



CRIME AND JUSTICE

DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2018-19

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This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents and recorded crime supplied by Police Scotland in 2018-19. 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 3](#)), 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 61,000 incidents a year. The police recorded 60,641 incidents of domestic abuse in 2018-19, an increase of 2% compared to the previous year.
- In 2018-19, 41% of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland included the recording of at least one crime or offence.
- The type of crime or offence that was most frequently recorded as part of a domestic abuse incident in 2018-19 was Common assault (accounting for 36% of all crimes and offences recorded). This was followed by Breach of the peace etc. accounting for 29% of crimes and offences.
- There were 112 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2018-19. At a local authority level, Dundee City (157), West Dunbartonshire (148) and Glasgow City (147) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. The Shetland Islands (52) and East Renfrewshire (54) recorded the lowest rates per 10,000 population.
- Where gender information was recorded, around four out of every five incidents of domestic abuse in 2018-19 had a female victim and a male accused. This proportion has remained very stable since 2011-12.
- In 2018-19, 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 2018-19, the 26-30 years old age group had the highest incident rate for victims (263 incidents recorded per 10,000 population). The 31-35 years old age group had the highest incident rate for the accused (246 incidents recorded per 10,000 population).
- Recorded incidents of domestic abuse were higher on a Saturday or Sunday than on any other day of the week (with these two days together accounting for 35% of incidents in 2018-19).
- In 2018-19, 88% of all domestic abuse incidents occurred in a home or dwelling.

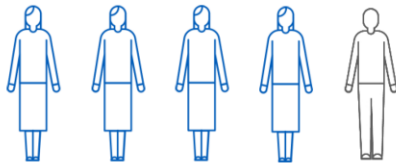
DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2018-19



WHO were the victims?

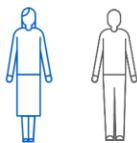
60,641

incidents of domestic abuse were recorded by the police in 2018-19.

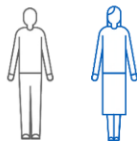


In 2018-19, more than **4 out of 5** (83%) victims of domestic abuse were female.

WHAT Was the gender of the victims & accused?

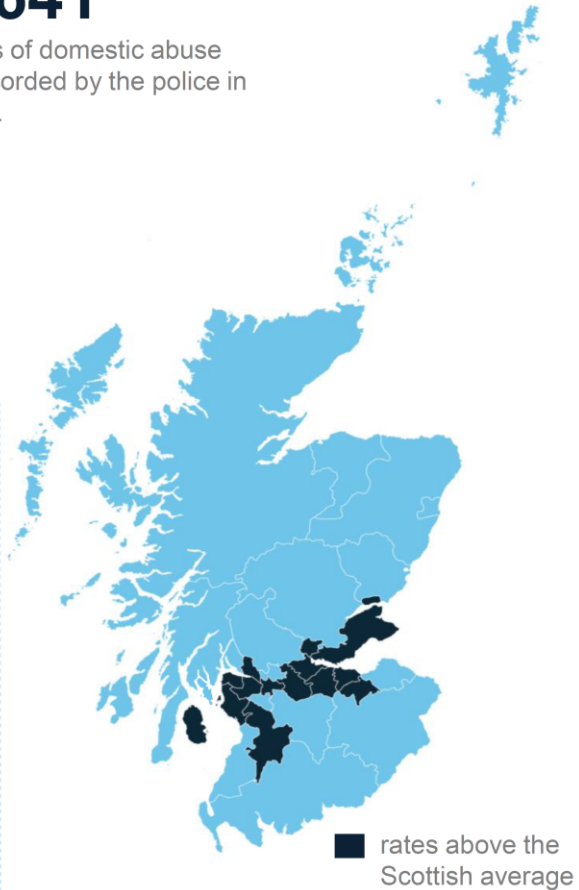


82% of incidents involved a female victim & a male accused.



16% of incidents involved a male victim & a female accused.

In the remaining **2%** of cases, both the victim and accused were the same gender.



WHERE Did incidents occur?



88% of domestic abuse incidents occurred in a home or dwelling.



39% of domestic abuse incidents occurred in the victim's home.

WHEN did incidents occur?



35% of domestic abuse incidents occurred at the weekend.



1. Background

- 1.1. Statistics on domestic abuse are used to inform the Scottish Government's [Justice in Scotland: vision and priorities](#).
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. 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: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Publications>
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. Due to the modification in data collection, elements of this publication have changed in recent editions.
- 1.7. All tables and charts, including additional tables, can be accessed online via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-scotland-2018-2019-statistics/>.

2. Domestic Abuse Incidents in Scotland

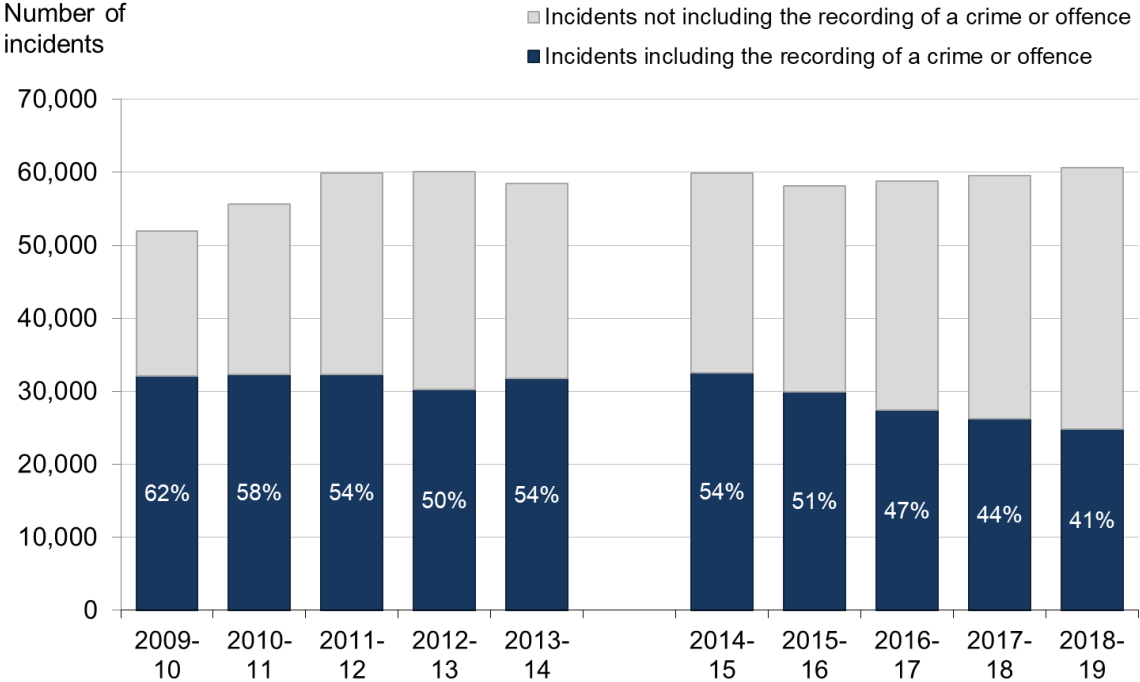
Incidents of Domestic Abuse

- 2.1. Levels of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland have remained relatively stable since 2011-12, with around 58,000 to 61,000 incidents a year. The police recorded 60,641 incidents of domestic abuse in 2018-19, an increase of 2% compared to the previous year ([Chart 1](#) & [Table 1](#)).
- 2.2. Of the 60,641 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in 2018-19, 41% (24,831) included the recording of at least one crime or offence (compared to 44% in 2017-18) ([Chart 1](#) & [Table 1](#)). The remaining 59% (35,810) did not include the recording of a crime or offence.

Incidents which included a crime or offence

- 2.3. For those domestic abuse incidents that included the recording of at least one crime or offence in 2018-19, the most frequently recorded was Common assault (accounting for 36% of all crimes and offences). This was followed by Breach of the peace etc. which accounted for 29% of all crimes and offences. Breach of the peace etc. includes Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking (26% and 3% of all crimes and offences respectively) ([Table 2](#)).
- 2.4. The percentage of domestic abuse incidents that included the recording of a crime or offence has fallen each year since 2014-15 from 54% in 2014-15 to 41% in 2018-19. For further information, the following section includes an earlier analysis (from 2016-17) of those domestic abuse incidents that did not include a crime or offence.

Chart 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, 2009-10 to 2018-19*



* Chart has been displayed with a gap in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection. See [5.4](#) for more details.

Incidents which did not include a crime or offence

- 2.5. In 2018-19, 59% 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 the definition of domestic abuse used by Police Scotland, which is not restricted to behaviour where criminal conduct has been identified and recorded.
- 2.6. The iVPD itself is not a crime recording system. Instead, 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.

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

- 2.7. Three years ago, 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.

2.8. 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. These should be treated as a broad indication of the characteristics of those domestic abuse incidents which do not include a crime or offence. They are not an exact measure, given the associated possibility of sampling error and wide range of behaviours covered.

Summary of Incidents from 2016-17 that did not include the recording of a Crime or Offence

2.9. 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.

2.10. 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).

2.11. 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%).

2.12. 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

2.13. The number of police recorded domestic abuse incidents between 2017-18 and 2018-19 were varied at the local authority level ([Table 3](#)). More than half (19) of local authorities recorded an increase in domestic abuse, whereas 12 recorded a decrease and one was unchanged.

2.14. In 2018-19, the highest percentage of incidents of domestic abuse that also included the recording of at least one crime or offence was in Dumfries & Galloway (58%) and Moray (53%) ([Chart 2](#) & [Table 4](#)).

Incidents of Domestic Abuse per 10,000 Population

2.15. Taking the population of Scotland as at mid-year 2018, there were 112 recorded incidents of domestic abuse per 10,000 population in 2018-19. At a local authority level, Dundee City (157), West Dunbartonshire (148) and Glasgow City (147) recorded the highest incident rates per 10,000 population. The Shetland Islands (52) and East Renfrewshire (54) recorded the lowest rates per 10,000 population. ([Chart 3](#) & [Table 5](#)).

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, 2018-19

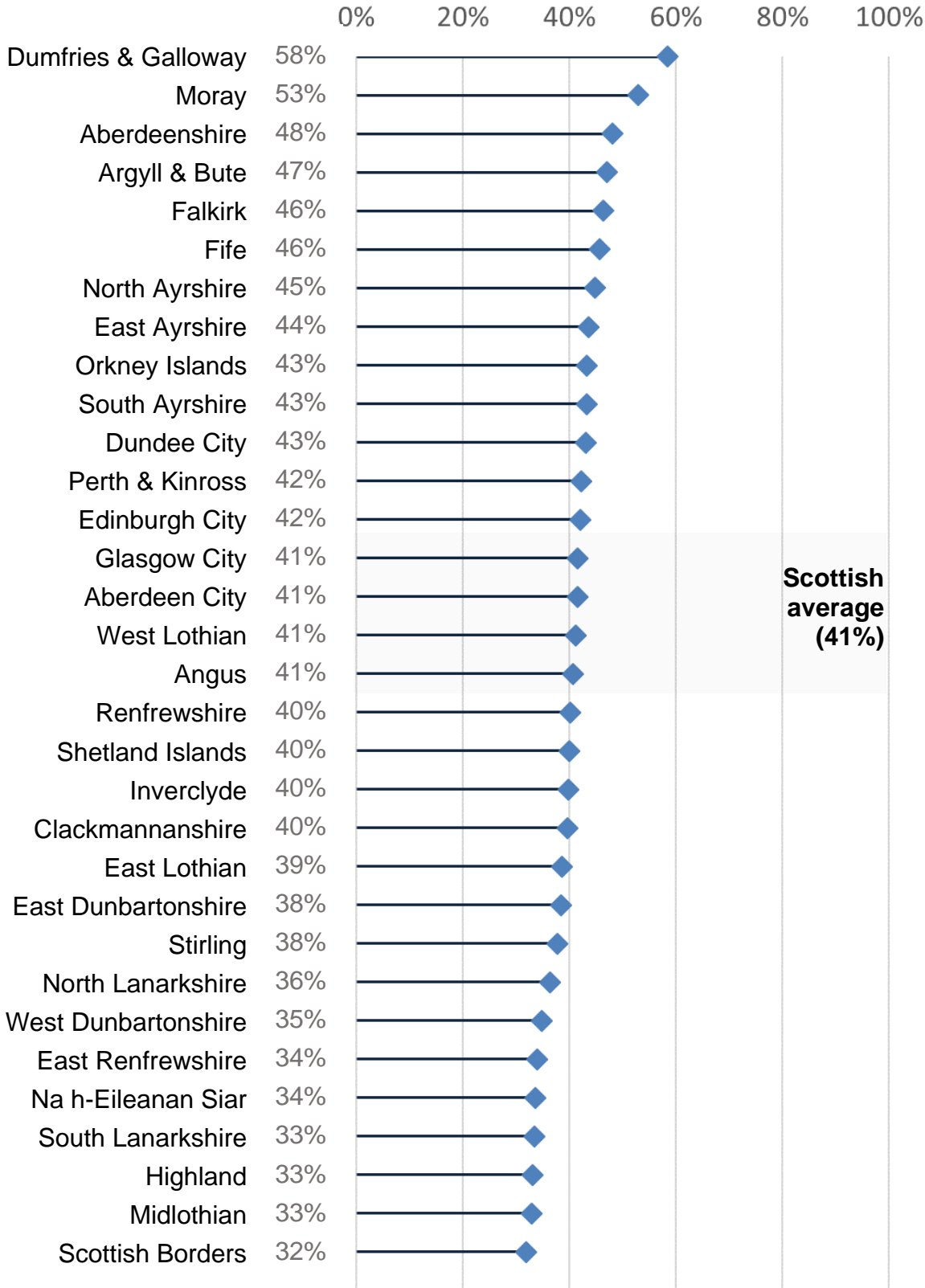
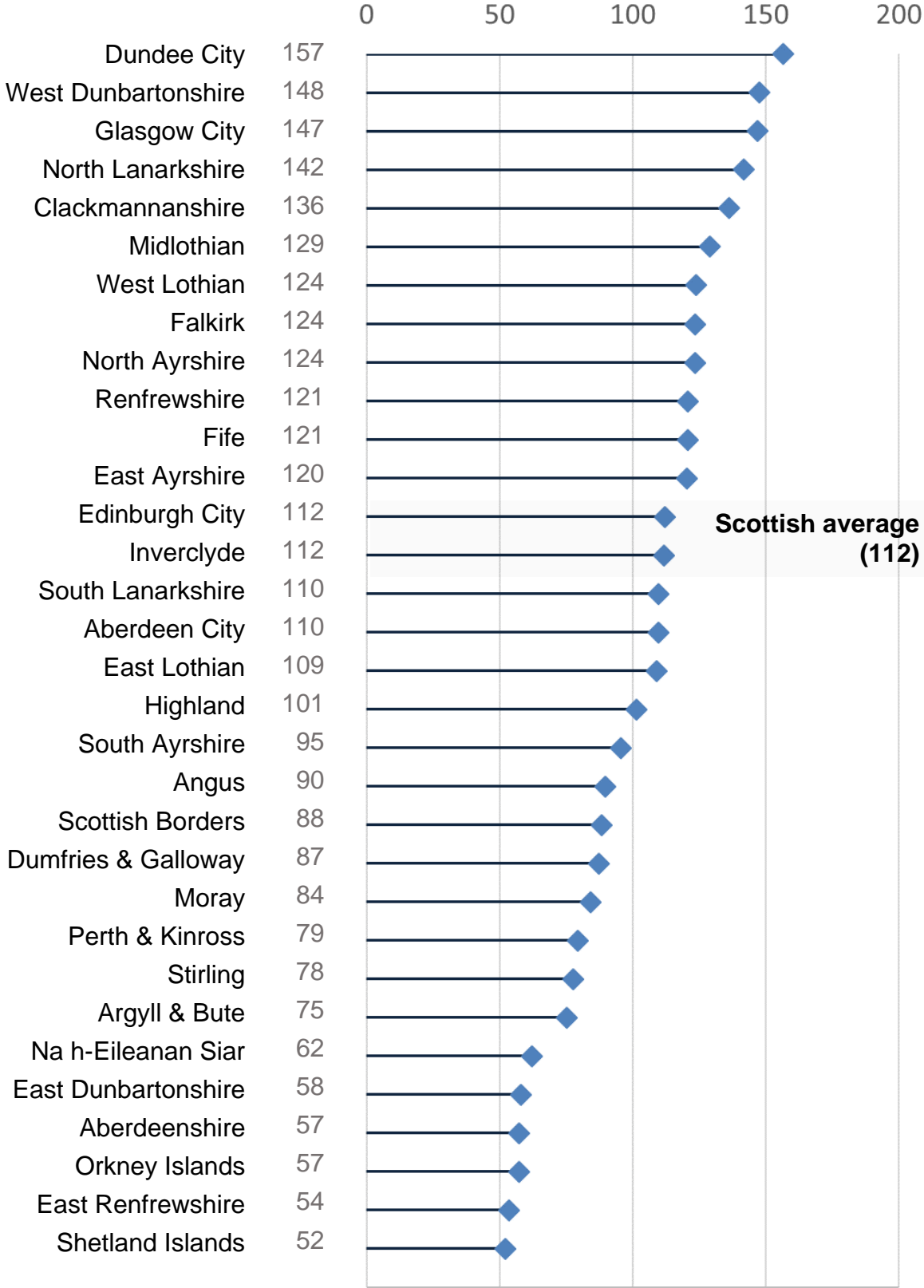
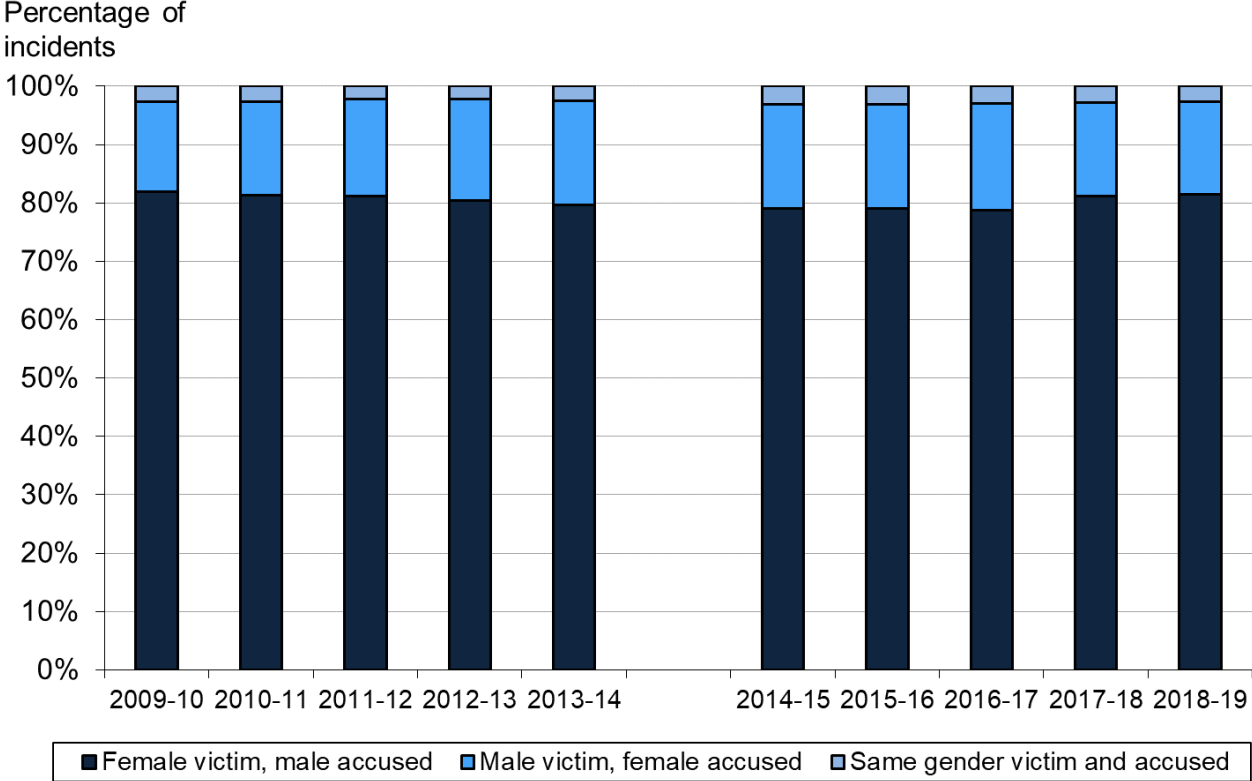


Chart 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹, by local authority, 2018-19



¹ Population estimates are at mid-year 2018 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 accused¹, where known, 2009-10 to 2018-19²



¹ Chart only displays incidents where gender of victim and accused is known. See [5.24](#) for more details on missing data.
² Chart has been displayed with a gap in the time series to highlight the changes in data collection. See [5.4](#) for more details.

Victim & Accused Characteristics

2.16. Where the victim’s gender was known, the clear majority of victims in 2018-19 (83%) were female. Around four out of every five incidents (82%) of domestic abuse in 2018-19 had a female victim and a male accused. This proportion is similar to the previous year but is a slight rise since 2014-15.

2.17. Again, where the victim’s gender was known, 17% of victims in 2018-19 were male. In 2018-19, 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](#)).

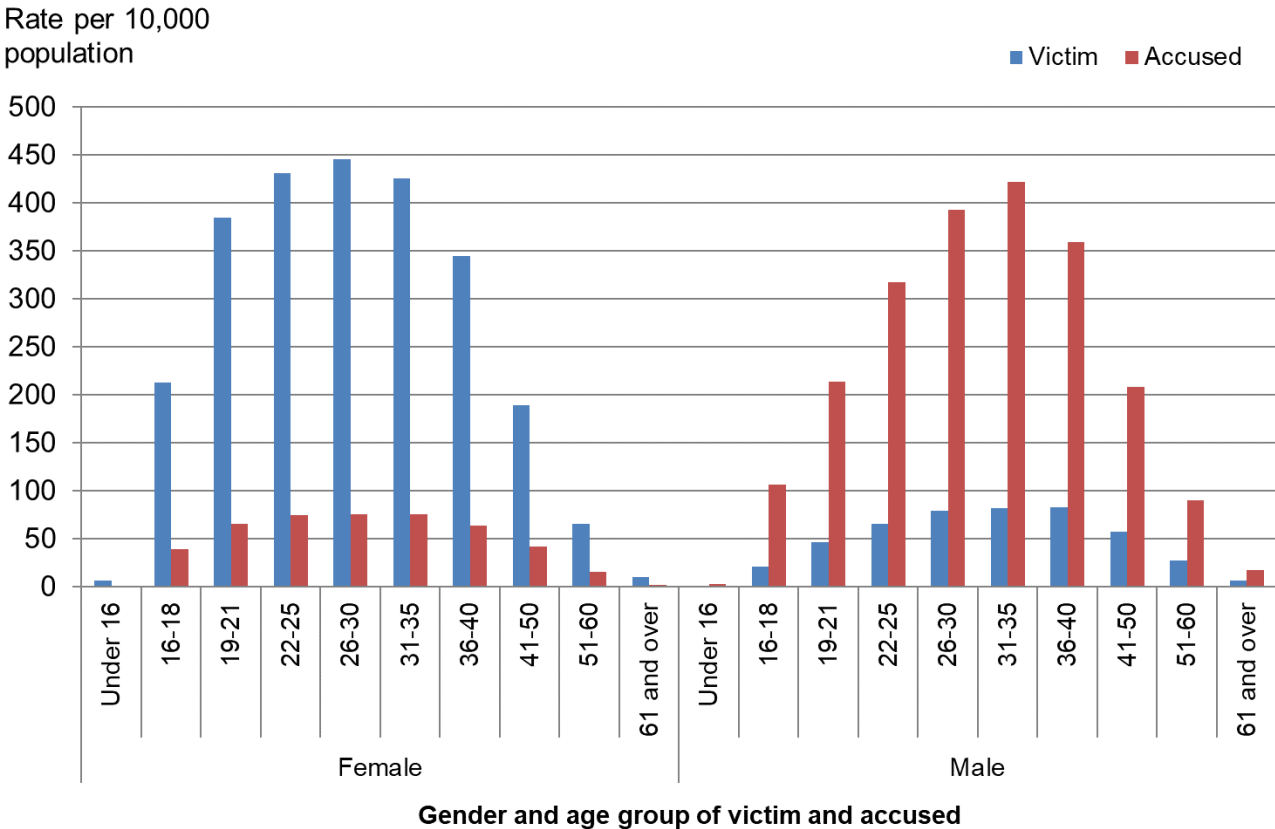
Relationship between Victim & Accused

2.18. In 2018-19, just over half (51%) of domestic abuse incidents (where the relationship between the victim and accused is known) were between current partners. 48% of incidents were between ex-partners ([Table 7](#)).

Age of Victim & Accused

- 2.19. In 2018-19, the 26 to 30 year old age group had the highest rate per 10,000 population for victims (263 incidents recorded per 10,000 population). For those accused, the 31-35 years old age group had the highest incident rate (246 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) ([Table 8](#) & [Table 9](#)).
- 2.20. In 2018-19, female victims aged 26 to 30 had the highest rate (446) 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 36 to 40 years, where the rate was 83 incidents recorded per 10,000 population ([Chart 5](#) & [Table 8](#)).
- 2.21. In 2018-19, the 31 to 35 year old age group had the highest rate of domestic abuse among male accused (422 incidents recorded per 10,000 population). Among female accused, the 26-30 year old age group had the highest rate (76 incidents recorded per 10,000 population) ([Chart 5](#) & [Table 9](#)).

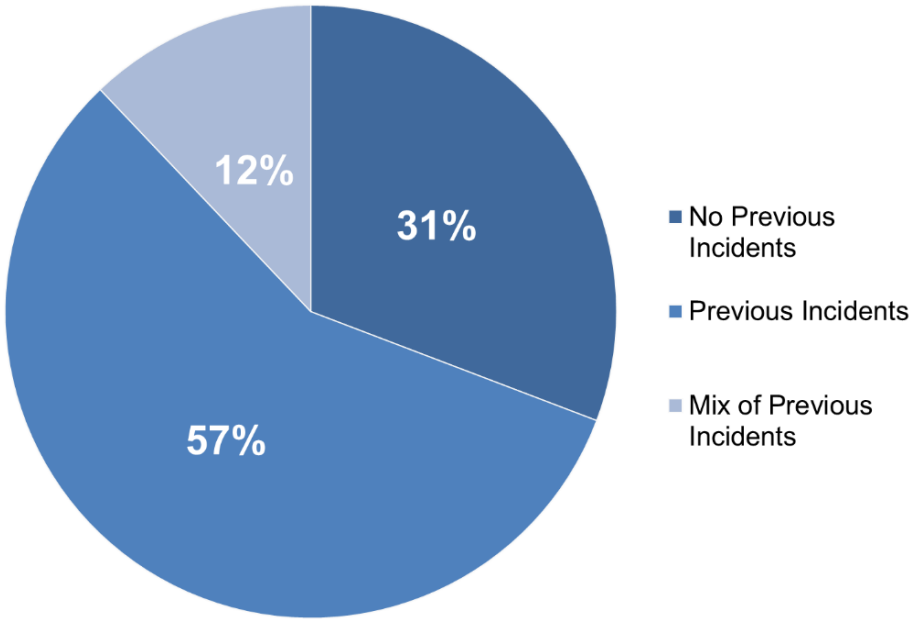
Chart 5: Gender and age of victim and accused, where known, 2018-19



Victim & Accused Repeat Analysis

- 2.22. The interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) (referred to in [Paragraph 1.5](#) 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.
- 2.23. 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.
- 2.24. In 2018-19, 19% (11,726) 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 57% (27,939) of the remaining 48,915 incidents, both the victim and accused had previously been recorded in an incident of domestic abuse - though these previously recorded incidents may have involved different partners/ex-partners. For 31% (15,057) of incidents, neither the victim nor the accused were found on the iVPD. In 12% (5,919) of 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), 2018-19

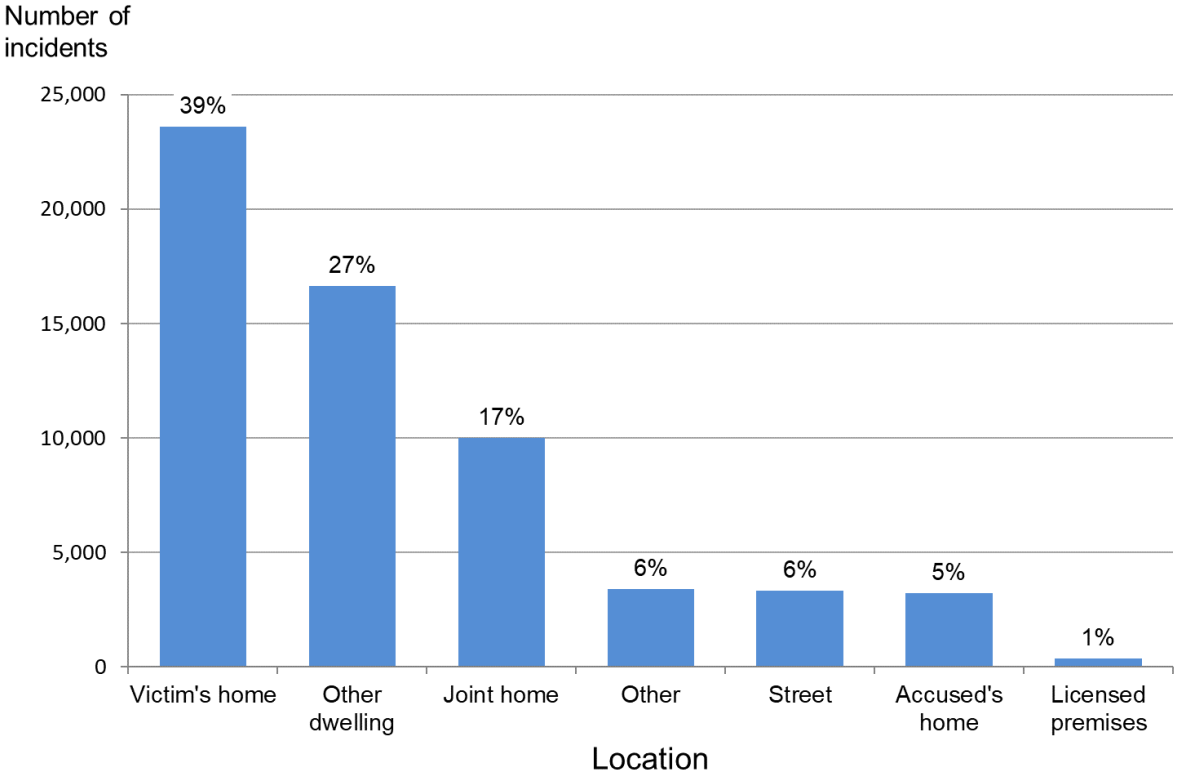


Location of Incidents

2.25. In 2018-19, 88% of incidents occurred in a home or dwelling. This can be split into 39% of incidents of domestic abuse that occurred within the victim’s own home and 17% that occurred within a joint home. A further 5% occurred in the accused’s home while 27% occurred in an ‘other dwelling’.

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

Chart 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location, 2018-19.



Day/Month of Occurrence

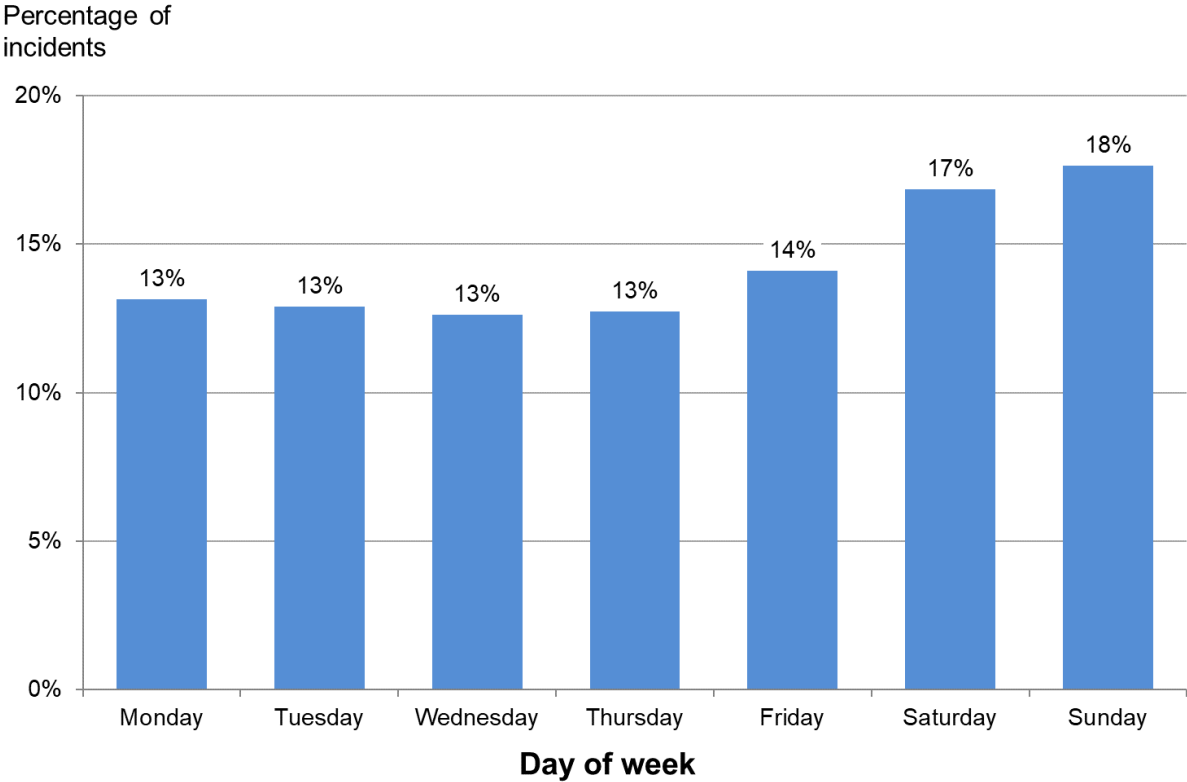
2.27. The following section is based on the date the incident of domestic abuse occurred, rather than when it was recorded by the police.

2.28. Recorded incidents of domestic abuse were higher on a Saturday or Sunday than on any other day of the week. These two days together account for 35% of incidents in 2018-19 ([Chart 8](#)). The remaining 66% 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 2009-10 to 35% in 2018-19.

2.29. When looking at the month that incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police occurred in 2018-19, no clear pattern emerges from the data, with incidents reasonably spread out across the year.

2.30. Tables for Day/Month are available online: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-scotland-2018-2019-statistics/>

Chart 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by the day of the week the incident occurred, 2018-19

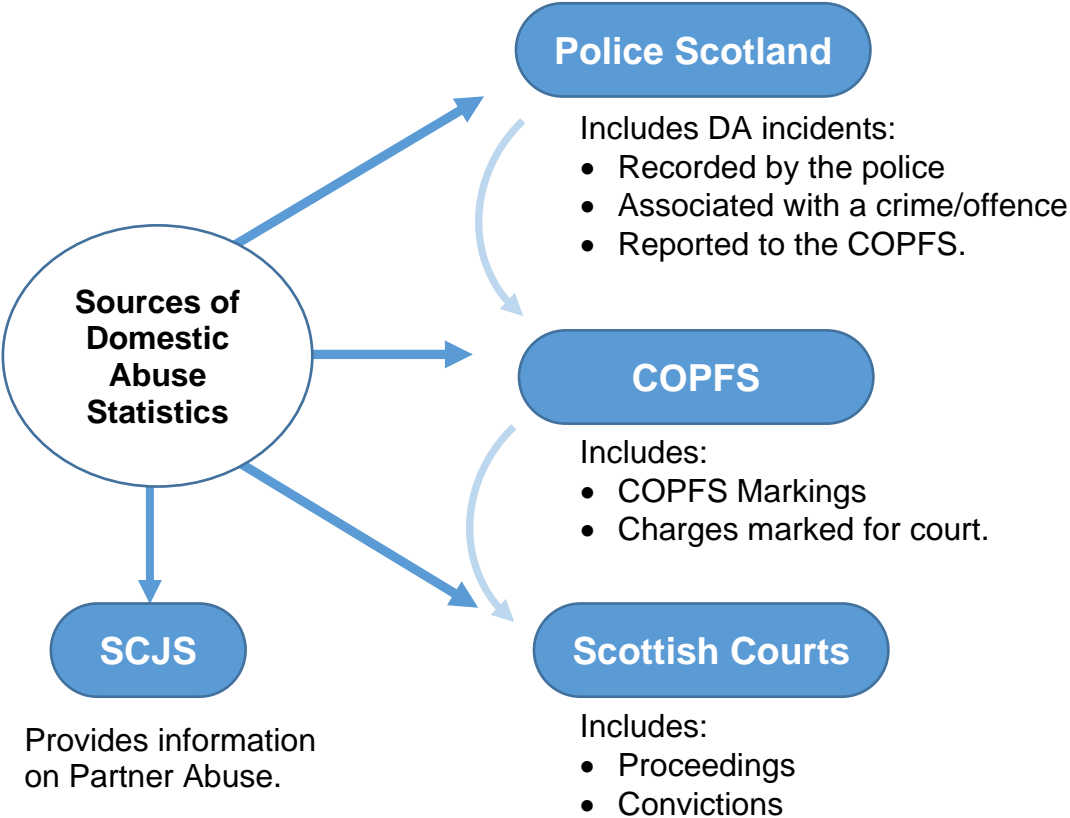


3. Putting Domestic Abuse in Context

3.1. There are a number of data sources which collect information on domestic abuse in Scotland. These include:

- **The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey**, which provides information on Partner Abuse.
- **Police Scotland**, who record the number of incidents reported to them on domestic abuse (reported in this publication).
- **The Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)**, who 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.

3.2. The relationship between these sources is summarised in the following diagram.



Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) - Background

- 3.3. The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 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.
- 3.4. The SCJS also provides results on the prevalence and nature of partner abuse in Scotland. The data on partner abuse are collected through a self-completion module of the survey. The latest survey, published in March 2019, includes findings on partner abuse for the period 2016/18¹.
- 3.5. 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. These include the fact that:
 - i. Most incidents of domestic abuse go unreported to the police. The 2016/18 SCJS found that a fifth (19.2%) of those who experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months stated that the police came to know about the most recent incident.

Further analysis of the SCJS shows that when asked the reasons for not reporting the most recent incident of partner abuse to the police, the most common reasons given were that those involved had dealt with the incident (37%), that the abuse was too trivial/not worth reporting (30%), or the abuse was a private, personal or family matter (27%). This is a consistent finding with previous years.

- ii. The SCJS is a sample of those aged 16+ and in private households. As such, adults staying in care homes or those aged under 16 will not be in the SCJS estimates.
- iii. The SCJS captures the victim's experience of partner abuse. Although this part of the survey is self-completed, some respondents may choose not to disclose information on particular incidents.

¹ 2016-17 and 2017-18 data has been combined to carry out analysis.

SCJS – Results from the 2016/18 Partner Abuse Module

- 3.6. Between 2008-09 and 2016/18, the overall risk of experiencing any partner abuse in the last 12 months decreased from 4.2% to 3.0%. The risk of partner abuse in the last 12 months did not change between the 2014/15 and 2016/18 survey sweeps. A higher proportion of women than men experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months, at 3.6% and 2.3% respectively.
- 3.7. More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, is available at: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>. Results from the SCJS partner abuse module covering the period 2018/20 are expected to be released alongside the 2019/20 SCJS report.

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service: Background

- 3.8. The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) publish management information on the number of charges reported to COPFS with a domestic abuse aggravator recorded against them. These figures also include the number taken forward to court, dealt with by direct measures (such as a fine), or where no action was taken.
- 3.9. More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, is available at: <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/statistics>.

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland: Background

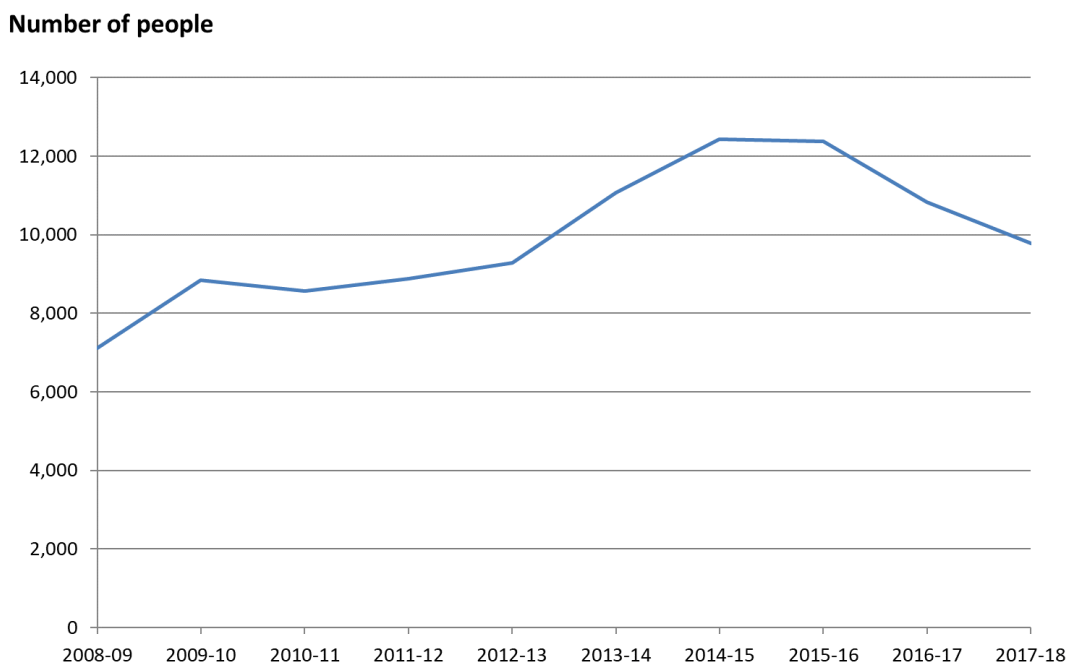
- 3.10. The Scottish Government publishes statistics on proceedings and convictions, which take place in the Scottish courts, through their [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#) publication. These statistics are derived from data held on the Criminal History System (CHS), a central database used for the recording of information on persons accused and/or convicted of committing a criminal act. Aggravator codes can be recorded on the CHS by COPFS or the police to provide additional information relating to the nature of a charge. One of these aggravator codes is a domestic abuse identifier. Statistics show the number of people proceeded against and convicted with a domestic abuse identifier recorded, based on the main charge in a proceeding.
- 3.11. The [Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) created a statutory aggravation of domestic abuse which came into force in April 2017, and it is used in conjunction with the existing domestic identifier. The statutory aggravation needs to be proved in court, and is taken into account during sentencing, which may result in a higher penalty being given. Figures for the number of convictions with a statutory domestic

abuse aggravation are also published in the Criminal Proceedings statistics.

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland: 2017-18 Data

3.12. There were 9,782 convictions where a domestic abuse identifier was recorded against the main charge, a decrease of 10% from 2016-17 (10,836 convictions). This represents the third consecutive fall following a gradual increase between 2008-09 and 2014-15. The most common conviction with a domestic abuse identifier in 2017-18 was Breach of the peace etc. (44%) followed by Common assault (28%) and Crimes against public justice (18%). The vast majority of the breach of the peace-type convictions (88%) were for offences of Threatening or abusive behaviour or Stalking.

Chart 9: People convicted with a Domestic Abuse identifier recorded against the main charge, Scotland, 2008-09 to 2017-18



3.13. More detailed information, along with explanatory notes, are available from: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubCriminalProceedings>.

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Additional Tables

All tables and charts, including additional tables, can be accessed online via the following link: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-scotland-2018-2019-statistics/>.

Table 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2018-19^{1, 2}

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Number 2009-10
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	32,066
Crimes	1,884	2,296	2,304	2,817	3,612	4,679	4,876	5,235	5,639	6,416	6,630
Offences	12,769	11,654	11,622	12,852	17,981	17,150	18,630	18,597	19,488	23,110	25,436
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	19,860
TOTAL INCIDENTS	33,187	35,125	35,248	35,877	41,235	43,633	45,331	48,884	49,949	53,931	51,926
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
Incidents including the recording of a crime or offence	32,370	32,369	30,259	31,769		32,569	29,906	27,495	26,273	24,831	
Crimes	7,161	7,710	7,488	8,260		-	-	7,621	8,017	8,303	
Offences	25,209	24,659	22,771	23,509		-	-	19,874	18,256	16,528	
Incidents not including the recording of a crime or offence	23,328	27,478	29,821	26,670		27,313	28,198	31,315	33,268	35,810	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439		59,882	58,104	58,810	59,541	60,641	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

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, 2018-19⁷

	2018-19	
	Number	Percentage
Non-sexual Crimes of Violence	672	2%
Homicide	10	0%
Attempted murder & serious assault	436	1%
Robbery	91	0%
Other violence	135	0%
Sexual Offences	1,119	3%
Rape and attempted rape	354	1%
Sexual assault	245	1%
Crimes associated with prostitution	3	0%
Other sexual offences	517	2%
Dishonesty	1,252	4%
Housebreaking	74	0%
Theft by opening lockfast places	24	0%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	1	0%
Theft of motor vehicle	150	0%
Other theft	892	3%
Fraud	108	0%
Other dishonesty	3	0%
Fire-raising, vandalism etc.	2,275	7%
Fire raising	31	0%
Vandalism, etc.	2,244	7%
Other Crimes	3,880	12%
Crimes against public justice	3,726	12%
Handling offensive weapons	131	0%
Drugs	16	0%
Other	7	0%
Miscellaneous offences	23,036	71%
Common assault	11,686	36%
Breach of the peace etc.	9,499	29%
Drunkenness & other disorderly conduct	1	0%
Urinating etc.	2	0%
Other misc. offences	1,848	6%
Motor Vehicles Offences	117	0%
TOTAL	32,351	100%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

Table 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by local authority, 2009-10 to 2018-19¹

	Number									
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Aberdeen City	2,415	2,323	2,449	2,648	2,487	3,088	2,570	2,522	2,773	2,496
Aberdeenshire	584	550	605	787	886	1,408	1,330	1,463	1,616	1,497
Angus	947	969	1,187	1,154	1,241	1,329	1,226	1,125	1,139	1,041
Argyll & Bute	503	521	563	536	556	643	653	634	655	650
Clackmannanshire	707	833	792	713	782	704	698	776	831	700
Dumfries & Galloway	1,176	1,407	1,291	1,411	1,272	1,230	1,146	1,047	1,246	1,296
Dundee City	2,305	2,366	2,440	2,525	2,442	2,525	2,365	2,266	2,103	2,328
East Ayrshire	1,273	1,387	1,430	1,413	1,509	1,567	1,535	1,348	1,405	1,468
East Dunbartonshire	537	661	650	665	623	572	658	610	563	629
East Lothian	902	970	929	1,023	1,025	1,000	903	938	938	1,153
East Renfrewshire	421	481	555	551	463	535	491	518	536	510
Edinburgh City	4,923	5,233	5,287	5,313	5,231	5,730	5,541	5,445	5,722	5,807
Falkirk	1,862	2,019	2,080	1,997	2,014	1,951	2,142	2,162	2,116	1,982
Fife	4,055	3,847	4,519	4,800	4,621	4,200	4,070	4,457	4,455	4,483
Glasgow City	8,866	10,160	11,116	10,220	9,559	8,974	8,596	8,888	8,853	9,202
Highland	879	1,451	1,872	2,102	2,047	2,247	2,312	2,350	2,336	2,387
Inverclyde	640	773	951	896	811	889	812	872	894	874
Midlothian	933	860	1,036	1,125	1,124	1,103	1,116	1,040	987	1,179
Moray	389	593	694	620	377	749	730	760	714	803
Na h-Eileanan Siar	58	102	114	94	124	145	154	152	167	167
North Ayrshire	1,770	1,791	1,897	1,820	1,837	1,830	1,725	1,677	1,590	1,671
North Lanarkshire	4,157	3,662	3,680	3,996	3,900	3,963	4,006	4,406	4,587	4,824
Orkney Islands	44	107	108	95	107	114	138	102	107	127
Perth & Kinross	956	1,060	1,162	1,236	1,351	1,529	1,221	1,180	1,142	1,199
Renfrewshire	1,658	2,179	2,431	2,333	2,304	2,235	2,151	2,230	2,132	2,147
Scottish Borders	808	760	801	930	864	911	915	978	1,090	1,019
Shetland Islands	37	70	103	101	86	107	134	115	124	120
South Ayrshire	1,208	1,245	1,265	1,292	1,253	1,296	1,126	1,010	1,027	1,074
South Lanarkshire	2,717	2,920	3,166	3,064	3,026	3,085	3,253	3,285	3,311	3,504
Stirling	834	850	833	790	768	785	826	818	802	732
West Dunbartonshire	1,362	1,485	1,709	1,518	1,460	1,220	1,358	1,395	1,375	1,316
West Lothian	2,000	2,063	2,132	2,312	2,289	2,218	2,203	2,241	2,205	2,256
SCOTLAND	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882	58,104	58,810	59,541	60,641

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

Table 4: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they included a crime or offence, by local authority, 2018-19²

	Number & Percentage		
	2018-19		
	No of Incidents	% of Incidents including a crime or offence	% of Incidents <u>not</u> including a crime or offence
Aberdeen City	2,496	41%	59%
Aberdeenshire	1,497	48%	52%
Angus	1,041	41%	59%
Argyll & Bute	650	47%	53%
Clackmannanshire	700	40%	60%
Dumfries & Galloway	1,296	58%	42%
Dundee City	2,328	43%	57%
East Ayrshire	1,468	44%	56%
East Dunbartonshire	629	38%	62%
East Lothian	1,153	39%	61%
East Renfrewshire	510	34%	66%
Edinburgh City	5,807	42%	58%
Falkirk	1,982	46%	54%
Fife	4,483	46%	54%
Glasgow City	9,202	41%	59%
Highland	2,387	33%	67%
Inverclyde	874	40%	60%
Midlothian	1,179	33%	67%
Moray	803	53%	47%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	167	34%	66%
North Ayrshire	1,671	45%	55%
North Lanarkshire	4,824	36%	64%
Orkney Islands	127	43%	57%
Perth & Kinross	1,199	42%	58%
Renfrewshire	2,147	40%	60%
Scottish Borders	1,019	32%	68%
Shetland Islands	120	40%	60%
South Ayrshire	1,074	43%	57%
South Lanarkshire	3,504	33%	67%
Stirling	732	38%	62%
West Dunbartonshire	1,316	35%	65%
West Lothian	2,256	41%	59%
SCOTLAND	60,641	41%	59%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

Table 5: Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population³, by local authority, 2009-10 to 2018-19¹

	Rate per 10,000 population ³										
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
Aberdeen City	111	106	110	118	110	135	134	110	121	110	
Aberdeenshire	23	22	24	31	34	54	54	56	62	57	
Angus	82	84	102	99	107	114	114	97	98	90	
Argyll & Bute	56	59	63	62	63	73	74	73	75	75	
Clackmannanshire	138	162	154	139	152	138	137	151	162	136	
Dumfries & Galloway	78	93	85	94	85	82	82	70	84	87	
Dundee City	159	162	166	171	165	170	170	153	141	157	
East Ayrshire	104	113	117	115	123	128	128	110	115	120	
East Dunbartonshire	51	63	62	63	59	54	53	57	52	58	
East Lothian	92	98	93	101	101	98	97	90	89	109	
East Renfrewshire	47	53	61	61	51	58	58	55	57	54	
Edinburgh City	106	111	111	110	107	116	115	107	111	112	
Falkirk	121	130	133	127	128	124	123	136	132	124	
Fife	112	106	124	131	126	114	114	120	120	121	
Glasgow City	152	173	187	172	160	150	148	145	143	147	
Highland	38	63	80	90	88	96	96	100	99	101	
Inverclyde	78	95	117	111	101	111	112	110	114	112	
Midlothian	114	104	124	134	133	128	126	117	110	129	
Moray	42	63	74	67	40	79	78	79	75	84	
Na h-Eileanan Siar	21	37	41	34	45	53	54	57	62	62	
North Ayrshire	128	130	137	132	134	134	134	123	117	124	
North Lanarkshire	124	109	109	118	115	117	117	130	135	142	
Orkney Islands	21	50	50	44	50	53	53	47	49	57	
Perth & Kinross	66	73	79	84	91	103	102	78	76	79	
Renfrewshire	96	125	139	134	132	128	128	127	121	121	
Scottish Borders	71	67	70	82	76	80	80	85	95	88	
Shetland Islands	16	30	44	44	37	46	46	50	54	52	
South Ayrshire	107	111	112	114	111	115	115	90	91	95	
South Lanarkshire	87	93	101	97	96	98	98	104	104	110	
Stirling	94	95	92	87	84	86	85	87	85	78	
West Dunbartonshire	150	164	189	168	163	136	136	155	153	148	
West Lothian	116	119	122	131	130	125	124	124	122	124	
SCOTLAND	99	106	113	113	110	112	108	109	110	112	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by gender of victim & accused, Scotland, 2009-10 to 2018-19^{1, 4}

	Number & Percentage										
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
Female victim, male accused	41,927	44,951	46,439	45,916	42,120	39,483	43,158	42,759	39,864	39,721	
<i>% of total known</i>	82	81	81	80	80	79	79	79	81	82	
Male victim, female accused	7,938	8,889	9,569	9,946	9,435	8,901	9,845	9,957	7,929	7,686	
<i>% of total known</i>	15	16	17	17	18	18	18	18	16	16	
Female victim, female accused	682	736	566	605	612	671	743	737	617	660	
<i>% of total known</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Male victim, male accused	666	693	659	677	724	854	877	835	740	657	
<i>% of total known</i>	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	
Not recorded or other ⁴	713	429	2,614	2,936	5,548	9,973	3,481	4,522	10,391	11,917	
TOTAL	51,926	55,698	59,847	60,080	58,439	59,882	58,104	58,810	59,541	60,641	

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

Table 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by relationship between victim and accused Scotland, 2018-19

Relationship between victim and accused	Number & percentage 2018-19	
	Number	Percentage (where relationship known)
Spouse/Civil Partner	6,027	11%
Co-habitee	9,572	18%
Partner	11,742	22%
Ex-spouse/Civil Partner	2,273	4%
Ex-partner	23,330	44%
Other	469	1%
Unknown	7,228	-
TOTAL	60,641	100%

Table 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2018-19^{3, 4, 5}

Age Group of Victim (where known)	Number & Rate per 10,000 population ³				Rate per 10,000 population ³		
	Gender of victim				Rate per 10,000 population ³		
	Female	Male	Not recorded or other ⁴	TOTAL	Female	Male	ALL VICTIMS
Under 16	278	21	-	299	6	0	3
16-18	1,733	180	1	1,914	212	21	114
19-21	3,789	469	1	4,259	385	46	213
22-25	6,186	950	2	7,138	431	65	247
26-30	8,567	1,511	13	10,091	446	79	263
31-35	7,713	1,426	2	9,141	425	82	257
36-40	5,970	1,380	1	7,351	345	83	216
41-50	6,921	1,972	1	8,894	189	57	125
51-60	2,659	1,047	2	3,708	66	28	47
61 and over	724	369	-	1,093	10	6	8
ALL VICTIMS	44,576	9,336	6,729	60,641	160	35	112

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4

Table 9: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by age and gender of accused, Scotland, 2018-19^{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	Rate per 10,000 population ³		
					Female	Male	ALL ACCUSED
Under 16	24	119	-	143	1	3	2
16-18	320	911	1	1,232	39	106	74
19-21	646	2,167	2	2,815	66	214	141
22-25	1,076	4,605	1	5,682	75	317	197
26-30	1,452	7,498	4	8,954	76	393	234
31-35	1,362	7,389	5	8,756	75	422	246
36-40	1,111	5,997	1	7,109	64	360	209
41-50	1,522	7,184	-	8,706	42	209	123
51-60	634	3,433	7	4,074	16	90	52
61 and over	156	1,011	-	1,167	2	17	9
ALL ACCUSED	8,374	40,517	11,750	60,641	30	153	112

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4.

Table 10: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by whether the victim/accused has previous history of domestic abuse, where known, Scotland, 2018-19⁶

Victim's history	Accused History		Total
	No Previous Incidents	Previous Incidents	
No Previous Incidents	15,057	2,761	17,818
Previous Incidents	3,158	27,939	31,097
TOTAL	18,215	30,700	48,915

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4.

Table 11: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident, Scotland, 2018-19

Number & percentage		
2018-19		
	Number	Percentage (where location known)
Joint home	10,003	17%
Victim`s home	23,605	39%
Accused`s home	3,238	5%
Other dwelling	16,629	27%
Street	3,347	6%
Licensed premises	385	1%
Other	3,397	6%
Unknown	37	-
TOTAL	60,641	100%

Please see [Notes for Tables](#) at end of Chapter 4.

Notes for Tables

1. Incidents earlier than 2014-15 were collated using a different system. See [Section 1.5](#) for more details.
2. Prior to the change in data collection during 2013-14 (see [Paragraph 5.3](#) 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 or other' includes both incidents where gender has not been recorded and is therefore unknown (almost 100% of Not recorded or other 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 5.5](#) in the Annex.
5. Due to data with no age and gender, rates per 10,000 population, will be lower than expected. See [Section 5.24](#) for more details of missing data.
6. A victim/accused can appear in the iVPD multiple times in one reporting year. See [Section 2.22](#) 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/publications/domestic-abuse-scotland-2018-2019-statistics/>

5. Annexes

Annex 1: Data Sources and Definitions

Domestic Abuse

- 5.1. 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:

- 5.2. 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:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/StatementAdminSources>

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

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/AdminSourcesPolice>.

- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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%).

- 5.6. 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.
- 5.7. 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 remained very similar to all years back to 2011-12.

Future Developments:

Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

- 5.8. The [Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) received Royal Assent on the 9th March 2018 and came into force on 1st April 2019. The Act created a new offence of abusive behaviour as a course of conduct towards a partner or ex-partner. This will impact on the 2019-20 reporting year (i.e. the year immediately following the statistics presented in this bulletin).
- 5.9. Prior to the 1st April 2019, any criminal act which formed part of a domestic abuse incident (such as a Common assault or Threatening or abusive behaviour) was included within the statistics under the relevant crime or offence. From the 1st April 2019, where there is evidence of domestic abuse as a course of conduct, a crime of domestic abuse will now be recorded. For most crime and offence types, existing common law and statutory offences will continue to be recorded in addition to the new crime of domestic abuse so, for example, where an assault occurs as part of a course of conduct amounting to domestic abuse, this will continue to be recorded as an assault (in addition to the crime of domestic abuse). There are a small number of exceptions (in particular the offence of Threatening or abusive behaviour), which will be included within the new crime.
- 5.10. This means that there will be a discontinuity to the time series between 2018-19 and 2019-20 for some offence types. This will also impact on other measures such as the number and proportion of domestic abuse incidents that include the recording of a crime or offence. Further information on this change will be provided in the 2019-20 bulletin.

Review of administrative data source

- 5.11. As described above, the iVPD has been used to produce the Domestic Abuse Official Statistics since 2014-15. Police Scotland use the iVPD to record information about individuals who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and/or situational vulnerability which may impact on their current or future wellbeing. Its primary function is to support the day-to-day operational procedures of Police Scotland.
- 5.12. In addition to the iVPD, Police Scotland also record domestic abuse-related activity in a separate system, known as STORM (System for Tasking and Operational Resource Management). STORM is the national command and control system, where all 999 or 101 calls to the police are logged and actioned. As of 2018-19, STORM has been operational across the whole of Scotland, meaning there is now a single national IT system which captures all incidents which Police Scotland deal with (including those relating to domestic abuse).
- 5.13. Given the above developments, and our commitment to continuously improve the value of these statistics, we are working with Police Scotland to investigate the approach taken to produce this information, including the impact of the new legislation. We will provide further updates on changes to the production process through the ScotStat network (<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>).

Police Scotland Quarterly Management Information Reports:

- 5.14. 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/>.
- 5.15. 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.
- 5.16. 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:

- 5.17. 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.
- 5.18. 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:

- 5.19. 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

- 5.20. 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.
- 5.21. 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
- 5.22. 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.
- 5.23. 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.
- 5.24. 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'.
- 5.25. 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.

5.26. 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

5.27. 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.

5.28. 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 therefore 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.

5.29. 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

5.30. The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on the 1st April 2019 (i.e. the year following the statistics presented in this bulletin). See [Section 5.8](#) for further information.

5.31. 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

5.32. 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

- 5.33. 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.
- 5.34. 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".
- 5.35. 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>
- 5.36. 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.
- 5.37. 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

5.38. In England & 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 & 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>.

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

5.40. Domestic abuse statistics for England & Wales from a range of different organisations have been published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and can be accessed from the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2019>.

Northern Ireland

5.41. 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.

5.42. 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

- 5.43. These statistics are used by a range of stakeholders within central government, the police and other public bodies for a variety of purposes.
- 5.44. 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.
- 5.45. 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: Justice_Analysts@gov.scot.
- 5.46. In 2019, the [Scottish Crime Recording Board](#) undertook a consultation on how the [National Statistics on Recorded Crime](#) are presented. This included inviting users views on some potential changes in approach to the seven group structure currently used to present statistics on recorded crime (including [Table 2](#) in this bulletin). The consultation closed on 30th November 2019 and a report on the findings is due to be published in spring 2020.

Further information on this consultation can be found at the following link: <https://consult.gov.scot/justice/statistics-on-police-recorded-crime-and-other/>

- 5.47. If you would like to be kept informed about developments in crime statistics, we suggest registering with ScotStat: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>.

Annex 6: Other Notes

5.48. 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 2018-19 bulletin was £2,300.

5.49. 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.

5.50. Analytical planning to develop a programme for the financial year 2019-20 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: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/JAS-Programme-2019-20>.

5.51. 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 Justice_Analysts@gov.scot.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

- are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot.
- 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, GR, 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

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