



CRIME AND JUSTICE

DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2015-16

This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents and recorded crime supplied by Police Scotland in 2015-16. 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.

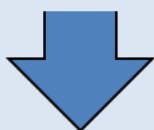
The definition of domestic abuse used by Police Scotland is:

'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

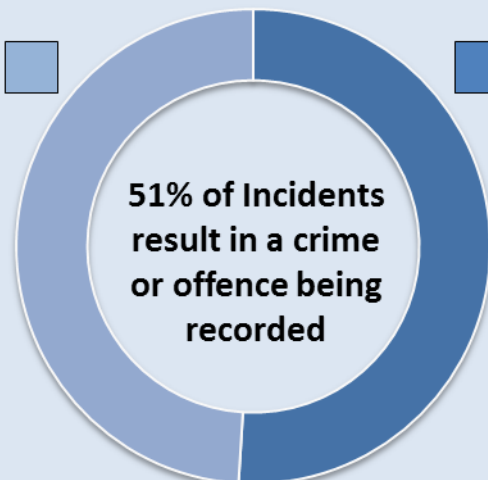
2014-15 - 59,882

Recorded Incidents
down 3% over last
year



2015-16 - 58,104

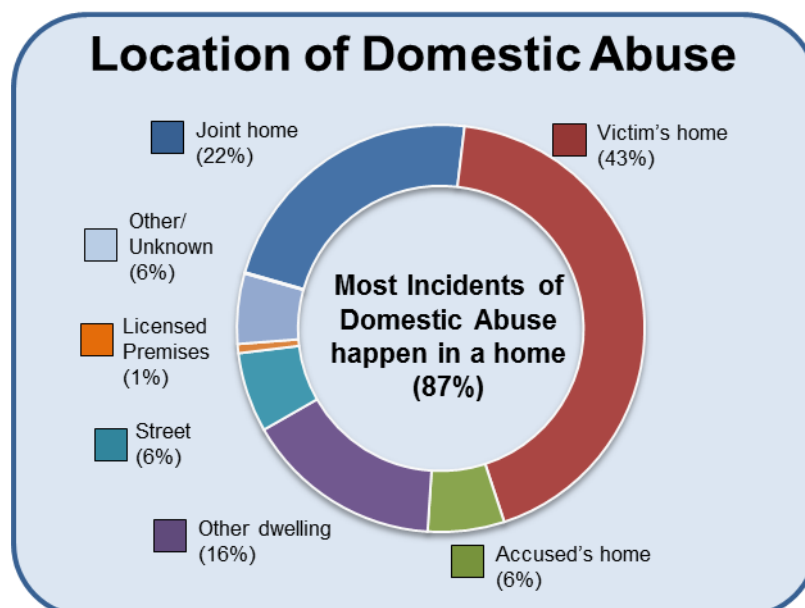
No
Crime



Crime

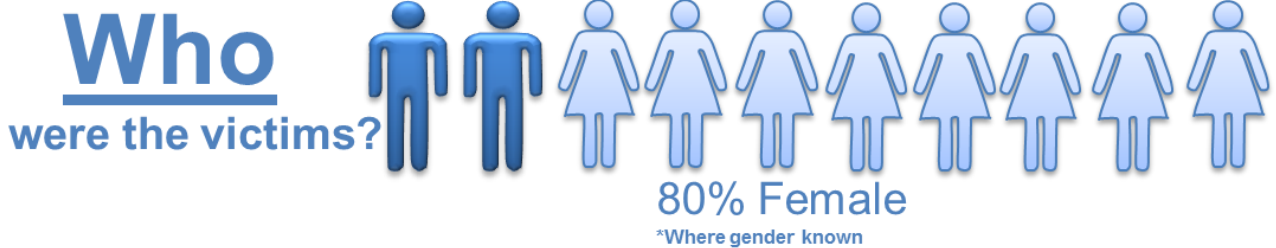
Key Points

- In 2015-16 there were 58,104 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, a decrease of 3.0% from 2014-15 and the lowest number recorded since 2010-11 when 55,698 incidents were recorded.
- In 2015-16, 51% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland included the recording of at least one crime or offence.
- There were 108 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2015-16. At a local authority level, Dundee City (160) and West Dunbartonshire (152) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. Aberdeenshire (51) and East Renfrewshire (53) recorded the lowest rates per 10,000 population.
- Where gender information was recorded, 79% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2015-16 had a female victim and a male accused. This percentage share has fallen from 87% in 2006-07.
- The proportion of incidents with a male victim and a female accused (where gender was recorded) has increased from 11% in 2006-07 to 18% in 2015-16.
- In 2015-16, the 26-30 years old age group has the highest incident rate for both victims (283 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) and those accused (272 incidents recorded per 10,000 population).
- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police are more common at weekends with 36% of all incidents in 2015-16 occurring on a Saturday or Sunday.
- In 2015-16, 87% of all incidents of domestic abuse occurred in a home or dwelling.



Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2015-16

58,104 Incidents



What was the gender of victim & perpetrator?

*Where gender known

| Victim | Perpetrator | Share |
|--------|-------------|-------|
| | | 79% |
| | | 18% |
| | | 2% |
| | | 1% |

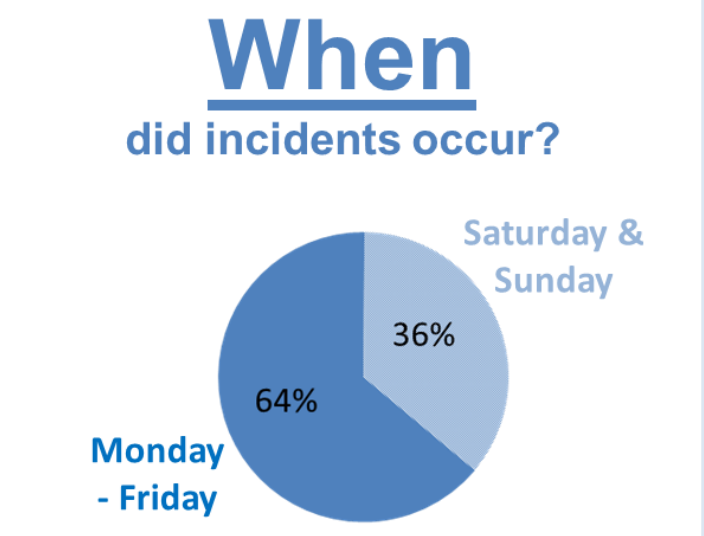
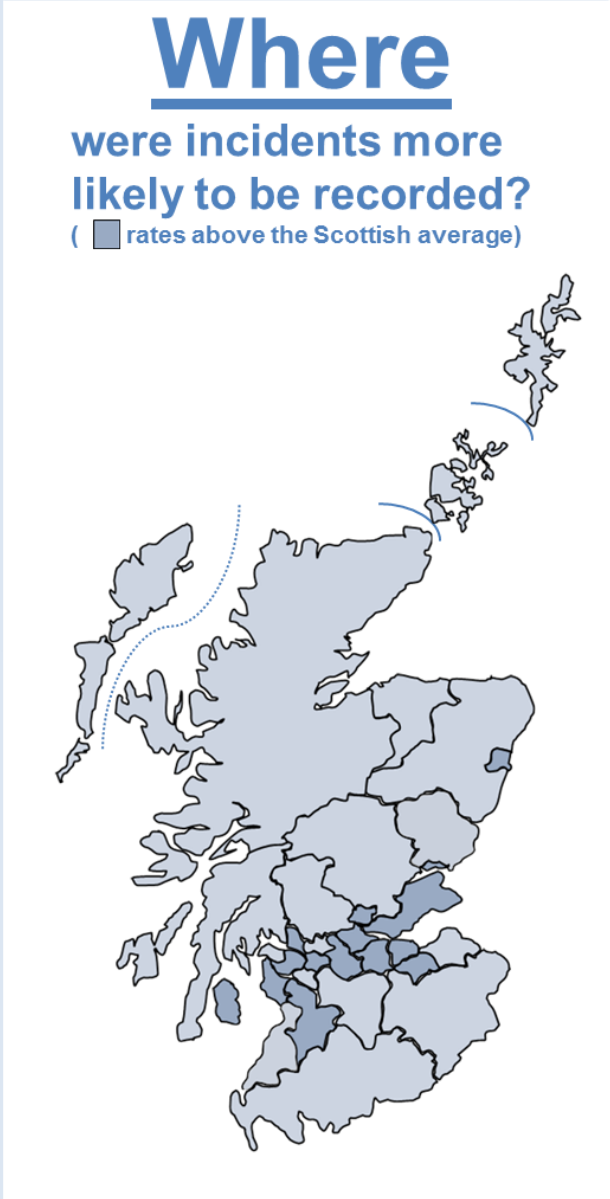


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1. Structure of Bulletin

- 1.1. This bulletin presents Official Statistics on the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland.
- 1.2. [Key Points](#) on incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland.
- 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 on domestic abuse and includes details on incidents, the victims and those accused, by change over time and analysis at 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 in Scotland.
- 1.6. [Chapter 5](#) presents information on incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland through a series of tables. Further tables are available at www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubDomesticABuse.
- 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);
 - Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland;
 - Stakeholder consultations & 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 5](#) 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 2015-16 covers the third year following the establishment of Police Scotland.
- 2.5 The creation of Police Scotland has altered the way in which domestic abuse data has been captured. 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, a new iVPD (Interim Vulnerable Person Database) system was rolled out to the then 14 Police Divisions in Scotland. From 1st April 2014 onwards, all domestic abuse data was collected through the iVPD. In summary:
 - 2012-13 (and previous years) – Data collected from the eight legacy force systems
 - 2013-14 – Data collected from the iVPD (approx. 15%) and from legacy force systems (approx. 85%)
 - 2014-15 & 2015-16 – Data collected from the iVPD
- 2.6 Due to the modification in data collection, elements of this publication have changed in recent editions. For more details on data changes, see [Paragraph 6.3](#) in Annex 1.
- 2.7 All tables and charts, including additional tables, can be accessed online via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubDomesticAbuse>.

3. Main Findings: Incidents of Domestic Abuse in Scotland

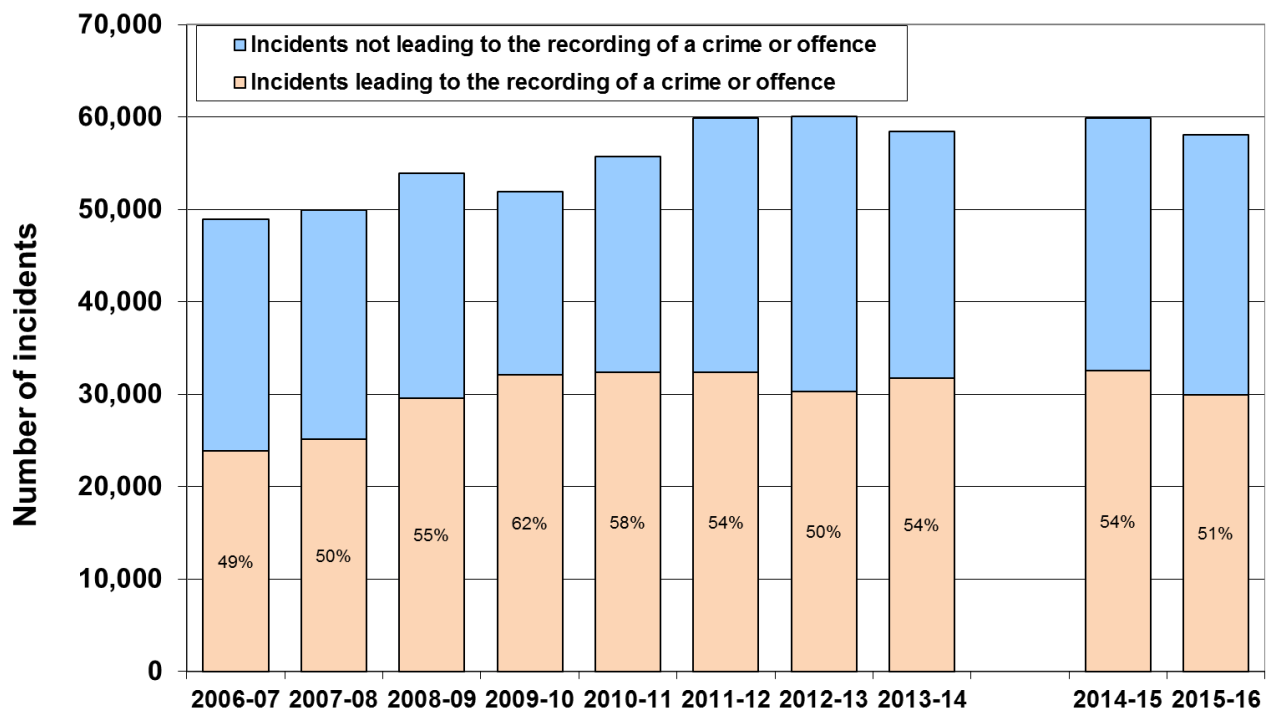
Incidents of Domestic Abuse

3.1 In 2015-16 there were 58,104 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland, a decrease of 3.0% from 2014-15 when 59,882 incidents were recorded.

Over the past five 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 ([Table 1](#) & [Chart 1](#)).

In 2015-16, 51% (29,906) of domestic abuse incidents led to the recording of at least one crime or offence. The proportion in 2014-15 was 54% (32,569) ([Table 1](#) & [Chart 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, 2006-07 to 2015-16 *



* Chart has been displayed with a gap in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection. See [Section 6.4](#) for more details.

Local Authority Analysis

3.2 Across Scotland, 19 out of 32 local authorities recorded a decrease in the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police between 2014-15 and 2015-16 ([Table 2](#)).

In 2015-16, the highest percentage of incidents of domestic abuse recorded that resulted in at least one crime or offence also being recorded was Dumfries & Galloway (69%) and Moray (68%).

Incidents of Domestic Abuse per 10,000 Population

3.3 Taking the population of Scotland as at mid-year 2015, there were 108 recorded incidents of domestic abuse per 10,000 population in 2015-16. At a local authority level, Dundee City (160) and West Dunbartonshire (152) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. Aberdeenshire (51) and East Renfrewshire (53) recorded the lowest rates per 10,000 population ([Table 4](#) & [Chart 3](#)).

Victim & Accused Characteristics

3.4 In 2015-16, females made 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 consider incidents that resulted in the recording of at least one crime or offence ([Table 10](#) available online).

Incidents with a female victim and a male accused represented 79% of all incidents of domestic abuse in 2015-16 (where gender information was recorded). This percentage share has fallen from 87% over the last ten years. The proportion of incidents with a male victim and female accused (where gender was recorded) has increased from 11% in 2006-07 to 18% in 2015-16 ([Table 5](#) & [Chart 4](#)).

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, 2015-16

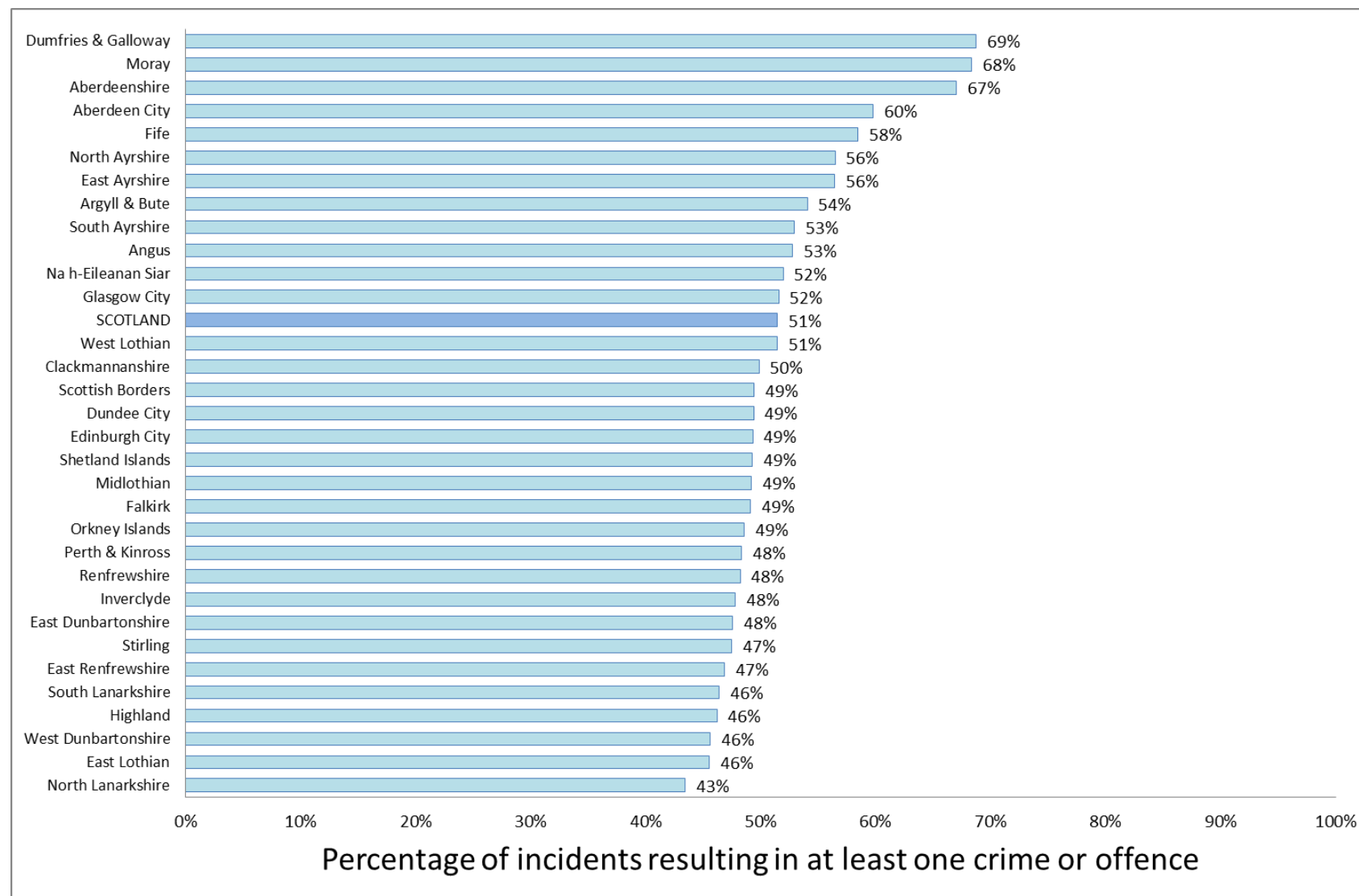
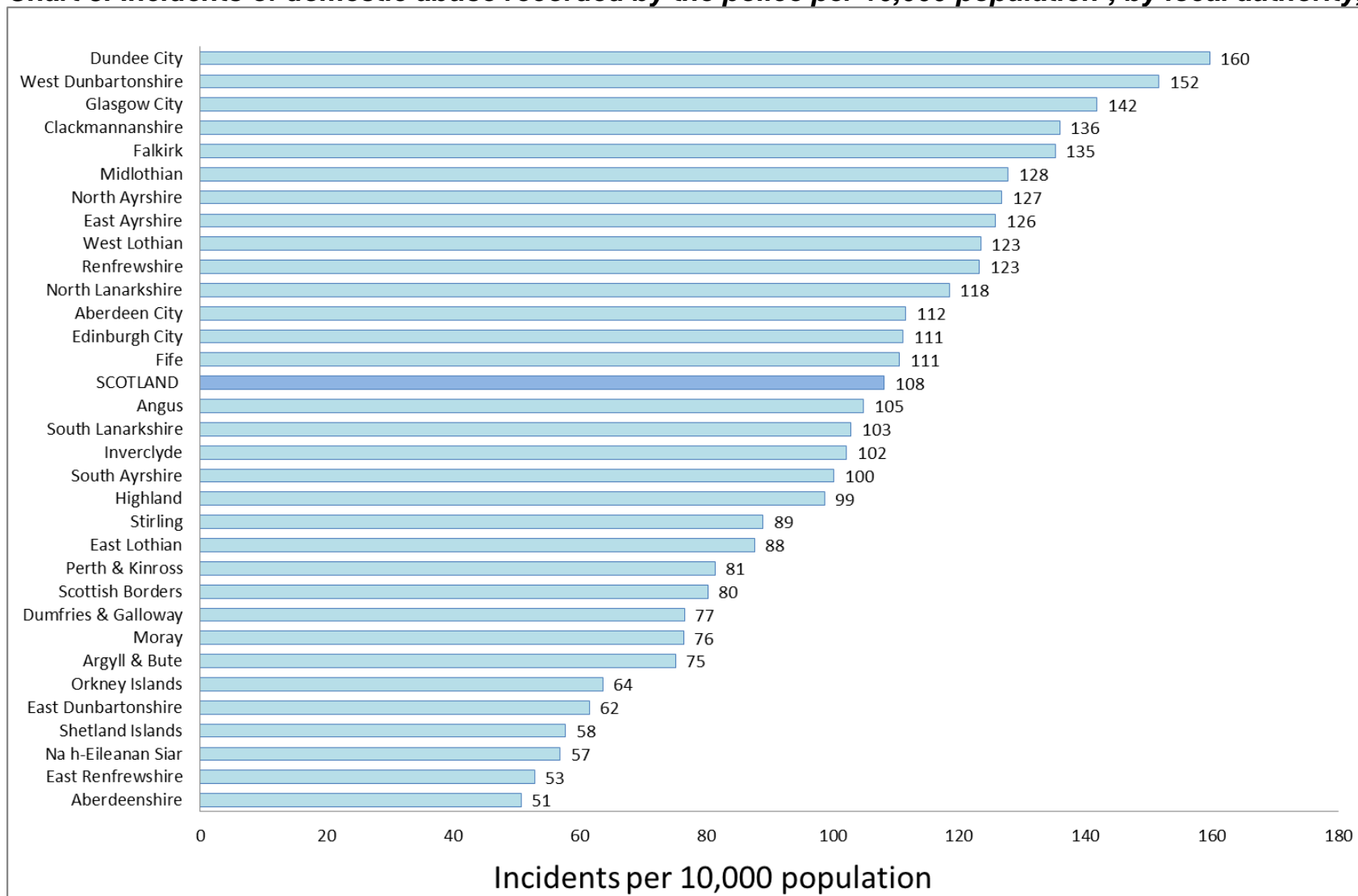
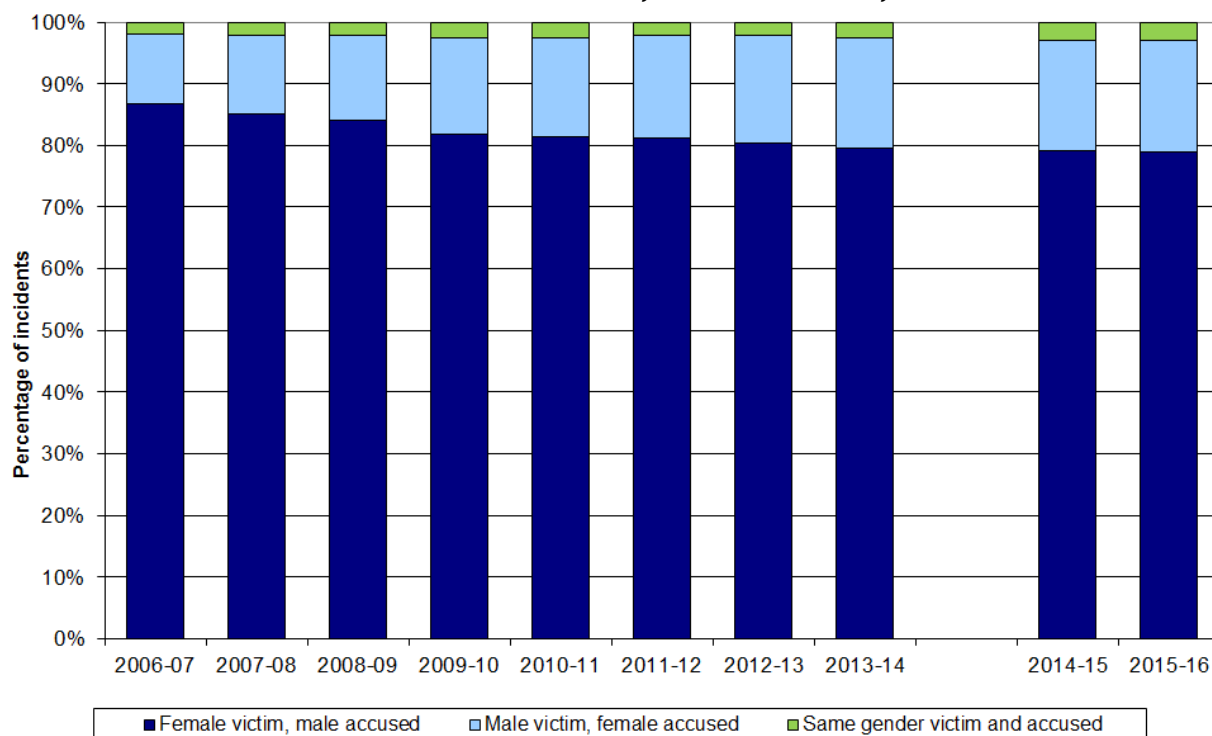


Chart 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹, by local authority, 2015-16



1. Population estimates are at mid-year 2015 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>)

Chart 4: Gender of victim and accused, where known, 2006-07 to 2015-16



* Chart has been displayed with a gap in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection. See [Section 6.4](#) for more details.

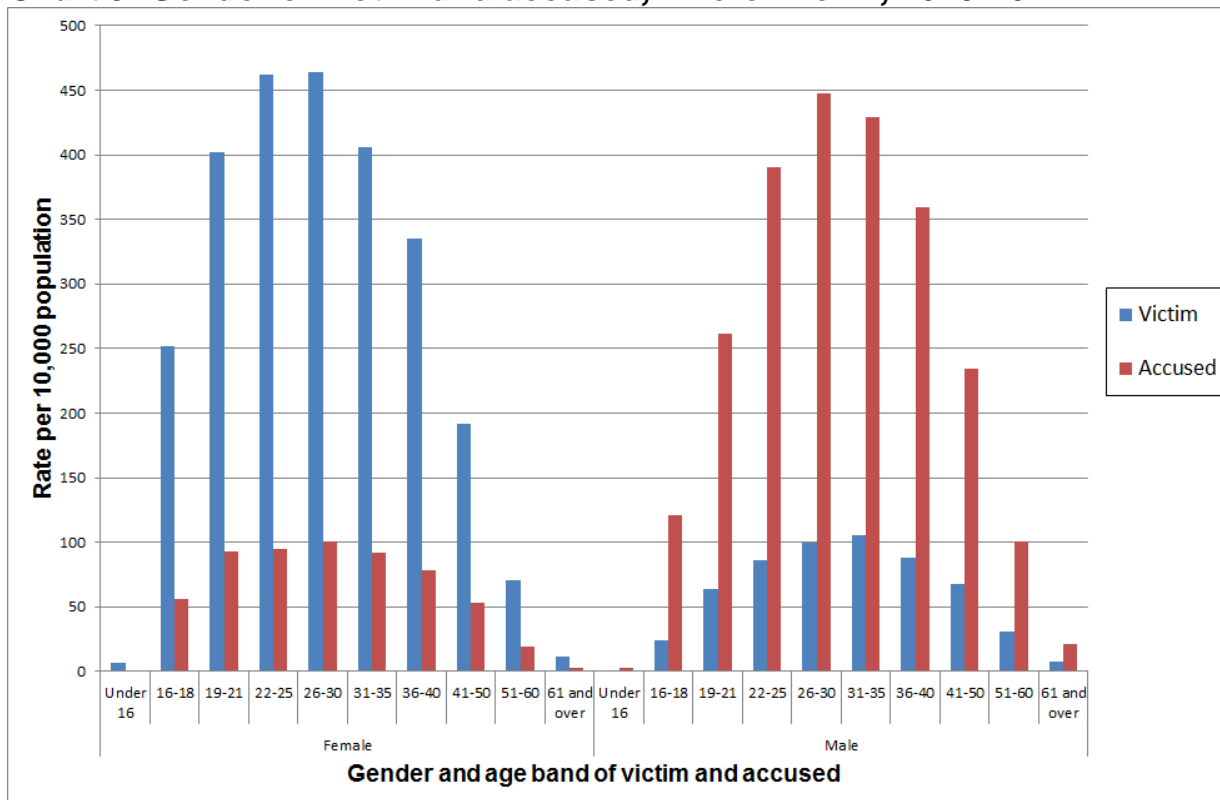
* Chart only displays incidents where gender of victim and accused is known. See [Section 6.13](#) for more details on missing data.

3.5 In 2015-16, the 26 to 30 year old age group had the highest rate per 10,000 population for both victims (283 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) and those accused (272 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) ([Table 6](#) & [Table 7](#)).

In 2015-16, female victims aged 26 to 30 had the highest rate (463) of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population. Among male victims, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded per 10,000 population, was for those aged 31 to 35 years, where the rate was 106 incidents recorded per 10,000 population ([Table 6](#) & [Chart 5](#)).

In 2015-16, those aged 26 to 30 years showed the highest rate of domestic abuse among both those females accused (100 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) and those males accused (447 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) ([Table 7](#) & [Chart 5](#)).

Chart 5: Gender of victim and accused, where known, 2015-16



* Data for 2015-16 had a number of incidents with missing age and gender, see [Section 6.13](#) for more detail. As a result, comparisons should not be made to previous years data.

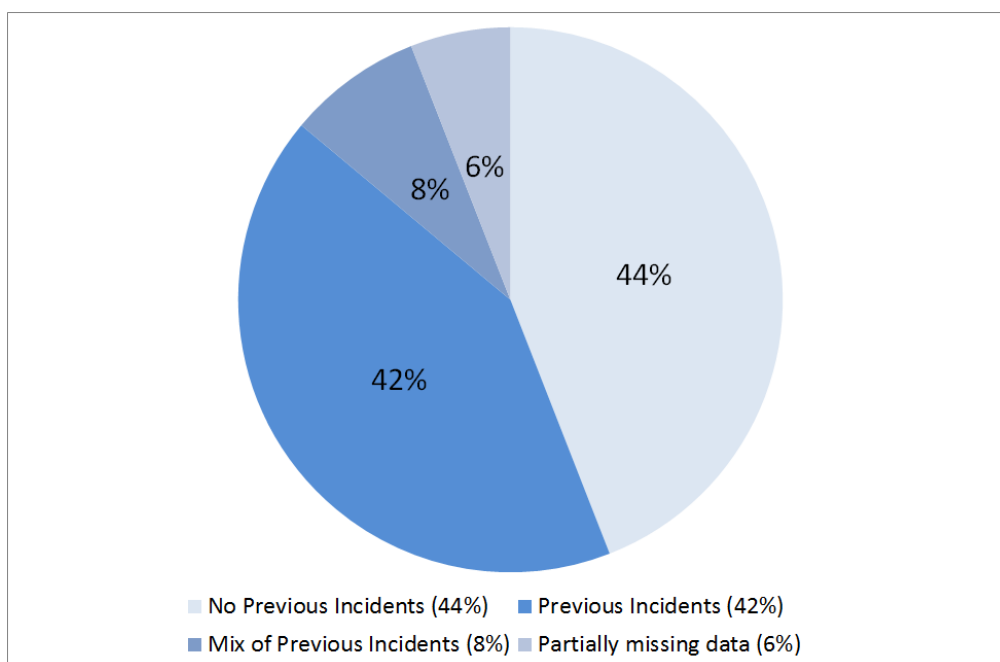
Victim & Accused Repeat Analysis

3.6 The Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) database (referred to in [Paragraph 2.5](#) above) enables the identification of a victim or accused that has previously been entered into the system for domestic abuse. A victim or accused can appear multiple times in the iVPD in any one year, each classified as a separate incident.

The iVPD was rolled out during 2013-14 and any repeat incidents will therefore have been recorded since the system was rolled-out across the then 14 police divisions. As a result, all victims and accused highlighted in the repeat categories below will have been involved in an incident of domestic abuse either in 2013-14 (part year depending on divisional roll-out), 2014-15 or 2015-16.

Out of the 58,104 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in 2015-16, there were 24,404 incidents where both the victim and the accused had previously been recorded in an incident of domestic abuse. In 25,602 incidents, neither the victim or accused were found on the iVPD database and in the remaining 8,098 incidents there was either a mix of results for the victim and accused (i.e. one was a repeat, and one was not a repeat) or some data was unknown ([Table 8](#) & [Chart 6](#)).

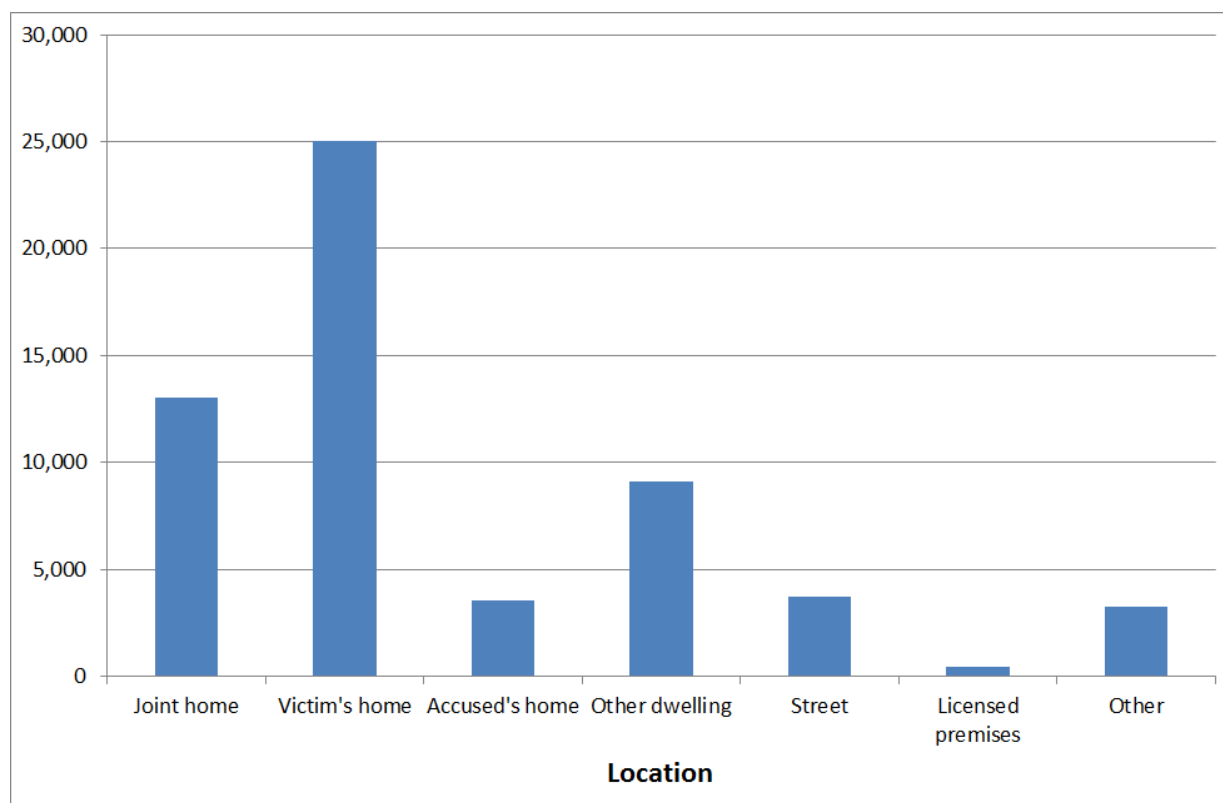
Chart 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by repeat victim/accused analysis, 2015-16



Location of Incidents

3.7 In 2015-16, 43% of incidents of domestic abuse occurred within the victim's own home. A further 22% occurred within a joint home and 22% occurred in either the accused's home or an 'other dwelling'. The remaining 13% of incidents occurred in the Street (6%), Licensed Premises (1%) or an 'Other' location (6%) ([Table 9](#) & [Chart 7](#)).

Chart 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location, 2015-16

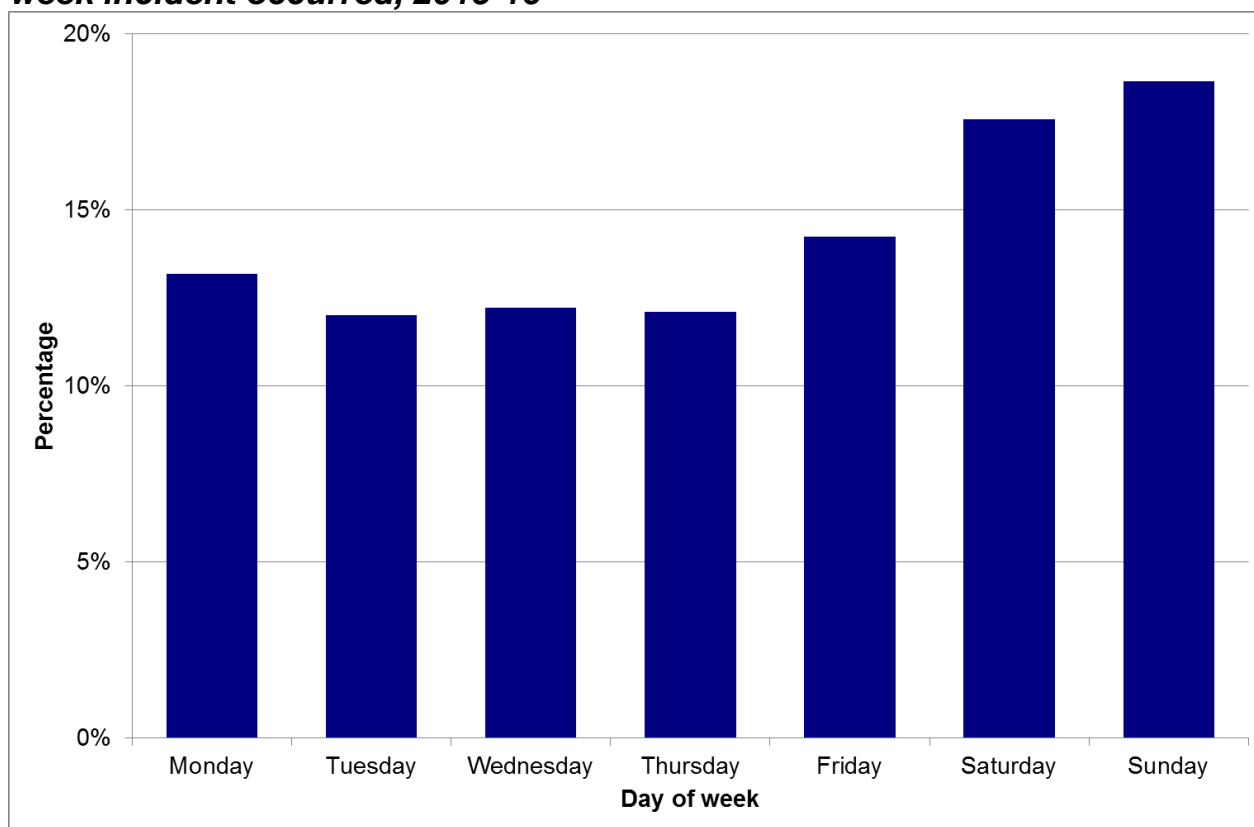


Day/Month of Occurrence

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

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland are more likely to occur at the weekend with 36% of incidents in 2015-16 occurring on a Saturday or a Sunday. The remaining 64% is spread fairly evenly from Monday to Friday. This pattern has been consistent over the past 10 years ([Table 12](#) & [Chart 8](#)).

Chart 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by day of the week incident occurred, 2015-16



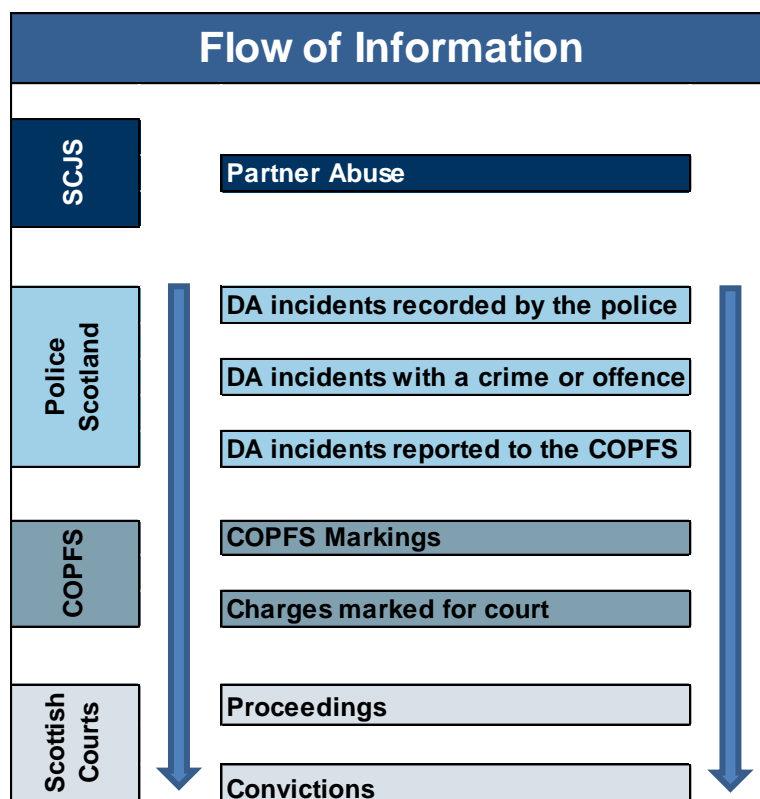
When looking at the month that incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police occurred in 2015-16, no clear pattern emerges from the data, with incidents reasonably spread out across the year ([Table 13](#)).

Tables for Day/Month along with the Additional Tables 10-13 are available online: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubDomesticAbuse>

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 Government publish statistics on proceedings and convictions, which take place in the Scottish courts, through their [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) publication.



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 annually (previously biennially up to and including 2014-15) 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, an additional 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 2014-15 Partner Abuse report, published in May 2016, is the fifth sweep of the SCJS to include a partner abuse questionnaire, with previous data sweeps conducted in 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2012-13.

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.

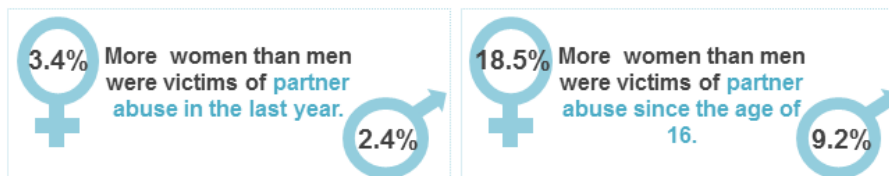
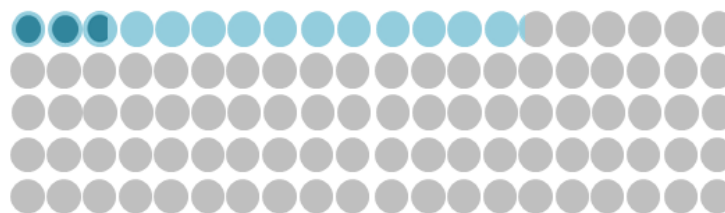
The SCJS is capturing the victim’s experience of partner abuse. Although the survey is self-completion, some respondents may choose not to disclose information on particular incidents.

Results from the 2014-15 Partner Abuse Module:

What is the extent of partner abuse?

Since the age of 16, **14.1%** of adults had experienced partner abuse.

In the last 12 months, **2.9%** of adults had experienced partner abuse.



Overall, 2.9% of respondents had experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months. The risk of partner abuse in the last 12 months did not change between the 2012-13 and 2014-15 survey sweeps. A higher proportion of women than men experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months, at 3.4% and 2.4% respectively.

More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, is available here: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>

- 4.3 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.

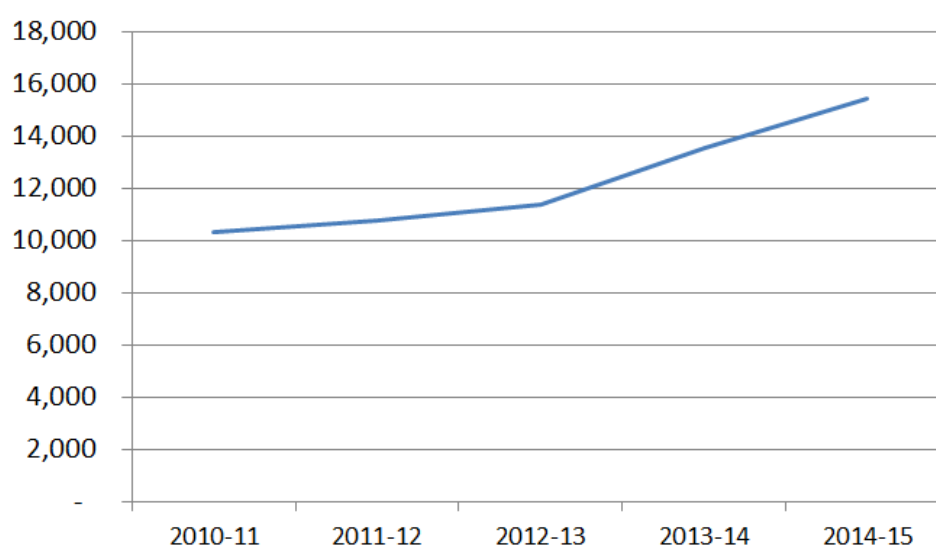
More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, is available here: <http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/publications/statistics>.

- 4.4 The Scottish Government publishes statistics on proceedings and convictions, which take place in the Scottish courts, through their Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publication. These statistics are derived from data held on the Criminal History System (CHS), a central database used for the recording of information on persons accused and/or convicted of committing a criminal act. Aggravator codes can be recorded on the CHS to provide additional information relating to the nature of a charge – one of these aggravator flags is entitled ‘Domestic’ referring to ‘Domestic Abuse’.

Offences with a charge proved with a Domestic Abuse aggravator recorded, 2010-11 to 2014-15

| | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Domestic | 10,340 | 10,755 | 11,387 | 13,570 | 15,452 |

Chart 11: Offences with a charge proved with a Domestic Abuse aggravator recorded, Scotland, 2010-11 to 2014-15



Statistics on aggravators relate to all offences not just the main charge relating to an individual proceeding. In the year to 2014-15 there was a 14% increase in the number of offence convictions with a domestic abuse aggravator recorded

(15,452 offence convictions), up from 2013-14 (13,570 offence convictions). The increase may be reflective of better recording of the aggravator coupled with a strengthened emphasis on tackling domestic abuse in Scotland by both Police Scotland and the COPFS.

More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, are available from: <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, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Table 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they resulted in a crime or offence, by local authority, 2015-16

Table 4: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population, by local authority, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Table 5: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim & accused, Scotland, 2006-07 to 2015-16

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2015-16

Table 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of accused, Scotland, 2015-16

Table 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by whether the victim/accused has previous history of domestic abuse, Scotland, 2015-16

Table 9: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident, Scotland, 2015-16

Additional Tables

All tables and charts, including additional tables (Tables 10-13), can be accessed online via the following link:

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

Table 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2015-16^{1, 2}

| | 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 | 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 | | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
| Incidents leading to the recording of a crime or offence | 29,526 | 32,066 | 32,370 | 32,369 | 30,259 | 31,769 | | 32,569 | 29,906 |
| 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 | 28,198 |
| TOTAL INCIDENTS | 53,931 | 51,926 | 55,698 | 59,847 | 60,080 | 58,439 | | 59,882 | 58,104 |

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

Table 2: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by local authority, 2006-07 to 2015-16¹

| | Number | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
| Aberdeen City | 1,862 | 2,138 | 2,388 | 2,415 | 2,323 | 2,449 | 2,648 | 2,487 | 3,088 | 2,570 |
| Aberdeenshire | 649 | 707 | 639 | 584 | 550 | 605 | 787 | 886 | 1,408 | 1,330 |
| Angus | 841 | 852 | 983 | 947 | 969 | 1,187 | 1,154 | 1,241 | 1,329 | 1,226 |
| Argyll & Bute | 447 | 481 | 517 | 503 | 521 | 563 | 536 | 556 | 643 | 653 |
| Clackmannanshire | 558 | 629 | 720 | 707 | 833 | 792 | 713 | 782 | 704 | 698 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 1,237 | 1,204 | 1,306 | 1,176 | 1,407 | 1,291 | 1,411 | 1,272 | 1,230 | 1,146 |
| Dundee City | 1,995 | 1,937 | 2,135 | 2,305 | 2,366 | 2,440 | 2,525 | 2,442 | 2,525 | 2,365 |
| East Ayrshire | 1,149 | 1,253 | 1,252 | 1,273 | 1,387 | 1,430 | 1,413 | 1,509 | 1,567 | 1,535 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 535 | 596 | 642 | 537 | 661 | 650 | 665 | 623 | 572 | 658 |
| East Lothian | 705 | 729 | 926 | 902 | 970 | 929 | 1,023 | 1,025 | 1,000 | 903 |
| East Renfrewshire | 407 | 394 | 382 | 421 | 481 | 555 | 551 | 463 | 535 | 491 |
| Edinburgh City | 5,784 | 5,081 | 5,103 | 4,923 | 5,233 | 5,287 | 5,313 | 5,231 | 5,730 | 5,541 |
| Falkirk | 1,407 | 1,885 | 2,107 | 1,862 | 2,019 | 2,080 | 1,997 | 2,014 | 1,951 | 2,142 |
| Fife | 3,717 | 3,926 | 3,987 | 4,055 | 3,847 | 4,519 | 4,800 | 4,621 | 4,200 | 4,070 |
| Glasgow City | 9,030 | 8,975 | 9,664 | 8,866 | 10,160 | 11,116 | 10,220 | 9,559 | 8,974 | 8,596 |
| Highland | 1,055 | 995 | 1,006 | 879 | 1,451 | 1,872 | 2,102 | 2,047 | 2,247 | 2,312 |
| Inverclyde | 844 | 918 | 821 | 640 | 773 | 951 | 896 | 811 | 889 | 812 |
| Midlothian | 780 | 777 | 917 | 933 | 860 | 1,036 | 1,125 | 1,124 | 1,103 | 1,116 |
| Moray | 627 | 561 | 443 | 389 | 593 | 694 | 620 | 377 | 749 | 730 |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 77 | 82 | 94 | 58 | 102 | 114 | 94 | 124 | 145 | 154 |
| North Ayrshire | 1,455 | 1,468 | 1,639 | 1,770 | 1,791 | 1,897 | 1,820 | 1,837 | 1,830 | 1,725 |
| North Lanarkshire | 3,269 | 3,197 | 4,068 | 4,157 | 3,662 | 3,680 | 3,996 | 3,900 | 3,963 | 4,006 |
| Orkney Islands | 44 | 24 | 21 | 44 | 107 | 108 | 95 | 107 | 114 | 138 |
| Perth & Kinross | 872 | 880 | 930 | 956 | 1,060 | 1,162 | 1,236 | 1,351 | 1,529 | 1,221 |
| Renfrewshire | 1,827 | 1,902 | 2,045 | 1,658 | 2,179 | 2,431 | 2,333 | 2,304 | 2,235 | 2,151 |
| Scottish Borders | 650 | 592 | 665 | 808 | 760 | 801 | 930 | 864 | 911 | 915 |
| Shetland Islands | 48 | 51 | 42 | 37 | 70 | 103 | 101 | 86 | 107 | 134 |
| South Ayrshire | 1,075 | 1,147 | 1,105 | 1,208 | 1,245 | 1,265 | 1,292 | 1,253 | 1,296 | 1,126 |
| South Lanarkshire | 2,268 | 2,379 | 2,959 | 2,717 | 2,920 | 3,166 | 3,064 | 3,026 | 3,085 | 3,253 |
| Stirling | 493 | 759 | 782 | 834 | 850 | 833 | 790 | 768 | 785 | 826 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 1,403 | 1,642 | 1,602 | 1,362 | 1,485 | 1,709 | 1,518 | 1,460 | 1,220 | 1,358 |
| West Lothian | 1,774 | 1,788 | 2,041 | 2,000 | 2,063 | 2,132 | 2,312 | 2,289 | 2,218 | 2,203 |
| SCOTLAND | 48,884 | 49,949 | 53,931 | 51,926 | 55,698 | 59,847 | 60,080 | 58,439 | 59,882 | 58,104 |

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, 2015-16²

| | Number & Percentage | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| | 2015-16 | | |
| | No of Incidents | % of Incidents leading to a crime or offence | % of Incidents <u>not</u> leading to a crime or offence |
| Aberdeen City | 2,570 | 60% | 40% |
| Aberdeenshire | 1,330 | 67% | 33% |
| Angus | 1,226 | 53% | 47% |
| Argyll & Bute | 653 | 54% | 46% |
| Clackmannanshire | 698 | 50% | 50% |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 1,146 | 69% | 31% |
| Dundee City | 2,365 | 49% | 51% |
| East Ayrshire | 1,535 | 56% | 44% |
| East Dunbartonshire | 658 | 48% | 52% |
| East Lothian | 903 | 46% | 54% |
| East Renfrewshire | 491 | 47% | 53% |
| Edinburgh City | 5,541 | 49% | 51% |
| Falkirk | 2,142 | 49% | 51% |
| Fife | 4,070 | 58% | 42% |
| Glasgow City | 8,596 | 52% | 48% |
| Highland | 2,312 | 46% | 54% |
| Inverclyde | 812 | 48% | 52% |
| Midlothian | 1,116 | 49% | 51% |
| Moray | 730 | 68% | 32% |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 154 | 52% | 48% |
| North Ayrshire | 1,725 | 56% | 44% |
| North Lanarkshire | 4,006 | 43% | 57% |
| Orkney Islands | 138 | 49% | 51% |
| Perth & Kinross | 1,221 | 48% | 52% |
| Renfrewshire | 2,151 | 48% | 52% |
| Scottish Borders | 915 | 49% | 51% |
| Shetland Islands | 134 | 49% | 51% |
| South Ayrshire | 1,126 | 53% | 47% |
| South Lanarkshire | 3,253 | 46% | 54% |
| Stirling | 826 | 47% | 53% |
| West Dunbartonshire | 1,358 | 46% | 54% |
| West Lothian | 2,203 | 51% | 49% |
| SCOTLAND | 58,104 | 51% | 49% |

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

Table 4: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population ³, by local authority, 2006-07 to 2015-16¹

| | Rate per 10,000 population ³ | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
| Aberdeen City | 89 | 101 | 112 | 111 | 106 | 110 | 118 | 109 | 135 | 112 |
| Aberdeenshire | 27 | 29 | 26 | 23 | 22 | 24 | 31 | 34 | 54 | 51 |
| Angus | 75 | 75 | 86 | 82 | 84 | 102 | 99 | 107 | 114 | 105 |
| Argyll & Bute | 49 | 53 | 58 | 56 | 59 | 63 | 62 | 63 | 73 | 75 |
| Clackmannanshire | 113 | 124 | 141 | 138 | 162 | 154 | 139 | 152 | 138 | 136 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 83 | 80 | 86 | 78 | 93 | 85 | 94 | 85 | 82 | 77 |
| Dundee City | 139 | 135 | 148 | 159 | 162 | 166 | 171 | 165 | 170 | 160 |
| East Ayrshire | 95 | 104 | 103 | 104 | 113 | 117 | 115 | 123 | 128 | 126 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 51 | 57 | 61 | 51 | 63 | 62 | 63 | 59 | 54 | 62 |
| East Lothian | 75 | 76 | 95 | 92 | 98 | 93 | 101 | 101 | 98 | 88 |
| East Renfrewshire | 45 | 44 | 43 | 47 | 53 | 61 | 61 | 51 | 58 | 53 |
| Edinburgh City | 128 | 111 | 111 | 106 | 111 | 111 | 110 | 107 | 116 | 111 |
| Falkirk | 93 | 124 | 137 | 121 | 130 | 133 | 127 | 128 | 124 | 135 |
| Fife | 104 | 109 | 111 | 112 | 106 | 124 | 131 | 126 | 114 | 111 |
| Glasgow City | 159 | 157 | 168 | 152 | 173 | 187 | 172 | 160 | 150 | 142 |
| Highland | 48 | 44 | 44 | 38 | 63 | 80 | 90 | 88 | 96 | 99 |
| Inverclyde | 103 | 112 | 100 | 78 | 95 | 117 | 111 | 101 | 111 | 102 |
| Midlothian | 98 | 97 | 112 | 114 | 104 | 124 | 134 | 133 | 128 | 128 |
| Moray | 69 | 61 | 48 | 42 | 63 | 74 | 67 | 40 | 79 | 76 |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 28 | 30 | 34 | 21 | 37 | 41 | 34 | 45 | 53 | 57 |
| North Ayrshire | 106 | 107 | 119 | 128 | 130 | 137 | 132 | 134 | 134 | 127 |
| North Lanarkshire | 99 | 97 | 122 | 124 | 109 | 109 | 118 | 115 | 117 | 118 |
| Orkney Islands | 22 | 12 | 10 | 21 | 50 | 50 | 44 | 50 | 53 | 64 |
| Perth & Kinross | 63 | 62 | 65 | 66 | 73 | 79 | 84 | 91 | 103 | 81 |
| Renfrewshire | 107 | 111 | 118 | 96 | 125 | 139 | 134 | 132 | 128 | 123 |
| Scottish Borders | 59 | 53 | 59 | 71 | 67 | 70 | 82 | 76 | 80 | 80 |
| Shetland Islands | 22 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 30 | 44 | 44 | 37 | 46 | 58 |
| South Ayrshire | 96 | 102 | 98 | 107 | 111 | 112 | 114 | 111 | 115 | 100 |
| South Lanarkshire | 74 | 77 | 95 | 87 | 93 | 101 | 97 | 96 | 98 | 103 |
| Stirling | 56 | 86 | 88 | 94 | 95 | 92 | 87 | 84 | 86 | 89 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 153 | 180 | 176 | 150 | 164 | 189 | 168 | 163 | 136 | 152 |
| West Lothian | 106 | 106 | 119 | 116 | 119 | 122 | 131 | 130 | 125 | 123 |
| SCOTLAND | 95 | 97 | 104 | 99 | 106 | 113 | 113 | 110 | 112 | 108 |

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

Table 5: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim & accused, Scotland, 2006-07 to 2015-16^{1, 4}

| | Number & Percentage | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
| Female victim, male accused | 41,499 | 41,833 | 44,961 | 41,927 | 44,951 | 46,439 | 45,916 | 42,120 | | 39,483 | 43,158 |
| % of total known | 87 | 85 | 84 | 82 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 80 | | 79 | 79 |
| Male victim, female accused | 5,482 | 6,199 | 7,361 | 7,938 | 8,889 | 9,569 | 9,946 | 9,435 | | 8,901 | 9,845 |
| % of total known | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 18 | | 18 | 18 |
| Female victim, female accused | 431 | 565 | 640 | 682 | 736 | 566 | 605 | 612 | | 671 | 743 |
| % of total known | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Male victim, male accused | 455 | 530 | 548 | 666 | 693 | 659 | 677 | 724 | | 854 | 877 |
| % of total known | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| Not recorded or other ⁴ | 941 | 822 | 421 | 713 | 429 | 2,614 | 2,936 | 5,548 | | 9,973 | 3,481 |
| TOTAL | 48,808 | 49,949 | 53,931 | 51,926 | 55,698 | 59,847 | 60,080 | 58,439 | | 59,882 | 58,104 |

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

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2015-16 ^{3, 4, 5}

| Age Group of Victim | Number & Rate per 10,000 population ³ | | | | Rate per 10,000 population ³ | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------|------------|
| | Gender of victim | | | TOTAL | Female | Male | TOTAL |
| | Female | Male | Not recorded or other ⁴ | | | | |
| Under 16 | 293 | 21 | - | 314 | 7 | 0 | 3 |
| 16-18 | 2,223 | 225 | - | 2,448 | 251 | 24 | 135 |
| 19-21 | 4,101 | 658 | - | 4,759 | 402 | 63 | 231 |
| 22-25 | 7,022 | 1,299 | - | 8,321 | 462 | 87 | 276 |
| 26-30 | 8,436 | 1,770 | 1 | 10,207 | 463 | 99 | 283 |
| 31-35 | 7,172 | 1,787 | 1 | 8,960 | 406 | 106 | 259 |
| 36-40 | 5,394 | 1,368 | 1 | 6,763 | 335 | 88 | 214 |
| 41-50 | 7,540 | 2,504 | 1 | 10,045 | 192 | 68 | 131 |
| 51-60 | 2,720 | 1,147 | 1 | 3,868 | 71 | 31 | 52 |
| 61 and over | 763 | 425 | - | 1,188 | 11 | 8 | 10 |
| Not Recorded | 30 | 7 | 1,194 | 1,231 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 45,694 | 11,211 | 1,199 | 58,104 | 165 | 43 | 108 |

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

Table 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of accused, Scotland, 2015-16 ^{3, 4, 5}

| Age Group of Accused | Number & Rate per 10,000 population ³ | | | | Rate per 10,000 population ³ | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---|------------|------------|
| | Gender of Accused | | | TOTAL | Female | Male | TOTAL |
| | Female | Male | Not recorded or other ⁴ | | | | |
| Under 16 | 31 | 150 | 1 | 182 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 16-18 | 492 | 1,122 | - | 1,614 | 56 | 121 | 89 |
| 19-21 | 951 | 2,710 | - | 3,661 | 93 | 261 | 178 |
| 22-25 | 1,435 | 5,852 | 1 | 7,288 | 94 | 390 | 241 |
| 26-30 | 1,826 | 7,969 | 3 | 9,798 | 100 | 447 | 272 |
| 31-35 | 1,629 | 7,257 | 2 | 8,888 | 92 | 430 | 257 |
| 36-40 | 1,257 | 5,582 | - | 6,839 | 78 | 359 | 216 |
| 41-50 | 2,080 | 8,703 | 3 | 10,786 | 53 | 235 | 141 |
| 51-60 | 730 | 3,675 | 1 | 4,406 | 19 | 100 | 59 |
| 61 and over | 178 | 1,197 | 1 | 1,376 | 3 | 21 | 11 |
| Not Recorded | 42 | 201 | 3,023 | 3,266 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 10,651 | 44,418 | 3,035 | 58,104 | 39 | 170 | 108 |

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

Table 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by whether the victim/accused has previous history of domestic abuse, Scotland, 2015-16 ⁶

| | Accused History | | | Number |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No Previous Incidents | Previous Incidents | Not Recorded | Total |
| Victim's history | | | | |
| No Previous Incidents | 25602 | 2297 | 1231 | 29130 |
| Previous Incidents | 2349 | 24404 | 1028 | 27781 |
| Not Recorded | 224 | 218 | 751 | 1193 |
| TOTAL | 28175 | 26919 | 3010 | 58104 |

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

Table 9: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident, Scotland, 2015-16

| | Number & percentage | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | 2015-16 | % |
| Joint home | 13,026 | 22% |
| Victim's home | 25,045 | 43% |
| Accused's home | 3,527 | 6% |
| Other dwelling | 9,110 | 16% |
| Street | 3,683 | 6% |
| Licensed premises | 424 | 1% |
| Other | 3,240 | 6% |
| Unknown | 49 | 0% |
| TOTAL | 58,104 | 100% |

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

Notes for Tables

1. Incidents for 2014-15 & 2015-16 were collated using a different system. See [Section 2.5](#) for more details.
2. Prior to the change in data collection during 2013-14 (see [Paragraph 6.3](#) in Annex 1) legacy police forces recorded domestic abuse information in different systems. 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.
3. 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>).
4. 'Not Recorded & Other' includes incidents where the gender is either missing or recorded as transgender.
5. Due to data with no age and gender, rates per 10,000 population, will be lower than expected. See [Section 6.13](#) for more details of missing data.
6. A victim/accused can appear in the iVPD multiple times in one reporting year. See [Section 3.6](#) in bulletin for more details on definition of repeat victims and accused.

Additional 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 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>.

- 6.3 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 then 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 force systems
 - 2013-14 – Data collected from the iVPD (approx. 15%) and from legacy force systems (approx. 85%)
 - 2014-15 & 2015-16 – Data collected from the iVPD
- 6.4 Due to the changes in Data Collection, tables and figures are presented with clear breaks in the time series between 2013-14 and 2014-15. As such, some caution should be exercised in interpreting the statistics on the number of incidents recorded across years.

Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:

- 6.5 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/>.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 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:

- 6.8 In one criminal incident, several crimes or offences may occur - e.g. an accused 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.
- 6.9 Incidents in this bulletin are counted against the year in which they are recorded by Police Scotland on the iVPD system. 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.

Recording Crimes & Offences:

- 6.10 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.

- 6.11 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. It is anticipated that in future years, this bulletin will include a breakdown of crimes and offences for all incidents of domestic abuse.

Annex 2: Quality of the Statistics

Improvements to Domestic Abuse Statistics:

- 6.12 The last edition of this bulletin highlighted a number of data collection issues that affected the range of data that could be published. More information on these issues can be found here:
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/10/8859/4>.

Since the change of Data Collection, Police Scotland have been taking forward actions to improve their data, including enhancements to the functionality of the iVPD database.

- 6.13 We will continue to work with Police Scotland as they progress work and have been assisting with quality assuring this additional data. As a result of this work, this bulletin now publishes repeat victims/offenders and location of incidents.

Further work is planned on the data collection and it is anticipated future editions of this publication will include relationship and crime/offence data.

Reporting and Quality Assurance of Domestic Abuse Statistics:

- 6.14 The statistics reported in this bulletin do not reveal all incidents of domestic abuse since not all cases 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 an accused physically preventing a victim reporting the domestic abuse.
- 6.15 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's website:
http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/keep_safe/175573?view=Standard.
- 6.16 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.

- 6.17 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.
- 6.18 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'.
- 6.19 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.
- 6.20 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

- 6.21 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.

For example, if an incident occurred during 2007-08 but was recorded 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.

6.22 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 report incidents of domestic abuse to the police some time after they occurred, this should be reflected in the statistics.

Legislation

6.23 There have been no major legislative changes throughout 2015-16 which impact on the comparability of the statistics.

6.24 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](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [Protection from Harassment Act 1997](#)
- [Family Law Act 1996](#)
- [Matrimonial Homes \(Family Protection\) \(Scotland\) Act 1981](#)

Mid-year Population Estimates

- 6.25 The Mid-year estimates used in this publication to calculate the rates per 10,000 population were obtained from the National Records of Scotland (NRS). NRS recently alerted users to errors in age distributions for previous mid-year estimates. These errors were small and were corrected by NRS in April 2016. Where relevant, this bulletin includes revised data for earlier years to reflect the changes made by NRS. The overall impact on data in previous publications was minimal. Further information on the errors found by NRS 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

- 6.26 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 then 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.
- 6.27 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 focused and robust approach is taken to attending, investigating and recording a particular crime type".
- 6.28 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>
- 6.29 It should be noted that the audit was carried out before the implementation of the iVPD to all Police Divisions. However the audit does 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.

6.31 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: Comparisons with England & Wales and Northern Ireland

England & Wales

6.32 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.

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

6.34 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

6.35 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.

6.36 Statistics from the Police Service of Northern Ireland can be accessed here: <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/>

Annex 5: Stakeholder Consultations & Users of the Statistics

6.37 These statistics are used by a large number of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.

6.38 Domestic abuse statistics are also used by a variety of external stakeholders, including:

- Victim support groups
- National and local journalism;
- Academics; and
- Students and school pupils writing dissertations and carrying out projects.

6.39 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.

6.40 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.

6.41 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>.

An update on the actions taken to date, as a result of the needs identified and proposals made during the 2015 consultation, is available on the same page.

6.42 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.

6.43 This consultation builds on previous and ongoing engagement around crime statistics, details of which can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/StakeCon>.

6.44 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. We always welcome feedback on the content and the uses made of our statistical bulletins and users are invited to submit their comments and any suggestions for improvement 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 6: Other Notes

- 6.45 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 2015-16 bulletin was £2,100.

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>.

- 6.46 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 2016-17 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/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/JAS-Programme-2016-17>.

- 6.47 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

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

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.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at www.gov.scot/scotstat
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