

Statistical Bulletin

Criminal Justice Series

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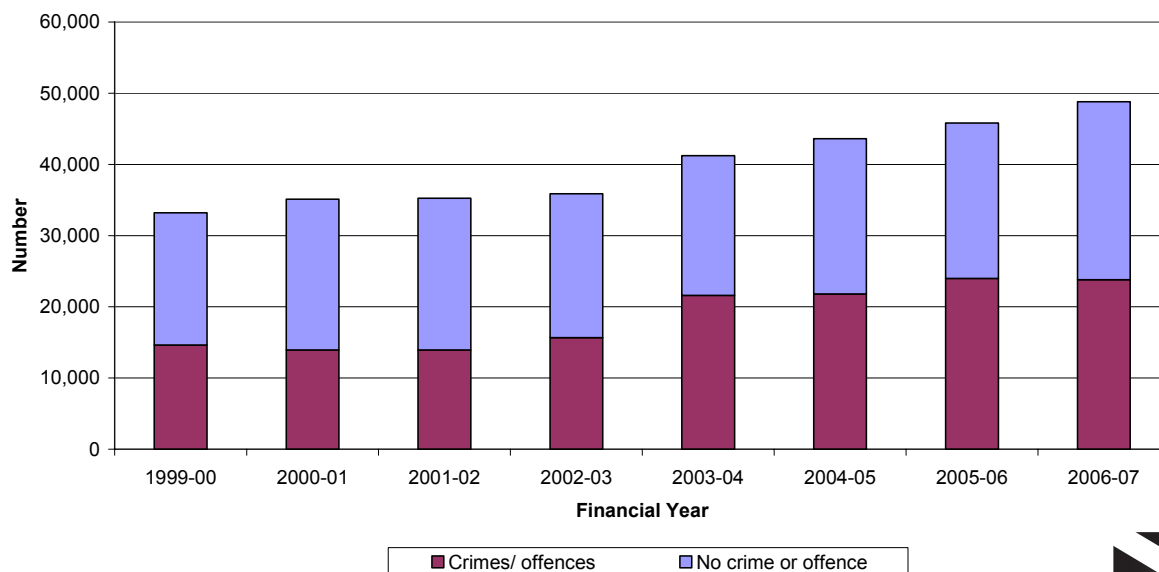
DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2006-07

1. Introduction

This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents of domestic abuse returned by the eight Scottish police forces in 2006-07. This is the eighth time such data have been collated centrally, and the second time they have been presented on a financial year basis. Further details on the background and basis of the statistics are given in the notes in the Annex.

The statistics presented in this bulletin are described as incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. The bulletin reports the most serious crime/offence associated with each incident. It should be recognised that the statistics presented in this bulletin cover only the incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. Note that not all incidents of domestic abuse come to the attention of the police.

Chart 1 - Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police: Crimes & offences and behaviour not amounting to a crime or offence, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07



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2. Main points

- There were 48,801 incidents of domestic abuse recorded in 2006-07, a 7 per cent increase compared to the 45,812 incidents recorded in 2005-06. This continues the steady increase in incidents reported since 1999-00, the first year for which data is available. Just under half of the incidents recorded in 2006-07 (23,803) led to the recording of a crime or offence (Tables 1 and 1a).
- The most common crime or offence recorded in 2006-07 remained the offence of minor assault, 22 per cent (10,578) of all incidents, with breach of the peace, 15 per cent (7,455), the second most common (Table 1).
- The overall incidence of domestic abuse reported to the police in Scotland in 2006-07 was 954 per 100,000 population, compared to 899 per 100,000 in 2005-06 (Table 2).
- Incidents with a female victim and male perpetrator represented nearly 87 per cent of all incidents of domestic abuse where this information was recorded, down by less than half of 1 per cent from 2005-06. This percentage has gradually decreased since 1999-00, when it was 92 per cent (Tables 4 and 4a).
- For those incidents where information was available on whether or not the victim had previously been recorded as being a domestic abuse victim, 57 per cent of the cases involved known repeat victimisation compared to 55 per cent in 2005-06 (Tables 5 and 5a).
- When looking at the incidence per 100,000 population, females are at most risk of being victims of domestic abuse when aged between 22 and 25 and males when aged between 36 and 40 (Table 7).
- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police involving co-habitees or partners accounted for 42 per cent of all cases, with more cases recorded relating to co-habitees (24 per cent) than to partners (18 per cent); incidents involving spouses accounted for a further 17 per cent. In 34 per cent of cases, the victim and perpetrator were ex-partners or ex-spouses. Since 1999-00, the proportion of incidents involving spouses, co-habitees and partners has decreased from 68 per cent to 59 per cent, while the proportion involving ex-spouses or ex-partners has increased from 29 per cent to 34 per cent (Tables 10 and 10a).
- The overwhelming majority of incidents of domestic abuse took place in the home/house (90 per cent of all incidents where the location was recorded). This was more likely if the victim and perpetrator cohabited i.e. were a 'spouse' or 'co-habitee' (95 per cent of all incidents where location was recorded) (Table 11).

3. Commentary

3.1 Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police (Table 1, Table 1a and Chart 1)

- Police forces in Scotland returned details covering 48,801 incidents of domestic abuse in 2006-07, a 7 per cent increase compared to the 45,812 incidents recorded in 2005-06. This continues the steady increase in incidents reported since 1999-00, when this bulletin was launched.
- Just under half (49 per cent) of the incidents led to the recording of at least one crime or offence. The last four years have seen this proportion remain at roughly 50 per cent, compared to 40-44 per cent in the four years from 1999-00. The highest proportion of crimes to incidents was recorded by Tayside (100 per cent), the lowest by Central (23 per cent).
- The most common crime or offence recorded in 2006-07 remained the offence of minor assault, 22 per cent (10,578) of all incidents, with breach of the peace, 15 per cent (7,455), the second most common.
- Crimes, which are generally regarded as more serious than offences, were recorded in respect of 11 per cent (5,233) of all incidents in 2006-07, the same percentage as 2005-06 but up from 6 per cent in 1999-00.
- Where a crime was recorded, it was most likely to be a crime against public justice (typically bail offences and resisting arrest), accounting for just over 4 per cent (2,182) of all incidents, or vandalism, accounting for just under 4 per cent (1,720) of all incidents. This is a reversal of the position in earlier years – until 2004-05 vandalism was more common than crimes against public justice.
- The increase in recorded crimes against public justice is largely attributable to pro-active policing and enforcement of additional bail conditions made in order to provide safeguards over and above the standard bail conditions.

3.2 Incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population (Table 2)

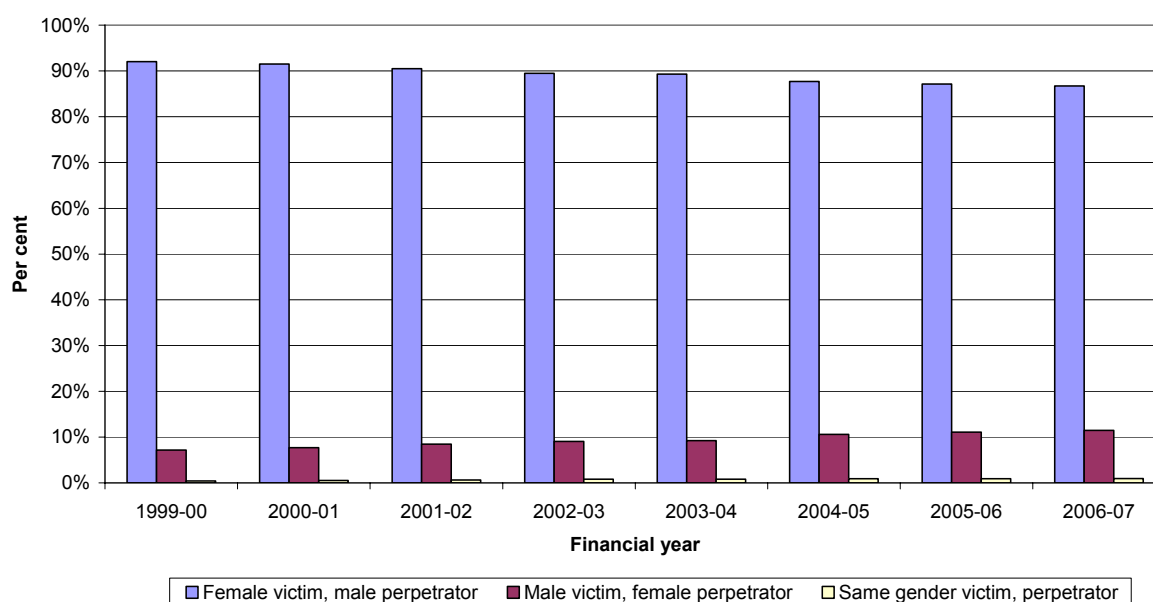
- The incidence of domestic abuse recorded by the police in 2006-07 ranged from 1,074 per 100,000 population in Strathclyde down to 432 in Northern, compared with an overall Scottish incidence of 954 per 100,000 population.
- The range may be partly explained by differences in police recording of domestic abuse incidents not classed as a crime or offence. However, when these are excluded, the range is still substantial. Tayside has the highest incidence (943 per 100,000 population), while Central has the lowest (201 per 100,000 population).
- There was somewhat less variation between police forces in the incidence of cases of domestic abuse which resulted in a referral to the procurator fiscal.

These ranged from 386 per 100,000 population in Fife down to 182 per 100,000 population in Central.

3.3 Incidents of domestic abuse by sex of victim and perpetrator (Table 4, Table 4a and Chart 2)

- Incidents with a female victim and male perpetrator represented nearly 87 per cent of all incidents of domestic abuse where this information was recorded, down by less than half of 1 per cent from 2005-06. This percentage has gradually decreased since 1999-00, when it was 92 per cent.

Chart 2 - Sex of victim and perpetrator where known, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07



3.4 Level of repeat victimisation (Tables 5, 5a and 6)

- For those incidents where information was available on whether or not the victim had previously been recorded as being a domestic abuse victim, 57 per cent of the cases involved known repeat victimisation compared to 55 per cent in 2005-06 and 34 per cent in 1999-00. This increase could be affected by the length of time different forces have kept databases on domestic abuse, allowing repeat incidents to be identified.
- Where the number of previous incidents was known, 31 per cent of cases involved a single previous incident, 31 per cent of cases involved two or three previous incidents, and 39 per cent involved four or more previous incidents.

3.5 Incidents of domestic abuse by age of victim and perpetrator (Tables 7, 7a, 8 and 9)

- In 2006-07, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population among female victims was for those aged 22 to 25 years, where the rate was 4,459 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Among male victims, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population was for those aged 36 to 40 years, where the rate was 570 incidents per 100,000 population.
- In 2006-07, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population among female perpetrators was by those aged 22 to 25 years, where the rate was 571 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Among male perpetrators, the highest rate of incidents of domestic abuse per 100,000 population was by those aged 26 to 30 years, where the rate was 4,169 incidents per 100,000 population.

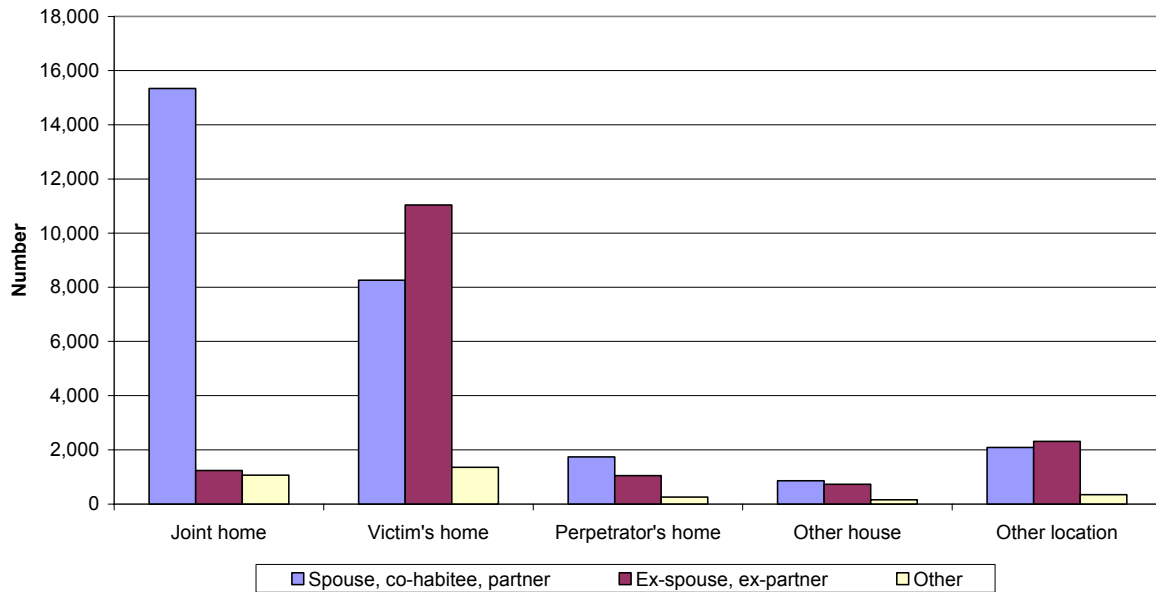
3.6 Incidents of domestic abuse by relationship between victim and perpetrator (Tables 10, 10a)

- Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police involving co-habitees or partners accounted for 42 per cent of cases, with more cases recorded relating to co-habitees (24 per cent) than to partners (18 per cent); incidents involving spouses accounted for a further 17 per cent. In 34 per cent of cases, the victim and perpetrator were ex-partners or ex-spouses. This pattern is similar to that shown in previous years, although incidents involving spouses accounted for a higher percentage in previous years. 'Other' includes relationships not fitting into specified categories, and cases where the relationship is unknown.

3.7 Location of incidents of domestic abuse (Table 11, Table 11a and Chart 3)

- The overwhelming majority of incidents of domestic abuse took place in a home/house (90 per cent of all incidents where the location was recorded). This was more likely if the victim and perpetrator cohabited i.e. were a 'spouse' or 'co-habitee' (95 per cent of all incidents where location was recorded).
- In all other relationships, excluding those who were a 'spouse' or 'co-habitee', the proportion of incidents taking place in a home was between 85 and 89 per cent of all incidents where location was recorded. In previous years a similar pattern was observed.
- Incidents of domestic abuse generally took place within the victim's home (including the joint home), regardless of the relationship between victim and perpetrator.

**Chart 3 - Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police:
Location of incident by relationship, where known, Scotland, 2006-07**



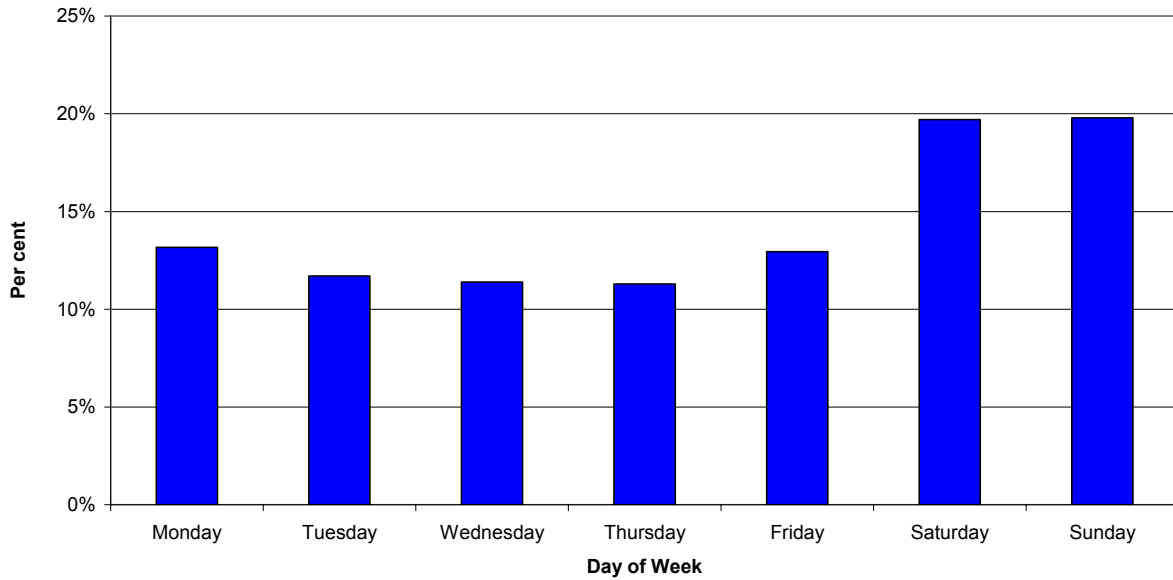
3.8 Crimes and offences of domestic abuse, action taken by police (Tables 1, 13, 13a and 14)

- Where an incident of domestic abuse resulted in a crime or offence being recorded a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal in 66 per cent of cases, an increase from the 63 per cent recorded in 2005-06.
- In 4 per cent of cases in 2006-7 a police warning was given; 20 per cent of cases involved some other type of action and in 10 per cent of cases no further action was taken. The early years of this series showed no further action taken in 11 to 12 per cent of cases, rising to 16 per cent in 2003-04 before falling to 5 per cent in 2004-05.
- The proportion of crimes and offences of domestic abuse referred to the procurator fiscal varied considerably across police force areas. In Tayside the proportion was 40 per cent, in Grampian 51 per cent, while the proportions were 91 per cent in Central and 99 per cent in Northern. This variation, however, reflects the differences in police practice in recording a crime or offence following an incident of domestic abuse (see Note 5.2.5.). In general, police forces which record a higher proportion of incidents of domestic abuse as a crime or offence tend to refer lower proportions of these cases to the procurator fiscal.
- There was less variation between police forces in the proportion of all incidents of domestic abuse which resulted in referral to the procurator fiscal, ranging from 21 per cent in Central to 48 per cent in Northern.

3.9 Day of occurrence of domestic abuse incidents (Table 16 and Chart 4)

- The day of occurrence of incidents of domestic abuse shows that more incidents are recorded at the weekend.

Chart 4 - Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police:
day of week incident occurred, Scotland, 2006-07



4. Appendix of tables

Table 1: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 1(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 2: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area per 100,000 population, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 3: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area where sex of victim was recorded, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 3(a): Incidents of domestic abuse by sex of victim, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 4: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by nature of crime/offence and sex of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 4(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim and perpetrator by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 5: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police where incidents against the same victim had previously been recorded, by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 5(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police where incidents against the same victim had previously been recorded, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 6: Incidents of domestic abuse where incidents against that victim had previously been recorded, by police force area. Number of previous incidents, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 7: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, age and sex of victim, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 7(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police by age of victim, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 8: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, age and sex of perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 8(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police by age of perpetrator, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 9: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. Age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 10: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. Relationship between victim and perpetrator, by sex of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 10(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. Relationship between victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 11: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. Relationship between victim and perpetrator by location of incident, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 11(a): Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by location of incident and financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 12: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by nature and location of incident, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 13: Action taken by the police against identified perpetrators of crimes or offences of domestic abuse cleared up by the police, by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 13(a): Action taken by the police against identified perpetrators of crimes or offences of domestic abuse cleared up by the police, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

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Table 15: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by council area and financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 15(a): Rates per 100,000 population of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police, by council area and financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 16: Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police by day of week, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2006-07

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 1
Number

	Dumfries & Galloway					Lothian & Borders				SCOTLAND		
	Central	Fife	Grampian	Northern	Tayside	Strathclyde	Tayside	Strathclyde	Tayside	Strathclyde	Tayside	Strathclyde
Total incidents ⁽¹⁾	2,456	1,237	3,717	3,137	9,616	1,224	23,705	3,709	48,801			
Total crimes and offences (Of which reported to the procurator fiscal)	576	781	1,640	2,288	3,130	589	11,105	3,694	23,803			
	520	494	1,387	1,171	2,384	585	7,550	1,491	15,582			
Non-sexual crimes of violence	18	9	23	46	160	31	310	44	641			
Homicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5			
Serious assault	14	9	12	14	49	30	198	29	355			
Other	4	-	11	32	111	1	107	15	281			
Crimes of indecency	7	1	4	12	13	2	53	13	105			
Sexual assault	7	1	4	12	13	2	51	12	102			
Lewd & Libidinous practices	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1			
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2			
Crimes of dishonesty	18	1	38	44	46	-	231	67	445			
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	83	27	167	169	214	25	883	172	1,740			
Fire-raising	2	-	2	-	5	-	6	5	20			
Vandalism, etc.	81	27	165	169	209	25	877	167	1,720			
Other crimes	47	21	218	173	434	11	1,237	161	2,302			
Crimes against public justice	37	21	213	160	391	11	1,192	157	2,182			
Handling an offensive weapon	7	-	5	9	12	-	33	4	70			
Drugs	3	-	-	4	30	-	11	-	48			
Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2			
Miscellaneous offences	402	722	1,190	1,844	2,258	520	8,379	3,237	18,552			
Minor assault	298	315	842	1,093	1,746	277	4,909	1,098	10,578			
Breach of the peace	100	392	348	672	492	241	3,239	1,971	7,455			
Drunkennes	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3			
Other	4	15	-	78	20	1	230	168	516			
Motor vehicle offences	1	-	-	-	5	-	12	-	18			
Behaviour not leading to recording a crime or offence	1,880	456	2,077	849	6,486	635	12,600	15	24,998			

1. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when a behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 1(a)
Number

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total incidents ⁽¹⁾	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801
Total crimes and offences (Of which reported to the procurator fiscal)	14,659	13,947	13,931	15,673	21,598	21,833	23,991	23,803
	9,064	9,436	9,359	9,316	11,015	14,180	14,180	15,582
Non-sexual crimes of violence	527	613	544	635	682	607	644	641
Homicide	14	19	11	9	4	11	6	5
Serious assault	348	345	335	368	364	351	362	355
Other	165	249	198	258	314	245	276	281
Crimes of indecency	61	72	71	79	99	110	106	105
Sexual assault	60	67	69	77	95	107	101	102
Lewd & Libidinous practices	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	1
Other	-	4	1	-	3	3	2	2
Crimes of dishonesty	70	65	97	167	188	327	372	445
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	654	944	976	1,048	1,343	1,656	1,653	1,740
Fire-raising	6	7	6	11	15	17	21	20
Vandalism, etc.	648	937	970	1,037	1,328	1,639	1,632	1,720
Other crimes	574	603	616	889	1,303	1,983	2,234	2,302
Crimes against public justice	535	550	580	842	1,218	1,896	2,104	2,182
Handling an offensive weapon	29	43	27	29	50	48	68	70
Drugs	10	10	8	14	27	34	58	48
Other	0	0	1	4	8	5	4	2
Miscellaneous offences	12,771	11,649	11,626	12,855	17,978	17,141	18,952	18,552
Minor assault	7,246	6,352	6,572	7,218	9,768	9,544	10,140	10,578
Breach of the peace	5,499	5,233	4,980	5,395	7,957	7,269	8,225	7,455
Drunkenness	3	1	4	3	4	8	-	3
Other	23	63	70	239	249	320	587	516
Motor vehicle offences	2	1	1	-	5	9	30	18
Behaviour not leading to recording a crime or offence	18,533	21,171	21,324	20,221	19,635	21,799	21,821	24,998
Not recorded	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-

1. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when a behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ. These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area per 100,000 population, Scotland, 2006-07 Table 2
Rate per 100,000 population ⁽¹⁾

	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total incidents ⁽²⁾	858	836	1,036	592	1,055	432	1,074	947	954
Total crimes and offences	201	528	457	432	343	208	503	943	465
<i>(Of which reported to the procurator fiscal)</i>	182	334	386	221	262	206	342	381	305
Non-sexual crimes of violence	6	6	6	9	18	11	14	11	13
Homicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serious assault	5	6	3	3	5	11	9	7	7
Other	1	-	3	6	12	-	5	4	5
Crimes of indecency	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2
Sexual assault	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2
Lewd & libidinous practices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crimes of dishonesty	6	1	11	8	5	-	10	17	9
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	29	18	47	32	23	9	40	44	34
Fire-raising	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Vandalism, etc.	28	18	46	32	23	9	40	43	34
Other crimes	16	14	61	33	48	4	56	41	45
Crimes against public justice	13	14	59	30	43	4	54	40	43
Handling an offensive weapon	2	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	1
Drugs	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous offences	140	488	332	348	248	184	380	826	363
Minor assault	104	213	235	206	192	98	222	280	207
Breach of the peace	35	265	97	127	54	85	147	503	146
Drunkenness	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	1	10	-	15	2	-	10	43	10
Motor vehicle offences	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Behaviour not leading to recording a crime or offence	656	308	579	160	712	224	571	4	489

1. Estimated population as at mid 2006.

2. Different police forces record domestic abuse information in differing ways. Police practice in deciding when a behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may also differ.

These differences influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence, as well as the proportion of crimes and offences reported to the procurator fiscal.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by police force area where sex of victim was recorded, Scotland, 2006-07 **Table 3**
Number

	All incidents where sex recorded			Crimes			Offences			Behaviour not leading to the recording of a crime or offence		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Central	2,249	203	2,452	155	18	173	373	30	403	1,721	155	1,876
Dumfries & Galloway	1,057	180	1,237	49	10	59	624	98	722	384	72	456
Fife	3,325	364	3,689	410	36	446	1,041	135	1,176	1,874	193	2,067
Grampian	2,760	377	3,137	389	55	444	1,620	224	1,844	751	98	849
Lothian & Borders	8,614	1,002	9,616	811	56	867	2,062	201	2,263	5,741	745	6,486
Northern ⁽¹⁾	1,086	138	1,224	63	6	69	472	48	520	551	84	635
Strathclyde	20,091	3,215	23,306	2,396	283	2,679	7,379	886	8,265	10,316	2,046	12,362
Tayside	3,182	525	3,707	403	53	456	2,768	468	3,236	11	4	15
TOTAL	42,364	6,004	48,368	4,676	517	5,193	16,339	2,090	18,429	21,349	3,397	24,746

1. 21 incidents were recorded where a degree of mutuality was observed between the victim and perpetrator; these have been recorded as female victims.

Incidents of domestic abuse by sex of victim, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07 **Table 3(a)**
Number

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Female	30,517	32,247	32,000	32,277	36,138	38,149	39,855	42,364
Male	2,525	2,873	3,210	3,550	4,040	4,957	5,448	6,004
Unknown	155	6	45	67	1,055	526	509	433
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by nature of crime/ offence and sex of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07

**Table 4
Number**

	Female victim,		Male victim,		Female victim,		Total
	male perpetrator	female perpetrator	male perpetrator	female perpetrator	male perpetrator	Not recorded	
Non-sexual crimes of violence	511	107	7	8	8	8	641
Crimes of indecency	100	-	4	-	1	1	105
Crimes of dishonesty	386	43	6	3	7	7	445
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	1,465	202	21	10	42	42	1,740
Other crimes	2,132	112	10	21	27	27	2,302
Miscellaneous offences	16,010	1,911	169	173	289	289	18,552
Motor vehicle offences	16	2	-	-	-	-	18
Behaviour not amounting to a crime	20,878	3,112	235	215	558	558	24,998
TOTAL	41,498	5,489	452	430	932	932	48,801

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by sex of victim and perpetrator Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

**Table 4(a)
Number**

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Female victim, male perpetrator	30,395	32,122	31,848	31,971	35,727	37,508	39,091	41,498
Male victim, female perpetrator	2,378	2,696	2,976	3,245	3,694	4,534	4,974	5,489
Male victim, male perpetrator	147	173	232	286	328	380	412	452
Female victim, female perpetrator	107	121	137	232	252	362	388	430
Not recorded	170	14	62	160	1,232	848	947	932
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police
where incidents against the same victim had previously been recorded,
by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07**

**Table 5
Number & Percentage**

	Number(1)				Percent of incidents where this information is available which involved repeat victimisation
	No previous incidents	Previous incidents	TOTAL where information available	Information not available	
				TOTAL	
Central ⁽²⁾	2	-	2	2,454	-
Dumfries & Galloway	566	671	1,237	-	54
Fife	1,122	2,404	3,526	191	68
Grampian	1,266	1,870	3,136	1	60
Lothian & Borders	3,957	5,656	9,613	3	59
Northern	729	475	1,204	20	39
Strathclyde	9,858	13,847	23,705	-	58
Tayside	2,154	1,555	3,709	-	42
TOTAL	19,654	26,478	46,132	2,669	57

1. Figures represent a count of previous incidents, not the sum of previous incidents.

2. Central are currently unable to provide information on repeat incidents for the majority of incidents recorded.

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police
where incidents against the same victim had previously been recorded,
by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07**

**Table 5(a)
Number**

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
No previous incidents	21,723	19,112	17,977	18,227	20,495	18,985	18,996	19,654
Previous incidents	10,998	15,848	17,220	17,058	18,131	20,475	23,565	26,478
Not recorded	476	166	58	609	2,607	4,172	3,251	2,669
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police where incidents against that victim had previously been recorded, by police force area. Number of previous incidents, Scotland 2006-07

Table 6
Number

	Number of previous incidents ⁽¹⁾							TOTAL
	1 incident	2-3 incidents	4-5 incidents	6-10 incidents	11 or more incidents	Number of previous incidents not recorded	TOTAL	
Central	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	208	230	76	89	68	-	671	
Fife	547	659	445	422	331	-	2,404	
Grampian	521	512	241	302	294	-	1,870	
Lothian & Borders ⁽²⁾	123	113	56	71	18	5,275	5,656	
Northern	203	101	49	32	14	76	475	
Strathclyde	4,408	4,349	2,052	1,837	1,201	-	13,847	
Tayside	530	480	215	236	94	-	1,555	
TOTAL	6,540	6,444	3,134	2,989	2,020	5,351	26,478	

1. Forces can only identify a repeat victim if s/he has previously been entered onto their database. The longer the database has been in existence the more likely it is that a repeat victim will be recognised as such. Police forces have maintained their databases over different periods and the proportion of identified repeat victims varies accordingly.

2. In many cases Lothian & Borders record previous incidents as either Yes or No.

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police,
age and sex of victim, Scotland, 2006-07**

**Table 7
Number and rate**

Age Group of Victim	Sex of victim				Rate per 100,000 population ⁽¹⁾		
	Female	Male	Not recorded	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Under 16	49	-	2	51	11	-	6
16-18	2,138	122	13	2,273	2,267	121	1,167
19-21	4,383	356	27	4,766	4,253	337	2,284
22-25	5,874	641	39	6,554	4,459	476	2,461
26-30	6,606	768	29	7,403	4,378	508	2,451
31-35	6,395	873	32	7,300	3,721	545	2,199
36-40	6,252	1,068	45	7,365	3,088	570	1,888
41-50	7,644	1,423	65	9,132	1,915	380	1,180
51-60	2,039	543	13	2,595	600	165	388
61 and over	938	208	166	1,312	155	46	124
Not recorded	46	2	2	50			
TOTAL	42,364	6,004	433	48,801	800	122	477

1. Estimated population as at mid 2006.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police by age of victim,
by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 7(a)
Number

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Age Group of Victim								
Under 16	9	15	20	34	42	55	59	51
16-18	937	1,070	1,154	1,065	1,430	1,673	1,941	2,273
19-21	2,257	2,882	2,889	2,988	3,285	3,673	3,999	4,766
22-25	3,332	3,876	3,941	4,228	5,223	5,524	6,051	6,554
26-30	5,365	5,783	5,823	5,830	6,321	6,663	6,894	7,403
31-35	5,647	6,332	6,363	6,445	6,909	7,219	7,281	7,300
36-40	4,858	5,581	5,733	5,739	6,460	6,923	7,049	7,365
41-50	4,634	5,670	5,911	5,893	7,138	8,045	8,610	9,132
51-60	1,628	1,835	1,956	1,931	2,118	2,315	2,547	2,595
61 and over	460	552	508	546	576	699	590	1,312
Not recorded	4,070	1,530	957	1,195	1,731	843	791	50
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police,
age and sex of perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07**

**Table 8
Number and rate**

	Sex of perpetrator				Rate per 100,000 population ⁽¹⁾		
	Female	Male	Not recorded	TOTAL	Female	Male	TOTAL
Age Group of Perpetrator							
Under 16	5	20	-	25	1	4	3
16-18	281	898	9	1,188	298	894	610
19-21	543	2,844	14	3,401	527	2,693	1,630
22-25	752	5,206	18	5,976	571	3,868	2,244
26-30	848	6,303	31	7,182	562	4,169	2,378
31-35	908	6,482	25	7,415	528	4,047	2,233
36-40	950	6,897	23	7,870	469	3,678	2,018
41-50	1,190	9,280	41	10,511	298	2,477	1,358
51-60	339	2,987	12	3,338	100	910	500
61 and over	154	1,235	421	1,810	26	271	171
Not recorded	8	76	1	85			
TOTAL	5,978	42,228	595	48,801	113	855	477

1. Estimated population as at mid 2006.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police by age of perpetrator,
by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

Table 8(a)
Number

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Age Group of Perpetrator								
Under 16	5	7	10	15	12	20	25	25
16-18	394	560	532	572	729	860	943	1,188
19-21	1,502	1,880	1,893	1,907	2,217	2,457	2,843	3,400
22-25	3,017	3,326	3,418	3,586	4,264	4,790	5,284	5,971
26-30	5,161	5,523	5,540	5,556	6,028	6,242	6,454	7,179
31-35	5,948	6,536	6,517	6,759	7,227	7,329	7,331	7,410
36-40	5,396	5,944	6,237	6,070	7,012	7,409	7,428	7,863
41-50	5,611	6,665	6,887	7,265	8,102	9,249	9,753	10,503
51-60	2,199	2,457	2,493	2,413	2,793	2,939	3,120	3,336
61 and over	632	763	666	709	729	830	801	1,808
Not recorded	3,332	1,465	1,062	1,042	2,120	1,507	1,830	118
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police
by age of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07**

**Table 9
Number**

Age Group of Victim	Age Group of Perpetrator											TOTAL
	Under 16	16-18	19-21	22-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-50	51-60	61+	Not recorded	
Under 16	3	30	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	51
16-18	14	638	833	447	159	70	40	29	1	36	6	2,273
19-21	1	296	1,388	1,679	753	308	155	80	17	86	3	4,766
22-25	2	116	677	2,156	1,946	889	398	207	17	134	12	6,554
26-30	4	44	245	953	2,392	1,926	1,080	554	82	110	13	7,403
31-35	-	17	120	390	1,037	2,276	1,958	1,196	169	126	11	7,300
36-40	1	25	76	189	567	1,150	2,523	2,372	314	142	6	7,365
41-50	-	9	22	82	224	623	1,460	5,103	1,329	266	14	9,132
51-60	-	1	2	11	28	88	145	810	1,225	282	3	2,595
61+	-	12	27	61	73	80	104	152	182	621	-	1,312
Not recorded	-	-	1	5	3	5	7	8	2	2	17	50
TOTAL	25	1,188	3,401	5,976	7,182	7,415	7,870	10,511	3,338	1,810	85	48,801

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police
Relationship between victim and perpetrator,
by sex of victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 2006-07**

**Table 10
Number**

	Female victim, male perpetrator		Male victim, female perpetrator		Male victim, male perpetrator		Female victim, female perpetrator		Not recorded		TOTAL
Spouse	7,114	1,019	8	10	86	8,237					
Co-habitee	10,166	1,267	127	119	81	11,760					
Partner	7,382	998	117	92	71	8,660					
Ex-spouse	1,882	273	3	-	14	2,172					
Ex-partner	12,744	1,417	147	149	107	14,564					
Other	2,189	512	43	56	573	3,373					
Not recorded	21	3	7	4	-	35					
TOTAL	41,498	5,489	452	430	932	48,801					

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police
Relationship between victim and perpetrator, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07**

**Table 10 (a)
Number**

	1999-00 ⁽¹⁾		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Spouse	16,437	8,616	8,598	8,371	8,417	8,431	8,582	8,237	8,237
Co-habitee		9,476	9,099	9,157	10,082	10,498	10,397	11,760	11,760
Partner	6,293	6,274	6,616	6,554	6,736	7,071	7,201	8,660	8,660
Ex-spouse	9,617	3,192	3,018	2,667	2,781	2,369	2,379	2,172	2,172
Ex-partner		7,322	7,378	8,307	9,825	11,732	13,289	14,564	14,564
Other	294	234	534	228	958	3,476	3,949	3,373	3,373
Not recorded	556	12	12	610	2,434	55	15	35	35
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801	48,801

1. Not all police forces distinguished between spouses and co-habitees (or ex-spouses and ex-cohabitees) when recording incidents in 1999-2000.

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police
Relationship between victim and perpetrator by location of incident, Scotland, 2006-07**

Table 11
Number

	Victim's home		Perpetrator's home		Street	Licensed premises		Not recorded		TOTAL
	Joint home	home	home	Other house		Other premises	Other	recorded		
Spouse	5,924	1,386	135	209	354	46	69	114	8,237	
Co-habitee	8,311	2,068	353	316	467	59	60	126	11,760	
Partner	1,107	4,809	1,253	331	815	70	144	131	8,660	
Ex-spouse	207	1,423	129	58	217	19	83	36	2,172	
Ex-partner	1,031	9,611	921	671	1,507	153	331	339	14,564	
Other	1,069	1,360	257	158	308	22	14	185	3,373	
Not Recorded	7	15	3	1	4	1	1	3	35	
TOTAL	17,656	20,672	3,051	1,744	3,672	370	702	934	48,801	

**Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police,
by location of incident and financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07**

Table 11 (a)
Number

	1999-00 ⁽¹⁾		2000-01 ⁽¹⁾		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Joint home	home	home	Other house	Street	Licensed premises	Other	Not recorded	TOTAL	Joint home	home	Street	Licensed premises	Other	Not recorded	TOTAL
Joint home	30,835	32,181	16,083	16,067	16,067	16,708	17,244	17,011	17,656							
Victim's home			12,931	13,954	13,954	16,318	17,727	19,738	20,672							
Perpetrator's home			1,509	1,743	1,743	2,178	2,339	2,365	3,051							
Other house			922	986	986	1,246	1,507	1,376	1,744							
Street			1,765	2,022	2,022	2,473	2,989	3,456	3,672							
Licensed premises			699	249	249	269	326	346	370							
Other			479	683	683	434	530	608	702							
Not recorded			481	190	190	1,607	970	912	934							
TOTAL	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801							

1. Central police force only recorded location as home, street or other in 1999 and 2000.

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by nature and location of incident, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 12
Number

	Victim's home		Perpetrator's home		Licensed premises			TOTAL
	Joint home	Other house	Street	Other house	Street	Other	Not recorded	
Non-sexual crimes of violence	159	271	73	34	65	7	19	641
Crimes of indecency	29	42	20	5	4	1	1	105
Crimes of dishonesty	60	272	16	15	47	5	15	445
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	256	1,171	38	57	168	4	19	1,740
Other crimes	280	1,429	78	137	255	24	50	2,302
Miscellaneous offences	6,886	7,076	1,288	788	1,682	211	326	18,552
Motor vehicle offences	4	12	-	1	1	-	-	18
Behaviour not amounting to a crime	9,982	10,399	1,538	707	1,450	118	272	24,998
TOTAL	17,656	20,672	3,051	1,744	3,672	370	702	48,801

Action taken by the police against identified perpetrators of crimes or offences of domestic abuse cleared up by the police, by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07 Table 13

	Referral to procurator fiscal	Police warning	Other action ⁽¹⁾	No further action	Not recorded	TOTAL	Number
Central	520	8	35	9	4	576	
Dumfries & Galloway	494	120	104	63	-	781	
Fife	1,387	14	205	34	-	1,640	
Grampian	1,171	164	920	19	14	2,288	
Lothian & Borders	2,384	353	281	34	78	3,130	
Northern	585	2	1	1	-	589	
Strathclyde	7,550	170	3,134	105	146	11,105	
Tayside	1,491	-	12	2,191	-	3,694	
SCOTLAND	15,582	831	4,692	2,456	242	23,803	

1. 'Other action' includes such action as referrals to support groups such as victim support.

Action taken by the police against identified perpetrators of crimes or offences of domestic abuse cleared up by the police, by financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07 Table 13(a)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Number
Referral to procurator fiscal	9,064	9,436	9,359	9,316	11,015	14,180	15,141	15,582	
Police warning	860	1,348	991	915	1,183	1,174	896	831	
Other action ⁽¹⁾	627	1,415	1,976	3,269	4,970	5,008	4,954	4,692	
No further action	1,370	1,707	1,573	1,825	3,165	1,178	2,924	2,456	
Not recorded	2,738	41	32	348	1,265	293	76	242	
TOTAL	14,659	13,947	13,931	15,673	21,598	21,833	23,991	23,803	

1. 'Other action' includes such action as referrals to support groups such as victim support.

Percentage of perpetrators of domestic abuse reported to the procurator fiscal, where a crime or offence is recorded and action taken is known, by police force area, Scotland, 2006-07

Table 14

	Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Borders	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	SCOTLAND
Total crimes and offences	91	63	85	51	78	99	68	40	66
Non-sexual crimes of violence	94	78	100	62	69	94	72	91	75
Homicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	100
Serious assault	93	78	100	100	98	93	74	97	83
Other	100	-	100	45	56	100	67	80	63
Crimes of indecency	100	-	100	33	58	100	53	100	62
Sexual assault	100	-	100	33	58	100	49	92	59
Lewd & libidinous practices	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	100
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	100	100
Crimes of dishonesty	65	100	61	27	66	-	44	54	48
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	89	81	80	50	82	100	70	70	72
Fire-raising	100	-	100	-	100	-	83	40	80
Vandalism, etc.	89	81	79	50	81	100	70	71	72
Other crimes	98	86	94	80	96	100	87	95	90
Crimes against public justice	100	86	94	81	96	100	86	95	89
Handling of an offensive weapon	86	-	100	100	83	-	94	100	93
Drugs	100	-	-	-	97	-	100	-	90
Other	-	-	-	-	100	-	100	-	100
Miscellaneous offences	92	62	84	49	75	100	66	35	62
Minor assault	91	74	85	57	74	100	62	54	66
Breach of the peace	94	53	81	39	81	99	74	22	58
Drunkenness	-	-	-	100	-	100	-	-	67
Other	100	33	-	21	75	100	37	65	46
Motor vehicle offences	-	-	-	-	100	-	58	-	67

Table 15
Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police, by council area and financial year, Scotland, 1999-00 to 2006-07

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Aberdeen City	2,253	2,348	2,158	2,321	2,282	2,482	1,972	1,861
Aberdeenshire	1,283	1,374	1,266	1,291	1,409	1,342	970	649
Angus	442	1,077	296	773	925	786	729	845
Argyll & Bute	467	314	335	520	428	437	467	449
Clackmannanshire	238	344	406	372	347	401	351	558
Dumfries & Galloway	700	698	989	900	859	1,055	1,194	1,237
Dundee City	1,543	1,706	1,849	1,745	2,001	1,779	2,078	1,994
East Ayrshire	634	748	852	427	534	1,051	1,075	1,128
East Dunbartonshire	282	387	371	251	418	388	477	541
East Lothian	573	568	613	683	601	555	682	629
East Renfrewshire	176	171	196	254	309	331	403	405
Edinburgh, City of	4,498	4,556	4,135	4,297	4,612	4,821	5,178	5,784
Eilean Siar	23	81	99	119	82	104	87	77
Falkirk	864	830	1,067	844	946	1,161	1,245	1,404
Fife	2,749	2,100	1,929	1,920	2,120	2,728	3,243	3,717
Glasgow City	6,261	6,296	6,401	6,334	7,407	7,603	8,370	9,045
Highland	506	1,666	1,575	1,400	1,468	1,351	1,351	1,054
Inverclyde	565	530	457	557	769	762	822	840
Midlothian	540	606	539	627	588	584	713	780
Moray	479	493	510	516	578	549	618	627
North Ayrshire	680	666	763	738	996	1,133	1,208	1,498
North Lanarkshire	1,554	1,375	1,694	2,096	2,551	2,890	3,209	3,269
Orkney Islands	7	43	45	23	33	30	57	45
Perth & Kinross	478	534	752	834	904	950	973	870
Renfrewshire	915	1,011	1,108	1,113	1,590	1,528	1,497	1,822
Scottish Borders	534	367	250	333	469	533	613	650
Shetland Islands	18	35	39	48	32	39	60	48
South Ayrshire	806	920	939	847	1,059	1,029	971	1,081
South Lanarkshire	1,289	1,285	1,225	1,263	1,885	2,134	2,200	2,242
Stirling	321	362	457	404	520	482	371	494
West Dunbartonshire	750	793	795	820	1,205	1,271	1,181	1,385
West Lothian	769	842	1,145	1,224	1,306	1,343	1,447	1,773
SCOTLAND	33,197	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

1. Mid-year population estimates

Rates per 100,000 population of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police, by council area and financial year, 1999-00 to 2006-07 Table 15(a)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Aberdeen City	1,059	1,111	1,018	1,109	1,100	1,207	958	900
Aberdeenshire	564	605	558	568	616	580	416	275
Angus	402	986	273	715	861	725	670	773
Argyll & Bute	520	354	367	571	469	479	514	491
Clackmannanshire	490	710	845	776	728	831	722	1,141
Dumfries & Galloway	477	479	669	611	584	713	805	836
Dundee City	1,068	1,196	1,271	1,210	1,397	1,251	1,460	1,403
East Ayrshire	524	620	708	357	447	878	900	946
East Dunbartonshire	255	349	343	234	391	364	450	513
East Lothian	634	622	680	753	660	606	743	678
East Renfrewshire	197	190	219	283	345	369	450	454
Edinburgh, City of	996	1,005	921	959	1,029	1,063	1,131	1,248
Eilean Siar	83	298	374	454	314	396	330	292
Falkirk	598	575	734	580	648	787	835	938
Fife	787	599	552	547	602	769	909	1,036
Glasgow City	1,024	1,033	1,106	1,097	1,284	1,316	1,446	1,558
Highland	243	799	754	673	702	639	633	490
Inverclyde	663	626	543	666	926	924	1,001	1,030
Midlothian	661	737	666	779	738	734	900	984
Moray	562	580	586	595	663	633	714	723
North Ayrshire	488	480	562	544	732	833	889	1,106
North Lanarkshire	474	420	527	652	793	895	992	1,010
Orkney Islands	36	221	234	120	171	154	291	228
Perth & Kinross	357	400	557	617	665	691	702	621
Renfrewshire	516	571	641	647	930	896	881	1,074
Scottish Borders	502	343	234	310	433	488	559	590
Shetland Islands	79	156	178	219	146	178	273	219
South Ayrshire	705	808	837	758	949	920	869	968
South Lanarkshire	419	418	405	418	622	699	718	729
Stirling	379	425	530	469	602	558	427	563
West Dunbartonshire	790	838	852	883	1,305	1,382	1,292	1,518
West Lothian	497	537	720	765	811	825	884	1,070
SCOTLAND	648	687	696	710	815	859	899	954

1. Mid-year population estimates

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police by day of week, Scotland, 2000-01 to 2006-07⁽¹⁾ **Table 16**
Number

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Monday	4,616	4,423	4,500	5,138	5,610	5,888	6,424
Tuesday	4,314	4,269	3,967	4,654	5,053	5,287	5,713
Wednesday	3,961	4,193	4,404	4,808	5,113	5,185	5,559
Thursday	4,042	3,972	4,175	4,969	5,119	5,278	5,510
Friday	4,664	4,533	4,649	5,516	5,706	6,089	6,317
Saturday	6,741	6,743	7,006	7,864	8,499	8,762	9,617
Sunday	6,788	7,122	7,193	8,284	8,532	9,323	9,661
TOTAL	35,126	35,255	35,894	41,233	43,632	45,812	48,801

1. Data relating to date of incident was not universally available for 1999-00

5. Annex: notes on statistics used in this bulletin

5.1 Background

A statistical collection on domestic abuse (previously referred to as domestic violence) was recommended in the Report of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary "Hitting Home – A Report on the Police Response to Domestic Violence 1997", as follows:

Recommendation 1

'That the standard definition of domestic violence to be developed by The Scottish Office in consultation with forces includes sub-categories of: - crimes of personal violence (non-sexual and sexual); other crimes (such as breach of the peace, threats, and vandalism); and abuse which does not amount to crime; and that the definition be adopted by all forces as soon as it is agreed'.

Recommendation 2

'That all forces record domestic incidents so that they can be reviewed individually and in total, using the sub-categories referred to in recommendation 1'.

These recommendations were progressed through the domestic violence working group of the Scottish Criminal Statistics Committee involving ACPO(S) (Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland) nominated representatives which agreed the following definition.

'Domestic abuse is any form of physical, non-physical, or sexual abuse which takes place within the context of a close relationship, committed either in the home or elsewhere. This relationship will be between partners (married, co-habiting or otherwise) or ex-partners'.

5.2 Accuracy of the statistics

5.2.1 Returns

The statistical return from which the figures in this bulletin are taken is a simple count of the numbers of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police using the definition of domestic abuse as shown above. Following current terminology, these incidents are now referred to as incidents of domestic abuse. Returns from the eight Scottish home forces are included in this bulletin.

5.2.2 Time Series Analysis

In 1999 data was available for the period 1 April - 31 December only, as this was the first time that the data was collated centrally. Now that the bulletin is presented on a financial year basis, we are able to make full use of the data and present trends as well as annual snapshots.

5.2.3 Incident Count

The statistics presented in this bulletin are described as incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police. The bulletin reports the most serious crime/offence associated with each incident. Tables which show comparable figures for 1999-00 to 2006-07 for incidents of domestic abuse are based on revised 1999 and 2000 figures, in order that figures for these years reflect a count of incidents. Figures originally published for 1999 and 2000 contained an element of double counting of incidents. This double count was removed in subsequent years.

5.2.4 Recording Issues

This is the eighth time that data have been collated centrally.

- **Incident Count**
In 2001, Tayside police introduced a new method of compiling the statistical information required for this bulletin and launched a joint initiative with Barnardo's Scotland which is believed to have encouraged victims of domestic abuse to report incidents. These factors are likely to account for the increase in incidents of domestic abuse reported by Tayside police in 2001 compared to the previous year.
- During 2003/04, Strathclyde Police rolled out a new Vulnerable Person (VP) Database which collects information about domestic, racist and homophobic incidents. This also involved the back-record conversion of paper records from September 2002. In the long term this will lead to more dynamic, accurate and timely data. There have, however, been some data quality issues, resulting in an increase in unrecorded data items for incidents of domestic abuse. These issues are currently being addressed by Strathclyde Police.
- **Repeat Victimisation**
Police forces can only identify a repeat victim if he/she has previously been entered onto their database. The longer the database has been in existence the more likely it is that a repeat victim will be recognised as such. Police forces have maintained their databases over different periods of time and the proportion of identified repeat victims will vary accordingly.
- Police forces were not able to record complete or certain types of information in all cases. The percentage of incidents of domestic abuse where information was not recorded is shown in the table following;

Percentage of incidents of domestic abuse where information not recorded, 2006-07

	Recorded	Not Recorded
Crimes and offences	100.00	-
Sex of victim	99.11	0.89
Sex of perpetrator	98.78	1.22
Sex of victim and perpetrator	98.09	1.91
No. of previous incidents against victim	94.53	5.47
Age of victim	100.00	0.00
Age of perpetrator	100.00	0.00
Location of incident	98.09	1.91
Relationship between victim and perpetrator	99.93	1.02
Action taken by police	98.98	0.07
TOTAL	98.74	1.26

5.2.5 Reporting Practice

These statistics do not reveal the incidence of all domestic abuse committed. Not all incidents are reported to the police. There have been found to be a number of reasons for such under reporting. For example, victims experience fear and shame as common effects of domestic abuse. In addition, under reporting may also be caused by a perpetrator physically preventing a victim reporting the domestic abuse.

The statistics available from this return of the central collection have demonstrated that police forces have recorded information in differing ways. In particular police practice in deciding when the behaviour justifies the recording of a crime or offence may differ. For example some forces have ruled that no crime or offence should be recorded if no further action is to be taken e.g. because the victim does not wish any action to be taken. Other forces may record a crime or offence. These differences clearly influence the proportion of incidents which lead to the recording of a crime or offence which ranged from 100 per cent in Tayside, and 73 per cent in Grampian, to 23 per cent in Central. Tayside's figures show a marked change in this regard from the figures published for 2004-05. This is because during 2004 Tayside was returning crimes with crime codes not recognised by SGAS. This recording issue has now been resolved.

Differences in recording of crimes and offences also influence the proportion of recorded crimes and offences which are referred to the procurator fiscal. There was much less variation between police forces in the proportion of all incidents of domestic abuse which led to a referral to the procurator fiscal. It should be noted that these recording practices are under continuing review with the intention of achieving consistency across Scotland.

5.2.6 Legislation

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 introduces the concept of “domestic interdicts” into the 1981 Act, which will apply to unmarried cohabitants (either opposite-sex or same-sex). Domestic interdicts have much the same effect in relation to cohabitants as matrimonial interdicts have for married couples as is defined in section 10 of this Act, which amends section 14 of the 1981 Act to extend the scope of matrimonial interdicts to include not only a matrimonial home, but also any other home owned by the applicant, the applicant’s place of work and the school attended by any child in the applicant’s care).
- Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001
- Criminal Justice Act 1998
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Family Law Act 1996
- The Matrimonial Homes (Family Law) (Scotland) Act 1981

5.2.7 Recording of crimes and offences

Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term “crime” is *generally* used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are termed “offences”, although the term “offence” may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the “seriousness” of the offence is *generally* related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.

The detailed classification of crimes and offences used by the Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains about 360 codes.

In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and minor assaults, police forces use the following common definition of what is a serious assault.

“An assault or attack in which the victim sustains injury resulting in detention in hospital as an inpatient, for the treatment of that injury, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital;

- Fractures (the breaking or cracking of a bone. Note – nose is cartilage not bone, so a ‘broken nose’ should not be classified unless it meets one of the other criteria)
- Internal injuries
- Severe concussion
- Loss of consciousness
- Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement
- Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.”

5.2.8 Crimes and offences cleared up

The definition of ‘cleared up’ was revised with effect from 1 April 1996. Previously, a crime or offence was regarded as being cleared up if one or more offenders was apprehended, cited, warned or traced for it. This was revised as follows:

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

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

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

For some types of crimes and offences the case is cleared up immediately because the offender is caught in the act e.g. motoring offences. In Scots law, the confession of an accused person to a crime would not in general be sufficient to allow a prosecution to be taken, as corroborative evidence is required. Thus, a case cannot be regarded as 'cleared up' on the basis of a confession alone.

It has been suggested that the above definition of cleared up may not have been applied consistently in all police forces returning data on incidents of domestic abuse.

5.2.9 Other sources of domestic abuse (related) statistics

- Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (2006)
The Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS) 2006 asked respondents about their experience of abuse by a partner during 2005/06 and since age 16. Using a computer based follow up self completion questionnaire, the 2006 survey found that 3 per cent of respondents (n=113) who had contact with a partner or ex-partner during the reference period said that a partner had verbally threatened them or used physical force against them during this time. Prevalence rates of abuse (either force or threats) were particularly high among young women aged 16-24 (10 per cent), those on lower incomes of less than £10,000 per annum (7 per cent), and those with children (5 per cent). In around half of all cases of abuse, the perpetrator was the victim's current partner or spouse.
- Evaluation of the annual Domestic Abuse awareness raising campaign
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/01142941/0>
- Scottish Women's Aid Annual Report 2005/2006
The Scottish Women's Aid Annual Report 2005/2006 shows that those groups who were able to return information on the number of requests for information or support from women received 79,851 such requests in that year, compared to 76,605 in 2004/05.

5.2.10 Other

The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin.

- = Nil

* = <0.5

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To provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

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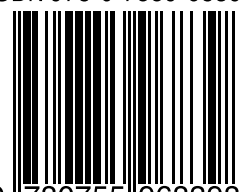
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