



CRIME AND JUSTICE

DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2017-18

This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents and recorded crime supplied by Police Scotland in 2017-18. 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 [Chapter 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, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which 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 including online’.

Key Points

- Levels of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland have remained relatively stable since 2011-12, with around 58,000 to 60,000 incidents a year. The police recorded 59,541 incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18, an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.
- In 2017-18, 44% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland included the recording of at least one crime or offence.
- The crime or offence that was most frequently recorded as part of a domestic abuse incident in 2017-18 was Common assault (accounting for 37% of all crimes and offences recorded). This was followed by Breach of the peace etc. which accounted for 31% of crimes and offences.
- There were 110 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2017-18. At a local authority level, Clackmannanshire (162) and West Dunbartonshire (153) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. The Orkney Islands (49) and East Dunbartonshire (52) recorded the lowest rates per 10,000 population.
- Where gender information was recorded, around four out of every five incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18 had a female victim and a male accused. This proportion has remained very stable since 2011-12.
- In 2017-18, 16% of domestic abuse incidents involved a male victim and a female accused (where gender was recorded). Again, this proportion has remained stable since 2011-12 (ranging from 16% to 18%).
- In 2017-18, the 26-30 years old age group had the highest incident rate for both victims (272 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) and those accused (246 incidents recorded per 10,000 population).
- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded were more common at weekends with 35% of all incidents in 2017-18 occurring on a Saturday or Sunday.
- In 2017-18, 88% of all domestic abuse incidents occurred in a home or dwelling.

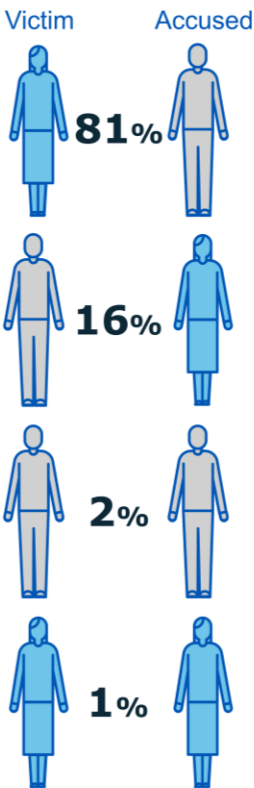
DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2017-18



59,541 Incidents

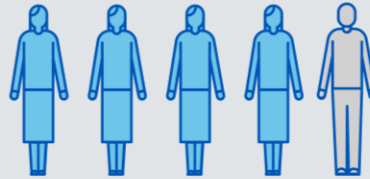
WHAT was the gender of the victims and accused?

The majority of incidents involved a female victim and male accused

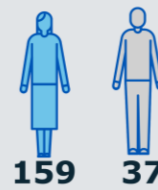


WHO Were the victims?

over 4 in 5 (82%) of the victims in 2017-18 were female

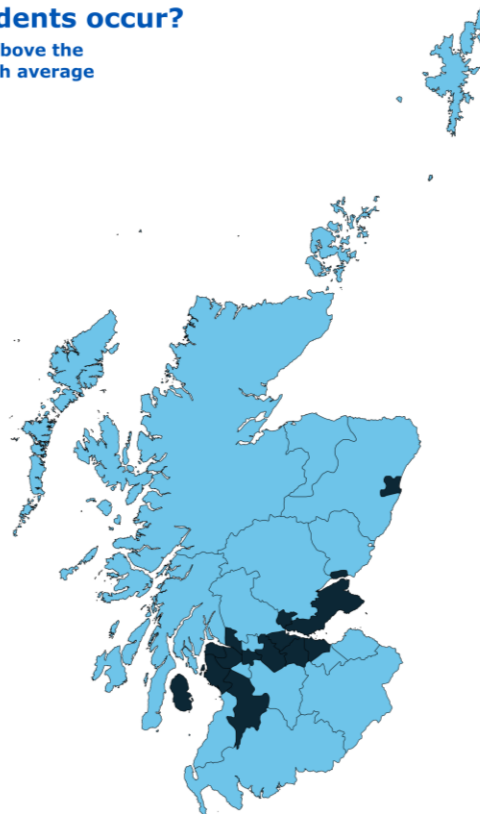


Victimisation rate per 10,000 population



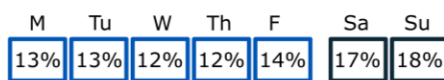
WHERE did incidents occur?

■ rates above the Scottish average



88% of domestic abuse occurred in a dwelling
40% occurred in the victim's home

WHEN did incidents occur?



35% of domestic abuse incidents occurred on either a Saturday or a Sunday

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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 are on pages 1 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 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 [Justice in Scotland: vision and priorities](#).
- 2.2 These statistics are also used by a 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.
- 2.5 The creation of Police Scotland altered the way in which domestic abuse data was 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 Persons 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.
- 2.6 Due to the modification in data collection, elements of this publication have changed in recent editions.
- 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

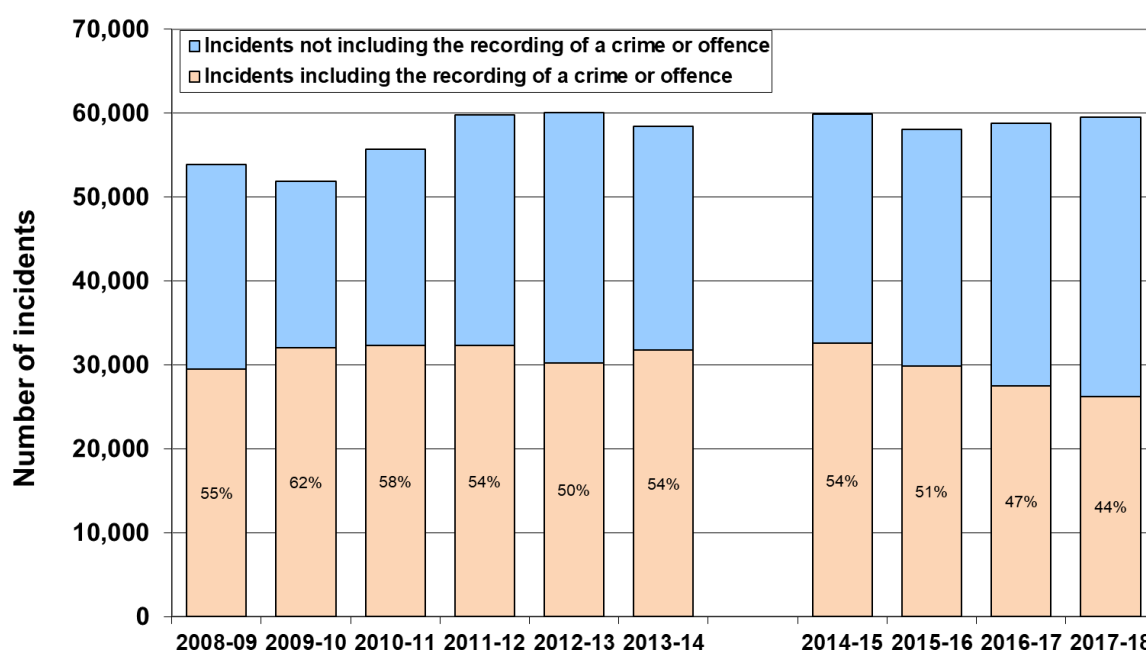
3.1 Levels of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland have remained relatively stable since 2011-12, with around 58,000 to 60,000 incidents a year. The police recorded 59,541 incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18, an increase of 1% compared to the previous year ([Chart 1](#) & [Table 1](#)).

Of the 59,541 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in 2017-18, 44% (26,273) included the recording of at least one crime or offence (compared to 47% in 2016-17) ([Table 1](#) & [Chart 1](#)). The remaining 56% (33,268) did not include the recording of a crime or offence.

Incidents which included a crime or offence

For those domestic abuse incidents that included the recording of at least one crime or offence in 2017-18, the most frequently recorded was Common assault (accounting for 37% of all crimes and offences). This was followed by Breach of the peace etc. which accounted for 31% of crimes and offences ([Table 2](#)).

Chart 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, 2008-09 to 2017-18 *



* 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.

Incidents which did not include a crime or offence

- 3.2 In 2017-18, 56% of domestic abuse incidents within the interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) did not include the recording of at least one crime or offence. This reflects that the definition of domestic abuse used by Police Scotland is not restricted to behaviour where criminal conduct has been identified and recorded. This also reflects that the iVPD aims to collate disparate pieces of information about incidents into a single file, allowing officers to build a narrative about people who have reported or been involved in an incident with a potential domestic abuse element. The iVPD itself is not a crime recording system.

Further information into Incidents which did not include a crime or offence

- 3.3 Last year, Scottish Government statisticians reviewed a sample of those domestic abuse incidents that did not include the recording of at least one crime or offence. This was to provide users with additional information on the circumstances of these incidents.

Four hundred incidents from 2016-17 were randomly selected from the iVPD and a synopsis of each case was recorded. The findings of this exercise are again presented below, and should be treated as a broad indication of the characteristics of those domestic abuse incidents which don't include a crime or offence, rather than an exact measure (given the associated possibility of sampling error and wide range of behaviours covered).

Summary of Incidents that exclude the recording of a Crime or Offence

- 3.4 Around half of these incidents (52%) in 2016-17 were based on some form of argument between partners or ex-partners that excluded any reference to a physical confrontation or threatening behaviour. Of these specific cases, around two-thirds include one of the partners/ex-partners contacting the police, whilst in around 30% of cases a third party or other witness did so. A quarter of cases that refer to some form of argument include one of the parties contacting the police as they wanted the other person to leave.

Around a fifth of these incidents (19%) were based on concern about the communication or attempted communication of one partner/ex-partner towards the other (excluding any reference to an argument or a specific crime or offence). In almost all these cases it was one of the partners/ex-partners that contacted the police. This involved a range of different incidents, including frequent references to unwanted communication or attempted communication, which could be through electronic means (text-messages, phone calls etc.) or in person. This category also includes incidents where one party is concerned about what their partner/ex-partner has said about them (sometimes to third parties).

Beyond the incidents described above, the other cases cover a diverse range of situations. Some included the police being contacted for advice or an individual raising concerns without reference to any specific incident (7% of the sample). In some instances the police were contacted by one partner/ex-partner out of concern for the well-being of the other party (3%) or by someone wishing to retrieve their belongings from a partner/ex-partner (3%).

Finally, some incidents recorded in the iVPD in 2016-17 were best described as situations in which it is inferred that a crime or offence may have taken place (13% of the sample). In most of these cases (11% of the sample) further investigation determined either that a crime or offence had not occurred (for example by the police reviewing the content of text messages that were alleged to be threatening) or there was insufficient evidence for the police to record a crime or offence. In the other cases (2% of the sample), further discussion with Police Scotland determined that these incidents did include a crime or offence. This splits into cases where a crime or offence had been recorded in Crime Management systems but not added to the iVPD or where no crime or offence had been recorded at all.

Local Authority Analysis

3.5 Changes in the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police between 2016-17 and 2017-18 were varied at the local authority level ([Table 3](#)). Just over half (17) recorded an increase in domestic abuse whereas 14 recorded a decrease and one was unchanged.

In 2017-18, the highest percentage of incidents of domestic abuse that included the recording of at least one crime or offence also being recorded was in Dumfries & Galloway (61%) and Moray (58%) ([Chart 2](#) & [Table 4](#)).

Incidents of Domestic Abuse per 10,000 Population

3.6 Taking the population of Scotland as at mid-year 2017, there were 110 recorded incidents of domestic abuse per 10,000 population in 2017-18. At a local authority level, Clackmannanshire (162) and West Dunbartonshire (153) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. The Orkney Islands (49) and East Dunbartonshire (52) recorded the lowest rates per 10,000 population ([Chart 3](#) & [Table 5](#)).

Victim & Accused Characteristics

3.7 Where the victim's gender was known, the clear majority of victims in 2017-18 (82%) were female. Around four out of every five incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18 had a female victim and a male accused. This proportion has remained very stable since 2011-12.

Again, where the victim's gender was known, 18% of victims in 2017-18 were male. In 2017-18, 16% of domestic abuse incidents involved a male

victim and a female accused. Again, this proportion has remained stable since 2011-12 (ranging from 16% to 18%) ([Chart 4](#) & [Table 6](#)).

Relationship between Victim & Accused

- 3.8 In 2017-18, over half (52%) of domestic abuse incidents (where the relationship between the victim and accused is known) were between current partners. Of the remaining incidents, 47% involved ex-partners ([Table 7](#)).

Chart 2: Percentage of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police that included at least one crime or offence being recorded, by local authority, 2017-18

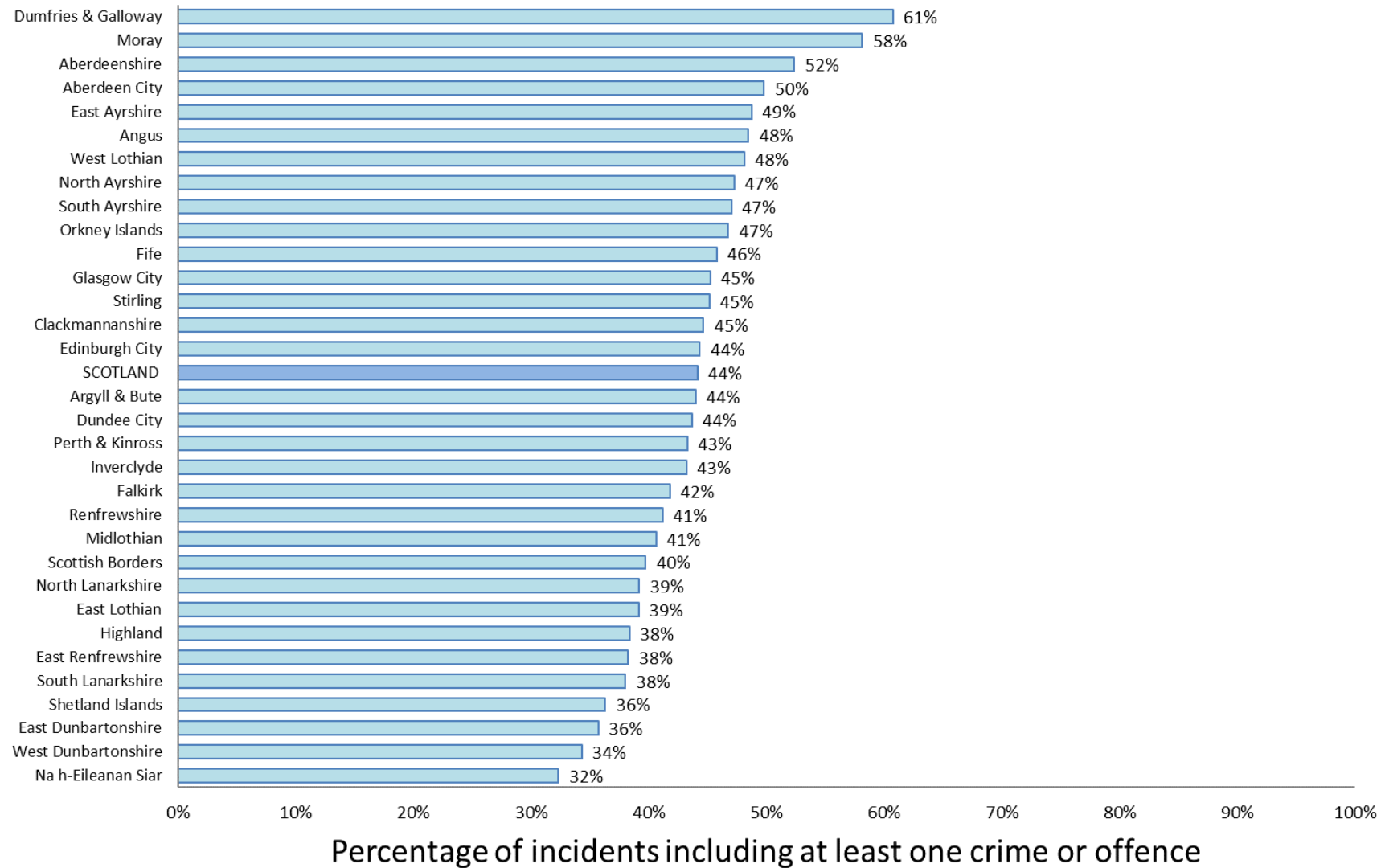
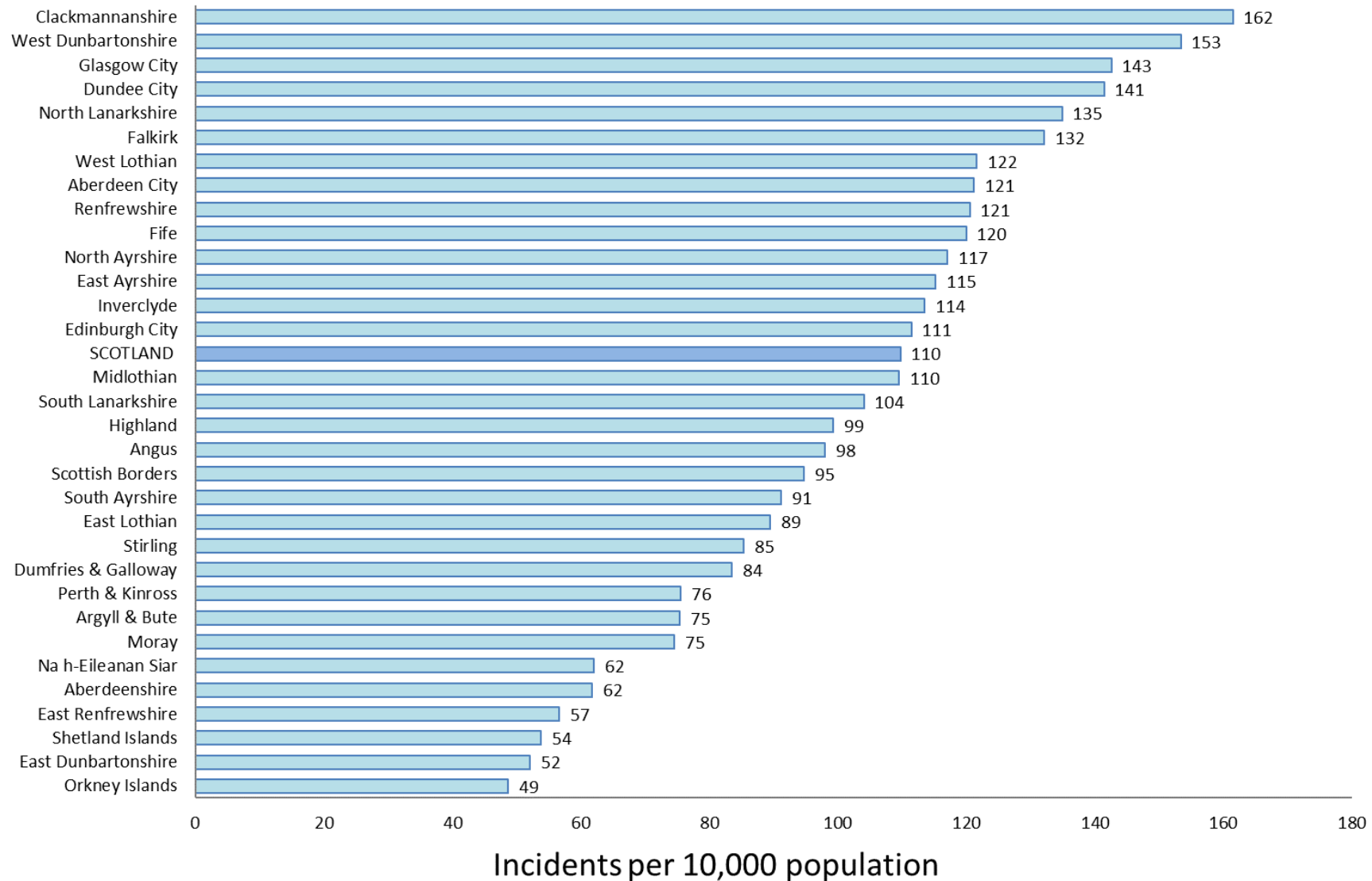
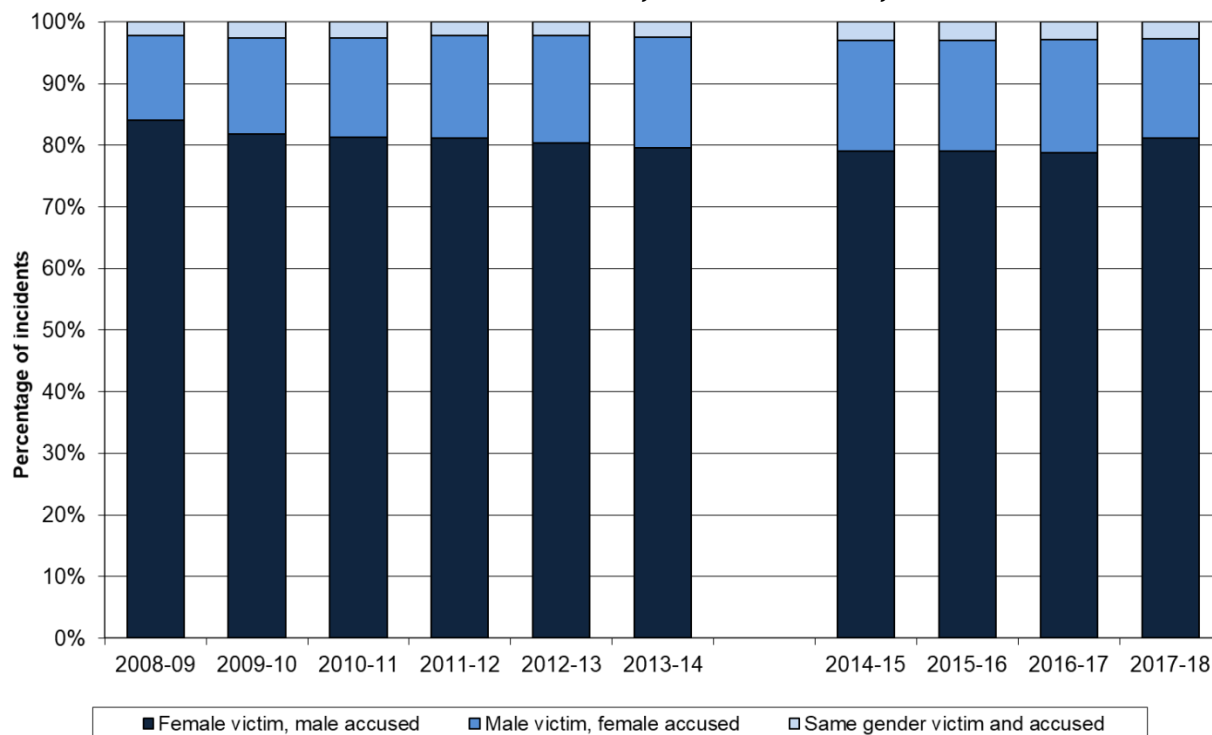


Chart 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹, by local authority, 2017-18



1. Population estimates are at mid-year 2016 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, 2008-09 to 2017-18



* 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.

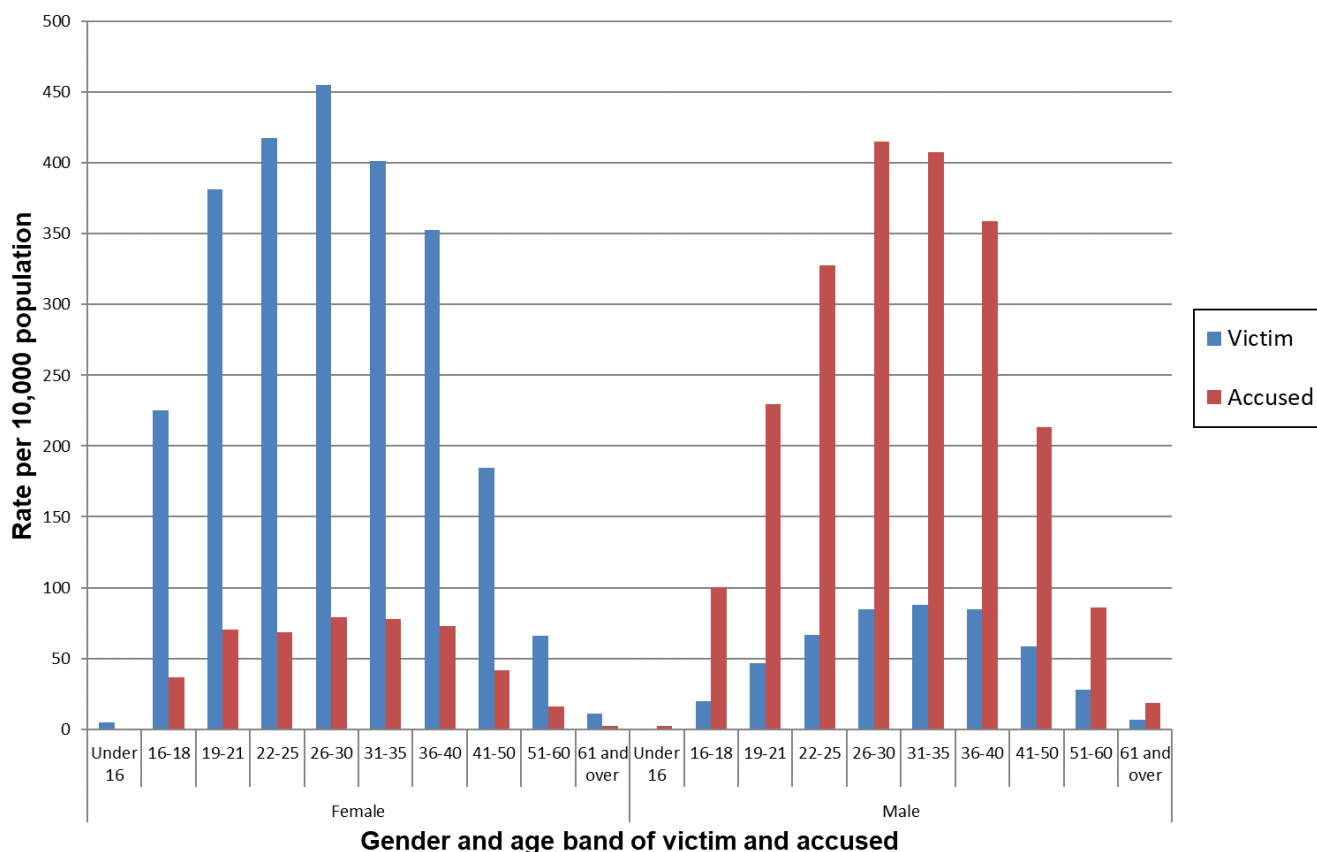
* Chart only displays incidents where gender of victim and accused is known. See [Section 6.18](#) for more details on missing data.

3.9 In 2017-18, the 26 to 30 year old age group had the highest rate per 10,000 population for both victims (272 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) and those accused (246 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) ([Table 8](#) & [Table 9](#)).

In 2017-18, female victims aged 26 to 30 had the highest rate (455) 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 88 incidents recorded per 10,000 population ([Chart 5](#) & [Table 8](#)).

In 2017-18, the 26 to 30 year old age group had the highest rate of domestic abuse among both male accused (415 incidents recorded per 10,000 population and female accused (79 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) ([Chart 5](#) & [Table 9](#)).

Chart 5: Gender of victim and accused, where known, 2017-18



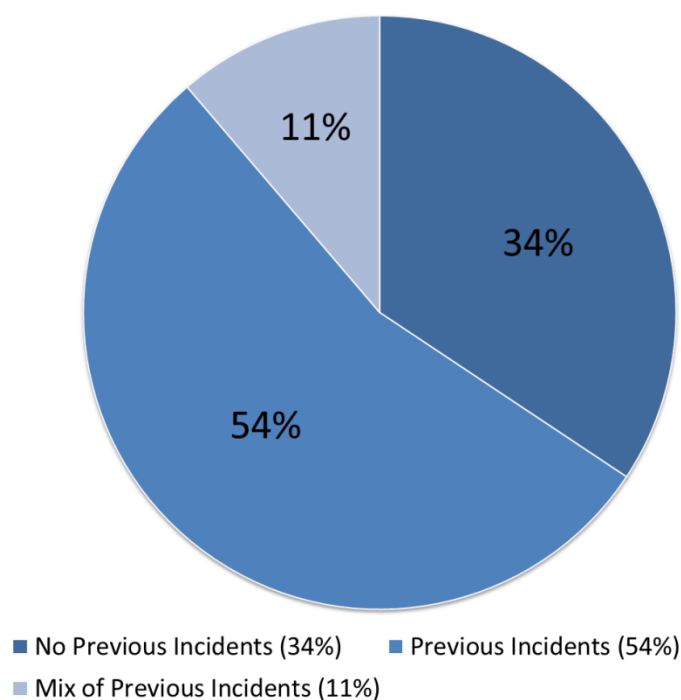
Victim & Accused Repeat Analysis

3.10 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 database in any one year, each classified as a separate incident.

The iVPD was introduced and rolled out across the then 14 police divisions during 2013-14. Therefore, the first and any subsequent reference to any victim or accused in the repeat categories below only refers to whether they were involved in an incident of domestic abuse from 2013-14 (part year depending on divisional roll-out) and not in any years prior to the introduction of the iVPD.

In 2017-18, 17% (10,228) of domestic abuse incidents did not include sufficient information to confirm one way or the other whether at least one of either the victim or accused had previously been recorded in an incident of domestic abuse. For 54% (26,826) of the remaining 49,313 incidents, both the victim and accused had previously been recorded in an incident of domestic abuse, though not necessarily in the same relationship in all incidents. For 34% (16,933) of incidents, neither the victim nor the accused were found on the iVPD and in 11% (5,554) incidents there was a mix of results for the victim and accused (i.e. only one of the victim or accused had previously been recorded ([Table 10](#) & [Chart 6](#))).

Chart 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by repeat victim/accused analysis (where known), 2017-18

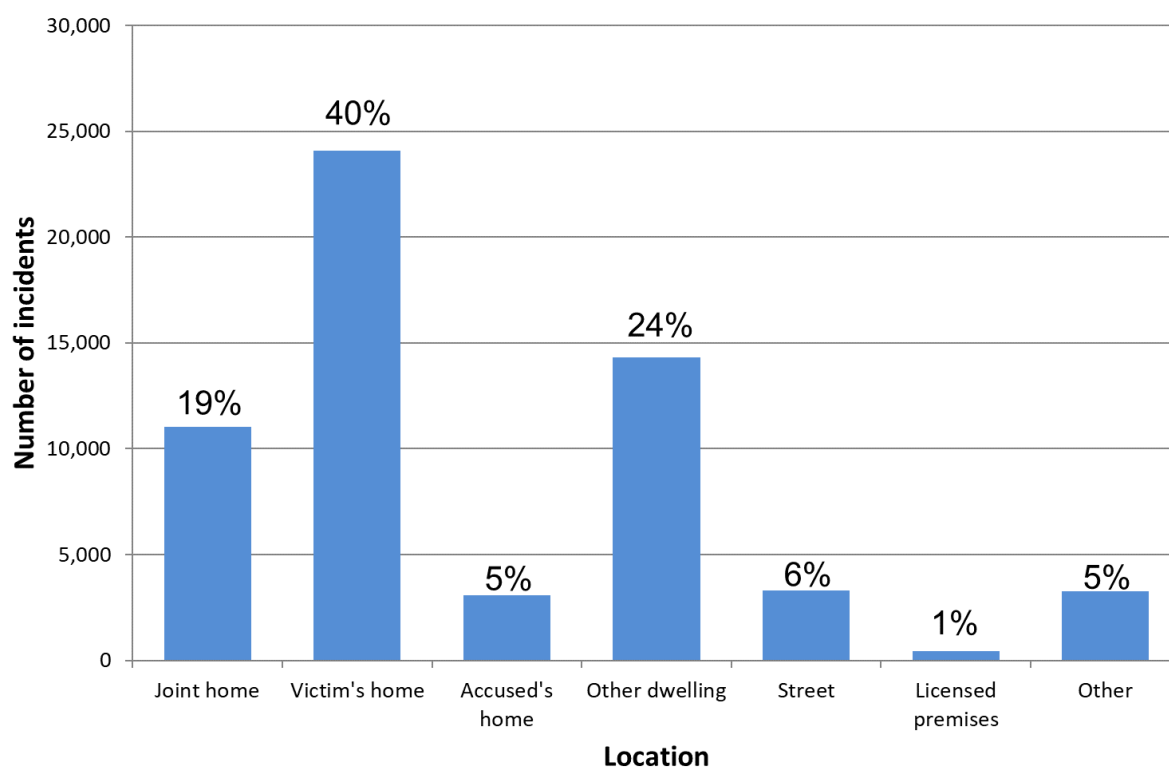


Location of Incidents

3.11 In 2017-18, 88% of incidents occurred in a home or dwelling. This can be further split into 40% of incidents of domestic abuse that occurred within the victim's own home and 19% that occurred within a joint home. A further 5% occurred in the accused's home while 24% occurred in an 'other dwelling'.

The remaining 12% of incidents occurred in the street (6%), licensed premises (1%) or an 'Other' location (5%) ([Table 11](#) & [Chart 7](#)).

Chart 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location, 2017-18

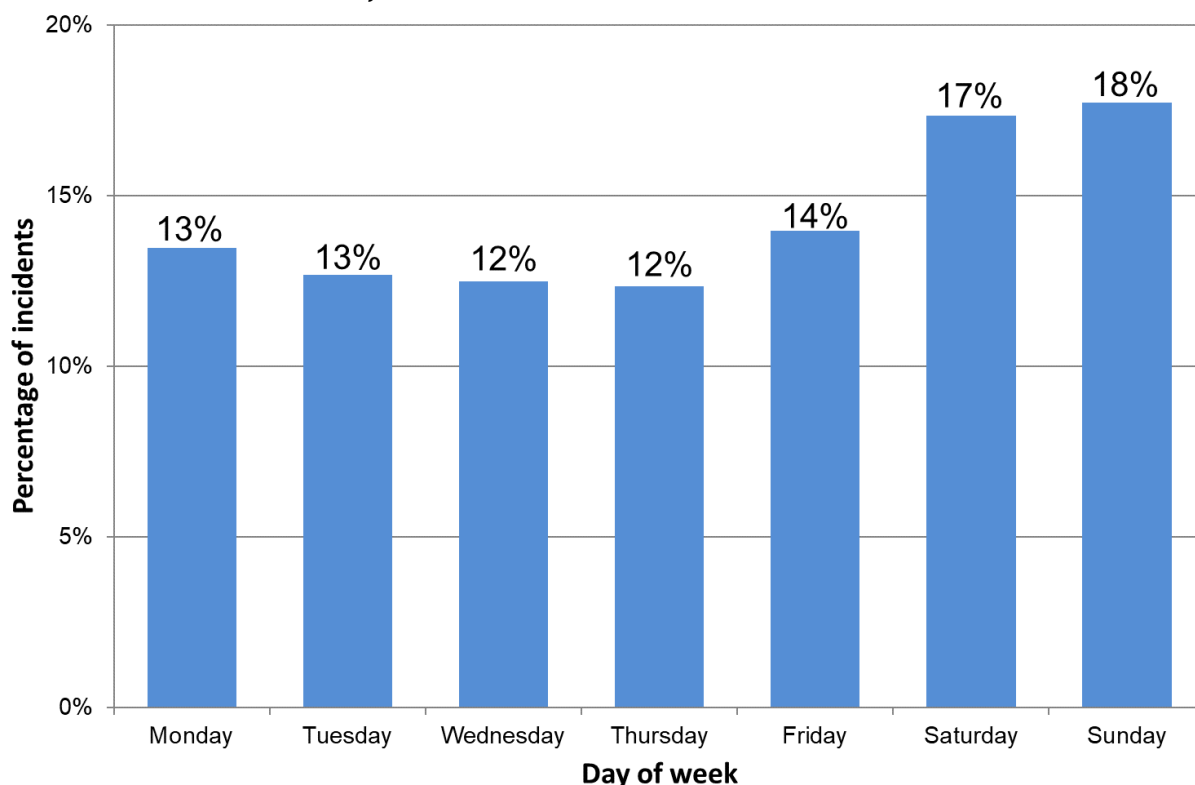


Day/Month of Occurrence

3.12 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 35% of incidents in 2017-18 occurring on a Saturday or a Sunday. The remaining 65% is spread fairly evenly from Monday to Friday. Over the past ten years the percentage of incidents that occurred at the weekend has fallen from 39% in 2008-09 to 35% in 2017-18.

Chart 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by day of the week incident occurred, 2017-18



When looking at the month that incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police occurred in 2017-18, no clear pattern emerges from the data, with incidents reasonably spread out across the year.

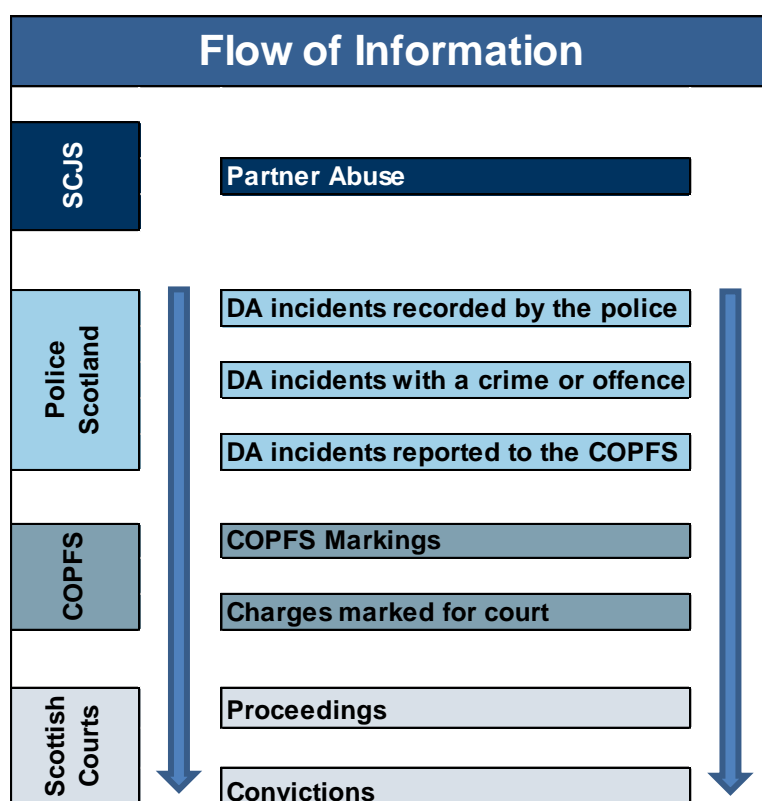
Tables for Day/Month are available online:

<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 reported to them 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 and based on a representative sample of adults (aged 16 and over), living in private households in Scotland.

The SCJS also provides results on the prevalence and nature of partner abuse in Scotland. The data on partner abuse is collected through a self-

completion module of the survey. The 2014-15 survey, 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.

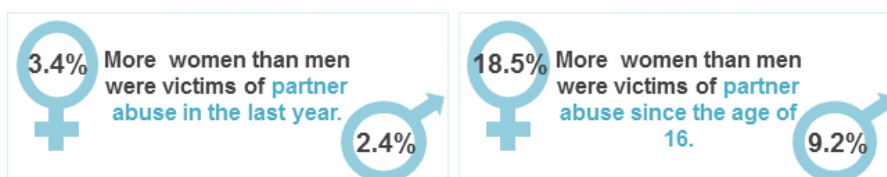
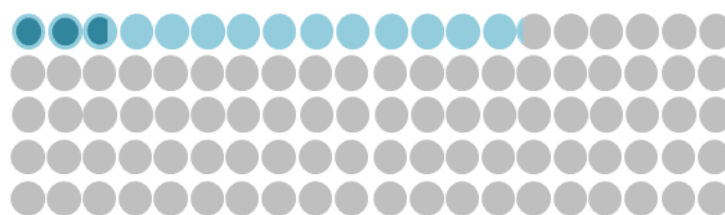
- Most incidents of domestic abuse go unreported to the police for a variety of reasons.
- The 2014/15 SCJS found that a fifth (19.5%) of those who experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months stated that the police came to know about the most recent incident.
- When asked the reasons for *not* reporting the most recent incident of partner abuse to the police, the most common reasons given were that the abuse was a private, personal or family matter (34.4%), that those involved had dealt with the incident (31.8%), or that the abuse was too trivial/not worth reporting (25.2%). Around one-in-ten (9.3%) said that they did not wish to answer the question, and 11.4% stated “another reason”.
- 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.



Between 2008-09 and 2014-15, the overall risk of experiencing any partner abuse in the last 12 months decreased from 4.2% to 2.9%. 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.

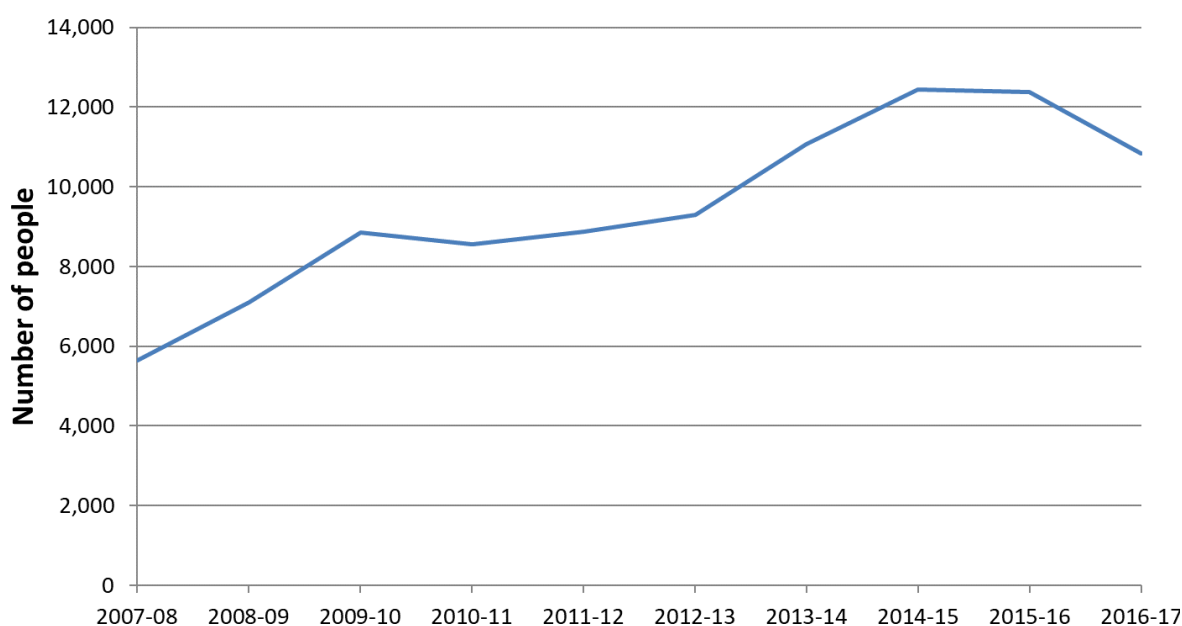
More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>. Results from the SCJS partner abuse module covering the period 2016/17-2017/18 will be available in early 2019.

- 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 at: <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’.

Chart 9: People convicted with a Domestic Abuse aggravator recorded against the main charge, Scotland, 2007-08 to 2017-18



Statistics on aggravators have been revised in the 2015-16 publication and now show the number of people convicted with an aggravator recorded, based on the main charge in a proceeding. In previous years aggravator statistics related to all charges included in a proceeding and therefore the revised figures are lower than in previous publications. There were 10,830 convictions where a domestic abuse aggravator was recorded against the main charge, a decrease of 12% from 2014-15 (12,376 convictions). This represents the second consecutive fall following a gradual increase between 2007-08 and 2014-15. The most common conviction with a domestic abuse aggravator in 2017-18 was Breach of the peace etc. (46%) followed by common assault (29%) and crimes against public justice (16%). The longer term increase has been driven by an increase in breach of the peace convictions, particularly offences of “threatening or abusive behaviour” or stalking.

The increase since 2010-11 may also be reflective of a strengthened emphasis on tackling domestic abuse in Scotland by both Police Scotland and the COPFS. The increase does not necessarily mean that domestic abuse is occurring at a greater level than in previous years but may be due, in part, to increases in reporting these types of crimes and improvements in the recording of domestic abuse cases on the CHS.

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 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by local authority, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Table 4: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they included a crime or offence, by local authority, 2017-18

Table 5: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population, by local authority, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim & accused, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18

Table 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by relationship between victim and accused Scotland, 2017-18

Table 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2017-18

Table 9: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of accused, Scotland, 2017-18

Table 10: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by whether the victim/accused has previous history of domestic abuse, Scotland, 2017-18

Table 11: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident, Scotland, 2017-18

Additional Tables

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>

Table 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2017-18^{1, 2}

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Number
Incidents including 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	29,526	
Crimes	1,884	2,296	2,304	2,817	3,612	4,679	4,876	5,235	5,639	6,416	
Offences	12,769	11,654	11,622	12,852	17,981	17,150	18,630	18,597	19,488	23,110	
Incidents not including 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	24,405	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	33,187	35,125	35,248	35,877	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,884	49,949	53,931	
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Incidents including the recording of a crime or offence	32,066	32,370	32,369	30,259	31,769		32,569	29,906	27,496	26,273	
Crimes	6,630	7,161	7,710	7,488	-		-	-	7,623	8,017	
Offences	25,436	25,209	24,659	22,771	-		-	-	19,873	18,256	
Incidents not including the recording of a crime or offence	19,860	23,328	27,478	29,821	26,670		27,313	28,198	31,314	33,268	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439		59,882	58,104	58,810	59,541	

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

Table 2: Crimes and offences recorded by the police as part of incidents of domestic abuse (where a crime or offence has been included), Scotland, 2017-18⁷

	Number & percentage	
	2017-18	
	Number	Percentage
Non-sexual Crimes of Violence	700	2%
Homicide	9	0%
Attempted murder & serious assault	467	1%
Robbery	93	0%
Other violence	131	0%
Sexual Offences	1,001	3%
Rape and attempted rape	454	1%
Sexual assault	266	1%
Other sexual offences	281	1%
Dishonesty	1,180	3%
Housebreaking	66	0%
Theft by opening lockfast places	12	0%
Theft of motor vehicle	120	0%
Other theft	863	3%
Fraud	117	0%
Other dishonesty	2	0%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	2,237	7%
Fire raising	20	0%
Vandalism, etc.	2,217	7%
Other Crimes	3,717	11%
Crimes against public justice	3,646	11%
Handling offensive weapons	52	0%
Other	19	0%
Miscellaneous offences	25,048	74%
Common assault	12,572	37%
Breach of the peace etc.	10,517	31%
Drunkenness & other disorderly conduct	4	0%
Other misc. offences	1,955	6%
Motor Vehicles Offences	110	0%
TOTAL	33,993	100%

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

Table 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by local authority, 2008-09 to 2017-18¹

	Number									
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Aberdeen City	2,388	2,415	2,323	2,449	2,648	2,487	3,088	2,570	2,522	2,773
Aberdeenshire	639	584	550	605	787	886	1,408	1,330	1,463	1,616
Angus	983	947	969	1,187	1,154	1,241	1,329	1,226	1,125	1,139
Argyll & Bute	517	503	521	563	536	556	643	653	634	655
Clackmannanshire	720	707	833	792	713	782	704	698	776	831
Dumfries & Galloway	1,306	1,176	1,407	1,291	1,411	1,272	1,230	1,146	1,047	1,246
Dundee City	2,135	2,305	2,366	2,440	2,525	2,442	2,525	2,365	2,266	2,103
East Ayrshire	1,252	1,273	1,387	1,430	1,413	1,509	1,567	1,535	1,348	1,405
East Dunbartonshire	642	537	661	650	665	623	572	658	610	563
East Lothian	926	902	970	929	1,023	1,025	1,000	903	938	938
East Renfrewshire	382	421	481	555	551	463	535	491	518	536
Edinburgh City	5,103	4,923	5,233	5,287	5,313	5,231	5,730	5,541	5,445	5,722
Falkirk	2,107	1,862	2,019	2,080	1,997	2,014	1,951	2,142	2,162	2,116
Fife	3,987	4,055	3,847	4,519	4,800	4,621	4,200	4,070	4,457	4,455
Glasgow City	9,664	8,866	10,160	11,116	10,220	9,559	8,974	8,596	8,888	8,853
Highland	1,006	879	1,451	1,872	2,102	2,047	2,247	2,312	2,350	2,336
Inverclyde	821	640	773	951	896	811	889	812	872	894
Midlothian	917	933	860	1,036	1,125	1,124	1,103	1,116	1,040	987
Moray	443	389	593	694	620	377	749	730	760	714
Na h-Eileanan Siar	94	58	102	114	94	124	145	154	152	167
North Ayrshire	1,639	1,770	1,791	1,897	1,820	1,837	1,830	1,725	1,677	1,590
North Lanarkshire	4,068	4,157	3,662	3,680	3,996	3,900	3,963	4,006	4,406	4,587
Orkney Islands	21	44	107	108	95	107	114	138	102	107
Perth & Kinross	930	956	1,060	1,162	1,236	1,351	1,529	1,221	1,180	1,142
Renfrewshire	2,045	1,658	2,179	2,431	2,333	2,304	2,235	2,151	2,230	2,132
Scottish Borders	665	808	760	801	930	864	911	915	978	1,090
Shetland Islands	42	37	70	103	101	86	107	134	115	124
South Ayrshire	1,105	1,208	1,245	1,265	1,292	1,253	1,296	1,126	1,010	1,027
South Lanarkshire	2,959	2,717	2,920	3,166	3,064	3,026	3,085	3,253	3,285	3,311
Stirling	782	834	850	833	790	768	785	826	818	802
West Dunbartonshire	1,602	1,362	1,485	1,709	1,518	1,460	1,220	1,358	1,395	1,375
West Lothian	2,041	2,000	2,063	2,132	2,312	2,289	2,218	2,203	2,241	2,205
SCOTLAND	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882	58,104	58,810	59,541

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

Table 4: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they included a crime or offence, by local authority, 2017-18²

	Number & Percentage		
	2017-18		
	No of Incidents	% of Incidents including a crime or offence	% of Incidents <u>not</u> including a crime or offence
Aberdeen City	2,773	50%	50%
Aberdeenshire	1,616	52%	48%
Angus	1,139	48%	52%
Argyll & Bute	655	44%	56%
Clackmannanshire	831	45%	55%
Dumfries & Galloway	1,246	61%	39%
Dundee City	2,103	44%	56%
East Ayrshire	1,405	49%	51%
East Dunbartonshire	563	36%	64%
East Lothian	938	39%	61%
East Renfrewshire	536	38%	62%
Edinburgh City	5,722	44%	56%
Falkirk	2,116	42%	58%
Fife	4,455	46%	54%
Glasgow City	8,853	45%	55%
Highland	2,336	38%	62%
Inverclyde	894	43%	57%
Midlothian	987	41%	59%
Moray	714	58%	42%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	167	32%	68%
North Ayrshire	1,590	47%	53%
North Lanarkshire	4,587	39%	61%
Orkney Islands	107	47%	53%
Perth & Kinross	1,142	43%	57%
Renfrewshire	2,132	41%	59%
Scottish Borders	1,090	40%	60%
Shetland Islands	124	36%	64%
South Ayrshire	1,027	47%	53%
South Lanarkshire	3,311	38%	62%
Stirling	802	45%	55%
West Dunbartonshire	1,375	34%	66%
West Lothian	2,205	48%	52%
SCOTLAND	59,541	44%	56%

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

Table 5: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population³, by local authority, 2008-09 to 2017-18¹

	Rate per 10,000 population ³									
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Aberdeen City	112	111	106	110	118	110	135	112	110	121
Aberdeenshire	26	23	22	24	31	34	54	51	56	62
Angus	86	82	84	102	99	107	114	105	97	98
Argyll & Bute	58	56	59	63	62	63	73	75	73	75
Clackmannanshire	141	138	162	154	139	152	138	136	151	162
Dumfries & Galloway	86	78	93	85	94	85	82	77	70	84
Dundee City	148	159	162	166	171	165	170	160	153	141
East Ayrshire	103	104	113	117	115	123	128	126	110	115
East Dunbartonshire	61	51	63	62	63	59	54	62	57	52
East Lothian	95	92	98	93	101	101	98	88	90	89
East Renfrewshire	43	47	53	61	61	51	58	53	55	57
Edinburgh City	111	106	111	111	110	107	116	111	107	111
Falkirk	137	121	130	133	127	128	124	135	136	132
Fife	111	112	106	124	131	126	114	111	120	120
Glasgow City	168	152	173	187	172	160	150	142	145	143
Highland	44	38	63	80	90	88	96	99	100	99
Inverclyde	100	78	95	117	111	101	111	102	110	114
Midlothian	112	114	104	124	134	133	128	128	117	110
Moray	48	42	63	74	67	40	79	76	79	75
Na h-Eileanan Siar	34	21	37	41	34	45	53	57	57	62
North Ayrshire	119	128	130	137	132	134	134	127	123	117
North Lanarkshire	122	124	109	109	118	115	117	118	130	135
Orkney Islands	10	21	50	50	44	50	53	64	47	49
Perth & Kinross	65	66	73	79	84	91	103	81	78	76
Renfrewshire	118	96	125	139	134	132	128	123	127	121
Scottish Borders	59	71	67	70	82	76	80	80	85	95
Shetland Islands	19	16	30	44	44	37	46	58	50	54
South Ayrshire	98	107	111	112	114	111	115	100	90	91
South Lanarkshire	95	87	93	101	97	96	98	103	104	104
Stirling	88	94	95	92	87	84	86	89	87	85
West Dunbartonshire	176	150	164	189	168	163	136	152	155	153
West Lothian	119	116	119	122	131	130	125	123	124	122
SCOTLAND	104	99	106	113	113	110	112	108	109	110

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

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by gender of victim & accused, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18^{1, 4}

	Number & Percentage									
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Female victim, male accused	44,961	41,927	44,951	46,439	45,916	42,120	39,483	43,158	42,759	39,864
<i>% of total known</i>	84	82	81	81	80	80	79	79	79	81
Male victim, female accused	7,361	7,938	8,889	9,569	9,946	9,435	8,901	9,845	9,957	7,929
<i>% of total known</i>	14	15	16	17	17	18	18	18	18	16
Female victim, female accused	640	682	736	566	605	612	671	743	737	617
<i>% of total known</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Male victim, male accused	548	666	693	659	677	724	854	877	835	740
<i>% of total known</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Not recorded or other ⁴	421	713	429	2,614	2,936	5,548	9,973	3,481	4,522	10,391
TOTAL	53,931	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882	58,104	58,810	59,541

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

Table 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by relationship between victim and accused Scotland, 2017-18

Relationship between victim and accused	Number & percentage	
	2017-18	
	Number	Percentage (where relationship known)
Spouse/Civil Partner	6,333	12%
Co-habitee	10,156	19%
Partner	11,498	22%
Ex-spouse/Civil Partner	2,202	4%
Ex-partner	22,630	42%
Other	556	1%
Unknown	6,166	-
TOTAL	59,541	100%

Table 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2017-18 ^{3, 4, 5}

Age Group of Victim (where known)	Gender of victim				Rate per 10,000 population ³		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁴	TOTAL	Female	Male	ALL
							VICTIMS
Under 16	225	18	-	243	5	0	3
16-18	1,937	181	-	2,118	225	20	120
19-21	3,870	482	-	4,352	381	47	212
22-25	6,365	1,004	3	7,372	417	67	243
26-30	8,425	1,552	10	9,987	455	85	272
31-35	7,192	1,506	1	8,699	401	88	248
36-40	5,766	1,342	-	7,108	353	85	221
41-50	7,094	2,108	2	9,204	185	58	123
51-60	2,596	1,044	1	3,641	66	28	48
61 and over	767	391	1	1,159	11	7	9
ALL VICTIMS	44,265	9,634	5,642	59,541	159	37	110

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

Table 9: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of accused, Scotland, 2017-18 ^{3, 4, 5}

Age Group of Accused (where known)	Gender of Accused				Rate per 10,000 population ³		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁴	TOTAL	Female	Male	ALL
							ACCUSED
Under 16	17	99	-	116	*	2	1
16-18	317	909	1	1,227	37	100	69
19-21	717	2,378	2	3,097	71	230	151
22-25	1,046	4,943	3	5,992	69	327	197
26-30	1,467	7,579	5	9,051	79	415	246
31-35	1,399	6,980	1	8,380	78	408	239
36-40	1,189	5,687	2	6,878	73	359	214
41-50	1,592	7,709	5	9,306	41	213	125
51-60	641	3,205	-	3,846	16	86	50
61 and over	137	1,053	1	1,191	2	19	10
ALL ACCUSED	8,579	40,728	10,234	59,541	31	155	110

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

Table 10: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by whether the victim/accused has previous history of domestic abuse, where known, Scotland, 2017-18⁶

Victim's history	Accused History		Total
	No Previous Incidents	Previous Incidents	
No Previous Incidents	16,933	2,656	19,589
Previous Incidents	2,898	26,826	29,724
TOTAL	19,831	29,482	49,313

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

Table 11: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident, Scotland, 2017-18

	Number & percentage	
	2017-18	%
Joint home	11,048	19%
Victim`s home	24,075	40%
Accused`s home	3,080	5%
Other dwelling	14,305	24%
Street	3,293	6%
Licensed premises	433	1%
Other	3,269	5%
Unknown	38	0%
TOTAL	59,541	100%

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

Notes for Tables

1. Incidents earlier than 2014-15 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 both incidents where gender has not been recorded and is therefore unknown (almost 100% of cases) and incidents where the victim or accused was recorded as transgender. In 2017-18, there was an increase in the number of incidents where the gender of the victim and/or the accused was unknown. For further information about this change see paragraph 6.5 in the Annex.
5. Due to data with no age and gender, rates per 10,000 population, will be lower than expected. See [Section 6.18](#) for more details of missing data.
6. A victim/accused can appear in the iVPD multiple times in one reporting year. See [Section 3.10](#) for more details on definition of repeat victims and accused.
7. More than one crime or offence may be recorded in one incident.

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, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which 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 including online’.

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, a new iVPD (interim Vulnerable Persons 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.
- 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.
- 6.5 In addition to this, there was an increase in 2017-18 in the number and proportion of incidents where no information was recorded on the characteristics of the victim and/or the accused (from 4,522 or 8% to 10,391 or 17%).

Police Scotland advise that a procedural change was made immediately prior to 2017-18 whereby for certain non-criminal incidents of domestic abuse (i.e.

where both parties were believed to have an equal involvement), details were no longer recorded for a specific victim or a specific accused. Prior to this, two incidents may have been recorded treating one party as the victim and the other as the accused and the second for the reverse position.

Whilst this change may also have had an effect on the number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in 2017-18, the impact of this cannot be quantified. However, this change in procedure only relates to a very specific set of circumstances for a domestic abuse incident and the actual number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded in 2017-18 has remained very similar to all years back to 2011-12.

The upcoming introduction of the new statutory offence of domestic abuse will also have an effect on the data collection process for these statistics. As such, Scottish Government statisticians will work with Police Scotland to review both the overall approach taken to produce these statistics and how the new legislation will impact on this. This will be to ensure that these statistics remain of high value to users and we will provide updates on any changes through the SCOTSTAT network.

Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:

- 6.6 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/>.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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:

- 6.9 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 assault 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.
- 6.10 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:

- 6.11 Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term "crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed "offences". The distinction is made only for statistical reporting purposes and has no impact on how the police investigate reports of criminal activity. The "seriousness" of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.

Annex 2: Quality of the Statistics

Reporting and Quality Assurance of Domestic Abuse Statistics:

- 6.14 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 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.
- 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 Whilst Police Scotland record complete information for all incidents, there is some challenge in retrieving and linking the captured information to meet the full data requirements for this publication. As a result some values for certain 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 may minimise 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 sometime after they occurred, this should be reflected in the statistics.

Legislation

6.23 The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent on the 9th of March 2018. The Bill creates an offence with respect to the engaging by a person in a course of behaviour which is abusive of the person's partner or ex-partner. At present, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a common assault or threatening or abusive behaviour) will be included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. The Scottish Crime Recording Board is considering how to record the new offence created by the Bill, and statisticians will use the SCOTSTAT network to update users on its decision and any impact this will have on the recording of crime.

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). Further information about these estimates can be found 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 focussed 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:
<https://www.hmics.scot/publications/review-incident-and-crime-recording>
- 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.
- 6.30 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

- 6.31 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. It can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- 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.

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

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

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has adopted the definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the Northern Ireland Government Strategy 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland' as:

'an incident of threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former partner or family member'.

The following will assist in the application of this definition:

- (a) '**Incident**' means an incident anywhere and not confined to the home of one of the partners/family members;
- (b) '**Family members**' include mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, whether directly or indirectly related, in-laws or stepfamily.
- (c) '**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.

Again the main difference between the definitions is that 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.

- 6.35 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

- 6.36 These statistics are used by a range of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.
- 6.37 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.
- 6.40 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

- 6.41 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 2017-18 bulletin was £2,200.

- 6.42 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 2017-18 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/JAS-Programme-2017-18>.

- 6.43 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.

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Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Mark Bell

Justice Analytical Services,

Telephone: 0131 244 5459,

e-mail: JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

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, 2WR, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@gov.scot.

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