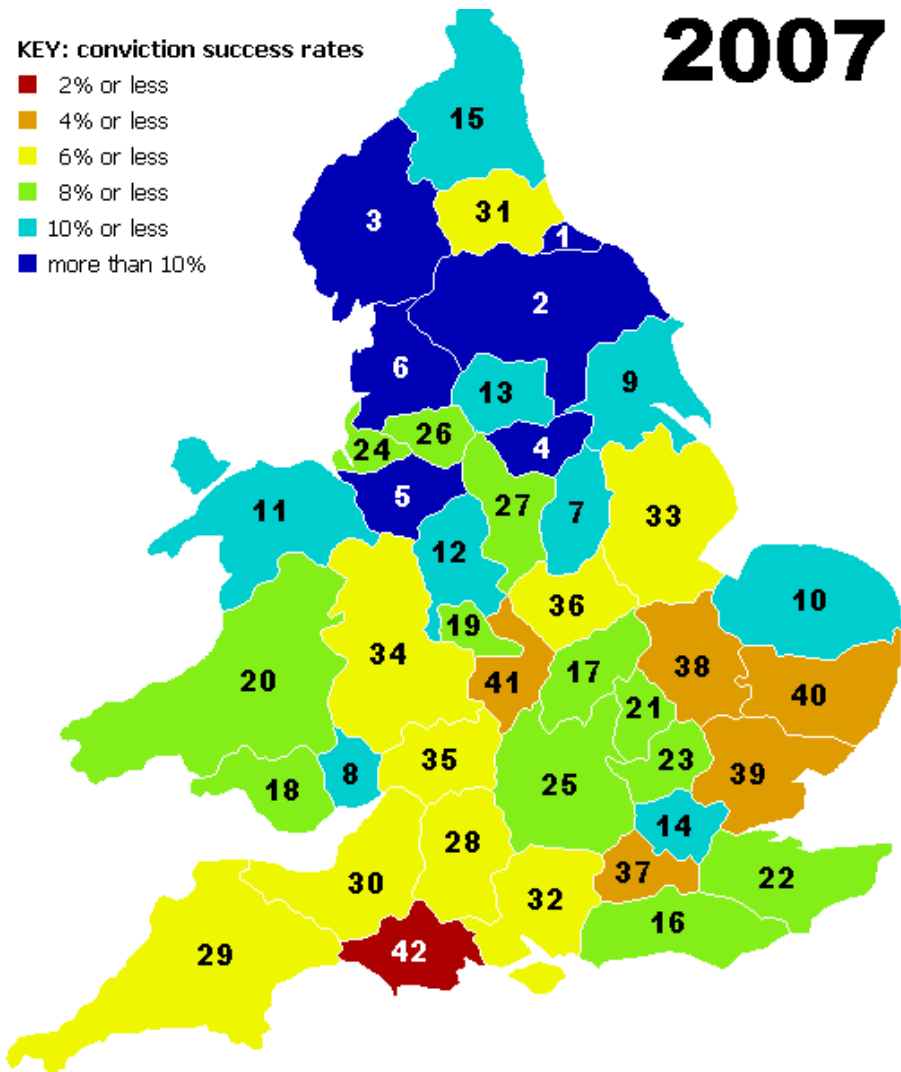


# RAPE CONVICTION RATES IN ENGLAND & WALES

Analysis of Home Office data shows the gulf between reported cases of rape and those that end with a conviction. In 1980, one in three reported rapes ended in convictions. Today only one in 20 does. Only about half of reported rapes get past the initial police investigation stage and a quarter end up being reported as no crime having taken place. As the map and table below demonstrate, success rates vary widely between police forces.

## A Resource for Developing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)

Published jointly by the Department of Health, Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers this guide replaces the National Services Guidelines for Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) and Getting Started.

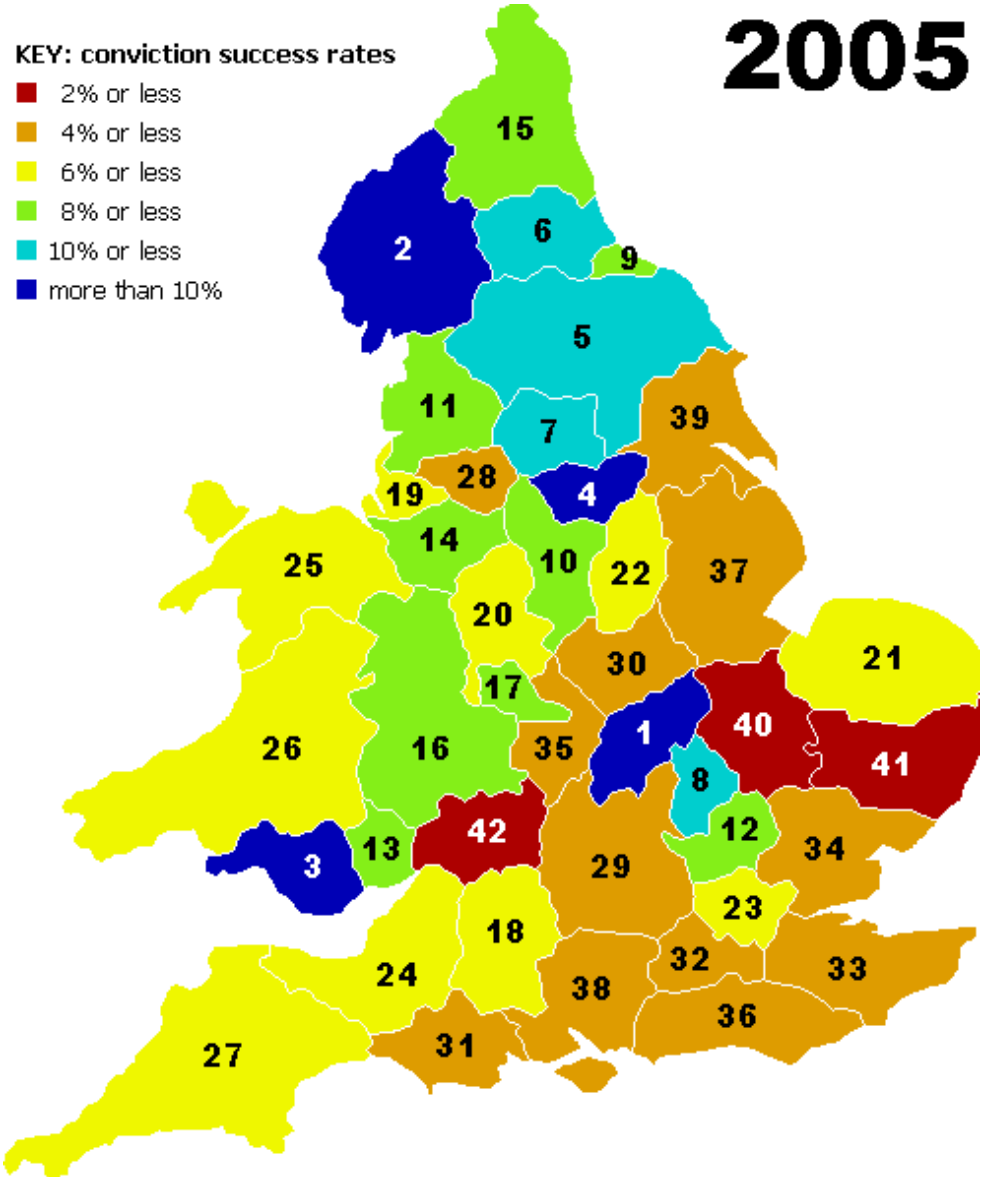




# 2005

**KEY: conviction success rates**

- 2% or less
- 4% or less
- 6% or less
- 8% or less
- 10% or less
- more than 10%



Rape Conviction Rates - 2007		Rape Convictions Rates - 2006		Rape Convictions Rates - 2005	
Police Force	Rate	Police Force	Rate	Police Force	Rate
1 Cleveland Police	18.1%	1 Cleveland Police	13.2%	1 Northamptonshire Police	13.79%
2 North Yorkshire Police	15.4%	2 Lancashire Constabulary	11.2%	2 Cumbria Constabulary	12.79%
3 Cumbria Constabulary	12.3%	3 Cheshire Constabulary	11.1%	3 South Wales Police	12.18%
4 South Yorkshire Police	11.5%	4 South Yorkshire Police	9.6%	4 South Yorkshire Police	10.74%
5 Cheshire Constabulary	10.4%	5 Humberside Police	9.4%	5 North Yorkshire Police	9.74%
6 Lancashire Constabulary	10.3%	6 Norfolk Constabulary	9.2%	6 Durham Constabulary	9.18%
7 Nottinghamshire Police	10.0%	7 North Yorkshire Police	9.0%	7 West Yorkshire Police	8.70%
8 Gwent Police	9.7%	8 Derbyshire Constabulary	8.6%	8 Bedfordshire Police	8.33%
9 Humberside Police	9.7%	9 Cumbria Constabulary	8.3%	9 Cleveland Police	7.75%
10 Norfolk Constabulary	9.6%	10 Wiltshire Constabulary	8.3%	10 Derbyshire Constabulary	7.55%
11 North Wales Police	8.5%	11 Gloucestershire Constabulary	7.4%	11 Lancashire Constabulary	7.45%
12 Staffordshire Police	8.5%	12 Northamptonshire Police	7.2%	12 Hertfordshire Constabulary	6.95%
13 West Yorkshire Police	8.3%	13 Dorset Police	7.0%	13 Gwent Police	6.48%
14 Metropolitan Police	8.2%	14 West Yorkshire Police	7.0%	14 Cheshire Constabulary	6.44%
15 Northumbria Police	8.1%	15 Northumbria Police	6.9%	15 Northumbria Police	6.35%
16 Sussex Police	7.5%	16 Greater Manchester Police	6.6%	16 West Mercia Constabulary	6.20%
17 Northamptonshire Police	7.1%	17 Durham Constabulary	6.6%	17 West Midlands Police	6.19%
18 South Wales Police	7.1%	18 Metropolitan Police	6.4%	18 Wiltshire Constabulary	6.00%
19 West Midlands Police	7.1%	19 Nottinghamshire Police	6.4%	19 Merseyside Police	5.58%
20 Dyfed Powys Police	6.9%	20 West Mercia Constabulary	6.3%	20 Staffordshire Police	5.33%
21 Bedfordshire Police	6.7%	21 Suffolk Constabulary	6.0%	21 Norfolk Constabulary	5.13%
22 Kent Police	6.6%	22 South Wales Police	5.9%	22 Nottinghamshire Police	4.91%
23 Hertfordshire Constabulary	6.5%	23 West Midlands Police	5.9%	23 Metropolitan Police	4.88%
24 Merseyside Police	6.5%	24 Merseyside Police	5.8%	24 Avon & Somerset Constabulary	4.76%
25 Thames Valley Police	6.5%	25 Warwickshire Police	5.8%	25 North Wales Police	4.71%
26 Greater Manchester Police	6.1%	26 Kent Police	5.5%	26 Dyfed Powys Police	4.55%
27 Derbyshire Constabulary	6.0%	27 Thames Valley Police	5.3%	27 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	4.01%
28 Wiltshire Constabulary	6.0%	28 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	5.2%	28 Greater Manchester Police	3.98%
29 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary	5.6%	29 Gwent Police	5.1%	29 Thames Valley Police	3.97%
30 Avon & Somerset Constabulary	5.2%	30 Lincolnshire Police	5.0%	30 Leicestershire Constabulary	3.85%
31 Durham Constabulary	4.5%	31 Hampshire Constabulary	4.8%	31 Dorset Police	3.66%
32 Hampshire Constabulary	4.5%	32 Hertfordshire Constabulary	4.4%	32 Surrey Police	3.65%
33 Lincolnshire Police	4.5%	33 Avon & Somerset Constabulary	4.2%	33 Kent Police	3.55%
34 West Mercia Constabulary	4.5%	34 Essex Police	4.0%	34 Essex Police	3.49%
35 Gloucestershire Constabulary	4.4%	35 North Wales Police	3.7%	35 Warwickshire Police	3.41%
36 Leicestershire Constabulary	4.4%	36 Staffordshire Police	3.5%	36 Sussex Police	3.35%
37 Surrey Police	3.6%	37 Surrey	3.5%	37 Lincolnshire Police	3.06%
38 Cambridgeshire Constabulary	3.1%	38 Bedfordshire Police	3.2%	38 Hampshire Constabulary	2.98%
39 Essex Police	3.1%	39 Cambridgeshire Constabulary	3.2%	39 Humberside Police	2.85%
40 Suffolk Constabulary	3.1%	40 Sussex Police	3.2%	40 Cambridgeshire Constabulary	1.75%
41 Warwickshire Police	2.9%	41 Dyfed Powys Police	3.1%	41 Suffolk Constabulary	1.60%
42 Dorset Police	1.6%	42 Leicestershire Constabulary	2.8%	42 Gloucestershire Constabulary	0.86%

### Summary of figures for 2007

Rape conviction rate figures for 2007 demonstrate a growing gap between police force areas - women who report rape are more than eleven times more likely to secure a conviction for rape in some areas than others:

In Cleveland almost one in five reported rapes led to a conviction for rape

In Dorset, less than one in sixty women who report rape secured a conviction for rape.

Worryingly, the rape conviction rates between 2006 and 2007 fell in 16 out of 42 police force areas.

Some police force areas have demonstrated that improvement is possible - Cleveland continued to improve since 2004: 7.75% (2004); 13.2% (2006); and 18.1% (2007).

However, in many forces performance remains poor - 12 police force areas, more than one in four, had a rape conviction rate of less than five percent in 2007.

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### **Summary of figures for 2006**

In some areas women who report rape are almost five times less likely to achieve a conviction than in others.

In Leicestershire, less than one in thirty five women who report rape secure a conviction. In Cleveland, one in seven reported rapes are convicted.

The conviction rate has got worse in 18 out of 43 police areas since 2004.

In many areas, convictions rates have dropped dramatically, falling by over 60% in Bedfordshire.

Detailed statistics presented by The Fawcett Society are shown in the document and map linked below:

[Regional rape convictions rates in England and Wales 2004-2006 \(PDF 65kB\)](#)

[Map showing regional rape conviction rates 2006 \(PDF 317kB\)](#)

Katherine Rake, Director of the Fawcett Society, said:

"These disturbing figures reveal that women face a postcode lottery when reporting rape to the police. It is entirely unacceptable that the standard of service rape victims receive is dependent on where they live."

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### **Summary of figures for 2005**

14,192 total number of reported rapes overall

2,689 total number of prosecutions

751 total number of convictions

5.2% Average conviction rate

80,418 estimated number of unreported rapes from British Crime Survey



1,225 total rape cases in 1980



14,449 total rape cases in 2005

For more statistical information, please visit: [www.crimestatistics.org.uk](http://www.crimestatistics.org.uk)

For more information, please visit: [www.cer.truthaboutrape.co.uk](http://www.cer.truthaboutrape.co.uk)