

CRIME AND JUSTICE

DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2013-14 & 2014-15

This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents and recorded crime supplied by Police Scotland in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police do not reveal all incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland as not all incidents are reported to the police. The figures are used to inform policy and, in conjunction with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (see [Section 4](#)), are used to assess the extent and nature of domestic abuse in Scotland.

The statistics set out in this bulletin on the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by police in Scotland cover the two years immediately following the establishment of the Police Service of Scotland (hence forth referred to as Police Scotland). Previous to this, figures were collected and presented by the eight legacy police force areas. With the resulting change to the process of collecting and quality assuring data for this publication, some caution should be exercised in interpreting the statistics on the number of incidents recorded across years (further information on these developments are provided in [Section 2](#) and the [Annexes](#)).

The definition of domestic abuse used by Police Scotland is:

‘Any form of physical, sexual or mental and emotional abuse [that] might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere’.

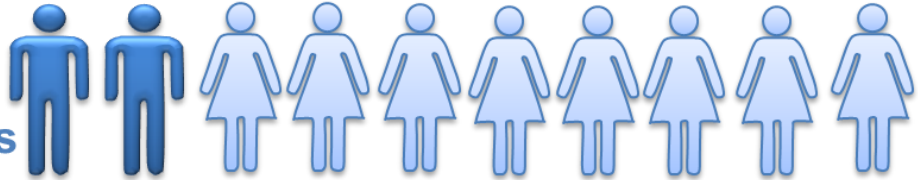
Key Points on Incidents of Domestic Abuse

- In 2013-14 there were 58,439 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland. In 2014-15 there were 59,882 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, an increase of 2.5% from 2013-14.
- In 2014-15, 54% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland resulted in at least one crime or offence being committed. This remained unchanged from 2013-14.
- There were 1,120 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 100,000 population in 2014-15. At a local authority level, Dundee City (1,703) and Glasgow City (1,497) recorded the highest incident rates per 100,000 population. Shetland Islands (461), Orkney Islands (528) and Eilean Siar (532) recorded the lowest rates per 100,000 population.
- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland with a female victim and a male perpetrator represented 79% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2014-15 where gender information was recorded. Since 2005-06 this percentage share has fallen from 87%.
- The proportion of incidents with a male victim and a female perpetrator (where gender was recorded) has increased from 11% in 2005-06 to 18% in 2014-15.
- In 2014-15, the 26-30 years old age group has the highest incident rate per 100,000 population for both victims (2,615 incidents recorded per 100,000 population) and perpetrators (2,766 incidents recorded per 100,000 population).
- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police are more common at weekends with 37% of all incidents in 2014-15 occurring on a Saturday or Sunday.

Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2014-15

59,882 Incidents

Who were the victims



80% Female

*Where gender known

Victim	Perpetrator	Share
		79%
		18%
		2%
		1%

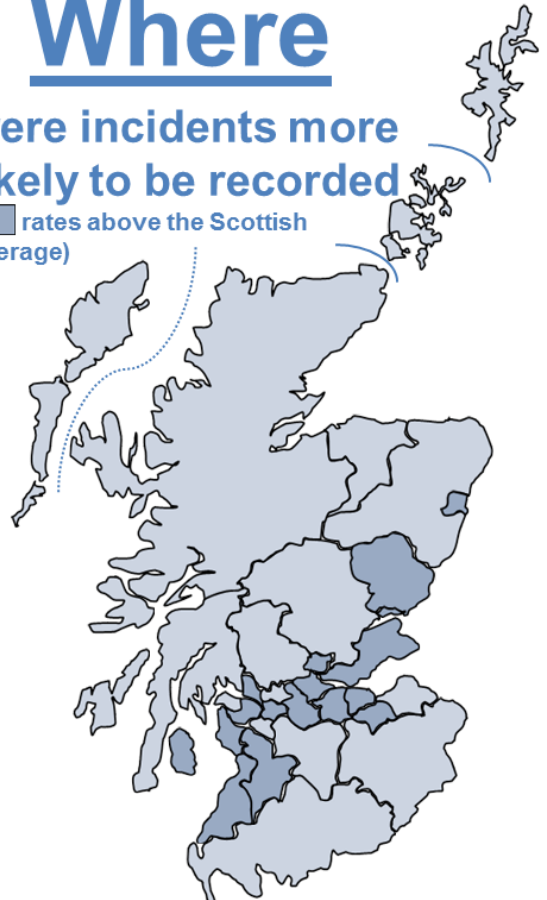
What

was the gender of victim & perpetrator *Where gender known

Where

were incidents more likely to be recorded

(rates above the Scottish average)



When did incidents occur

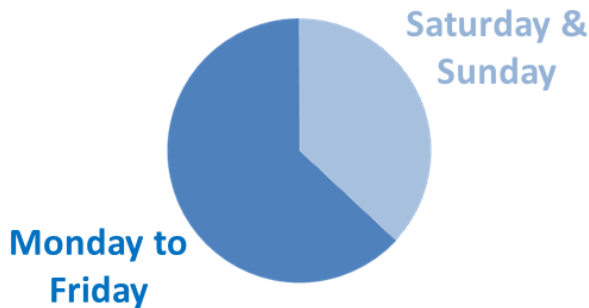


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1. Structure of Bulletin

- 1.1. This bulletin presents Official Statistics on the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland. Some change has been made to the structure of this bulletin since the previous publication.
- 1.2. [Key Points](#) on incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland are on pages 2 to 3.
- 1.3. [Chapter 2](#) provides a summary of the background to incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland. This includes details of how the data was collected.
- 1.4. [Chapter 3](#) presents statistics for the last two reporting years, 2013-14 and 2014-15. It includes details on incidents and the victims and perpetrators, by change over time and analysis at the local authority level.
- 1.5. [Chapter 4](#) presents information on 'Putting Domestic Abuse in Context'. It highlights some of the other data sources available on domestic abuse.
- 1.6. [Chapter 5](#) presents information on incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland through a series of tables.
- 1.7. [Annexes](#) provide further information on the process of collecting these statistics on incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland. These include:
 - Data sources and definitions;
 - Quality of the statistics;
 - Auditing of data by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS);
 - Stakeholder consultations;
 - Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland;
 - Users of the statistics;
 - Future considerations; and
 - Other Notes (including contact details for further analysis).

2. Background

- 2.1. Statistics on domestic abuse are used to inform the Scottish Government's [Strategy for Justice in Scotland](#), and [National Outcome 9 – 'we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger'](#).
- 2.2. These statistics are also used by a wide range of stakeholders to monitor trends, for policy research and development, and for research purposes. Further information on users and uses of the statistics is available in [Annex 6](#) of this bulletin.
- 2.3. The 'Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland' annual statistical bulletin forms part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system, which can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications>.
- 2.4. The Police Service of Scotland (referred to throughout this report as Police Scotland) is responsible for operational policing in Scotland and is held to account by the Scottish Police Authority. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 changed the policing landscape in Scotland, replacing the previous eight police forces, the Scottish Police Services Authority and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency from 1st April 2013. The new statistics set out in this bulletin for 2013-14 and 2014-15 covers the two year period following the establishment of Police Scotland.
- 2.5. The creation of Police Scotland has altered the way in which domestic abuse data has been collected. Prior to 1st April 2013, each legacy force had a bespoke system to collect the data required. Between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014, the iVPD (Interim Vulnerable Person Database) was rolled out to the 14 Police Divisions in Scotland. From 1st April 2014 onwards, all data came from the iVPD. In summary:
 - 2012-13 (and previous years) – Data collected from the eight legacy systems
 - 2013-14 – Data collected from the iVPD (approx. 15%) and from legacy systems (approx. 85%)
 - 2014-15 – Data collected from the iVPD
- 2.6. As information for 2013-14 and 2014-15 flowed into the new iVPD database, Police Scotland identified some issues with the data (detailed in [section 2.7](#)). As a result, Police Scotland are taking forward actions to improve their data, including enhancements to the functionality of the iVPD database. Not all of these changes could be retrospectively applied to the 2013-14 and 2014-15 data.

With further work planned to improve the information collected by the iVPD, the UK Statistics Authority has agreed to a recommendation from Scotland's Chief Statistician that these statistics will be published as Official Statistics, rather than National Statistics.

We will continue to work with Police Scotland as they progress work on their database processes and we will re-visit our position on the designation of these statistics once this work has concluded.

Correspondence between Scotland's Chief Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority is available on the UK Statistics Authority's website (see letters from 16th September 2015 and 5th October 2015) at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/index.html>

2.7. Information on the data issues referred to in [Section 2.6](#) above is detailed below:

- **Crimes and Offences** – No statistics are available for crime codes for this publication. When the iVPD was originally rolled out, it was not possible to extract crime codes due to how the crime and offence data were related to the perpetrator data. A workaround for this issue has now been added to the iVPD and hence, future editions of this publication will provide information on crime codes.
- **Relationships** – The iVPD does not currently collect relationship status between victim and perpetrator. This has two impacts on the data in this bulletin.

The first is that we are unable to publish the information on relationship (e.g. spouse, partner, ex-partner etc.).

The second is that we have no easy way to validate individual incidents recorded by the police. In legacy systems, we used relationship to add evidence that an incident is a true domestic abuse case. Without relationship information, we rely instead on the Police Officer entering details of an incident correctly into the system (e.g. two brothers fighting is not an incident of domestic abuse in Scotland). Police Scotland takes domestic abuse very seriously and [Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#) provide more information on the definition and quality of the statistics in this bulletin including details of the Joint Protocol on domestic abuse between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

Police Scotland are currently working to implement the capture of information on relationships into the iVPD with the goal of being able to produce relationship information for future editions of this publication.

- **Action** – This publication does not contain information on the ‘action’ taken by Police Scotland for incidents of domestic abuse. Officers are instructed to record full details of all actions taken at the scene and the final outcome of their attendance i.e. custody, no crime, advocacy referral etc. Details on all actions taken are entered as ‘free text’ and therefore, it has not been possible to aggregate these for this publication. The Scottish Government and Police Scotland will look into the best way to produce information on action taken for future publications.
- **Repeat Victims/Perpetrators** – Traditionally, each legacy force maintained its own domestic abuse database and could use their system to identify repeat victims and perpetrators in their area. As we have moved to a new iVPD system, there are no historical links available. In time, we will be able to identify repeat victims and perpetrators within the iVPD database and hence future editions of this publication will revisit this data with the aim to publish it in an accurate and structured way.
- **Location of Incident** – Location of the incident is recorded on the iVPD. During quality assurance of the data by Police Scotland and the Scottish Government, a number of data quality issues were raised. The Scottish Government and Police Scotland will continue to analyse this data in line with other checks on the iVPD and will aim to publish, quality permitting, location information in next year’s publication.
- **Missing Data** – Due to the changes with the data collection using the new iVPD system, the numbers of ‘missing’ values has increased for some variables (see [Section 6.14](#) for more details of why data is missing). The issue of missing data is important to both the Scottish Government and Police Scotland in order to keep a clear and accurate picture of domestic abuse. As a result, the Scottish Government is working with Police Scotland with the aim to minimise the quantity of missing data. Statisticians from both organisations are working together to establish the effect of missing data and how best to report on it in future editions of this bulletin. The percentage of ‘missing’ data for the last three years is highlighted below for key variables:

Variable	Missing		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Victim’s gender	5%	8%	13%
Perpetrator’s gender	5%	6%	8%
Gender of victim and/or perpetrator	5%	9%	17%
Victim’s age	5%	8%	14%
Perpetrator’s age	5%	6%	8%

- 2.8. Due to the changes in Data Collection and the number of missing data, throughout this bulletin, tables and figures are presented with clear breaks in the time series between 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. As such, some caution should be exercised in interpreting the statistics on the number of incidents recorded across years.
- 2.9. Incidents in this bulletin are counted against the year in which they are recorded by Police Scotland. Not all incidents are reported to the police immediately following their occurrence. As such each year's figures on incidents of domestic abuse will include a proportion of incidents committed in earlier years.
- 2.10. The data for 2013-14 was compiled at a later stage than previous years. Traditionally the data is collected and delivered to the Scottish Government in June, three months after the end of the reporting year. The 2013-14 data was supplied in March the following year. This delay could, in theory, affect the number of incidents as police management systems are constantly updated throughout the year as more information about incidents and cases is gathered and analysed. It is likely that this change will only have minimal impact as the data is grouped by the year the incident was recorded by the police, not the year of occurrence ([Section 2.9](#)).

3. Main Findings: Incidents of Domestic Abuse in Scotland

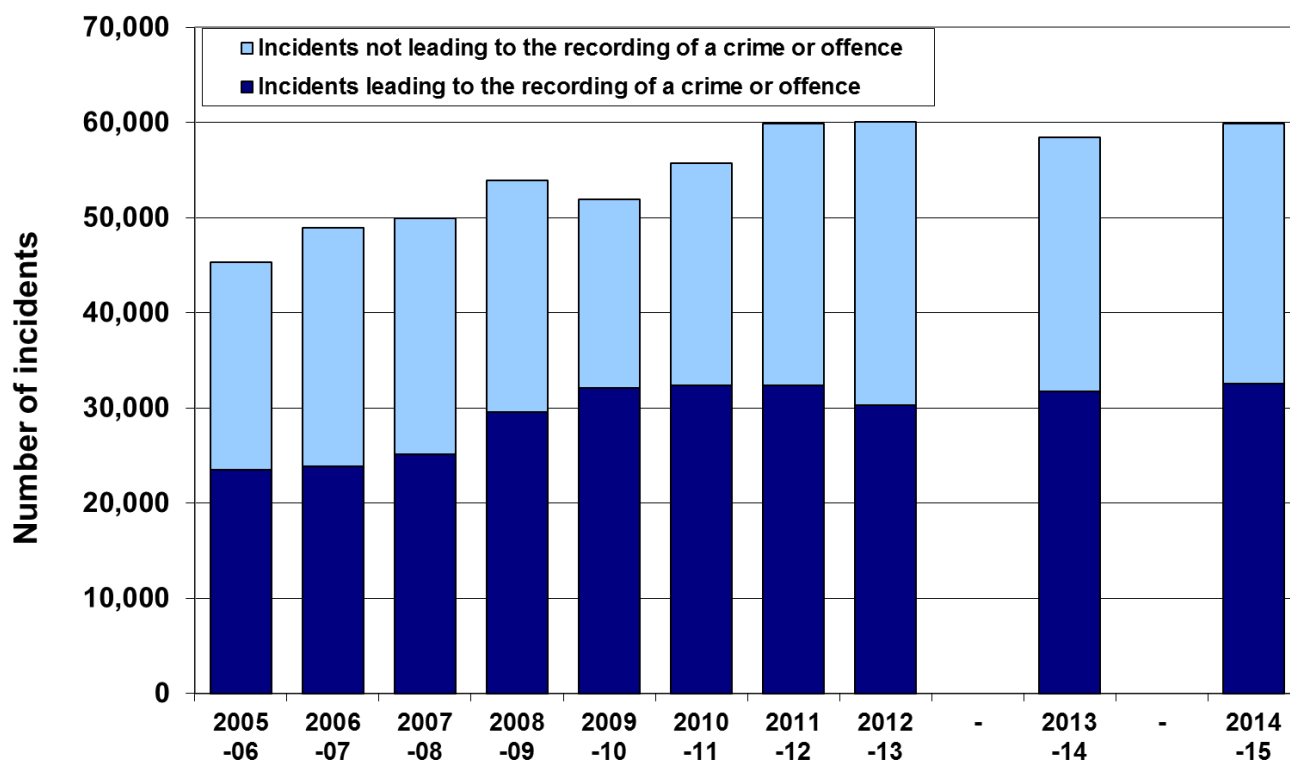
Incidents of Domestic Abuse

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland increased from 58,439 in 2013-14 to 59,882 in 2014-15, an increase of 2.5%.

Over the past four years, the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police has remained around the 60,000 mark. This follows large rises in recorded incidents between 1999-00 and 2011-12 ([Chart 1](#) & [Table 1](#)).

In 2014-15, 54% (32,569) of incidents of domestic abuse incidents led to the recording of at least one crime or offence. The proportion in 2013-14 was also 54% (31,769) ([Table 1](#)). Over the past 10 years, this percentage has fluctuated between 49% and 62%, with no obvious trend.

Chart 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, 2005-06 to 2014-15



* Chart has been displayed with gaps in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection. See [section 2](#) for more details.

Local Authority Analysis

Across Scotland, just over a third of local authorities (12 out of 32) recorded a decrease in the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police between 2013-14 and 2014-15. Most local authorities ranged from between decreases of 10% and increases of 17%. All local authorities recorded an increase in incidents of domestic abuse from ten years ago ([Table 2](#)).

In 2014-15, Dumfries & Galloway (67%) and Aberdeenshire (65%) had the highest percentage of incidents of domestic abuse recorded that resulted in at least one crime or offence being committed. This is above the Scottish average of 54%. There are 17 local authorities that have a percentage below the Scottish average, ranging from 46% to 54% ([Chart 2](#) & [Table 3](#)).

Incidents of Domestic Abuse per 100,000 Population

Taking the population of Scotland as at mid-year 2014, there were 1,120 recorded incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population in 2014-15. At a local authority level, Dundee City (1,703) and Glasgow City (1,497) recorded the highest incident rates per 100,000 population. Shetland Islands (461), Orkney Islands (528) and Eilean Siar (532) recorded the lowest rates per 100,000 population ([Chart 3](#) & [Table 4](#)).

In general, the more densely populated local authorities such as the city authorities are above the Scottish rate. The more rural local authorities like the islands and the far north and south of Scotland are below the Scottish average.

Chart 2: Percentage of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police that resulted in at least one crime or offence being recorded, by local authority, 2014-15

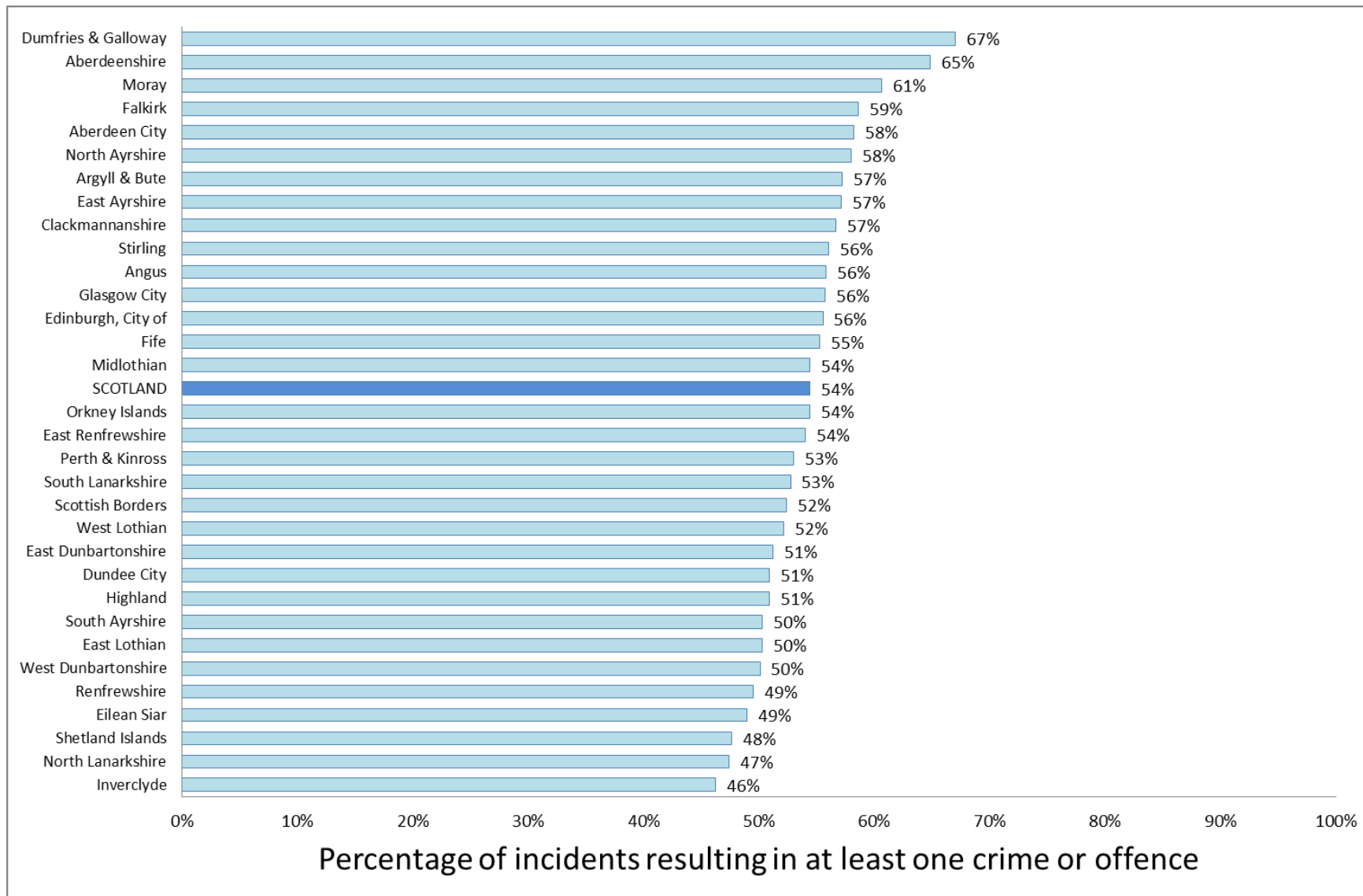
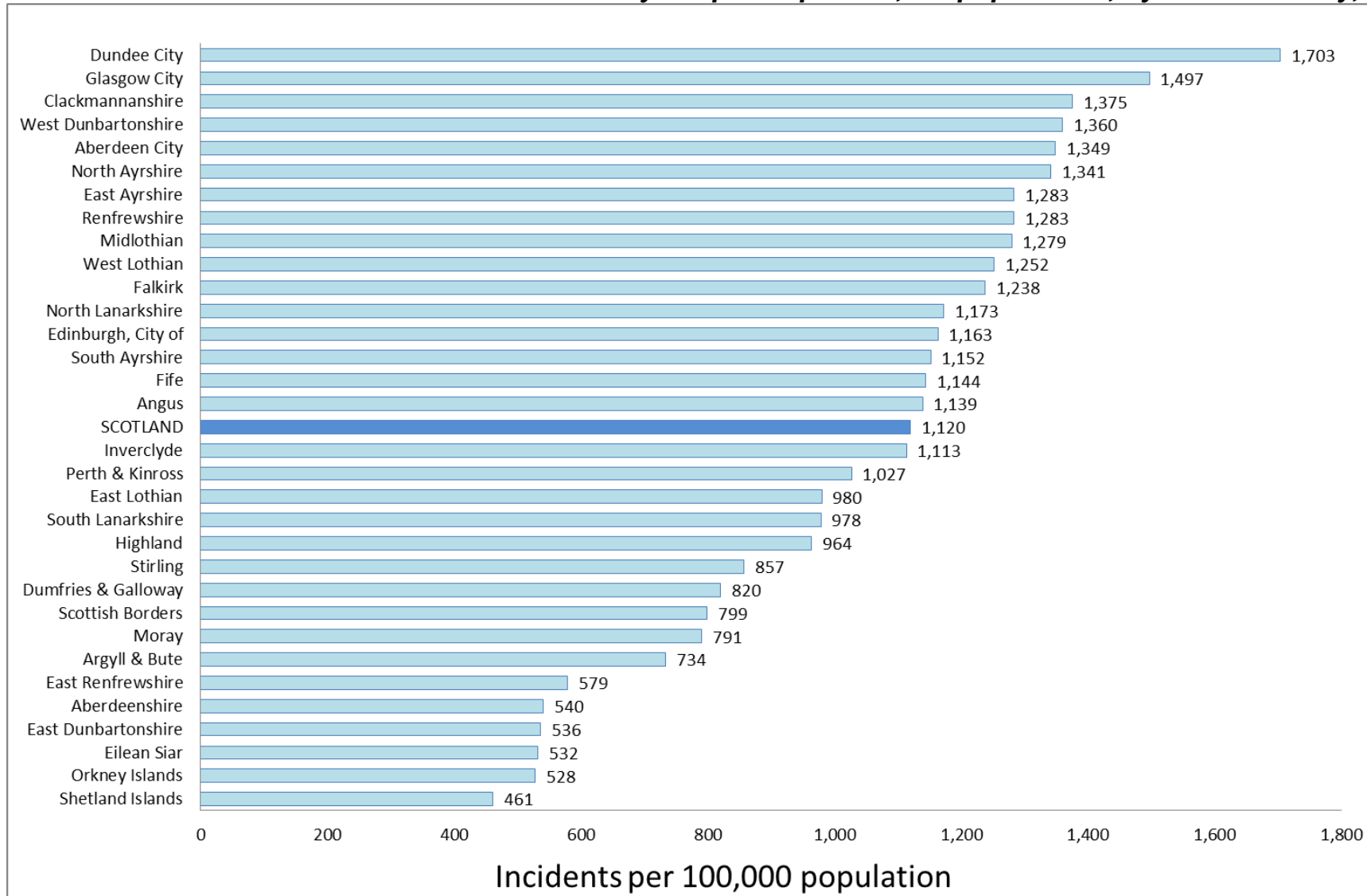


Chart 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 100,000 population¹, by local authority, 2014-15



1. Population estimates are at mid-year 2014 published by the National Records of Scotland (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>)

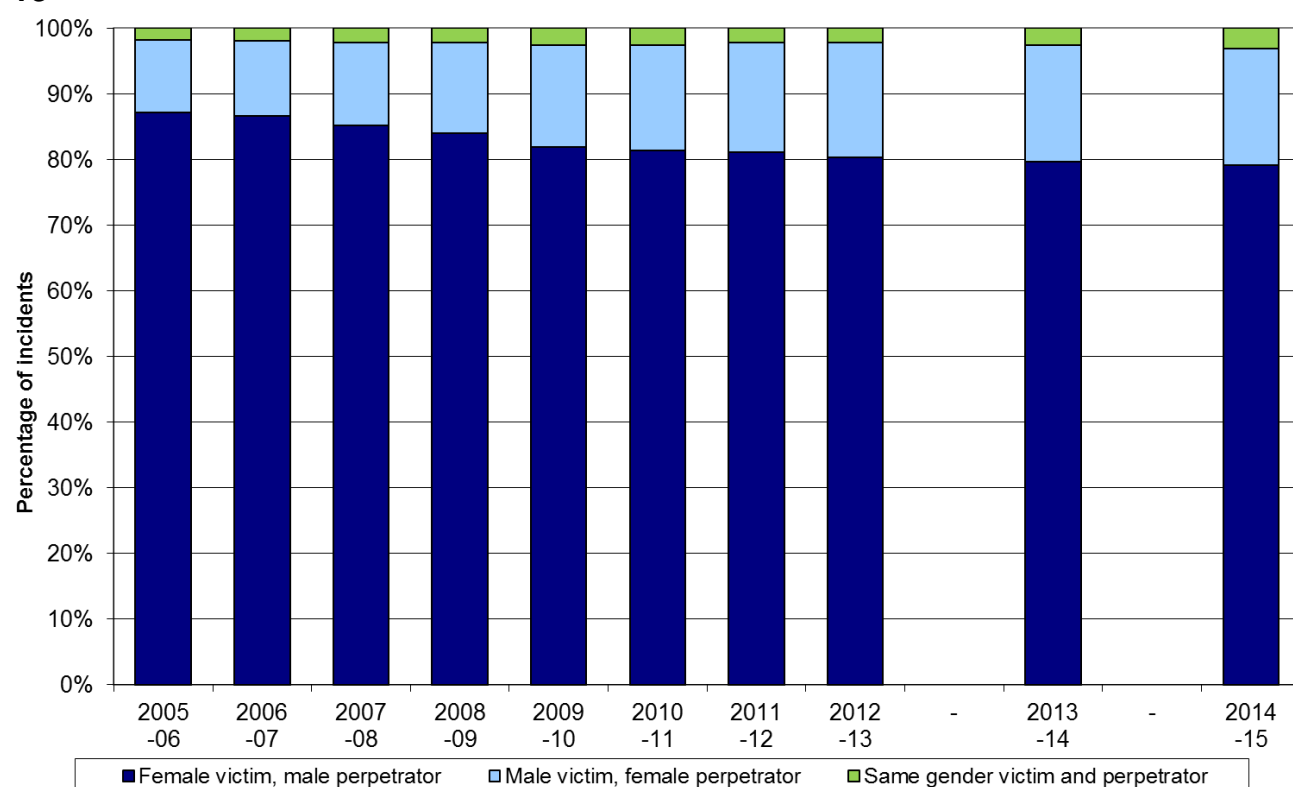
Victim & Perpetrator Analysis

As highlighted in [section 2.7](#), 17% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland in 2014-15, were missing information on the victim's and/or the perpetrator's gender. As such, the following section only includes analysis on the incidents where gender was available.

In 2014-15, females make up the majority (80%) of the victims in incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police where the gender of the victim is known. This percentage increases to 83% if you only look at incidents that resulted in the recording of at least one crime or offence ([Table 5](#)).

Incidents with a female victim and a male perpetrator represented 79% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2014-15 where gender information was recorded. Over the last ten years, this percentage share has fallen from 87%. The proportion of incidents with a male victim and female perpetrator (where gender was recorded) has increased from 11% in 2005-06 to 18% in 2014-15 ([Chart 4](#) & [Table 6](#)).

Chart 4: Gender of victim and perpetrator, where known, 2005-06 to 2014-15



* Chart has been displayed with gaps in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection. See [section 2](#) for more details.

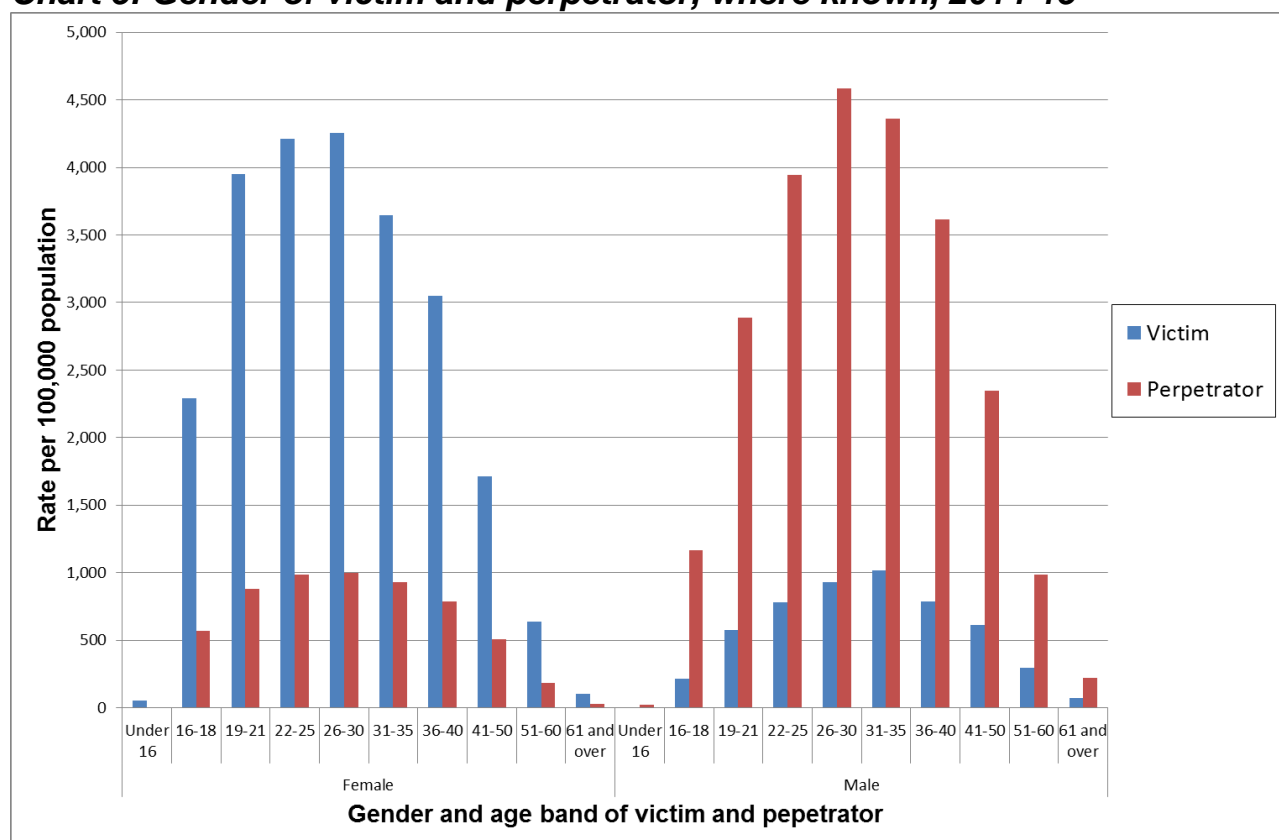
* Chart only displays incidents where gender of victim and perpetrator is known. See [section 2.7](#) for more details of missing data.

In 2014-15, the 26-30 year old age group had the highest rate per 100,000 population for both victims (2,615 incidents recorded per 100,000 population) and perpetrators (2,766 incidents recorded per 100,000 population) ([Tables 7B & Table 8B](#))

In 2014-15, female victims aged 26 to 30 had the highest rate (4,253) of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 100,000 population. Among male victims, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded per 100,000 population in 2014-15, was for those aged, 31 to 35 years, where the rate was 1,014 incidents recorded per 100,000 population ([Chart 5 & Table 7B](#)).

For perpetrators in 2014-15, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population among female perpetrators was by those aged 26 to 30 years (997 incidents recorded per 100,000 population). Among male perpetrators, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population in 2014-15 was by those aged 26 to 30 years (4,582 incidents) ([Chart 5 & Table 8B](#)).

Chart 5: Gender of victim and perpetrator, where known, 2014-15



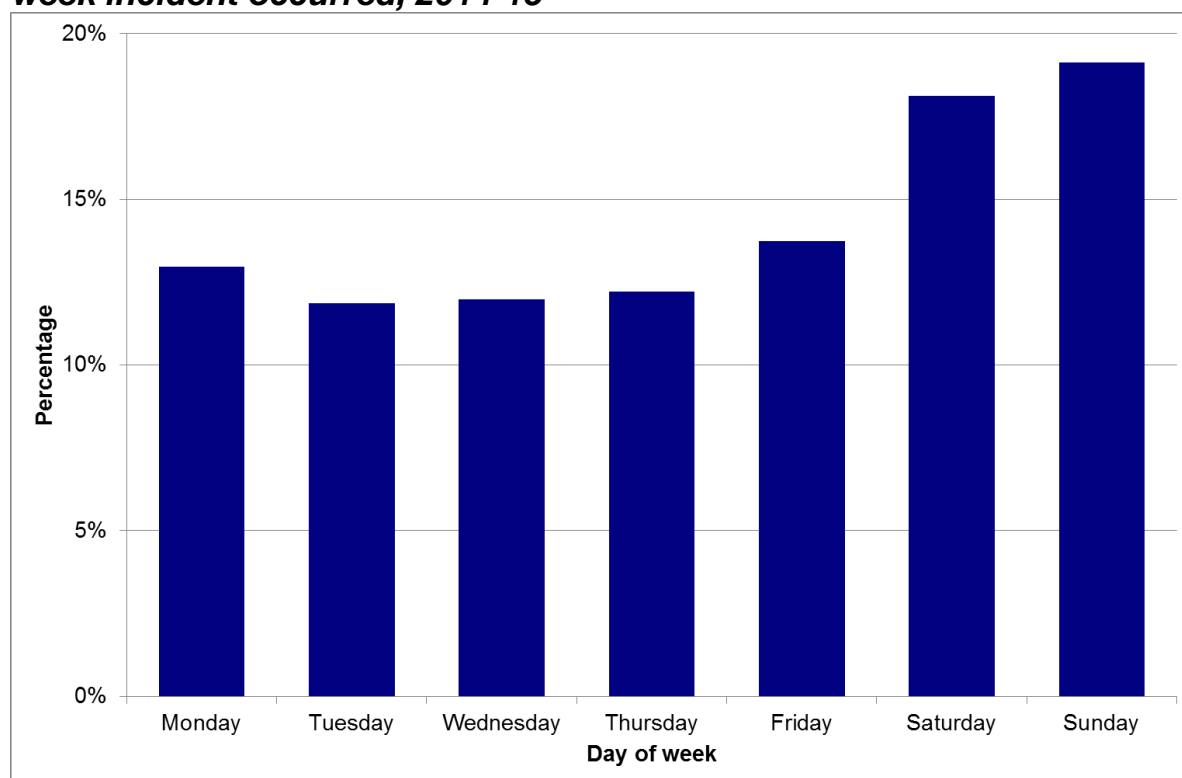
* Data for 2014-15 had a number of incidents with missing age and gender, see [section 2.7](#) for more detail.

Day/Month of Occurrence

The following section is based on the date the incident of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland occurred, rather than when it was reported.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland are more likely to occur at the weekend with 37% of incidents in 2014-15 occurring on a Saturday or a Sunday. The remaining 63% is spread fairly evenly from Monday to Friday. This pattern has been consistent over the past 10 years ([Chart 6](#) & [Table 10](#)).

Chart 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by day of the week incident occurred, 2014-15

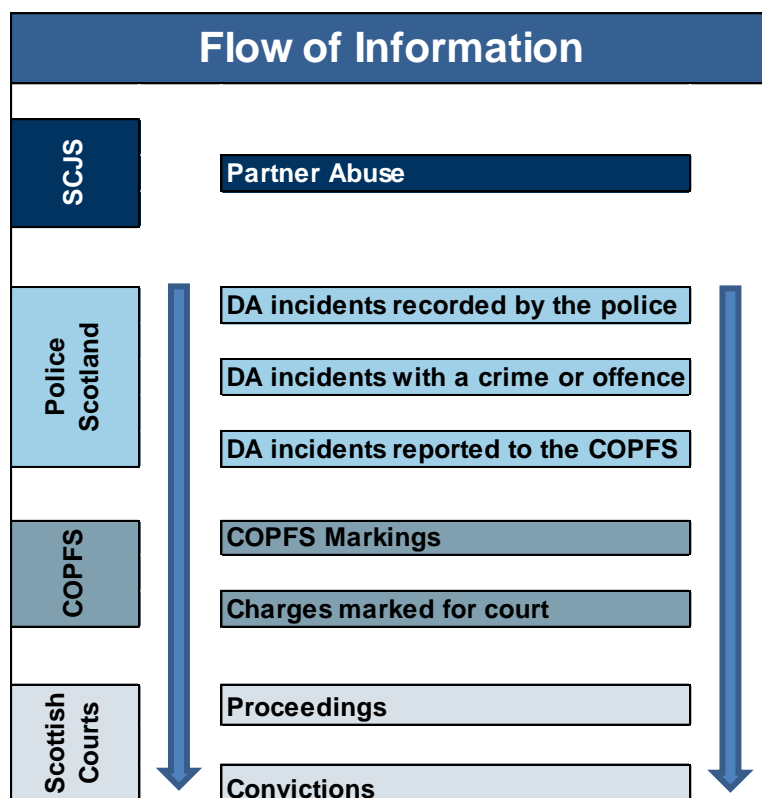


In 2014-15, when looking at the month that incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police occurred, there is no clear strong pattern. Incidents are reasonably spread out across the year ([Table 11](#)).

4. Putting Domestic Abuse in Context

4.1. There are a number of data sources which collect information on domestic abuse in Scotland.

- The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) provides information on Partner Abuse.
- As detailed in this publication, Police Scotland record the number of incidents recorded on domestic abuse.
- The Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) have information on Procurator Fiscal markings and how many charges are reported to courts
- The Scottish Court Service has data on court proceedings and convictions.



4.2. The **Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)** is a large-scale survey measuring people's experience and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The survey is conducted biennially and based on a representative sample of adults (aged 16 and over), living in private households in Scotland.

In addition to its main findings report, a report examining the prevalence and nature of partner abuse in Scotland is also published. The data presented in this report were collected through a self-completion module of the survey. The 2012/13 survey is the fourth sweep of the SCJS to

include a partner abuse questionnaire, with previous data sweeps conducted in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Findings from the SCJS 2012-13 partner abuse module were published in June 2014: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00455441.pdf>

It should be noted that even though the SCJS has a similar definition of domestic abuse to police recorded incidents, there are several differences that will affect the comparability of the data.

- Most incidents of domestic abuse go unreported to the police for a variety of reasons.
- The SCJS is a sample of those aged 16+ and in private households. For example adults staying in Care Homes or those aged under 16 will not be in the estimates.
- The SCJS is capturing the victim's experience of partner abuse. Although the survey is self-completion, some respondents may choose not to disclose information on particular incidents.

- 4.3. It was estimated that the police came to know around one in five (21%) of the most recent /only incidents of partner abuse experienced in the last 12 months. This was much higher for female victims (32%) than for male victims (9%).

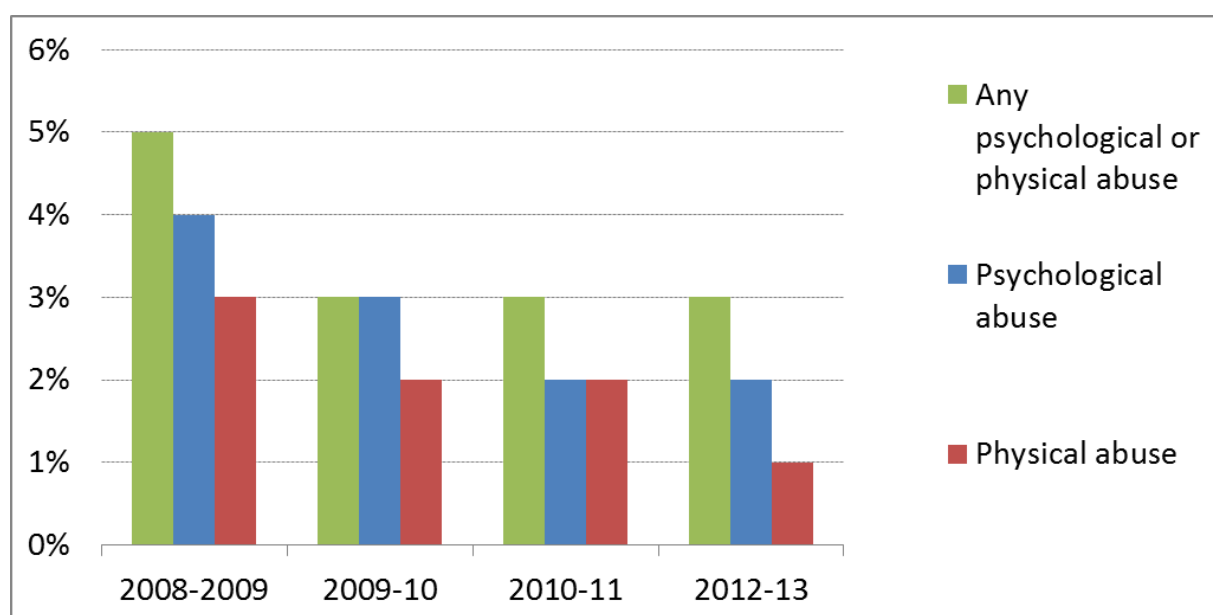
Where the police were not informed, the most prevalent reasons for not reporting the incident were that it was a private matter, that it was too trivial, or that it could be dealt with personally.

The SCJS survey data revealed a notable gender difference in respondents' perception of the incident. Women were more likely than men to view the most recent / only incident of partner abuse as a crime, particularly in relation to physical abuse. Men were more likely to say both forms of abuse (physical and psychological) were 'just something that happens'.

Men were also less likely to view themselves as victims of domestic abuse (based on their understanding of this term). The findings thus highlight notable gender differences in the reporting and perception of partner abuse and in the perception of being a victim.

4.4. In the SCJS, [Chart 7](#) below shows that the proportion of adults reporting any experience of abuse (psychological or physical) has remained the same since 2009-10, and that the proportion of respondents reporting an experience of psychological abuse has remained the same as in 2010-11. There has been a small decrease in the proportion of respondents reporting an experience of physical abuse within the last 12 months (2% in 2010-11 compared to 1% in 2012-13). This may be altered question wording influencing this pattern. More details from the SCJS can be accessed from the 2012-13 SCJS Partner Abuse report here: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00455441.pdf>

Chart 7: Risk of experiencing partner abuse (last 12 months only) across survey year, SCJS, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2012-13



4.5. The **Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)** publish management information on the number of charges reported to COPFS and taken forward to the courts with a domestic abuse aggravator attached. Information, along with explanatory notes, is available here: <http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/publications/statistics>

4.6. The **Scottish Court Service** publishes statistics through the Scottish Government on proceedings and convictions. More information on the statistics available are here: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubCriminalProceedings>

5. Tables

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Table 2: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by local authority, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Table 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they resulted in a crime or offence, by local authority, 2013-14 & 2014-15

Table 4: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 100,000 population, by local authority, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Table 5: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by gender of victim and financial year, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim & perpetrator and financial year, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Table 7A: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2013-14

Table 7B: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2014-15

Table 8A: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of perpetrator, Scotland, 2013-14

Table 8B: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of perpetrator, Scotland, 2014-15

Table 9A: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2013-14

Table 9B: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2014-15

Table 10: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by day of the week, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Table 11: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by month, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

Table 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2014-15²

	Number								
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Incidents leading to the recording of a crime or offence	14,653	13,950	13,926	15,669	21,593	21,829	23,506	23,832	25,127
Crimes	1,884	2,296	2,304	2,817	3,612	4,679	4,876	5,235	5,639
Offences	12,769	11,654	11,622	12,852	17,981	17,150	18,630	18,597	19,488
Incidents not leading to the recording of a crime or offence	18,534	21,175	21,322	20,208	19,642	21,804	21,825	25,052	24,822
TOTAL INCIDENTS ³	33,187	35,125	35,248	35,877	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,884	49,949
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		2013-14 ^{1,2}		2014-15 ²
Incidents leading to the recording of a crime or offence	29,526	32,066	32,370	32,369	30,259		31,769		32,569
Crimes	6,416	6,630	7,161	7,710	7,488		-		-
Offences	23,110	25,436	25,209	24,659	22,771		-		-
Incidents not leading to the recording of a crime or offence	24,405	19,860	23,328	27,478	29,821		26,670		27,313
TOTAL INCIDENTS ³	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080		58,439		59,882

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 2: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by local authority, 2005-06 to 2014-15²

	Number									
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ^{1,2}	2014-15 ²
Aberdeen City	1,975	1,862	2,138	2,388	2,415	2,323	2,449	2,648	2,487	3,088
Aberdeenshire	970	649	707	639	584	550	605	787	886	1,408
Angus	729	841	852	983	947	969	1,187	1,154	1,241	1,329
Argyll & Bute	461	447	481	517	503	521	563	536	556	643
Clackmannanshire	354	558	629	720	707	833	792	713	782	704
Dumfries & Galloway	1,194	1,237	1,204	1,306	1,176	1,407	1,291	1,411	1,272	1,230
Dundee City	2,076	1,995	1,937	2,135	2,305	2,366	2,440	2,525	2,442	2,525
East Ayrshire	1,027	1,149	1,253	1,252	1,273	1,387	1,430	1,413	1,509	1,567
East Dunbartonshire	469	535	596	642	537	661	650	665	623	572
East Lothian	682	705	729	926	902	970	929	1,023	1,025	1,000
East Renfrewshire	395	407	394	382	421	481	555	551	463	535
Edinburgh, City of	5,178	5,784	5,081	5,103	4,923	5,233	5,287	5,313	5,231	5,730
Eilean Siar	87	77	82	94	58	102	114	94	124	145
Falkirk	1,257	1,407	1,885	2,107	1,862	2,019	2,080	1,997	2,014	1,951
Fife	3,243	3,717	3,926	3,987	4,055	3,847	4,519	4,800	4,621	4,200
Glasgow City	8,187	9,030	8,975	9,664	8,866	10,160	11,116	10,220	9,559	8,974
Highland	1,350	1,055	995	1,006	879	1,451	1,872	2,102	2,047	2,247
Inverclyde	808	844	918	821	640	773	951	896	811	889
Midlothian	713	780	777	917	933	860	1,036	1,125	1,124	1,103
Moray	618	627	561	443	389	593	694	620	377	749
North Ayrshire	1,194	1,455	1,468	1,639	1,770	1,791	1,897	1,820	1,837	1,830
North Lanarkshire	3,122	3,269	3,197	4,068	4,157	3,662	3,680	3,996	3,900	3,963
Orkney Islands	57	44	24	21	44	107	108	95	107	114
Perth & Kinross	973	872	880	930	956	1,060	1,162	1,236	1,351	1,529
Renfrewshire	1,462	1,827	1,902	2,045	1,658	2,179	2,431	2,333	2,304	2,235
Scottish Borders	613	650	592	665	808	760	801	930	864	911
Shetland Islands	60	48	51	42	37	70	103	101	86	107
South Ayrshire	950	1,075	1,147	1,105	1,208	1,245	1,265	1,292	1,253	1,296
South Lanarkshire	2,148	2,268	2,379	2,959	2,717	2,920	3,166	3,064	3,026	3,085
Stirling	377	493	759	782	834	850	833	790	768	785
West Dunbartonshire	1,156	1,403	1,642	1,602	1,362	1,485	1,709	1,518	1,460	1,220
West Lothian	1,446	1,774	1,788	2,041	2,000	2,063	2,132	2,312	2,289	2,218
SCOTLAND³	45,331	48,884	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they resulted in a crime or offence, by local authority, 2013-14 & 2014-15²

	Number & Percentage					
	2013-14 ^{1,2}			2014-15 ²		
	No of Incidents	% of Incidents leading to a crime or offence	% of Incidents <u>not</u> leading to a crime or offence	No of Incidents	% of Incidents leading to a crime or offence	% of Incidents <u>not</u> leading to a crime or offence
Aberdeen City	2,487	59%	41%	3,088	58%	42%
Aberdeenshire	886	67%	33%	1,408	65%	35%
Angus	1,241	58%	42%	1,329	56%	44%
Argyll & Bute	556	65%	35%	643	57%	43%
Clackmannanshire	782	36%	64%	704	57%	43%
Dumfries & Galloway	1,272	61%	39%	1,230	67%	33%
Dundee City	2,442	58%	42%	2,525	51%	49%
East Ayrshire	1,509	61%	39%	1,567	57%	43%
East Dunbartonshire	623	57%	43%	572	51%	49%
East Lothian	1,025	7%	93%	1,000	50%	50%
East Renfrewshire	463	59%	41%	535	54%	46%
Edinburgh, City of	5,231	60%	40%	5,730	56%	44%
Eilean Siar	124	43%	57%	145	49%	51%
Falkirk	2,014	48%	52%	1,951	59%	41%
Fife	4,621	58%	42%	4,200	55%	45%
Glasgow City	9,559	60%	40%	8,974	56%	44%
Highland	2,047	40%	60%	2,247	51%	49%
Inverclyde	811	55%	45%	889	46%	54%
Midlothian	1,124	51%	49%	1,103	54%	46%
Moray	377	50%	50%	749	61%	39%
North Ayrshire	1,837	58%	42%	1,830	58%	42%
North Lanarkshire	3,900	50%	50%	3,963	47%	53%
Orkney Islands	107	50%	50%	114	54%	46%
Perth & Kinross	1,351	61%	39%	1,529	53%	47%
Renfrewshire	2,304	52%	48%	2,235	49%	51%
Scottish Borders	864	1%	99%	911	52%	48%
Shetland Islands	86	43%	57%	107	48%	52%
South Ayrshire	1,253	55%	45%	1,296	50%	50%
South Lanarkshire	3,026	54%	46%	3,085	53%	47%
Stirling	768	50%	50%	785	56%	44%
West Dunbartonshire	1,460	56%	44%	1,220	50%	50%
West Lothian	2,289	55%	45%	2,218	52%	48%
SCOTLAND ³	58,439	54%	46%	59,882	54%	46%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 4: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 100,000 population, by local authority, 2005-06 to 2014-15

	Rate per 100,000 population ⁴										
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ^{1,2}	2014-15 ²	
Aberdeen City	946	888	1,006	1,116	1,113	1,057	1,101	1,177	1,095	1,349	
Aberdeenshire	408	269	289	259	235	219	239	308	344	540	
Angus	655	748	750	859	825	840	1,022	993	1,068	1,139	
Argyll & Bute	510	492	530	575	562	588	633	617	631	734	
Clackmannanshire	720	1,126	1,243	1,407	1,378	1,623	1,538	1,390	1,525	1,375	
Dumfries & Galloway	798	826	801	865	778	931	853	935	846	820	
Dundee City	1,446	1,392	1,348	1,480	1,588	1,620	1,658	1,708	1,648	1,703	
East Ayrshire	854	954	1,036	1,030	1,043	1,133	1,166	1,151	1,232	1,283	
East Dunbartonshire	442	507	567	612	512	630	619	628	589	536	
East Lothian	735	751	763	950	917	978	930	1,014	1,011	980	
East Renfrewshire	439	453	439	425	468	532	611	605	506	579	
Edinburgh, City of	1,152	1,279	1,114	1,113	1,063	1,114	1,106	1,101	1,073	1,163	
Eilean Siar	323	285	301	345	212	370	412	341	453	532	
Falkirk	837	931	1,238	1,375	1,207	1,301	1,331	1,274	1,282	1,238	
Fife	912	1,040	1,094	1,107	1,122	1,061	1,237	1,311	1,259	1,144	
Glasgow City	1,438	1,588	1,570	1,677	1,524	1,732	1,874	1,717	1,602	1,497	
Highland	619	478	444	443	384	629	804	902	879	964	
Inverclyde	977	1,025	1,118	1,001	784	948	1,171	1,111	1,010	1,113	
Midlothian	891	975	967	1,125	1,139	1,044	1,241	1,335	1,327	1,279	
Moray	686	691	614	477	418	633	742	667	400	791	
North Ayrshire	874	1,064	1,068	1,188	1,284	1,300	1,374	1,323	1,342	1,341	
North Lanarkshire	954	994	965	1,221	1,240	1,089	1,090	1,183	1,155	1,173	
Orkney Islands	284	216	117	101	210	504	504	441	496	528	
Perth & Kinross	705	626	623	650	662	728	791	837	914	1,027	
Renfrewshire	853	1,067	1,107	1,185	958	1,254	1,392	1,338	1,325	1,283	
Scottish Borders	556	586	528	587	711	668	703	818	759	799	
Shetland Islands	270	216	228	187	162	304	443	435	371	461	
South Ayrshire	848	959	1,021	981	1,074	1,106	1,120	1,144	1,110	1,152	
South Lanarkshire	700	735	766	950	870	932	1,009	975	961	978	
Stirling	431	560	858	883	940	949	922	868	842	857	
West Dunbartonshire	1,263	1,535	1,797	1,757	1,495	1,635	1,886	1,680	1,626	1,360	
West Lothian	876	1,062	1,055	1,191	1,156	1,185	1,216	1,314	1,300	1,252	
SCOTLAND ³	887	952	966	1,037	992	1,058	1,129	1,131	1,097	1,120	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 5: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by gender of victim and financial year, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ^{1,2}	2014-15 ²	Number
Incidents leading to the Recording of a Crime/offence	Female	20,673	21,044	22,023	25,389	26,677	26,766	26,871	24,993	25,348	25,080	
	Male	2,654	2,605	2,944	4,051	5,224	5,470	5,431	5,190	5,235	5,361	
	Not recorded or other ⁵	179	183	160	86	165	134	67	76	1,186	2,128	
Incidents not leading to recording a crime or offence	Female	18,765	21,398	20,728	20,442	16,325	19,116	20,254	21,635	18,079	16,484	
	Male	2,740	3,402	3,850	3,885	3,449	4,156	4,814	5,468	5,104	4,937	
	Not recorded or other ⁵	320	252	244	78	86	56	2,410	2,718	3,487	5,892	
Total	Female	39,438	42,442	42,751	45,831	43,002	45,882	47,125	46,628	43,427	41,564	
	Male	5,394	6,007	6,794	7,936	8,673	9,626	10,245	10,658	10,339	10,298	
	Not recorded or other ⁵	499	435	404	164	251	190	2,477	2,794	4,673	8,020	
TOTAL ³		45,331	48,884	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim & perpetrator and financial year, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ^{1,2}	2014-15 ²	Number
Female victim, male perpetrator	38,696	41,499	41,833	44,961	41,927	44,951	46,439	45,916	42,120	39,483	
<i>% of total known</i>	87	87	85	84	82	81	81	80	80	79	
Male victim, female perpetrator	4,932	5,482	6,199	7,361	7,938	8,889	9,569	9,946	9,435	8,901	
<i>% of total known</i>	11	11	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	18	
Female victim, female perpetrator	381	431	565	640	682	736	566	605	612	671	
<i>% of total known</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Male victim, male perpetrator	400	455	530	548	666	693	659	677	724	854	
<i>% of total known</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Not recorded or other ⁵	922	941	822	421	713	429	2,614	2,936	5,548	9,973	
TOTAL ³	45,331	48,808	49,949	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 7A: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2013-14^{1,2}

Age Group of Victim	Gender of victim				Rate per 100,000 population ^{4,6}		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁵	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	186	17	1	204	42	4	22
16-18	2,125	202	9	2,336	2,322	209	1,243
19-21	4,393	637	9	5,039	4,109	596	2,357
22-25	6,640	1,209	26	7,875	4,479	818	2,660
26-30	7,550	1,599	23	9,172	4,285	936	2,643
31-35	6,504	1,546	19	8,069	3,831	947	2,423
36-40	5,190	1,339	13	6,542	3,165	845	2,029
41-50	7,457	2,392	30	9,879	1,820	621	1,243
51-60	2,487	1,000	7	3,494	675	284	485
61 and over	718	350	7	1,075	109	65	90
Not Recorded	177	48	4,529	4,754	-	-	-
TOTAL	43,427	10,339	4,673	58,439	1,584	400	1,097

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 7B: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2014-15 ²

Age Group of Victim	Gender of victim				Rate per 100,000 population ^{4,6}		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁵	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	229	27	-	256	51	6	28
16-18	2,070	204	-	2,274	2,290	215	1,226
19-21	4,082	601	-	4,683	3,951	578	2,259
22-25	6,320	1,168	-	7,488	4,210	783	2,502
26-30	7,582	1,615	2	9,199	4,253	931	2,615
31-35	6,355	1,694	1	8,050	3,647	1,014	2,359
36-40	4,890	1,211	-	6,101	3,052	784	1,939
41-50	6,890	2,310	2	9,202	1,710	610	1,178
51-60	2,391	1,052	1	3,444	635	293	468
61 and over	709	377	-	1,086	106	69	89
Not Recorded	46	39	8,014	8,099	-	-	-
TOTAL	41,564	10,298	8,020	59,882	1,511	397	1,120

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 8A: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of perpetrator, Scotland, 2013-14 ^{1,2}

Age Group of Perpetrator	Gender of perpetrator				Rate per 100,000 population ^{4,6}		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁵	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	23	72	-	95	5	15	10
16-18	498	1,001	5	1,504	544	1,037	800
19-21	1,015	3,154	7	4,176	949	2,952	1,954
22-25	1,385	6,096	20	7,501	934	4,123	2,533
26-30	1,675	7,703	15	9,393	951	4,510	2,707
31-35	1,550	6,923	22	8,495	913	4,242	2,551
36-40	1,305	5,599	11	6,915	796	3,533	2,144
41-50	2,035	9,081	25	11,141	497	2,357	1,401
51-60	685	3,612	14	4,311	186	1,024	598
61 and over	157	1,091	1	1,249	24	203	104
Not Recorded	63	243	3,353	3,659	-	-	-
TOTAL	10,391	44,575	3,473	58,439	379	1,723	1,097

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 8B: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of perpetrator, Scotland, 2014-15 ²

Age Group of Perpetrator	Gender of perpetrator				Rate per 100,000 population ^{4,6}		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁵	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	20	93	-	113	4	20	12
16-18	512	1,108	-	1,620	566	1,165	873
19-21	909	3,006	2	3,917	880	2,890	1,889
22-25	1,476	5,885	-	7,361	983	3,947	2,460
26-30	1,778	7,947	4	9,729	997	4,582	2,766
31-35	1,624	7,283	1	8,908	932	4,360	2,610
36-40	1,263	5,587	1	6,851	788	3,617	2,177
41-50	2,030	8,891	7	10,928	504	2,348	1,398
51-60	698	3,551	-	4,249	185	988	577
61 and over	189	1,223	-	1,412	28	223	116
Not Recorded	48	183	4,563	4,794	-	-	-
TOTAL	10,547	44,757	4,578	59,882	383	1,724	1,120

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 9A: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2013-14 ^{1,2}

Age Group of Victim ⁷	Age Group of Perpetrator											Number
	Under 16	16-18	19-21	22-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-50	51-60	61	Not	TOTAL
										and over	Recorded	
Under 16	60	98	26	5	2	5	1	-	-	-	7	204
16-18	30	709	875	436	161	53	10	10	2	-	50	2,336
19-21	1	381	1,655	1,807	743	238	58	34	16	7	99	5,039
22-25	2	146	916	2,806	2,455	861	319	215	29	1	125	7,875
26-30	-	64	385	1,402	3,327	2,240	889	616	93	13	143	9,172
31-35	-	18	117	451	1,427	2,670	1,714	1,357	162	19	134	8,069
36-40	-	8	23	159	565	1,182	2,001	2,145	325	25	109	6,542
41-50	-	5	27	127	317	828	1,478	5,145	1,599	177	176	9,879
51-60	-	2	4	26	48	106	159	1,071	1,663	358	57	3,494
61 and over	-	1	1	3	8	8	27	127	275	593	32	1,075
Not Recorded	2	72	147	279	340	304	259	421	147	56	2,727	4,754
TOTAL	95	1,504	4,176	7,501	9,393	8,495	6,915	11,141	4,311	1,249	3,659	58,439

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 9B: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2014-15 ²

Age Group of Victim ⁷	Age Group of Perpetrator											Number
	Under 16	16-18	19-21	22-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-50	51-60	61	Not	TOTAL
										and over	Recorded	
Under 16	56	133	23	8	2	3	6	8	2	-	15	256
16-18	27	775	829	370	114	32	13	16	1	1	96	2,274
19-21	6	331	1,420	1,688	717	213	59	52	7	1	189	4,683
22-25	3	128	756	2,557	2,379	878	267	169	35	4	312	7,488
26-30	2	61	344	1,298	3,362	2,184	855	607	108	19	359	9,199
31-35	1	20	107	465	1,339	2,652	1,755	1,201	173	26	311	8,050
36-40	1	6	31	136	506	1,171	1,781	1,952	234	36	247	6,101
41-50	2	8	19	95	325	754	1,302	4,686	1,444	195	372	9,202
51-60	1	-	1	9	66	123	158	1,032	1,558	350	146	3,444
61 and over	-	-	-	5	11	11	26	113	237	616	67	1,086
Not Recorded	14	158	387	730	908	887	629	1,092	450	164	2,680	8,099
TOTAL	113	1,620	3,917	7,361	9,729	8,908	6,851	10,928	4,249	1,412	4,794	59,882

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 10: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by day of the week incident occurred, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15⁸

	Percentage											
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ^{1,2}	2014-15 ²		
Monday	13%	13%	13%	12%	13%	13%	13%	13%		13%		13%
Tuesday	12%	12%	12%	12%	11%	12%	12%	13%		12%		12%
Wednesday	11%	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%		13%		12%
Thursday	12%	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%		12%		12%
Friday	13%	13%	13%	13%	14%	13%	14%	14%		14%		14%
Saturday	19%	20%	19%	19%	20%	19%	19%	18%		18%		18%
Sunday	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	19%	19%		19%		19%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%		100%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Table 11: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by month incident occurred, Scotland, 2005-06 to 2014-15⁸

	Percentage											
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ^{1,2}	2014-15 ²		
April	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%		7%		8%
May	8%	8%	8%	8%	10%	9%	8%	9%		8%		9%
June	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%	8%		9%		9%
July	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%		9%		9%
August	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%	8%	8%	9%		9%		9%
September	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%		8%		8%
October	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%		8%		8%
November	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%		8%		8%
December	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%		9%		8%
January	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	9%	8%		9%		9%
February	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%		8%		7%
March	8%	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%		8%		8%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%		100%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 5.

Notes for Tables

1. Incidents for 2013-14 were collated at a different period than previous years. This may affect the comparability between years. See [section 2.10](#) for more details.
2. Incidents for 2013-14 and 2014-15 were collected differently from previous years; see [section 2](#) for more details.
3. Between 1990-00 and 2012-13, the legacy police forces recorded domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influenced the number of incidents and the proportion of incidents which led to the recording of a crime or offence.
4. Population estimates are as at mid-year from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) (<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>). NRS have announced discrepancies in the mid-year population estimates. See [section 6.23](#) for more details.
5. 'Not Recorded & Other' includes incidents where the gender is either missing or recorded as transgender.
6. Due to the increased numbers of missing age and gender data, rates per 100,000 population, will be lower than expected. See [section 2.7](#) for more details of missing data.
7. Age of victim and perpetrator are extracted from the iVPD system and linked to each incident. In a small minority of cases the age pairings may, due to data capture or definitional issues, not be a true reflection of the age gap.
8. Incidents with unknown day of recording are allocated to the 15th of the month they occurred. If the month is unknown as well, they are assigned to June.

All tables can be accessed online via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubDomesticAbuse>

6. Annexes

Annex 1: Data Sources and Definitions

Domestic Abuse

- 6.1. A statistical collection on domestic abuse (previously referred to as domestic violence) was introduced in 1999. The definition of domestic abuse used by Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) is:

‘Any form of physical, sexual or mental and emotional abuse [that] might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere’.

Data Collection:

- 6.2. Detailed information on the collection of the data is included in [Section 2](#) of this publication.
- 6.3. The main Scottish Government Statement of Administrative Sources covers all sources of administrative data used by Scottish Government statisticians. This statement can be found on the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/StatementAdminSources>.

A separate statement of administrative sources is available for police statistics via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/AdminSourcesPolice>.

Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:

- 6.4. Police Scotland publishes management information on the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. This is presented within their Quarterly Management Information Reports, which are available from the ‘Our Performance’ section of Police Scotland’s website: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>.
- 6.5. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland’s commitment to transparency (alongside other regular reporting activity to the Scottish Police Authority). The information within these reports is presented on a cumulative quarterly basis, with the first quarter of a reporting year containing 3 months of data (from April to June), the second containing 6 months of data (from April to September) etc. The reports are typically published within 2 months of the period to which they refer.

- 6.6. The Quarterly Management Information Reports make clear to users that the data they contain on incidents of domestic abuse is based on the Administrative Data available to Police Scotland at that time and not the Official Statistics. The annual Official Statistics published by the Scottish Government on domestic abuse are based on management information which has undergone further quality assurance work, including additional dialogue with Police Scotland, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Data Definitions:

- 6.7. In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. a perpetrator may assault their spouse and damage their car in the process. In this example, crimes of vandalism and assaults would be recorded. Statistics in this bulletin either relate to the number of incidents recorded, or the number of incidents with at least one crime or offence committed.

Recording Crimes & Offences:

- 6.8. Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. "Crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious 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.
- 6.9. Given the issues outlined in [Section 2.7](#), this bulletin is not able to split crimes and offences for each incident. Instead we can only state that at least one crime or offence has been recorded.

Annex 2: Quality of the Statistics

Reporting and Quality Assurance of Domestic Abuse Statistics:

- 6.10. The statistics reported in this bulletin do not reveal the incidence of all domestic abuse committed since not all incidents are reported to the police. In conjunction with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS), the statistics help to assess the extent and impact of domestic abuse in Scotland. A number of reasons have been found for such under reporting. For example, victims experience fear and shame as common effects of domestic abuse. In addition, under reporting may also be caused by a perpetrator physically preventing a victim reporting the domestic abuse.
- 6.11. Police Scotland and COPFS have domestic abuse as a high priority. As such, they have a Joint Protocol outlining the procedures and practices to follow when dealing with incidents of domestic abuse. The protocol can be obtained from Police Scotland website:
http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/keep_safe/175573?view=Standard

- 6.12. The data provided by Police Scotland go through a process of quality assurance in which data received are checked against previous years and comparable sources. Anything unusual or which we feel requires further explanation is then fed back to Police Scotland for their attention. Any amendments are carried out and the final data is used to produce a set of data tables which can be used to check the final dataset. If the police are content that the figures are an accurate reflection of the dataset, then the data is officially signed off for use in the publication.
- 6.13. During the quality assurance checking process, it is possible for errors to be found in data for previous years. While we do not routinely revise figures, we are committed to correcting errors in the data and providing suitable explanations for any changes made to previously published data.
- 6.14. Police Scotland record complete information for all incidents. There is however a challenge in retrieving and linking the captured information to meet the specific data requirements for this publication. As a result some values for key variables are marked 'missing'. The percentage of incidents of domestic abuse where information is recorded as missing is contained in [Section 2.7](#). Missing data has been analysed where possible to look for trends and patterns that would affect the quality of the statistics in this bulletin.
- 6.15. The statistics provided in this data return over the years have highlighted the different ways in which police legacy forces recorded information. In particular, police practice in deciding when the behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may differ. For example, some legacy forces had ruled that no crime or offence should be recorded if no further action was taken e.g. because the victim did not wish any action to be taken. Other forces may have recorded this as a crime or offence.
- 6.16. The differences in legacy force practice clearly influenced the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence. For example, in 2010-11, this ranged from 98% in Tayside, to 31% in Dumfries & Galloway.
- 6.17. With all Police Divisions now using the same iVPD system to record incidents of Domestic Abuse and following the same Police Scotland guidance, inconsistencies in approach should be minimised over time.

Changes in Methodology

- 6.18. 2009-10 was the first year in which data was submitted based on the date the incident was recorded. Prior to this, data was returned based on the number of incidents which occurred during that time period. As historic data has never been revised in this publication series, any incidents which occurred in a different time period to the date in which the incident was recorded will have been excluded from the returns.
- 6.19. For example, if an incident occurred during 2007-08 but was reported during 2008-09, it would have been excluded from 2008-09 (since the date committed is not in the relevant time period), but it would also have been missed out of the 2007-08 data as the submitted data would not have been updated. Hence, the incident would not be reported in the statistics in this publication series and hence contributed to an underestimate. Although this publication series has never revised this information, some legacy forces may have updated their own collections and prepared refreshed data in response to bespoke requests.
- 6.20. The number of incidents in the bulletins from 2009-10 onwards, is based on the date the incident was recorded. This should give a better reflection of police activity relating to incidents of domestic abuse. By reporting on the date the incidents were committed, we get a snapshot account of the number of incidents of domestic abuse occurring within a particular period. However, by analysing the data based on the date recorded, we can see the trend in reporting incidents of domestic abuse to the police. Hence, if there was an increase in the number of victims who found the courage to report incidents of domestic abuse to the police, this should be reflected in the statistics.

Legislation

- 6.21. There have been no major legislative changes throughout 2014-15 which impact on the comparability of the statistics.
- 6.22. As well as common law, some of the main legislation applicable to domestic abuse is as follows:
- Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 (Section 31 of this Act introduced the concept of “domestic interdicts” into the 1981 Act, which applies to unmarried cohabitants (either opposite-sex or same-sex). Domestic interdicts have much the same effect in relation to cohabitants as matrimonial interdicts have for married couples as is defined in section 10 of this Act, which amends section 14 of the 1981 Act to extend the scope of matrimonial interdicts to include not only a matrimonial home, but also any other home owned by the applicant, the applicant’s place of work and the school attended by any child in the applicant’s care)
 - Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001

- Criminal Justice Act 1998
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Family Law Act 1996
- Matrimonial Homes (Family Law) (Scotland) Act 1981

Mid-year Population Estimates

6.23. The Mid-year estimates used in this publication to calculate the rates per 100,000 population were obtained from the National Records of Scotland (NRS). NRS have recently alerted users to errors contained within the age groups for 2002 to 2014. These errors will be corrected by NRS in April 2016. The errors discovered are small and as such, the overall impact on the data in this publication will be minimal. Further information on the errors found are documented on the NRS website:

<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population>

Annex 3: Auditing of Data by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

HMICS Crime Audit 2013

6.24. Following the creation of Police Scotland in April 2013, HMICS carried out a review of incident and crime recording for a number of crime types including crimes with a domestic abuse aggravation flag. HMICS sampled a number of records across the 14 divisions in Police Scotland to establish the accuracy of the reporting and to assess compliance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS). The review involved qualitative research with a range of people involved in the crime recording process, including interviews and focus groups with officers and staff. Thirty incidents in each of the 14 divisions were sampled. The sample size was not large as it was only intended to serve as an indicator of recording practice across Scotland.

6.25. Compliance rates varied across division and crime type; however crimes with a domestic abuse flag achieved a high compliance rate of 99%. The report states: *“the compliance rate for Domestic Abuse incidents (99%) illustrates what can be achieved when a focussed and robust approach is taken to attending, investigating and recording a particular crime type”*.

6.26. The full report, including key findings, recommendations and improvement actions, can be accessed from the HMICS website:

<http://www.hmics.org/publications/hm-inspectorate-constabulary-scotland-review-incident-and-crime-recording-december-2013>

- 6.27. It should be made clear that the audit was carried out before the implementation of the iVPD to all Police Divisions and hence does not add any assurances that incidents of domestic abuse are being captured correctly into the iVPD system.
- 6.28. The audit does however imply that the front line officers and call handlers were well trained and knowledgeable when it came to recording domestic abuse issues and that users of domestic abuse statistics can have reasonable confidence that crimes associated with domestic abuse are being recorded correctly.
- 6.29. It should also be noted that as the audit is based on a sample survey of incident and crime records (rather than all records), the true value may differ slightly from the results in the audit. This is because sampling in this way is always subject to a range of quantifiable and non-quantifiable error.

Annex 4: Stakeholder Consultations

- 6.30. From April-June 2015, Justice Analytical Services conducted a consultation of stakeholders and users of the suite of publications based on returns from Police Scotland, which includes incidents of 'Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland' statistical bulletin series. The main objectives of this consultation were to: understand who the users are, what their requirements for data are and the benefits of any new suggested structure and content; guide the future strategy for how, when and what we publish regarding police data; and identify improvements that will ease and increase the use of police data in the future.
- 6.31. Reflecting our commitment to user engagement and to establishing a broad evidence base to inform our future publications, we used a variety of consultation methods to capture the views of both expert and non-expert users. This included one-to-one interviews, user group discussions, social media interaction and written surveys.
- 6.32. A report on the results of the consultation can be found at the link below: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2015>.
- 6.33. Justice Analytical Services has reflected on the feedback received from the consultation during the production of this bulletin. This includes the addition of new graphics to highlight the main points conveyed by these statistics.
- 6.34. This consultation builds on previous and ongoing engagement around crime statistics, including:

- a user event held in October 2014. Further details, including a summary of the feedback following the event, can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime>.
- a user consultation via online survey, which was open from April-May 2014. Further details, including the results of the consultation, can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon/RCUC2014>.

6.35. We always welcome feedback on the content of our statistical bulletins and users are welcome to submit their comments to: justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

If you would like to be kept informed about developments in crime statistics, we suggest registering with ScotStat:
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>.

Annex 5: Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

England & Wales

6.36. In England and Wales, domestic violence (abuse) data is not comparable with Scotland's statistics on domestic abuse due to differences in definition. The definition of domestic violence in England and Wales is:

'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional'

More details of the definition can be accessed here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

The definition used by Police Scotland does not include family members, with the data collected only including domestic abuse between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The definition used by Police Scotland also has no age restrictions upon it.

6.37. Differences in legislation and common law also have to be taken into account when comparing the crime statistics for England & Wales and Scotland.

- 6.38. Domestic violence statistics are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Home Office and included in Crime Statistics bulletins. The latest Crime Statistics for England & Wales can be accessed from the following link:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/index.html>.

Northern Ireland

- 6.39. Similar to the issues above with England & Wales, statistics on domestic violence (abuse) in Northern Ireland is not directly comparable. The definition of domestic violence in Northern Ireland is:

'The Northern Ireland Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence has defined domestic abuse as 'any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation', where:

- **Incident** means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members;
- **Intimate partners** means there must have been a relationship with a degree of continuity and stability. The relationship must also have had (or reasonably supposed to have had) a sexual aspect, such as in the relationship between husband and wife or between others generally recognised as a couple including same sex couples; and
- **Family members** include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily'

Similar to the above, the definition used by Police Scotland does not include family members, with the data collected only including domestic abuse between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners.

- 6.40. Statistics from the Police Service of Northern Ireland can be accessed here:
http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_domestic_abuse_statistics-2.htm

Annex 6: Users of the Statistics

- 6.41. These statistics are used by a large number of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.
- 6.42. Domestic abuse statistics are also used by a variety of external stakeholders, including:

- Victim support groups
 - National and local journalism;
 - Academic research; and
 - Students and school pupils writing dissertations and carrying out projects.
- 6.43. Official Statistics are a tool used in decision making both inside and outside government, and for this tool to be effective it must be designed to meet the needs of users. Comments on the uses you have made of these statistics and any suggestions for their improvement are always welcomed and should be sent to justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

Annex 7: Future Considerations

- 6.44. At present, the iVPD is used to record all information surrounding incidents of domestic abuse. Police Scotland continue to make enhancements to the system, with improvements include capturing SGJD crime classification codes, relationship status between victim and perpetrator and location of incident. The Scottish Government also plans to work with Police Scotland to improve the validation processes in the data. Police Scotland are also working towards a new IT system called i6. As the development of Police Scotland's recording system proceeds, we will consult with our statistical users at the appropriate time.
- 6.45. Before the next scheduled publication of 'Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland' the Scottish Government plans to spend time analysing other data collected as part of this data collection to establish how good the quality is, and what benefits can be achieved by releasing it.
- 6.46. We are always keen to hear users' views on our products. If you have any comments or suggestions on how you would like to access information, please contact us at justiceanalysts@gov.scot.

Annex 8: Other Notes

- 6.47. Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the estimated costs of responding to statistical surveys and data collection are to be published.

The estimated cost of compliance for supplying and validating the data for the 2012-13 bulletin was £2,100. Given the transitional nature in the collection of statistics on domestic abuse over the past two years and the on-going improvements to the iVPD system it is not possible to provide an updated cost for this bulletin. The Scottish Government and Police Scotland aim to provide an updated cost estimate for future editions of this publication.

Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/costcalculation>.

- 6.48. Justice Analytical Services publishes a work plan each year detailing the programme of work planned over the current financial year period. The work of the division covers both an agreed forward programme of analytical priorities, and routine analytical work particularly related to the compilation of National and Official Statistics, ongoing project management and knowledge transfer activity.

Analytical planning to develop a programme for the financial year 2015-16 followed a structured process of engagement with policy colleagues which was designed to closely align our analysis with current policy priorities and to the delivery of outcomes. The work plan is available via the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/JASAP11-12>.

- 6.49. Clearly, only a limited selection of tables can be included in any statistical bulletin. Further analysis of domestic abuse statistics can be supplied on request subject to Disclosure Control. In certain cases a fee is charged. For details of what can be provided, please contact JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- some limited additional information may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact statistics.enquiries@gov.scot for further information.
- detailed information cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

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