



Statistical Bulletin

Criminal Justice Series

CrJ/2006/6

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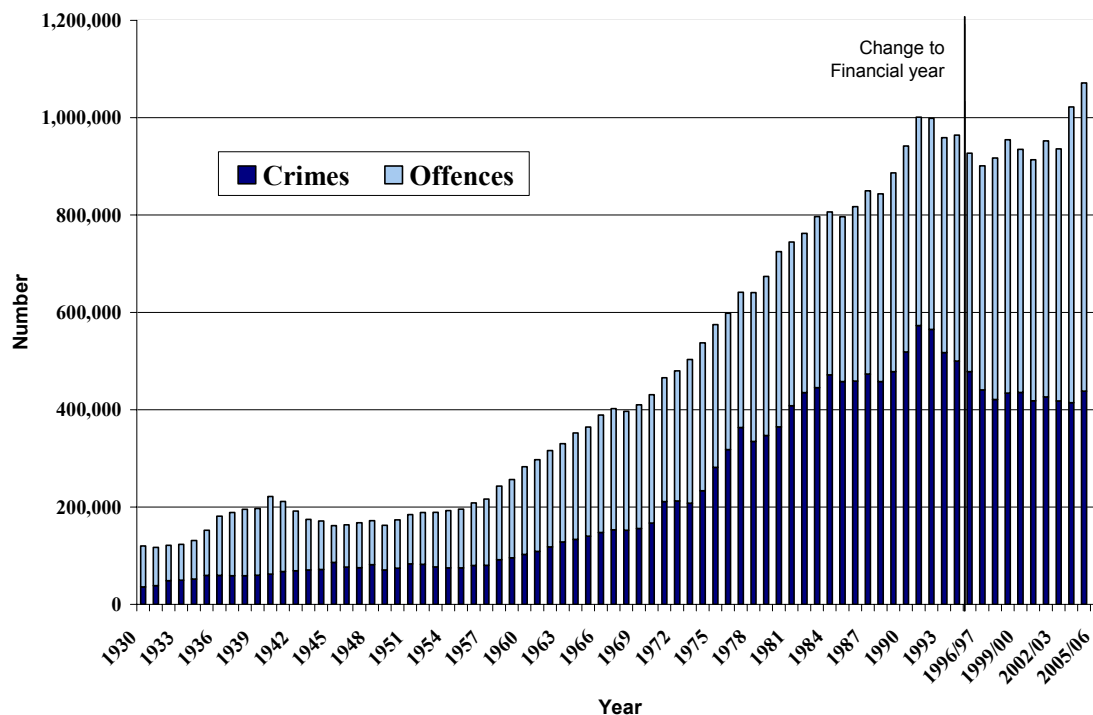
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RECORDED CRIME IN SCOTLAND, 2005/06

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This bulletin presents statistics on crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the eight Scottish police forces in 2005/06. It forms part of the Scottish Executive series of statistical bulletins on the criminal justice system. Statistics on crimes and offences recorded by the police provide a measure of the volume of crime with which the police are faced.
- 1.2 Data from 2004/05 onwards shows the impact of the implementation of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS), which was expected to increase the numbers of minor crimes recorded by the police, such as minor crimes of vandalism and minor thefts. However, it was expected that the SCRS would not have much impact on the figures for the more serious crimes such as serious assault, sexual assault, robbery or housebreaking.

Chart 1 Crimes and offences recorded by the police 1930 -1994 then 1995/96 – 2005/06



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2. Main points

- The total number of crimes recorded by the police decreased by 5 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06. In 2005/06, the Scottish police recorded 417,785 crimes.
- The number of *non-sexual crimes of violence* recorded by the police decreased by 7 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06, to a total of 13,726.
- The number of *crimes of indecency* decreased by 10 per cent, from 7,324 in 2004/05 to 6,558, the lowest total in 4 years.
- Within the *indecency* group, recorded cases of rape & attempted rape increased by 5 per cent to reach 1,161, the highest number ever recorded. This reflects continued pro-active efforts by police to encourage the reporting of such crimes, and the continued reporting of historical crimes.
- The number of *crimes of dishonesty* decreased for the seventh consecutive year to stand at 187,798 cases in 2005/06. Only one category of crimes of dishonesty showed an increase, theft by opening a lockfast place.
- Recorded cases of *vandalism* (including fire-raising and malicious mischief) decreased by 1 per cent to total 127,889 in 2005/06. There had been a significant increase in the numbers of cases of vandalism recorded in 2004/05, following the introduction of the SCRS.
- The clear-up rates in 2005/06 for all crime groups show little change to those for 2004/05, with the exception of that for *vandalism*, which has increased by one and a half percentage points.
- In 2005/06 the police recorded 593,816 offences, a decrease of 6 per cent from the number in 2004/05. This was largely due to a decrease in speeding offences.
- Seven of the 8 forces showed a decrease in the number of crimes recorded in 2005/06 compared to 2004/05, ranging from 2 per cent to 13 per cent. The number of crimes recorded in Grampian rose slightly, by under 2 per cent.

3. Commentary: Introduction

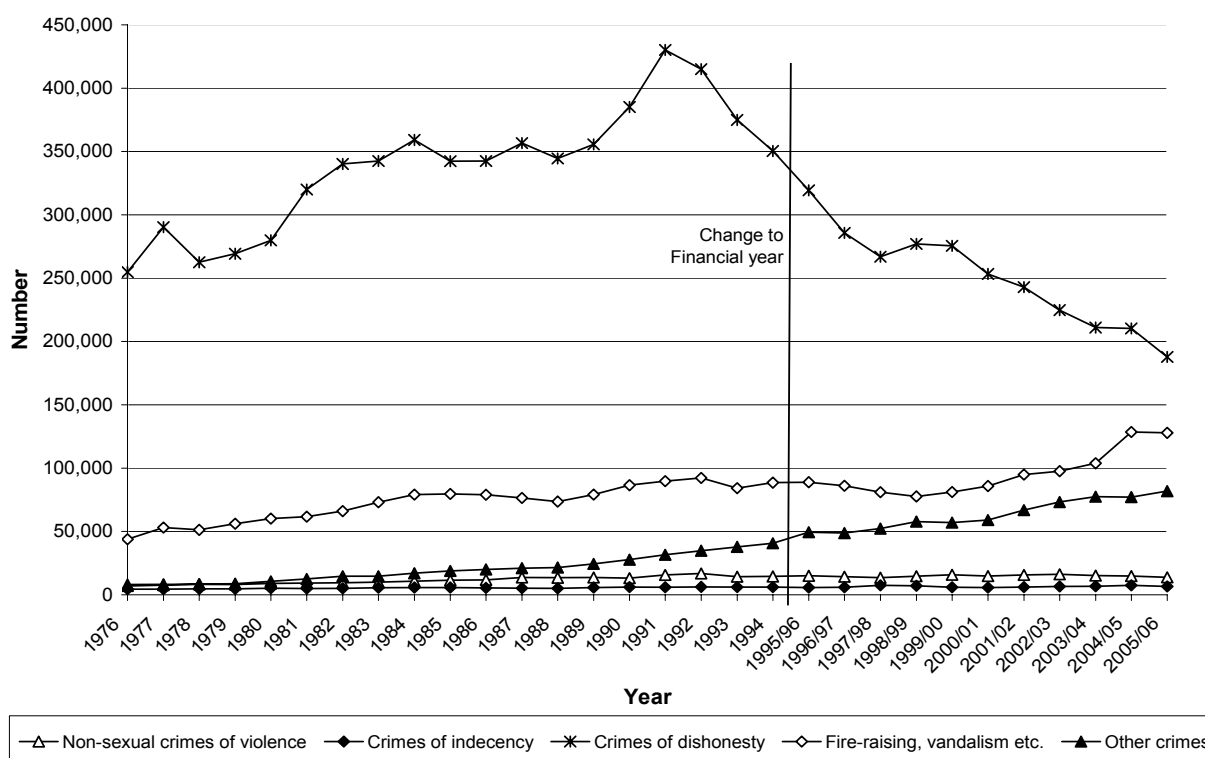
3.1 Trends in the recorded crime figures since 2004/05 have been affected by the introduction of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) which, as anticipated, increased the numbers of minor crimes recorded by the police, such as minor crimes of vandalism and minor thefts.

3.2 Unfortunately it was not possible to estimate the exact impact of the new recording standard on the recorded crime figures because, around the time that the new standard was implemented, police also introduced centralised call centres which encouraged the reporting of incidents to the police. It had been hoped that the underlying trends in crime would be monitored through a new, much larger, Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey (SCVS). Unfortunately, this has not proved possible.

4. Commentary: Recorded crime in Scotland

4.1 The total number of crimes recorded by the police in 2005/06 was 417,785, 5 per cent less than in 2004/05 (see chart 1 and table 1). Apart from an increase in 2004/05, an anticipated effect of the introduction of the SCRS, levels of recorded crimes have generally been decreasing, and 2003/04 was the only year with a lower level of recorded crime for nearly a quarter of a century.

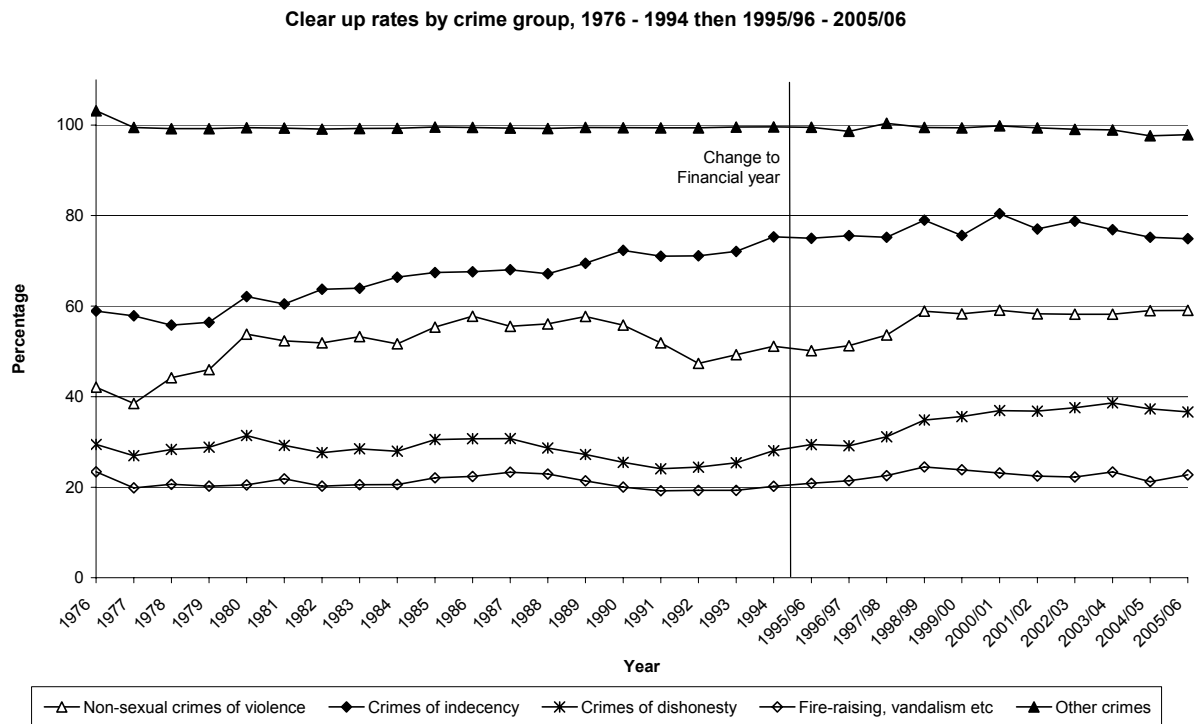
Chart 2 Crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976 - 1994 then 1995/96 - 2005/06



- 4.2 The number of *non-sexual crimes of violence* recorded by the police decreased by a further 7 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06, to total 13,726, which is the lowest level since 1997/98 (see chart 2 and table 1). Within this category recorded robberies decreased by 5 per cent to total 3,553, the lowest level for over 25 years. Other non-sexual crimes of violence decreased by 6 per cent from 3,224 to 3,022, while the number of serious assaults etc. (which includes crimes of murder and attempted murder) recorded decreased by 8 per cent to 7,151, with Strathclyde accounting for most of the decrease.
- 4.3 The number of crimes in the *indecent* group decreased from 7,324 in 2004/05 to 6,558 in 2005/06, a 10 per cent decrease (see chart 2 and table 1). Within this group recorded cases of rape and attempted rape increased by 5 per cent to reach 1,161, the highest number ever recorded. This partially reflects pro-active efforts by the police to encourage the reporting of such crimes, including those that have occurred in the past. Cases of indecent assault increased by 1 per cent to 1,508 in 2005/06 and the number of crimes of lewd and indecent behaviour decreased by 5 per cent to 2,651 in 2005/06. The number of crimes recorded in the “other” sub-group decreased by 36 per cent to total 1,238 in 2005/06.
- 4.4 The number of *crimes of dishonesty* decreased for the seventh consecutive year, by 11 per cent, to stand at 187,798 cases in 2005/06 (see chart 2 and table 1). Three categories of crimes of dishonesty showed particularly large decreases. These were housebreaking, theft from a motor vehicle by opening a lockfast place and fraud. The number of housebreakings fell by 10 per cent during 2005/06, reflecting decreases in both domestic and non-domestic premises, and at 31,319 is nearly one half of the level recorded in the early 1990’s. Thefts from motor vehicles decreased by 19 per cent to 16,453 and frauds decreased by 40 per cent to 11,074. It is thought that one major reason for this has been the introduction of ‘chip and pin’.
- 4.5 Recorded cases of *vandalism* (including fire-raising and malicious mischief) decreased by one per cent to total 127,889 in 2005/06 (see chart 2 and table 1).
- 4.6 Within the *other crimes* group, crimes of handling an offensive weapon increased by 1 per cent to 9,628 in 2005/06 (see chart 2 and table 1). Recorded drugs crimes increased by 6 per cent from 41,823 in 2004/05 to 44,247 in 2005/06, following a small reverse in 2004/05 in the trend seen over the last few years. The 8 per cent increase in crimes against public justice reflects an increase in the granting (and enforcement of) additional bail conditions in order to provide safeguards over and above the standard bail conditions.

4.7 The number of crimes cleared up by the police decreased by 2 per cent from 195,203 in 2004/05 to 190,918 in 2005/06 (see chart 3 and table A1), although this is in the context of an overall decrease in the number of crimes recorded. Clear up rates for the different crime groups mentioned previously show little change to those for 2004/05, with the exception of that for *vandalism*, which has increased by one and a half percentage points.

Chart 3 Clear up rates for crimes recorded by the police by crime group, 1976 - 1994 then 1995/96 - 2005/06



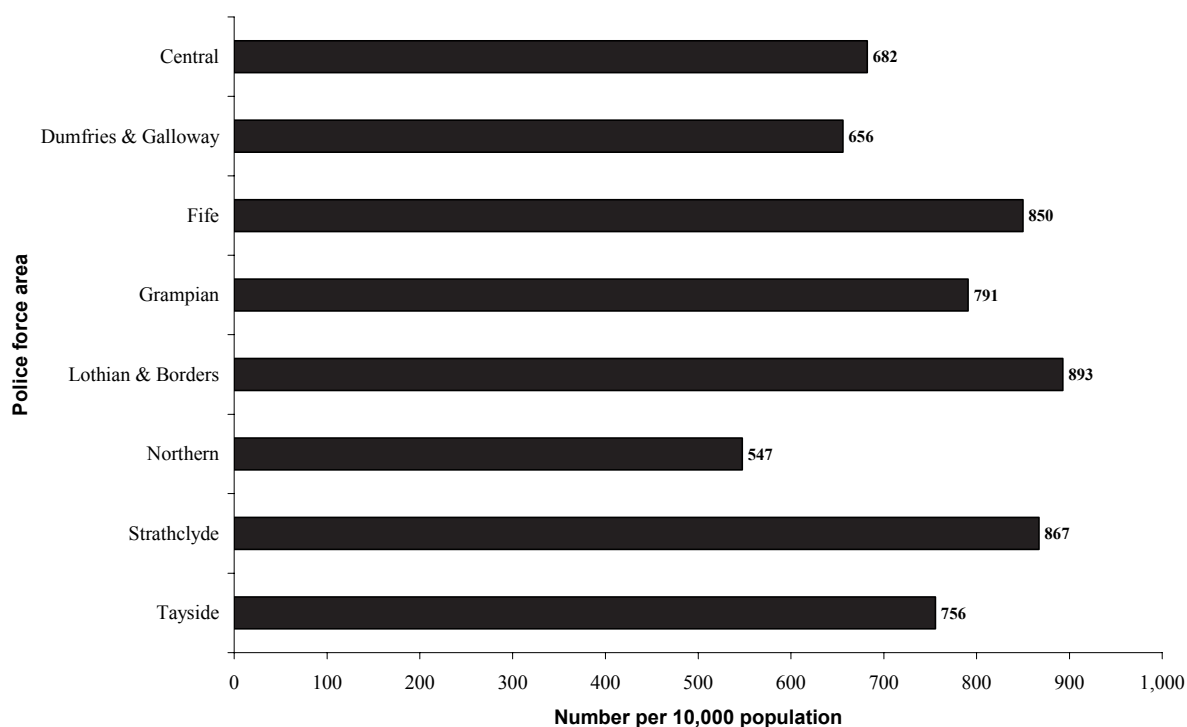
4.8 The number of offences recorded by the police decreased by 6 per cent from 632,982 in 2004/05 to 593,816 in 2005/06, with an increase in only one of the four categories of miscellaneous offences (see chart 1 and table 2). This was largely due to significant increases in the number of offences recorded of urinating and consumption of alcohol in designated places. Motor vehicle offences recorded declined overall, largely due to a decrease of 20 per cent in recorded speeding offences.

5 Commentary: Recorded crimes and offences by police force

5.1 Central

The total number of crimes recorded in the Central police force area decreased by 2 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 to 19,423 (see table 5). There has been a decrease of 9 per cent in crimes of dishonesty, but an increase of 157 recorded crimes of indecency (64 per cent), due to the continued impact of historical reporting, with over 40 per cent of these crimes being historical in nature.

Chart 4 Total number of crimes recorded per 10,000 population in 2005/06 by police force area



5.2 Dumfries & Galloway

Crimes recorded in the Dumfries & Galloway police force area decreased overall by 9 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 to total 9,732 (see table 5). There were decreases in most crime groups, particularly crimes of dishonesty (22 per cent). Increases were seen in crimes of indecency, where again there was a high proportion of historical reporting (increasing from 21 per cent in 2004/05 to 40 per cent in 2005/06), and other crimes. The number of miscellaneous offences recorded decreased by 9 per cent.

5.3 Fife

The number of crimes recorded in the Fife police area decreased by 13 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 to total 30,319 (see table 5), particularly in crimes of dishonesty (19 per cent). This has been attributed to the effectiveness of CCTV as a deterrent and the introduction of 'chip and pin'. Increased security regarding motor vehicles and local initiatives encouraging people to be more security conscious have also helped. There was a 7 per cent decrease in miscellaneous offences recorded.

5.4 Grampian

The number of recorded crimes in the Grampian police force area increased by less than 2 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 to total 41,602 crimes (see table 5). Again, the force is seeing a significant level of historical reporting of crimes of indecency, suggesting an increased public confidence and willingness to report such matters to the police. Acquisitive crime in the area is linked to the number of individuals using class 'A' controlled drugs. Proactive measures taken by the force have resulted in a reduction in domestic housebreaking, which may have displaced some activity towards car crime. There has been a decrease of 23 per cent in speeding offences recorded, which can be attributed to the practice of giving prior notice of speed enforcement locations and initiatives, so that offences are prevented rather than detected. The number of vehicle defect offences fell steeply, by 51 per cent, which may be partly as a result

of several high profile media articles throughout the area highlighting the dangers associated with defective vehicles.

5.5 *Lothian & Borders*

Recorded crime in the Lothian & Borders police force area decreased by 4 per cent to total 80,571 (see table 5). There were significant reductions in non-sexual crimes of violence, possibly because of increased police numbers on the street during the G8 summit, and a reduction in historical reporting contributed to a decrease in crimes of indecency. There has been an increase in housebreakings in the city of Edinburgh, possibly because criminals are redirecting their activities from credit card fraud, following the introduction of 'chip and pin'. There has been a significant reduction in speeding offences recorded (29 per cent), which can be largely attributed to a variety of Public Relations and Education Campaigns highlighting the consequences of speeding.

5.6 *Northern*

The number of crimes recorded in the Northern police force area decreased by just under 2 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 to total 15,413 (see table 5). There were reductions in all crime groups apart from 'other crimes', where there was a significant increase in the number of drug crimes recorded. This was due to force initiatives in being more proactive and targeting suppliers in particular. There was an increase in the number of speeding offences recorded, which is thought to be partly due to the targeting of known areas where speeding is likely to occur.

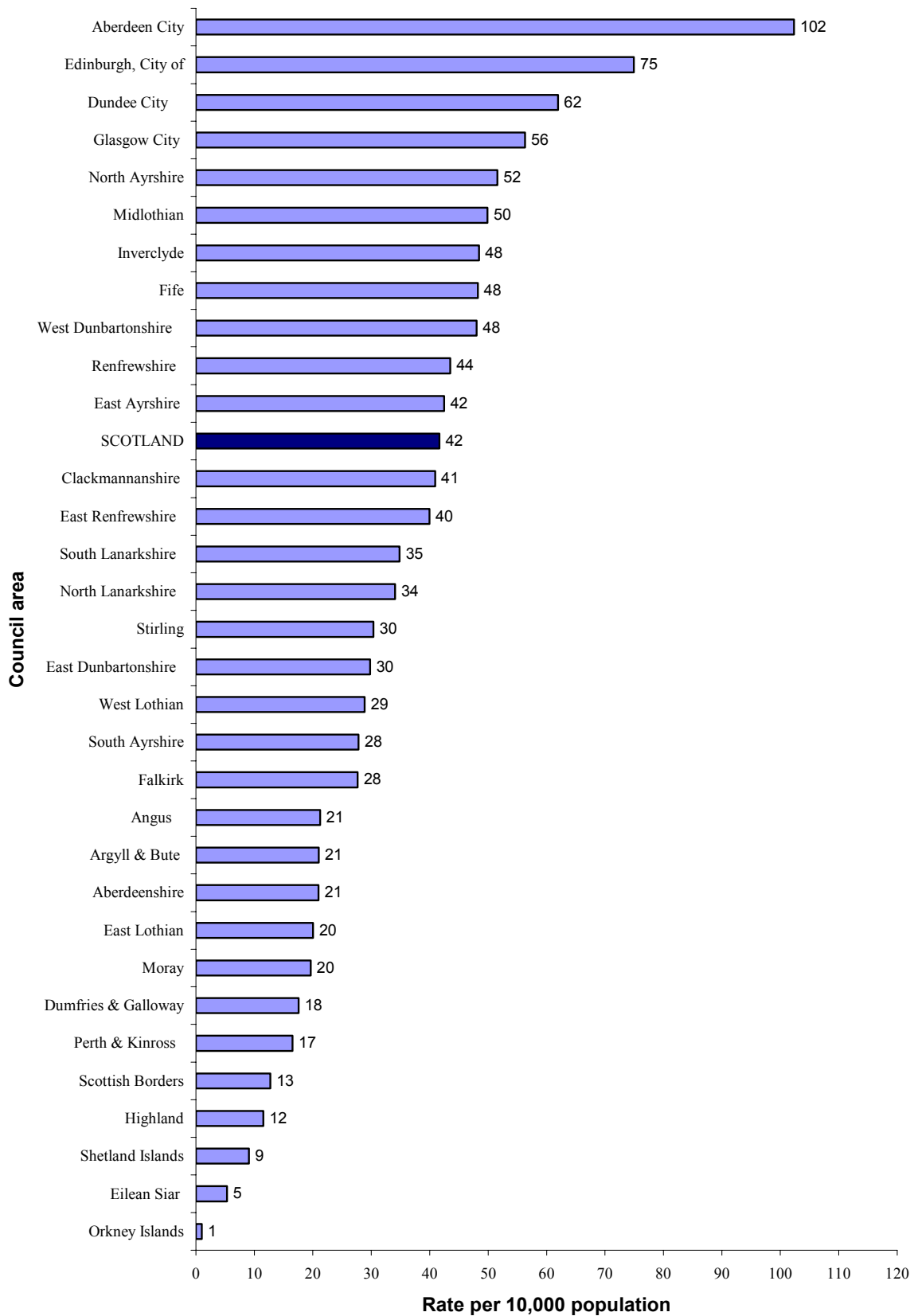
5.7 *Strathclyde*

The number of recorded crimes in the Strathclyde police force area decreased by 4 per cent between 2004/05 and 2005/06 to total 191,273 (see table 5). There were reductions in all crime groups apart from 'other crimes', where there was an increase in crimes against public justice due primarily to an increase in bail offences. There was an increase in 'the miscellaneous offences' category due to an increase in consumption of alcohol in designated areas, which is an indicator of police pro-activity. It is hoped that early intervention can reduce, indirectly, the risk of other more serious crimes such as vandalism, breach of the peace, violence etc.

5.8 *Tayside*

The number of recorded crimes in the Tayside police force area decreased by 8 per cent in 2005/06 to total 29,452 (see table 5). There has been a decrease in non-sexual crimes of violence which was attributable to a proactive approach to alcohol fuelled crimes of violence. This was due to operations involving the police working closely with licensees during the summer months and festive period to ensure as little violence as possible occurred when alcohol had been consumed. There was an increase in crimes of indecency, however a large proportion of this increase is due to historic crimes being reported, some of which happened in the early 1970's.

Chart 5 Number of crimes of domestic housebreaking recorded by the police per 10,000 population in 2005/06



6 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey

- 6.1 The preceding sections of this bulletin described the volume and types of crime recorded and cleared up by the eight police forces in Scotland during 2005/06. The recorded crime series is generally a useful indicator of trends in recorded crime. However, not all crimes are reported to the police and the propensity of the public to report crime to the police also changes over time. Thus, statistics recorded by the police may not accurately reflect the underlying trend in all crime.
- 6.2 Crime surveys can be a useful source of information by providing a fuller picture of the extent of and trends in most types of household and personal victimisation. The information provided by such surveys complements the information compiled by the police forces and provides another useful indicator, as well as exploring other issues such as the impact of crime on victims, public anxieties and reactions to crime and attitudes towards the police and other parts of the criminal justice system. Fieldwork for the 2006 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS), which asks about crimes and offences experienced in 2005/06, is currently underway and results should be available in Summer 2007.
- 6.3 Findings from the 2004 SCVS¹ are summarised in bullet form below. Further details can be found in the summary findings paper available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/07/14152750/0>
- Estimates derived from the 2004 Scottish Crime Survey suggest that around 930,000 crimes were **committed** against individuals and private households in Scotland between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2004. This represents a decrease from the number of crimes captured by the Scottish Crime Survey in 2002, which stood at just over 1 million.
 - According to the survey, over 60 per cent of crimes experienced in 2003/04 were against property; motor vehicle and property vandalism accounts for two thirds of these. The remaining 40 per cent of crimes were committed against individuals. Almost one in four crimes (24%) involved violence, but most of these involved minor assaults, which are almost 10 times more prevalent than serious assaults.
 - Overall, 44 per cent of crimes captured by the survey came to the attention of the police. In about three-quarters of reported incidents, the offence was reported by the respondent or someone else in the household. Where the incident had not been reported to the police, the main reasons given were that the police would not have been able to do anything (35% of unreported incidents), the incident was too trivial (35%) or the police would not have been interested (19%).

¹ This was a face-to-face survey with a national sample of 3,000. It ran alongside a larger telephone survey which was subsequently discontinued for methodological reasons.

Crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table 1

Crime group	Number & Percentage										
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change 04/05 - 05/06
Total crimes	440,687	421,002	434,096	435,481	418,494	426,249	418,281	414,214	438,121	417,785	-5
Non-sexual crimes of violence	14,233	13,394	14,693	15,831	14,812	15,653	16,074	15,187	14,728	13,726	-7
Serious assault etc ¹	6,631	6,195	6,716	7,326	6,892	7,546	7,593	7,514	7,768	7,151	-8
Robbery	5,118	4,551	5,027	4,931	4,293	4,592	4,636	4,161	3,736	3,553	-5
Other ²	2,484	2,648	2,950	3,574	3,627	3,515	3,845	3,512	3,224	3,022	-6
Crimes of indecency	5,941	7,414	7,071	5,882	5,727	5,994	6,623	6,786	7,324	6,558	-10
Rape & Attempted Rape	633	764	797	755	690	788	924	1,037	1,109	1,161	5
Indecent Assault	1,122	1,271	1,348	1,139	1,034	1,249	1,354	1,436	1,497	1,508	1
Lewd and indecent behaviour	2,493	3,016	2,871	2,319	2,356	2,404	2,770	2,593	2,786	2,651	-5
Other	1,693	2,363	2,055	1,669	1,647	1,553	1,575	1,720	1,932	1,238	-36
Crimes of dishonesty	285,785	266,886	276,974	275,557	253,295	242,878	224,785	211,004	210,365	187,798	-11
Housebreaking	61,636	55,636	55,784	52,863	47,729	45,515	40,586	36,432	34,959	31,319	-10
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	8,388	10,512	12,109	11,553	10,606	8,200	7,766	7,405	7,849	8,263	5
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	48,923	39,828	39,476	38,003	32,001	32,659	30,361	26,839	20,403	16,453	-19
Theft of a motor vehicle	32,504	27,857	29,290	28,881	25,555	23,146	20,881	17,604	15,633	14,041	-10
Shoplifting	26,174	26,984	30,766	32,144	32,264	31,570	28,299	27,948	28,534	28,247	-1
Other theft	81,726	79,971	80,107	81,222	76,649	75,951	73,214	72,488	77,586	72,128	-7
Fraud	15,779	16,181	18,368	20,620	20,043	17,395	15,828	15,277	18,307	11,074	-40
Other	10,655	9,917	11,074	10,271	8,448	8,442	7,850	7,011	7,094	6,273	-12
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	86,025	81,036	77,624	81,197	85,781	94,944	97,598	103,732	128,566	127,889	-1
Fire-raising	3,221	2,712	2,470	2,269	2,403	2,910	3,767	4,163	4,698	4,856	3
Vandalism etc	82,804	78,324	75,154	78,928	83,378	92,034	93,831	99,569	123,868	123,033	-1
Other crimes	48,703	52,272	57,734	57,014	58,879	66,780	73,201	77,505	77,138	81,814	6
Crimes against public justice	16,320	16,559	17,701	18,439	18,637	20,881	22,744	25,755	25,615	27,668	8
Handling an offensive weapon	6,513	6,191	7,102	8,084	8,070	9,039	9,362	9,278	9,545	9,628	1
Drugs	25,754	29,435	32,819	30,374	32,081	36,750	40,938	42,275	41,823	44,247	6
Other	116	87	112	117	91	110	157	197	155	271	75

1. See Annex Note 8.5.

2. Figure for 2004/05 revised to take account of amended figures from Grampian

Offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table 2
Number & Percentage
04/05 - 05/06

Offence group	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change 04/05 - 05/06
Total offences	460,416	496,168	520,465	499,405	494,989	526,071	517,545	607,621	632,982	593,816	-6
Miscellaneous offences	149,340	156,587	153,296	151,944	154,853	163,497	169,563	180,963	214,302	219,491	2
Minor Assault ¹	48,281	50,244	51,614	54,568	54,057	55,392	54,956	57,355	73,711	72,281	-2
Breach of the peace	71,469	73,285	71,688	71,332	70,197	72,734	74,690	77,883	89,920	89,615	0
Drunkenness	9,773	9,640	8,358	7,620	7,789	7,764	7,279	7,534	7,234	6,984	-3
Other	19,817	23,418	21,636	18,424	22,810	27,607	32,638	38,191	43,437	50,611	17
Motor vehicle offences	311,076	339,581	367,169	347,461	340,136	362,574	347,982	426,658	418,680	374,325	-11
Dangerous and careless driving	17,145	16,233	15,751	13,247	12,019	12,183	12,680	12,036	13,062	12,956	-1
Drunk driving	11,771	11,118	10,581	10,904	10,758	11,476	11,838	11,571	11,061	11,257	2
Speeding	85,634	95,613	119,692	123,438	113,904	126,760	117,167	199,213	210,120	167,724	-20
Unlawful use of vehicle	78,311	77,300	75,976	80,690	83,272	88,702	92,941	91,271	71,094	69,048	-3
Vehicle defect offences	56,852	62,331	63,822	47,994	46,845	45,512	46,466	37,194	27,022	23,932	-11
Other	61,363	76,986	81,347	71,188	73,338	77,941	66,890	75,373	86,321	89,408	4

1. See Annex Note 8.5.

Crimes and offences cleared up by the police as a percentage of those recorded, Scotland, 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table 3
Percentage

Crime / Offence group	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Total crimes	37	40	43	43	44	45	46	47	45	46
Non-sexual crimes of violence	51	54	59	58	59	58	58	58	59	59
Serious assault etc ¹	57	60	63	63	63	62	60	59	61	61
Robbery	28	28	38	35	39	37	36	39	39	37
Other	84	83	84	79	76	78	81	79	79	81
Crimes of indecency	76	75	79	76	80	77	79	77	75	75
Rape & Attempted Rape	77	71	79	77	80	78	78	75	69	72
Indecent Assault	60	61	68	59	63	62	63	62	61	62
Lewd and indecent behaviour	68	66	71	68	76	72	77	73	73	76
Other	96	96	98	96	98	96	96	95	93	90
Crimes of dishonesty	29	31	35	36	37	37	38	39	37	37
Housebreaking	17	19	23	23	25	24	27	27	25	26
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	22	22	27	28	31	35	36	35	30	37
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	13	13	16	17	18	17	19	20	18	15
Theft of a motor vehicle	25	27	29	32	30	32	36	38	37	37
Shoplifting	77	78	81	79	78	79	78	79	77	77
Other theft	19	20	22	21	21	21	21	22	20	21
Fraud	77	75	78	75	79	81	81	83	80	76
Other	82	88	87	91	93	91	91	85	79	79
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	21	23	24	24	23	22	22	23	21	23
Fire-raising	19	18	24	26	25	26	24	25	22	26
Vandalism etc	22	23	24	24	23	22	22	23	21	23
Other crimes	99	100	99	99	100	99	99	99	98	98
Crimes against public justice	99	100	100	100	100	99	99	99	98	98
Handling an offensive weapon	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	97	97
Drugs	98	101	100	100	100	100	99	99	97	98
Other	78	91	85	85	77	73	78	74	73	85
Miscellaneous offences	89	90	90	89	89	89	89	90	83	84
Minor Assault ¹	75	78	79	78	78	77	76	78	69	70
Breach of the peace	94	95	94	94	94	94	95	94	88	90
Drunkenness	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other	97	98	97	97	97	97	96	96	94	93

1. See Annex 8.5

Crimes and offences recorded by police force area, 2005/06

Table 4a
Number

Crime / Offence group	Central Dumfries & Galloway					Fife		Grampian		Lothian & Borders		Northern		Strathclyde		Tayside		SCOTLAND	
	19,423	9,732	30,319	41,602	80,571	15,413	191,273	29,452	417,785										
Total crimes	489	179	619	889	2,054	481	8,439	576	13,726										
Non-sexual crimes of violence	274	125	324	388	706	282	4,735	317	7,151										
Serious assault etc 1	89	37	183	240	678	40	2,152	134	3,553										
Robbery	126	17	112	261	670	159	1,552	125	3,022										
Other	404	136	479	966	1,170	339	2,541	523	6,558										
Crimes of indecency	70	32	101	126	261	56	409	106	1,161										
Rape & Attempted Rape	99	13	120	174	275	69	630	128	1,508										
Indecent Assault	212	83	220	396	499	151	873	217	2,651										
Lewd and indecent behaviour	23	8	38	270	135	63	629	72	1,238										
Other	8,368	3,870	14,725	21,850	41,962	6,000	76,980	14,043	187,798										
Crimes of dishonesty	1,308	447	2,470	3,870	6,677	480	14,194	1,873	31,319										
Housebreaking	638	208	980	1,157	1,421	323	2,953	583	8,263										
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	445	184	1,139	1,670	4,520	93	7,464	938	16,453										
Theft from a motor vehicle	511	186	874	1,390	3,204	314	6,736	826	14,041										
Theft of a motor vehicle	1,350	759	1,978	3,204	5,150	1,006	11,770	3,030	28,247										
Shoplifting	2,738	1,706	5,795	8,568	17,546	2,715	27,768	5,292	72,128										
Other theft	1,077	212	866	1,120	2,241	744	3,873	941	11,074										
Fraud	301	168	623	871	1,203	325	2,222	560	6,273										
Other	5,923	3,483	10,522	12,082	23,933	4,854	58,973	8,119	127,889										
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	200	126	399	570	895	154	2,215	297	4,856										
Fire-raising	5,723	3,357	10,123	11,512	23,038	4,700	56,758	7,822	123,033										
Vandalism etc	4,239	2,064	3,974	5,815	11,452	3,739	44,340	6,191	81,814										
Other crimes	1,816	899	1,693	1,928	3,993	1,179	13,640	2,520	27,668										
Crimes against public justice	378	137	273	588	1,210	330	6,377	335	9,628										
Handling an offensive weapon	2,033	949	1,992	3,288	6,204	2,229	24,229	3,323	44,247										
Drugs	12	79	16	11	45	1	94	13	271										
Other	32,546	30,068	37,687	55,469	106,438	30,110	242,260	59,238	593,816										
Total offences	9,905	4,923	12,862	21,285	24,997	10,196	120,401	14,922	219,491										
Miscellaneous offences	3,620	1,833	5,377	7,982	12,675	3,256	32,997	4,541	72,281										
Minor Assault 1	4,437	2,318	4,999	10,114	9,324	5,122	46,451	6,850	89,615										
Breach of the peace	127	90	388	275	163	787	4,549	605	6,984										
Drunkennes	1,721	682	2,098	2,914	2,835	1,031	36,404	2,926	50,611										
Other	22,641	25,145	24,825	34,184	81,441	19,914	121,859	44,316	374,325										
Motor vehicle offences	472	550	742	3,417	889	849	4,973	1,064	12,956										
Dangerous and careless driving	580	293	744	1,225	1,753	897	4,743	1,022	11,257										
Drunk driving	7,813	18,584	11,713	16,973	43,763	9,796	36,703	22,379	167,724										
Speeding	3,975	2,293	4,906	5,800	9,448	2,507	33,183	6,936	69,048										
Unlawful use of vehicle	3,724	583	1,566	1,207	5,266	2,507	6,048	3,031	23,932										
Vehicle defect offences	6,077	2,842	5,154	5,562	20,322	3,358	36,209	9,884	89,408										
Other	51,969	39,800	68,006	97,071	187,009	45,523	433,533	88,690	1,011,601										
Total crimes and offences																			

1. See Annex Note 8.5.

Crimes and offences recorded by police force area per 10,000 population, 2005/06

Table 4b

Crime / Offence group	Rate per 10,000 population							SCOTLAND	
	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde		Tayside
Total crimes	682	656	850	791	893	547	867	756	820
Non-sexual crimes of violence	17	12	17	17	23	17	38	15	27
Serious assault etc ¹	10	8	9	7	8	10	21	8	14
Robbery	3	2	5	5	8	1	10	3	7
Other	4	1	3	5	7	6	7	3	6
Crimes of indecency	14	9	13	18	13	12	12	13	13
Rape & Attempted Rape	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2
Indecent Assault	3	1	3	3	3	2	3	3	3
Lewd and indecent behaviour	7	6	6	8	6	5	4	6	5
Other	1	1	1	5	1	2	3	2	2
Crimes of dishonesty	294	261	413	415	465	213	349	360	369
Housebreaking	46	30	69	74	74	17	64	48	61
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	22	14	27	22	16	11	13	15	16
Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP	16	12	32	32	50	3	34	24	32
Theft of a motor vehicle	18	13	24	26	36	11	31	21	28
Shoplifting	47	51	55	61	57	36	53	78	55
Other theft	96	115	162	163	194	96	126	136	142
Fraud	38	14	24	21	25	26	18	24	22
Other	11	11	17	17	13	12	10	14	12
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	208	235	295	230	265	172	267	208	251
Fire-raising	7	8	11	11	10	5	10	8	10
Vandalism etc	201	226	284	219	255	167	257	201	241
Other crimes	149	139	111	111	127	133	201	159	161
Crimes against public justice	64	61	47	37	44	42	62	65	54
Handling an offensive weapon	13	9	8	11	13	12	29	9	19
Drugs	71	64	56	63	69	79	110	85	87
Other	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total offences	1,143	2,027	1,056	1,055	1,180	1,069	1,098	1,520	1,166
Miscellaneous offences	348	332	361	405	277	362	546	383	431
Minor Assault ¹	127	124	151	152	140	116	150	117	142
Breach of the peace	156	156	140	192	103	182	211	176	176
Drunkenness	4	6	11	5	2	28	21	16	14
Other	60	46	59	55	31	37	165	75	99
Motor vehicle offences	795	1,695	696	650	903	707	553	1,137	735
Dangerous and careless driving	17	37	21	65	10	30	23	27	25
Drunk driving	20	20	21	23	19	32	22	26	22
Speeding	274	1,253	328	323	485	348	166	574	329
Unlawful use of vehicle	140	155	138	110	105	89	150	178	136
Vehicle defect offences	131	39	44	23	58	89	27	78	47
Other	213	192	144	106	225	119	164	254	175
Total crimes and offences	1,825	2,683	1,906	1,846	2,073	1,617	1,966	2,276	1,986

1. See Annex Note 8.5.

Crimes and offences recorded per 10,000 population, percentage change in total number recorded and percentage cleared up by police force area, 2005/06

Table 5

	Central					Number & Percentage				
	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND		
Total crimes	19,423	30,319	41,602	80,571	15,413	191,273	29,452	417,785		
Total offences	32,546	37,687	55,469	106,438	30,110	242,260	59,238	593,816		
Total crimes and offences	51,969	68,006	97,071	187,009	45,523	433,533	88,690	1,011,601		
<i>Crimes and offences per 10,000 population</i>										
Total crimes	682	850	791	893	547	867	756	820		
Non-sexual crimes of violence	17	12	17	23	17	38	15	27		
Crimes of indecency	14	9	18	13	12	12	13	13		
Crimes of dishonesty	294	261	413	465	213	349	360	369		
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	208	235	295	265	172	267	208	251		
Other crimes	149	139	111	127	133	201	159	161		
Total offences	1,143	1,056	1,055	1,180	1,069	1,098	1,520	1,166		
Miscellaneous offences	348	332	361	277	362	546	383	431		
Motor vehicle offences	795	1,695	650	903	707	553	1,137	735		
Total crimes and offences	1,825	2,683	1,846	2,073	1,617	1,966	2,276	1,986		
<i>Percentage change in total number recorded, 2004/05 - 2005/06</i>										
Total crimes	-2.0	-8.9	1.5	-4.2	-1.6	-4.4	-7.5	-4.6		
Non-sexual crimes of violence ¹	0.2	-4.8	-0.8	-10.4	-2.6	-7.1	-9.1	-6.8		
Crimes of indecency	63.6	28.3	12.6	-12.6	-1.7	-26.3	12.0	-10.5		
Crimes of dishonesty	-8.7	-2.3	-2.5	-11.6	-8.0	-10.6	-9.6	-10.7		
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	2.4	-3.1	5.7	6.5	-4.9	-1.8	-4.5	-0.5		
Other crimes	2.6	14.3	1.7	8.9	17.0	6.9	-7.6	6.1		
Total offences	6.4	-2.6	-8.4	-12.1	13.4	-9.2	1.2	-6.2		
Miscellaneous offences	-5.1	-9.6	4.0	11.7	-3.9	2.4	10.0	2.4		
Motor vehicle offences	12.4	-1.1	3.0	-17.5	25.0	-18.4	-1.5	-10.6		
Total crimes and offences	3.1	-4.2	-4.4	-8.8	7.9	-7.2	-1.9	-5.6		
<i>Percentage cleared up</i>										
Total crimes	69	60	47	36	40	64	44	57		
Non-sexual crimes of violence	98	84	76	65	58	93	51	82		
Crimes of indecency	100	74	91	63	66	81	71	98		
Crimes of dishonesty	63	53	45	27	32	56	32	50		
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	46	42	27	22	21	17	17	33		
Other crimes	105	100	101	90	100	99	97	100		
Miscellaneous offences	95	94	87	69	78	95	84	94		

1. Figure for 2004/05 revised to take account of amended figures from Grampian

Number of crimes recorded by the police and percentage cleared up by council area, 2005/06

Table 6
Number & Percentage

Council area	Non - sexual crimes of violence	Crimes of indecency	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire - raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Percentage of crimes cleared up
Aberdeen City	515	525	14,631	5,656	3,275	24,602	35
Aberdeenshire	264	242	4,985	4,310	1,544	11,345	35
Angus	97	97	2,566	1,904	1,237	5,901	60
Argyll & Bute	219	92	1,679	1,643	1,171	4,804	47
Clackmannanshire	125	81	1,547	1,280	854	3,887	72
Dumfries & Galloway	179	136	3,870	3,483	2,064	9,732	60
Dundee City	374	296	8,057	3,735	3,131	15,593	56
East Ayrshire	265	103	3,249	2,794	1,805	8,216	46
East Dunbartonshire	151	26	1,843	1,871	731	4,622	36
East Lothian	92	89	2,031	1,997	618	4,827	37
East Renfrewshire	143	30	1,862	1,753	588	4,376	28
Edinburgh, City of	1,342	654	29,036	12,051	6,765	49,848	37
Eilean Siar	31	31	393	342	333	1,130	82
Falkirk	222	197	4,132	2,979	2,043	9,573	66
Fife	619	479	14,725	10,522	3,974	30,319	47
Glasgow City	4,007	1,293	31,173	19,431	19,966	75,870	45
Highland	423	258	5,092	3,923	3,158	12,854	61
Inverclyde	288	38	2,689	2,566	1,625	7,206	39
Midlothian	151	134	3,073	3,029	889	7,276	41
Moray	110	199	2,234	2,116	996	5,655	43
North Ayrshire	400	198	4,460	3,627	2,347	11,032	48
North Lanarkshire	879	288	9,441	9,080	5,621	25,309	44
Orkney Islands	13	9	218	263	75	578	74
Perth & Kinross	105	130	3,420	2,480	1,823	7,958	59
Renfrewshire	616	115	6,367	3,916	2,282	13,296	37
Scottish Borders	134	105	1,995	2,087	1,312	5,633	62
Shetland Islands	14	41	297	326	173	851	69
South Ayrshire	235	93	3,078	2,438	1,412	7,256	47
South Lanarkshire	779	177	7,738	6,808	4,683	20,185	44
Stirling	142	126	2,689	1,664	1,342	5,963	71
West Dunbartonshire	457	88	3,401	3,046	2,109	9,101	45
West Lothian	335	188	5,827	4,769	1,868	12,987	38
SCOTLAND	13,726	6,558	187,798	127,889	81,814	417,785	46

Number of crimes recorded by the police per 10,000 population and crime index, by council area, 2005/06

Table 7
Number and Index

Council area	Non - sexual crimes of violence	Crimes of indecency	Crimes of dishonesty	Fire - raising, vandalism, etc.	Other crimes	Total crimes	Index (Scotland = 100)
Aberdeen City	25	26	723	279	162	1,216	148
Aberdeenshire	11	10	212	183	66	482	59
Angus	9	9	235	174	113	541	66
Argyll & Bute	24	10	185	181	129	529	64
Clackmannanshire	26	17	318	263	176	799	97
Dumfries & Galloway	12	9	261	235	139	656	80
Dundee City	26	21	567	263	220	1,097	134
East Ayrshire	22	9	272	234	151	688	84
East Dunbartonshire	14	2	174	177	69	436	53
East Lothian	10	10	221	218	67	526	64
East Renfrewshire	16	3	208	196	66	488	60
Edinburgh, City of	29	14	634	263	148	1,089	133
Eilean Siar	12	12	149	130	126	429	52
Falkirk	15	13	277	200	137	642	78
Fife	17	13	413	295	111	850	104
Glasgow City	69	22	539	336	345	1,311	160
Highland	20	12	238	184	148	602	73
Inverclyde	35	5	327	312	198	877	107
Midlothian	19	17	388	382	112	919	112
Moray	12	23	254	240	113	642	78
North Ayrshire	29	15	328	267	173	812	99
North Lanarkshire	27	9	292	281	174	783	95
Orkney Islands	7	5	111	134	38	295	36
Perth & Kinross	8	9	247	179	132	575	70
Renfrewshire	36	7	375	230	134	782	95
Scottish Borders	12	10	182	190	120	513	63
Shetland Islands	6	19	135	148	79	387	47
South Ayrshire	21	8	275	218	126	649	79
South Lanarkshire	25	6	253	222	153	659	80
Stirling	16	14	309	191	154	686	84
West Dunbartonshire	50	10	372	333	231	996	121
West Lothian	20	11	356	291	114	793	97
SCOTLAND	27	13	369	251	161	820	100

Number of crimes recorded by the police, rate per 10,000 population and index of rate for selected crimes by council area, 2005/06

Table 8

Council area	Number				Rate per 10,000 population				Index of rate per 10,000 population						
	Serious assault	Offensive weapons	Domestic housebreaking	Vandalism ¹	All crimes	Serious assault	Offensive weapons	Domestic housebreaking	Vandalism ¹	All crimes	Serious assault	Offensive weapons	Domestic housebreaking	Vandalism ¹	All crimes
Aberdeen City	173	309	2,071	5,315	24,602	9	15	102	263	1,216	69	81	246	111	148
Aberdeenshire	120	169	494	4,066	11,345	5	7	21	173	482	41	38	50	73	59
Angus	45	74	232	1,784	5,901	4	7	21	163	541	33	36	51	69	66
Argyll & Bute	88	103	191	1,536	4,804	10	11	21	169	529	78	60	50	72	64
Clackmannanshire	47	89	199	1,167	3,887	10	18	41	240	799	78	97	98	102	97
Dumfries & Galloway	106	137	261	3,202	9,732	7	9	18	216	656	58	49	42	91	80
Dundee City	147	186	881	3,491	15,593	10	13	62	246	1,097	83	69	149	104	134
East Ayrshire	156	240	507	2,601	8,216	13	20	42	218	688	105	106	102	92	84
East Dunbartonshire	98	129	316	1,788	4,622	9	12	30	169	436	75	64	72	71	53
East Lothian	31	66	184	1,896	4,827	3	7	20	207	526	27	38	48	87	64
East Renfrewshire	55	76	358	1,670	4,376	6	8	40	186	488	49	45	96	79	60
Edinburgh, City of	330	748	3,431	11,555	49,848	7	16	75	252	1,089	58	86	180	107	133
Eilean Siar	15	19	14	333	1,130	6	7	5	126	429	46	38	13	53	52
Falkirk	96	164	413	2,785	9,573	6	11	28	187	642	52	58	66	79	78
Fife	260	273	1,721	9,778	30,319	7	8	48	274	850	59	40	116	116	104
Glasgow City	1,954	3,112	3,259	18,171	75,870	34	54	56	314	1,311	272	285	135	133	160
Highland	228	282	246	3,775	12,854	11	13	12	177	602	86	70	28	75	73
Inverclyde	157	247	398	2,347	7,206	19	30	48	286	877	154	159	116	121	107
Midlothian	61	106	395	2,870	7,276	8	13	50	362	919	62	71	120	153	112
Moray	47	110	173	2,022	5,655	5	12	20	229	642	43	66	47	97	78
North Ayrshire	228	345	701	3,424	11,032	17	25	52	252	812	135	134	124	107	99
North Lanarkshire	458	669	1,102	8,618	25,309	14	21	34	266	783	114	109	82	113	95
Orkney Islands	10	10	2	259	578	5	5	1	132	295	41	27	2	56	36
Perth & Kinross	55	75	229	2,311	7,958	4	5	17	167	575	32	29	40	71	70
Renfrewshire	300	401	740	3,673	13,296	18	24	44	216	782	142	125	104	91	95
Scottish Borders	57	103	140	1,991	5,633	5	9	13	181	513	42	50	31	77	63
Shetland Islands	8	19	20	308	851	4	9	9	140	387	29	46	22	59	47
South Ayrshire	141	145	311	2,335	7,256	13	13	28	209	649	102	69	67	88	79
South Lanarkshire	443	586	1,067	6,443	20,185	14	19	35	210	659	117	101	84	89	80
Stirling	53	125	264	1,563	5,963	6	14	30	180	686	49	76	73	76	84
West Dunbartonshire	215	324	439	2,789	9,101	24	35	48	305	996	190	188	115	129	121
West Lothian	138	187	473	4,474	12,987	8	11	29	273	793	68	60	69	116	97
SCOTLAND	6,320	9,628	21,232	120,340	417,785	12	19	42	236	820	100	100	100	100	100

1. Includes vandalism, malicious damage and malicious mischief only.

Crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police, Scotland, 2001/02 - 2005/06

Table A1

Number and Percentage

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Police strength at end financial year (whole-time equivalent - WTE)	15,143	15,361	15,583	16,018	16,221
Number of crimes recorded ¹	426,249	418,281	414,221	438,121	417,785
<i>Crimes recorded per 1,000 population</i>	84	83	82	87	82
<i>Crimes recorded per WTE police officer</i>	28	27	27	27	26
Number of crimes cleared up	190,845	193,145	196,480	195,203	190,918
<i>Crimes cleared up per WTE police officer</i>	13	13	13	12	12
Number of offences recorded	526,071	517,545	607,621	632,982	593,816
<i>Offences recorded per 1,000 population</i>	104	102	120	125	117
<i>Offences recorded per WTE police officer</i>	35	34	39	40	37
Number of offences cleared up	504,219	494,980	583,686	589,451	552,261
<i>Offences cleared up per WTE police officer</i>	33	32	37	37	34

1. Figure for 2004/05 revised to take account of amended figures from Grampian

Crimes of indecency recorded by the police, Scotland, 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table A2

Number & Percentage

Crimes of indecency	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change 04/05-05/06
<i>Sexual assault :</i>											
Rape ¹	469	596	607	586	549	631	743	845	900	975	8
Assault with intent to rape	164	168	190	169	141	157	181	192	209	186	-11
Indecent assault	1,122	1,271	1,348	1,139	1,034	1,249	1,354	1,436	1,497	1,508	1
<i>Lewd and indecent behaviour :</i>											
Lewd and libidinous practices	1,426	1,916	1,850	1,384	1,589	1,584	1,970	1,790	1,928	1,835	-5
Indecent exposure	1,067	1,100	1,021	935	767	820	800	803	858	816	-5
<i>Other :</i>											
Incest	89	77	70	40	48	43	36	36	27	29	7
Illegal Homosexual acts	147	193	134	179	141	108	130	152	117	98	-16
Sexual intercourse with girl under 16	262	283	240	205	167	169	269	277	321	365	14
Offences relating to prostitution	1,118	1,748	1,564	1,204	1,269	1,184	1,092	1,216	1,391	684	-51
Other crimes of indecency	77	62	47	41	22	49	48	39	76	62	-18
TOTAL	5,941	7,414	7,071	5,882	5,727	5,994	6,623	6,786	7,324	6,558	-10

1. Between 1992 and 1998, Grampian Police included attempted rape in their figures for rape.

Theft by housebreaking (including attempts and housebreaking 'with intent'), 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table A3

Number & Percentage

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change 04/05 - 05/06
Total	61,636	55,636	55,784	52,863	47,729	45,515	40,586	36,432	34,959	31,319	-10
Domestic :											
<i>Dwelling</i>	39,774	37,017	37,482	35,654	32,172	30,593	27,341	24,646	23,613	21,232	-10
<i>Non-dwelling</i>	8,929	8,667	9,049	8,695	7,865	7,851	7,145	6,415	6,245	6,097	-2
Other	21,862	18,619	18,302	17,209	15,557	14,922	13,245	11,786	11,346	10,087	-11
<i>Percentage domestic</i>	65%	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	68%	68%	68%	

Theft of and from motor vehicles recorded by the police, 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table A4

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change 04/05 - 05/06
Theft from motor vehicle of which:	60,450	50,225	49,723	48,076	40,942	41,348	38,525	34,474	27,921	23,569	-13
Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP)	34,158	28,412	27,927	27,423	23,565	23,628	22,536	20,287	15,012	12,162	-14
OLP with intent to steal	10,537	8,131	8,147	7,371	5,667	6,201	5,293	4,424	3,367	2,634	-17
Attempted theft OLP	4,228	3,285	3,402	3,209	2,769	2,830	2,532	2,128	2,024	1,657	-17
Other theft	11,527	10,397	10,247	10,073	8,941	8,689	8,164	7,635	7,518	7,116	-5
Theft of motor vehicle	25,206	21,891	22,920	22,370	19,883	18,215	16,486	14,011	12,339	11,317	-7
Attempted theft of motor vehicle	7,298	5,966	6,370	6,511	5,672	4,931	4,395	3,593	3,294	2,724	-16
Total motor vehicle theft	92,954	78,082	79,013	76,957	66,497	64,494	59,406	52,078	43,554	37,610	-11

Drugs crimes recorded by the police, Scotland, 1996/97 - 2005/06

Table A5

Crime category	Number & Percentage										
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change 04/05 - 05/06
Illegal importation of drugs	39	24	32	7	1	4	3	4	1	23	2,200
Illegal cultivation of drugs	287	220	184	106	131	144	205	249	254	297	17
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	7,057	7,823	8,690	8,032	9,024	10,130	9,940	9,284	9,078	9,293	2
Possession of drugs	18,088	21,096	23,515	21,776	22,470	26,188	30,510	32,463	32,268	34,440	7
Drugs, other offences, incl money laundering	283	272	398	453	455	284	280	275	222	194	-13
Total	25,754	29,435	32,819	30,374	32,081	36,750	40,938	42,275	41,823	44,247	6

Racially aggravated offences (including harassment and conduct) by police force area, 2001/02 - 2005/06

Police force area	2001/02			2002/03			2003/04			2004/05			2005/06		
	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total	Racially aggravated harassment	Racially aggravated conduct	Total
Central	9	127	136	12	184	196	12	252	264	22	331	353	6	344	350
Dumfries & Galloway	6	18	24	4	23	27	4	23	27	4	33	37	2	57	59
Fife	14	139	153	9	179	188	12	232	244	12	253	265	3	205	208
Grampian	-	-	-	11	287	298	7	258	265	16	368	384	13	384	397
Lothian & Borders	24	106	130	13	153	166	32	270	302	20	338	358	100	784	884
Northern	28	34	62	29	29	58	10	47	57	15	77	92	9	80	89
Strathclyde	236	840	1076	336	1,026	1362	307	1,181	1488	422	1,417	1839	357	1,616	1973
Tayside	29	89	118	61	317	378	48	402	450	39	489	528	13	321	334
Scotland	346	1,353	1,699	475	2,198	2,673	432	2,665	3,097	550	3,306	3,856	503	3,791	4,294

Table A6

8. Notes on statistics used in this bulletin

Returns

- 8.1 The statistical return from which most of the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police. Only returns from the eight Scottish home forces are included in this bulletin. One return is made for each council in Scotland and these are aggregated to give a national total. Amendments (such as the deletion of incidents found on investigation not to be criminal) which arise after the end of the financial year are not generally incorporated.
- 8.2 In 1993 information was collected for the first time from other police forces, such as the British Transport Police. This practice has been continued, but these figures have **not** been included in the main body of the bulletin. Thus, in addition to those crimes and offences referred to throughout the bulletin there were, in total, 3,038 crimes and 5,858 offences recorded by the British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence and Civil Nuclear Constabulary (previously known as the UK Atomic Energy Authority) in 2005/06. The crime clear-up rate was 31 per cent and the offences clear-up rate was 41 per cent.
- 8.3 The figures included in the motor vehicle offences group do not include *stationary* motor vehicle offences dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty ticket (some 106,000 offences, mostly parking and waiting offences, or failure to display a valid excise licence, in 2004/05). However, offences dealt with under the vehicle defect rectification scheme and offences for which the procurator fiscal offers a fixed penalty are included in the figures. In addition to this, *moving* traffic offences which are the subject of a police conditional offer of a fixed penalty are also included, e.g. speeding, traffic directions offences.

Recording issues

- 8.4 In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. a house may be broken into and vandalised and the occupants assaulted. In multiple offence incidents, all the offences are counted rather than one for the incident as a whole; that is, the counting system is offence based rather than incident based. An offence may have more than one victim - for example in robberies - and be committed by more than one offender - e.g. some assaults and housebreakings. (Note that for murder, attempted murder and culpable homicide, the number of crimes recorded is equal to the number of the victims). Thus the statistics in this bulletin are not directly comparable with statistics on action taken against offenders, as one offence may lead to several persons being charged. Equally, an offender may be charged with several offences. The statistics for recorded number of crimes given in this bulletin are also not directly comparable with statistics collected in England and Wales for the recorded number of notifiable offences. This is mainly due to differences in the counting rules; for notifiable offences the counting system is, wherever possible victim based rather than offence based. The Home Office introduced new counting rules for notifiable offences, and expanded their coverage on 1 April 1998.
- 8.5 In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and minor assaults police forces use a common definition of what is a serious assault.
- 8.6 Attempts to commit an offence are included in the statistics, in general in the same group as the substantive offence.

Reporting practices

- 8.7 These statistics do not of course reveal the incidence of all crime committed. Not all incidents are reported to the police. The Scottish Crime Survey, a survey of crime victims, suggested that in Scotland victims reported 49 per cent of incidents to the police in 2002, compared with 58 per cent in 1999, 50 per cent in 1995 and 53 per cent in 1981. The two reasons most commonly given by victims for not reporting to the police were that the incident was considered by them to be too trivial or that the police could not have taken any action in any case.
- 8.8 Many offences, for example, speeding or possession of drugs, have no victim other than perhaps the perpetrator and are discovered and recorded as a result of police activity rather than by being reported to the police by the public. Hence the strength and deployment of the police forces mainly determine the numbers of such offences recorded.

Crimes and offences cleared up

- 8.9 The definition of "cleared up" is noted below. This definition came into force with effect from 1 April 1996.

A crime or offence is regarded as cleared up where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law, to justify consideration of criminal proceedings notwithstanding that a report is not submitted to the procurator fiscal because either

(i) by standing agreement with the procurator fiscal, the police warn the accused due to the minor nature of the offence, or

(ii) reporting is inappropriate due to the non-age of the accused, death of the accused or other similar circumstances.

For some types of crime or offence the case is cleared up immediately because the offender is "caught in the act", e.g. motoring offences. In Scots law, the confession of an accused person to a crime would not in general be sufficient to allow a prosecution to be taken as corroborative evidence is required. Thus, a case cannot be regarded as "cleared up" on the basis of a confession alone. In some cases there is sufficient evidence but a prosecution cannot be brought, for example, because the accused has left the country. In such cases, the offender is said to have been traced and the crime is regarded as cleared up. The other terms in the definition describe the various actions that must be taken by the police against offenders.

- 8.10 Certain motor vehicle offences are not always recorded in cases where police forces are unable to clear-up the offence (e.g. speeding offences where the driver is untraceable). Clear-up rates for motor vehicle offences in these circumstances are artificial. Thus, clear-up *rates* for the motor vehicle group are not included in the bulletin.
- 8.11 Clear-up rates in excess of 100 per cent can arise where offences recorded in one year are cleared up during the following year.

Classification

- 8.12 Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term "crime" is *generally* used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed "offences", although the term "offence" may also be used in relation to

serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the "seriousness" of the offence is *generally* related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.

- 8.13 The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by The Scottish Executive to collect criminal statistics contains about 360 codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown on pages 27 and 28.
- 8.14 The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin
- Nil * non-definable percentage change (eg 1 year has a value of zero)
- 8.15 Clearly, only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analyses of recorded crime statistics can be supplied on request once the bulletin is published. This includes available information relating to time periods other than those covered in the bulletin. In certain cases a fee is charged. For details of what can be provided please telephone Mrs Anne Reilly on 0131 244 2635 or e-mail: anne.reilly@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey

- 8.16 Summary findings from the 2004 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey were published earlier this year and are available at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/07/14152750/0>.
Details of findings reports from previous crime surveys are listed below. These include modular reports which focus on specific crime-related issues.

Further information

- Drug Misuse in Scotland: Findings from the 2004 Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey
- Scottish Crime Survey 2003
- The 2000 Scottish Crime Survey: First Results: Crime and Criminal Justice Research Findings No. 51
- The 2000 Scottish Crime Survey: Overview Report
- The 2000 Scottish Crime Survey: Analysis of the Ethnic Minority Booster Sample
- Domestic Abuse: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey
- Drug Misuse in Scotland: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey
- Housebreaking in Scotland: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey
- Impact of Crime on Victims: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey
- Vehicle Crime in Scotland: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey
- Violence in Scotland: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey
- Young People and Crime in Scotland: Findings from the 2000 Scottish Crime Survey

All of the above can be found on the Scottish Executive web site www.scotland.gov.uk

For more information about the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey, please contact Barry Stalker: telephone 0131 244 6934 or e-mail barry.stalker@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMES AND OFFENCES

Group

CRIMES

Non-Sexual Crimes Of Violence

(Also referred to as **Violence**)

Serious assault etc. -

Includes murder and culpable homicide (including the statutory crime of causing death by dangerous driving or causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs). Furthermore, an assault is classified as **serious** if the victim sustained an injury resulting in detention in hospital as an in-patient or any of the following injuries whether or not he was detained in hospital: fractures, internal injuries, severe concussion, loss of consciousness, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement or any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.

Robbery -

Includes offences involving intent to rob.

Other -

Includes threats and extortion and cruel and unnatural treatment of children.

Crimes of Indecency

(Also referred to as **Indecency**).

Rape & Attempted Rape -

Comprises rape and assault with intent to rape.

Indecent Assault -

-

Lewd and indecent behaviour -
(Previously titled “Lewd and libidinous practices”)

Comprises lewd and libidinous practices against children and indecent exposure.

Other -

Includes offences connected with prostitution.

Crimes Involving Dishonesty

(Also referred to as **Dishonesty**)

Housebreaking -

Includes commercial as well as domestic premises.

Theft by opening a lockfast place (OLP) -

-

Theft from a motor vehicle by OLP -

-

Theft of motor vehicle -

-

Shoplifting -

-

Other theft -

Includes theft of pedal cycles.

Fraud -

Includes statutory fraud.

Other –

Includes forgery, reset and embezzlement.

Fire-Raising, Vandalism Etc

(Also referred to as **Vandalism**)

Fire-raising –

-

Vandalism, etc. -

Includes malicious mischief, vandalism and reckless conduct with firearms.

Other Crimes

Crimes against public justice -

Includes perjury, resisting arrest, bail offences (other than absconding or re-offending) and wasting police time.

Handling offensive weapons -

Comprises carrying offensive weapons, restriction of offensive weapons legislation.

Drugs -

Includes importation, possession and supply of controlled drugs.

Other -

Includes conspiracy and explosives offences.

OFFENCES

Miscellaneous Offences

Minor Assault -

-

Breach of the peace -

-

Drunkenness -

-

Other -

Includes offences against local legislation, offences involving animals/plants, offences against liquor licensing laws and offences against environmental legislation.

Motor Vehicle Offences

Dangerous and careless driving -

Prior to 1992 this was known as "reckless and careless driving".

Drunk driving -

Comprises driving or in charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs, blood alcohol content above limit and failing to provide breath, blood or urine specimens.

Speeding -

-

Unlawful use of vehicle -

Comprises driving while disqualified, without a licence, insurance, test certificate, vehicle tax and registration and identification offences.

Vehicle defect offences -

Comprises construction and use and lighting offences.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATISTICAL SERVICES

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 - Developing more data for small areas through the Neighbourhood Statistics project;
 - Contributing to production of comparable statistics across the UK and internationally.
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 - Improving the advice provided on statistics.
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 - Involving users and providers in planning developments in outputs and processes
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 - Working with the rest of the Government Statistical Service to develop joint approaches/solutions where appropriate.
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